



## **Janet Barker**

Janet has lived in central Victoria for around 17 years. She grew up in the suburbs of Melbourne and trained as an agricultural scientist. After initial employment in that field, Janet moved on to work in landcare and rural community development, created and operated a small business and worked as an organic inspector. She is currently writing for a sustainable agriculture magazine and studying photojournalism on-line through LaTrobe University, Bendigo.

'I've pretty much avoided the City ever since leaving Uni, some twenty years ago! I enjoy nature, bush and beach walking, reading, biodynamic gardening and growing, and all that living in a small rural community has to offer. My first foray into the world of short story writing was through the Newstead Short Story Tattoo in 2009, alongside the likes of Cate Kennedy, Carmel Bird and Josephine Rowe. I also participate in a writers' group in Queenscliffe, which has introduced me to the delights of poetry.'



## **Rosie Bridge**

Rosie grew up in Yackandandah with her three little sisters and a couple of friendly dogs. Whilst she has now relocated to the bright lights of bustling Brunswick, studying Arts/Commerce at Melbourne University, she absolutely loves coming home for some long family walks, viciously competitive tennis matches and access to her mother's enormous book collection.

She wants to travel far and wide, high and low, and hear as many stories as she can.



## **Judith Colquhoun**

Judith was born in Queensland, grew up in Sydney, has fond memories of the Hunter Valley and calls Melbourne home when St Kilda are playing. She spent many years in Far-East Gippsland, long enough in Italy to fall in love with the Mezzogiorno and finally came to rest amidst sheep, goats and mushrooms in the Victorian central highlands. A peripatetic life.

She started writing when she was six and from the age of twenty-three has always earned her living from it in one way or another. She was a television scriptwriter for forty years which she feels was rather too many. Now she is trying her hand at prose which means she can use big words again. She is halfway through a novel and has an unfulfilled ambition to finish it before she dies.

She is married with two children and two grandchildren.



**Kate Esser**

Kate lives in the Tasmanian bush near Hobart with a flock of chickens and an ill-mannered rooster.

She writes because she has to.



## **Kate Fair**

Kate grew up in the Snowy Mountains and moved back to Khancoban with her partner Craig last year after the birth of their first son, Edward.

During the fifteen or so years in between she completed a Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Arts at Deakin University in Geelong and then decided not to teach and travel instead!

After returning back to Australia she did a Masters degree at QUT in Brisbane and worked in libraries and cafes before finally giving teaching a go in the Northern Territory.

She is currently a full-time Mum and is enjoying life at home with 2 year old Edward.



## **Jean Flynn**

Jean Flynn lives in Ballarat with her husband and two children. She is currently studying Professional Writing and Editing online at CAE and is able to do small amounts of writing when Playschool is on or after everybody has gone to bed.



## **Jeannie Haughton**

Writing is my unfinished journey, always leading somewhere new, always part of the bigger picture. It is the way I serve my community; the way I make sense of my world; it is a cathartic outpouring of my experience and frustrations, and the way I seek to challenge myself and inform and entertain others.

Writing, performing and producing play a large role in my life, as do the short stories with which I endlessly tinker. Some of my plays have been produced in Melbourne, but I love my involvement in regional community and educational projects.

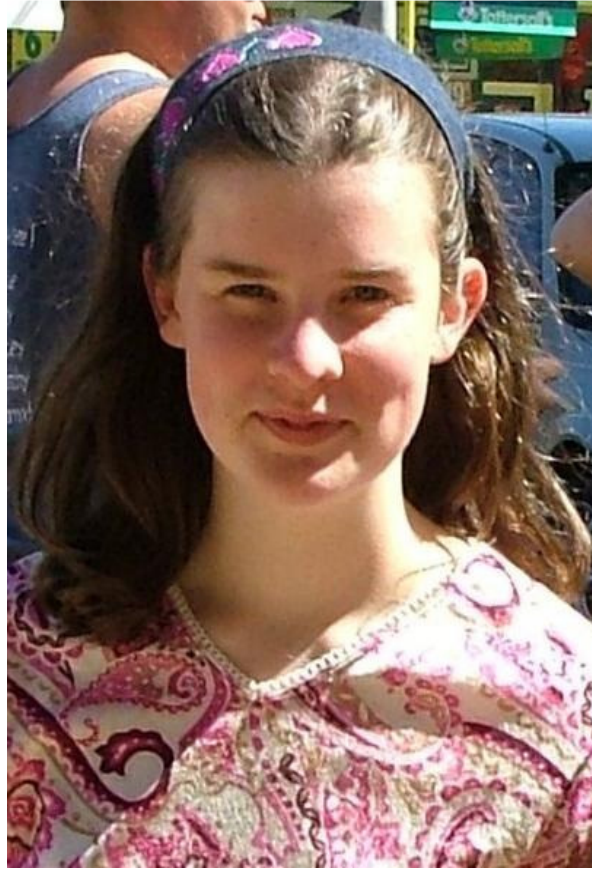
I was part of the team which created and produced *Quilting the Armour*, a play about the Kelly women, Ned Kelly's mother and sisters, at both The Old Melbourne Gaol and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the siege of Glenrowan. [www.kellywomen.com](http://www.kellywomen.com) My latest theatrical project, *Salute the Man*, was a community/ professional collaboration, specifically written for the Old Gippsstown Heritage Park, Moe.

Until recently I hosted *AIRWORDS*, a radio program for writers on 3BBR-FM community radio, and I am currently President of the Baw Baw Writers' Network. I am also a member of the Baw Baw Shire Arts & Cultural Advisory Committee.



