

# Echidna Tracks



17

Winter/Spring

2026

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*Issue 17*

*Winter/Spring 2026*



*Echidna Tracks*  
Australian Haiku

***Echidna Tracks Issue 17: Winter/Spring 2026***

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**The submission request:**

For *Echidna Tracks Issue 17* we invite your best and previously unpublished haiku and senryu on any topic that stirs your imagination.

**Managing Editor:** Lynette Arden

**Haiku Editors:** Gavin Austin, Marilyn Humbert

**Front Cover Image:** Lynette Arden

**Book, logo and website design:** Lynette Arden

**Featured Haiga** selected by Lyn Reeves

**Original echidna photo:** Anne Chappel

**Guest haiga artist:** Leanne Jaeger

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## From the Managing Editor

Thanks to the many poets who contributed haiku for Echidna Tracks Issue 17. We are grateful for your support in our first international venture. And we acknowledge the dedicated efforts of our haiku editors, Marilyn Humbert and Gavin Austin, whose tasks expanded with the increased volume of submissions. We also thank Lyn Reeves for her selection of beautiful haiga by Leanne Jaeger for this issue. Thank you, Leanne!

We can publish more haiku in this PDF format than was possible when posting each haiku online in our previous format. There is a strong Australian voice, now combined with a fresh and inspiring flood of haiku from poets from many other countries.

A haiku gives us a glimpse into somewhere, something, or someone else. We share our insights, and they enlarge the reader's experience, perhaps offering a fresh perspective on our own surroundings or a glimpse of somewhere else in the world. Including many new voices will offer fresh inspiration to our readers and writers.

We have included each poet's country to give the reader more context for the haiku. As for seasons, for Australians, unless you live in the tropics, we start in the cool season, then edge towards a summer that swallows more days each year.

spring morning  
her flash new walking stick  
skips a puddle

warm wind  
the surf ski's fin  
slices the wave

For those poets whose work has not been selected for this issue, please do not be discouraged. Please submit for Issue 18 in October 2026.

*Lynette Arden*

## **From the Editors Marilyn Humbert and Gavin Austin**

For this first international edition of Echidna Tracks we were very pleased to welcome submissions from all parts of the world, and we thank you for trusting us with your words.

We received work from Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Nepal, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, and Wales.

We hope you enjoy this wonderfully diverse collection of haiku and senryu.

*Gavin Austin & Marilyn Humbert*

*Co-editors.*

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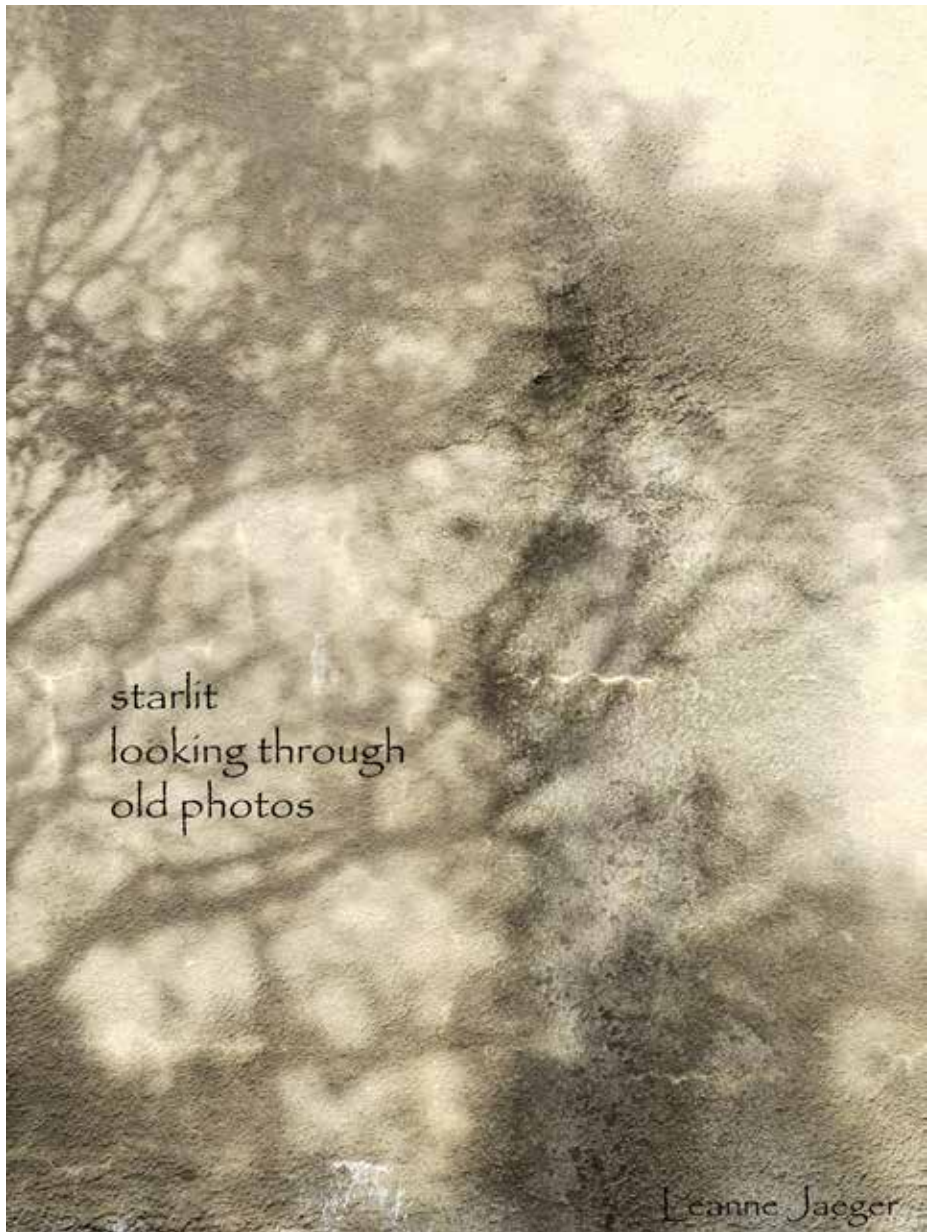
### **Guest haiga artist Leanne Jaeger**

