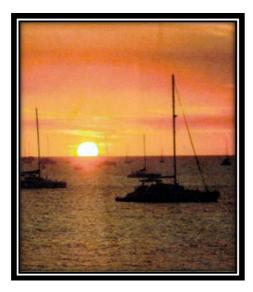
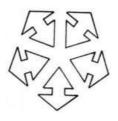
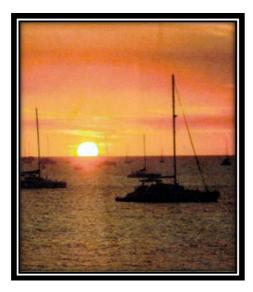
FANNIE BAY 11 Australian Poems of 'Place'

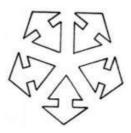




Poems by Mark Oliver Smith Research and Design by Brian Wilson and Chris Nelson

FANNIE BAY 11 Australian Poems of 'Place'





Poems by Mark Oliver Smith Research and Design by Brian Wilson and Chris Nelson

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Brian Wilson for textual research and design, and to Christopher Nelson for photographic research.

Mark Smith June 2022

Presented

То _____

For _____



By

Fannie Bay 11 Poems of 'Place' **Contents**

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Fannie Bay 11 Poems of 'Place'

Introduction

This work is an assorted selection of poems written about places and people who may have been associated with that place. Some of the places may be about a region rather than a specific town. The 'Three Brothers' and 'My Kalorama' are about regions. At other times that place maybe about a river (Katherine River) or at a chasm (Standley Chasm).

Since the time of Descartes place has been defined in a **quantitative** manner as a definite conjunction of three intersecting dimensions which stand add right angles to each other. However it is also possible to conceive place and space in more **qualitative** terms. A place maybe beautiful, friendly, historical, reminiscent, a market town, remote, environmentally conscious, or just plain caring. These are **qualitative** terms. A 'place' may only be fixed in our memories because of some incidental reasons which have nothing to do with the landscape.

We may have met our partner who was also visiting at the same place at the same time. The town may always be remembered because it allowed us an opportunity to relax and escape from the pressures of daily living.

It is difficult to write a poem about a place without bringing people into the description. If the place is about a river such as '*Katherine River*' then the river maybe personified as a 'Tempestuous Lady'. Again '*Stanley Chasm*' is personified as a fertile mother. In my '*A Murrumbidgee Hello from Wagga* *Wagga*' the personification is not only of the Murrumbidgee River, it is also of the whole city!

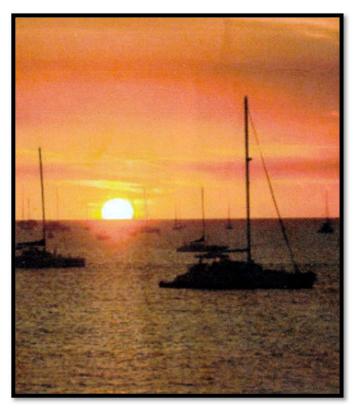
The town's represented in this selection are from New South Wales (4); Northern Territory (5); Victoria (1) and Western Australia (1). They are a random selection and nothing should be inferred about the fairness of their representation. I have lived in NSW and NT mainly but have written about places in other states elsewhere.

The poeticization of the landscape brings '**quality'** into the description. A mere quantitative description is devoid of imaginative insights and subjective evaluations. Imagination is not simply an escape from reality; it is a means of finding reality! A qualitative description brings values into the description.

The places we visit may not have beauty in their landscapes. Their beauty may lie in the people that you meet there! If you selected 11 places to visit you would most probably select a different 11. The places I have selected have given me great memories. Sometimes the most unlikely place can yield the most memorable experiences. While the reflections of an observer may be subjective that is the whole point! The observer brings most of the pleasure to the experience of visiting a place.

Mark Oliver Smith Calvary Haydon Retirement Community Canberra June 2022

1. When I Look over Fannie Bay, Darwin



Sun setting at Fannie Bay (Getty Images)

1. Darwin

Darwin is the capital city of the Northern Territory, Australia. With an estimated population of 147,255 as of 2019. The city contains the majority of the residents of the sparsely-populated Northern Territory.

