

ANTHOLOGY OF
POETRY
VOLUME TWO

CATHERINE LEAN

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BY
CATHERINE LEAN

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This book of poems is dedicated to JJ who has
been a great inspiration to me over the years. For
all his time, understanding and patience
when I was lost in my own world.

FORWARD

Writing to me is a great joy. Nature inspires me with her diverse richness, but I can also see that same beauty in objects, and in these pages you will see that you can write about anything if you give your mind free reign.

I have compiled this anthology of poems in order that I can share my own love of words and creativity with others. Whether you are a lover of rhyme or free verse, you will find something here for you.

My poems follow many themes and nothing is beyond the scope of my imagination. I will always endeavour to allow my readers to immerse themselves in my words and hopefully visualize what I am saying. Poetry is a form of art that gives the writer somewhere to express themselves and purge their feelings.

I hope you enjoy these works and get many hours of joy reading.

A CHILDS PRAYER

A child embraces her teddy bear close
And her eyes are now filling with tears
She feels the pain that is calling again
That has haunted her all of these years

She sweeps him up from the bed where she sits
And runs her hands down through his fur
Cradles him close as the tears trickle down
And her teddy bear will comfort her

She stares out the window at the world way beyond
And whispers so soft in his ear
One day my teddy I will walk in those fields
And never again shed a tear

The lights of the buildings are dimming this night
As the children all settle to sleep
Their turbulent lives swept away by their dreams
In the shadows of the darkness so deep

And the little girl kneels at the foot of her bed
As she holds her hands tightly in prayer
Prays that one day someone will come along
And find her and take her from there

And the small fluffy bear he listens in still
As her prayers are sent soaring on high
And a teardrop falls down from the small button eyes
And he breathes as he gives a great sigh

She climbs into bed and she holds him so close
And soon she is drifting in light
Away with the angels that had answered her prayer
And a new star was blazing that night

And the small fluffy bear he sits there on the bed
And he weeps as he looks in the eye
Of another small child who is saying his prayer
While a tear trickles down from his eye

18.6.2005

THE GIFT

My gift to you cost not a cent
Not borrowed won nor stole
My gift to you shall represent
My love for you tenfold

My love for you is not on loan
Nor borrowed nor on lease
My love for you shall thus be sown
Forever held in peace

This gift not borrowed won nor stole
That did not cost a cent
Lies safely in eternal love
From me to you my friend

5.5.1973

A LITTLE SONG

A little song had echoed from the distance far away
A happy song I knew so well – that made me sad today
I bowed my head and cried a while – the pain was hard to bare
My little angel from above was calling me out there

I heard his voice – I felt his wings as he went gliding by
The tears ran down my hurting face – I knew this was goodbye
A gentle touch – a fleeting touch of golden wings I saw
A twinkle in his loving eye would welcome me no more

For just a moment time stood still – I saw his cheery face
I felt his love all over me – his song I did embrace
I heard the tune he sang to me – the peaceful little song
The words he sang bore into me – they said ‘my friend so long’

A song of harmony rang forth – my angel came below
To tell me that he loved me still but that he had to go
I felt the spark of life go by – I didn’t want to cry
The day my angel came to me to tell me its goodbye

And now I’m left with heavy heart – his memory strong and true
When I listen to the songs out there – my friend I think of you
Forever will you be near to me – I’ll have you in my heart
Your golden wings will comfort me though we are far apart

A little song – a fleeting song had called from far away
A happy song I knew so well – that made me sad today
I heard his voice – I felt his wings as he went gliding by
The tears ran down my hurting face – I knew this was goodbye

12.10.2004

In memory of Shag, our gorgeous budgie
Died 2004

A PLACE

There is a place – a beautiful place
That lies in the depths of my mind
It's a place that I go when I'm feeling low
And leave all my troubles behind

It's a land of serenity – peaceful and still
And nothing to cause one to fear
It's the land of the living – the caring and giving
A place where your voice all will hear

I go there most nightly when all is asleep
And wander to my hearts content
And I see all the mystery that lies in the darkness
‘Til morning when daylight is sent

There is a place – a beautiful place
That lies in the depths of my mind
And I hope that one day – that place will be real
And everyone else it will find

15.12.2003

A PUPPET NAMED POE

A puppet named Poe sat in a toy store
He was waiting for something but wasn't quite sure
Just what that could be – he didn't quite know
Or where he had come from or where he would go

He wore little white shoes tied with laces of brown
And a wide string rimmed hat with some corks hanging down
With a green coat of satin and buttons of wood
He sat on the shelf where the other toys stood

