

Dreams of another Land



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DEDICATION

*To all the inspirational people
I have met during my travels
near and far.*

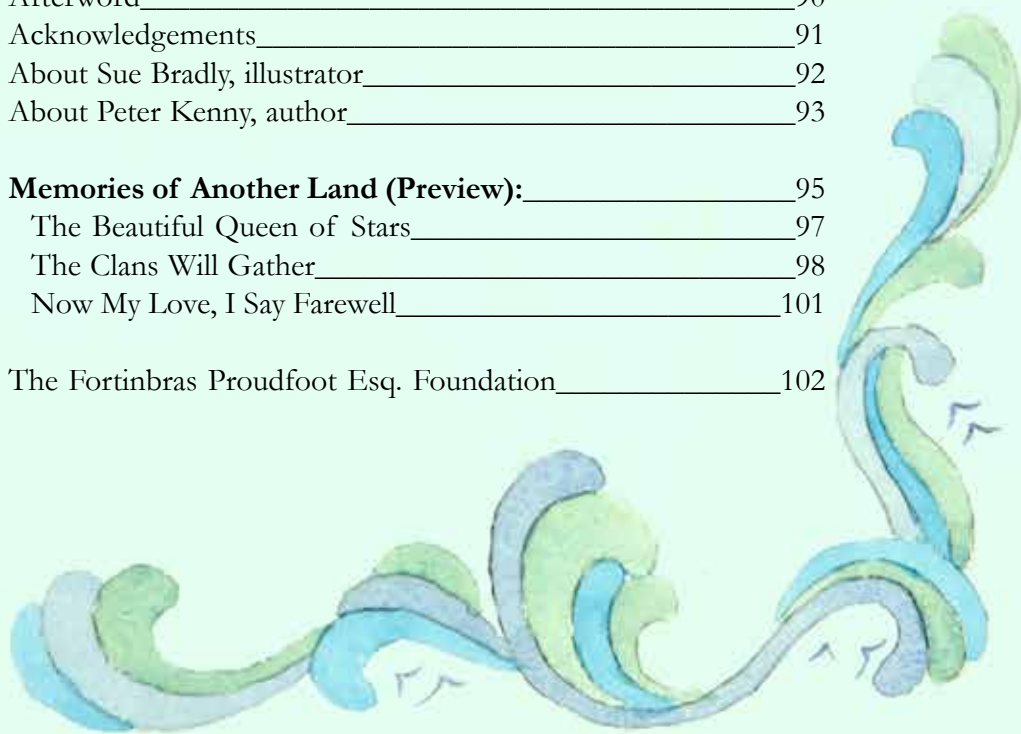




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Foreword

The poems and tales in Peter Kenny's collection, he tells me, are inspired by his experience of J.R.R. Tolkien's world, but not in a literal way. Readers unfamiliar with Tolkien (there are still some) will find the collection evocative of other lands and distant places. Those knowledgeable of Tolkien might recognize some allusions to Middle-earth that are often concerned with atmosphere, and a feeling of familiarity that comes from a sense of place and their knowledge of stories of other worlds told by the master. Peter Kenny's poems and tales — or should I say Fortinbras Proudfoot's — concern elusive places and lingering stories that are best captured in words, but, like Tolkien's, are beautifully enhanced by illustrations, in this case by artist Sue Bradley.

What is Tolkien's world, that has so much inspired Peter Kenny, as no doubt Fortinbras Proudfoot's world will enchant his readers?

There is an unquenchable interest upon the part of readers (and film goers as well) in the landscapes that inspired authors like Wordsworth, the Brontes, Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, D. H. Lawrence, Kenneth Graham, Lewis Carroll and many others. Tolkien was greatly inspired by the geography of England, and the West Midlands in particular, drawing upon actual places for names, images and even settings in his fiction, from the well-known *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* to the less familiar *Farmer Giles of Ham* and *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil*. Even some English places that less directly may have influenced the shaping of the world of Middle-earth can have an extraordinary sense of familiarity for those who have read and loved his fiction. This may explain why places in England as far apart as Lydney Park in Gloucestershire to the Ribble valley in Lancashire are claimed as inspiration. As well as the West Midlands, and counties like Berkshire and Oxfordshire, Tolkien also drew upon wider European geography and events, including a hair-raising visit to the Swiss Alps just before he started as a student at Oxford, and his experience of the apocalyptic vistas of the trenches of World War One. He saw the England and Britain he loved as rooted in the history, geography and languages of northwestern Europe. A primary model for Tolkien's work, the Early English poem, *Beowulf*, takes place in what is now Denmark and Sweden.

