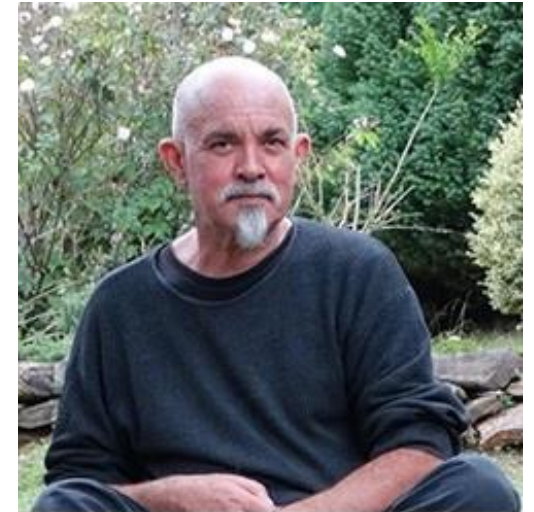


Three Poems on kangaroos & advocacy

David Brooks

Assoc Prof David Brooks is a critic, novelist, short story writer, animal rights activist as well as poet. He taught Australian Literature, ran a writing program, and co-edited *Southerly* at the University of Sydney. He has published six collections of poetry, the latest (*The Peanut Vendor*) included in his new and selected poems: *The Other Side of Daylight* (UQP, 2024).

He lives in a micro sheep sanctuary in the upper Blue Mountains with his wife, Dr Teja Brooks Pribac.



Requiem

David Brooks



Requiem (fire)

David Brooks

Winter 2022

The 26th October is also the 5th anniversary of the beginning of the huge Gospers Mountain fire.

My poem, 'Requiem', is about that fire, in which so many kangaroos and so many, many other creatures died. The poem was published in *Meanjin* a couple of years ago and is now in my new collection.

Taralga Rd

David Brooks

This poem is about road deaths...

“Wombat” she announces just after Tarlo, and stops, gets out. I see her in the rearview mirror turn the body over before walking quickly back for gloves and a cloth from the first-aid kit.

“She’s dead,” she says, “but there’s a tiny paw reaching from the pouch. I’ve got to check.””



Leaping towards Boston

David Brooks



The poem 'Leaping towards Boston' was written in support of a campaign to persuade Nike and other companies to refrain from the use of kangaroo skin in their footwear. I am well aware that these companies employ such skins in their soccer boots, not their running shoes, but once the metaphor of the Boston marathon suggested itself there seemed no escaping it. The suffering of the roos is just the same.

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THE END