

Literary CV (abridged) Liz Breslin 2024

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Artist statement

I write across many genres, though I treat them all with the sonic care and precision of poems, and I have a strong track record of publication and performance of my work. My two full length poetry collections have both been reprinted, and publishers have shown interest in my third collection. I very much enjoy performing my words aloud and also supporting others in creating and sharing their work. Though my aesthetic is scrappy and cut-and-paste, this is absolutely purposeful, based on thorough research and careful editing. And because I had to support my (now grown up) children while trying to maintain a creative career, I am both enthusiastic and efficient when I am allowed time to write.

Residencies

Michael King Writers Centre Established Writer Residency, August 2023

National Centre for Writing, Norwich, UK, virtual resident writer, February 2021

UNESCO Cities of Literature writing residency, Krakow, Poland, September & October 2019

Accolades

Cities of Literature PhD Scholarship, University of Otago, November 2022

Kathleen Grattan Prize for a Sequence of Poems, first place, November 2020

Ōrongohau Best New Zealand Poems 2017, 'The Lifestyle Creed', 2017

New Zealand Listener Top 100 Books, Alzheimer's and a spoon, 2017

Competitions

Landfall Essay Competition, highly commended, November 2023

Otago Poetry Slam winner, October 2023

Red Hen Press Quill Prose Award, first runner up, June 2022

Literary Taxidermy competition, finalist, November 2021

Otago Poetry Slam finals, second place, November 2021

Bridport Prize Short Story Competition, shortlisted, October 2021

Commonwealth Short Story Prize, longlisted, 2021

Queenstown Writers Festival Short Story Competition, first place, November 2020

Sargeson Prize, shortlisted, September 2020

NZ National Flash Fiction Day competition, Otago regional winner, June 2020
UNESCO Play Festival, selected, University of Otago, Dunedin, September 2019
International Charles Causley Poetry Prize, third place, 2016
NZ National Poetry Slam, second runner up, 2014

Poetry collections

In bed with the feminists, Dead Bird Books, 2021, 2023
(winner of Kathleen Grattan Prize for a sequence of poems 2020)
Alzheimer's and a spoon, Otago University Press, 2017, 2021
(one of the *NZ Listener's* Top 100 books of 2017)
Nothing to see here, online chapbook, National Centre for Writing, UK, 2021

Textbooks

Poem Detectives for Primary Schools, Essential Resources, 2015
Poem Detectives, Essential Resources, 2015

Poems in anthologies and journals

Poetry Aotearoa Yearbook 2024 – 'In Kathmandu, Te Tihi-o-Maru', 2024
Rapture: An Anthology of Performance Poetry from Aotearoa/New Zealand, 'Spin cycle',
Auckland University Press, 2023
Landfall – 'Hot tub time machine', 'A handy guide to reality', 'Clown of the Alps',
'Migraines for beginners', 'Dinner with the dentists', 'The Thaumatrope', Otago University
Press, 2012 – 2023
The Friday Poem (thespinoff.co.nz) – 'of course there are other ways of reading
Sharon', 'Best recessed wall niche ideas', 'No one in my poem is on p', 'when life gives you
spoons', '#stainlessstealkudos', 2017 - 2023
Stasis Journal – 'Ding dong!*', 'recaptcha / all I ask is', 2020 - 2021
Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature, The Possibilities Project - 'Possibilities', online, 2020
takahē - 'Google Assistant with the feminists', 'Dennison Glory Box', 'What do we do with
stranded whales?', 'Leonard Autier speaks of the Dauphine', 'under a southern sky', 'Out of
the groove', The Takahe Collective Trust, 2015 - 2019
Otago Daily Times weekly poem - 'the right to keep and bear', 'poem where I write the word
icecream instead of the word feminism', 'fear of flying', 'alternative facts about lettuce',
'packing it,' 'Click HERE to start', 'Poem in the Matukituki Valley after James K Baxter and

The Matrix', 'Skywalker', 'fractions count', 'For my Babcia', '#gigapoem', Allied Press, 2014 - 2019

Wild Honey: reading New Zealand women's poetry, 'Dichotomy', Massey University Press, 2019

The Hellfire Anthology - 'Office fuckers', 'Ski school for grown ups', Whitewolfblackrabbit, 2019

Bonsai: Best small stories from Aotearoa New Zealand, 'Mental health day', Canterbury University Press, 2018

The Friday Poem - 'No one in my poem is on p', 'when life gives you spoons', Luncheon Sausage Books, 2018

Best New Zealand Poems 2017 - 'The Lifestyle Creed,' International Institute of Modern Letters, 2017

