

Summer 2023.

Latest news from Author - Ned Stephenson



Everyone enjoys getting something for free and for a limited time I'm giving away a **digital copy of Enhancement to every new subscriber!** All I'm asking is that you forward this newsletter to anyone you know who reads fiction, or who you think may enjoy my books.

And there's something in it for you too. For helping me out **you'll get a 20% discount voucher** to use for purchases via my bookstore. All a new subscriber needs to do is say who sent them. That means make sure you tell them to drop your name when they sign-up!



I've had plenty of great reviews direct from readers, and now I'd like to share that feedback with the world. If you can find the time to duck along to Goodreads and leave a review, I'll be really grateful. Just follow the Goodreads logo on the right and choose which book(s) you'd like to leave a review for. If you're not a member it only takes a minute to join.



Update on Short Stories



After missing out on winning the Newcastle Herald short story competition, held over January this year, I was stoked to then get a call from the Herald saying I'd won the Reader's Choice award! Thanks to all of you who voted for me. The title is from the property where I grew up. Telegraph Hill is a slightly modified (to fit the requirements of the competition)

extract from a semi-autobiographical collection I'm writing about my childhood on a sheep farm in Southern NSW. Written in a light-hearted comical way. I'm finding that humour is difficult to write, it's very much in the eye of the beholder. Click on the image if you'd like to read it.

It was also very pleasing to get second place in a short story competition in November. This one is run biennially by the [Lake Macquarie branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers](#). After being told I was a finalist, I went along to their award ceremony and met a wonderful group of amateur authors and poets, only to find out that I'd jagged the second spot for my story Son of Prometheus. Click on the image if you'd like to read it.



The last short story I've included, called The Tighes Hill Mob, was submitted to the Australia's Greatest Yarn competition. Sadly, no short-listing for this one, but the contest was fierce as it has the highest prize money of any such competition in the world.

This one is also light-hearted humour. Click on the image if you'd like to read it.

Sutcliffe's Alchemy: Silver

Progress on the sequel to Gold continues when the opportunity arises. The first draft has passed the 50,000-word mark (about 180 pages when printed), yet there's still plenty of story to go. What's tough, of course, is that a decent chunk of the draft will get thrown out. I talk about that process in an earlier blog using the comparison with [polishing gemstones](#). I suspect everyone writes differently, although many must enjoy what I'm going through right now, which is watching a character do things that I would never dream of undertaking. There's no way I'd create a company for the sole purpose of market manipulation. Here's a passage from Silver,

Only small and speculative, little amounts of money on the edge. He musn't be stupid this time. After visiting the Dixon Range guys up at Halls Creek in Western Australia, Brock now wanted to secure his own mining tenements. But to do that he needed a company to hold the licences without a link to him. It was a simple job for his lawyer sister. Then he'd cover the rest. Several years at Villon & Walters had taught Brock how to sell a story to the stock market. He knew how to make a company's mineral resource sound sexier than it really was. While he daydreamed of making his fortune, Brock landed on a name for his future company—Meles Resources.

That's it for now. I'd better get back to writing Silver so you can cash in on that discount after you've encouraged others to sign-up 😊

