

Writing our responses to the COVID 19 Pandemic

As we experience our own *Year of Wonders* in these surreal days of voluntary isolation, quarantine, social distancing and lock down, we are seeking stories for an anthology which records some of the social history of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Each day we hear that *we are all in this together*, but each of our experiences and our means of coping with a new way of living is different. This is what we want to capture, the myriad stories of Australians going about their day (whatever that entails) or capturing part of their day in the midst of an epidemic.

We have invited accounts from everyday people as well as high profile authors and identities and anticipate a collection which features stories of front line health workers, teachers, academics, writers, home schoolers, actors, artists, business people facing foreclosure, religious leaders, aged care residents, truck drivers and retail workers to name a few. We are currently preparing a proposal for publication.

In 500 – 1000 words, or as a poem or even a sketch, help us capture this significant time in our history. Records will recall statistics, timelines, stimulus measures and ill-fated cruise ships but this is not enough. We want to record the human story of everyday people responding to unprecedented events. These are extraordinary times and we are passionate about capturing the stories that show our humanness, our responses to situations we cannot control, our stoicism, our fear, our humour, our empathy, our struggles, our growth and our resilience. Please share yours.

Submit your story/poem or sketch, accompanied by a short bio (to provide a context) by Friday 26 June to runningwriting365@gmail.com All submissions will be considered for inclusion in the final anthology and will be treated with confidentiality and respect.

We look forward to hearing from you

Johanna Skinner & Jane Connolly (editors)

About Us

Johanna is married to Michael and has moved more times than she cares to remember. She now lives in Brisbane with three teenagers, a dog and a cat and works as a general practitioner. In 2011 she uprooted the family and moved to Ireland where she spent a year travelling, running, writing and working. In 2014, she ran a marathon a month raising money for twelve different charities. She has continued to run and has now run thirty-nine marathons. Writing is her other passion. She has completed a memoir, just finished her first novel, and enjoys experimenting with short stories and flash fiction.

Jane was involved in education for close to forty years as a former teacher librarian, Children's Book Council of Australia Awards judge, consultant to school libraries and corporate communicator. She was a regular reviewer with *Magpies*, tutored for a time at QUT and as part of her role in corporate communications, she regularly edited material prior to publication. Now no longer scribing for her daily bread, Jane is pursuing a different kind of fiction writing.

Jane proudly proclaims to have never run a marathon.