The Very Best of 52 - 'Building Bridges', Nine Arches Press, UK, 2015

Poetry NZ Yearbook 2015 - 'Adlestrop', Massey University Press, 2015

Poetry NZ Yearbook 2014 - 'Old dog down', Massey University Press, 2014

Phantom Billstickers café reader - 'The DIY Apprentice', 'Prodigy Child', Phantom Billstickers Ltd, 2014

Selected articles

1964 mountain culture, 'Absolutely fabulous', 'Of M*A*S*H and mushrooms', 'That's the spirit', 'Our hearts' desires: We can go our own way', 'watching us, watching them', 'There's a poem in that', 2022-2024

Weekend Mix, *Otago Daily Times* - 'Thinking Allowed', fortnightly column, 2012 – 2022
Corpus NZ, www.corpus.nz, University of Otago - 'Poetry and memory: Alzheimer's and a spoon', 'Laughter is the best medicine', 'Diary of a concussion', 'There is nothing wrong with this lady's head (it's official)', 'Who is telling the story here?', 'Cystic Fibrosis and 'Five Feet Apart'', 2016 - 2019

Reviews

Wasafiri 38 Issue 1 - *Queering the Green: Post-2000 Queer Irish Poetry; Queer Life, Queer Love*, 2023

Landfall – *BITER*, Claudia Jardine; *The Pressure of All That Light*, Holly Painter; *HEAL!*, Simone Kaho; *Rock & Roll: selected poems in five sets*, Mark Pirie; *The Yield*, Sue Wootton; *A Fugitive Presence*, Peter Bland, 2017 – 2023

Poetry New Zealand - XYZ of Happiness, Mary McCallum; *Figure & Ground*, Robert McLean, 2020

takahē - *Bug Week*, Airini Beautrais; *If there is no shelter*, Tracey Slaughter; *True*, Michael Botur; *My Wide White Bed*, Trish Harris; *Ordinary Time*, Anna Livesey; *Floods Another Chamber*, James Brown, 2018 - 2021

Radio stories

Radio NZ National - 'Canada Girl', 'The Atlas Game', 'The Path to Nowhere', 'The Path to Somewhere Else', 2015 – 2018

Play scripts in performance

#thatwanakatour, Festival of Colour, Wānaka, April 2021

Sno Whyte and the Seven, Wānaka, December 2019

It's Your Shit, UNESCO Short Play Festival 2019, Hawea Flat/Arrowtown, April 2014, Festival of Colour, Wanaka, 2013

Jac and the Beansprouts, Wānaka, December 2018

Cindy and the Villanelles, Wānaka, December 2017

Losing Faith, Wānaka, September 2016. Regional tour July 2017

The Last Call Centre EVER in New Zealand, Wanaka, February 2011

Festivals

Euchred and Eclipsed: A Birthday Celebration for the Poet Laureate, presented by the Hone Tuwhare Trust, Dunedin Writers & Readers Festival, host/MC, October 2023

Finding Hope, panel participant, Festival of Colour, Wānaka, April 2023

'Queer chronicles: writing the queer experience over time', Enqueer festival, Sydney (online) Nov 2021

Christchurch poetry slam finals sacrificial poet, WORD Christchurch, November 2021

'rail:lines', the film, WORD Christchurch, November 2021

'rail:lines', the film, When Words Collide Festival, Canada, (online), August 2021

'At the drop of a hat', 'Walking the Heartland (chair)', Dunedin Writers & Readers Festival, May 2021

'Poetry at the Savoy', 'The Friday Poem', 'Writing Funny'(chair), Dunedin Writers and Readers Festival, May 2019

'Drop of a Hat', Litcrawl Wellington, November 2018

‘In each other’s words’, Litcrawl Wellington, November 2017
‘An Extravagance of Writers’, Litcrawl Extended, Wellington, November 2017
‘True Stories Told Live’ and ‘Speed Date an Author’, Festival of Colour, Wanaka, May 2015
double bill with Rose Matafeo, Outspoken Festival, Wanaka, February 2015

Conversations

Slam! Ten out of ten for your trauma porn (paper) for Poetry is dead, long live spoken word!
(panel), NEMLA conference, Boston, MA, USA, March 2024
‘Imagining the City,’ with Tiffany Atkinson, The Writing Life podcast (online), May 2021
‘Meet the world: The view from afar’, National Centre for Writing, UK (online), March 2021