It is the smallest, wettest, and most northerly of the Australian capital cities and serves as the Top End's regional centre. Darwin's proximity to Southeast Asia makes the city's location a key link between Australia and countries such as Indonesia and East Timor. The Stuart Highway begins in Darwin, extends southerly across central Australia through Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, concluding in Port Augusta, South Australia. The city is built upon a low bluff overlooking Darwin Harbour. The Darwin region, like much of the Top End, experiences a tropical climate with a wet and dry season.

The greater Darwin area is the ancestral home of the Larrakia people. On 9 September 1839, HMS *Beagle* sailed into Darwin Harbour during its survey of the area. John Clements Wickham named the region 'Port Darwin' in honour of their former shipmate Charles Darwin, who had sailed with them on the ship's previous voyage. The settlement there became the town of Palmerston in 1869, but it was renamed Darwin in 1911. The city has been almost entirely rebuilt four times, following devastation caused by the 1897 cyclone, the 1937 cyclone, Japanese air raids during World War II, and Cyclone Tracy in 1974.

1. When I Look over Fannie Bay Darwin

When I look over Fannie Bay And see the setting sun, Sitting in the water, Just as day is done, I see beyond Mandorah And through the distant past I see the Larrakia people, Paddling in the water, Making this their land at last.

I see the struggling Stuart And later I see the white man's ship It's cargo of eager pioneers Wanting to make a go of it.

Then I joined the workmen They're in the Cable team I see Lord Vesty's coming And I'm on the Darwin scene

But then my vision vanishes As I peer into the night. I hear the distant murmur Of a bird that's in the sky -

Its Keith and Ross and Wally, With Bennett And they're coming! My word those boys can fly!

Cont'd ...

But then I strain and listen carefully For something that I fear:-Its fifty zero sorties And the bombs come crashing near.

The tumult long continues and Tracey's in its wake, I wake up with a startle – My hand begins to shake.

My senses may have left me – You may wonder where I've been. I've been looking at the waters – A tranquil Darwin scene.

If you should go to Fannie Bay, and see the setting sun, Treasure the vision splendid And think on how it was won.



Sun Setting over Fannie Bay

After Effects of a Darwin Calamity



Cyclone Tracey 'The tumult long continues and Tracey's in its wake,'

2.

Kendall Country The Three Brothers Dooragan, Mooragan, Booragan

The Three Brothers, are three close mountains along the Mid-North Coast region of New South Wales. They are situated approximately 360 kilometres (220 miles) north of Sydney.

Collectively referred to as the Three Brothers, the mountains are three separate mountains named and located as follows:

- North Brother (Dooragan): with an elevation of 476 metres (1,562 ft) AHD 31.642°S 152.802°E
- Middle Brother (Mooragan): with an elevation of 554 metres (1,818 ft) AHD 31.702°S 152.678°E
- South Brother (Booragan): with an elevation of 487 metres (1,598 ft) AHD 31.745°S 152.674°E

The South Brother lies within the Mid-Coast Council local government area; while the Middle and North Brothers are located with the Port Macquarie - Hastings Council area.

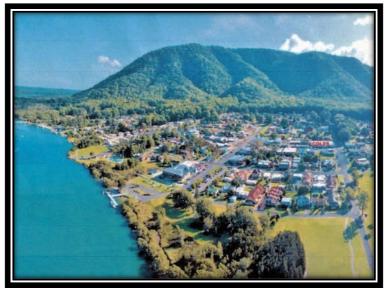
The North and Middle Brothers have been declared national parks, named Dooragan National Park and Middle Brother National Park respectively.

The main radio and television transmitters for the Mid North Coast region are located on the summit of Middle Brother.

2. The Three Brothers



Dooragan, Mooragan, Booragan



Laurieton (Dooragan)

2.

The Three Brothers

Dooragan, Mooragan, Booragan

There's a family of "Brothers" along the north coast In Kendall country you'll find them. They timbered the vales And weathered the gales, They watered the Camden Haven.

They welcomed young Ross, McGuiness and Maher, And watched while timbers were sundered. By cross cut and axe And powerful young backs, The tallow and cedar were plundered.

