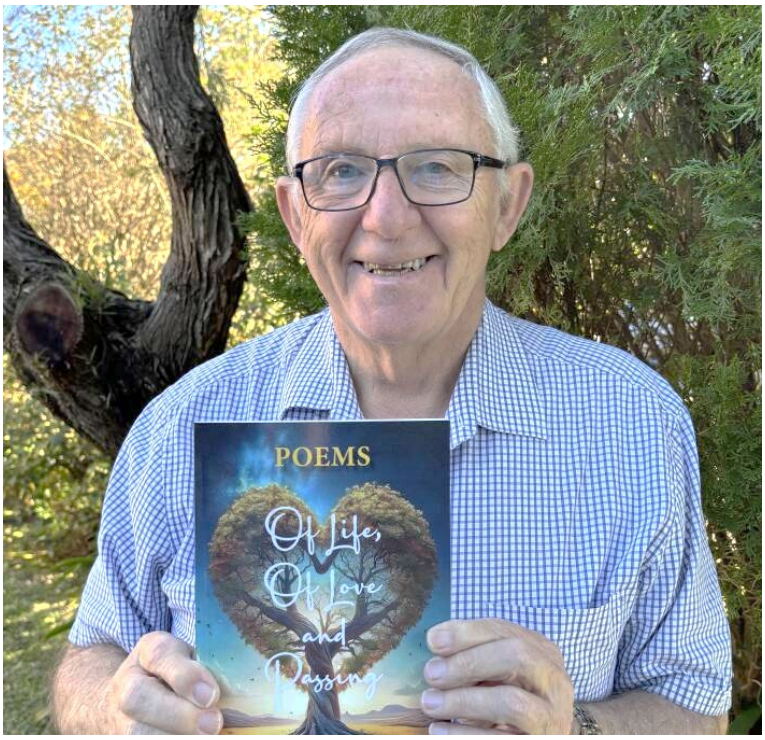
ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE Leader

Everyday subjects: Former MP's new book of poems strikes a different note

By **Murray Trembath** **August 3, 2025 - 7:00am**



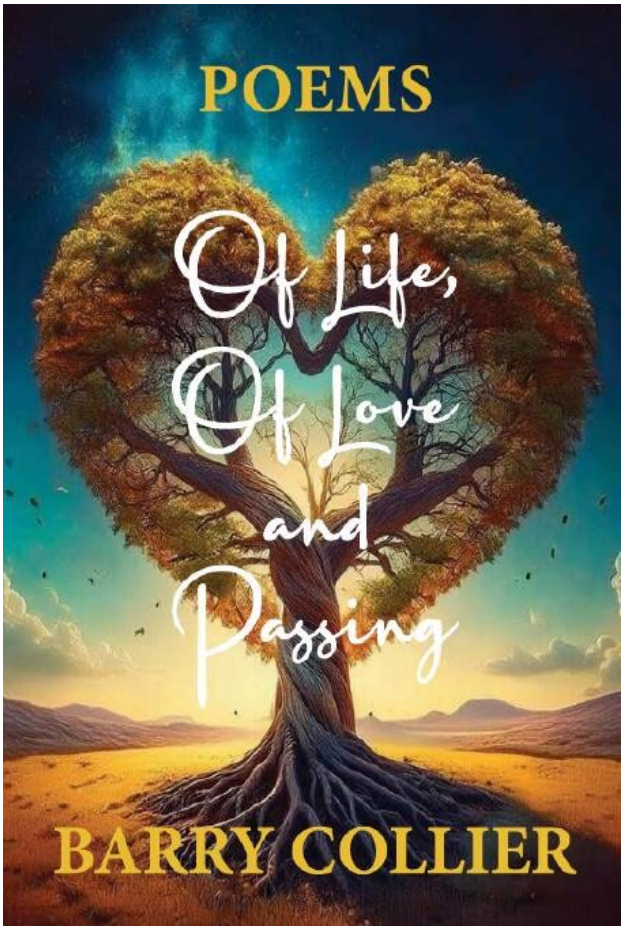
Barry Collier with his book of original poems titled Of Life, Of Love and Passing.

Former politician and award-winning poet Barry Collier believes modern poetry is "a total turn off for most Australians".

"Sadly, many kids leave high school hating it, while their parents and seniors typically find today's written poetry dreary, too complex, meaningless, without humour and just plain irrelevant to their daily lives," he said.

Mr Collier's new book of original poems titled ***Of Life, Of Love and Passing*** strikes a different note.

The former Miranda MP and shire councillor said the collection of 62 poems were "easy-to-read, down to earth, thought-provoking and memorable and, most importantly, relevant to the readers' own experiences and to the challenges we all face from time to time".



Several poems have a clear Sutherland Shire focus. They include the outstanding response of local families to a plea to assist the poor of Fiji, the thoughts of the late shire environmentalist Bob Walshe on climate change and a family walk to the mangroves of Oyster Bay and back.

Mr Collier said the poems were his "observations and reflections across a wide range themes, ideas and emotions - from generosity and the humorous side of retirement; from the joy and heartache of love to the realities of ageing and war; and from hope to the grief and the tragedy of loss."

"I've included poems based on my experience as a high school teacher, criminal lawyer and State MP, along with a selection of poems written specifically for young children," he said.

Shire author and biographer Liz Adams said the book "will appeal to a wide range of readers, including those who may not read poetry as the experiences covered are familiar and the writing style is engaging.

Written over a lifetime, Barry Collier's collection may well inspire others to write about such commonplace matters."

Mr Collier, who won awards for his poems after leaving State Parliament, said he was encouraged to publish this collection by many appreciative comments after reciting one of his works, *Let us also Remember,* at Anzac Day dawn services at Caringbah and by positive local reactions to his earlier verses, including the children's poem *Maggie Magpie,* after they were published in the *Leader.*

Poems Of Life, Of Love and Passing *is available in paperback and e-Book at* **barrycollier.com.au**.