The very shape of Middle-earth intentionally alludes to the land-mass of northern Europe, and its fictional history is set in an imagined ancient past of the West. Variants of Tolkien's invented Elvish have affinities with European languages (Finnish and Welsh). The Shire of the Hobbits is inspired by and deliberately evokes the rural world of Worcestershire and Warwickshire Tolkien knew as a child, much of it hidden today in the urban sprawl of Birmingham.

Peter Kenny's world picks up on the fact that Tolkien's Middle-earth has a sense of familiarity for readers and audiences that is far more widespread than only the inhabitants of northwest Europe. He himself is from Australia, but is an inveterate traveller who has explored New Zealand and the European continent. Though we had met before, Peter on a visit to Bri-

tain typically travelled all the way to the far northernmost part of England to visit the English Lake District to see my wife and I — a region, like many in the world, that could have provided a visual setting for the stories of Middle-earth.

As in Tolkien's, Fortinbras Proudfoot's world seems centred at first in a world of rustic charm. This is a simple world, which nevertheless rejoices in tales, myths and legends from a larger world. In Tolkien, such a simple world is found most distinctly in the opening chapters of *The Lord of the Rings*. The larger world, in which dangers more clearly lurk and in which courage, faith and love more obviously are required, open up as the story progresses, as it does even in its prequel, *The Hobbit*. A larger world is more the focus in Tolkien's *The Silmarillion*. In Proudfoot's poems and stories, the view is retrospective, placing a rustic world of little but courageous folk — the smallest of people — in the context of a larger world of danger, beauty and deepest longings.

Colin Duriez



Uncle Proudfoot

I recall that when I was young, I would sit with other children and listen to my uncle's stories, and at night I would lie in my warm bed and imagine myself adventuring to strange places with him. When sleep finally came to me I would dream of his adventures as though I was my uncle himself.

My uncle, Fortinbras Proudfoot, is a scholarly person. In his humble home he has many bookcases filled with books from all over. There are books in Elvish, and Dwarvish, books from far away lands and some from closer to home. There are books of poetry, and others of history, some on geography and some on cooking. There are many on the old tales of family heroes, and all their friends and their adventures! For they are his favourite tales of all.

In his youth he was a teacher, and many of the people in his village and the nearby towns knew Mr Proudfoot from their days at school. As such, wherever he went there was always someone keen to catch up, to share a meal and a chat with their wonderful friend Fortinbras.

He has, unlike many people of his village, travelled quite far from his home. He has been on journeys in his own land and has even travelled across the encircling seas to visit many places of legend and history.

My uncle is now very old but he still entertains us with many tales from his adventures of long ago to strange exotic lands. He has kept a journal of his adventures and within there are many stories in poetic verse form.

This book contains a collection of many of his writings. They include tales of heroic people, wizards, dragons, elves, and dwarves. There are also some tales of the smallest of people, who lived in a peaceful far away land of pastures, small villages, and green rolling hills.

I hope you enjoy reading these tales as much as I have enjoyed revisiting them once more to collate them for publication.

This collection of my uncle's work I have called

Dreams of Another Land







The Adventure Begins



Dreams of Another Land

Sitting by the open door
Dreaming of a place where adventure lies;
Staring at the far blue hills
Seeing the birds as they fly high;
They are flying to far away
To the hills and places far beyond;
The little boy sits and stares
And he's dreaming of tales from another land.

Thinking of his uncle's tales
Telling of places and people so strange;
Looking in the old brown chest
Holding items that are so rare;
They are items from far away
From the lands and kingdoms far beyond;
The little boy sits and stares
And he thinks of legends from another land.

Packing up his little bag
Placing in it all the items he needs;
Picking up his wooden sword
He checks again his list of plans;
He is planning to go away
To the lands and kingdoms far beyond;
The little boy stands and stares
Then he steps on the road to another land.



SMALLEST OF PEOPLE

The land I love is in my senses:
The fragrance of flowers;
The sweet green grass;
The singing of birds;
The babbling of brooks;
It's where my true love lives,
It's where my heart lies.





