

Tricia received a Diploma of Education in 1960 and worked in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. After arriving in Australia, she taught in Benalla, then worked in a veterinary laboratory, eventually completing a degree in Veterinary Science, which she had earlier commenced at the University of Bath (Somerset). Tric developed an interest in Parasitology and completed a Master of Science degree in 1997. Veronica Schwarz's tribute below tells more of the wonderful and varied life of Tric.

SWWV member Jenny Hearn represented the Society at Tric's funeral at Benalla on Friday January 20th. It was held at the Lakeside Community Centre. Large picture windows framed views of red gum and box trees and the sunlit waters of the lake beyond glinted through the leaves, such an appropriate venue for Tricia who had walked round this lake every morning for thirty years and more.

Jenny was given the opportunity to express the Society's grief at Tricia's passing and the gratitude we feel for her valuable contribution over the years. Jenny chose 'Benalla, City of Roses' (written in 1979) which expresses Tricia's love of her adopted home and country, to read at the conclusion of her eulogy.

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**Members' Tributes to Tricia  
Collated by Meryl Brown Tobin**

**Razmi Finn:**

I have always admired Tric and her writing and in the last few years I learned a bit about her life through short conversations we had. I said to her a couple of times how I admire her commitment in travelling all the way from Benalla to attend the meetings. I am sorry I did not get a chance to chat with her at the last meeting.

**Janet Howie:**

I have just read the sad news on Tricia. So pleased to have been with her at our last meeting. Tricia was a committed member of the Society taking her turn at being President and always keen to write and to share her work. We will miss her.

**Rebecca Maxwell:**

The amazing breadth of Tricia's knowledge and information about parasites and other scientific matters comes to my mind. And even more amazing that such material makes it into poetry.

**For more tributes from members, followed by a tribute from SWWV member Veronica**

**Schwarz outlining Tric's life and her involvement in SWWV...**

**Del Nightingale:**

Tric fought her last battle so well, living her life and keeping in touch. She played her part in the Society too, holding the position of President at a time when the society needed that same, strong, no-fuss way of managing the detail.

Yes, I shall miss Tric's performance poetry and the fun she had in getting the humour across

to the listeners.

I'll also miss her at our meetings, for Tric came to our monthly meetings and contributed right to the end of the year.

**Maree Silver:**

I took this photo of Tric at the last meeting. She had been busy taking photos of all the other 'winners' and I thought I would take one of her for her own interest. To me it captures the Tric I knew, always smiling, never complaining and always ready to help if the need arose. She was an excellent poet with a wonderful, clever sense of fun. I will miss her quiet presence sitting up at the back of our meetings.

**Lynn Smailes**, former President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (Vic) and former Editor of its magazine The Australian Writer:

Tricia was a great supporter of the Fellowship [one who contributed articles and poems to the magazine] and I had a sense of her as such a warm and friendly person from her emails. When I met her for the first time at a SWWV meeting, she was as warm and lovely as her emails.

Lynn lists Tric's entry in The Australian Writer Achievements, January 2012:

Tricia Veale has had two poems published in Tamba magazine and two poems in Free XpresSion magazine.

In the National Water Week 2011 River Yarns Writing Competition, she was Highly Commended for the poem Reflections.

Tricia's review of the new UK textbook "Essentials of Veterinary Parasitology" was published in the Australian Veterinary Journal. Volume 89 No 11.

An article on Barbers Pole Worms appeared in the Weekly Times. Issue # 7262.

Monthly articles were submitted to the Wormboss website.

Her poem Nature's Wilderness was Commended in the Society of Women Writers Vic Christmas Competition.

**Anna Sput Stern**, fellow member of the Deakin Literary Society:

I have just read the sad news about our Tricia. She was a valuable member of DLS [Deakin Literary Society]. Her poems, her sense of humour and her lovely way of expressing herself during our discussions has been very much appreciated by all of us.

**Dulcie Stone:**

From the beautiful photo and all the messages it's obvious that Tricia was a very special person. I wish I'd had the benefit of knowing her.

**Meryl Tobin:**

Tricia was a warm vibrant people person who loved coming to the SWWV. When I first heard her read one of her poems, I was blown away by her unique poet's voice and by the power of her presentation. Not only did she choose something different to write about - parasites were a favourite topic - but she also had an outstanding speaking voice. With her veterinary scientist mind, she could write about unusual creatures with knowledge, and, with her creative mind, she could put them in poetical language, usually with a quirky twist. Though few members knew of her battle with cancer, Tric turned up to our Christmas Break-Up Party at the end of November, even winning a prize and reading her prizewinning entertaining and humorous poem. Not only a keen general member, Tric was also a valuable office-bearer, serving as President of the Society from 2009-2011,

**Blaise van Hecke**, President of SWWV Inc and Publisher, Busybird Publishing:

I'm so sad to hear of Tricia's passing. I loved her cheeky smile and quiet way of interacting with people. I published a funny poem by Tricia in our second issue of [untitled] in 2010, all about demented writers.

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**SWWV member Veronica Schwarz has written the following tribute to Tricia on behalf of the Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc.**

When I first met Tricia, I liked her immediately. She had a calm about her which was a perfect foil to her delightful and, at times, cheeky humour. An example of her wit shines through in the title of her book on microbiology - *Parasites Regained*. Milton would probably have chuckled in his grave.

