Echidna Tracks Issue 1
Places We Live: Cities, Suburbs, Towns
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Issue 1: Places We Live: Cities, Suburbs, Towns
These poems were all based on experiences of life in Australia, and were originally published, one a day, on Echidna Tracks Australian Haiku website: https://echidnatracks.com as *Echidna Tracks: Issue i: Places We Live: Cities, Suburbs, Towns* from May to September 2018. The full edition including imagery may be found on the Echidna Tracks website.

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| Lynette Arden                    | Jan Napier                    |
| Gavin Austin                   | Elizabeth Nicholls          |
| Izabella Baszczyn              | Giddy Nielsen-Sweep         |
| Nicki Blake                    | Pauline O'Carolan          |
| Eido Boru                      | Gregory Piko                |
| Robyn Cairns                   | Madhuri Pillai              |
| Dawn Colsey                    | Vanessa Proctor             |
| Lance Convey                   | Lyn Reeves                  |
| Mariela Coromoto Hernandez     | Carol Reynolds              |
| Jan Dobb                       | Duncan Richardson           |
| Marisa Fazio                   | Kent Robinson               |
| Lorin Ford                     | Cynthia Rowe                |
| Beverley George                | Maureen Sexton              |
| Mark Gilfillan                 | Samantha Sirimanne Hyde     |
| Lorraine Haig                  | Rose van Son                |
| Simon Hanson                   | Jennifer Sutherland         |
| Louise Hopewell                | Barbara A. Taylor           |
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| Marilyn Humbert                | Gail Willems                |
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| Joe McKeon                     |                             |
| Peter Macrow                   |                             |
| Margaret Mahony                |                             |
| Mark Miller                    |                             |
| Ron C. Moss                    |                             |
| Leanne Mumford                 |                             |
yet another
urban haiku
on love

