

# Echidna Tracks

## Issue 11 Elements





# Echidna Tracks: Issue 11

## Elements



*Echidna Tracks*  
*Australian Haiku*

## **Echidna Tracks Issue 11: Elements (July 2023 - October 2023)**

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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For Echidna Tracks, Issue 11 we invite your best and previously unpublished haiku and senryu on the theme of Elements. Whether you are drawn to the ancient categories of Earth, Air, Fire and Water or are more at home with chemistry and current ideas in physics and cosmology; our theme deals with nature in the raw, the fundamentals of existence. Stone, soil, sea, wind and sky come to mind, as do energy, light, matter, electricity, space and time. Perhaps your world is an enchanted one; animated by spirit and containing magical and miraculous elements. You might also be open to the idea that the universe is composed of mind stuff, the stuff of which dreams are made, or is it all a mystery beyond words (though as aspiring poets we shall try). There is scope here to explore our place as thinking, feeling and social beings immersed in immensities and carried along in the flux of it all; the possibilities are endless and go to the heart of haiku. Take us into the heart of your universe, share your visions and wonder – leave us adazzle, quietly reflective and moved in one way or another... *Simon Hanson*

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Wendy Churchill  
Ross Coward  
Stella Damarjati  
Tracy Davidson  
Radhika De Silva  
Jan Dobb  
M Faz  
Glenys Ferguson  
Lorin Ford  
Beverley George  
Michael Buckingham Gray  
Hazel Hall  
Simon Hanson  
Lorraine Haig  
Carole Harrison  
Louise Hopewell  
Samantha Sirimanne Hyde  
Marilyn Humbert  
Linda Ingram  
Leanne Jaeger  
Padmasiri Jayathilaka  
Judith E. P. Johnson  
Colleen Keating  
Keitha Keyes  
Earl Livings  
John Low  
Margaret Mahony  
Françoise Maurice  
Karen May  
Marietta McGregor  
Jo McInerney  
Rob McKinnon  
Mark Miller  
K L Morris  
Ron C. Moss  
Leanne Mumford  
Maurice Nevile  
Vuong Pham  
Gregory Piko  
Madhuri Pillai  
Vanessa Proctor  
Lyn Reeves  
Janet Ruth  
Barry Sanbrook  
Maureen Sexton  
Nathan Sidney  
Sandra Simpson  
Tom Staudt  
Kaelin Stemmler  
Jennifer Sutherland  
Kash Thomson  
Rose van Son  
Lyn Yates  
Quendryth Young  
Mira Walker  
Alice Wanderer



after the Bang  
catherine wheels  
of floss-spun atoms

*Marietta McGregor*

eternity of night endless stars

*Hazel Hall*

the pink light of dawn  
in a grain of sand  
pulsing electrons

*Simon Hanson*

primeval swamp  
a steady rain  
of millennia

*Marietta McGregor*

low tide  
sauropod prints  
frozen in time

*Marilyn Humbert*

foam-capped waves  
the intricacies of currents  
and sand dunes

*Beverley George*

low-tide reef  
the intricate gardens  
of rock pools

*Lyn Reeves*

where crabs lie  
sand-deep  
the incoming tide

*Judith E. P. Johnson*



fossil embryo . . .  
all the time  
there never was

*Jo McInerney*

scaling  
the time-tempered rock  
a water dragon

*Mira Walker*

Kings Canyon . . .  
after aeons wearing walls  
water rests

*Rob McKinnon*

coastal erosion  
not the first  
apostle to fall

*Tracy Davidson*

eroded cliff face . . .  
ancient tidemarks  
trapped in stone

*Lyn Reeves*

mimi spirits  
shadowy dancers  
in Kakadu caves

*Glenys Ferguson*

earth's fissures  
faults and folds—  
cork oak forest

*Karen May*

unseen cicadas sawing the air

*Leanne Mumford*

inside a breeze  
the magical language  
of currawong

*M Faz*

dancing in the wind  
the butterflies  
on her dress

*Tom Staudt*

deep in the forest . . .  
breath slows  
words fade

*Earl Livings*

disappearing  
into the ether  
a red leaf

*Hazel Hall*

cumulus cloud . . .  
roadside cherry-plums  
in full blossom

*Lyn Reeves*

majestic trees  
how insignificant  
is 'self'