The Smallest of People

In the North-West of our lands,
A small green country lies;
Home to the smallest of people,
Beneath the bluest skies.

Happy people they are,
Living a peaceful life,
Tending their gardens
And their fields alike.

They love riddles and games,
Pipe smoking and ale;
And plain simple food
Any time of the day.

Generous of heart
To all they invite,
They give away gifts
To toast a good life.

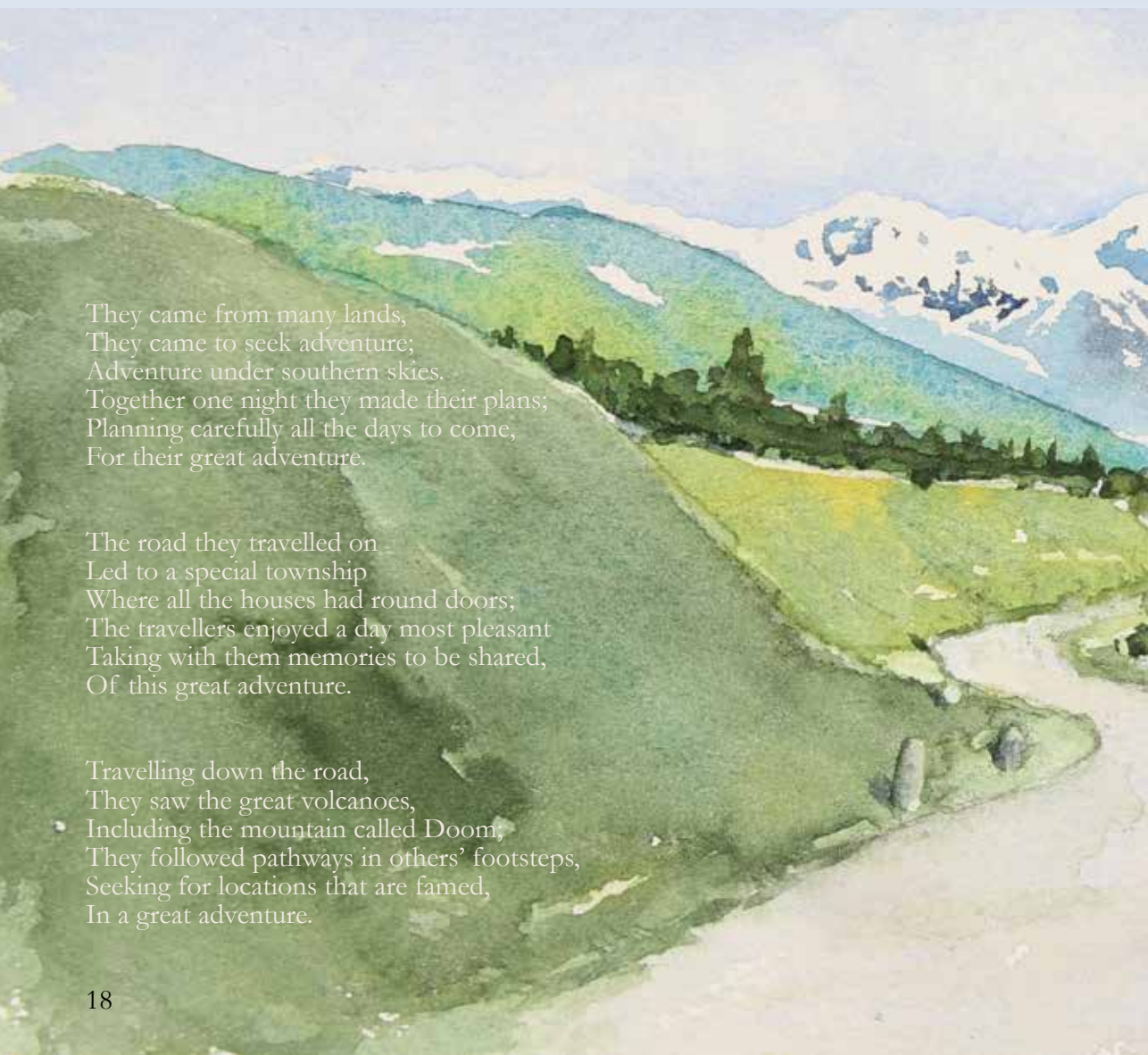
Distrustful of strangers,
They keep to their own;
In affairs of the world,
No interest is shown.

