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This publication represents a unique, handmade single edition. It has been carefully created, designed, and developed by artist Fern Smith. The content featured within these pages has been produced collaboratively by members of the community from the City of Greater Geelong.

51 Big belly sea horse

52 **Copyright** © 2026 Fern Smith

This book is a handmade concertina work. It is not intended for digitisation or copying, and all rights are reserved.

The Longest Book in the World – Geelong was created in the City of Greater Geelong.

The designer, artist, and facilitator of this project is Fern Smith, based in Portarlington 3223. For more information, visit fernartz.com.

The contents of this book was produced by one thousand and forty-seven illustrators and authors who participated in The Longest Book in the World workshops held between 2022 and 2026.

53-55 **The Disclaimer**

Purpose of This Book

This book presents a collection of interpretative reflections compiled over a three-year period, capturing the experiences, thoughts, and observations of citizens and visitors to the City of Greater Geelong. Its primary purpose is to provide entertainment to its readers.

Limitations of Content

It is important to note that the material within this book is not provided with the intention of diagnosing problems or guaranteeing success in any form of endeavour. Readers should understand that the book does not serve as a source of true or accurate factual information.

Summary o copyright & disclaimer

Ask before you copy – in writing

This book is produced for entertainment

It is based and rooted in the creative process of all individuals

56 The next four pages is the work of Isla Wilson

57-60 Cartoon drawings is the work of Isla Wilson (then age 12)

61-72 Dedication

Encouragement can mean the world to an artist, especially when the creative journey feels like a blindfolded walk through both the artistic and community process. My partner, Gabrielle Castree, was always there, torch in hand, ready to guide me through. Without the legendary one thousand and thirty-six illustrators and authors—both new and established—who contributed two thousand and eighty-eight pages, spanning six hundred and twenty-two metres, this book simply would not exist.

These creators have shared stories of their favourite places, secret spots and cherished hideaways throughout the City of Greater Geelong. Their work shines a spotlight on the richness and diversity of the local environment, reminding us to value, preserve and protect it.

Gratitude to Geelong Regional Libraries

I wish to express my deep gratitude for the ongoing dedication and commitment of Geelong Regional Libraries (GLRC) to the Longest Book in the World (LBITW) project. Their long-term involvement has been fundamental to the project's success, and I remain both humbled and appreciative. Between 2022 and 2025, ninety-one workshops were held at libraries across

Bannockburn, Barwon Heads, Belmont, Biyal-a Armstrong Creek, Boronggook Drysdale, Chilwell, Corio, Geelong West, Lara, Leopold, Ocean Grove, Queenscliff, The Dome (Geelong Library and Heritage Centre), and Waurn Ponds.

Appreciation for Library Staff

The individuals working at these libraries are dedicated, encouraging and welcoming to everyone who walks through their doors.

Project Achievements

In January 2026 according to a Google search, the Longest Book in the World was the longest recorded environmentally friendly book, with much of the project hosted at Geelong Regional Libraries.

Art and Inclusion

Making art accessible has always been a passion of mine, which is why I was excited about the partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries. Geelong Regional Libraries serve as bastions of inclusion, providing opportunities for people to read, write and participate in activities and events each day. They help the community weather the storms of social and environmental change—a fact I have witnessed firsthand through the LBITW project.

My observations from the libraries

Librarians have observed the profound importance of libraries in their communities. For example, at Corio Library during a school holiday, a group of children gathered around the Longest Book table but seemed distracted. One child mentioned being hungry and not having had breakfast. I directed them to a bowl of fruit on the counter, which they eagerly consumed. Afterwards, they returned, found their spot and made their contributions to the book. Quietly, a platter of fruit appeared, ensuring all were nourished.

A grandmother brought her grandchild to contribute to the Longest Book. During the session, I learnt they had walked five kilometres to participate because the buses were infrequent and not on route. Indicating the importance of workshops.

