A photograph of Tom Stodulka, a man with glasses and a dark suit, smiling and holding a light-colored straw hat with a black band over his eyes. The background is a colorful, abstract pattern of red, orange, and yellow.

Poetry, thoughts  
and words of a  
peacemaker and  
2019 Mediator  
of the Year.

# *Tom Stodulka*

## **Media Kit**

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## AUTHOR BIO

Tom was born in Bathurst in 1951, in one of Australia's post-WWII refugee camps, after his parents, Zdeny and Philomena, had fled Czechoslovakia in 1947. They had been ordered to travel by train to Naples, where his older brother, Andrea, was then born in a Naples UN Displaced Person's Camp.

Raised in Parramatta in a primarily German-speaking household, Tom initially struggled with writing in English. He often puzzled through writing English essays with his mother, who always helped despite her also trying to learn English. Then, after being educated at the King's School and North Sydney Boys High, he studied law at Sydney University. There, he won an Australia Britain Society scholarship, which took him on an overseas study tour.

In 1976, he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a naval legal officer. He served in most Australian states and the US during the 1990-91 Gulf War, after a short stint in Pakistan and the Khyber Pass. It was during this time that Tom wrote his first poem, as a way to express his creativity.

After twenty years in the Australian military, he established a full-time career as a mediator and facilitator, practising throughout Australia, including the Northern Territory, before settling in Brisbane in 2002. Now, as an early pioneer of mediation and alternative dispute resolution, and mentored by Sir Laurence Street, he promotes its benefits both in Australia and overseas, and is accredited internationally.

As a writer, Tom has massive support from his loving wife, and three children, and many friends and colleagues across the country. His first book had three re-prints and he is thrilled with the early success of his new book

*Life is a Dance.*





## NEW RELEASE: LIFE IS A DANCE

Life, love, and work intertwine with nature and a unique series of poems, in Tom's revised edition of his successful book of poetry. No matter what the day-to-day challenges are, as life unfolds, Tom shows us—through his poetry—that life is about enjoying what we can in every single moment.

Journey with Tom through tales of Australian life, discover local flora and fauna, and learn from his experiences in his work as a mediator. Tom shares his deep appreciation of nature, his passion for his work and shows the reader how to remember, that life is a dance, not a journey.

**Author:** Tom Stodulka

**Category:** Writing, Poetry,  
Non-Fiction, Spirituality

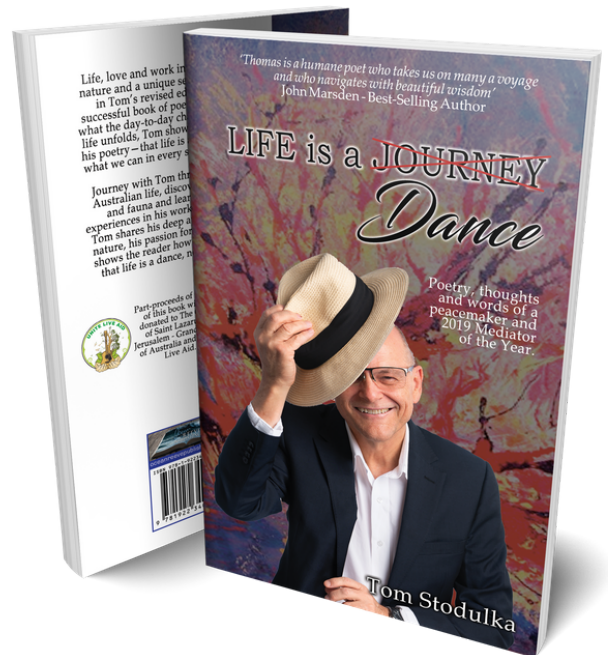
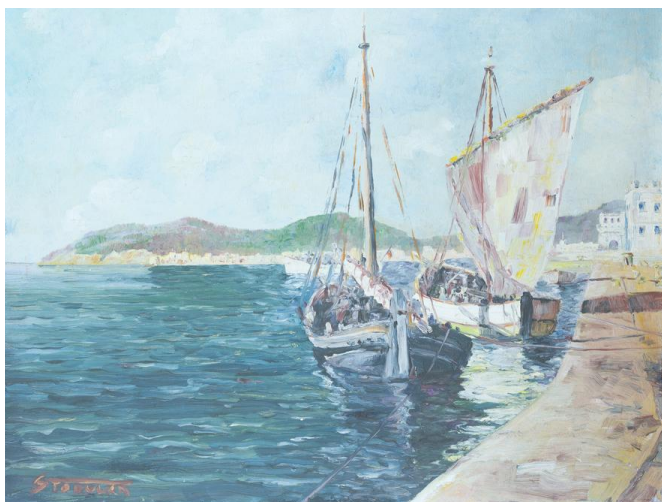
**ISBN:** 978-1-922340-53-5

**Print:** Hardcover, B-format,  
184pp.

**Print RRP:** \$24.95

## BOOK BENEFITS

Giving people a sense of hope, and being understood in their lives; about enjoying life in all its ups and downs; a rare and special observation of everyday life.



## TARGET AUDIENCE

There is something in here for everybody, young and not so young alike.