*Lyn Yates*

smell of wet earth  
beneath the liquidambar  
a bright carpet

*Nathalie Buckland*

this garden litter  
storm torn  
our divorce

*Maeve Archibald*

between thoughts  
leaves blown  
along the path

*Maurice Nevile*

Illawarra seed pods  
last year's Christmas card  
recycled

*Rose van Son*

arms around  
a paperbark . . .  
the caressing wind

*Madhuri Pillai*

sudden wind gust—  
a memory  
moving in me

*Leanne Jaeger*

facing the wind  
head on  
the ocean

*Kaelin Stemmler*

albatross wings  
carve the wave's face  
holding my breath

*Janet Ruth*

the wind  
through whale bones  
returning tide

*Gavin Austin*

spuming breakers—  
a shearwater's  
final wing beat

*John Low*

an ocean  
to the other side  
refugees

*Colleen Keating*

nibbling algae  
at the world's edge  
goldfish fry

*Lynette Arden*

dragonflies  
shimmer in sunlight  
wetlands

*Margaret Mahony*

air show  
the tight manoeuvres  
of a dragonfly

*Stella Damarjati*

a crackling cry  
through the deserted town  
closed tin mine

*Maureen Sexton*

flakes of rust  
tuned to the wind  
an old iron bell

*Hazel Hall*

midday heat . . .  
horizon to horizon  
the iron ore train

*Lorraine Haig*

smothered memories—  
the dust cloud  
rolling over a hill

*Carole Harrison*



cobbled sky . . .  
amongst the shaken rubble  
a dusty doll

*Rob McKinnon*

endless sky  
enough to hold  
all of my blues

*Kash Thomson*

she sits still  
gazing at the Swan River—  
a floating cloud

*Radhika De Silva*

cloud turrets  
on the rooftop  
childhood home

*Gavin Austin*

a storm cloud  
too heavy  
for the pale sky

*Padmasiri Jayathilaka*

horizontal rain  
under the broad banksia  
chooks sheltering

*Wanda Amos*

as the storm passes a rainbow of lorikeets

*M Faz*

sunlight through storm clouds  
a flock of silver gulls  
rises with the tide

*Vanessa Proctor*

the boat's wake  
a thin white line  
across the sea

*K L Morris*

twilight rain—  
the chuckle and sigh  
of a shingle beach

*Sandra Simpson*

riding  
the outrushing tide  
his ashes

*Glenys Ferguson*

weathered gravestone—  
ocean winds claim  
the child's name

*John Low*

rain soaked churchyard  
headstone inscriptions  
become sharper

*Vanessa Proctor*

camellia petals  
leaving with the wind  
my brother

*Maeve Archibald*

her ashes  
join the tiny things  
in Kosciuszko's earth

*Meg Arnot*

freshly turned soil  
too new for a headstone—  
dust to dust

*Keitha Keyes*

ochre dust  
drifts over drought country  
deep cracks in my feet

*Cara Bruar*

hopes fade  
rain clouds pass  
without spilling a drop

*Wendy Churchill*

a patina of rust  
the upturned wheelbarrow  
on barren earth

*Gwen Bitti*

wet season  
almost as dry  
as the dry

*Gregory Piko*

colours changing  
in muted sunshine  
the first leaf falls

*Judith E. P. Johnson*

first frost—  
wood smoke drifting  
above the cemetery

*Earl Livings*

sandstone cliffs  
somewhere across the valley  
shrouded in mist

*Ross Coward*

rent rise  
a murmuration of starlings  
in an autumn sky

*Lorraine Haig*

my must-have list  
skipping across the street—  
autumn wind

*Lorin Ford*

already autumn  
I breathe the smell  
of wet soil

*Françoise Maurice*

autumn chill  
the smell of wood ash  
from a ring of stones

*Nathalie Buckland*

whistling wind  
the warm embrace  
of a wingback chair