One day, a workshop appeared destined for a no-show. A flustered woman arrived, disappointed that no others were present. I invited her to view the book, page by page. Enthralled, she sat down and began to create. I soon learnt she had just relocated to Australia, knew no one and had nothing to do. Her story unfolded before me. She now attends every Longest Book session in her area and has contributed metres to the manuscript. She has made connections.

Most people come and sit at the table saying, “I can’t write or draw.” After viewing the book page by page, and seeing the diversity of contributors aged from 2 to 91 years, they are inspired to create their favourite place or spot in Geelong.

The following artwork is by Jane Flowers who lives on the Bellarine. Flowers “ is an award-winning Australian artist who specialises in oils on canvas. She has a deep affinity with nature, the ocean and the greater environment that allows her to translate her interpretations into unique artworks...Janeflowers.com

73-76 Jane Flowers

77-100 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanking Community Partnerships

I wish to express my gratitude to the various organisations and groups that welcomed the Longest Book in the World and made it possible to conduct community participation workshops. Their invitations enriched the project, allowing for wider and meaningful engagement across the community. They are Wangala Primary School, Cultura School Norlane, Bellarine Landcare, Victorian Fisheries Queenscliff Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre, Geelong branch of Embroiders Guild, Barwon Heads Arts Council, SES Bellarine Unit, Bellarine Catchment Network, Swan Bay Environment group and Drysdale Historical Museum.

Wangala Primary School welcomed the Longest Book project. It was a joy. Every child had the opportunity to create pages. I was there for a week visiting every class. The joyous school is perched on an incline surrounded by ovals and encased in 1970s suburban architecture. “Wangala Primary School students learn on the land of the Wadawurrung People, with our school taking our name from their long-lasting language. Meaning to ‘make good’ or ‘make right’, we proudly serve the local community and live into our values of caring, respectful, community minded, and future focused.” Wangala Primary website

Cultura School Norlane invited me into their re-settlement service through the English language programme. About forty people attended the four-hour workshop. I enjoyed and honoured the challenge of trying to express what could be achieved in the session. It was difficult at first as English was not their first language. However, with the student’s generosity and patients we got there. I enjoyed the process and outcome. Some of the students had never been afforded the opportunity to learn to write due to their past dislocations.

Bellarine Landcare is almost like my spiritual home where on Mondays I propagate indigenous plants to the Bellarine area to eventually to be re-wilded. Bellarine Landcare asked if I'd hold a workshop at the Bellarine Landcare nursery. It was a lovely smallish workshop in the propagating shed on a wet dull day. Later I joined in their community education /promotion programs at Geelong Nature festival, Drysdale Primary Fete Day, Portarlington Agriculture Fair and One Planet Festival Ocean Grove. It is an honour.

Victorian Fisheries Queenscliff Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre invited the LBITW to their two-week summer holiday program where attendees had the opportunity to sketch what they saw, observational sketching. Hopefully a spawning new scientific aquatic illustrators or scientists.

Geelong branch of Embroiders Guild has stitched their way into the LBITW through an information session, a workshop and invitation to their annual exhibition 'The Art of the Needle' 2025. I loved their open-minds.

Barwon Heads Arts Council hold annual Bellarine Arts Trail in 2024 the LBITW sat in the middle of Queenscliff Hall for two days where hundreds of people got to know of the project and some participated. No mean feat as it was set up Gallery Style with other artists Jane Flowers, Kim Doherty, Kate Sylvester, Tina Price and Antoinette Inguanti with people observing. Jane and Kim have both continued to contribute and encourage the project.

SES Bellarine Unit invited LBITW project their outreach info and promotion events at Leopold Primary Fete, Wombats Wish Portarlington event and Hooked on the Bellarine. Many people hold high regard for SES Bellarine and this came out in their contributions.

On two occasions I have had the pleasure of workshopping along the side of **Bellarine Catchment Network** at Geelong Nature Festival, and they kindly donated five posters to inspire children at Wangala Primary School. An active network working hard behind the scenes.

Swan Bay Environment Group for inviting LBITW project to Geelong Nature Festival at the Point Lonsdale. It was held in a light filled room with views. Their extensive network had many participating in the project.

