

Biographies

ALEX CUNNINGHAM is an education student, specialising in art, physical education and English. She would love to work with Indigenous Australians on remote Aboriginal communities and help to improve the educational outcomes of students there.

ALICE ALLEN is a new Melbourne resident who wrangles words for a living. Any chance she gets, she tries to write something close to poetry.

ANDREA LOUISE THOMAS is a poet and freelance writer. She's Arts Editor of Pearl Magazine and founder/MC of Peninsula Poets. She teaches kids' poetry workshops. Andrea hopes to publish her first collection of poetry soon. She is connected to the West through poetry comrades and prefers poetry to all other styles.

ANNERLEIGH GRACE McCALL is an emerging writer undertaking a creative writing degree. She has a strong social justice intent, which tends to flavour her work. She is exploring different writing forms at the moment, but finds poetry a good fit, in between the whims of two children.

ANNIE D'AQUINO lives in the west with her partner and their two children. She used to be a visual artist and is now a writer with a first novel in progress.

BENJAMIN LAUT is originally from NSW. In 2010 he moved to Melbourne to study and pursue a career in the arts. He tries to push the boundaries of guilt, sexuality, and philosophy in the search of the perfect perversion. He lives and breathes the Western suburbs in all their imperfect glory. He works in a range of mediums, including oils, photography and poetry.

BERNADETTE BELLMUNT loves art, poetry, good films and good friends. She mainly paints portraits/figures and aspires to travel all over the world. Having grown up in the inner west, she has been inspired by the culture and characters she sees.

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BRIEGA YOUNG is an actor who sings and writes songs on the piano. She likes to dabble in writing poetry. One day she would like to tread the boards of famous theatres in the big cities of the world.

BRUCE MOYLE is a media producer, sound engineer, videographer, photographer and on occasion, cosplay herder, based in Launceston, Tasmania. When he isn't enriching his brain with a direct connection to the Internet, you can find him in a cinema or with his face stuck in a book.

BRUCE PAGUNSAN is a 22 year old student studying music and digital media at VU. He is a musician, guitarist, composer and producer, hoping to become a professional in the music industry. He hopes to keep an open-minded approach to art and life.

CAROL CHANDLER is a fiction and non-fiction writer. Her work has won awards and appeared in Australian literary magazines including *Famous Reporter*, *FourW*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Hecate*, *Idiom23*, and *Quadrant*. She is a Writing Fellow of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, has co-edited *Written in Sand* and is the editor of *Bondi Tides*.

CHLOE MAYNE is an aspiring zinester, poet, ukulele-ist and philosopher from Hobart, Tasmania. She likes to pin poems on unsuspecting trees and lampposts, and wants to start her own micro-micro publishing house.

CLARE ROYALL is 22 and is in her first year of studying literature and professional writing at VU. She would like to be an English teacher as she corrects her friends' English all the time and thinks she might as well get paid for it. She would also love to freelance as a journalist or editor.

COURTNEY MAY MILLETT was born in 1988 and shares the same middle name as both of her grandmothers. She likes dogs, Polaroids, road trips and pad thai. She doesn't believe in God or Tony Abbott. If she were to get married, it would be to her Mamiya 7ii Rangefinder.

CRAIG HENDERSON is studying Professional Writing and Editing at VU. He has always been fascinated with the power of the written word to explain what common sense cannot. He is currently redrafting his first manuscript, a psycho/social drama, while fighting the urge to continue with a second story based on supernatural themes.

DANIELLE XU has grown up with a passion for creative arts, and dabbles in multiple mediums such as digital art, photography and making origami. Inspired by her love of colours, music and friends, she is determined to better herself as an artist, and hopes to always be able to do what she loves.

DELIA SINNI is a writer and a poet from Melbourne's west and is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Communications – Professional Writing at VU. She hopes that one day, her daydreams and scribbles will organise themselves into a published novel that will inspire readers to daydream and scribble.

DREW CAMPBELL is a Sound Production student at VU. A love for sound is driving his pursuit to put his fingers in many a sonic pie. Having performed in bands and produced his own music, he now aspires to work in poorly-lit recording studios and post-production houses.

ELISABETH DAWSON-SMITH is originally a trained dancer, and has spent a large part of her creative career travelling the world as a stage and street performer, both creating wacky shows, and studying theatre techniques in Europe, South America, Australia, Africa and Asia. Her current works explore suburban themes in a quirky and never-before-seen fashion.