They're viewed by outsiders
As timid and slow;
Never seeking adventures
Just staying at home.

But....
They are the most soft-footed of people,
Both clever and shrewd;
And in a tight place,
Their courage is true.

And the day will come,
When they will be admired
in awe;
For they will change,
The fortunes of all.

Adventure Under Southern Skies



They came from many lands,
They came to seek adventure;
Adventure under southern skies.
Together one night they made their plans;
Planning carefully all the days to come,
For their great adventure.

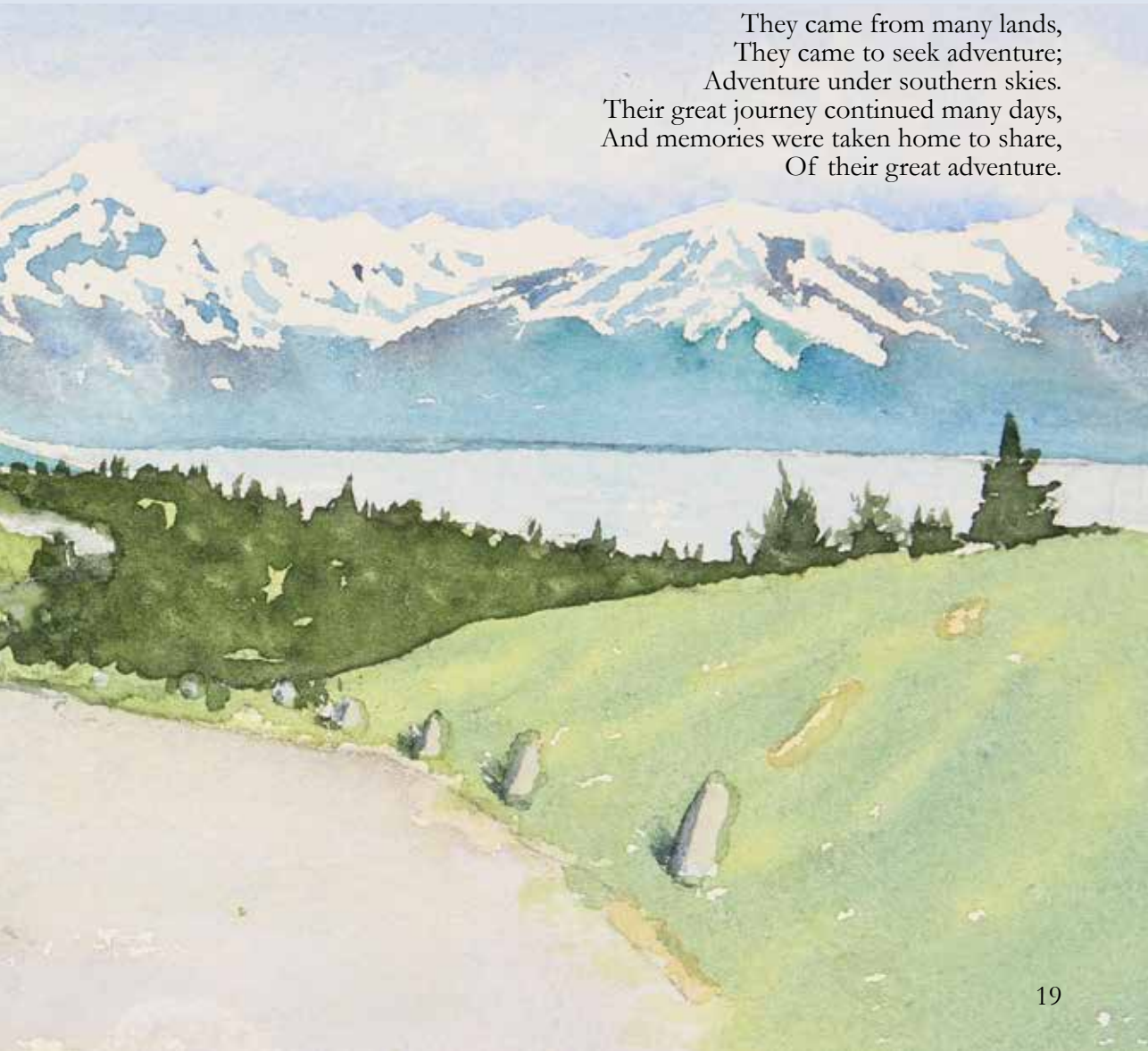
The road they travelled on
Led to a special township
Where all the houses had round doors;
The travellers enjoyed a day most pleasant
Taking with them memories to be shared,
Of this great adventure.

