



PixelPapers the Twentieth.

1 July, 2002.

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[Editorial](#) <> Wordsworth<>News & Views<> etc.

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[Live Index](#) <> Contributors and titles in past issues:
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for your contributions to be pasted in, or news & views



Editorial

This quarterly journal is now a lusty four year old. It has developed considerably over its short life, attracting contributions from countries such as India, Canada, USA and UK, but most come from Australia and an increasing number from New Zealand.

PixelPapers is shaped somewhat by its contributors and reaction to feedback via letters and e-mails. It has grown in size and circulation. Constructive criticism and suggestions are always welcome.

Our aim so far as Australia is concerned, is to provide an opportunity for publication of poems, stories and articles, filling the void left by the demise of many hard copy journals, due to shrinking support from funding agencies, and the tabloid trend of our newspapers.

It is also intended to be a showcase of writing. Previously published work is therefore welcome. Examples of writers' published work is immediately accessible through the [live index](#) which was established for this purpose.

Judging by the number of advertised courses, the writing of poetry is enjoying something of a popular revival, despite the fact that it is hardly rewarding if the goal is to have poems published, especially for money.

Unlike popular music, poetry lacks a considerable audience of consumers prepared to pay for the product.

Poetry is hard to define or to place in the continuum ranging from pure song to merely descriptive prose or reporting, as it has many forms.

One of the best attempts at definition I have heard is that it is, "the best words in the best order." (I don't know whom to thank for it!) Poetry must therefore be succinct and structured. I also like to think that it has impact in a unique way, working words hard so that they have music and resonance as well as intense meaning, perhaps at multiple levels.

The forms used are not important, but we expect them to be consistent.

Free verse is more than chopping up strings of prose. The words must work and there must be music, otherwise it is not a poem.

Rhyming verse was the fashion in the English speaking world for several generations and has a strong grip on older people. There is nothing wrong with it and we have a huge body of memorable works by the masters. Some well regarded contemporary poets write in rhymed verse.

It is fiendishly difficult to write, yet many attempt it. Convention dictates that the structure must be exact, with the same number of beats to each line. The rhyming must be appropriate and not a silly twisting of words to fit or an extraneous thought, sentiment or phrase cobbled in for the occasion. It seems at times that some of the best rhymes have been used and it is hard to avoid seeming to copy somebody else's patterns!

Quality is a matter of taste and engagement. I suppose that we judge a work by the impact it has on us, depending on our life experience. A widely read reader tends to find many poems banal and uninteresting because similar works and themes have been encountered in the past, whereas a comparative novice has much to discover and delight in.

Poetry is hard work for the writer and the words, and sometimes even for the reader!

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Wordsworth

A school team in a quiz on one of the local game show channels lost a close contest when a team member was asked to spell *memento* and was disqualified for offering *momento*. Some to-ing and fro-ing has brought forward the claim that the Macquarie Dictionary sanctions both.

A passing glance at another game show saw *nub* dismissed as a non-word. It would be interesting to know the point of the argument supporting their contention.

We tend to use *arena* somewhat grandly at times, as if it refers to the structure of a magnificent edifice in which combatants strive for victory, when in fact it simply refers to the dirt in the place. It literally means sand. The grand sounding Punta Arenas in Chile translates as Sandy Point. Children at kindergarten often play in their arena.

According to some Indonesian acquaintances, a *haji* is entitled to wear a white fez instead of the common black one commonly seen on the heads of many Malaysian and Indonesian politicians. Haji is a title acquired by devout Moslems who take a pilgrimage to Mecca and perform the necessary rites. Apparently, it is not without hazard for our neighbours as some are killed or injured in the process, because they are smaller than the people of most other Moslem countries and may be trampled underfoot in the religious processions. They also suffer from exposure to unfamiliar, dry, Arabian heat.

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News & Views

Peter Goldsworthy, chairman of the Literature Board of the Australia Council has won the Helpmann award for his libretto for the opera, *Batavia*.

Better Late Than Never

Stephen Spielberg, the noted American film director, has returned to complete a course he abandoned 37 years ago and graduated with a degree in film production from the State University of California.

I suppose it indicates a degree of humility and a great deal of respect for the academic tradition and university degrees.

My former neighbour, filmmaker and *zommerkind*, Reiner Erler, also returns to his university in Bavaria for the northern hemisphere summer months, but to teach film making. He and wife, Renata, spend southern hemisphere summer months at their home in the hills overlooking Perth.

SLO to Go

Susan Hayes, WA State Literature Officer for eight years, has taken up the post of Executive Director of the Australian National Playwright's Centre in Sydney.

Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre

'ALICE' back to Perth after a Successful Tour of BRAZIL

Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre is proud to announce that the performance of ALICE as part of the Cultura Inglesa Festival in Sao Paolo, Brazil was a huge success.

