

‘This Motherhood Caper’

REPORT ON BOOK LAUNCH of *Not Mentioning Any Names* by Margaret Pearce



Margaret Pearce on left with one of the guests at the launch of her book 'Not Mentioning Any Names'.

In late March one of The Society of Women Writers most prolific and most published writers, Margaret Pearce finally saw the launch of her 87th book, *Not Mentioning Any Names*.

Though Ginninderra Press published the book in December, 2020, the launch was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons. Those present at the launch included children, grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, Tilly, 2 and Freddie, 1. The exploits of some of those present were featured in the book.

Leonie McDonald, Margaret’s older daughter, said, “Some of the stories in the book were supposed to be banned from inclusion.”

In *Not Mentioning Any Names*, an honest book about mothering children, Margaret Pearce states “Life with children is composed of confrontations, truces, compromises and intermittent battles.”

After an early confrontation with one of her children, Margaret Pearce wrote it up as an article. under the heading ‘Another Day, Another Battle’ and it was published. Subsequently she wrote more articles about her intermittent battles or experiences and they were also published in publications such as *Woman’s Day*, *Woman’s World* and *The Weekly Times*.

In 2020 Margaret Pearce collected the stories together into a book under the title *This Motherhood Caper*. Stephen Matthews of Ginninderra Press, the publisher she sent it to, suggested the replacement name *Not Mentioning Any Names*.

Librarian/Manager, Ajne Graham, who launched the book at the Ferntree Gully Library, read one of the stories, 'The Class Raffle', from it. She said this resonated with her and brought back memories of bringing up own children. In this story an entrepreneurial young boy set up a class raffle to dispose of eight unwanted ginger and white kittens his mother ordered him to dispose of.

Ajne Graham bought multiple copies of *Not Mentioning Any Names* for the library. "We will use the book for reminiscence activities to encourage others to write their stories," she said.

Margaret Pearce entertained the audience with two other stories in her book. Listening to 'The Collecting Instinct' and learning the fate of rare coins found by a collector father's young son would be enough to put any father off collecting coins. In 'The Tomato Sauce Trick', the author relates a grandmother ploy to get a suspicious grandson to eat her nutritious stew.

Margaret Pearce's other stories vary greatly from one about a toddler who called all the dark men on public transport 'Daddy', to a pet story involving a gigantic vet bill for a guinea pig, to a flower child who at first wanted a barefoot beach wedding with the bride in cheesecloth and then wanted a church wedding with the bride in a red wedding dress and veil.

Not Mentioning Any Names, written in a simple colloquial style to suit a magazine, is very easy to read and enjoy. Readers will find themselves recalling their own experiences with children. Smiles are guaranteed, even if sometimes in sick dismay or even horror at some of the kids' antics.

The illustrations were also a family affair. Margaret Pearce's great-nephew Zac Barry drew the impish cupid-like cartoon figures on the cover while daughter Leonie McDonald did the internal sketches. *Not Mentioning Any Names* is an attractively-presented 124 pp A5 paperback selling for \$25 plus P&H \$3.30. Published by Ginninderra Press, it is available from Margaret Pearce mpearceau@gmail.com or [Our books \(ginninderrapress.com.au\)](http://Our books (ginninderrapress.com.au)).

For further details of Margaret Pearce's writings, see [Margaret Pearce – Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc \(swwvic.org.au\)](http://Margaret Pearce – Society of Women Writers Victoria Inc (swwvic.org.au)) and [Books by Margaret Pearce \(Author of Mission Perilous\) \(goodreads.com\)](http://Books by Margaret Pearce (Author of Mission Perilous) (goodreads.com)).

Meryl Brown Tobin for text and photo

Note: During morning tea following the launch Meryl Brown Tobin met little Freddy who was running his dad ragged. The dad introduced himself as Easton. A fellow member of the Perennial Poets Poetry Workshop with Margaret, Meryl recalled reading Margaret's poem about her footballer grandson-in-law and mentioned it to the dad. He smiled and said he'd seen it. Later Meryl vaguely remembered Margaret might have said he was in the AFL, so googled 'AFL footballer Easton'. Up came [Easton Wood | AFL \(westernbulldogs.com.au\)](http://Easton Wood | AFL (westernbulldogs.com.au)). As Western Bulldogs captain, Easton led his team to victory in the 2016 Premiership.