Haiku by Philip Harvey

In August the Poetry Workshop at the Carmelite Centre practised haiku. Participants produced poems which were then discussed in the group online. Here are the haiku by Philip Harvey. Philip titles this series ‘Seventeen Signs’, seventeen 17-syllable lines using public lockdown signs *in italics.*

winter sunrise

 *play area closed*

plane flight a pastime of the past

the working week again breakfast

 *take away only*

online headlines

woman alone on train alone

 *stay home save lives*

on her phone alone

morning magpies

 *one point five metres apart*

peck for nature strip worms

wide blue sky

 *thank you for your understanding at this time*

 empty road

once quick brown stick went

 *click and collect*

 in the maw of the jaw-drop dog

carpark vacant grids

 *storewide reductions*

carpark line ups with symptoms

holdups at the bank

 *please wear a face covering*

speechless in small groups

chairs stacked lights out

 *thank you for dining in with us*

 bain-marie deep cleaned

leaves curl in the wind

 *follow directional arrows*

assemble rest

computer non-stop verbals

 *face masks required*

its fingertip worlds

highway with nobody

 *shop capacity is eight*

apartments of one

they glow in the day

 *wash your hands regularly*

they glow in the night

winter sunset

 *sorry we’ve had to close again*

night a place to dream

staring at the known world

 *for more information visit*

 knownworld dot com

curfew etiquette

 *keep your distance where you can*

you and the gatepost

heavy rain

 *your wellbeing is our priority*

trees take hits