EMILY TATTI is currently studying Professional Writing and Editing at RMIT, and is currently working on a novel. She has a great fondness for the Nutbush, the Macarena and other embarrassing 90s dances.

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GEOFF GOODFELLOW has been writing and publishing poems about working class people for 27 years. He has published ten books, most going into multiple print runs. His most recent book *Waltzing with Jack Dancer* is a record of his recent survival from throat cancer and his dealings with the public health system.

HIROSHI YOSHINO is a Japanese hairstylist in Melbourne. Apart from cutting hair during the day, he passionately engages in photography, drawing and painting to express his inner creativity.

ISI UNIKOWSKI works for the Australian Government and lives in Canberra. His wife grew up in what is now Altona Meadows, which is where they and their children stay with family during school holidays.

JACINTA COLE is a first year arts student studying Psychology and Professional Writing at VU. She enjoys writing short stories and prose, and hopes to one day have the capacity to wield words that resonate with others. Jacinta grew up in Werribee, a place renowned for seemingly overlooking the 'thou shalt not wear moccasins in public' rule.

JENNY TOUNE is a writer, poet, performer, tap-dancer. Jenny's been published in various anthologies, was a featured artist at Melbourne's Overland Poetry Festival and has published a poetry e-book *The Swamp Siren's Burlesque Bible*. Self-taught, self-funded, self-obsessed, experimental, experiential, expounder of the word and the beat.

JOSH PASSARINI has a BA in Professional Writing from VU, and back in the day was a proud editor of *Offset*. Currently working three jobs whilst studying full-time again, Josh writes short fiction and poetry whenever the mood strikes.

KARLIE MOYLE. Kitchen bitch. Bartender. Poet. Editor of *Don't Look Down*.

KATRIEN VAN HUYCK is a writer/filmmaker/philosopher/hedonist.

KIM RICHARDS is studying Visual Arts at VU. She aspires to become a practising artist and use her chosen medium of photography to explore all sorts of genres.

KORALY DIMITRIADIS is a Cypriot-Australian writer of poetry, non-fiction and prose. She also performs as a spoken word artist. She presents on 3CR radio's spoken word program word and is a former blogger for *Overland*. She is being mentored by Christos Tsiolkas for her novel *Misplaced*, and she is currently working on her fiction trilogy *Good Greek Girls*. www.koralydimitriades.com

KRISTOFFER PAULSEN is a thirty year old musician living in Melbourne. Also working as a photographer, Kris studied at VU and is in the process of completing a Bachelor of Music.

LAURA MAIN is not exactly sure what her aspirations are. Perhaps it is to find something to aspire to? She writes about art and music as a job, but finds that fictional stories are a way to escape. She is connected to the West through family and school, and finds herself falling more in love with the area every day.

LEITH WALTON creates whimsical illustrations of modern mythical creatures in tender watercolour. Rusted pipes, clanking cogs and ancient machines wander their way through his pieces, which are often infused with some sort of tea. Lately he has been busy discovering a genie society that rises from the steam of cups of tea, which you can see on his website www.leithwalton.com

LORRAINE ANNE MANEJA is a singer/songwriter from Caroline Springs. She has lived in the western suburbs her whole life. Later this year, she is hoping to release her single 'Over' and hopefully follow this with her debut CD at the end of the year. Her preferred genres are soul and pop and she is heavily influenced by Aretha Franklin.

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LUCIA NARDO writes mainly short stories. When she is not writing, she is learning about writing or teaching writing.

LUKE RYAN's work explores a narrative adorned with a kinesthetic self-referential dialogue. The work reflects a visual language and investigates both the concept of identity and narration. He draws from both the American traditionalists of the "Golden Era" of illustration and the meticulous process of Japanese animation.

MARK CLOUGH is a painter, writer and spoken word performer. He lives in the East, studies in the West and plays in between. Mark's first public exhibition will be held at Gasworks Arts Park in association with Midsumma Festival in January 2013.

MARK SMITH is an outdoor educator, writer and surfer living on the West Coast of Victoria. He principally writes but is experimenting with creative non-fiction as well. His main aspirations in writing are to reflect believable experiences in a way that allows readers to empathise with the characters.

MATTHEW MAGRO is currently studying Professional Writing and aspires to be a novelist in the future. He was born in Footscray and has lived in the western suburbs for most of his life. He currently favours Science Fiction as his genre of choice.