_Lynette Arden_

roadworks
amber light
ambers the rain

_Simon Hanson_

crowded mall
a stranger’s hand
touches mine

_Lyn Reeves_

sickle moon
over the city clatter
homing corellas

_Lynette Arden_
morning mist the magpie’s notes drift through peak-hour

Gavin Austin

office tower
a hawk’s image slides
over glass

Gregory Piko

traffic lights
a flurry of leaves
flows through

Lorraine Haig

60s office block
an open window
flashes sunlight

Peter Macrow
on the footpath
a fledgling’s last flight

Irene McGuire

city temple
between the chanting
a buzz of traffic

Samantha Sirimanne Hyde

city high-rise a seagull skims the traffic gridlock

Cynthia Rowe

seagull
two wingbeats in front of a bus

Jan Napier
different faces
the beeps of bus cards
sound the same

Jan Dobb

airport taxi rank
a driver unrolls
his prayer rug

Jane Williams

my morning train
fills slowly with commuters
and sunshine

Izabella Baszczyn

sunset
a purple balloon swings
over Carlton

Finbar MacDonald
inner city rain
the neon girl
still skipping

Jennifer Sutherland

red light district
slumped in the stairwell
a naked mannequin

Mark Miller

urban moon —
a nankeen night heron flies
towards the stars

Marisa Fazio

‘opening soon’
six month old headlines
cover the window

Irene McGuire
apartment living
his balcony window
still closed

Rose van Son

apartment living
breathing in
the neighbours’ lives

Pauline O’Carolan

next door
another high-rise
neighbours I will never know

Margaret Mahony

apartment life
I know my neighbours
by their footfall

Jane Williams
dog friendly park
a touch of the local tint
in our accents

Madhuri Pillai

traffic lights
putting my trust
in a stranger

Quendryth Young

morning light
a rainbow arches
the Harbour Bridge

Mariela Coromoto Hernandez

the inner light
from a city church . . .
crimson sunrise

Ron C. Moss
Swanston Street
a sparrow flies out
of McDonalds

Jennifer Sutherland

main street
the bakery awning
raspberry and cream

Gavin Austin

first visit
to the fish market -
words she never knew

Gregory Piko

supermarket . . .
outside the entrance
a refugee appeal

Jan Dobb
rainbow lorikeets
purpling their eager beaks
with lilli pilli

Nicki Blake

along the street
a brush turkey family
maps boundaries

Marilyn Humbert

suburban library
every computer surfing
the world wide web

Marisa Fazio

telephone wires —
the birds
still use them

Robyn Cairns
galahs tangled
in telephone lines —
the scent of rain

*Kent Robinson*

centrelink day
queues and questions
forty too old

*Eido Boru*

back to school
the cat licks Vegemite
from the jar

*Vanessa Proctor*

a sudden dazzle
of schoolyard asphalt
spring shower

*Jan Dobb*
in the she-oak
the grey pink screech
of galahs

*Gail Willems*

school canteen
a peppercorn tumbles
from the koel’s beak

*Cynthia Rowe*

skipping school
a tangle of seaweed
at the beach

*Vanessa Proctor*

Maslin Beach
we slip into
the local accent

*Joe McKeon*
Bangalow
even the dogs
know each other

_Carol Reynolds_

poet singer . . .
at the roadside café
his breeze-kissed strum

_Madhuri Pillai_

meeting place —
bats and jam lovers
at the corner fig tree

_Robyn Cairns_

CWA bee . . .
knotting ribbons
knotted knuckles

_Marietta McGregor_
local gardens —
under the golden elm
another wedding

Janet Howie

footy fans
shuffle through elm leaves
fallen scarf

Myron Lysenko

no junk mail
says the letterbox sign
front lawn littered

Eido Boru

hard rubbish day
three-legged chair straddling
a rusty Malvern Star

Louise Hopewell
decades on
the urge to swing —
Hills hoist

Jane Williams

turning mulch
between my roses
a bandicoot

Marilyn Humbert

battle-axe block—
a hatchback with towbar rolls
the garbage bin home

Julie Thorndyke

backyard cricket
a silly mid-off positioned
in the paddling pool

Ron C. Moss
record heat
a desiccated frog
on the patio chair

Vanessa Proctor

outback town
a willy-willy drives itself
down the lane

Quendryth Young

outside Sea World
protestors chant
empty the tank

Barbara A. Taylor

lakeside hotel
a pansy decorates
the grilled trout

Judith E.P. Johnson
how he enjoys
my strawberry patch
this fat goanna

*Elizabeth Nicholls*

led by the nose
through Bunnings
brown boronia

*Marietta McGregor*

first bird on the new birdbath
homely pigeon
welcome

*Dawn Colsey*

heatwave
the birdbath filled
with cat

*Maureen Sexton*
one rose stem
to another
honeyeater’s song

Rose van Son

rivulet drainpipe
2 rats run out
chasing bread thrown to ducks

Peter Macrow

before the rain
the tinkling sound
of windchimes

Samantha Sirimanne Hyde

creek-side park
old gum tree crowned
by a tyre

Duncan Richardson
demolition site
a butcher bird perches
on the chain-wire fence

*Leanne Mumford*

emergency room
the tick tick
tick of the ceiling fan

*Mark Miller*

a young magpie
paces the back lane
evening cool

*Leanne Mumford*

El Alamein fountain
rainbows
in the spray-drift

*Gavin Austin*
Sydney Opera House
trilling beneath its sails
welcome swallows

*Vanessa Proctor*

cathedral doors closed
a strut of crested pigeons
criss-crosses the steps

*Beverley George*

urban refuge
across the hall the drone
of a didgeridoo

*Mark Miller*

beer garden —
each year the tattoos
more Japanese

*Lorin Ford*
chook raffle
at the RSL club
hens’ night

_Lance Convey_

gallery steps
tourists in a line
among milling pigeons

_Marilyn Humbert_

city sundown
elongated shadows
climb the wall

_Quendryth Young_

Hoffman’s brickworks —
green moss climbing over
old graffiti

_Lorin Ford_
oil refinery —
nearby in the wetlands
waterbirds at rest

Janet Howie

echoes of childhood . . .
reassuring tram tracks run
city to Glenelg

Beverley George

moonless night
a bicycle rattles
down my street

Leanne Mumford

spinning stars . . .
the battered Hills hoist
loaded with children

Ron C. Moss
tour balloons . . .
backyard after backyard
barking

*Lorin Ford*

weather forecast
we tune in
to the mountain

*Jane Williams*

autumn farmer’s market
even the olive oil seller
cold-pressed

*Marietta McGregor*

kangaroos feast
on white chrysanthemums
memorial park

*Elizabeth Nicholls*
autumn morning
green globes of passionfruit
heavy on the vine

_Julie Thorndyke_

misty rain
a pademelon shelters
on the porch

_Lorraine Haig_

dry winter
my kids find in the garden
other kids’ toys

_Duncan Richardson_

breakfast time
old man shaves frozen beef
for the butcherbird

_Giddy Nielsen-Sweep_
cold street
turning a corner
I meet the sun

*Judith E P Johnson*

the corner store
long closed
derelict Streets sign

*Colleen Keating*

winter closes in
a native mouse nibbles
on silky oak drawers

*Barbara A Taylor*

wrought-iron lace
on the terrace house row
— clouded moon

*Leanne Mumford*
wintry twilight
from a library locker
goods of a homeless man

Beverley George

night train
the brief lives of others
come and gone

Mark Gilfillan

shipping channel —
in silence a cargo vessel
glides out to sea

Janet Howie
cold street
turning a corner
I meet the sun
Judith E P Johnson
the corner store
long closed
derelict Streets sign
Colleen Keating
shipping channel —
in silence a cargo vessel
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