The "Brothers" all knew that the timbers they grew Were wanted for homes in demand. They gave up their rest And yielded their best While clearings were won on their land.

The river was used as a road in those years Before the tracks became highways. The horses were tried While the jinkers were plied To the mills that lumbered those byways.

A quietness rules in those valleys and hills The axe no longer rends. In the mist and the haze The cattle now graze And tranquility once more descends.

Cont'd ...

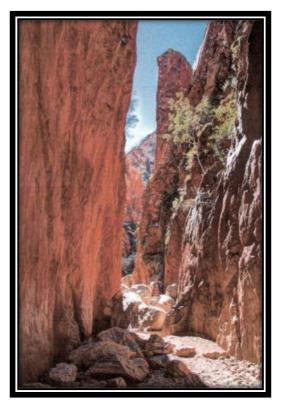
The "Brothers" stand firmly as they would, And the Camden wends its way. They muse at the changes In those valleys and ranges But respect the pioneers of that day.



Camden Haven, Port Macquarie

3. Alice Springs

Standley Chasm is a geological formation located west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. It lies within the west MacDonnell National Park. The Western Arremte Aboriginal people are its original owners; it is traditionally known as Angkerle Arwatye, meaning the Gap of Water. Standley Chasm is located in a reserve privately owned by the Iwupataka Land Trust. The rst European



name for the formation was Gall Springs but it was renamed Standley Chasm in honour of Ida Standley, the rst school teacher in Alice Springs.

3. Standley Chasm

I made the trip to Standley Chasm There was nothing there for me. Just the space between two walls Was all that I could see.

But I stood within that emptiness And my soul began to thrill. I heard the voices of ages past Around me echoing still.

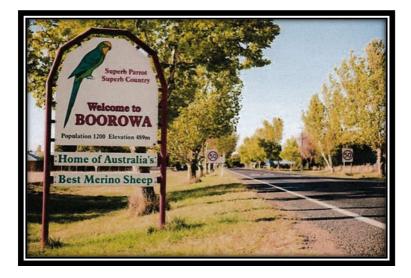
As the weight of all that matters Is judged by how it floats, So sounds which make up music Lie in spaces of the notes.

An aperture gains it's meaning Where the void is filled inside, As lovers who seek uniting Are in each other tied.

I slept inside that chasm As seed within the earth. When I parted from that scene It was a second birth.

4. Boorowa

Boorowa is a farming village in the Hilltops Region in the southwest slopes of NSW. At the 2011 census, Boorowa had a population of 1,211 people. It is located in a valley 340 kilometres southwest of Sydney around 490 metres above sealevel. The town is in Hilltops Council local government area. -Population: 1,641 (2016)



The Country Boy From Harden

The country boy from Harden Wondered what life would bring, So he chanced his arm in banking And in Gundagai had his fling.

A country girl attracted him, National Service got in first, And all that drill and marching Engendered quite a thirst!

A compulsory stint in Asia, A picnic in Vietnam, Its napalm and its orange – Were presents from Uncle Sam!

His battle scars not visible – The wounds were deep inside. Those demons now in residence Claimed free their taxi ride!

Still, married life had promise And Wagga seemed all right. A change to Life Insurance – Things were looking bright.

His restlessness continued – The bar-trade lured him on. Duped by business shysters, Tricked by a ruthless con.

The demons saw advantage As his confidence ebbed away. He plumbed the depths of fortune While depression held its sway.

Cont'd ...

Then fate tossed out a lifeline And Judy grew quite bold. She knew Bob could be rescued. In Boorowa she found pure gold!

Now that country boy from Harden And his girl from Gundagai Wouldn't swap the sunsets of Boorowa For the lights of Sydney's sky! *****



Boorowa Hotel

5. Katherine River

Katherine River is located in the Northern Territory, Australia. Its headwaters are in Nitmiluk National Park, it flows through the town of Katherine, and is a major tributary of the Daly River. The Katherine River drops around 384m over its 328 km length.