Leanne Jaeger lives in Tasmania, Australia.

Her poetry, haiku and haiga have been published in various print and online journals.

She is passionate about nature, music and art.

Her haiga appear on pages 11, 24, 30, 35 and 67.



*Leanne Jaeger*

dancing on the beach Aurora Australis

*Carole Harrison, Australia*

midnight beach—  
alone with the mermaids  
and angels

*John Low, Australia*

sea stars  
this rock  
we cling to

*Alan S. Bridges, USA*

stitching a seam  
between sea and sky  
winter sunrise

*Patricia Hawkhead, England*

winter sunrise  
the fiery glow  
of beaded glasswort

*Robyn Cairns, Australia*

over the bay  
billowing cumulus—  
first white breath

*Tim Dwyer, Northern Ireland/USA*

killer whales—  
albatross glide above  
the frenzied ocean

*Vicky O'Hare, Australia*

through the mist  
distant sails  
fading

*Warwick Rope, New Zealand*

winter dusk—  
the soft breath  
of waves

*Gwen Bitti, Australia*

seafaring tales  
the wind leafs  
through ancient pages

*Eugeniusz Zacharski, Poland*

windswept she-oak  
the groan of a pontoon  
on the harbour swell

*Leanne Mumford, Australia*

mangroves . . .  
micromanaging  
the tidal flow

*Carol Reynolds, Australia*

day's heat  
lingering in the stones  
the nightfall sea

*Jeremy Haworth, Ireland*

cry of gulls—  
the sorrow of departure  
deepens

*Fatma Zohra Habis, Algeria*

pinning down a pattern    godwit migration

*Sandra Simpson, New Zealand*

resting onshore  
long distance migrants  
the godwits

*wanda amos, Australia*

fossil cove  
the flock of shearwaters  
forage a mirrored sea

*Ron C. Moss, Australia*

footprints  
in a range of sizes  
ebb tide

*Catherine Smith, Australia*

harbour view  
hues of lavender  
in the Whiteley

*Jennifer Sutherland, Australia*

seaside window  
the moth's underbelly  
rides the horizon

*Quendryth Young, Australia*

lightning flash—  
an osprey on the lookout  
for a silver glint

*Vicky O'Hare, Australia*

fairy tern hovering  
above extinction  
weightless ghost

*Thomas Smith, USA*

azure kingfisher  
depths of sea and sky  
deepening its blue

*Douglas J. Lanzo, USA*

shore walk  
another day  
another shell

*Marion Clarke, Northern Ireland*

waves fold white  
back into themselves . . .  
child on a swing

*Earl Livings, Australia*

water lilies . . .  
days of youth  
in rain or sun

*Subir Ningthouja, India*

a foot above  
the clouds  
water lily

*Ravi Kiran, India*

cloud reflections  
the long ribbon  
of an eel

*Louise Hopewell, Australia*

Quiet Carriage  
the passing wattles  
loudly yellow

*Leanne Mumford, Australia*

hometown return—  
the familiar voice  
of someone forgotten

*Marek Kozubek, Poland*

old town  
the banyan tree  
still splits the road

*Soumya Mukherjee, USA*

yoga on the verandah  
the pulse of frogs  
slows my heartbeat

*Vanessa Proctor, Australia*

Japanese art  
from my house to yours  
stepping stones

*Rose van Son, Australia*

tea with friends—  
mismatched cups  
and saucers

*Patricia Haddock, USA*

white picket fences—  
keeping a tally  
of inner critic complaints

*Patricia Nellene Deal, USA*

pausing  
mid-argument  
first snow

*Soumya Mukherjee, USA*

stormy weather  
the serrated edges  
of her words

*corine timmer, Portugal*

yellow jacket  
the sting of her  
best intentions

*Randy Brooks, USA*

scars fading . . .  
in the jeweller's window  
a simpler band

*Warwick Rope, New Zealand*

first date my word search puzzle

*Diana Davison, Australia*

puzzle  
the  
one  
missing  
peace

*Jennifer Sutherland, Australia*

disaster dream  
unable to save the world  
from itself

*Patricia Hawkhead, England*

war news fatigue—  
a glint  
through the curtain

*Marjan Sabouri, Iran/Greece*

soldier home  
told to leave his boots  
in the hall

*David Oates, USA*



*wild weather day  
soaking up the warmth  
of a friend*

*Leanne Jaeger*

*Leanne Jaeger*

ice accretion—  
overwhelming the weight  
of isolation

*Paul Callus, Malta*

awake alone  
the weight  
of a dark blue comforter

*Jo McInerney, Australia*

waiting room  
before the door opens  
the door

*Scott Elder, France*

speaking  
to the oncologist  
i long for the forest

*Rupa Anand, India*

lily of the valley  
those difficult questions  
I dare not ask

*Boryana Boteva, Bulgaria*

hospital room  
the tiles all the same  
like my thoughts

*Antonio Mangiameli, Italy*

children's ward  
the crayon calligraphy  
of a unicorn

*Judit Hollos, Hungary*

metallic taste  
the memory  
of illness

*Antonio Mangiameli, Italy*

clouds across the moon  
the light in her eyes goes  
somewhere I can't follow

*Sylvia Forges-Ryan, USA*

a waning crescent moon  
framed by the hospice window . . .  
long spaces between breaths

