



# Poetry Page

with drawings by Fantasy Pedlar



## The Price of Innocence (as peace slips by)

They never asked for this,  
surprised too late,  
missed its coming,  
their dreams destroyed.

Now lost and buried,  
captured  
by the rubble,  
once their homes.

Conflict's collateral,  
they say,  
no dignity,  
no burial rites,  
no names,  
lost in a war,  
not theirs.

Mourned simply,  
by tearful family, friends,  
fearful of similar fate,  
on cratered roads  
and towns,  
with rescue ships too far.

They had no choice,  
for megalomaniacs  
manipulate, destroy,  
as a world looks on,  
in apathy and empathy,  
with prejudice and hates.

Their agony spread  
across ours screens,  
as pale leaders pause,  
postulate, prance.

Twisted words,  
reveal their sides,  
like shouts form louts  
in school-yard brawls,  
let run until they end.

History repeated,  
same war,  
a different time.  
Innocence,  
the price and cost.  
No winners,  
just bombed-out dreams,

While we,  
in affluence, removed,  
dream on  
about another world,  
yet the same,  
letting peace slip by.

Lyn Lockrey (28/7/06)



## Account of Mortgagee

A sign upon a grey gum tree, displayed outside the gate –  
"For Sale Account of Mortgagee," spells out somebody's fate.  
I sigh for paddocks parched and bare – the plight of starving stock –  
the bank will strive to grasp their share of every barren rock.  
Those grief-gnawed areas staring where their owners cannot cope –  
bewildered and past caring, they've relinquished any hope.

How many dreams are left behind, replaced by stark despair?  
Their hearts in hopelessness entwined, deprived of any care?  
Ambitions of a lifetime swamped because a vicious drought,  
unbridled and uncaring, romped to force the farmers out.  
The west wind sighs abandonment and curlews wail at night;  
they flaunt a harsh environment sustained by Nature's might.

I sigh for careworn stockmen, gazing long at cloudless sky;  
hear squawking crows that mock them – gorging on the beasts that die.  
The hawks in circles soaring through their dynasty of blue,  
survey extensive flooring with a foul repast in view.  
The foxes and goannas cringe to claim their reeking share –  
A rotten carcass yields their binge among the vermin there.

Perhaps next week good rain will come – but that will be too late;  
the banks will beat the victor's drum and kiss the hand of fate.  
What's happened to the bankrupt men who left the land behind?  
Could greater turmoil disrupt them, or fortune be less kind?

In travels through the countryside I pray I never see  
Another sign of suicide, "For Sale by Mortgagee."

Ellis J. Campbell,  
Dubbo, NSW

Winner 2006 Nimbin A&I Society Poetry Competition

**2007 NIMBIN AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY POETRY COMPETITION**

CLOSING DATE: 30/06/2007.

\$250 First Prize – and 2 x \$50 commendations  
Also prizes for under 16yo students  
BUSH VERSE or BUSH THEME  
– (28 line limit)  
NO ENTRY FORM REQUIRED  
Separate cover page with title, name and address.

ENTRY FEE - \$3.00 per entry - Australian postage stamps to the value of, or cheques or money orders made payable to: Nimbin A&I Society Inc.

SEND ENTRIES (and SSAE for results) to - POETRY COMPETITION  
Post Office Box 165,  
NIMBIN NSW 2460.

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL.

## Wardrobe Malfunction

Nightcap's cloak is sewn in magic  
Embroidered in mists and the white net of cloud  
Veiled in soft pillows of darkest grey  
She wears her weather proudly  
Storms flung around her shoulders like a shawl

I live in the hemline of Nightcap's foothills  
Not in the lushness of her dense green gown  
Nor in the gathered granite of her rocky cliffs  
Nor the midnight blue of her deep pockets  
Nor in the drape of blue-green rainforest  
Tapering elegantly to white gums and crystal creeks

No I live in the bleached green border  
Appliqués of bush pinned in place  
Between worn bald hills and white beads of new fence lines  
Camphor coloured and brick hued  
Ugly patches of suburbs with cul-de-sac stains  
Scorched with the zippers of new tar roads

Little rips and tears in Nightcap's fabric  
Her stitches are unravelling  
A testament not a vestment  
To the material of greed

Janelle McLellan, Gungas Road, Nimbin

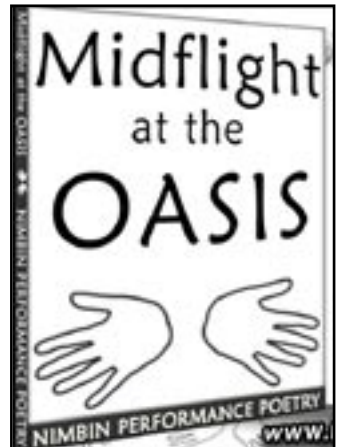


## A Backward Glance

I cast a glance behind me  
and see a life well spent,  
Content.  
Few regrets,  
Lasting affections,  
Thwarted love,  
Decisions made  
that cannot be unmade.  
Losses, gains,  
wondrous joy and exquisite pain – anguish.  
Family life – children's love  
Nature's bounty – daughters, sons.  
Open arms, spindly legs, run ... take my hand,  
to guide me through their fairyland.  
They are my second chance,  
my azure sky.  
Here ... now, in my backward glance  
through misting eye.

I glance ahead, I see me,  
wiser now - maybe.  
The road is clear.  
Birdsong speaks of love renewed,  
Whispered ... into muffled ear.  
Tall trees shade the way.  
Fewer turns – the goals in sight,  
Seize the day.  
Tomorrow shimmers in my eager eye,  
A future lit with a magic glow  
- of contentment.  
Peace, hope.  
The fight is won.  
I glance ahead.  
Reach out and boldly tread.  
Another step – another time.  
My life is just begun.

Alan Lloyd, Nimbin, 24/1½006



## Memory

Memory plays tricks.  
Each year's half a  
million minutes  
will leave few traces.

The past is fragile.  
Recollections uncertain,  
memories will fade.

Some moments stand out  
crystal clear on  
reflection,  
treasures for all time.

Cruel Alzheimer's  
Would freeze all those  
memories  
and seal them away.

Are you still yourself  
once all memories have  
gone?  
Who is left inside?

Kay Martin

**SPHINX rock cafe**

January Sunday Gigs

7th Jed Rowe 14th Lisa & Rowie  
21st Light Activation 28th Kathleen & Shan

3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell  
Phone 6679 7118

• world famous coffee and cakes  
• fasta pasta  
• cool drinks

**NIMBIN CAFE**

80 Cullen Street • open 7 days • 6689 0199

**"Get Plastered"**  
...without the headaches

Gyprock walls and ceilings  
New work or renovations

**Terry Bressington**  
Phone 0427-891626  
Trades Lic. No. 100169c