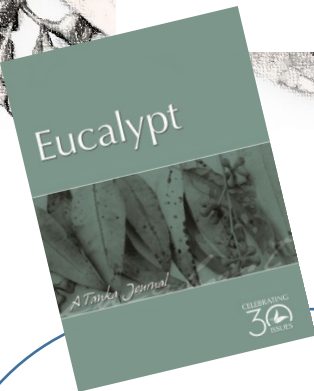


Eucalypt eNews July 2025



Submissions to Issue 39 open 1 September, close 30 September 2025

Email up to 6 tanka to editor.eucalypt@gmail.com

Dear Eucalypt Subscribers,

It is winter here, and the liquidambar trees on our knoll have blanketed the ground with leaf mulch, only a few leaves left waiting to fall. The white cockatoos are still on the lookout for food, and have sampled our lemons and mandarins. Rosellas have been helping the cockatoos peck over the plentiful seed pods. Magpies are patrolling the neighbourhood lawns. King parrots fly in to rest in the trees. I don't see all the birds that visit our garden, when I'm keeping warm inside out of the wind, but I know that they are there.

Thank you to all the poets who shared their tanka about birds. You can read them in this newsletter. We also have the Scribble Award Winners from Issue 38, and the appraisals written by the Issue 37 winners. I'm grateful for the effort readers put in to continue this *Eucalypt* tradition. I'm sure that you agree that reading these appraisals helps writers, especially those new to the tanka form, learn and improve their poems.

Submissions will be open for Issue 39 during September. Sorry, submissions sent at other times will not be read. Send six tanka during September to editor.eucalypt@gmail.com or use the submission form at <https://juliethorndyke.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/>.

Warmest wishes, *Julie*



The Scribble Awards

It is my pleasure to announce the SCRIBBLE AWARDS for issue 38.

The Distinctive Scribble Awards recognise two outstanding poems from each issue of *Eucalypt*, selected and appraised by winners of the Awards in the previous issue.

The winners from issue 38 are . . .

Jim Chessing

they hold the world,
the interlocking roots
of giant sequoias . . .
I tell them I'm an orphan
should they wish to know

Jim Chessing

selected by Tony Steven Williams

Kathy Kituai

no matter
how little time there is
daylilies
ablaze with orange
and gold petals

Kathy Kituai

selected by Michelle Brock

The appraisals can be read on the *Eucalypt* website maintained by founding editor Beverley George <http://www.eucalypt.info/E-awards.html>. Congratulations to Jim and Kathy

who are invited to be our award judges for issue 39!

Ume blossoms —
if an east wind blows,
send with it your fragrance.
Even in my absence,
please don't forget spring.

Sugawara no Michizane

Classic Poem



Avian Tanka



through the noise
of my day
the clarity of tui song
soaring skywards
sweet notes

Anne Curran

sitting silently
two kookaburras peer down
at the block next door
an empty wasteland of grass
what am I missing?

Margaret Owen Ruckert



a symphony
of birds over the beach
this morning
notes trailing through the pale sky . . .
quietude is not silence

Amelia Fielden

pelican pairs
perch atop lampposts
on the singing bridge
scanning waterways
they scoop fish to fill their bills

Liz Newton



from our grevillea
the jibber-jabbering
among red bracts
I watch lorikeets
in this world of strife

Marilyn Humbert



the magpie
from our garden gum tree
swoops a cyclist
then rejoins his family
to carol us for breakfast

Tony Steven Williams

nature's baton stirs
laughter amidst distant gums
warbling magpies
superior parrots
colour country's song

Lyn Yates

bright red heads
and familiar twitters
colourful parrots
descend into the bare tree
feeding on tasty new buds

Maree Myhill



a palm sized
silveryeye hits the window
mauve feathers move
with its faster breath
I glance away— it's gone

Gabrielle Higgins

a white cockatoo
bows like a gentleman
sitting on my porch
I think he likes my company
he winks, then joins his friends

Margi Abraham



amid kentia palms
birds chat outside my window
they chirp turn about
in a language strange to me
yet sing to each a melody

Liz Newton

chimney swifts
gathering dusk
beneath their wings —
daylight spiralling
into dark

Gregory Tullock



dryandra trees
with sharp prickles
I wonder about their value
. . . morning birdsong
trickles silver in my ears

Erina Booker

Fujisan Taisho *(Mt. Fuji Grand Prize)* *Tanka Festival 2025*

Call for Tanka Submissions

Open to everyone
Entry Fee: None

Deadline: September 20, 2025

Theme: Mt. Fuji or any other mountains
(It is unnecessary to include the word “Fujisan”)
your inspiration or feeling when you climbed Mt. Fuji
or any other mountains, or any other tanka concerning mountains.

Rules: Unpublished English tanka only.
Send one best tanka per person. Entry is via email only.

Email one tanka to itseditors@googlegroups.com
with heading, “Fujisan Taisho Tanka”

Place your tanka directly with your name, postal address, and country
in the body of the email. Please use simple font, 10 size single spaced not double.

Prize: Fujisan Taisho medal and so forth.