*Catherine Smith, Australia*

snowflakes—  
letting him go  
breath by breath

*Meera Rehm, UK*

one  
with his shadow—  
nursing home

*Nicoletta Ignatti, Italy*

winter funeral  
the long quietness  
of a widower's hug

*Ron C. Moss, Australia*

in the shadows  
under my eyes  
you sleep

*Slavena Nikolova, Bulgaria*

cypress shade—  
the obituaries  
between us

*Edward Cody Huddleston, USA*

mire of years long lost old stories

*Scott Wiggerman, USA*

bluestone steps  
among green grass  
the path home

*Craig, Australia*

old house . . .  
each room tells  
my childhood

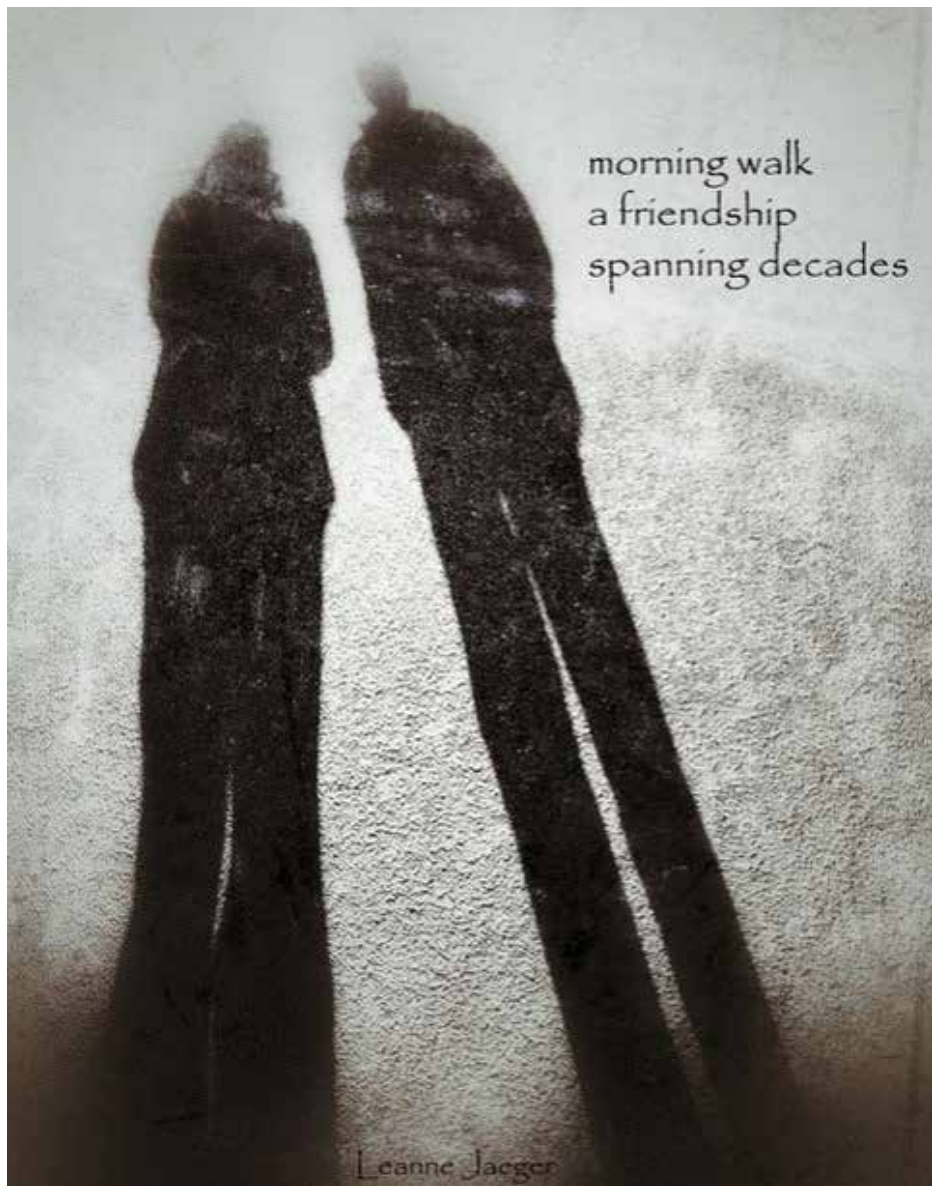
*Rosa Maria Di Salvatore, Italy*

galloping  
into a Western movie  
his rocking horse

*Samantha Sirimanne Hyde, Australia*

wisteria in bloom—  
hanging on the memories  
of my childhood

*Nicoletta Ignatti, Italy*



morning walk  
a friendship  
spanning decades

Leanne Jaeger

*Leanne Jaeger*

my childhood home  
the scent of cigars clings  
to every curtain

*Herwig Stas, Belgium*

winter evening . . .  
woodsmoke scent drifts  
into boyhood days

*Subir Ningthouja, India*

sunrise . . .  
in the wind chill  
falling samaras

*Thomas Landgraf, Australia*

old game trail—  
my footsteps  
start sounding like hooves

*Thomas L. Vaultonburg, USA*

alpine rain  
the deepening caramel  
of the foal's coat

*Robyn Cairns, Australia*

first snow  
another blank page  
to reckon with

*Sondra J. Byrnes, USA*

willow branch  
a pulse of red  
against white snow

*Melissa Dennison, UK*

listen . . .  
the music  
of falling snow

*Rehn Kovacic, USA*

lyrics of an unfinished song falling snow

*Jennifer Sutherland, Australia*

cradled by a snow gum winter moon

*Robyn Cairns, Australia*

heavy snowfall . . .  
everything everyone  
looks the same

*Keitha Keyes, Australia*

deep forest snow—  
the trail I follow  
made by deer

*Charles Rossiter, USA*

deep canyon—  
my voice returns  
older

*Thomas L. Vaultonburg, USA*

mountain mist  
kingfisher's wings  
open a window

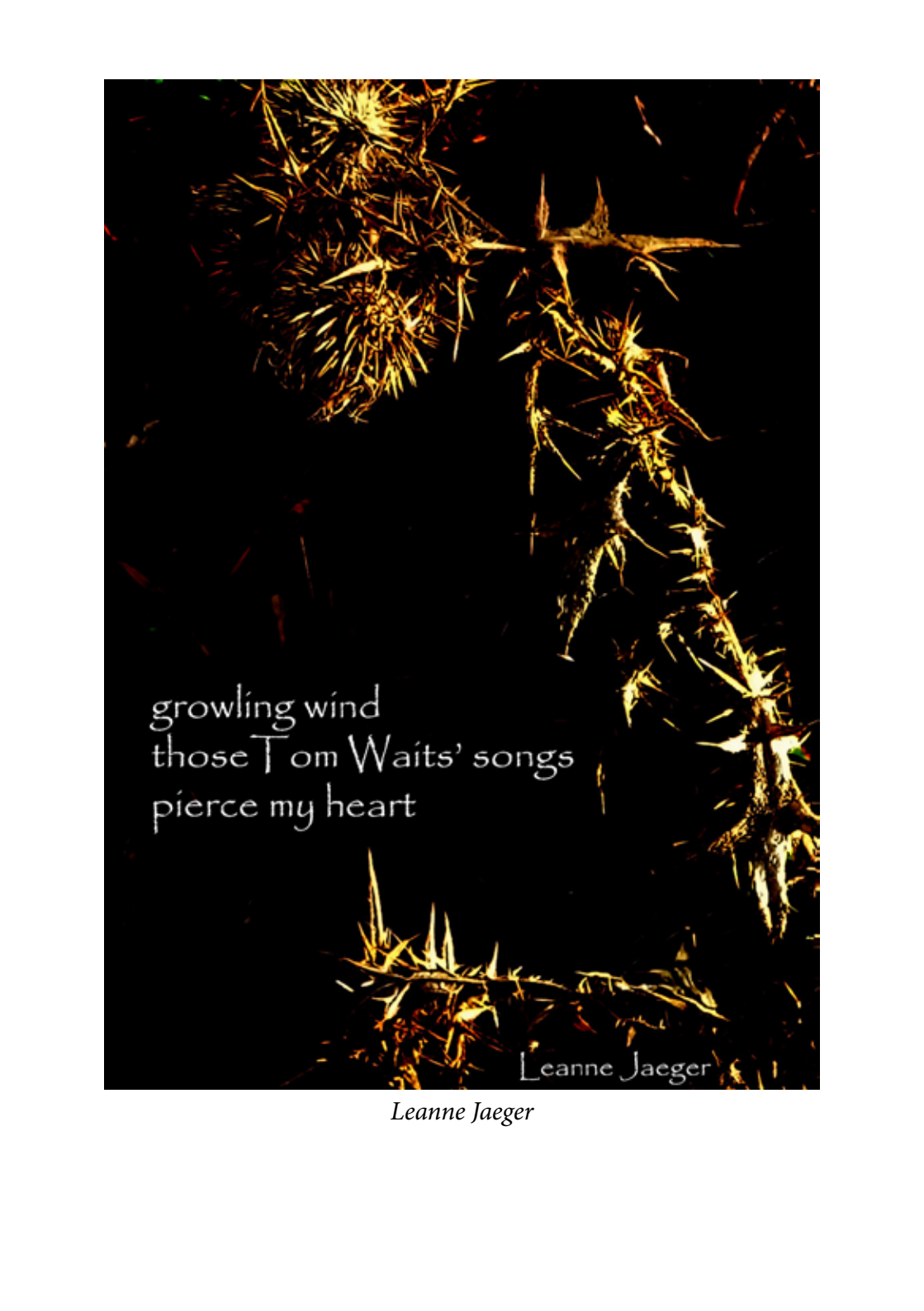
*Tré, USA*

river fog—  
I cross the bridge  
