



“It would be a shame for it to be pushed into a pigeon-hole labelled lesbian-only lit. For the broad-minded looking for an energetic and interesting read, there is plenty to enjoy.”

Frances Cherry was also a poet and Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop published four books by her, including *Double Act* with Annabel Fagan. Some of her work is held in the Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa (PANZA) collection. Haere, haere, haere

## Poetry by Bill Dacker

This issue we feature some poems by Otago poet Bill Dacker.

Dacker recently published a new collection of poems, *From the Rongahere Road (The Camp)*, based on his past experiences of living in Beaumont in an old miners’ hut/camp.

### Poems by Bill Dacker

#### TAKING US

a fierce wind lashing,  
rolling me deep  
under the surface,

the reach of the river  
I never thought  
possible

mystery move

to a stillness  
filling with  
gentle wind  
a caress,  
a pause

and you there,  
with the sun  
warming  
loving  
singing,

go on, go on  
to reaches of the river  
we never thought possible

#### STETHOSCOPE

Falling through the network of branches  
the rain  
is gathered in a rhythm, flows to a  
singular beat  
drumming upon my dwelling, an  
instrument  
made for listening to the heartbeat of the  
earth.

#### BELLBIRD SINGING

In time I learnt the dialect of the tribe  
of the place I thought mine and heard  
others elsewhere. My first attempt  
to answer their call began my words.  
I learnt their changing of tunes. I learnt  
the he or she of it. I return a kind of  
singing,  
a fluting sort of sound, a call of  
greeting.  
Sometimes they seem to know, seem  
to reply. Then a sign, as clear as a bell.  
She was singing, I replied, she looked,  
saw me, sang, then chased off a tui  
contending for those branches, to return,  
look down at me, claim possession.

#### RIVER BONE

the moon begins  
like bleached bone

the river in a rush,  
of moonshine,  
whorls, bone of bone

#### TE WAIATATANGA MAI O TE PUTUTARA

Death emptied the spiral chambers of a  
shell shaped like a trumpet. Out of  
ancestral streams, a wave came, picked  
it up, placed it on a beach. Ancestors  
found it, shaped a mouth where its  
living began. Their breath entered to  
make a statement. They carried it to a  
view across the river, to call we are  
here, cross, it is a safe, or stay there,  
safe, on the other side. They left it in a

cliff-top cave, for a return, it fell from  
that shelter.

Te waiatatanga mai o te pututara, he  
torino tonu, he hohonu

Sheep crossing a path between the edge  
of the river and the cliff’s height, turned  
it over. The shepherd saw its curves  
flash where no light should have been,  
got off his horse and saved it from all  
that coming and going. In the day of the  
river’s need, at this bend where it turns  
towards its sea end and beginning, he  
passed its chorus to criss crossing  
lifetimes to me. Not the return intended.

Te waiatatanga mai o te pututara, he  
torino tonu, he hohonu

For those alive and those not yet born,  
for those remembered who do not  
remember, its empty chambers given  
life, an intense rearrangement, a new  
definition of the river of we, a call from  
the lull and lift of the river wall of  
sound, held, returned, echo upon echo, a  
song in the too late to stop now of the  
river winding the living from the  
network of the dead, releasing the heart  
from distress, claiming a future.

Te waiatatanga mai o te pututara, he  
torino tonu, he hohonu

#### WAHIWHAKAORA

my dwelling is rainfall  
ringing in star bursts of gold  
and silver through the river  
symphony about my bed

through tree networks  
of shelter for birds and man  
the tolling of river wave  
and bird song

different currents talking  
to each other  
of joining and parting  
across the width  
of their embrace

between upstream  
and downstream

joined in the tyranny  
of the moment

symphonic river therapy

Poems © Bill Dacker

## Recent deaths: Penny Somervaille and Ernest J. Berry

PANZA acknowledges the passing of two New Zealand poets, Penny Somervaille and Ernest J. Berry. PANZA archivist Mark Pirie remembers being published with Penny in the zine *Side Stream* in the 2000s and meeting her once in Auckland. Penelope Celia (Penny) Somervaille was born in 1936 and her funeral was in June this year at Purewa. She contributed to a number of journals and zines such as *Side Stream*, the online *Black Mail Press*, Raewyn Alexander's *Magazine*, *Spectrum* (short fiction), and *Potroast*. She appears in the Poetry Day anthology from Lopdell House, Titirangi, titled *The Winding Stair* with well known poets, including Auckland editor, fiction writer and literary theorist Alistair Paterson.

A book of her poetry edited by Makyla Curtis was published: *Small Decisions* (21 poems, 60 pages). Ernest J. Berry died last year and was a well known haiku poet and judge of competitions in the New Zealand and overseas haiku community.

PANZA recently heard news of his death.

Berry was born in 1929. As a haiku poet living in New Zealand, he was based in Picton and from the late 1990s till the 2010s he made an important contribution to haiku writing in New Zealand and overseas. His haiku writing notably covered the Korean War.

