

FEROS CARE AND EVERYBODY NOW! PRESENT:
A BOLD SLAM POETRY & FILMMAKING
PROJECT FOR SENIORS

Gran SLAM!

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS GRAN SLAM

A new Slam Poetry initiative by Feros Care and Everybody NOW!

Lilith Rocha

Age 77

Byron Bay, NSW



Astrology columnist by day and poet by night, Lilith spins planets, words and her two new hips as the leader of a local hula troupe.

Her poetry is as mysterious and alluring as her life: from name changes, to being a famous artist's nude, to studying healing arts and South Pacific crafts, to riding camels in Rajasthan, Lilith's loops around the Sun have been out of this world, and she's only just getting started. What's next? Well, learning Spanish to travel through Mexico, and that's just for starters.

Margaret Sparks

Age 76

Broadbeach, QLD



You name it, she has done it. Margaret's checklist includes a motherly hat-trick, inspiring artists with her presence, and charting the four corners of this round world. Self-described as a blend of sophistication, hippie and everything in-between, Margaret is a passionate environmentalist, actually passionate, full stop. Continuing to blaze through life, she's not shy of a challenge and pushing herself to try new things, including Gran Slam. Oh and in her spare time, she has also self-published a collection of her memoirs, just in case she forgets something – but we suspect not!

Jo-Anne King

Age 68
Carool, NSW



All bow to Jo-Anne King! Ruler of dance floors, gardener extraordinaire and deity of going with the flow! Jo reminds us to stay present and take a risk every once in a while. A free-writing, free-wheeling advocate for the planet and run from the heart. With the biggest heart of all, Jo is ready to push herself off the shore to find new lands – what awaits her? Just let it be, Jo will tell you.

Ruth Savage

Age 72
Kingsholme, QLD



A hypnotherapist, a writer and self-reflector, Ruth is our ukulele lady! The sweetest blend of high and low notes and everything in-between, her writing is as hypnotic and melodic as she is. She's no stranger to fame, having appeared on television, taken to the stage with her line dancing group and sung on charity albums. When she's not helping others navigate the emotional world, you can find her humming a tune, with a cup of tea in hand, book in the other, and her pen always on the ready.

Lyn Thomson
Age 70
Broadwater, QLD



From singing in Sydney to milking cows in Kyogle, Lyn sure has a lot of life experience to write about. Lucky for us, she puts her pen to paper in the most beautiful way and performs her poetry every chance she gets!

When not in front of the poetry mic you can find her on the water, paddling outriggers and sharing her passion for the environment and landcare with others.

Eugen Sauter
Age 90
Elanora, QLD



Eugen has surprised us all with his encyclopaedia size book of poetry. It was only 3 months ago that he started weaving words and rhymes as a way of recording and reflecting on life. His down-to-earth poetry and ability to capture the charm and humour of the everyday has left us all questioning what it is we're doing here. Did we mention he's 90?!

Julie Crow
Age 77
Suffolk Park, NSW



Don't be mistaken to make any assumptions! Julie defies all stereotypes. A strong, determined and stylish woman, you may find her starting her day with an ocean swim in Byron Bay, flying high on a trapeze (no jokes!) or casually doing a handstand here and there – seriously inspiring all of us to do more in every part of life!

She started putting her thoughts in rhyme when forced kicking and screaming into the twenty first century, opening up a love affair with words... and maybe with a few others too!

Roger Matthews

Age 81

Labrador, QLD



Self-proclaimed as the only South African born Aussie bush poet, Roger has travelled the world and sailed the South Seas but his favourite place to be is huddled beside a campfire with a glass of red, reciting some of his favourites...to anyone who'll listen. A romantic at heart, he has his cellar stocked and his sight set on 90!

Robbie Wesley

Age 72

Murwillumbah, NSW



Robbie really has led an exciting and eclectic life, from teaching in Jakarta to market research, nursing and time spent in a forest Buddhist monastery. Shall we say more? We'll let this keen writer and poet share her stories in her own unique way!

Sheron Young

Aged Over 70!

Coolangatta, QLD



Sheron's sense of adventure hasn't just taken her on treks in Spain (twice), it's also landed her here on the Gold Coast writing and performing with us! With two self-published books under her belt, we're not sure why she joined our workshops, but we're glad she did!

With poems that are deeply personal one moment and uplifting and humorous the next, Sheron is a wordsmith that will make you strap on your boots because you're in for a ride.

Wendy Taylor
Age 80
Suffolk Park, NSW



Make room, Wendy Taylor is in the house! Wendy is a creative force to be reckoned with and one of her (many) mantras is “don’t go beige with age!” Wendy has a tremendous sense of humour and sense of fashion.

Her adventurous attitude has taken her to many places, including a TV show where she won a Bonneville Pontiac. Not joking! She’s got a talent for hosting parties which has seen her roll with polities to minor royalty (and some petty crims, like any good party). She’s also got a talent for words and is not short on material!

Pat Kennelly
Age 74
Mudgeeraba, QLD



From the shores of Ireland, it’s Pat “Toastmaster” Kennelly. Pat is a keen poet, public speaker and likes to keep his creative juices flowing!

Aaron Blomeley
Age 78
Southport, QLD



Poet by heart and environmental hydrologist by trade! Seems like an unlikely combination, but Aaron masterfully weaves the two together. He wears a turtleneck jumper that would make any poet proud. After much travel across the country (north, west, very far west!) he’s settled in on the golden shores of the Gold Coast as a poet in paradise.

Felicity Gordon

Age 79

Ballina, NSW



Felicity, or Flic as she is known, may not have performed in a boxing ring before participating in Gran Slam but she is certainly no stranger to the stage.

For fifty years she has worked as an actress, director, drama tutor and writer in the UK and Australia. Her love affair with the theatre gifted her the great love of her life.

In 1964 she met Australian actor Phil Ross at the Theatre Royal in Bath.

The famous story goes, that he had to pinch her bottom in a scene and reckoned she was a good sort, worth hanging on to...and he did. They've been married for fifty-five years this November!

After a life time of performing across the world, often separated by their careers, these two astrological star-crossed Cancer crabs are now happily living by the river in West Ballina, and loving life.

Alan Harkness

Age 88

Byron Bay, NSW



Our resident movie master from all the years spent in the film industry, Alan has been a creative all his life. A fairly new resident at our Byron Bay village, Alan wasted no time in getting right into the thick of things. He seizes any opportunity to nurture his creativity and to try new things today – be it writing, dancing or slam poetry!

Hugh Webster

Age 88

Byron Bay, NSW



His name is Hugh and he's got a Hugh-e heart! Hugh makes the most of every beat of that heart, connecting with people and nature and is willing to try anything – sometimes more than once! With a smile on his face and a readiness to make the most of whatever is being thrown his way, he always has a story for you from times long gone.

Nina Marzi

Age 98

Byron Bay, NSW



Anyone who's heard of Feros Care has heard of Nina! Nina lives her life out loud, with the heart of an artist. Energising, inspiring and entertaining everyone around her. As a young girl growing up in Russia and China she was able to connect with people from all walks of life – and she continues to do so! The now 98 year old never misses an opportunity to be in the spotlight; after all, the stage is her home.

Barry Hicks

Age 71

Kingscliff, NSW



Barry is one of a kind – he is determine to live his boldest life and say “YES” to new challenges. He loves to express himself in words and is looking forward to presenting his thoughts to the world.

ALL IMAGES TO BE CREDITED

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