

Contents

Introduction xv
Publisher's Note xxxiv

John Shaw Neilson (1872–1942)

The Orange Tree 1
Colour Yourself for a Man 2
The Sun Is Up 3
Stony Town 4
Take Down the Fiddle, Karl! 5

Kenneth Slessor (1901–71)

The Night-Ride 7
Wild Grapes 7
Talbingo 8
Country Towns 9
North Country 9
South Country 10
Five Bells 11
An Inscription for Dog River 15
Beach Burial 16

R. D. Fitzgerald (1902–87)

Long Since . . . 17
The Face of the Waters 18
from Eleven Compositions: Roadside 20
The Wind at Your Door 22

A. D. Hope (1907–)

Easter Hymn 27
The Gateway 27
Ascent into Hell 28
The Pleasure of Princes 30
The Death of the Bird 31
The Coasts of Cerigo 32
Advice to Young Ladies 34
Lament for the Murderers 36
Loving Kind 37
Inscription for a War 38

CONTENTS

Elizabeth Riddell (1909–)

The Letter 39

Forebears 40

William Hart-Smith (1911–)

Fishing 44

Bathymeter 44

Birth 45

Ambrosia 45

Observation 46

Altamira 47

Douglas Stewart (1913–85)

from *Glencoe* 49

The Night of the Moths 50

The Silkworms 50

B Flat 51

John Blight (1913–)

Cormorants 53

Mangrove 53

Conflagration 54

The Disarrayed 55

Kenneth Mackenzie (1913–55)

The Snake 57

Caesura 58

Two Trinities 58

An Old Inmate 60

John Manifold (1915–85)

For Comrade Katharine 62

The Last Scab of Hawarth 63

Fife Tune 64

Fencing School 65

The Tomb of Lt John Learmonth, AIF 65

David Campbell (1915–79)
Men in Green 68
Who Points the Swallow 69
from Works and Days 70
from Starting from Central Station 71
Sugar Loaf 72
Landfall 72
Portents over Coffee 73
from Two Songs with Spanish Burdens 74

Judith Wright (1915–)
The Hawthorn Hedge 76
Woman to Man 77
The Garden 77
Train Journey 78
Old House 79
For Precision 80
The Curtain 80
To Another Housewife 81
Against the Wall 82
Pro and Con 83
Smalltown Dance 83
from For a Pastoral Family 85

James McAuley (1917–76)
Dialogue 87
Jesus 87
from The Hero and the Hydra 88
Father, Mother, Son 88
Against the Dark 89
One Tuesday in Summer 90
Autumn in Hobart 91
Parish Church 91

Anne Elder (1918–76)
Seen Out 92
Crazy Woman 93
Yarra Park 96

- Singers of Renown 97
To a Friend under Sentence of Death 97
- Gwen Harwood* (1920–)
Prize-Giving 99
Boundary Conditions 100
In the Park 101
Person to Person 102
Dust to Dust 103
Winter Quarters 104
Looking towards Bruny 105
Dialogue 106
Mother Who Gave Me Life 107
- Rosemary Dobson* (1920–)
from Daily Living 109
- Dimitris Tsaloumas* (1921–)
An Extravagant Lover's Note of Explanation 111
The Grudge 113
- Alexander Craig* (1923–)
The Ceiling 114
from Sea Change 114
- Francis Webb* (1925–73)
The Day of the Statue 116
Morgan's Country 117
For My Grandfather 118
The Gunner 118
Dawn Wind on the Islands 119
Vlamingh and Rottnest Island 120
Towards the Land of the Composer 121
A Death at Winson Green 123
Nessun Dorma 124
- Vincent Buckley* (1925–88)
Death in January 126

from Golden Builders 127
The Blind School 130
Your Father's House 132
Internment 133
Teaching German Literature 134

Bruce Beaver (1928–)
from Letters to Live Poets 136
from Lauds and Plaints 144

Peter Porter (1929–)
Once Bitten, Twice Bitten; Once Shy, Twice Shy 148
The Easiest Room in Hell 149
Non Piangere, Liù 150
Good Ghost, Gaunt Ghost 151