Berry's books include: *A raindrop, a flowing river* (Blenheim, 1998); *162 haiku: a Korean War sequence* (Post

Pressed, Queensland, Australia, 2000); *Celebrating Sherlock* (Canada, 2002); *Haiku Wine* (Oregon, USA, 2003); and *Getting On* (Blenheim, 2016).

His work was included in anthologies like *A Taste of Nashi* (2008) and *A to Zazen* (2004).

He mainly contributed to *A Fine Line*, the New Zealand Poetry Society's journal and the American Haiku Archives. He was a member of the Windrift Haiku group with Nola Borrell and others.

Two articles in the *Marlborough Express* give more details about his writing life: "Poetry a shore thing" by Dan Grady (9 December 1999) and "Picton poet's evocative writings on Korean War" by Dee Wilson (8 August 2000).

Berry's family said he also left behind a box of files, which are full of correspondence between him and haiku writers all across the globe. It seems that he was compiling or helping to compile a "Who's Who of Haiku", and these letters and emails contain photos and the details of each author.

## New publications: *The Verse Novel: Australia & New Zealand* and *No Other Place to Stand*

Two books appeared that are noteworthy.

The first *The Verse Novel: Australia & New Zealand* is a ground breaking work that interviews Australasian authors of verse novels. PANZA member Mark Pirie is included among the New Zealand verse novelists along with John Newton, Jennifer Compton (who moved to Australia), Diane Brown and Gregory O'Brien, and New Zealand verse novels and narrative poems are explored by the author and academic Dr Linda Weste. The second book, *No Other Place to Stand*, is similarly breaking new ground, an anthology of climate change poetry.



Title: **The Verse Novel: Australia & New Zealand**

Author: Linda Weste

ISBN: 978-1-922669-23-0

Extent: 309 pages

Publisher: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2021

### About the Book

In these thirty-five interviews with verse novelists from Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand, Linda Weste explores the uniqueness of storytelling through poetry and the genre of the verse novel. Her subjects are notable representatives of a region where verse novels for Adults, Children and Young Adults thrive; among them is Steven Herrick, winner of the prestigious *Duetscher Jugendliteraturpreis* in 2019; and what they have to say enriches our understanding of the verse novel across each of its publishing categories.

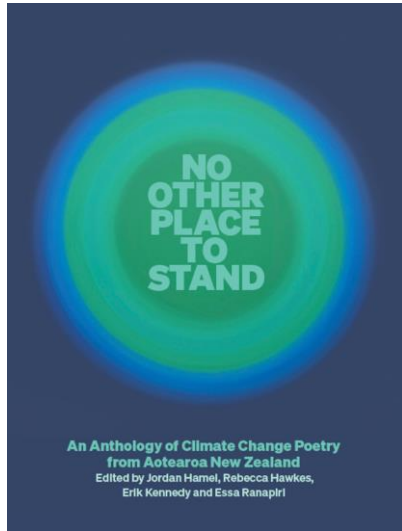
### About the Author

Linda Weste is an Australian poet. She has a Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Writing from the University of Melbourne where she teaches poetry. Her debut work of fiction, *Nothing Sacred*, an historical verse novel set in the late Roman Republic, won the 2016 Wesley Michael Wright Prize, and was highly commended in the 2015 Anne Elder Award. Other poems and poem cycles have been published in *Westerly* (University of Western Australia Press)

and *Best Australian Poetry* (University of Queensland Press). Weste is a former Reviews Editor for *TEXT Journal* (Australasian Association of Writing Programs), and a reviewer of poetry for Australia Council-funded journals.

Available through [Amazon](#)

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Title: **No Other Place to Stand: An Anthology of Climate Change Poetry from Aotearoa New Zealand**  
Editors: Jordan Hamel, Rebecca Hawkes, Erik Kennedy and Essa Ranapiri  
ISBN: 978-1-86940-955-5  
Extent: 204 pages  
Publisher: Auckland University Press, 2022

**About the Book**

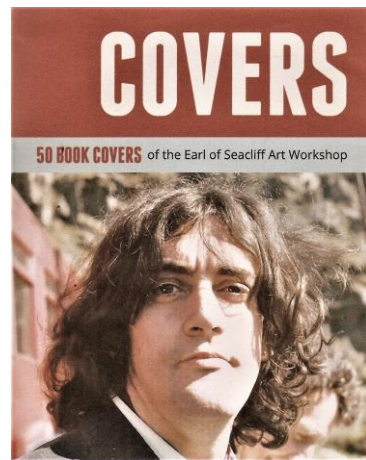
Ninety-one writers with connections to these islands grapple with the biggest issue facing people and the planet.

