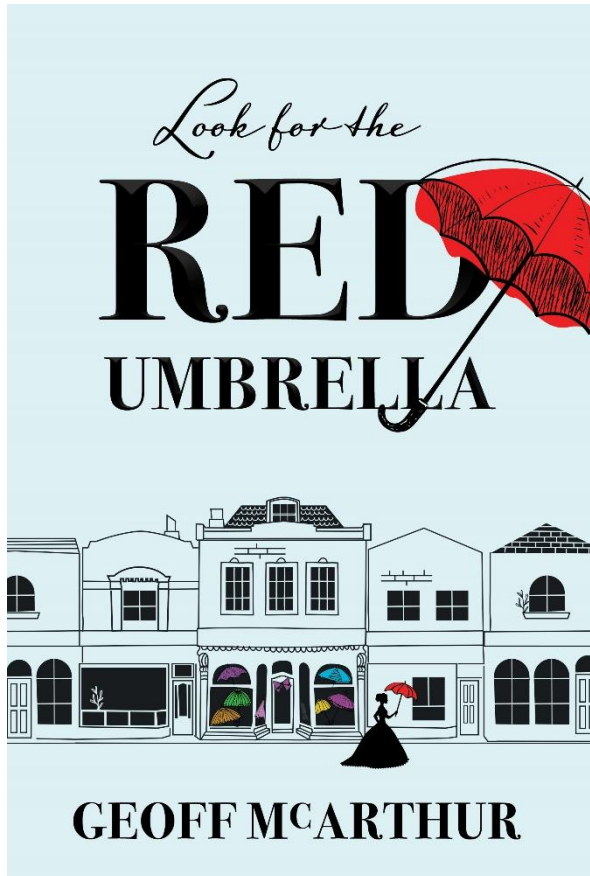


Look for the **RED UMBRELLA**

GEOFF MCARTHUR



Of the thousands who headed to the Australian Goldfields in the 1850's to find richness, not all would search for gold...

With fortunes to be made in trades and business in these booming populations, only those with the courage and fortitude to survive in a ruthless commercial environment would eventually succeed.

Look for the Red Umbrella tells the true story of a woman who achieved this and much more, overcoming personal tragedies, family scandals and fierce opposition to make her mark as a business and community leader in a new city dominated by men.

With a husband whose hubris brought the family to its knees, this very real tale of deceit, tragedy and courage played out in the shops and streets of Victorian-era Ballarat.

A story you'll barely believe happened!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



A lifelong Ballarat resident, Geoff McArthur has always had a deep fascination for the unique and extraordinary history of the gold rush city. He particularly enjoys uncovering and bringing "back to life" forgotten individuals who walked its streets a century before he did the same. An award-winning songwriter and accomplished musician, Geoff worked for 40 years in the Victorian public school system as a teacher, principal and consultant. Since retiring, he has been able to combine his musical pursuits with extensive research into the characters and stories of Victoria's remarkable past.

He and his partner Ann have been married for over 40 years and still live in Ballarat. They have four adult children and five grandchildren.

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Genre	Crime, Historical
Format	Paperback
Audience	General
Author Location	Ballarat, VIC

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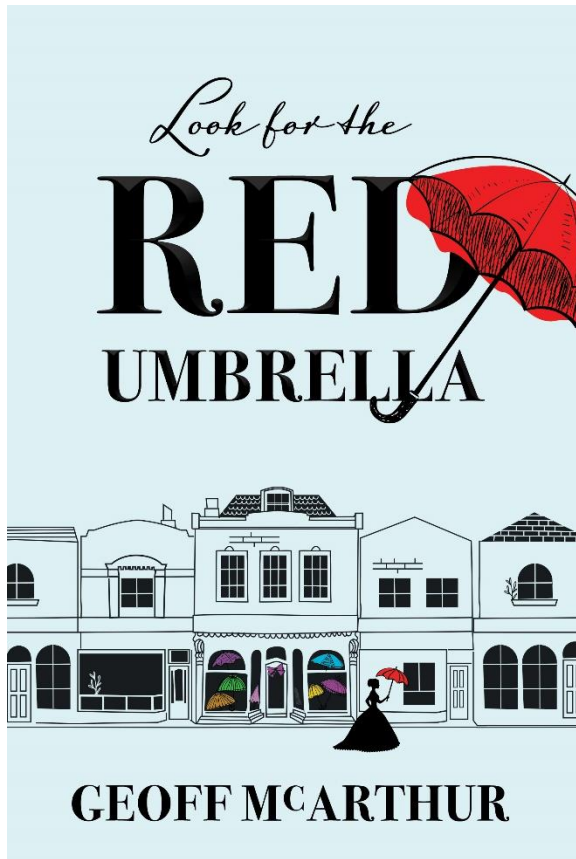
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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE BOOK AND THE CHARACTERS WITHIN?

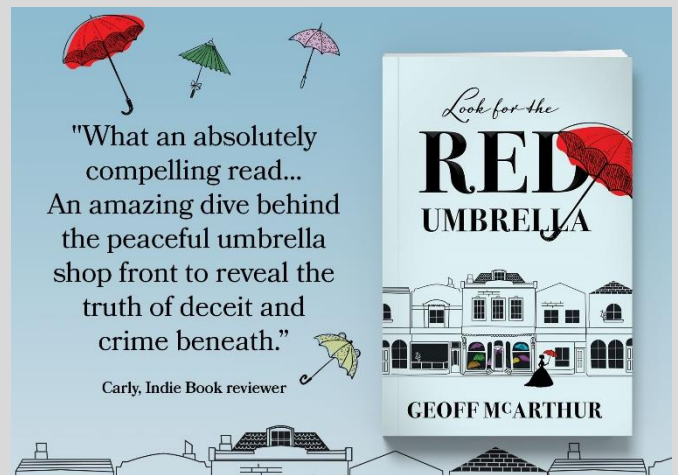
The subject seemed contradictory and somewhat preposterous. The idea that the umbrella trade in a regional colonial Australia city could generate an almost Shakespearean drama. It started with glimpses of characters hidden in the pages of the newspapers of the time but they grew the more I searched and read and reassembled them. Eventually I could see and hear them.

WHAT WAS AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE YOU HAD RESEARCHING THIS BOOK?

A turning point in my research was when I realised a crime had been committed and that a main character had fallen in a massive way. I assumed from newspaper reports that he had been jailed in Ballarat jail in his home town. I went to the public record office to access prison records of the time and was advised that records from the relevant years had been lost due to water damage. I was greatly disappointed for ten minutes until the staff member came back with a full page prison record with two photos of the man. He had in fact been sent to Melbourne's Pentridge Prison. I learnt to never assume anything. As soon as I saw the face everything changed in the way I saw and wrote the story.

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