

Katie Keys – blog 1

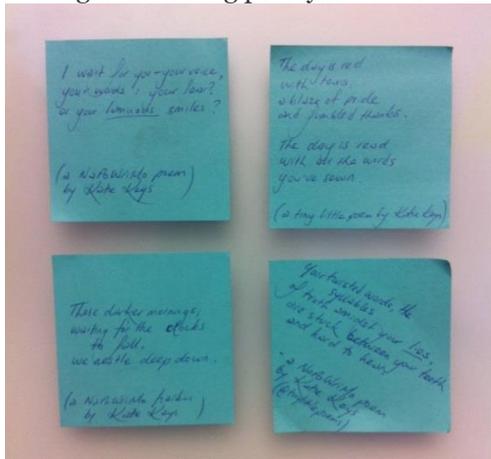
JUST a month?

It seems appropriate to kick off my month of being Australian Poetry's online poet in residence during **National Poetry Writing Month** (otherwise known as NaPoWriMo).

Originating in the USA, the [NaPoWriMo campaign](#) challenges its participants to write thirty poems in thirty days – providing a range of prompts to get people going and inspiring new and established poets across the interwebs to write and share their work.

Writing challenges aren't new, but they can be a useful tool to help kick-start your creativity (or firm up your daily writing discipline). In the past, I've made it through the [NaNoWriMo challenge](#) (churning out 50,000 words of a fairly dreadful novel over the course of a single October), though was less successful in my [LetterMo](#) attempt to write a letter a day this February. And NaPoWriMo follows hot on the heels of the Month of Poetry project (or [#MOP14](#)) which encouraged folks to post a micro poem for each day of January.

I love the excitement that builds around these campaigns. I love how they hook more people into writing and reading poetry. And I love how they



increase the amount of accidental engagements we have with poetic forms in our everyday lives and social media feeds.

But it's hard for me to get personally excited about the idea of writing a daily poem, because for the last five years I have written a tiny little poem every day and published it on [Twitter](#).

A poem a day for five years is (at the very least) about 1,800 poems. Sure, I've given myself some time off for good behaviour, for holidays, or on days when life has just got a bit too loud to ignore. But they were cancelled out by days when one poem just wasn't enough, or when I've live-tweeted poems from residencies, conferences and festivals. During my residency at Arts Centre Melbourne last year, for example, I clocked up over 300 poems in the space of one week.

And even though my poems are small (they have to be 140 characters or less to fit into a tweet), that's still more than 45,000 words – the length of a novella. Phew! By anyone's count, that's a very large body of very small work.

So why don't you join me? For those of you in Melbourne, **Writers Victoria** and **Australian Poetry** are leaving [a daily poetry prompt in The Moat each weekday in April](#) to help you meet the challenge of writing a poem a day

This week's prompts have encouraged people to write:

- About a trick, a joke or a lie (it was April Fool's Day, after all)
- A poem that uses the word 'luminous' or 'luminosity'
- A poem in the haiku form (a three-line poem about a season, with the first line made up of 5 syllables, the second line made up of 7 syllables and the third line of 5 syllables)
- A poem about the act of saying goodbye (in honour of Writers Vic staff member Anna Kelsey-Sugg, who left us this week)

That should be enough to get you started. Get ready, get set ... get writing!