With the annual festival focused on Australia, there was considerable attention given to the Aboriginal Australian representation. A very humbled Alice Haines

was given star treatment and at every major performance received a full standing ovation for her hard hitting life story 'ALICE'. On her return, Alice gave an appraisal of the international tour, the first for both Ms Haines and Yirra

Yaakin Noongar Theatre. She said, "There was a genuine interest in the Aboriginal voice. Many people left the show feeling in some way connected to me and my life story which was a very moving response. Many people had only

really seen the commercial interpretation of what Aboriginal Australia is and what White Australia present internationally - that is until ALICE. It was a very

empowering opportunity to share information and tell my story to such a receptive audience and extremely humbling to be inundated for autographs."

Both Yirra Yaakin and Alice plan to continue to look international and build on

this milestone experience.

Alice Haines and David Milroy returned to Perth on Sunday 26th May after a week of performance in Brazil.

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Joker

Addendums to Murphy's Law

1. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
4. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
5. Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?
6. I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
7. When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.
8. Seen it all, done it all. Can't remember most of it.
9. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
10. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
11. He's not dead, he's electroencephalographically challenged.
12. She's always late. Her ancestors arrived on the Juneflower.
13. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.
14. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.
15. Honk if you love peace and quiet.
16. Pardon my driving, I'm reloading.

17. Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?
18. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
19. It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial costs and blamed it on the high cost of living.
20. Just remember...if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
21. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
22. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try and pass them.
23. You can't have everything. Where would you put it?
24. Latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the world's population.
25. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
26. The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.
27. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
28. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
29. Shin: A device for finding furniture
30. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
31. It was recently discovered that research causes cancer in rats.
32. Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter since nobody listens.
33. I wished the buck stopped here, as I could use a few.
34. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
35. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
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More Creative Writing Come-ons from Nigeria:

DMRS. MARIAM BIMBOLA BALOGUN

C/O BARRISTER A.O. AJAYI

VICTORIA ISLAND

PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY IF THIS LETTER COMES TO YOU AS A SURPRISE.

I am Mrs. Mariam Balogun, widow of the late Chief Mathew Layi Balogun, former President Aspirant, who was shut dead in Lagos on the 7th day of December, 2000 by hire assassins.

I have just been informed by the family attorney, Barrister A.O. Ajayi that my late husband operated a secret account with a SECURITY COMPANY into which a total sum of Ten Million, Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars(\$10,500,000) was transferred and deposited in his favour as Special Company Cash Deposit(SCCD).

The Attorney now advised me to seek in confidence a foreign account into which this fund could be transferred for disbursement as directed by my late husband Will.

It has been resolved that 25% will be your share for your assistance. Finally, 75% will come to myself and my children and a good part of this shall be directed towards! executing his Will which is to buy shares and stocks in foreign country to secure his children future.

To facilitate the conclusion of this transactions, if accepted get back to me so that I can contact my family attorney and discuss with him toward effective completion of this transaction.

Please, note that I have been assured that the transaction will be concluded within one (1) week upon hearing from you I shall commence the process of retrieving the Will.

May I at this point, emphasize the high level of the confidentiality, which this business demands, and hope you will not betray the trust and confidence which I repose in you.

However, you may need to give me sufficient assurance that you will not sit on this fund when it is finally remitted into your account.

Please give this matter a prompt attention.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Mariam BIMBOLA Balogun

&

From the desk of Mrs Stella Mark Aku

Dear Sir,

A very good day to you.

I am Stella Mark Aku (Mrs) widow of the late Engr. Ishaya Mark Aku the former Minister for Sport in Nigeria. My late husband was one of the victims of the May 4th 2002 EAS Aircraft that crashed in Kano State of Nigeria.

I have an immediate business proposal that involves US\$ 9,500,000.00 (Nine Million, Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars), which I would like to invest under your custody. Please, do not hesitate to send me a response intimating me of your interest.

Once I receive a message from you notifying me of your interest, the details of the transaction/the terms and condition of sharing regarding the business would then be brought to your knowledge.

Your urgent response will be highly appreciated and will swiftly bring us to the commencement of the transaction. I hope to conclude this transaction within 10-14 working days.

Do not forget to contact me on the receipt of this mail on the above e-mail address. And please you have to be a bit confidential as regards this pending transaction.

I urgently await your response.

Best Regards,

Stella Mark Aku (Mrs)

& More:

FROM: COL.ZIZO GIRAI. (RTD)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

DEAR FRIEND.

SEEKING FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE.

It is my pleasure to request your assistance on this business proposal which if pursued to its conclusion, will be of immense benefit to both of us. This request may seem strange but I will crave your indulgence and pray that you view it seriously.

My name is COL. ZIZO GIRAI of the Democratic Republic of Congo and one of the close aides to the former President of the Democratic Republic of Congo LAURENT KABILA of blessed memory, may his soul rest in peace. Due to the military campaign of LAURENT KABILA to force out the rebels in my country, I was instructed by Late President Kabila to go abroad to purchase arms and ammunition worth of Fifteen Million United States Dollars only (US\$15,000,000.00) to fight the rebel group.