Early days of the LBITW workshops, **Drysdale Historical Museum** hold a writers retreat where I held a couple of workshops in 2023. The Postcard Project was donated by Drysdale Historical Museum to the Longest Book in the World, enabling people to view the Bellarine from a historical perspective and really get the project going.

Thanking individual supporters of the project

Julie Rysdale faithfully reposted all posts, an ardent supporter, sometimes grammar/spell checker and participant. Julie is a sometimes writer, usually writing from her own experiences, happily attempting poetry or creative non-fiction, sometimes combining both. Other interests include oil painting (especially keen on exploring the connection between humans and dogs); working with textiles; and unravelling the intricacies of communicating and living with dogs.

Jenny Macaulay, artist and author a prize-winning author, community creative advocate such as Mid-winter words, leads groups in Haiku, fiction, short story, biography and history provided the Drysdale Museum Postcard project to LBITW in the early days of the project and really got it moving. An ardent supporter.

Author and journalist **Pearl Wilson** works with the Bellarine community fostering film, monologues, writing groups, is an avid encourager and supporter of LBITW and works in partnership with Macaulay to provide a writers retreat once a month at the Drysdale Museum.

Jacquelyn (Jacki) Wilcox stitched the first page, drew her whole family into participating, and introduced me to the Geelong branch of Embroiders Guild Victoria Guild. Forever grateful to Jacki who broadened my imagination with materials that can be used on a page in a book. Jacki popped onto the workshops regularly bringing more artworks and family.

Duc Bui Viet, a Geelong photographer, generously provided his photo of St Leonards Pier during the storm on June 11, 2024, for copy drawing and sharing responses on Facebook to go into this book.

Heartfelt thanks to the eight hundred and three followers of Fernartz Longest Book in the World website , The Longest Book in the Wold - FaceBook , FernSmith FaceBook , and Fernartz FaceBook for their ongoing support , encouragement and comments. There were shares that I didn't count or follow – thank you.

Appreciation for materials donated

The **Geelong Tourist Information Centre** generously donated their outdated back copies of Geelong information and location pamphlets, as well as booklets, to be incorporated into the Longest Book in the World project. These materials were cut and pasted by participants, providing a unique opportunity for creative expression. Many individuals who took part were shy creatives, and the collage approach enabled them to feel comfortable and open their creativity. By using these pamphlets and booklets, participants could explore their artistic side and make meaningful contributions to the project through this inclusive and accessible method.

Sealed Air, known for manufacturing Recycled-Tuff-Bags for Australia Post, played a significant role in supporting the Longest Book in the World project by supplying paper that remained at the end of their manufacturing process. This surplus material became the pages for the concertina book, providing an eco-friendly and practical solution for the project's creative needs.

The paper itself held a unique history, as it was originally left over from Fern Smith's previous project, 'The Sea is Sinking'—an interactive and immersive seascape installation depicting Naarm-Port Phillip Bay in 2019. By reusing this paper, the project not only promoted sustainability but also carried forward the artistic legacy of Fern Smith's environmental artwork into its own creative journey.

Over a period spanning at least ten years, a variety of individuals generously **donated pencils** to support Fern Smith’s work in the community. These contributions, collected gradually and thoughtfully, played a vital role in enabling creative projects and workshops. To everyone who contributed—whether recently or many years ago—your support is deeply appreciated. Thank you for making a difference.

If I have left a group or anyone out I am truly apologetic. You would know who you are and know I am not a good housekeeper. Thank you for your support.

101-104

Birds leaf and gum nut

About Truong

“Life cycle under the sea- Bellarine Peninsula” by Trung Truong The following work is by international artist Trung Truong who lives, works and manages Fat Fox Gallery on the Bellarine. This was created specifically for the front matter of LBITW.

105-108

“Life cycle under the sea- Bellarine Peninsula”

109-112**Longest Book in the World endorsement**

‘I just wanted to express our deep gratitude, on behalf of SBEA, for your contribution to our Gardens for Wildlife Family Activity morning last week at The Point. It was lovely to have you there with your special project, your kindly warm and facilitating approach, and patience with us in the lead up organising. You fitted in with our team seamlessly and we really appreciate your project and vision and long held valuing of community engagement processes in this space.’