as weather

*Thomas L. Vaultonburg, USA*

grey cloud and mist  
the hush of a heron  
through trees

*Karen Blaylock, Australia*



growling wind  
those Tom Waits' songs  
pierce my heart

Leanne Jaeger

*Leanne Jaeger*

late winter Sunday—  
no pen  
to hold the clouds

*Annie Klier Newcomer, USA*

wind-lifted wings  
skim the darkening tide  
cloud drift

*Gwen Bitti, Australia*

night bus  
all the strangers  
i know by name

*Steve Black, UK*

light pollution vanishing fireflies

*Tejendra Sherchan, Nepal*

cold night—  
the flickering hum  
of a streetlight

*Hifsa Ashraf, Pakistan*

winter night—  
beneath the waterwheel  
still water

*Mark Stuart Farrar, USA*

winter prowls  
with chilled breath  
first frost

*Kirsten Johnston, Australia*

after the frost  
wheat stalks grow tall  
and empty

*Keitha Keyes, Australia*

chipped bowl  
of the refugee child  
hunger moon

*Hifsa Ashraf, Pakistan*

silent clouds  
plucking the broken string  
of a wind chime

*John Hawkhead, England*

torn condom wrapper  
fog almost covers  
the moon

*Edward Cody Huddleston, USA*

alone—  
safe  
until he comes home

*Lev Hart, Canada*

trap house  
the webbed fly  
keeps buzzing

*Edward Cody Huddleston, USA*

walking meditation . . .  
how to go back  
to before

*Sandra Simpson, New Zealand*

moss-covered stones  
the stories  
we pass on

*Alvin B. Cruz, Philippines*

cracked foundation  
Grandpa built  
a memory

*Julie Bloss Kelsey, USA*

how light falls  
through muslin—  
mother's gentle smile

*Marietta McGregor, Australia*

Mother's Day—  
on every table a sprig  
of the old lilac bush

*Kari Davidson, USA*

Holi—  
the scent of a rainbow  
on her stole

*Vaishnavi Ramaswamy, India*

returning with the night mother's long day

*M. Faz, Australia*

a cricket's ratchet cry  
the wind stirs clouds  
into stars

*Earl Livings, Australia*

shift change  
stars take over  
the sky

*Debbie Strange, Canada*

criss-crossing  
the moon into stars  
callistemon leaves

*Mira Walker, Australia*

high country cull  
the bones of a brumby  
on a starlit ridge

*Ron C. Moss, Australia*