But when President Kabila was killed in a bloody shootout by one of his aide a day before I was schedule to travel out of Congo, I immediately decided to divert the fund into

a private security company here in Congo for safe keeping. The security of the said amount

is presently being threatened here following the unwarranted arrest and seizure of properties

of Col. Rasheidi Karesava (The aide that shot Laurent Kabila) tribesmen ,where I am from,by

the new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo the son of late

President Laurent Kabila, Joseph Kabila. In view of this,I need a reliable and trustworthy foreign partner who can assist me to move this money out of my country as the beneficiary.

I have sufficient "contacts" to move the fund under Diplomatic cover to a security company

in the Netherlands in your name, this is to ensure that the diplomatic baggage is marked "confidential" and it will not pass through normal custom/airport screening and clearance.

My inability to move this money out of Congo all this while lies on my lack of trust on our supposed good friends (western countries) who have suddenly become hostile to those of us who worked with the late President Laurent Kabila, since his son took office. Though we have neither seen nor met each other, I know we will be able to establish all the trust that we need to ensure that the money will be safe with you.

Thus, if you are willing to assist me to move this fund out of Congo, you can contact me through my email address with your telephone and fax numbers to enable us discuss the modalities and what will be your share (percentage) for assisting me. I will highly appreciate it if my request is given utmost priority and consideration.

Best Regards,

COL. ZIZO GIRAI.(RTD)

A fellow decides to take off early from work and go drinking. He stays until the bar closes at 2am, at which time he is extremely drunk. When he enters his house, he doesn't want to wake anyone, so he takes off

his shoes and starts tip-toeing up the stairs. Half-way up the stairs, he falls over backwards and lands flat on his rear end.

That wouldn't have been so bad, except that he had couple of empty pint bottles in his back pockets, and they broke, and the broken glass carved up his buttocks terribly. But,he was so drunk that he didn't know he was hurt. A few minutes later, as he was undressing, he noticed blood,so he checked himself out in the mirror, and, sure enough, his behind was cut up something terrible. Well, he repaired the damage as best he could under the circumstances, and he went to bed.

The next morning, his head was hurting, and his rear was hurting, and he was hunkering under the covers trying to think up some good story, when his wife came into the bedroom.

"Well, you really tied one on last night," she said. "Where'd you go?"

"I worked late," he said, "and I stopped off for a couple of beers."

"A couple of beers? That's a laugh," she replied, "You got plastered last night. Where the heck did you go?"

"What makes you so sure I got drunk last night,anyway?"

"Well," she replied, "my first big clue was when I got up this morning and found a bunch of band-aids stuck to the mirror."

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The Vet and the Parrot

A woman brought a very limp parrot into a veterinary surgery.

As she lay her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm sorry, but Polly has passed away".

The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure? I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, shrugged, turned and left the room returning a few moments later with beautiful black Labrador.

As the bird's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the dead parrot from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet, shook his head and barked.

The vet fussed the dog, took it out and returned in a few moments with a cat who jumped up and also sniffed the bird on the table from end to end. The cat sat back, shook its head and meowed. It then jumped off the table and left the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry; but like I said, your parrot is dead."

He then turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys, produced a bill and handed it to the woman. The parrot's owner took the bill and

looked at it. "\$150!" she cried. "Just to tell me my bird is dead?! That's ridiculous!"

The vet shrugged. "If you'd taken my word for it the bill would only have been \$20, but what with the Lab report, and the Cat scan.

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Should kids witness a birth? A true story:

It was late at night and Heidi, who was expecting her second child was home alone with her 3-year old daughter Katelyn. When Heidi started going into labor, she called "911." Due to a power outage at the time, only one paramedic responded to the call. The house was very, very dark, so the paramedic asked Katelyn to hold a flashlight high over her mommy so he could see while he helped deliver the baby.

Very diligently, Katelyn did as she was asked. Heidi pushed and pushed, and after a little while Connor was born. The paramedic lifted him by his little feet and spanked him on his bottom.

Connor began to cry.

The paramedic then thanked Katelyn for her help and asked the wide-eyed 3 year old what she thought about what she had just witnessed.

Katelyn quickly responded, "He shouldn't have crawled in there in the first place. Smack him again!"

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Dead Horse Theory

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed from generation to generation, states that when you discover you are on a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, modern management 'best practice' has developed far more effective strategies, such as the following:

1. Buy a stronger whip and flog the horse until it shows signs of life.
2. Threaten the horse with termination.
3. Change riders.
4. Arrange a visit to other countries to see how others ride dead horses.
5. Hire outside consultants to prepare benchmarks for dead horse performance.
6. Lower the standards so that the dead horse can be included.
7. Appoint a committee to study the horse.
8. Reclassify the dead horse as "living impaired".
9. Hire independent contractor to ride the dead horse.
10. Harness several dead horses together to increase their efficiency.
11. Provide additional funding for external training courses to improve the dead horse's performance.
12. Do a productivity study to see if lighter riders would increase the dead horse's performance.

13. Note that, as the dead horse does not need to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overheads, and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line than do some other horses.

14. Promote the dead horse to a senior management position.

15. Offer the dead horse career counselling and the option of a transfer to a less stressful position of equivalent status.

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