He had emerald green eyes that were strikingly clear
With two little gems hanging down from his ears
And curly light hair that shone like the sun
And a face of an angel that could make the world hum

He carried in hand a small bow and a string
And longed for the day he could make that bow sing
He'd play to the world and they'd hear the notes sigh
And the melodies would linger long into the night

Then a storm came and tore right through the toy store
And left the toys scattered all over the floor
And Poe saw the fear and the pain everywhere
And that moment he knew he had something to share

His hand held the bow as he pulled 'cross the strings
And a symphony rose – how he made that bow sing
And the melody rang through the heavens on high
And the toys they all smiled and gave a deep sigh

And then when the store was all quiet and stark
The toys came to life and they played in the dark
And Poe struck a tune on his magical bow
While they danced and romanced of the places they'd go

And each night there after – Poe played a new tune
While the toys laughed and danced there beneath the gold moon
And the string and the bow that Poe played in the store
Brought harmony forth cross the world evermore

16.12.2003

A RIGHT TO LOVE

When Giles had grown into a fine young chimp
And he roamed through the jungles great
He searched around in his circle of friends
To find him a life long mate

But in the chimp community
He found there was no such thing
All the young ladies had been spoken for
And there was nobody left for him

And Giles was saddened and sighed a sigh
As only a chimp can do
He swore one day he would find him a way
To have him a sweat heart to

He roamed all over in a state of want
He was charming the girls around
But the leader of the chimp community
Was constantly putting him down

So one day Giles got awfully mad
And challenged the leader above
He'd stand his ground and prove his strength
In a fight for a thing called love

Now the leader of the chimp community
He was big and was strong and was wild
He knocked Giles down and beat him so bad
And he punished the mischievous child

And Giles ran off in a moment of fear
For his challenge had failed him so
Now he was alone with nobody to care
And no place where he could call home

He heard the sounds of the other chimps
As they laughed and jumped and played
While he sat on the edge of the community
Where he was condemned to stay

As the weeks went by and the days grew long
Young Giles heart grew so cold
He was bitter to be on the outside now
Instead in the family fold

Then Giles heard a voice that called to him
A voice that spoke his name
A voice that rang through the forest around
That brought memories back again

He knew the tone – he knew the roar
He knew the grumbling sound
He knew the one that owned that voice
And he came tumbling down

He ran and ran to reach the sound
He answered with a bark
And all at once he saw her there
In the forest cold and dark

Young Riss had come from far away
In search of Giles to find
She missed her friend from younger years
The love she left behind

The great grey mass stood all around
As they watched young Giles and Riss
And the elephants breathed a common breath
For the young chimp they had missed

And from that day on young Giles he found
A family to call his own
He roamed with them upon the land
He'd found himself a home

He was happy now this fine young chimp
As he swung through the trees above
Following the path of the family heard
Where there was abundant thing called love

19.6.2005

(Part two of 'Who shook my tree')

A SONG FOR MY BROTHER

I sing you a song for Xmas
'Cause I love you oh so much
I love your cute little whiskers
That I often like to touch.

You cuddle me close and hug me
The way a brother should do
So I sing this song for Xmas
To tell you that I love you.

When things are topsy turvy
And the dog is roaming about
You stand up and protect me
You really sort him out.

So today is one that moves me
And brings me lots of cheer
So happy Xmas brother
And have a wonderful year.

19.12.2010

Written for a poetry contest

A SPECIAL FRIEND

There once was a maggie with a longing to be
A friend to a human and that human was me
He came to me one day when the weather was cold
And the story about him should really be told

He flew into my life on a wing fully spread
He sat on the railing and turned his young head
Looked into my eyes and I saw that he knew
That I understood him – friendship flourished and grew

On the wings of a bird I had discovered new life
We shared a small secret that maggie and I
Our time spent together was fleeting but strong
The songs he sang to me concreting our bond

Through the days he kept coming and one day I saw
There was not just one maggie but gladly two more
I guessed he was seeing I would meet his young mate
And his youngster he proudly brought down for the date

And all through those days I made sure they could eat
I brought them food daily and water to drink
It was clear that he knew me as someone who cared
And their lives that they lived I felt privileged to share

Each moment that passed was a moment of love
For that maggie and me from the heavens above
And I cherished each day that we met and defined
The meaning of friendship that sprouted with time