- Length: 328 km
- Mouth: Daly River
- **Territory:** Northern Territory

The first European to see and name the river was the Scottish explorer John McDouall Stuart on 4 July 1862, who named it **Katherine** after Catherine Chambers, the second daughter of expedition sponsor, the pastoralist, James

Chambers.<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_River -</u> <u>cite_note-1</u> The major town Katherine was named after the river.

In late January 1998, heavy rain associated with Cyclone Les raised the level of the river by more than 20 metres and flooded a large part of Katherine town. A more recent flood on 6 April 2006 caused a state of emergency to be declared. During this event the river peaked at a height of just below 19 metres at the Katherine bridge on the Stuart Highway.



Katherine River Bridge (opened 1929) in 1933

5. Katherine River

Tempestuous lady, moody your dreams, Placid in 'dry' times, tranquil your streams, Gracefully flowing over clear running falls, Reflecting the orange of gorges' sheer walls.

Life to the bloodwood, the ancient cycad, Darter and martin near wallaby pad, Butterfly beautiful, palm and fern cool, Freshwater crocodile, kingfishers' pool.

Then let the 'wet' come, turbulent season, Raging your torrent, out with your reason, Flushing the barra, skewering debris, Frightening goanna, uprooting the tree.

Tempestuous lady with tresses wind-blown, Your mood now defies us, your calmness has flown, Violent your passion, raw beauty untamed, We love you as fiercely, Katherine - well named!



Katherine River in the Wet Season

6. Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek is a town located in the Northern Territory of Australia. It is the seventh largest town in the Northern Territory, and is located on the Stuart Highway, just south of the intersection with the western terminus of the Barkly Highway. At the 2016 census, Tennant Creek had a population of approximately 3,000, of which more than 50% identified themselves as indigenous.

- **Population:** 2,991 (2016)
- Weather: 37°C (99°F), Sunny



Tennant Creek

6. Tennant Creek A Watering Hole for all to use.

John Tennant of Port Lincoln Had bismuth in his brains. His bones were made of iron and tin And gold flowed through his veins!

At breakfast time he chewed on quartz-A constitution granitic. His teeth were capped with tungsten tips-Digestion electrolytic!

Alf Chittock would have matched his brawn, (One of Tennant's paters). He'd've ate John up and spat him out-Had his guts for gaiters!

They breed 'em tough at Tennant But their hearts are big and strong. A watering hole for all to use Should a visitor come along!

Alfred Ernest Chittick OAM



7. Yirrkala

Yirrkala is a small community in East Arnhem Region, Northern Territory of Australia, 18 kilometres south-east from the large mining town of Nhulunbuy, on the Gove Peninsula in Arnhem Land. Its population comprises predominantly Aboriginal Australians of the Yolngu people, and it is also home to a number of Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots and engineers based in Arnhem Land providing air transport services.

- Population: 809 (2016)
- Weather: 31°C (87°F), Partly sunny
- Area: 8,900 km²



7. Yirrkala My Home

Yirrkala my home-Pride in me streaming, Yirrkala my spirit-Land of my dreaming.

Stir me but gently So I can awake, To translate the secrets Of Babi the snake.

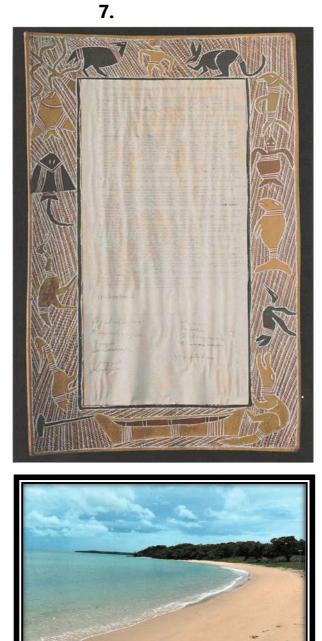
Teach me to dream With eyes wide open, Open my ears To whispers not spoken.

Or let me keep sleeping With my reason intact. I pledge you my word-Let's enter a pact.

One day we will bridge The gap of despair. I'll help you Yirrkala, Our culture repair. *****

For David Marika

Yirrkala Bark Partition, the 1st formal assertion of Indigenous native title.



