



Dear Panel Members,

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically support the Creative Australian fellowship application of Natalie Damjanovich-Napoleon's 'One Hundred Trees' project. I will also provide support in publishing this collection upon its completion with Life Before Man Books.

I worked with Natalie recently in editing and publishing her 2023 release *If There Is a Butterfly That Drinks Tears* and I look forward to working with Natalie in the future. Natalie is a pleasure to work with, professional and astute with a keen sense of story, metaphor and ethics in working with people's personal stories. In addition to this, she works hard in promoting her own work in collaboration with the publisher of the Life Before Man imprint, Gazebo Books. She conducted a book tour in March/April 2024 and WA readings, author talks and workshops, resulting in her book going into second and third pressings.

Natalie is an active participant in the poetry scene who consistently contributes to Australian poetry, with poems regularly published in respected journals such as *Griffith Review*, *The Australian*, *Red Room Poetry* and *The Best of Australian Poetry*. At Life Before Man Books we seek out work that reflects the diversity of our community, is artistically intriguing, and speaks to multitudinous, unheard stories. This is what Natalie's work encapsulates.

With recent achievements such as being shortlisted for the Peter Porter Poetry Prize, and completing her fourth poetry book, we need to support this established poet as she continues to creative engaging, innovative community-based work.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Day (24/05/2026)
Poetry editor, Life Before Man Books
gazebobooks.com.au

29th May 2026

To the Creative Australia Fellowship Selection Committee,

I am writing to provide my dedicated support for Natalie Damjanovich-Napoleon's Creative Australia Two-Year Fellowship application. As Chair of WA Poets Inc., I have worked closely with Natalie through her roles as a committee member, host, facilitator and advocate for culturally diverse literary communities. She is an exceptional candidate whose proposed project, One Hundred Trees, will make a significant contribution to Australian literature, community engagement and ecological storytelling.

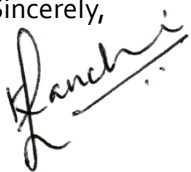
Natalie has consistently demonstrated an outstanding commitment to building inclusive literary communities across both metropolitan and regional contexts. Through her work with WA Poets Inc., including her role as US Consulate Liaison and her involvement in organising the Perth Poetry Festival, she has shown herself to be collaborative, organised, reliable and deeply ethical in her approach to community arts practice. She works thoughtfully with a wide range of participants and artists, particularly culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and is highly respected for her generosity, professionalism and ability to foster meaningful creative dialogue.

Her proposed fellowship project builds naturally on over a decade of community-engaged literary practice. Natalie's recent bio-poetry project, Axe Marks in Tree Trunks, demonstrated her ability to work sensitively with Croatian personal histories, oral storytelling and documentary poetics while engaging participants through workshops, readings and community consultation. Through these projects she has amplified voices often underrepresented in Australian literary spaces and created opportunities for participants to see their experiences reflected in creative work.

One Hundred Trees has the potential to benefit not only Natalie's own professional development as an established non-fiction poet, but also the broader literary and arts community. By gathering stories connected to trees from people across urban and regional Australia, the project will create space for intergenerational, multicultural and community voices to be documented and shared through poetry and oral history. The work encourages ecological awareness, cultural exchange and public engagement with storytelling in ways that are innovative, accessible and socially meaningful.

Natalie is an accomplished and disciplined artist with a demonstrated capacity to complete ambitious long-form creative projects, including four poetry collections and a substantial body of nationally recognised work. This fellowship would allow her to further consolidate her standing as one of Australia's important contemporary documentary and eco-poetic voices while contributing significantly to Australian literary culture and community arts practice. As Chair of WA Poets Inc. I fully support Natalie's application. I have every confidence in her ability to undertake this project successfully and I believe the outcomes will have enduring value for the broader community.

Sincerely,



Lakshmi R. Kanchi
Chair | WA Poets Inc.

24/5/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to provide this letter of support for Natalie Damjanovich-Napoleon's application for a Creative Australia Fellowship for the project 'One Hundred Trees'.

Natalie is an exceptional and deeply thoughtful writer whose practice consistently demonstrates artistic innovation, intellectual rigour and genuine community engagement. Their proposed project, 'One Hundred Trees', is ambitious in scope and significant in its cultural and ecological contributions. By collecting stories of unique human-tree connections across Australia this project offers a compelling reimagining of how we understand our relationship with the natural world.

I have had the privilege of working with Natalie through many aspects of her creative practice at WestWords, and can attest to the breadth, professionalism and originality of her work. Her practice is distinctly multi-faceted, moving fluidly between poetry, visual art, research, community engagement and performance.

In 2026, Natalie served as one of three judges for the Blake Poetry Prize through WestWords, bringing insight, generosity and critical integrity to the role. She also participated in the First Draft visual art and poetry exhibition in 2024 with her collage poem 'Slippages', demonstrating an exciting interdisciplinary approach to contemporary poetics and visual culture. Additionally, during her 2024 book tour for the poetry collection *If There is a Butterfly That Drinks Tears*, Natalie delivered a sold-out 'Found Words' workshop at WestWords: Western Sydney Centre for Writing in Parramatta. The workshop exemplified their outstanding ability to connect with participants from diverse backgrounds and foster an inclusive, community-led creative writing experience.

Natalie possesses the integrity, ethics, reliability and interpersonal skills necessary to undertake a nationally significant, community-engaged project of this scale. They have extensive experience working with diverse groups of people and approaching storytelling with sensitivity, respect and care. I have every confidence in her ability to realise 'One Hundred Trees' to an exceptionally high standard. 'One Hundred Trees' is an important and timely project that will make a meaningful contribution to contemporary Australian literature, ecological thought and cultural dialogue.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.



Michael Campbell
Executive and Publishing Director, WestWords

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28 May 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Natalie Damjanovich-Napoleon's Creative Australia Fellowship application. As a writer, and in my capacity as artistic director of *Mascara Literary Review*, I have had the opportunity to engage closely with Natalie's work as a writer and contributor to the literary community. She is an outstanding candidate for this fellowship with her proposed creative work, "One Hundred Trees": an exciting and promising project which is timely and relevant for contemporary eco-poetic concerns and Australian literary culture more broadly.

Natalie was recently awarded a *Mascara Literary Review* Emerging Critic Fellowship, through which she has demonstrated intellectual flair, flexibility and rigour, generosity and insight as a CaLD poetry critic. Her engagement with contemporary Australian poetry is deeply thoughtful and informed by a sophisticated understanding of craft, poetic technique, literary and social history. I have always admired Natalie's poetry and I admire the ambition of her vision and the originality of her writing. Her poetry is formally inventive, emotionally resonant and intellectually engaged, particularly in its exploration of ecological consciousness, intergenerational experience and belonging. She is part of a new generation of Australian writers extending the possibilities of documentary poetics and life writing through archival, documentary and socially engaged approaches.

Her proposed fellowship project, "One Hundred Trees", exploring the connection between human beings and our arboreal counterparts, is particularly compelling in its scope and vision. This work has the potential to become a significant contribution to contemporary eco-poetics and documentary literature in Australia by centring voices and experiences often overlooked within mainstream cultural narratives. Natalie's ability to work collaboratively with communities while transforming lived experience into powerful poetic forms is a strength of her practice. A fellowship would provide essential support for the sustained research, travel, collaborative engagement and creative development required for a project of this scale and ambition.

Natalie's achievements to date, including major poetry prizes, national publications, fellowships and festival appearances, reflect both the quality of her work and her commitment to the literary sector.

I offer my wholehearted support for her application.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Cahill
Author and Editor
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