

World Poetry

PRESENTS

Words That Sing

Federation Square Melbourne
Cnr Flinders & Swanston Streets
Saturday 14 October 2006
11am-1pm | 2pm-4pm

Words That Sing

A Free Program Of Poetry And Songs
In A Fusion Of English And Other Languages

Words That Sing is unique in that as a mentoring project, it has brought together for the first time the many voices of inspired writers and performers of all ages from a variety of cultural backgrounds, who as a result of this pilot project have created new works or refined and translated works in progress.

World Poetry is very proud to be able to bring participating poets, singers and songwriters from regional Victoria to the City, to showcase their work to a multicultural audience in Aboriginal and non aboriginal languages including English.

The birth of *Words That Sing* has been made possible with funding by the City of Melbourne and Arts Victoria, two peak organisations that value the culture of its Traditional Owners, and the many people from other cultures who have settled here.

Information

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Leah 'Nangali' Braeside is a Wunman woman from Port Hedland region in WA. She grew up in a missionary family travelling around Australia from outback to city and has lived in Warrnambool for the last six years. One of her roles at Deakin University is as the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Facilitator for post-graduate students on rural placement. She is involved in a number of music groups despite never learning to read music. Nangali means 'Little Cloud' and her surname was taken from Braeside station near Marble Bar Western Australia where her Dad 'Uncle Jack' was born. He was one taken away from his family and sent to Moore River Settlement (Mogumber) which was featured in the Rabbit Proof Fence movie. With her Dad being one of the first Aboriginal ministers, music became a part of growing up and will remain strong in dedication to her father who passed away last year.

Vicki Couzens a Keerray Wurrong/Gunditjmara woman from the Western Districts of Victoria is a prizewinning artist, photographer, poet and business woman who lives and works in her homelands assiduously pursuing her research in the cultural heritage of the 21 clans in her district. She is ngapoon (mother) to five ngart/daughters and koorrookee (grandmother) of three. Vicki is a board member of The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and has a passionate commitment to the reclamation, regeneration and revitalization of her cultural knowledge and practice and ancestral languages. She initiates and implements community development/art projects and acts as a consultant on a range of issues relating to art and culture.

Oriel Glennon is an Australian Artist/Singer/Songwriter with a passion for her Cornish Cultural Heritage. Oriel's songs in English and in the revived modern Cornish language "Kernewek Kemmyn" have been performed in her ancestral homeland, Cornwall and are presently being recorded. Cornish is one of the six Celtic languages forming a subgroup (Brythonic)

with Breton and Welsh; the Gaelic Celtic languages are those of Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. "Song has enabled me to give a voice to the language of my heritage. It took a journey back to my homeland; a pen placed to paper; a melody to my instrument; and a voice to the lyrics, to bring forth the song of my ancestors" "Land of my Kin". Oriel was invited to Perform "land of my Kin" at the Cornish Festival, Dehwellans (homecoming) in Falmouth, Cornwall after taking out a writers award.

Ahmed Hashim is an Arabic poet. He was born in 1969 in Baghdad, Iraq, of a generation that has undergone wars, disasters and the loss of freedoms. This has left an indelible mark on his poems, which deal with human destiny and the loss of childhood. He came to Melbourne in 1996 after he had spent five years, three months and eighteen days of his life in a refugee camp in the desert in Saudi Arabia. He has published two books of poetry: Isharat li Thakirat Alrahil, 2003, (in Arabic) and Baghdad in Haiku's Eyes, 2006, (in English). Two other books are forthcoming: Qma Ajmala Baghdad (Arabic) and Alone, Holding the Tumbler (English).

Julie Jose was born in the Western district and her mob comes from Gunditjmara, up Warrnambool way but she has lived in Wathaurong country, Geelong for over 20 years and is a Wathaurong Community woman. Julie, a member of the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in Geelong is currently working on the reclamation and teaching the Wathaurong language and has been in that role for 12 months. Prior to this position she worked as a Koorie Educator at primary schools in the Geelong area for 5 years. This inspired her to become a teacher and a role-model for her Community. Julie had the notion of being a classroom teacher with a Koorie perspective but since commencing work as the language worker she has a goal and a vision to become a specialist Aboriginal language teacher in the future and to make a difference towards Aboriginal

education, culture and understanding. Julie is currently studying at Sydney University completing an Indigenous Language Education Masters degree. This experience and learning is a great opportunity for her to understand the complex linguistics associated with Indigenous language and she is really energized about this learning journey.

Bruce Pascoe was born in Victoria in 1947 and graduated from Melbourne University in Arts with a Bachelor of Education. Bruce has worked as a schoolteacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, farm fence contractor, lecturer, Aboriginal language researcher, archeological site worker and book editor. For sixteen years, Bruce published and edited the quarterly magazine Australian Short Stories. He has written 12 books including 4 novels. His published works include Night Animals, Fox, Ruby Eyed Coucal, Shark, Earth, Ocean, Nightjar (stories), Ribcage and Cape Otway (history). In 1998 Bruce won the Radio National Short Story competition, and the Fellowship of Australian Writers Literature Award in 1999 (jointly with David Foster). His stories have won 9 national competitions and been published in 6 languages and 9 countries. Bruce a member of the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in Geelong is currently working on the reclamation and teaching the Wathaurong language of southwestern Victoria.

Paul Venzo is a second generation Italian-Australian living and working in southwest Victoria. In 2005 he was the recipient of a poetry prize from the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial fund in Berkeley California, for his first poems submitted for public scrutiny. He has contributed to academic publications in Australia and overseas in the area of film, television and popular culture, and most recently delivered the 2006 public lecture for the biennial New Social Commentary Contemporary Art Prize. Paul is a graduate from the University Melbourne and is currently lecturing in communications with Deakin University, in tandem with his role as a producer for ABC Local Radio.

Poetry And Songs In A Fusion Of English And Other Languages