“Don’t read this book because you already know what there is to know about climate change and want to be soothed into deeper smugness by your fellow strugglers, and don’t read it because you love poetry on any topic and are keen to see new forms of expression and turns of phrase. This book is a provocation, an education, a challenge. Read it – share it, reflect on it, and read it again – because you know

you don’t know enough about climate change or poetry or ‘here’.  
Yes, here, as poets mourn and rage and share vulnerabilities and gently cry and trace whakapapa and burn things to the ground and create new knowledge about the world, we as readers have the opportunity to engage with the devastations of climate change and its terrible effects and many forms of resistance to its many causes – but also to see things anew. And isn’t this what poets do? Isn’t this what poems are for? Isn’t this the purpose of poetry – of waiata tangi and haka and waiata aroha and oriori and karakia and all the rest – to remind us of who we are in the deepest and most expansive ways?”

- From the foreword by Alice Te Punga Somerville

**Book launch: *Covers* by Michael O’Leary**



PANZA co-organiser/archivist Dr Michael O’Leary recently had a new edition of his book *Covers* launched by the Embassy of Ireland’s Ambassador Peter Ryan.  
The book was “an edition of 50 copies signed by Peter Ryan: Irish Ambassador for Aotearoa New Zealand, Samoa & Tonga”, and was a joint publication “Published by the Embassy of Ireland in association with Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop”.  
The book launch was held at the Irish Embassy in Wellington in July this year.



Photo: Dr Michael O’Leary and Peter Ryan at the launch

**Note on ESAW Mini Series**

An article covering the ESAW Mini Series in *Poetry Notes*, Summer 2022, lists “Peter Olds” as the forthcoming title, No. 46, to complete the series of 50 mini booklets.  
The publisher has since confirmed the final title (No. 46) as Bill Dacker’s *From The Rongahere Road (The Camp)*, 13 poems plus a poem-preface by Ailsa Marychurch-Anderson.

**New publication by PANZA member**

Title: **From The Rongahere Road (The Camp) (No. 46)**  
Author: **Bill Dacker**  
ISBN: 978-1-86942-212-7  
Extent: 26 pages  
Format: mini booklet  
Publication: June 2022  
Publisher: Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop

**About the Book**

*From the Rongahere Road (The Camp)*, is based on Dacker’s past experiences of living in Beaumont in an old miners’ hut/camp.



## About the Poetry Archive

### *Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa (PANZA)*

#### **PANZA contains**

A unique Archive of NZ published poetry, with around five thousand titles from the 19th century to the present day. The Archive also contains photos and paintings of NZ poets, publisher's catalogues, poetry ephemera, posters, reproductions of book covers and other memorabilia related to NZ poetry and poetry performance.

#### **Wanted**

NZ poetry books (old & new)  
Other NZ poetry items i.e. critical books on NZ poetry, anthologies of NZ poetry, poetry periodicals and broadsheets, poetry event programmes, posters and/or prints of NZ poets or their poetry books. **DONT THROW OUT OLD NZ POETRY! SEND IT TO PANZA**

#### **PANZA will offer:**

- Copies of NZ poetry books for private research and reading purposes.
  - Historical information for poets, writers, journalists, academics, researchers and independent scholars of NZ poetry.
  - Photocopying for private research purposes.
  - Books on NZ poetry and literary history, and CD-ROMs of NZ poetry and literature.
  - CDs of NZ poets reading their work.
- You can assist the preservation of NZ poetry by becoming one of the Friends of the Poetry Archive of New Zealand Aotearoa (PANZA ).  
If you'd like to become a friend or business sponsor of PANZA, please contact us.

#### **Contact Details**

Poetry Archive of NZ Aotearoa (PANZA)  
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(04) 475 8042

Dr Michael O'Leary - Archivist  
(04) 905 7978  
Email: [olearymichael154@gmail.com](mailto:olearymichael154@gmail.com)

#### **Visits welcome by appointment**

#### **Current PANZA Members:**

Mark Pirie (HeadworX), Roger Steele (Steele Roberts Ltd), Michael O'Leary (Earl of Seacliff Art Workshop) and Niel Wright (Original Books).

#### **Current Friends of PANZA:**

Paul Thompson, Gerrard O'Leary, Vaughan Rapatahana, Cameron La Follette (USA), Riemke Ensing and the New Zealand Poetry Society.

PANZA is a registered charitable trust

## Donate to PANZA through PayPal

You can now become a friend of PANZA or donate cash to help us continue our work by going directly to PayPal and making a donation to Dr Michael O'Leary's email address [olearymichael154@gmail.com](mailto:olearymichael154@gmail.com). All donations will be acknowledged in our newsletter under Current Friends of PANZA and transferred to the PANZA bank account.

## Recently received donations

Annie Klier Newcomer (USA) – *Comets* by Annie Klier Newcomer.

Jane Simpson – 4 titles.

Bill Direen – *Seasons* by William Direen.

John Gallas – *17 Paper Resurrections* by John Gallas.

PANZA kindly thanks these donators to the archive.