Performances

South Canterbury Live Poets, feature reader, May 2024
‘Let’s get Liz to Boston’ fundraiser show, feature performer, February 2024
‘rail:lines’, the:film, the:tour, Ōtepoti, Wānaka and Tāhuna, November 2022
Ray Shipley’s Late Night Poetry Hour, Ōtautahi Christchurch, feature poet, October 2022
Common Ground, Lyttleton, feature poet, July 2022
Pride of the South tour, June 2022
Dunedin Libraries National Poetry Day, December 2021
In bed with the feminists launch tour, nationwide, Aotearoa, June 2021
‘rail:lines’, Otago Central Rail Trail tour, Wānaka, Clyde, Ophir, Ōtūrēhua, Ranfurly,
Middlemarch, Ōtepoti, November 2020
Poetry in Motion Wellington, featured poet, September 2020
Canterbury Poets Collective, featured poet, Christchurch, November 2019
‘Prelude to National Poetry Day - At The Drop of a Hat’, XChange, Christchurch, August
2019
‘A pin in the map: Poetry Live and Latitudinal’, Vancouver, Victoria, Tofino, Pender Island,
BC, Canada, July 2019
‘Tall Tales and True’, Wānaka, August 2018
‘Southern Haunts: three towns, three poets’, Wānaka, Dunedin, Christchurch, May 2018
National Poetry Day Dunedin celebrations, ‘Perfect 10’ poets’, August 2017
‘Only Connect’, TEDx Queenstown, April 2016
‘Heaps Of Bloody Poetry With Tourettes, Amanda Kennedy and Liz Breslin’, Auckland,
2014

Editing

1964 magazine, copywriting, 2021-present

Huia Publishers, structural editing for novels, including *Kurangaituku* by Whiti Hereaka (winner, Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction, Ockham Book Awards, 2022), 2019 - 2023

Dead Bird Books, poem collection editing, including *National Anthem* by Mohamed Hassan, (shortlisted, poetry section, Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, 2021), 2019 - present

Freelance editing 2015 – present

Teaching

Ōtepoti Writers Lab, regular workshop facilitator, online, 2023 - present

Tutor/lecturer, ENGL219 Poetry and Music, University of Otago, semester 1, 2024

Tutor, ENGL120 Creative Writing: How to Captivate and Persuade, semester 1, 2023

Southern Lakes Festival of Colour, zines workshops, March/April 2023 New Zealand Association of Celebrants creative writing workshop June 2023

1on1 English, online English language, literature and discussion classes, 2022

Dunedin Young Writers Association workshop series, 2022

In-school creative writing workshops, 2014-2022

Primary Possibilities workshop series, South Dunedin, 2021

Selected reviews of my work

To find this kind of sheer brio and linguistic flair in New Zealand writing, one inevitably goes back to Janet Frame.

Vincent O'Sullivan, Otago University Press

This poet has a real talent of tackling big issues in deft ways; she knows when to poke fun or subvert ... and she knows when pulled punches simply won't do the trick... it's one of the reasons she's so widely revered in the spoken word community. Ultimately, *In Bed with the Feminists* translates well Breslin's strengths and personality from the stage, rather than stifle them, as it builds a coherent and multifaceted concept for the poet (and the feminists) to explore, poke and prod.

Jordan Hamel, Landfall Review Online

Peppered with photographs illustrating parts of her grandmother's story and intriguingly shaped word poems, the collection isn't afraid to play with form. Snippets from recorded interviews with Breslin's grandmother are woven into the poetry, whilst in other places, Alzheimer's own notes are presented as found poems. As the poet skips from one form to the other, dipping in and out of found text, thoughts, narrative and impression she effectively conveys a feeling of confusion and disorientation; a most fitting evocation for a poetry collection concerned with exploring the experience of Dementia.

Jan Carson, Queens University Belfast

Liz's poetry collection offers a rewarding language experience: lines where words get fractured, dashed apart, piled up one against the other, as though we can't take meaning and fluency for granted... This is life. This is thinking. This is critiquing. This is poetry.

Paula Green, New Zealand Poetry Shelf

The poems are full of sensory pleasures: visual, auditory, tactile and visceral. Breslin delights in the sound and taste of language. She understands the function of the poetic line, and how to work that elastic rein on the poem's energy. The writing is often exuberant or playful, but can also be quiet and gentle. It is always at base thoughtful, a combination that gives the poems legs, heart and brain. They *move*, and they move the reader.

Sue Wootton, Corpus NZ

Referees

Professor Jacob Edmond, PhD supervisor

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Dr Majella Cullinane, PhD supervisor

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Helena-Jane Kilkelly, employer, Ōtepoti Writers Lab

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Lynn Benson, friend/colleague/ex-Hocken librarian

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