Yirrkala

8. Taree

Taree is a town on the Mid North Coast, New South Wales, Australia. Taree and nearby Cundletown were settled in 1831 by William Wynter. Since then Taree has grown to a population of 26,381, and is the centre of a significant agricultural district. It is 16 km from the Tasman Sea coast, and 317 km north of Sydney.

- Population: 26,380 (2018)
- Weather: 22°C (72°F), Rain · See more
- Nearby airport: <u>Taree Airport</u>



Manning River



8.

A Taree Soldier

The sun shines on the Manning, Tame pelicans in Taree, Dew sparkles in that valley, Peace on an emerald sea.

Black dressed a woman walks, Steadily down the aisle, In jungle green you pressed In single purposed file.

Old Taree days were quieter, Brown's Creek a playful stream, No enemy there to matter, The emerald there to gleam.

The colours in that wreath Trembled in her hand. An explosion at his feet-Why die on enemy land?

We salute you Captain Milligan-The rifles gave a blast! We salute you Captain Milligan-Three weeks you had to last!

The peace in Taree shattered. Those dreams not yet fulfilled. We salute you Captain Milligan-Why Robert were you killed?

Cont'd ...

Queen and Country honour you-Service at its best. Colour emblazons a coffin-You were laid to rest. The gleam is now reflected From an emerald star above, Brightened by the purity-The strength of Taree's love.

Tame Pelicans in Taree



Pelicans by the Manning River, Taree

9.

Kalorama Heights

Scenic and cosy, **Kalorama** is perched atop the Dandenong Ranges 40 km east of Melbourne on the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road. This quaint village has a local general store, a lookout on the main road with scenic views Kalorama Park, Silvan Reservoir, the forests and farmland. A fabulous stopping point for photos.

The name Kalorama was coined at the turn of the 20th century by a guest of Ellis Jeeves, the Reverend Henschelwood, which means 'beautiful view' in Greek. Ellis named his home Kalorama and was later applied to the suburb in 1926 to avoid postal confusion

This poem was written for John Dunham in 1975. Later his cherished new home was also burnt. He later moved to Kyneton.



View from Kalorama Park

9. My Kalorama

or

Beyond the Realm of the Senses (A Tribute to Phoenix House)

Three times risen from the ashes it stands Accepting proudly its karma. With now its fragrance gently spreading -My scented gum!

My Kalorama!

The lyrebird dances and ruffles his feathers Courting is in life's drama. Amid the ferns and the Christmas bushes -All spice of life!

My Kalorama!

The parrots screech and whipbirds crack. They wail like voices in Ramah. The kookaburra laughs and answers back. My heavenly music!

My Kalorama!

The landscape's authentically Australian. Landowners follow its dharma. Ecologically proud they worship her. My untouched lady!

My Kalorama!

Cont'd ...

Melbourne sits on the plain at her feet. Mt Macedon's in the panorama. One of nature's marvellous treats. A magnificent view!

My Kalorama!

A retreat apart from the madding crowd Above the clouds, my Shamballa. Its vantage point on sacred ground Grants inner peace.

My Kalorama!

10. Kununurra

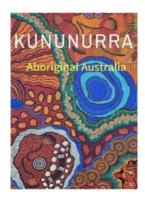
Kununurra is a town in far northern Western Australia located at the eastern extremity of the Kimberley approximately 45 kilometres from the border with the Northern Territory. Kununurra was initiated to service the Ord River Irrigation Scheme.

- Population: 5,308 (2016)
- Weather: 32°C (90°F), Sunny
- Nearby airport: East Kimberley Regional Airport

'Gulliver was in in the land of giants'

'He probably visited the Argyle, and envisioned the beautiful Ord'

'No one there is small-minded'





Lake Argyle, Kununurra

10.

Gulliver's Tavern Kununurra

I had a drink at Gulliver's Tavern. And smiled at Jonathon Swift. Gulliver was in the land of giants, And he dragged the Lilliputian ship! I had wondered where Lemuel roamed In search of the great South Land. He landed in Kununurra! Mid'st rocks and heat and sand. But the country that he inspected, Must surely have dwarfed even him. It's beginning to realise its potential-That's no idle passing whim! He probably visited the Argyle, And 'visioned the beautiful Ord, And dreamed of all the mineral wealth-Before he clambered aboard! Are Australians Lilliputians? Their spirits starting to sag? Or are they big and not faint hearted?-Is this the land of Brobdignag? When you're over there in Kununurra There's a mighty lot to do. No one there is small-minded And there's a welcome for you too!