12.10.2003

A STICK'S TALE

There once was a stick that wanted to be
More than a stick from a dying tree
He had him a dream he needed to fill
If only he could get off the hill

The hill was high and the tree was tall
And no one came up there at all
No birds, no kids, no dogs at play
No one to save him on this day

He sat there feeling quite alone
It seemed this was the twilight zone
No one went out – no one came in
No one came there to rescue him

The stick was sad – he lay there still
Upon this God damned lonesome hill
He couldn't run - he couldn't walk
There was no reason for him to talk

Then one day as he was lying there
A boy came by and I sure do swear
He screamed so loud the dead did wake
As he went screaming 'snake dad snake'

The stick looked 'round and wondered why
The snake did not come hissing by
He couldn't see a thing up there
Why did the boy cause him a scare?

The boy returned with dad in tow
And said 'there, dad, I told you so'
And father smiled and said 'you twit
That's not a snake – it's just a stick'

And father laughed and bending down
He picked the stick up from the ground
And said 'you know my little son
This stick, it really looks like one'

And so they took the stick away
From off the hill and from that day
A snake the stick became it seemed
And had fulfilled his long held dream

23.10.2009
Written for Paul white (Beret)

A TEAR DROP

He woke up one morning to a great thickly fog
That was spreading all over the land
There was mist on the grass and dew drops on the leaves
And the frost sent a chill through his hands

He ran to the meadow and he looked to the sky
Where the clouds were all forming so high
And a raindrop fell down from the heavens above
And a teardrop had formed in his eye

He turned to the hills and he stood there in awe
There a rainbow of colours was found
All over the hills where the great fog had gone
And a tear from the heavens fell down

He bowed down his head then he lifted it up
And a very young soldier he saw
Went running on by and he thought to himself
He thought 'what is he running for'

The sounds in the distance had caused him to still
And he turned and he saw with dismay
His whole life go running right passed on him there
And he knew why the fog came today

He started to walk through the meadows so slow
And he turned to the heavens on high
And he saw there the angels who would guide him on home
And a teardrop fell down from his eye

7.1.2005

ALICE WHO

My little white rabbit came in today
He looked like he was thinking
He stood so still with a curious look
No sound and he wasn't blinking

I said to him bunny 'what's on your mind
Such eyes will make me worry'
And before I could say another word
He turned and hopped off in a hurry

Then my cat came in and I looked at him
Such a devilish look he was wearing
He sat on the mat and gazed at me back
What a strange morning we're sharing

The dog walked by with a wink of the eye
And sat near the table and shouted
'Be off with you cat – get off that damned mat'
But the cat just sat there and pouted

I shook my head 'cause I couldn't believe
My dog had just uttered such curses
But what made me jump was the little brown mouse
That trotted by streaming with verses

He quoted the best and I couldn't have guessed
That my cat was a bard unknowing
He started reciting a poem or two
And the rhyme was beautifully flowing

And the little white rabbit came hopping along
With a smile on his face that was gleaming
And soon I awoke to the touch of the sun
And realized I was just dreaming

24.7.2010

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

'All's well that ends well' – the captain had spoken to me
I had come in from the land of the dead
With blood on my chest and blood on my head
And there was blood on the brown desert sea

I had stood there with the rest of the boys
T'wer soldiers on foot – t'wer soldiers on tanks
Soldiers that swelled up the prisoner ranks
That made up the growing convoy

The captain I learned was a man named Waldersch
He was pleasantly charming and spoke with a smile
T'was blond and good looking and spoke all the while
Of a time of a calmer safe earth

It was reeking with flesh grew the smell of the dead
For the sun was in blister and the battle quite long
And the rats fat and gruesome around us did throng
'Til to a much reassuring place we were led

Captain Waldersch was there as we left
And he tipped his peaked hat and he gave us a bow
And he said as he turned with a bushy high brow
Said he with a slight sign of respect

All's well that ends well and he marched stiff and tall as he went
And we watched as the staff car disappeared o'er the dune
In the heat of the sun in the high of the noon
And I thought what a charming young gent

14.9.1981

ALONE

She laid her tears
In a bucket of fears
Growing cold through the years
Never knowing true love

She laid her head
On a pillow of lead
Now she sleeps with the dead
And the angels above

No one had seen
The shadows so mean
And the strife that had been
That had led to this day

She died all alone
There in her home
No one to bemoan
When she passed away

13.11.2010

AND I SMILE

Soft as the evergreen grasses grow
Wind in the willows that peacefully blow
A song in the air as the day is dawning
And I smile to see the night that's yawning