Travelling down the road,
They saw the great volcanoes,
Including the mountain called Doom,
They followed pathways in others' footsteps,
Seeking for locations that are famed,
In a great adventure.

Finally, the road it led
To the Premiere City,
And thousands were gathering there;
They gathered to celebrate an event.
A Celebration never to forget;
Of a great adventure.

It was the biggest event
In our recent memory
For the smallest of people;
People now we have come to admire,
The heroes in a story we love;
About a great adventure.

They came from many lands,
They came to seek adventure;
Adventure under southern skies.
Their great journey continued many days,
And memories were taken home to share,
Of their great adventure.



The Mushrooms

Dark...Night!

Four halfling lads set out.
The air it made them shiver,
The moon was just a sliver.

Sneak...Quiet!

There was no one about.
They crept along the hedgerow,
Staying quiet and keeping low.

Hoo...Hoot!

A strange noise in the night.
An old owl in a tree top,
Had startled them to a stop.

Look...See!

Lights shining through the trees.
The farmer's house was alight,
But their goal was now in sight.

Go...Quick!

So little time to pick.
There were mushrooms all around.
The youngsters grabbed all they found.

Bark!... Bark!

The farm dogs were awake.
Four halfling lads took to flight,
Running quickly through the night.

Run!... Run!

This wasn't so much fun.

Racing frightened down the lane,
Safely home they hoped to gain.

Hip!... Hooray!

“We whistled all the way.

Found the mushrooms in the park,
And bravely walked in the dark.

Nothing frightened us at all!”

Well, that's the story they told to all.





The Gardener

He returned to the home that he loved
For so long he'd been away.
He had travelled far to foreign lands
No one thought that he'd return.

But returning to his cherished home
He found that now all had changed.
Now ruin scarred a country once fair
Many trees so loved had gone.

A gardener well known both far and wide
He vowed he would heal its scars.
He carried with him a precious gift
A small box of dust most fine.

He travelled for months throughout the land
Planting saplings where he went.
He added to each a grain of dust
And came Spring new trees grew forth.

He planted at last a silver nut
In a green field fond to all.
Soon grew there a tree of beauty rare
Covered with flowers of gold.

He remembers the time long ago
In a land of golden trees;
A gardener's gift the lady gave
He now used to save his land.

Afterword

Dreams of Another Land had its beginnings in the classroom where I often read *The Hobbit* to my students and developed literacy units based on *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Through these units I encouraged pupils to write stories and poems about imagined lands, characters and creatures inspired by Tolkien's stories. I often wrote poems and short stories as examples for students to inspire them. Some of those poems have been included in this publication.

When I retired, I continued writing as a hobby and I have often used some of my stories, songs and poems in presentations for children and adults at various venues both at home and overseas.

Many of the poems in this publication were inspired by people I have met at home and during my travels through Europe and to New Zealand. Others were written in response to places, events and experiences during those travels.

"Morning Star, Evening Star" was originally a classroom composition, which I re-wrote and expanded for my visit to Tolkien's gravesite in Oxford, where I read it in the company of other devotees.

"Adventure Under Southern Skies" was inspired by my journey to the world premiere of the first *Hobbit* movie in Wellington.

"Warrior Princess" is a poem about a young friend in Brisbane who loves to cosplay at conventions, dresses at our events as Arwen, and is also a horse lover who loves riding her own horse.

Lovers of Tolkien's Middle-earth will recognise many of the characters and stories referred to in these written works but often with subtle differences. Those who are not devotees to Tolkien's stories will hopefully find the imagery in each poem/story a world of fantastic imagination.

My alter ego, Fortinbras Proudfoot, was created a decade ago when I was doing *The Hobbit* as a unit of work with my Year (Grade) Seven class. All the children were given Hobbit names which were created by an online word generator. The teacher had to have a Hobbit name, so I modified mine into one I liked, which was Fortinbras Proudfoot. I have kept the name ever since and use it as my pen name for poems and stories I write, and of course it was selected for my Children's Literacy Foundation.