*Ingrid Baluchi*

winter fog  
in the dry billabong  
ghostly red gums

*Leanne Mumford*

winter's edge  
mountains punching holes  
in the dusk

*Nathan Sidney*

the pony's frozen breath fading stars in the Milky Way

*Mark Miller*

late night chill—  
snowflakes  
shredding the darkness

*Leanne Jaeger*



winter moon  
first almond blossoms  
face the wind

*Linda Ingram*

winter morning  
the whiteness in the dunes  
of the shearwater's bones

*Mark Miller*

driving all day . . .  
a rope of cloud uncoils  
the mountain

*Sandra Simpson*

outback sky  
the vastness  
fills my soul

*Meg Arnot*

battered window—  
red clouds and sea  
sinking at dusk

*Rob McKinnon*

dusk  
the lingering shadows  
of regret

*Stella Damarjati*

roosting lorikeets  
chatter into the night  
moon glow

*Colleen Keating*

evening soliloquy  
nothing  
but the sound of rain

*Jennifer Sutherland*

after the ascent  
just enough room to camp  
under heaven

*Ron C. Moss*

campfire  
father and son  
bond over the billy

*Margaret Mahony*

one by one  
stars appear  
campfire karaoke

*Louise Hopewell*

twilight campfire  
spirits of the past  
envelop us

*Keitha Keyes*

outback night  
the filigree of stars  
lights a milky way

*Marilyn Humbert*

clear night sky  
while waiting for the moon  
a meteor shower

*Padmasiri Jayathilaka*

shooting star  
extinguished  
in a moment

*Linda Ingram*

moonlight  
a vast space  
beside me

*Maurice Nevile*

starry night  
resurrecting the garden  
in droplets of dew

*Simon Hanson*

a shooting star  
overwhelmed with wishes  
breaks apart

*Kash Thomson*

no moon  
a zillion stars  
quiver

*Jan Dobb*

treading  
a monastery path  
this silence within

*Samantha Sirimanne Hyde*

dawn drizzle—  
black and white photos  
Dad coloured by hand

*Alice Wanderer*

morning drizzle  
the dampened coat  
of the old dog

*Jennifer Sutherland*

breakfast blackout  
the toaster takes  
a break

*Quendryth Young*

her alchemy  
remains a secret . . .  
mother's cookbook

*Jo McInerney*

after four years  
the first lemon

*Susan Austin*

lightning strike  
the hills licked clean  
by flames

*Tom Staudt*

burnt into  
this timber town's memory—  
bushfire moon

*Lorin Ford*

an echidna  
with nowhere to go  
blackened landscape

*Ingrid Baluchi*

bushfire wind  
the sky streaked black  
with cockatoos

*Louise Hopewell*

after the fury  
a koala clings  
to an unburnt branch

*Tracy Davidson*

sunrise  
a blast of hot air  
in the balloon

*Gregory Piko*

morning light  
spring settles  
on the almond tree

*Françoise Maurice*



cherry blossom melds  
with eucalypt and maple  
shared haiku

*Beverley George*

sunflowers  
her smile warming me  
on a cold street

*Lorraine Haig*

sun's out  
a million dandelions  
nodding

*Quendryth Young*

sliding through  
the mail slot  
spring sunbeam

*Michael Buckingham Gray*

twilight  
a hunched cyclist  
chases his headlamp

*Lynette Arden*

sundown  
a shepherd's fire  
in the distance

*Vuong Pham*

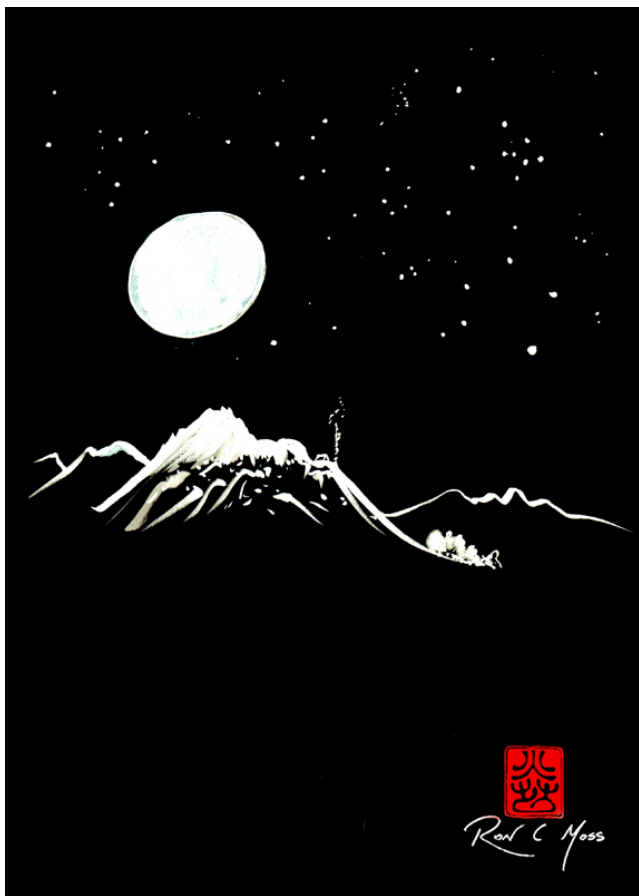
outback sunset  
a bent nail glows  
in the campfire

*Ron C. Moss*

where the river  
rests from its rush  
cloud-drift

*Jan Dobb*





after the ascent  
just enough room to camp  
under heaven

*Ron C. Moss*



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*Australian Haiku*