



the **Cd** side of **ROOMERS**

This CD contains language that may offend

The alternative title for this CD was 'This is Crap: The best of the Roomers Writing Workshops'. This term was the introduction that the writers gave to their own pieces before they first read them out on Thursday afternoons. The highlight of each workshop, after the writing exercise, a cup of coffee and a biscuit is hearing what everyone else has just come up with. Typically each person, when they first joined the group, didn't think much of what they'd first written. That's when we'd hear it, just about everyone's said it in one shape or form... 'No one's going to want to hear this... don't think I'll read it out.' And that's just where they were wrong. Everyone else pitches in and uses every possible means to draw them out, not for any patronizing reasons but because we genuinely want to hear how they write and what they want to write about. It's not just someone who's come for the first time who says it either. It can come from an old hand who's had a change of style or experimented with something new. We want to hear them though because we know we get to hear the best stories and the most exciting voices on those Thursday afternoons.

Some of the writers you'll hear on this CD have been writing for Roomers for over five years and coming to the sessions since they began, some only started a few weeks ago. These workshops have been run in some form or other for over four years. A guest writer comes in to the St Kilda Library to run a series of workshops (funding permitting!). This year Mari Lourey has done a fantastic job running the writing sessions. The writing leads to reading, the reading to listening, the listening to understanding what other people are all about. The beauty of sitting with a group of other people and writing is until they open their mouths to read what they've just put down on paper, you'd never guess what they'd been thinking. Everyone's style is distinctive, original and honest. We wanted to make this CD to capture some of those moments, to share the wonderful experience of having a brief glimpse inside someone else's head. So have a look at the pictures, read the bios and listen to what they've got to say. It's not crap at all!

Pip Mackey
Project Co-ordinator



Bob Wharerau

Bob, a retired National Radio broadcaster, has turned to his other passion, creative writing, hails from Nth Auckland, New Zealand, has lived here for many years.



Bruce Brown

Bruce has lived in the South Melbourne & Albert Park area for most of his life. His last job was working underneath the Westgate Bridge, creating a park for the Board of Works, before Kennett came in and “destroyed Victoria” He has been involved with Roomers since the beginning and loves the performances. A new heart valve 15 years ago has extended his life beyond all expectations.



Dean Briggs

Is an arthritic fat bastard with no ambition but one day would like to become a 'savant.' He's done eleven years of theatre with two theatre companies; Square One Theatre, Glenroy and he was the assistant director of 'I Comici.' He's done a lot of writing for theatre and his life swings between waking up and going to sleep.



Eddie Ink

Eddie was born in 1947 and again in 1954. He rose to the height of 6'2". After a spell in various rock bands in the 60's he worked in the Theatre and later Television. He has written a number of plays and had eight children's books published. He enjoys long walks and playing blues guitar.



Hugo Guthrie

Born in England, he had the good sense to emigrate at the age of three months to the lucky country where for most of his life he has lived. At the times he was not living he hopes people will forget! Now at the age of forty-one, he is in a position to make some claims but wonders if they are spurious: like I am a Melbourne man or I am a creator, one of his more adventurous claims is that he is mentally healthy! Whatever, he likes being in his own skin, which he calls "here", one hopes all the best for him and his control of that alter ego so readily exemplified in his acting career!



Isabella Fels

Was born in 1971. She has written for Port Fairy ex libris, the Mental Illness Fellowship, Positive Words, The Big Issue and done promotional writing for Prahran Mission. She has also been short listed for OzOpera (2001) and the Vera Newsom poetry competition. She also under the name of Lisa Fenton and Susan Donald.



James Roy Vost

Being a Gemini, unionist organizer and thinker, plus writer, I feel privileged to be part of the Roomers CD.



Jo Hennessy

Jo has overcome a lifetime of chaos, addiction and self-destruction. She is currently living with her husband and 73 animals in Geelong. The animals range from rats to rabbits, various parrots, turtles and ferrets among others. For the first time in her life she is starting to settle down and deal with her past and mental illness issues through various avenues, including art, writing and music.



Justin Macdonald

He explores the realms of mind and body. He studies and enjoys sport. He writes when he's inspired and reads the work of others when he needs inspiration. He's worked most of his life but he enjoys recreation. He is sociable. He is Justin Macdonald.