stargazing mother's memories shift

*Samantha Sirimanne Hyde, Australia*

milky way—  
in the moss  
a universe

*Mark Stuart Farrar, USA*

touching the stars  
the ancient forest  
of memory

*Judith E.P. Johnson, Australia*

now here now there  
emerging from the rain  
a blackbird's song

*Thomas Landgraf, Australia*

drift of starlings . . .  
eternity  
chalked on the pavement

*Jo McInerney, Australia*

turning magnolia branches white corellas

*Rodney Williams, Australia*

wild oats  
waving in the wind—  
a quarrel of sparrows

*corine timmer, Portugal*

fifty years  
the soft-song duet  
of ravens

*Marianne Paul, Canada*

again and again  
a plastic bag  
the height of sky

*Vishal Prabhu, India*

gone  
in a swirl of colours  
poppy petals

*Tom Staudt, Australia*

stone steps  
rosemary pinned  
to the veteran

*Lorraine Haig, Australia*

the last leaf falls how little I know of my father

*Mark Miller, Australia*

scribbly gum  
the meandering tracks  
of conversation

*Lorraine Haig, Australia*

forest bathing  
red gums gently ripple  
in the waterhole

*Vanessa Proctor, Australia*

stone skimming  
on the pond—  
a warbler withholds her song

*Lysa Collins, Canada*

breeze in the canopy—  
the ruffled iridescence  
of a peacock's train

*Lyn Reeves, Australia*

painting my haiku spotted gum

*Tom Staudt, Australia*

felled gum tree—  
who knew  
death could smell so sweet

*Mo Irvine, New Zealand*

Murrumbidgee River  
coming-of-age memories  
in every ripple

*Carole Harrison, Australia*

this country we hike through the old people's dreaming

*Lyn Reeves, Australia*

without temples  
or sacred books  
blue fairy wren

*Simon Hanson, Australia*

free solo  
on the north face  
a rock wren

*Sherry Reniker, USA*

sparkling bright sapphires blue wrens

*Maree Myhill, Australia*

river rapids  
the liquid trill  
of a shrike-thrush

*Marietta McGregor, Australia*

sailing  
up the Thames  
a royal swan

*Joanne Watcyn-Jones, Australia*

songbirds my words just ink onto paper

*Thomas Powell, Northern Ireland*

spring thaw  
the creek catches  
yesterday's tune