Sandra Nowland-Foreman - Gardens for Wildlife coordinator and Swan Bay Environment Assoc.

“Dear Fern, thankyou for celebrating our book week with us at Wangala Primary School this year, and allowing us the privilege of contributing to the worlds largest book. We are so proud to be part of your amazing project! From the Wanagala community”

Wangala Primary School

113**CONTENTS**

114-121 Foreward

I first met Fern through members' nights at Geelong Writers when I was the Media Co-ordinator. I was always impressed with her talent at weaving words into insightful poems that captured a moment in time with sensitivity and fine observation. I was already a fan.

I then learned of her project: an eco-friendly The Longest Book in the World. I have not forgotten the moment at a Geelong Writers members' night when someone asked about the quest to be the longest book in the world, and were pushing for a more robust, competitive effort. Fern made it clear that approach was not the essence of what she was hoping to achieve. The quest was much quieter, more thoughtful, reflective and inclusive. And this is what Fern has accomplished. She has quietly and with diligence and faith in her idea, encouraged members of the Bellarine, Geelong and Surf Coast communities, including all ages, to be authors and artists of The Longest Book in the World. The focus was never fanfare, boasting or contest.

The Longest Book in the World is a wonderful achievement by so many different people, celebrating the beauty of our environment, and giving us a voice to express our imagination, concerns and our ideas whether that be in words, drawings, lino cut, embroidery or water colour paintings. Each contribution is different, yet united in purpose.

Fern is to be congratulated for her vision, tenacity, integrity and honesty in not only creating The Longest Book in the World, but also for encouraging a sense of community and for nurturing the talents of so many people.

Julie Rysdale

Artist and writer Ocean Grove

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Give or take a page or two, this the actual beginning of the four year journey where illustrators and authors are born. Where the community write, illustrate favourite places, spots and hideaways in the City of Greater Geelong,

123-128**Preamble to Preface:**

It is rare to encounter someone as deeply committed to environmentalism, education, authorship, and gardening as Stephen Murphy. Stephen generously shared a poem with LBITW, reflecting his passion and dedication. Although our professional fields may differ, we are united by a shared purpose: imparting knowledge on how to live gently upon the earth. Our aim is not simply to refrain from taking, but to actively give back to the world. Gardeners embody this ethos, nurturing the land and fostering sustainability.

Ode to the Bellarine by Stephan Murphy

129-140**Preface**

Fern Smith had a year during COVID to contemplate how to usefully use rolls of recycled paper donated by Sealed Air left over from her last community art project. MMMM What about a very long concertina book? And so ...

The Longest Book in the World – Geelong was created with the aim of engaging the local community in the aftermath of COVID-19. The projects aim was to encouraged residents in participating in a creative endeavour, offering an opportunity to contribute to a unique and collaborative work.

Contributors ranged in age from as young as seven months to as old as ninety-one years, reflecting a diverse and inclusive community spirit. Participants used a variety of creative techniques—including writing, drawing, collage, and needlework—to bring each page to life and add their personal touch to the project.

Fern Smith designed the book to be environmentally friendly, ensuring that its creation would minimise impact on the environment. The project also sought to highlight favourite places within the City of Greater Geelong, celebrating local landmarks and spaces cherished by the community.

By producing a long concertina book, the initiative aimed to give agency to the community and possibly achieve the distinction of creating the longest concertina book in the world.

This project was made possible through the generous backing of a range of organisations and community groups. Their contributions, which included providing workshop spaces and helping to promote events, were instrumental in ensuring the project's success. Key supporter were: Geelong Regional Libraries (GRLC), Drysdale Museum, Bellarine Landcare Nursery,

Wangala Primary, Cultura School Norlane , Bellarine Catchment Network, Swan Bay Environment Group, Geelong Writers Inc, Geelong Embroiders Guild, Queenscliff Marine Discovery Research Centre

Local newspapers also played a vital role in raising awareness and supporting the project through coverage and promotion. These included: Bellarine Times, Geelong Advertiser, Geelong Independent and The Ocean Grove Voice.

