

Echidna Tracks Issue 10
Relationships



Echidna Tracks: Issue 10

Relationships



Echidna Tracks
Australian Haiku

Echidna Tracks Issue 10: Relationships (December 2022 - March 2023)

ISSN 2653-4010 (Online)

These poems were all based on experiences of life in Australia or Australians abroad, and were originally published, one a day, on Echidna Tracks Australian Haiku website: The full edition including imagery may be found on Echidna Tracks. <https://echidnatracks.com>

The submission request:

For Echidna Tracks Issue 10 we invite your best and previously unpublished haiku and senryu on the theme of Relationships. The topic is a broad one and may focus upon relationships of any kind, whether of family, friends, partners, plants, pets, sentimental objects, special places, ancestors, the cosmos or the divine... Some of us have interesting attachments to work, sport, television, chocolate, addictions and even cars which may entail a kind of relationship. There is scope here to explore psychological, emotional and personal connections or a want of them in their various array, albeit joyful, painful, ecstatic, erotic, exasperating, fulfilling, fun or humorous. The theme requires more than merely mentioning the 'object' of your relationship, we want your haiku or senryu to reveal something of the quality of that relationship; it is the nature of the connection that is central here, what goes on in the space between self and other - make it alive for us, give us a window into the experiential tone of that relationship, help us to feel what you mean...

Editorial: Lyn Reeves, Simon Hanson, Lynette Arden

Cover Design: Lynette Arden

Front Cover Image: Maureen Sexton

Back Cover Image: Vanessa Proctor

Images pages 13 and 32: Ron C. Moss

Book and Website design: Lynette Arden

ET Logo: Lynette Arden **Original echidna photo:** Anne Chappel

Copyright: All written and graphic work appearing in *Echidna Tracks: Issue 10: Relationships (December 2022 - March 2023)* is protected under Copyright Laws and may not be reproduced, reprinted or re-transmitted or altered in any form without express written consent from the authors.

Haiku Authors

A.J. Anwar
Lynette Arden
Laurel Astle
Gavin Austin
Susan Austin
Karen Blaylock
Sabrina Blom
Robyn Braithwaite
Dawn Bruce
Nathalie Buckland
Rohan Buettel
Robyn Cairns
Stella Damarjati
Jan Dobb
M Faz
Glenys Ferguson
Beverley George
Lorraine Haig
Hazel Hall
Simon Hanson
Carole Harrison
Matt Hetherington
Louise Hopewell
Samantha Sirimanne Hyde
Zina Ioannou
Leanne Jaeger
Padmasiri Jayathilaka
Keitha Keyes
John Low
Jenny Macaulay
Peter Macrow
Margaret Mahony
Marietta McGregor

Jo McInerney
Mark Miller
Ron C. Moss
Leanne Mumford
Gregory Piko
Vanessa Proctor
Lyn Reeves
Carol Reynolds
Kent Robinson
Barry Sanbrook
Rob Scott
Maureen Sexton
Sandra Simpson
Tom Staudt
Barbara Strickland
Rose van Son
Carl A Walsh
Jane Williams
Tony Steven Williams
Quendryth Young