Maree Wesols

Is a renewed creative writer - seasonally inspired. She has skills in creative writing, song writing and as a sound artist. Her ambition is to tell story through song and sometimes written pieces.



Meredith Bishop

Born in Queensland in 1953 and growing up in the country just north of Brisbane, Meredith caught her first fish (alone) at the age of three. Meredith spent four and a half years at the Queensland College of Art studying both fine and applied art. She can paint, draw and likes to write.



Michelle Wise

Michelle was born in 1973 with a love, to express myself, with all my creative talents. My family being my inspiration.



Michael Parker

I'm a 44 year old Heroin Addict. I've tried many times to give it up but it is hard, to say the least. A close friend of mine died this morning of an O.D. She was only 31. Heroin will either kill me or it won't.



Paul Whitby

Paul is a jumble sale of parts and pieces, some functioning, some saleable but some not. Terminally single, he walks through life with an emotional limp. He hopes one day to be surrounded by groupies and cash but he'll settle for a Cortina and a house in Brunswick.



Warwick Knight

Warwick has cruised a little, stopped, stood and endeavors to express thought and emotion.

He thinks and senses. Essentially...he enjoys contributing, submitting and socialising.



Wendy Butler at 61

My life is trash. I collect it and write about it. I'm a voyeur in a private hotel, watching other people's lives and stealing them to write about. My passion is the late and great Hollywood private hotel and I've been using the Roomers writing group to write 1001 stories about The Hollywood. The good news is that at 61 I've finally got a life of my own and may stop writing about the past. I used to be the witch of The Hollywood, now I'm Wendy Wonderlust.

- 01 *Gat Girls* - Wendy Butler (01:50)
- 02 *Room With A View* - Eddie Ink (04:16)
- 03 *Dear Heroin* - Jo Hennessy (02:18)
- 04 *Black Fella, White Fella* - Michelle Wise (00:55)
- 05 *First Tattoo* - Michael Parker (03:48)
- 06 *Beneath My Pillow* - Hugo Guthrie (00:34)
- 07 *Saturday Night At My Place* - Dean Briggs (04:12)
- 08 *St Kilda Jitterbug* - Mez (00:49)
- 09 *Grey Skies* - Warwick Knight (01:43)
- 10 *S-Bend Trilogy* - Paul Whitby (01:38)
- 11 *Imagine* - Bob Wharerau (00:45)
- 12 *My Fantasy* - Bruce Brown (00:58)
- 13 *Get Up In The Morning* - Maree (01:23)
- 14 *Grab A Beer* - Justin MacDonald (01:02)
- 15 *My Mum* - Isabella (01:24)
- 16 *Reality* - Jimmy Vost (01:18)
- 17 *We're Off To See The Wizard* - Wendy Butler (03:48)
- 18 *Deranged* - Michael Parker (01:45)
- 19 *Jerusalem Artichoke* - Hugo Guthrie (00:42)
- 20 *One To Ten* - Michelle Wise (00:37)
- 21 *My First Haircut* - Paul Whitby (02:25)
- 22 *XPT to Sydney* - Bob Wharerau (02:30)
- 23 *She Said* - Eddie Ink (00:34)
- 24 *My Room* - Justin MacDonald (01:29)
- 25 *Journet Of The Mind* - Warwick Knight (01:51)
- 26 *I Remember* - Bruce Brown (01:52)
- 27 *Democracy* - Hugo Guthrie (00:42)
- 28 *Irony* - Jo Hennessy (01:40)
- 29 *Welcome To Connex* - Paul Whitby (02:34)
- 30 *Logic Problem* - Justin MacDonald (01:29)
- 31 *Cold Tea* - Mez (00:41)
- 32 *Someone To Hold* - Michael Parker (00:49)
- 33 *Thou* - Hugo Guthrie (01:01)
- 34 *On The Nod* - Paul Whitby (01:13)
- 35 *Spiral Dancer* - Michelle Wise (00:30)

Maree - Guitar on *Get Up In The Morning*
Justin MacDonald - Guitar on *My Room / Logic Problem*
Sarah L'Estrange - Additional Voices

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Ed Stevenson

For more information regarding the Roomers Project and Roomers Magazine, please visit www.roomers.com.au



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VICTORIA**



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