How to Use This Book

To properly read this book, begin by removing a small bundle of pages at a time from the box. Place the selected bundle on the table provided for your convenience.

Once the bundle is on the table, flick through the pages, starting from the front and moving to the back. After reaching the end, flick back through the same pages from back to front. Repeat this process several times to familiarise yourself with the content of the current bundle.

As you progress, slide along the most recently viewed bundle of pages, making room for the next. Continue this method until you have explored all the bundles of pages in the box.

When you have finished reading, reverse the process to return all the bundles to the box in their original order.

Please note The Front Matter Pages 1 to 140 of the book has a letter next to the page number - The body was a fluid project and not necessarily methodical however Fern Smith has put in page numbers starts at one again as a guide. The Back matter continues on in the same numbering as the contents.

1-2435 THE BODY

1-37 2022

Jacki Wilcox – Embroidered - Welcome to country and Cunningham Pier **1-2**

20 September Leopold Library **4-13**

25 November– Drysdale Museum Postcard Project **14-37**

38 – 258 2023

- 10th February Chilwell Library -**38**
- 24th February Drysdale Museum High Street Drysdale– **39-51**
- Neighbour Suzette Hartwell **52-53**
- 3rd March Chilwell Library -**54**
- 12 &19April Geelong West Library **55-95**
- 28 April Drysdale Library – **96-104**
- 27th June Corio Library **105-120**
- 27th June Boronggook Library Drysdale **121**
- 28th June Geelong Library and Heritage Centre **122-141**
- 29th - 5th Sept August Lara Library **142-144**
- 5th sept. Boronggook Drysdale **145-153**
- 19th Sept.Geelong Library & Heritage Centre **154 193**
- 12^h 19th sept. Boronggook Drysdale **194-196**
- 20th Corio Library **197-215**
- 21st Sept. Boronggook Drysdale Library **216-217**
- 26th September Geelong Library and Heritage Centre **218-239**
- 26th Corio Library **240-246**
- 12th & 21st Nov. Boronggook Drysdale Library **247-253**
- 28th Nov. Lara Library – **254-258**

259-619 2024

- 16 January 2024 Chilwell library **259-265**
- 17th January Geelong West Library – **266-286**
- 23 January Chilwell library **287-290**
- 24th January 3rd April Geelong West Library **291-315**
- 2nd 9th April Chilwell library **316-318**
- 10th April Geelong West **319-340**

11th April Belmont Library **341-376**

9th 23rd May Leopold Library **377-378**

13th June Queenscliff Library **379-389**

June FaceBook word response to Clifton Springs photographer Duc Bui Viet, post of St Leonards Pier and Fern sketched the pages **390-399**

20th June Queenscliff Library **400- 407**

3rd& 10th July Corio Library – **408-422**

23rd July Geelong Library and heritage Centre **423-427**

6th & 7th August Bannockburn library **428-433**

15th Aug. Boronggook – Drysdale Library **434**

19th Aug. Lara Library **435**

20th Aug Geelong Library and heritage Centre **436-542**

29th August Lara Library **453-454**

9th September Geelong Embroiders Guild moved to the 2025 Exhibition pages 1840-1892

17th & 24th Sept. Geelong Library and heritage Centre **455-511**

25th Sept Corio Library **512-519**

6th October Ocean Grove Library

24th October Lara Library **520-530**

2nd & 3rd November Bellarine Arts Trail Queenscliff Town Hall **531-559**

14th November Lara Library **574-577**

29th November GLRC Staff day Geelong Library and heritage Centre **578 -619**

620 -2276

2025

In 2025 the growing book was no longer been carried to the workshops and blank sleeves of the book were taken with an example/s taken also. These sleeves bundles got moved around in the studio before being pasted into the book, therefore the actual workshops is not always exact to the numbers.

