

THREADS

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

The University of Sydney Master of Publishing Program
University of Sydney
in association with the
School of Letters, Art and Media and
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PRESS
University of Sydney
www.sup.usyd.edu.au

© 2007 Individual authors

© 2007 Sydney University Press

Design and layout: Sydney University Press

Reproduction and Communication for other purposes

Except as permitted under the Act, no part of this edition may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or communicated in any form or by any means without prior written permission. All requests for reproduction or communication should be made to Sydney University Press at the address below:

Sydney University Press
Fisher Library F03
University of Sydney
NSW 2006 AUSTRALIA
Email: info@sup.usyd.edu.au

ISBN 978-1920898-73-3

Printed in Australia at the University Publishing Service, University of Sydney

CONTENTS

Foreword	v
Unhappenings – Natalia Savvides	1
Blood Plums in the Snow – Katrina Huang	3
When the Morning Comes – Daniel Whitemore	17
House Arrest – Lukasz Swiatek	19
Water Blossoms – Elwin Cross	21
On the Way to Dusk – Vesna Leto.....	22
Even That Could Be Alonso – Anthea Emma England	24
Almost Human – Richard Whitten	40
The Toy-box – Georgia Flynn.....	56
Cherished Objectivity – Emily Chong.....	62
The Perfect Boy – Pegah Hadisadegh	65
The Silent Sea Punishes Me – Daniel Whitemore.....	66
Two Bites of the Cherry – Lyn Vellins	68
Lightning – Claire Hansen	77
The House That She Built – Justin Ker	79
The Printed Word—A Life Story – Cassandra Gercken	82
Philosophy Unplugged – Michael Barnes	93
Broken Bough – Eric Eigner	95
The Sunflower – Amelia Dale	106
Black Education – Wayne Cook.....	114
Home – Catherine Magoffin	116

The Great War, the Soldier and the Holy Anzac Spirit – Renee Lockwood	118
Two shacks – Micah Horton	133
Country teacher – Micah Horton	137
Monogamy – Joan Margaret Short	138
Naomi at home – Micah Horton	148
Mother – Lyn Vellins.....	161
Earthbound – Lyn Vellins	163
Tangle of Thorns – Daile P Hope	165
Actor under Occupation – Natalia Savvides	176
Meeting Al – Joan Short	178
Dranreb – Lyn Vellins	182
An Island with Two Hills – Nicky Hughes.....	185
Domestic Squabble – David Blight	194
Lasciate Speranza – Phillip Muratore.....	197
Fallen Avocadoes and Things Nobody Knows – M E Soós.....	209
When my neighbours are asleep – Matthew Ji Xing Cai	224
Venus to the Fury – Fiona Tweedie	226
Final Kiss – Karyn Meaker	228
Fairground – Rosie Findlay	230
Threads – Amelia Schmidt	234
Acknowledgements	238

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.

Elizabeth Webby is Professor of Australian Literature,
Faculty of Arts, University of Sydney