

# Eucalypt eNews August 2023



Eucalypt

**Submissions to Issue 35 close 30 September 2023**  
Email up to 6 tanka to [editor.eucalypt@gmail.com](mailto:editor.eucalypt@gmail.com)

Dear Poets and Friends,

Thank you very much to all the poets who responded to the ‘Shoe Challenge’.  
So many stories lurk behind the choice of footwear!

You can read the poems which are all published in this newsletter.  
Congratulations to Samantha Sirimanne Hyde who wins the picture book, for  
her tanka

sour faced  
mother reprimands  
my reluctance  
to wear ballet flats  
two sizes too small

*Samantha Sirimanne Hyde*

I felt the pain of the crushed toes and the parental criticism—and the hidden  
story of the mother’s attitude. Who knows what lay behind that sour  
expression?

Warmest wishes,

*Julie*

## *Shoe Tanka*

obsessed  
with Noel Streatfield novels,  
and ballet . . .  
dad rubbing my feet with meths  
after every performance

*Amelia Fielden*

a singer sang  
his debut song  
playing guitar  
wearing geta on—  
some fifty years ago

*Kiyoko Ogawa*

toe rings  
sparkle in the rhythm of her dance—  
robes flow  
as rich in colour and depth  
as desire in her lover's eyes

*Anne Curran*

a small cut  
through much of history  
might have led to death  
coverings for our feet  
are not only for fashion

*Paul Williamson*

dad's moccasins  
hidden in a closet  
I try them on  
to see if I could feel  
the secret he kept to himself

*Michele L Harvey*

wearing a pair of  
red leather lace-ups,  
my daughter used to spend  
her infancy at the kindergarten  
in a chilly foreign country

*Kiyoko Ogawa*

brown loafers, no socks  
was the cool look on campus  
scuffed  
and never to be shined—  
a statement, not a question

*Neal Whitman*

longed for baby  
seven IVF treatments  
fifteen years later  
first birthday  
dressed in pink from head to toe

*Margaret Mahony*

sour faced  
mother reprimands  
my reluctance  
to wear ballet flats  
two sizes too small

*Samantha Sirimanne Hyde*

arabesque  
pirouette, glissade  
satin pointe  
theatrical embrace  
flirtatious flight

*Lyn Yates*

retired  
no more fancy high heels  
in my closet  
just slippers, sandals, sneakers  
and brand-new hiking boots

*Ruth Holzer*

no way  
am I walking a mile  
in yours  
walking in mine  
is problem enough

*Tony Steven Williams*

wobbly steps and tears  
each foot wrapped and bound tight  
to keep them tiny  
when grown she hobbled with grace  
swayed like a willow in a breeze

*Liz Newton*

Cinderella's foot  
is just the right size . . .  
lucky for the prince  
who can now live  
happily ever after

*Keitha Keyes*

after august winds  
magnolias drop petals  
onto asphalt  
to be stamped  
by walker's footprints

*Pippa Kay*

full house  
for a movie about walking  
the Camino . . .  
but I'm the only one  
with boots and sticks

*Gerry Jacobson*



# *A Date for Your Diary*

## **Saeko Ogi writes:**

We are organising a Canberra Nara Sister City 30th Commemorative Event, entitled 'Invitation to Nara, ancient capital of Japan' is to be held at the Belconnen Arts Centre, for seven weeks from 25th August to 8th October this year, supported by the Australia Japan Society, ACT and the Nara City. A major focus of the event is the exhibition of a 16.5 metre award-winning artwork by Noriko Tanaka, tanka poet, Manyōshū scholar, artist and brush calligrapher.

During this period, on Saturday 23rd September at 1.30pm, we are to hold a book launching of *Poetry Leaves*, the co-anthology by Australian and Japanese tanka poets, edited by Amelia Fielden and myself, in the same Generator Gallery at BAC, supported by CJC Bluebells Tanka Group. Noriko Tanaka will come to this book launching with her friends from Japan. This will be a good opportunity to share our mutual tanka experiences between tanka poets of Australia and Japan. Noriko will give us a talk on the *Manyōshū*, the oldest anthology of tanka (from the 8th century), responding to the input from Hazel Hall on the subject. Noriko and her friends will bring some Manyō costumes for us. That will invite modern day Canberrans to experience ancient Nara, a golden era when Nara was the capital of Japan.

All interested poets are invited to attend.