6th Feb Bannockburn library

Lara from 2024 – **620-623**

24th February Geelong Embroiders Guild start **624** all Guild work was moved to the Exhibition 1840-1892

1st March Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library **625-629**

5th March Belmont Library **start 630**

6th March Lara Library Lara Library

7th March Boronggook Drysdale library

9th March Portarlington Agricultural Show – under Bellarine Landcare-

10th Boronggook Drysdale -

17th March Ocean Grove Library **end 728**

20th Belmont Library **start 729**

Fun Facts

21st March Landcare Fair

26th Barwon Heads Library

8th April Geelong Library and Heritage centre

9th April Geelong West

10th April Belmont Library

11th April Armstrong Library – **end 1211**

15th April Belmont Library **start 1212**

16th April Geelong West

17th April Geelong Library and Heritage centre

24th April Queenscliff **1191 – 1200**

Fun Facts **1201-1220**

3rd May Bannockburn **1121-1122**

8th May Geelong/Dome library- **start 1213**

10th May Boranggook-Drysdale Library

14th May Ingenia Lifestyle Village Lara (residents only)

14th May South Barwon Community Centre **end 1299**

9th July Geelong West Library **start -1300**

15th July Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

16th July Geelong West Library

24th July Geelong Library and Heritage Centre **end 1539**

7th August Lara Library **1540-1541**

18th Aug Wangala Primary School **start- 1542**

19th Aug Wangala Primary School

20th Aug Wangala Primary School

21st Aug Wangala Primary School-

22nd Aug Wangala Primary School **end- 1839**

13th Sept. LBITW workshop Geelong Embroiderers Guild Exhibition start **1840**

14th Sept. LBITW workshop Geelong Embroiderers Guild Exhibition end **-1891**

23rd Geelong Library and Heritage Centre start**1892**

24th Geelong West Library-

1st October Geelong Library and Heritage Centre

1st October Geelong West **end 2026**

11th October Leopold Primary School with SES Bellarine start **2027-**

12th October Wombats Wish Portarlington with SES Bellarine end **2089**

4th November Geelong Library and Heritage Centre **2090 -2125**

5th November Waurin Ponds. **2126-2166**

3rd December -Cultura School Norlane **2167 - 2267**

2026

13th – 22nd January, Four workshops, Queenscliff Marine Research and Discovery Centre – **2278- 2435**

28th March – One Planet Festival Ocean Grove – Landcare are the leaves at the front and back of the book

2430 -2651

Back Matter

2437-2488

One thousand and forty seven authors and illustrators. Some creatives preferred to stay anonymous and this is indicated with Anon as a form of documentation to give as best possible number of contributors.

2489-2492 FERN SMITH

For this project, Fern Smith is the designer, project manager and facilitator of the Longest Book in the World- Geelong. She is a conceptual artist, dedicated to telling stories of social change. Smith uses a range of creative mediums, including drawing, painting, printing, papier-mâché, and the written word, to explore and share narratives.

In 2009, Smith radically transformed her artistic practice to focus on environmental sustainability. She committed herself to producing work that is not only archival but also waterway-safe and compost-safe. Achieving this shift required several years of dedicated research and experimentation, followed by additional time for these sustainable methods to become an intrinsic part of her practice.

Sharing her knowledge and experiences in sustainable artmaking has become a driving passion for Smith.

One of her key projects, 'The Sea is Sinking', involved hundreds of participants—artists, schools, community groups, and workshop attendees—who collaborated using environmentally safe art practices to create an interactive immersive seascape of Port Phillip Bay (Naarm).

2493-2498 EPILOGUE

Environmental art practice is often described as work focusing on the environment. For me, however, it is also about ensuring that the materials used are safe for the environment. This sets a high standard, one that I am always learning about and sharing.

What I loved about this project? It was created over years, embodying the essence environmental art practice. Slow and methodical.

I have spent countless hours viewing the generous creations made by others. Months, days and hours were dedicated by organisations, groups, and individuals who took the time and care to produce this body of work. The legacy of the Greater Geelong community is evidenced with these pages. They value their environment, with value and respect.

