



Australian Association of  
Group Psychotherapists

# Open Day Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019

Ben Quilty, Refugees  
and Poetry: Keeping  
creativity alive in the  
face of destructive forces  
in groups and society.

State Library of Queensland,  
Meeting Room 1B  
Cultural Centre, Stanley Place  
South Brisbane, QLD4101

## Program

**8:30–9:00 am** Registration

**9:00–9:15 am** Welcome and  
Introduction

**9:15–10:00 am** Christine Vickers -  
“Goulash and Gulag”: reading  
Hungary in the Australian psycho-  
analytic group - some tentative  
thoughts.

**10:00–10:30 am** Morning Tea and  
walk over to gallery

**10:30–11:30 am** Exhibition Tour  
45 minutes - 1 hour

**12:00–1:00 pm** Lunch (provided)

**1:00 – 1:45 pm** “War Poetry”

**1:45–2:00 pm** Break

**2:00–3:30 pm** Group Discussion

**3:30 pm** Finish

## Cost


\$150 (includes morning tea and lunch).

Cheques to AAGP Inc.  
Post to Dr P Hengstberger,  
3/31-33 Helen St, Newstead QLD 4006

For Direct Deposits:  
Account Name: Peter Hengstberger  
BSB: 064 151 - Account: 0061 2387  
Please ensure you include your surname  
in the deposit details. A receipt will be  
available on the day. Please notify payment  
by email to phengstberger@hotmail.com.

Please include any dietary requirements.

Contact: Dr Peter Hengstberger  
phengstberger@hotmail.com  
07 3852 6786



# Exhibition

The exhibition extends from Quilty's early reflections on the initiation rituals performed by young Australian men to his experience as an official war artist in Afghanistan and his campaign to save the lives of Bali Nine pair Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. The exhibition also includes works inspired by Quilty's visits with author Richard Flanagan to Lebanon, Lesbos and Serbia, his revisions of the Australian landscape, and raw, intimate portraits of himself, his family and his friends.

## “Goulash and Gulag”

Reading Hungary in the Australian psychoanalytic group - some tentative thoughts.

Hungary, once the centre of the psychoanalytic movement, experienced some of the darkest periods of the mid twentieth century. Hundreds of thousands died at the hands of the Nazis and later, the Stalinist era. Others fled to wherever they found refuge. One consequence was the dissolution of the Hungarian Psychoanalytic Society in 1948. Ferenczi's influence, once so highly regarded by Freud, was buried - some hoped for ever. In 1939 Michael Balint and Geza Roheim both toyed with the notion of settling in Australia before finding places in England and the United States respectively. Clara Lazar Geroe's arrival in Australia as a refugee in 1941, saw the establishment of the Melbourne Institute of Psychoanalysis. In 1949 Andrew Peto, also a refugee arrived and, in 1951, established the first Sydney Institute of Psychoanalysis. Vera Roboz arrived in 1957. This paper, part of a work in progress, takes up the thought that, even with the best of intentions, memory cannot be lost. It remains, always, part of our formation.

**Christine Vickers** is a historian with a doctorate from La Trobe University. She is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and group therapist in private practice and has, recently, become a member of the American psychoanalytic training team in Wuhan in China where she teaches short term therapy. She is writing a book based on Clara Geroe's papers for Routledge's History of Psychoanalysis Series.

## “War Poetry”

Rosemary and Paul propose to conduct a session around the general theme of “War Poetry”. This has developed from the theme of the conference being “Creativity”. It can be surprising to learn that a stimulus to poetic verse can be human destructiveness. It is also a paradox. They will introduce the general theme of the session with some observations and ideas. Following on from this they will present some examples of poetry as demonstrating the theme of Creativity as a response to war. The audience will be invited to reflect on these poems and contribute their responses and reactions. Further, they would like to ask the audience in preparation for the session to please feel welcome to bring along a poem that they consider to be related to the general theme of creativity and destructiveness (and not necessarily war). There will then be an opportunity for the group to consider what is called up from within itself in response to all the foregoing. Their hope and goal is for the session to be very much an experiential opportunity.

We would ask please that anyone considering contributing a poem to communicate with us so that we can make room for it in the session. (nilssonr@bigpond.com.au or pdcoombe@bigpond.com.au)

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**Rosemary Nilsson** is a counsellor in private practice. She has a major in English Literature and worked for many years as an English teacher and in varying leadership roles in a secondary school setting. In recent years she has transitioned into counselling, following the completion of a Master in Counselling from Monash University and is now a trainee group therapist in Melbourne with the AAGP. Rosemary's interests include international literature and creative writing.

**Paul Coombe** is a psychiatrist and individual and group psychoanalytic psychotherapist in private practice. Formerly Child Psychiatrist at the Royal Children's Hospital,

Melbourne. He was the Overseas Senior Registrar in Psychotherapy at the Cassel Hospital, London 1990 to 1993. He is a Past President of the Australian Association of Group Psychotherapists and member of the Victorian Association of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists. He has published widely in local and international journals including in the areas of family therapy, psychoanalytic aspects of eating disorders, small and large analytic groups, the treatment of Munchausen's Syndrome by proxy (also included as a chapter in a book), the works of William Shakespeare and recently on Epistemology and the nature of Truth.