## **Amy McDonald**

Amy McDonald lives and writes in a tiny cottage in the country. Her work has appeared in Read These Lips Volumes 3 and 4, Peril Magazine, BanQuet 2010, In the Moment (Red Bubble, 2008) and Unleashed (Red Bubble, 2007). She has a gorgeous novella that needs a publisher. Amy is a yogini, salonista, unrequited lover and general do-gooder. Read her work at [amymcdonald.com.au](http://amymcdonald.com.au).



### **Katherine McFarland**

I am a 16 year old aspiring writer, I have lived on farms in the Upper Murray for my entire life. I started writing in my pre-teens and started serious writing when I was fourteen. I am homeschooled and have been since I started school, it has provided me with a bountiful supply of story ideas. I enjoy spending time on the farm and in the Australian bush and listening to old-timers tell their stories.



## **Julie Neal**

Julie Neal moved to Walwa from far northern Queensland four months ago when her husband accepted a position as the town's new doctor. Previously a high school English teacher, she now spends her days caring for their two small children. Earlier this year she pursued her love of writing by studying creative writing with the University of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education



## **Kate Rotherham**

Kate is a social worker who lives in Allans Flat, near Yackandandah.

Kate was absolutely thrilled to win the Elyne Mitchell Rural Women's Writing Award in 2009, just days before her baby was born. Kate's short stories have been published in *Short and Twisted* 2009, *FourWtwenty*, and *My Child* magazine. More of her stories will appear in upcoming publications of *Award Winning Australian Writing 2010*, *Island*, *FourWtwentyone* and page seventeen. Kate won the AlburyCity short story competition in 2008 and the Eastern Regional Libraries Competition in 2010.

Kate loves exploring the high country and reading the Silver Brumby series to her four children, Lochie, Henry, Annie and Pippa.



## **Reneal Schreiber**

I am 39yrs of age and am married with a beautiful daughter. I have held a variety of career positions since completing my nursing at La Trobe University ranging from tourism to real estate and a lengthy period of customer service in manufacturing.

I am currently employed as a tourism assistant with the Tumbarumba Shire Council and I assist in their Museum/Visitor Information Centre. I grew up in Tallangatta as a child and went on to work and live in Albury & Wodonga then my husband and I took a company transfer to Imperia in Italy. On returning to Australia my husband took a senior position at the Hyne Mill in Tumbarumba where we have lived since April of 2008. I enjoy studying and have acquired many skills.

I love to read and collect old books plus the odd antique. I have been extremely fortunate to have travelled overseas and feel privileged for all that I had experienced in the countries of Thailand, Sweden, France, Italy and Ireland.

I look forward to many more wonderful experiences and I relish all that life has to offer.



## **Jennifer Scoullar**

Like so many, I grew up with the Elyne Mitchell's wonderful stories. They fostered in me a deep appreciation and respect for the natural world.

My family is grown now, and I'm a foster parent. I've seen how connecting with plants and animals, can help damaged children to heal.

My house is on a hill-top, overlooking valleys of messmate and mountain ash. A pair of old eagles live here too. Black-shouldered wallabies graze by the creek.

Critically endangered helmeted honeyeaters feed among the callistamen. The overarching premise of my writing is that we share this planet. Humans have an awful habit of shouting everyone else down. I'm currently working on the second draft of my third novel.



## **Isabel Wallace**

I live with my husband John, in an old but nice house, surrounded by a rampaging and work intensive garden. We have ponies, chooks, aviaries, cats, and a duck, and I collect elephants. I am still young enough to run, but too old to jump! I have been coach at our local Riding for the Disabled centre for twenty five years, and still enjoy it immensely. I fit my writing in between doing all the other ordinary stuff, but in my head I am writing all the time, and I never find life boring. People are *very* interesting!



### **Beverley Widdison**

I was born in 1945, the second eldest of 5 children, we lived in Tumbarumba. We then moved in 1955, ending up out west on “Willandra Station”, a sheep property north west of Hillston NSW. I began work at 14, married at 20, and had 4 children besides working. I was involved in Guiding, and was nominated for Carathool Shire’s Citizen of the Year Award in 1987 for my volunteer work with children.

I’ve worked as a domestic, shop assistant, and seasonal worker on irrigation properties from Hillston north to Mungandi, and on Opal mines in SW Qld. I’ve enjoyed fossicking for gems at Torrington and Glen Innes. I then returned to Hillston to be with my eldest daughter, who sadly passed away from cancer in 2004. It was then I decided to come back home to beautiful Tumbarumba.

I have 11 grandchildren and am Great-Grandma to 3. I love reading, art, gardening and the bush. In 2008 I joined a writing group who meet weekly at the Tumba library. The friendship and encouragement I’ve received there has inspired me to have a go at writing some of my life’s story.



## **Josephine Williams**

Jo has been writing fiction since she was a teenager, but, paralysed by a fear of mediocrity, never finished anything. After several decades of therapy, and many reams of paper, she has finally sent some of her stories out into the world.

This overwhelming fear of failure in the creative writing sphere has not prevented her from having a successful professional life in journalism and media work, specialising in the health area. Ten years ago she moved into the online space and is currently the web content manager at the National Centre for Farmer Health in Hamilton, where she's established [www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au) – go check it out!

She is also doing post graduate studies in creative writing at La Trobe University.



## **Carmyl Winkler**

Carmyl Winkler believes in the pursuit of excellence, is passionate about children, storytelling, family, speaking and teaching Indonesian and prefers, rather than taking a sedate walk through life, to replace it with a joyous dance.