

## Josie Robinson

Josie Robinson aka Caldwell, emigrated from the UK in 1972, explored



Australia then settled in the Bellingen Shire in 1982. She has been involved in many local creative pursuits, including the Bellingen Creative Dance Group, the Bellingen Company of Clowns( by royal Appointment to) and as a member of the Bellingen Playback Theatre Company for 21 years.

Josie attended Southern Cross University, gained a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science and worked for Bellingen Shire Council as Community Development Officer for 15

years. She moved to Dorrigo in 2011 and retired from work in 2013 to write her memoir. She is now a member of the Dorrigo Dramatic Club, the Dorrigo Writer's table and the Dorrigo Visual Arts Group.

Women in Black

Josie's Memoir, 'Women In Black', covers the first twenty years of her life; growing up in Catholic Children's homes and believing in a benevolent God, a belief shattered at the age of fourteen, when her mother dies.

She tells of the struggle in coming to terms with that loss and of her subsequent difficulties in adjusting to 'normal' family life in foster homes and later, in creating a family of her own.

As a young woman, Josie finds her tribe, through the Liverpool beat-scene, the Merseyside Women's Liberation Movement and the Glastonbury Free Festival of 1971 where she experiences a sense belonging and freedom she has never felt before.

She describes the social and cultural shifts of those times; the Sixties psychedelic era of free love, the London Scene; the free concerts, 'Happenings', art shows and the angry clashes between the 'Right to Choose' movement and the anti-abortion 'Right to Life' movement in London's Hyde Park.

This is a story of childhood loss and separation, of teenage rebellion and a coming of age during the Aquarian Age of Love, Peace and Women's Liberation, of how the norms, values and aspirations of that era influenced the choices Josie made and that ultimately led her to Australia as a Ten Pound Pom.

**Arts Week Session.**

Josie will discuss what is involved in writing a memoir and why she wrote hers. She will give some tips and suggestions on how to get started with your own memoir, pitfalls to watch out for and her experiences of self-publishing.