Night Walking in Ubud

Liana Christensen
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Rain slick on cracked paving
slowed us to a monk’s pace so
we caught the moment’s grace
when a passing bike lit the bat’s
sinewed wingspan in the banyan

It was by any measure enough
delight for one humid night

Yet later - watching Escher geckoes
on the woven thatch ceiling -
we had cause again to pause and
bless life’s tropical excess

Liana Christensen began writing about Western Australian landscapes as inaugural editor of the journal Landscape. Since then her poetry and prose has been published in literary and scientific journals in North America, Taiwan, India and Australia. Locally, she has been published in Southerly, Indigo and Country – Visions of People and Places in Western Australia. One of the major passions of her life is writing about human connections with plants, animals and places of Australia and beyond. She was an invited poet at the International Conference of the Association for Science, Literature and the Arts in Amsterdam in 2006 and at the Considering Animals Conference in Hobart in 2007.