What are the material components of this book?

The pages of this book are made from recycled paper, gifted by Sealed Air in 2019, from the discarded rolls of recycled paper used to make 'tough bags' for Australia Post. Coloured and lead pencils were all donated from various sources, dating back to 2017.

Some were left anonymously at my front door. The cottons and materials used in embroidery came from individuals who participated through the Geelong Embroiders Guild.

It is important to note that a few materials used were not environmentally friendly, but this was outside my control unless I wanted to vet the work. I chose not to do so, as participants had gone to extraordinary lengths to produce and submit their work at the workshops.

Making Archival Glue

All the glue used in this book is handmade from wheaten-cornflour and water, with a few drops of essential oil—mainly eucalyptus—and a pinch of salt.

Recipe

Ingredients and Utensils:

Wheat flour (rice or corn flour can be used). I prefer wheat as the gluten gives stronger adhesion.

Water

Eucalyptus oil (any essential oil with anti-bacterial properties may be used)

1 stainless steel pot

Wooden spoon

Stove

glass jar with lids

Method

Mix all ingredients together in a small saucepan while cold. Stir continuously until the mixture turns clear and thickens to a custard-like consistency, changing from its original milky colour.

Continue stirring for as long as possible—between 3 and 10 minutes—while boiling, as this strengthens the glue. Pour the mixture the glass jars and allow it to cool.

The glue will keep for up to a week in a cool, dark spot. If stored in the fridge upside down so there is no air, it can last almost a month.

The consistency of the glue depends on the task. For binding paper or making paint, a runny consistency is best. For constructing 3D objects, a stiffer glue is preferred. The range can be from runny like drinking custard to tacky, so that when you press two fingers together there is some resistance. The more you stir and cook, the stronger the binding becomes.

You can play with adding: Sugar will give the glue a gloss, though it may become brittle. Gelatin (from either kelp or hooves) adds strength but will yellow and can shrink the paper. Honey gives it elasticity.

Traditional uses: This glue has been used for Japanese scrolls to bind paper and silk together. Persian and Mongolian miniature art used a wheaten binder for watercolours to assist in preventing colours from bleeding. This glue is used throughout South East Asia for centuries and is archivally sound. Go to the Asian section at the State Gallery in Melbourne and view the works that are over 300 years old using this method. For environmentally sustainable practice in contemporary works, such as; 3D art construction, puppets, Crankies, paper art, bookbinding, scrolls , installations and painting.

2499-2500 ONLINE AND PRINT FOOTPRINT

Newspapers

Geelong Times – Breaking a world record one page at a time by Vinnie Van Oorschot - 1st September 2023

Geelong Independent – Turning Geelong into the worlds Longest book by Jena Carr and photo by Ivor Kempt - 9th April 2024

Geelong Advertiser – Sometimes Size Matters - by Abby Walter- 22nd April 2024

Bellarine Times - 200 metres and counting: Longest book project ramps up BY Ellie Claringbold - March 9, 2025

Geelong Regional Library service 2022- 2025 on the Events pages

Fernartz.com News pages from 2022-2026

Note the links are not in book and are for Reference for the Heritage Centre GLRC

2022

[October 2022 – FernArtz - https://fernartz.com/2022/10/](https://fernartz.com/2022/10/)

[November 2022 – FernArtz - https://fernartz.com/2022/11/](https://fernartz.com/2022/11/)

2023

[Drysdale Museum LBITW – FernArtz https://fernartz.com/drysdale-museum-lbitw/](https://fernartz.com/drysdale-museum-lbitw/)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/7917451>

[THE LONGEST BOOK IN THE WORLD WORKSHOPS – FernArtz](#)

[#LBITW – Geelong West Library- April 2023 – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/8129741>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/8129742>

[LBITW NEXT WORKSHOP -friday mid-day – 28/04/2023 – FernArtz](#)

[One hour Workshop LBITW Noon – 26 MAY 2023 – FernArtz](#)

[August and September Workshops – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/8842963>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9004175>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/8842966>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/8952684>

