



AT THE COOLROOM
Saturday 22 October 2-4.30pm
featuring Helen Lucas



NORTHERN ARTS HOTEL 359 BARKER ST CASTLEMAINE

PoetiCas has been hosting regular poetry gatherings in Castlemaine since 2015, following on the tradition of Ross Donlon's poetry readings in the decade prior. It has grown into a wonderful community and their monthly events are beloved by many. Lockdowns and uncertainty put their activities on pause for much of 2020 and 2021, and they are now thrilled to announce a new chapter at a fine new venue.

The usual format brings a feature reader to share their work, as well as an open section for the community to share their own original poems in a warm and supportive space, lovingly MC'd by local poet and publisher **Tegan Gigante**. All are welcome to attend, to read or just to listen.

Saturday October 22
2pm for a 2.30 start in The Coolroom at the Northern Arts Hotel
359 Barker St, Castlemaine

Open section as usual,
limited to 3 minutes per reader.
All Welcome!

\$5 donation at the door much appreciated.
So buy a drink from the bar and join us at
The Coolroom at the Northern Arts Hotel,
the new home for PoetiCas.

Contact Tegan:
poeticaspoeticas@outlook.com

Helen Lucas writes across several genres. She has published children's books and two collections of poetry, *The Nature of Things* and *Slip of Season*. She writes short stories and won the Allan Marshall Short Story Award for her gothic story *Rosa Perpetua*. After travels in Europe in 2010/11, Helen wrote a play *Sarajevo Suite*, based on interviews with women who lived through the siege of Sarajevo during the 1990s. It was performed at **La Mama** for a sell-out season in 2012 and toured regional Victoria, including Bendigo.

Helen convened the **Courthouse Readings** in Eltham for 17 years before moving to Chewton 4 years ago. The reading was funded by the Nillumbik Council and was a much-loved reading.

Helen completed a Masters in Media and Communication in 2017 at RMIT investigating the ideas around women, creativity and ageing. She produced a poetic memoir based on these themes and an accompanying exhibition. A poem from this collection, *Heirloom* won the **Val Vallis Poetry Prize** in 2020.

In recent times her writing focus has been on gardening, working on a collection of poetry and short prose with the working title, *Life and Death in the Garden*. She currently works as a literacy teacher at Loddon Prison.