She loved limericks and one of her favourites was:

A fly and a flea in a flue

were imprisoned, so what could they do?

Said the fly, "Let us flee!"

"Let us fly!" said the flea,

so they flew through a flaw in the flue!

Tricia loved to play with language and marvel at the wonders of English. She reminded us: "There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in a hamburger. Exploring the paradoxes, we find that quicksand often works slowly, boxing rings are square and a Guinea Pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. It's amazing to reflect that English was invented by people... not

computers! Tricia loved books, writing and publishing. She expressed it once this way. "I clearly remember my younger years in a suburb of London. After the Second World War was over there were frequent power blackouts. I spent many evenings in my room reading by candlelight ... there was no other entertainment! I read all the Enid Blyton, Malcolm Saville and available poetry books. The must visit place on Saturday was the local library! How things have changed! Imagine life in the future without any newspapers and books... then there is a massive power cut!!!

Life ... war... weather patterns ... it all goes in cycles!"

She kept us informed of the politics, the problems and the joys of the written word and the changes evolving with digitalisation and electronics in publishing and writing. She urged us to keep writing as we were a part of that history, now and into the future. She stated: "... we must keep on writing. That's vital in our society, regardless of the manner in which it is eventually published and read!"

She was passionate about literature and poetry and lamented the fact that young people were exposed to it less frequently these days. She urged us to read and give books of poetry to the

young people we are in contact with. Her own love of poetry is reflected in her words, "Words keep flowing through my mind all day and I can't sleep until the latest poem is written down." she said.

She cared deeply about the environment and the rural people who suffered from its extremes. Following one of Victoria's floods in early 2011, she wrote in the Society's newsletter: "This wonderful country is very much subjected to major shifts in the weather patterns. After 13 years of terrible drought we have suddenly had so much rain that severe flooding has occurred. On behalf of the Society I wish to express our sincere condolences to those who have lost lives, crops, stock, houses and businesses in this tragedy.

On Australia Day I was thrilled to be asked to be the guest speaker at a small, local, country community. I met many farmers there who had suffered shocking crop losses, and they were not even near the major flood area!"

Her love of Benalla, the town she lived in, was expressed in her tenth book *Benalla, City of Roses* (Bookworm Press). She was shortlisted in second place for the Ron Euling Award for Excellence in Writing for the book.

Her President's letter in the SWWV newsletter, constantly praised and encouraged and quoted the works of members, other women writers, and writers in general. She wrote book reviews and tributes to fellow members. She stated that her aim was to encourage fellow writers and she did it beautifully.

She had a vision for the SWWV which included drawing us closer into the community of writers in Victoria. One way she saw we could do this was to move our meetings to the newly established writers' centre. She wrote: "I personally think it is very important that we meet at the hub of Melbourne/ Australian/ Victorian literature. Melbourne became a UNESCO City of Literature and we need to be part of it ... This way we can obtain more publicity for our organisation and hopefully keep updated and encourage new members to join us." The majority of members agreed with her and the Society moved to the new Centre of Books, Writing and Ideas (CBWI) later re-named the Wheeler Centre. Unfortunately, the Wheeler Centre did not suit all members and the Society later moved its meetings back to Ross House. But it is an example of Tricia's vision for writers in general as a community and the Society's members in particular.

Tricia was aware of the discrimination and disadvantage still facing women writers and the lack of female characters and heroes in books. Tricia found that if you carefully examine the literary magazines most re-views are published about men's books and comparatively few about women authors. Tricia wrote of the disparity of books by men and women being reviewed compared to the books being written. Male authors whose books were given full reviews, outnumbered women by a staggering four to one! She wrote, "Can this be labelled cultural femicide? Unfortunately we still live in an unequal and discriminating world!"

Long before we at the Society of Women Writers Victoria met Tricia she had already lead an amazingly diverse life with wonderful experiences that helped to shape her and contribute to her writing and her vision.

She began her career as a science teacher and, while working in Nigeria, she described the moment that changed her career. "One day in the ward I saw a man who had just passed a

huge tapeworm. We laid it out on the floor beside him—it was longer than he was tall. Then I experienced that big EUREKA moment!!!! I realised I had to get out of teaching one day, work in a laboratory and concentrate on parasites. They were SO FASCINATING!!!!”

Working in Saudi Arabia was her next move. A full burqua was the dress of the day outside the compound. While working in the hospital laboratory, she also conducted a primary school for the children and joined a book group. Here her writing was welcomed and encouraged.

From Saudi Arabia to Benalla in Victoria is quite a leap but she loved it. When the laboratory where she worked, closed down, the local farmers encouraged her to open her own Parasite Diagnostic Services.

She joined the SWWV and wrote “after hours”. She served as President from August 2009 to August 2011. When her business closed in 2007 she continued writing. Her work has been printed in more than 530 publications. These include six books of poems and stories, scientific papers, articles in rural newspapers and reviews of literary and scientific books in both England and Australia.

She continued as an active and supportive member, encouraging fellow members of the Society till the end of her life. We are enriched for having known her. We will miss her deeply but we will never forget her.