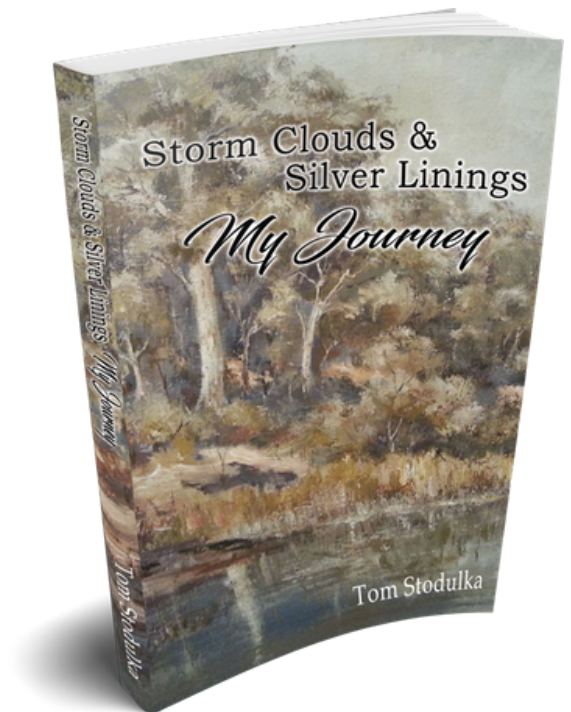
## ALSO AVAILABLE: STORM CLOUDS AND SILVER LININGS

Life, love and work intertwine with nature in a unique series of poems. No matter what the day to day challenges are, as life unfolds from youth to almost three score & 10, Tom Stodulka tries to face each day with positivity. Journey with Tom through tales of Australian life, discover local flora and fauna and learn from his experiences in his work as a mediator. Tom shares his deep appreciation of nature, his passion for his work and takes the reader on a journey through life.

**Author:** Tom Stodulka  
**Category:** Writing, Poetry,  
Non-Fiction, Spirituality  
**ISBN:** 978-1-925680-70-6  
**Print RRP:** \$19.95

## BOOK BENEFITS

Giving people a sense of hope, and being understood in their lives. About enjoying life in all its ups and downs. Certainly a snapshot into the life of an Australian.



## TARGET AUDIENCE

There is something in here for everybody, young and not so young alike.

## BOOK EXCERPTS

### *An Ode to Kindness*

*It is like a painting, a portrait or sketch of a special warm smile and the person within.*

*A beaming, kind and gentle smile and spirit.*

*A gift to share and a generous token to warm others' less happy hearts and souls.*

*Others who might struggle to shake of their sad and stressed thoughts.*

*Others who only feel that life has dealt them a tough hand.*

*That smile traverses all, and confronts pain and loss,*

*Anger and stress,*

*Trials and tribulations.*

*Never lose that smile and that special inner glow.*





## TESTIMONIALS

*I had the good fortune to meet Tom Stodulka once five years ago on a plane, just for an hour or so. I've never forgotten his kind, positive and intelligent approach to things as reflected by his conversations that day. When I heard he had written this book of poetry I had to buy my copy. Sitting in the sun with a cup of tea this little book transported me to simple and beautiful things in life.*

*The writing is real and light with titles of poems like "If it will brighten someone's day, say it" and maybe harder titles like "On ageing and death" then swoops back with "On beauty and Life". I was saddened, surprised, uplifted and like the title suggests, I found many "Silver Linings". A lovely book, well worth the read, with a cup of tea.*

—Stephen

Thoughtful and thought provoking ... reflective, almost serene.

—John Marsden

*Tom Stodulka's book is ready to show off to the world. Tom's unique questioning of this world and transparent love of all around him soaks through each page of this new book. His poems melt your heart and warm your soul and in turn makes you ask questions. They are also very entertaining. His choice to add his father's paintings to the book of poems is delightful.*

—Linda

## TESTIMONIALS – CONTINUED

*I have read your 62 pages bringing forth great feelings of love of country ... empathy ... nostalgia ... and faith in the indomitable human spirit ... the lines on your 93-year-old mother brought tears to my eyes ... your father's paintings are just beautiful.*

—Ron

*Tom Stodulka has brightened our lives with this collection of poems that are so full of insights and colourful perspectives. Tom's words on paper remind the reader of the way a painter uses a canvas to get us to look at both striking images and the everyday differently ... Many pleasurable hours await the reader who opens up the world of the poet in this collection available for the first time.*

—Bill



## CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

*Love of life and people is the thread through this beautiful journey. A tour de force of the spirit. Take some time, listen to Tom and your own heart.*

**—Ros Baxter**

*Tom shows profound empathy with his poetic subjects. His poems highlight our vulnerability and guide us to a deeper appreciation of Australia's diverse peoples and animals ... and gives us an insight into the author's mind as he writes about things close to his heart.*

**—Jen Compton**

*I'd be happy to be quoted as saying: 'Thomas Stodulka writes about real people, authentic feelings, the truths of everyday life. He creates memorable pictures with words that are simultaneously accessible and remarkable. [Tom] takes us on many a voyage and [he] navigates with beautiful wisdom.'*

**—John Marsden**

*Tom's poems are a beautiful blend of compassion, a search for the meaning of life, and a quest to understand love, loss, loneliness, death, and rebirth ... Tom's words shine with hard-won wisdom and inspiration.*

**—Tanya Heaslip**



## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1

Who are you? What's your background?

2

Tell us about your book.

3

Can you tell us what inspires you to write poetry?

4

What keeps you inspired?

5

What prompted you to write a book?

6

Do you define *before* the launch what will be considered a success?

7

Can you describe what a 'successful publishing event' looks like?

8

Can you pick one of your most memorable poems and explain why?

9

Why poetry?

10

Do you believe poetry is making a comeback?

11

Give us your best all-round advice for Indie authors.

12

Where can people buy the book?

13

What's next for Tom Stodulka?

14

How can people get in touch with you?

## CONTACT TOM

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All books can be purchased through the website  
[www.tomstodulkaauthor.com](http://www.tomstodulkaauthor.com)