Acknowledgements

This book, the second edition of “Dreams of Another Land”, came to fruition through the kind offer of Jeroen Bakker of Ahvô Braiths publishing in The Netherlands to take on the publishing requirements for my upcoming publications in the future. To Jeroen I am most grateful for opening up a new door for my future writings.

For a number of years I have dreamt of having my stories or poems published as a book for people to enjoy. This is my first venture into the world of published written work and I am indebted to a number of people for bringing my dream to fruition. This book is mainly an anthology of poems. Most of the poems within these pages have been inspired by friends at home, people I have met during my overseas travels and events I have attended.

My first acknowledgement goes to Sue Bradley, whose wonderful artwork enhances these poems, has become a co-partner in this publication and she has also been a pleasure to work with. Co-operation and sharing of ideas has been an enjoyable experience as we slowly watched the project grow and develop into its final manuscript.

I am most grateful to Colin Duriez, well respected author, conference presenter and friend, who has always shown an interest in my projects and who has written a generous foreword for this my first publication.

A special thank you goes to Sherry Rhodes, who showed an early interest in my work and became my valued proof reader. Her suggestions at times led to part or whole rewrites of my work.

Members of the Local Brisbane Tolkien Fellowship have been encouraging towards my work and special mentions go to friends Trevor, Greg and Phillip whose talent and displays of passion in costume making and role playing create wonderful subjects for writing. To Amy Bechly, whose enthusiastic response to my poetry writing sparked a period of prolific creativity and to Kirsten Burke whose Proudfoot essay, on which the opening story is based, helped a procrastinating writer break down the barrier of writer’s block. The marvels of modern technology have also been a wonderful assistance to the project, bringing together the talents of people from The Netherlands, United States, England and Australia.

My former publisher, Oloris Publishing, unfortunately had to close but to Robyn Stone, and Lara Sookoo I am deeply indebted with gratitude for supporting my dream and bringing my first book to publication.

Most of the poems within these pages have been inspired by friends at home, people I have met during my overseas travels and events I have attended. Writing the poems in this book grew out of my passion for Middle-earth.

About: Sue Brady, illustrator



Sue Bradley is an artist and illustrator based in the United Kingdom. Growing up with a strong interest in art and literature, she developed a passion for the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and other fantasy writers such as C.S. Lewis.

As a teenager, Sue was inspired by many artists of the fantasy genre, including Arthur Rackham, Roger Dean, George Underwood and Barry Godber. This led to many doodles on her school books of fairies, goblins, elves and other imagined creatures. In more recent times, Sue has been influenced by the illustrations of Alan Lee, John Howe, Brian Froud and Ted Nasmith.

Sue trained and worked as a biochemist before qualifying as a primary school teacher. However, throughout these years she continued to draw and paint, attend art courses and develop her artistic style. She now teaches painting to adults, art clubs and societies. Sue is represented by a gallery in Beckenham, Kent, U.K.

About: Peter Kenny, author



Peter Kenny is a retired teacher based in Brisbane who possesses one of the most significant personal collections of Tolkien memorabilia in Australia and the world. Peter has had a passion for everything Tolkien for four decades and he has become a recognized authority in the field, sharing his knowledge and passion for Tolkien's stories with adults and children around the world through a series of presentations and events at schools, libraries, conventions and festivals.

During his forty years as a teacher he often used *The Hobbit* as a literacy unit in the classroom and shared Tolkien's world with hundreds of students through reading stories, composing and art.

Now retired, Peter writes poems, songs and fantasy stories inspired by Tolkien's Middle-earth as a hobby and shares his work in his presentations and with his friends.

His continuing passion and writing has led to a selection of his work being chosen for this publication.

The Fortinbras Proudfoot Esq. Foundation

In association with the Brisbane Tolkien Fellowship, Peter has formed the Fortinbras Proudfoot Esq. Foundation. The objective for the Foundation is that it be maintained as a non-profit organisation with a charter to raise funds for other charitable groups engaged in literacy initiatives and programs assisting children to enhance their education through literacy.

The main beneficiary of the group's fundraising is The Pyjama Foundation, whose volunteers assist the development of reading and writing skills of children in statutory and foster care.

The proceeds raised from this publication will go towards the purchase of books to support education programs assisting children in care.

More information about the foundation can be found at:
<http://brisbanetolkienfellowship.com.au>