*Meera Rehm, UK*

first crocus—  
the house warms  
with the light

*Rob Scott, Australia*

making way  
for springtime growth  
prescribed burn

*Stephen J. DeGuire, USA*

tormented by thirst  
the chernozem absorbs  
all the spring rain

*Vasile Moldovan, Romania*

deafening rain  
a one-legged crow  
adds its guttural

*Lakshmi Iyer, India*

horizontal rain  
seedlings too young  
to be staked

*Helen Buckingham, UK*

all those seedlings  
at the farmers' market  
young love

*Sondra J. Byrnes, USA*

spring rain  
on every stone  
a different symphony

*Fatma Zohra Habis, Algeria*

quietly and slowly  
a clump of earth rises  
a sprouting seed

*Mariola Grabowska, Poland*

amid cobblestones  
a green shoot  
holds the light

*Neena Singh, India*

into the flowerpot . . .  
a snail's slow  
sure journey

*Maire Glacken, Australia*

warming drizzle  
the green uncurl  
of lichen

*Glenys Ferguson, Australia*

forest walk  
the smell of rain  
on his wolfhound

*Marion Clarke, Northern Ireland*

raindrops—  
baubles on pine needles  
for just a second

*Charlie Lukin, Australia*

spring showers  
a seam of opals  
where the truck parked

*John Hawkhead, England*

sunlit dew drops  
the winning spider's  
web design

*Kash Thomson, Australia*

tight or loose  
the seasonal  
spider web

*Zoltan Pachnik, Hungary*

tabla practice . . .  
the spider teaches me  
a polyrhythm

*Nicholas Klacsanzky, USA*

spider web  
on the courtyard padlock . . .  
security check

*Maureen Sexton, Australia*

should I or should I not spiderwebs

*Madhuri Pillai, Australia*

spring dawn  
inhaling  
birdsong

*Leanne Jaeger, Australia*

swallow song  
how many springs  
in this one

*Meera Rehm, UK*

wetlands spring  
in the bird hide  
a swallow's nest

*Rohan Buettel, Australia*

hole in a tree  
four voices  
out of harmony

*Ravi Kiran, India*

an empty song  
of feather and bone  
the dead swan's spring

*Thomas Powell, Northern Ireland*

spring heat haze  
the glimmer of quartz  
on grampa's grave

*Jeremy Haworth, Ireland*

waiting in the wings blue hour birdsong

*Simon Hanson, Australia*