Kotaro Tomino
President of International Tanka Society





Vale Jan Dean

inland from here
dead Murray cod cover
depleted streams
a carpet of fish
causing rivers of tears

Jan Dean

Eucalypt 27, 2019 p 10

a line of bees
through the ancient house
left me dreaming
of honeycomb haunts, dripping
liquid gold into my mouth

Jan Dean

Eucalypt 24, 2018 p 28

a down feather
floating in the castle moat
causes wonder
was an angel there?
signs are left to save us

Jan Dean

Eucalypt 25, 2018 p 38

returning profits
to Indian poor, women
sell clothes from saris
recycled, in a round room
perfect geometry

Jan Dean

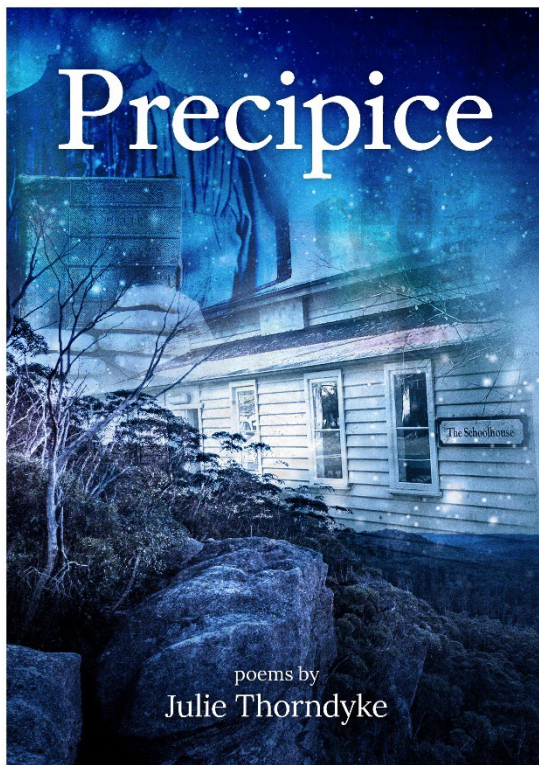
Eucalypt 23, 2017 p 11

poets chalk
on a board, outside
a seaside café
assisted by rain
and wave edits

Jan Dean

Eucalypt 22, 2017 p 14





Precipice by Julie Thorndyke

Swan Bay Books, 2024. ISBN 978 0980 840 773 \$14.99
<https://juliethorndyke.com/precipice/>

A writing retreat is an opportunity for creative focus. It is an experience that allows an intense period of time to progress a writing project, and at the same time learn about yourself as a writer.

In June 2021, I was the grateful recipient of a month's accommodation at The Old School, Mount Wilson, high in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales. Living in the teacher's cottage, I began researching and writing the story of the first teacher at the little bush school, Lucy Winchcombe. This draft historical novel, set on the mountain in 1891, features characters based on real people and places of the time.

A young teacher sent to begin work in a remote hamlet, sandwiched between the wealthy property owners and their working-class employees, Lucy struggled to find her place in the small rural community. While her story is still simmering on the stove, I'm pleased to publish the poems written during my month as Writer in Residence at The Old School. The poems were written as warm-up exercises, as daily entries in my writer's notebook, and also to companion myself during the quiet winter days.

I hope you will enjoy sharing my experiences in Precipice.

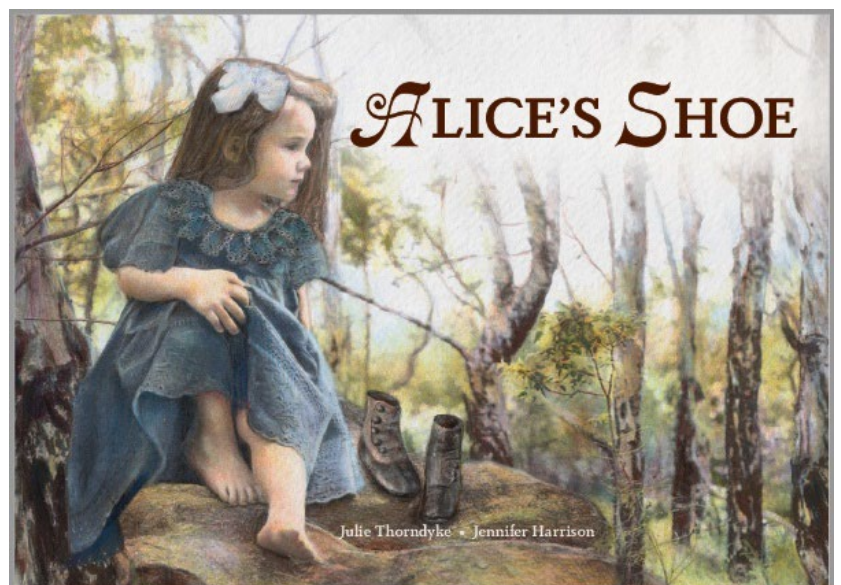
Alice's Shoe

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

<https://www.dymocks.com.au/book/alices-shoe-by-julie-thorndyke-and-jennifer-harrison-9781922858139>



Subscriptions for 2025

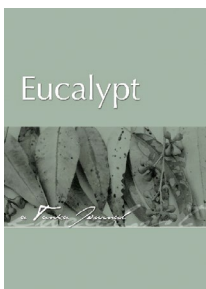
Updated online payment buttons have been added to my website for your convenience.
<https://juliethorndyke.com/eucalypt-a-tanka-journal/>

Thank you for your support!

Missed a Eucalypt newsletter?

Back issues are archived [HERE](#)

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



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.

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

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

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.

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

\$50 AUD for NZ subscribers.

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

PayPal is available.

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