[One page at a time – Longest book in the world – FernArtz](#) News article 1st Sept. Taken at

[Longest Book in the World workshop dates – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9185610>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9185611>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9185612>

2024

[January 2024 Longest Book Workshops – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9339568>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9339573>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9339569>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/9339574>

[Longest Book Workshops Chilwell – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10208856>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10208857>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10208854>

[The Longest Book in the World - Geelong Regional Libraries](#)

[Longest Book workshops in Queenscliff – June 2024 – FernArtz](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10229447>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10229448>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10819210>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/11150114>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/11150115>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/11167163>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10819211>

[Longest Book in the World – workshops until the end of the year – FernArtz](#)

<https://embroiderygeelong.org/contact-us/>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10819212>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/10819213>

[Turning Geelong into the world's longest book | Geelong Independent](#) <https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/11719238>

[next three workshops – FernArtz](#)

[Bellarine Arts Trail | Explore Local Art November 2024](#)

2025

[Monday 17 March @ 3-4 pm Longest Book in the World @ Ocean Grove Library – FernArtz](#)

[Dome/Geelong Library](#)

[Geelong West Library](#)

[Belmont Library](#)

[Armstrong Library](#)

[Geelong West](#)

[Level 1 Dome/Geelong Library](#)

[200 metres and counting: Longest book project ramps up - Bellarine Times](#)

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/12853004>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/12603084>

<https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/13083125> <https://events.grlc.vic.gov.au/event/12538252>

[July 2025 – Longest Book in Geelong workshops – GRLC – FernArtz](#)

[Geelong West Library](#)

[Dome/Geelong Library](#)

[Geelong West Library](#)

[Legendary Wangala Primary – FernArtz](#)

[Exhibition was a triumph | Embroidery Geelong](#)

[The Longest Book in the World - Geelong Regional Libraries](#)

[Geelong Library and Heritage Centre 10th Birthday & Longest Book in the World Workshop – FernArtz](#)

[The Longest Book in the World - Geelong Regional Libraries](#)

[A Month of Sundays – Longest Book Tours – FernArtz](#)

2026

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/education/marine-and-freshwater-discovery-centre/holiday-program> (2026)

2501-2502

Some Facebook endorsements

...It is a wonderful project and I feel lucky to have been a part of it.” Sandi M – GRLC

...What a sensational effort!.. Laura F – GRLC

...Wow, what an achievement! Congratulations! As you know, I'm such a fan of you and this project, and I think it's done a wonderful job of uniting the community through art. ... Julie F – GRLC

A long journey has blossomed from a remarkable concept. Joy F - Longest Book FB (LB-FB)

Such an achievement, congratulations – Amrit LB-FB

What a journey – Karin S, LB-FB

What a road The longest book in the world has travelled. Amazing effort Fern Smith and all contributors. Gabrielle C, LB-FB

2503-2597

The City of Greater Geelong

Has – over 289,565 people (2024), a 20,5 billion economy

Is 1248 square kilometres

And has over 50 suburbs – there is a dispute on the number is it 50 or 52 or 55 as ther are key areas coastal, rural, industrial, urban

It has 11 electoral wards

2598-2651

Leaves

The book is 6791.75 meters (forward 140+ contents and Back Matter 2651) and is currently the longest environmentally sustainable concertina book in the world created by a community of people.

The largest concertina book measures 814.26 meters square (8,764 ft² 89 in²), and was achieved by Yang Shuanming (China) in Taiyuan, Shanxi, China, on 23 June 2019.

2014 BBC News A **5m** (16ft) long hand-illustrated concertina book has been created by a Bristol artist. [Bristol artist creates giant concertina book - BBC News](#)

Le città continue (*Continuing cities*) is a hand-printed lino-cut layering text within a receding arch motif. **2 meters**

There is currently no record for the longest sustainable or environmentally produced concertina books recorded – from my online search.

The closest I could get is John R Walker ‘Tantulean Creek’ 2006 concertina artist book gouache on chinese paper 30.5 x 598cm .