

My Bio says I'm a Friendly Street NP from 2018 and that I've been published in Aus, the UK, US, CN, Fr and CAN. It also mentions I am 'lived experience' and a retired senior school English teacher. This initial poem was short-listed in 2018 for the FSP Nova Prize won outright by Liu Wanling.

it's all relative

it's old

before it reaches me

i'm told

the light

the day

the news

the conversation

there's warmth though

and daylight hours are favourable

still dealing a life force

measured sometimes, in moments

and so

i make the fickleness last

etch notes in my journal

ignore life's frailty

expand the impermanence

until i have possessed

the full day

calling it mine

as if it were mine to own

Short-listed for the Nova Prize - first published, 'Friendly Street Anthology 42' "Dream-Water Fragment", 2018 Edited by Karl Cameron-Jackson and Ros Schulz and then by 'In Case Of Emergency Press', "One Surviving Poem 1", 2019 (AUS) edited by Howard Firkin.

I was accepted to Sturt CAE in 1975 as a mature-aged undergraduate to study Science and English in a four-year Bachelor of Education, senior secondary. I know therefore from my studies the great poets and know how difficult their interpretation can be and so once my writing gained momentum, I added minimalist industrial signature to my Bio and US editors came on board. And when I mapped it against light disadvantage my rate of acceptance increased.

This next and, (unpublished) poem, is a retrospective piece that highlights the story behind my industrial writing based conveniently on my early employment as an apprentice Fitter & Turner at GMH Woodville from 1967 and when editors looked past my poetry.

word worlds

I reiterate the difficulty posting unpublished poems unlikely to be accepted by editors once in the public domain and this site is that. I appreciate your understanding but watch 'poetryfeasting' for acceptance that will allow for upload – with all details.

The next two poems demonstrate the wryness in the stories I tell to draw the reader closer to the subject of disadvantage - both were published in the US.

cut price

do i
bump
& struggle
through
another dislocated
day

or return
to my bed
where guilt
will gnaw on
my discount store
existence

or wait
for monday sales
that return so much less.

First published by
'Cacti Fur' Sept 2021
Edited by Jim Thompson
[CUT-PRICE – Geoffrey Aitken | Cacti Fur](#)

And,

wake-up call

it
hurtles
into my waking
this
morning light

savagely
shakes
the night
from
my rising

quickly shades
the colour
of my imagining
as i prepare
to volunteer
at
the op shop

here
i serve
a disparate clientele
 that clothes itself
 in seconds

First published
'Hole in the Head'
May 2021 edited by
William Schulz
[Geoffrey Aitken 22 \(holeintheheadreview.com\)](http://holeintheheadreview.com)

I'd like to read two shorter poems that show a view to 'lived experience' – from a quiet space.

correction

the
children's
party game
musical chairs
is
discordant

not
a game

nor
is it fun

i have seen scars.

Victoria Elghasen & Michelle Baleka
Editors
Déraciné Magazine
<http://deracinemagazine.com>

figuratively

it is difficult
to store water
in cupped hands

an expectation
for many

those
without vessels
or means

i saw it in a metaphor

Highly Commended
Mindshare Awards 2020
'Emerging Published' Category

I do like humour and often use ambiguity to suggest its promise while asking readers to decide, ‘what’s going on’. I have a mixture of older and more recent poems for you in this grab. This first little poem was perhaps my first real AUS success and it’s going to be reprinted in CAN this May.

illusionist

he was ten
she was seven:

he an aspiring
magician

before her
he laid
a single white handkerchief
& on it he placed
his invitation:

a small silver styled ring
asking her,
“will you marry me?”

she, puzzled, replied:
“what’s the trick?”

<http://underground-writers.org/product/issue-28-invitation/>

Republished at Poetry Pacific May 5th, 2022, (CAN)

team oi

This is another poem that has been unrecognized for publication.

the complimentary cuff

And this.

mixed messages

in this rush
in this cascade of hours
of service
locked onto weary

it appears
the bombs dropped
yesterday
were a mistake

and for clarity
the rockets sent
tomorrow
may also be in error

First published at
Hole in the Head Review # 3
issue 1 released in May '22.
edited by William Schulz

dissident torque

This piece also.

It would be unfair of me not to use a moment to portray Indigenous Australians after thirty years on Arrernte country in central Australia four (4), in remote communities, delivering useless literacy and numeracy programs for work readiness. I genuinely hope this poem finds a home.

ali curung winter

This must find a home given the comment below be esteemed Editor...

'Minor brag'

Thank you for sending us 'Overland Political Poetry 3rd Quarter 2019'. **We deliberated over 'ali curung winter' in particular.**

Best regards,
Toby Fitch

I'd like to close the official 'feature' with a poem that intercepts our literary past (if only remotely). This for me is the true writer/poet whose valuable observations remind us of who we are at given points in History. It is subjective but has elements of Sci-Fi I first encountered in the writings of Ray Bradbury.

a literary precedent

Another poem I truly hope finds a home.

Some quick thankyou's; Tom & Rene of Mixed Creative for the venue (drinks & food), host Matthew (for support and encouragement), Martin for the photographs (and chat), regulars who've laughed and applauded my sharing and David who's accompanied me on the drive from the south, most recently.

Finally then with respect to all poets I'd like to end with a piece that summarizes for me life's enigma in the search for substance.

true to my word

Sadly, I must end with another unpublished poem, but hey, I remain hopeful and if you're at this site as a poet you must not surrender either.