first light
in tangled sheets
the shape you make

Gavin Austin

bedside table
a well-thumbed poetry book
with new annotations

Vanessa Proctor

he wakes me
with a gentle touch
of his paw

Tom Staudt

if we could be
as happy as that
magpie dawn

Hazel Hall

morning round—
one by one I greet
the garden's skinks

Leanne Mumford

Watering beans—
extra for the ones you planted
on a visit home

Karen Blaylock

living alone—
held
by my cat's purr

Leanne Jaeger

with a little help
from my friends
kintsugi bowl

Marietta McGregor

cutting rhubarb
for my neighbour's neighbour—
wind-blown smoke

Sandra Simpson

her morning call . . .
I settle in
with a coffee

Robyn Braithwaite

funeral speeches . . .
all the other lives
of my poet friend

Vanessa Proctor

rainy morning
she places wildflowers
on his grave

Dawn Bruce

knowing all
there is to know—
wildflowers in bloom

Mark Miller

rainforest
as if the myrtle
could whisper *breathe*

Hazel Hall

bushwalking
breathing as one
with trees

Maureen Sexton

ancient tree fern
feeling
it hugged me back

Simon Hanson

casuarinas
whisper softly
to each other

Barry Sanbrook

we lie amidst tea tree you tell the truth

M Faz

daisy petals—
wanting a sign
either way

Sabrina Blom

childhood beach. . .
my soles still feel
its rounded pebbles

Zina Ioannou

lovers hold hands
on the windswept beach
I hug my dog

Lyn Reeves

small town mural
a fading fisherman
I once knew

Jenny Macaulay

yesterday's recipe
mother's baked pears
in lemon and nutmeg

Rose van Son

the last spoonful
of marmalade you made
bittersweet

Lyn Reeves



Ron C. Moss

beach patrol
our captain hands around
homemade muffins

Vanessa Proctor

summer rains
a stray dog
under my umbrella

Padmasiri Jayathilaka

sudden warmth
this woman I hardly know
cheek to cheek

Jane Williams

outback road trip
discovering the beast
in my bestie

Louise Hopewell

companion
on childhood journeys . . .
day moon

Jo McInerney

harvest time
all of us are praying
for no rain

Keitha Keyes

old farm his face in cotton wool clouds

Carole Harrison

old farm his voice on a harvest breeze

Carole Harrison

snoozing tomcat—
a moonlit paddock ripples
with plague mice

Kent Robinson

Akubras meet in a kiss

Barry Sanbrook

uluru circuit
conversations
with the rock

Laurel Astle

coming home to Gweagal
—three fishing spears
Captain Cook stole

Leanne Mumford

lakeside picnic
toddlers and ducklings
all under watch

Jan Dobb

young girl
her smile holds
her parents' gaze

Rohan Buettel

little nankeen kestrel
under the shadows
of bigger wings

Robyn Cairns

old flame—
we share photos of our kids
our age then

Mark Miller

a gleam
in grandpa's eyes
first blue ribbon

Gavin Austin

schools reopen
my granddaughter asks me
to babysit her doll

Padmasiri Jayathilaka

grandchild's birthday
the dress I gave her
outgrown

Nathalie Buckland

school graduation
his girlfriend
gets the first photo shoot

Margaret Mahony

campus dorm
the smell of freedom
from every room

A.J. Anwar

microscope
connecting with the world
of tiny things

Quendryth Young

peace on earth . . .
father and daughter
karaoke

Jo McInerney

this empty nest
my daughter's voice
links two worlds

Padmasiri Jayathilaka

urban infill
all the nests
given notice

Lynette Arden

housing crisis
cockatoo couples
claim their hollows

Hazel Hall

soup kitchen
on the bag lady's wrist
a *blessed* tattoo

Mark Miller

fried rice
with extra ingredients—
kids go hungry

Susan Austin

local lolly shop
the grevillea drips
with honeyeaters

Jenny Macaulay

neighbourhood friend
why walk little dove
when you could fly?

Rose van Son

sunset flash
wingtip to wingtip
two galahs

Glenys Ferguson

corner café
Kevin Hart's poetry
transforms my coffee

A.J. Anwar

floating
on my flat white
your heart

Tony Steven Williams

snow's gentle persistence—
the day you won
me over

Rob Scott

twenty-five years
your sapphire ring still sparkles
on my finger

Vanessa Proctor

jewellery box
all the links within

Carol Reynolds

the part of my DNA
that married at fifteen—
wild jasmine

Sandra Simpson

age-old vows
mother of the bride holds
the baby

Jane Williams

date night
we share our dreams
of tomorrow

Stella Damarjati

moonlit balcony
caged cockatoo
whispers our secrets

Padmasiri Jayathilaka

family gathering
the gossip that lingers
long after dark

Ron C. Moss

spring cleaning . . .
ending our squabble
as the kettle boils

Samantha Sirimanne Hyde

red roses
the gaps between
our fights

Maureen Sexton

scent from
the orchid's hidden flower . . .
my garden's gift

Nathalie Buckland

plainly knitted
Dad's birthday slippers
stuffed with chocolates

Jane Williams

autumn cold snap
mum rubs
my aching hands

Peter Macrow

rag doll
she says grandma's
gone away

Gregory Piko

each day I sit
and talk to you—
scattered ashes

Lorraine Haig

Love Mother
birthday cards
I can't throw away

Margaret Mahony

Hiawatha's song
dad's copperplate *with love*
feathers the flyleaf

Marietta McGregor

charcoal darkness
the graves of our loved pets
at rest under stars

Ron C. Moss

soundless rain
she recollects its clatter
on her old tin roof

Jan Dobb

garden gnome
we both decide
to stay home

Gregory Piko

lone suitcase
riding the carousel
I know how you feel

Tony Steven Williams

Child on the tarmac
looking for the one in the world
looking for him

Karen Blaylock

through the ache
of another motherless day
tossing bread for sparrows

Peter Macrow

her shawl
around my shoulders
winter eases

Jo McInerney

fireside
cat and I synchronise
purring

Quendryth Young

holding the door open
for the cat
to change his mind

Lynette Arden

Sparrow on a branch—
picture of winter
no-one will see

Karen Blaylock

dusky blue skies
the way Mother's hydrangeas
always bloomed

Ron C. Moss

whitecaps—
again today the sea
mirrors my mood

Lyn Reeves

waiting for sundown
my grandfather
and his dog

Tom Staudt

midnight rendezvous
the cat and i
at the fridge door

Simon Hanson

arriving home
brown eyes and black nose
against the window

Maureen Sexton

war zone
my pine tree's possums
on the neighbour's roof

Lynette Arden

alone with my thoughts . . .
the way moonlight plays
among the pines

Mark Miller

barking dogs an octave apart

Matt Hetherington

night pond
the shining millions
around us

Simon Hanson

backing the trailer
a step towards
uncoupling

Jenny Macaulay

this thing
between us
the dog

Carl A Walsh

the breadth of oceans
is unbridgeable distance—
divorce papers

Barbara Strickland



Rand C Moss

houseboat
letting the river flow
through me

Lorraine Haig

church bells—
a light shimmer
crosses the pond

John Low

frogs croaking
on the lagoon tonight
tell us all is well

Beverley George

final siren—
a newborn sings the song
with its legs

Rob Scott

ululation—no words for a grandmother's joy

Jane Williams



beach patrol
our captain hands around
homemade muffins

Vanessa Proctor



Echidna Tracks
Australian Haiku