

## JANUARY 2009

New Year's Day  
I cut zinnias  
planted last year ...  
seeds of poetry  
ripe for the picking

*ripeness is all ...*  
perhaps so for peaches, but  
ah! those green years  
experimenting  
careless of time's steady tread

things have changed  
since our last meeting ...  
shadows  
on the window frame  
flitting across the path

a new bird sings  
in our friends' old garden  
as we take tea  
flattering each other  
none of us has changed

swimming  
sudden air currents ...  
in your apple tree  
a wooden fish ...  
shall I try again to fit in?

**stroking slowly  
my first swim of the year  
as always  
I make a resolution  
to be more tolerant**

## *Australia Day, 26th January*

what need of flag  
and national anthem ...  
after rain  
the tang of eucalypt  
pervading the air

roaming world-wide  
I look and learn, and yet  
in the end  
my true heart remains here  
at home among the gum trees

FEBRUARY 2009

catamarans  
dwarfed by the willows  
sail slowly  
through the hot afternoon  
where *racing* is just a word

overhead  
two wedge-tail eagles  
soaring  
and you point skywards  
arm circling my waist

can this be love?  
the shelter terrier  
on the bus  
nuzzles a young woman  
in a matching sweater

of the two  
who receives the more pleasure ...  
a cockatoo  
clasping biscuits in his claw  
or you offering them

**granddaughter reclined  
on the grass against my knees,  
both of us  
spooning strawberry ice-cream  
delight upon delight**



sleepless,  
heat lingering in her room  
well after midnight  
dog and cat following  
where he paces in his shed

*Black Saturday: devastating bushfires sweep  
through Victoria*

**those who've survived  
bushfires' death and destruction  
how do they sleep?  
*to sleep perchance to dream  
aye, there's the rub***

*on meeting DW, an indigenous elder*

to lodge  
Land Rights petitions,  
now there's a dream  
*let me show you my country*  
he says *billabongs and birds*

*billabong, pond,*  
their language, our language  
too often  
we've misinterpreted  
each other's meaning