THREADS

An anthology of stories, poems and essays by University of Sydney students
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FOREWORD

Elizabeth Webby

Congratulations to all involved in the production of this anthology, whether as contributors or editors. Today, thanks to modern technology, any one with access to the internet and a little time on their hands can put stories, poems and opinions online for others to read. But there is still nothing quite like the thrill of seeing your words in print for the first time, of being able to hold in your hand a publication to which you have contributed.

As the first Australian university, and the only one in Sydney until after the Second World War, the University of Sydney has been home to many publications which have helped advance the careers of authors who were to go on to make major contributions to Australian literature.

Australia’s oldest literary magazine, Southerly, for example, has since 1939 mainly been edited by members of the English Department. When editing the Fiftieth Anniversary issue in 1989, I sought contributions from authors who were first published in its pages. These include Kate Grenville, Les Murray and Frank Moorhouse.

In 1994, a student asked me if he could produce a literary magazine as part of the assessment for a course I was teaching. I warned him that this would involve a lot of work; to my amazement he not only produced the magazine but managed to sell all the copies and bring out two more issues. With the proceeds, he founded Vagabond Press which initially published small poetry chapbooks by student writers but has expanded to include work by leading poets such as Peter Porter, John Tranter and Jan Harry. Michael Brennan’s own poems are published by Salt in the UK and have won major literary awards.

I hope that the writers and editors represented in this anthology will go on to achieve a similar success.

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