**Contact:** Saeko Ogi [sogi5690@gmail.com](mailto:sogi5690@gmail.com)

<https://www.belcoarts.com.au/silk-road/>

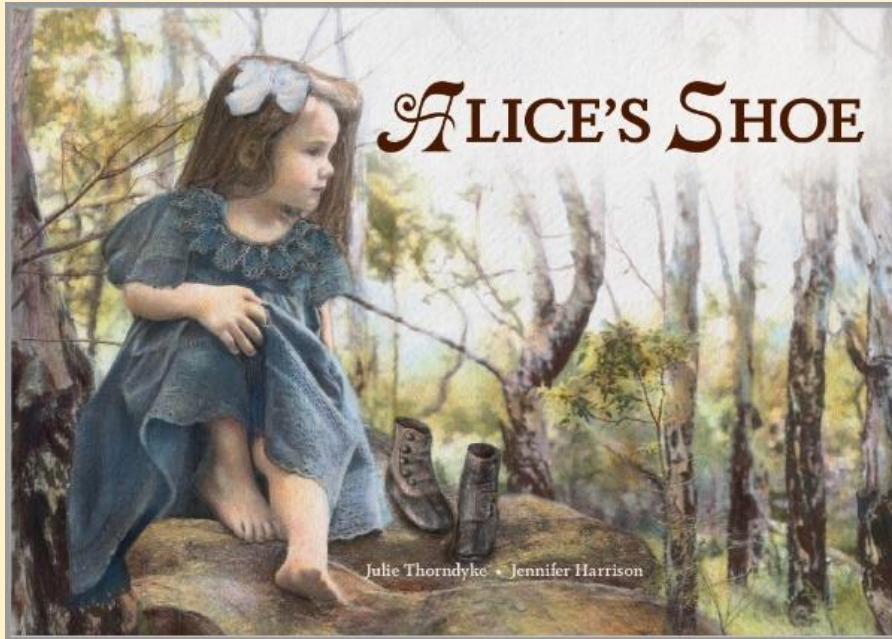


## Out Now

### Alice's Shoe

Written by Julie Thorndyke and illustrated by Jennifer Harrison, this picture book tells the story of deafblind Alice Betteridge and her breakthrough into literacy through the sense of touch.

Available from bookshops [MidnightSun Publishing](#) 2023 RRP \$29.99 ISBN 978-1-922858-13-9



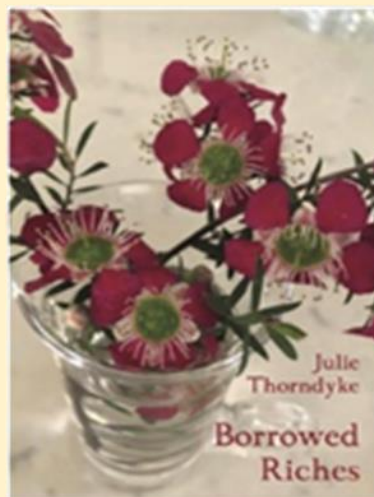
### Borrowed Riches

100 tanka

by Julie Thorndyke

Ginninderra Press, 2022

ISBN 9781761094149 \$22.50



“To open the pages of Borrowed Riches is to enter a calm and contemplative world.

Julie Thorndyke’s keen observations of nature strike a deep chord and her insight into the nature of time and relationships is profound.” *Vanessa Proctor*

<https://www.ginninderrapress.com.au/store.php?product/page/2567/Julie+Thorndyke+%2F+Borrowed+Riches>



# Subscriptions for 2023

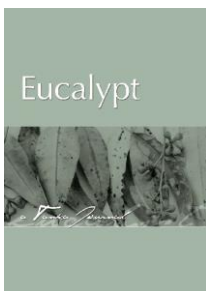
Updated online payment buttons have been added to my website for your convenience.  
<https://juliethorndyke.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/>

Thank you for your support!

## Missed a Eucalypt newsletter?

Back issues are archived [HERE](#)

<https://jthorndyke.wordpress.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/>



### SUBMISSION DATES:

MARCH 1 TO 31  
SEPTEMBER 1 TO 30

Please send six poems in the body of your email, with your name and full address to  
[editor.eucalypt@gmail.com](mailto:editor.eucalypt@gmail.com)

With the subject line:  
**Submission – [your surname here]**

**Australian subscriptions  
\$40 AUD per year.**

**\$50 AUD for NZ subscribers.**

**\$60 AUD for other  
international subscribers.**

**PayPal is available.**

## ABOUT EUCALYPT

Eucalypt is the first Australian journal devoted to this ancient Japanese poetry genre.

Japanese waka (now called tanka) are five-segmented poems. In English, they are usually written in five lines. Often, they address profound human emotions, such as love or mourning, but can also be used to record everyday experience.

The genre is 1300 years old, but is surprisingly relevant to the way we think and feel today.

Eucalypt is a print magazine which showcases contemporary tanka poetry written in the English language, and publishes only those poems its editors consider to be of the highest standard.

Its objectives are to offer wider publication opportunities to tanka poets and to make more people aware of the delights of reading and writing tanka.

There are two issues per year, in May and in November

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