MEGAN GREEN is a Melbourne writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and songs. She has been published in magazines, journals and newspapers and dreams of completing her two novels whilst working full time at Barwon Health in the Corporate Office where she combines writing, high-flying career, kids, cats and dog.

MICHAEL VOULGARELLIS is a third year education student who plans on teaching English in high school. Writing is just a thing he does. He could not imagine not doing it.

MITCHELL SHEPHERD writes short stories to fill the moments of agony and frustration that accompany the effort of penning a debut novel.

PAULINE KENNEDY is an aspiring artist living in Point Cook, trapped in a humble body. She greatly admires the Old Masters, particularly Velasquez and Vermeer, and would love to swoon like the *Rockeby Venus*. She is currently painting in oils and completing religious icons. Along with writing practice she collects bad jokes, pompous sentences and awful puns.

RAFAEL S.W.'s purpose is to give people glorious stories to tell. Some have appeared in *Voiceworks*, *Ex Calamus* and *Dotdotdash*. In his final year of Creative Writing at RMIT, he often wonders what he'll do with the rest of his life, but the answer is always the same: Writing and falling in love.

RAY FARRUGIA is a photographer living and working in the western suburbs of Melbourne. He photographs places and characters of interest within the West. He meticulously crafts these photographs to present the viewer with a memorable occasion and invite them to travel through a moment frozen in time.

RHIANNON DELPERO is a composer and musician, and grew up singing and playing violin in her hometown Werribee. Since studying classical violin at Melbourne University for some time, she has found herself exploring ways to develop modern popular genres and contribute "something different" to the world of music.

ROBERT JAMES CONLON is 48 years old, born and bred in the western suburbs of Melbourne, Australia. He has had poetry and prose published here and there. He does a bit of spoken word and poetry around the traps in Melbourne, and is currently the full-time carer of his mother.

ROBIN WILKINSON is a Melbourne writer and poet who has just completed a creative writing degree.

SHERRYL CLARK writes poetry, children's books, novels and short stories – the idea often suggests the form and the reader. She teaches writing at VU.

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SKY DAVIES and her partner Dan formed a production company called Nectar in order to produce highly creative film works, whether they be music videos, abstract short films or video projections.

STEPHEN BAKER is a full-time VU student studying Business (Management). Business is his interest, photography his passion. It is his aspiration to become a teacher in both fields. He runs his own photography business with his wife, who is also his connection to the West. He loves photography as a medium. Each work is individual and now so easily accessed.

STEPHEN MOORE likes beer and coffee, but not at the same time. Grand delusions of being a writer of renown occasionally infect his mind. He has a beard, but doesn't own any jackets with elbow patches. The ridiculousness of writing about himself in the third person amuses him.

SUSAN ADAMS is an emerging Australian poet who has been published extensively in literary journals both in Australia and overseas, including *Westerley*, *Quadrant*, *Social Alternatives* and *Hecate*. She has been read a number of times on ABC Radio National, including *Poetica*. Commended in the internationally respected Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize, Ireland, 2012.

TAMARA BARRETT is a student, a writer, an admin slave and a cupcake enthusiast. She doesn't take life too seriously, because who knows? Tomorrow she may choke on an olive or be eaten by an Orca. She moved to the Wicked West two years ago and is loving every crazy minute of it.

VARIA KARIPOFF is a freelance arts and culture writer. She is currently poet in residence at the Moat and was shortlisted for the Ada Cambridge Poetry Prize. She is working on a collection of poems and is west-side schooled and raised.

VINAL RIOT is a three piece grunge band from Maryborough. Heavily inspired by Silverchair, James Macer (front man), Jarrod Goh (bass) and Steven Kelly (drums) formed the band in 2009. The three began playing at dirty little bars in Melbourne, in front of almost nobody. Three years down the track and nothing much has changed, but they love what they do and continue to grow as musicians.

VIRIANA ZENELI was born in Kosovo and migrated to Australia when she still had ringlets and Barbies. She has a degree in Media, but decided in late 2011 that she wanted to work in early education and inspire little minds to think big.

WARWICK SPRAWSON is a Melbourne-based writer of short stories, hiking articles, poems and assorted ephemera.

YANINA OLIVER is a graduate of a Bachelor of Music and is currently employed by VU as administrator for music programs and a sessional teacher. She was born in Argentina but grew up in Melbourne and is passionate about equipping aspiring musicians to achieve their goals.