R. A. Simpson (1929–)
Tram Driver's Song 152
To My Mother 152
Old Children 153

Bruce Dawe (1930–)
Clouds 155
Husband and Wife 156
Drifters 156
Homecoming 157
Weapons Training 158
The Christ of the Abyss 159

Philip Martin (1931–)
Nursing Home 160

Evan Jones (1931–)
The Falling Sickness 162
Hostel 162
A Line from Keats 163
Honeymoon, South Coast 164
A Solicitors' World 165

CONTENTS

Jennifer Strauss (1933–)

After a Death 166

Stone, Scissors, Paper 167

Fay Zwicky (1933–)

To a Sea-Horse 169

Dreams 170

Bat 170

Chris Wallace-Crabbe (1934–)

Losses and Recoveries 172

The Aftermath: Yorkshire 1644 174

Childhood 175

New Carpentry 176

Death, 1976 176

Panoptics 178

Jasmine 179

David Malouf (1934–)

The Year of the Foxes 180

Reading Horace outside Sydney: 1970 181

Off the Map 182

Randolph Stow (1935–)

Dust 184

Ruins of the City of Hay 185

The Dying Chair 186

Sleep 187

Jimmy Woodsers 188

Thomas Shapcott (1935–)

The Litanies of Julia Pastrana (1832–1860) 189

Les A. Murray (1938–)

Driving through Sawmill Towns 193

from Evening Alone at Bunyah 195

An Absolutely Ordinary Rainbow 196

from Walking to the Cattle Place 197

The Broad Bean Sermon 199

The Mitchells 200

Lachlan MacQuarie's First Language 201
from The Buladelah-Taree Holiday Song Cycle 202
 The Grassfire Stanzas 203
 The Smell of Coal Smoke 205

Peter Steele (1939–)
 Countdown 207
 Element 207
 Like a Ghost 208

Geoffrey Lehmann (1940–)
from Ross' Poems 209

Andrew Taylor (1940–)
 Halfway to Avalon 213
 Two in Search of Dawn 214

Jennifer Rankin (1941–79)
 Williamstown 215
 Still Water Tread 216

Roger McDonald (1941–)
 Grasshopper 217
 Bachelor Farmer 218
 Others 219

John Tranter (1943–)
 Sonnet 63 *from* Crying in Early Infancy 220
 Butterfly 220
 At the Criterion 221

Robert Adamson (1944–)
 Action Would Kill It / A Gamble 223
 Wade in the Water 224
 My Granny 224
 My First Proper Girlfriend 225
from Growing Up Alone 226
 My Afternoon 227

CONTENTS

Robert Gray (1945–)

- Journey: the North Coast 228
A Kangaroo 229
'The Single Principle of Forms' 230
North Coast Town 230
The Sea-Shell 231
Sketch of the Harbour 232
Landscape 233

Christine Churches (1945–)

- Neighbour 234
Divination 235
Late Summer Storm 235
Grandmother's Ninetieth Birthday 236
I Wonder What Went of Him 237
Walking in the Lambing Paddock 238

Rhyll McMaster (1947–)

- Slanted World 239
Fire Screen 240
Bird of Glass 241
Dream in an Afternoon 242
A Dream of Washed Hair 242
Washing the Money 243
Seven in the Morning 243
Eeling 244

Martin Johnston (1947–1990)

- Aristarchus and the Whale 246
The Scattering Layer 247

Michael Dransfield (1948–73)

- Pioneer Lane 248
The Grandfather 249
Presences 250

John Forbes (1950–)

- Rolling in Money 251
Blonde & Aussie 252

Kevin Hart (1954-)

A Dream of France 253

This Day 253

Midsummer 254

The Real World 255

Your Shadow 255

Come Back 256

Acknowledgements 259

Index of Poets 265

Index of Titles 266

Index of First Lines 271