magpie melodies  
the black cat  
stills

*Maire Glacken, Australia*

sparrows watch  
from the plastic tree  
airport breakfast

*Sabrina Blom, Australia*

spring excursions  
an honesty box  
brimming with sunshine

*Gareth Nurden, Wales*

tracing a vein  
the caterpillar's world  
dipped in sun

*joanna ashwell, UK*

mustard seed  
the mountain moves  
from here to there

*Alvin B. Cruz, Philippines*

the shimmer  
of a hummingbird  
your ghost

*Marianne Paul, Canada*

wildflower meadow  
the steady hum  
of passing traffic

*Joseph P. Wechselberger, USA*

sakura mornings  
waking up in your arms  
still makes me blush

*Baisali Chatterjee Dutt, India*

weeping petals  
the buzzing drones  
that are not bees

*Sheikha A., United Arab Emirates*

clover bee singing  
of his six week life  
week three

*Deborah A. Bennett, USA*

a bumblebee still shaking goldenrods

*Biswajit Mishra, Canada*

field of yellow  
suns—  
poor man's honey

*Deirdre Hines, Ireland*

afternoon rays  
in the rose garden  
low flying dragonflies

*Tuyet Van Do, Australia*

sitting  
astride the fence—  
spring equinox

*Paul Callus, Malta*

spring equinox  
wild anemones  
earlier and earlier

*Françoise Maurice, France*

*School's Out . . .*  
synchronised  
swanning

*Helen Buckingham, UK*

tossing me  
the bouquet . . .  
spring breeze

*Julie Bloss Kelsey, USA*

grown-ups party  
mother's high heels  
still seven years too big

*corine timmer, Portugal*

finding ways to leave myself bare branches

*M. Faz, Australia*

sushi train  
missed opportunities  
coming around again

*Kash Thomson, Australia*

embracing the gnarly oak I am

*M. Faz, Australia*

after they leave  
his tiny handprint remains  
on my coffee table

*Colleen Keating, Australia*

loose thread  
her hands mending  
what I can't name

*Nishieeta, India*

loose threads  
on her coat—  
withered sakura

*Martina Matijević, Croatia*

lonely table  
the company  
of camellias

*Craig, Australia*

painting . . .  
fire colours speak  
of autumn

*Kirsten Johnston, Australia*

another autumn . . .  
the fence rails bearded  
