

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2114

Horsfield, Dorothy

(1948 - 2025)

Born	1 January, 1948, Newcastle New South Wales Australia
Died	1 January, 2025, Canberra Australian Capital Territory Australia
Occupation	Author, Journalist, Poet

Summary

Dorothy Horsfield worked as a journalist in Australia and overseas. Her published novels include *Dream Run* (1992) and *Venom* (2006)

(This entry was sponsored by a generous donation from Christine Foley.)

Details

Dorothy Horsfield studied English and Philosophy at the University of Sydney. She worked in Papua New Guinea as an information officer and as an anthropologist's research assistant in Zimbabwe. She also worked for the ABC in London, where she met well-known political journalist Paul Lyneham, whom she married. The couple had three children.

Horsfield worked as a journalist with ABC radio and television, Channel 7, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Australian*, the *National Times* and the *Canberra Times*, as far afield as London, Berlin and Afghanistan. She ran a media company, and also worked as a novelist, reviewer, short story writer and poet. She was published in newspapers and literary magazines.

Horsfield's published novels include *Dream Run* (1992) and *Venom* (2006) – a tale of politics set in Canberra and its surrounds. She also edited *Paul Lyneham: A Memoir* (2002).

She was a member of Seven Writers – a group of seven Canberra-based writers whose work vividly portrayed life 'beneath the surface of Canberra' – and as part of this collective she contributed to *Canberra Tales* (1988), republished as *The Division of Love* in 1996, an anthology of short stories about life in Canberra. The work received an ACT Bicentennial Award.

After the death of her husband in 2000 from lung cancer, Horsfield fronted a national media campaign in 2002 to raise public awareness of the need for early diagnosis of lung disease. She published articles about her visit to Afghanistan through the Rotary Club of Canberra, and became an adviser to UNIFEM Australia (the United Nations Development Fund for Women) in 2003.

Published resources

Book

Dream Run, Horsfield, Dorothy, 1992

Venom, Horsfield, Dorothy, 2005

The Division of Love: Stories, Barbalet, Margaret et al, 1995

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

Records of the Seven Writers group, between 1986 and approximately 2000

Papers of Dorothy Horsfield, 1986-2003 [manuscript]

Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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