Let's hope there is a Gulliver, Who can lead the Great South Land. And scale our vision upwards, To develop this ancient land.

11. Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga is a major regional city in the Riverina region of New South Wales, Australia. Straddling the Murrumbidgee River, with an urban population of more than 56,000 as of June 2018, Wagga Wagga is the state's largest inland city, and is an important agricultural, military, and transport hub of Australia. The ninth largest inland city in Australia, Wagga Wagga is located midway between the two largest cities in Australia—Sydney and Melbourne—and is the major regional centre for the Riverina and South West Slopes regions. Wagga Wagga is the largest city in the Riverina region of NSW.

Wagga Wagga has a large sandy beach which is popular for swimming, picnics and frolicking. Lake Albert, Lagoons and beautifully curated parks are much liked by visitors' of the city.

Wagga Wagga is the place where paths cross and people meet. It was that way with the Wiradjuri people as they travelled the region following the cycle of ceremonies and seasons.



11.

A Murrumbidgee 'Hello' from Wagga Wagga

Did you ever go to Wagga When it was just a town? Did you drive across old Hampden Bridge With the Murrumbidgee coming down?

Perhaps you drove along the Newell To visit the old RAAF Base. Or did you pay your respects to a relative Who settled in this place?

Maybe you ate a famous 'chiko roll' At one of the old Wagga shows? Or did you dine at the Palm and Pawn? Where everybody goes!

Possibly you trained at Kapooka Or at the 'Ag' or 'Teachers' College? Perhaps you just sold your cattle Or gained some market knowledge?

But if you cannot really remember-(That certainly would be a pity). For Wagga's no longer a small-time town, It's now a progressive city!

It's an important educational hub Providing access across the plains. Distance has now been conquered Learning sings new refrains.

Wagga is a commercial centre too Transacting the year all round. Serving its Riverina clients – To Wagga they are bound!

Cont'd...

The botanical gardens on Willan's Hill Have become a tourist boon. But if you want to feed the swans Try the Wollundry Lagoon.

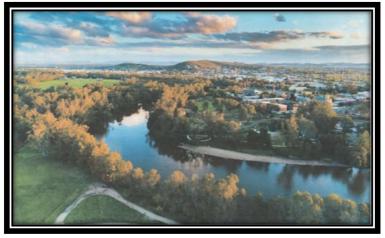
If you're into outdoor sports Climb 'The Rock' and view the scenes. Perhaps you're into bowls or golfing? Try our Wagga greens!

In the city there are several clubs And plenty of places to eat. You'll never be short of a friendly face Or a venue just to meet.

Wagga Wagga has much to offer-Once known as the place of crows. It's now a colourful garden city It's where our Murrumbidgee flows!



Old Hampden Bridge over the Murrumbidgee



Wagga Wagga with its Murrumbidgee River



The Swans at Wagga's Wollundry Lagoon

About the Author

Mark Smith has selected these 11 poems of place from his *Territory Song Lines*. They sample his poetic response to aspects of Australian towns or places that he visited in the first 60 years of his life.

Now that Mark is in a Nursing Home, he can look back to the time he wrote some of the poems. For example, '*My Kalorama*' was burnt for a fourth time! Again, '*Gulliver's Tavern of Kununurra*' no longer trades under that name.

He has been reassured that '*The Country Boy from Harden*' is still a resident in Boorowa and is still married to do the girl from Gundagai!

Mark Smith spent the first part of his educational career along the Canberra-Wagga axis. The second part of his career was spent in the Northern Territory Teaching Service. He has spent much of his holiday time touring in South East Asia.

In retirement Mark has enjoyed his membership in Probus. He has enjoyed interstate and international travel. And conducting genealogical research and historical studies with U3A. In gathering his poems together, he is seeking to honour an interest that was dormant for so long.

Mark Smith Calvary Haydon Retirement Community Canberra ACT June 2022

