

## **A Fairy Tale**

by **Anne Sims**

Once upon a time, long long ago and far far away, there was a little girl who lived quietly with her family deep in a eucalypt wood. Every few years, as was their custom, the family made the long, uncomfortable journey to the centre of the universe to visit grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins who lived in that big bustling place. It was not an ordeal for the little girl because she knew that at the end of this journey she would once again see those amazing people who actually belonged to her in some wonderful way, giving her access beyond her imaginings.

One group of these people lived in a beautiful leafy part of the city in a large and exciting home, full of books and art works, with a much loved garden, plus, would you believe...a tennis court!! These people not only played tennis in their own back yard, they all loved to sing and play all sorts of musical instruments. At the centre of this family was a lady with blonde, blonde hair who was always smiling, welcoming us into her splendid home, plying us with home-baked treats and who actually had her own programme for children on ABC radio. The little girl had listened in awe on many occasions, hardly able to believe this "celebrity" belonged to her own tribe. (She didn't know this particular word at this time but she certainly knew the extent of its meaning). This lady, her aunt, could sing, play the piano and tell stories like nobody else and the little girl was so proud.

As the little girl grew up she discovered more and more about her aunt - that she had many and diverse interests such as writing, working with disadvantaged children and making amazing glass/mosaic creations - and best of all, she even made time to discuss new and exciting issues and ideas with the growing girl, something other people were too busy to do.

Sheila, how can I thank you adequately for the excitement - the awe - you brought to my life? You have contributed so much to the lives of so many and I am privileged to have been one of them.

Thank you. I love you, and yours,

Anne