with lichen

*Robyn Braithwaite, Australia*

fallow field  
the rusted wire hums  
in the wind

*Jacek Margolak, Poland*

the scent of balsam  
in a hummingbird's nest  
autumn sunset

*Lakshmi Iyer, India*

the stillness  
of old windchimes  
russet sunset

*Glenys Ferguson, Australia*

old church—  
we listen to the plainsong  
of a steady rain

*Lysa Collins, Canada*

downpour  
the busker plays  
*Here Comes the Sun*

*Michael Leach, Australia*

rainy run  
deep within my sigh  
your absence

*VJ Green, USA*

ox-eye daisies  
the long sigh  
of summer rain

*joanna ashwell, UK*

summer blues  
sea sky  
and the old combi

*Simon Hanson, Australia*

cracked earth  
the sky drenched  
in cobalt blue

*Leanne Jaeger, Australia*

pine forest  
the scent of resin  
tightens the heat

*Jacek Margolak, Poland*

boiling sap . . .  
amber settles slowly  
along the horizon

*Kari Davidson, USA*

mountain creek  
the trout's speckles  
lost in sunlight

*Jacek Margolak, Poland*

cicadas chant  
in the red gums today—  
snow forecast tomorrow

*Kent Robinson, Australia*

damask dusk  
a hellebore blooms  
beneath brush

*Mira Walker, Australia*

dusk  
a blackbird on the gable  
merges into night

*Elaine Riddell, New Zealand*

twilit cloud  
a creature made  
entirely of thought

*Alan S. Bridges, USA*

my footsteps through cicada songs blurred moon

*Madhuri Pillai, Australia*

new moon just scratching the surface

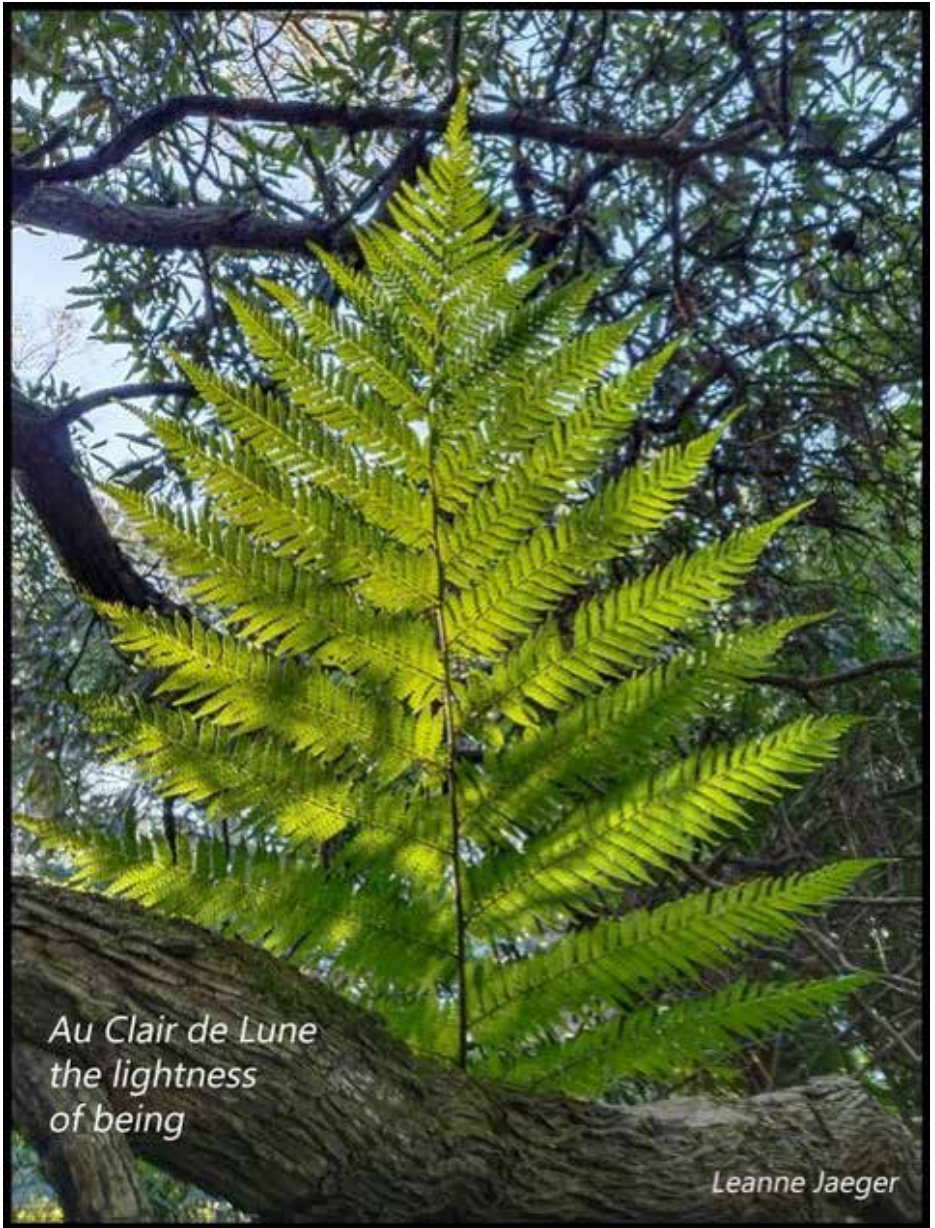
*Alan S. Bridges, USA*

midnight  
a black beetle  
drags the moon

*Melissa Dennison, UK*

stirring the borealis  
into black skies  
rowboat on the creek

*cp howes, USA*



*Au Clair de Lune*  
the lightness  
of being

*Leanne Jaeger*

*Leanne Jaeger*

Birrarung  
a boy's canoe disturbs  
the sleeping moon

*Carl Walsh, Australia*

blue in the hollow  
a damselfly drinking  
from Lethe

*Nathan Sidney, Australia*

evensong—  
a final note lingering  
in the stained light

*John Low, Australia*

day's heat  
lingering in the stones  
the nightfall sea

*Jeremy Haworth, Ireland*



*Echidna Tracks*  
Australian Hobbies