Sweet sweet dreams to the stars on high
Hushed in the shadows that cross the sky
Light has come to the heavens so blue
And a honey bird settles to take in the view

A wattlebird sings as he flutters around
While the parrots chatter below on the ground
And the butcherbird dives – he has seen him some prey
And the small Aussie minors are landing to play

There in the bushes a small lizard is hiding
While maggie hunts there – his time he is biding
And a butterfly flutters on the gentle cool breeze
And there's a chorus of birds high up in the trees

As I lift up my eyes and look into the air
A formation of birds is soaring up there
Beautiful birds with wings fully spread
Glide silently over – way over my head

And I sigh with delight – at the wonders I see
At Natures display she paraded for me
And I smile to see the day that's yawning
For another new night has now come calling

8.12.2008

ANGELS ON THE RUN

There were angels on the run – don't know what we have done
But they're up there flying higher than the highest place above
They're moving with the wind oh boy – they're heading for the sun
Angels never flee from anyone

The devil roams the world in ways that we don't understand
He moves among the masses as he takes us by the hand
He leads us down the road that makes the heavens start to hum
And when the angels hear it – you can bet the fight's begun

Upon the road of hate and fear – we are led in mass descent
As the devil tries to get a hold but the angels have been sent
To try and forge a path for us to follow good and true
As the devil tries to trick us with his deeds so bad and crude

The thunder of the heavens roar – we can hear it everywhere
The angel's voices trumpet as they move across the air
We may not see them coming and we may not touch their wings
But the devil he will feel them 'cause the angels wings will sting

Our world is full of wonders that we should take care to love
They are the gifts the spirit gave from somewhere up above
To turn our backs and close our eyes is just a mortal sin
That gives the devil pleasure and we cannot let him win

There were angels on the run – don't know what we have done
But they're up there flying higher than the highest place above
They're moving with the wind oh boy – they're heading for the sun
Angels never flee from anyone

23.6.1999

ANIMALS

I went to sleep in my nice warm bed
With dreams of animals in my head
Cats and dogs and horses a few
Pigs, earwigs and cockatoos too

Lions and tigers and a grizzly bear
And a big goanna was lurking there
Spiders and wriggly things and snakes
And ducks out paddling on the lakes

Laughing hyena's were romping around
Rats, numbats and warthogs found
Little blind moles and a hairy wombat
Dancing together out there on the flat

Running around and having such fun
Beneath the rays of the morning sun
Squeaking and squawking this bright new day
In harmony and all at play

18.4.2010

Written for a poetry contest

AUTUMN LEAVES

Now he lies 'neath a blanket that shelters him so
A blanket of leaves that the autumn bestowed
Hushed he sleeps lightly as the gentle wind blows
In a chorus with the birds on the wing

Down in the fields where the daisies grow brightly
Ever skips the wind on their petals so lightly
For 'neath lies a stranger in slumber so quietly
With a blanket of leaves over him

The colours of autumn he knew ever well
The season he loved with its magical spell
Covered him gaily with nature's sweet smell
Of autumn leaves bright and so fair

The autumn had come and the autumn had gone
Winter – spring – summer had all floated on
But over there where the old stranger sleeps long
The autumn looms brightly for e'er

26.1.1977

BECAUSE THEY HAD HEARD

Soothed by the knowledge that God loves his children
The children they humbled in thought of his words
And they kneel in the church at the altar and praise him
They all pray unto him because they had heard

And the skies up above are so bright and a blazing
The ground is a rumble and it shudders and shakes
And the screams and the cries make the young children tremble
But still they pay homage to God in its wake

There in the church all of God's children gathered
They sang to his glory and looked to his word
And they swayed from the altar not once ever fearing
For God was their saviour – because they had heard

And the guns split the night and the flash and the thunder
Of the bombs that were falling recoiled to them all
But they hastened not once from the house of the mighty
For God was their saviour and would hearken their call

1.11.1983

BELIEF

There's the sound of cannons yonder
And the skies are a dirty grey
A bloodied field lies in our path
And the dead men line the way

Sometimes I get the strongest urge
To drop my gun and flee
It's hard to watch your comrades die
So hard to still believe

And they say the battle that we fight
Will very soon be o'er
But no one takes much notice
'Cause we've heard it all before

The chaplain takes the service
Wherever we may be
With heavy hearts we pray to God
To guide our destiny

Entrenched within a dead man's land
A soldier sits and grieves
His world of youth torn under him
No more does he believe

Much mourning will be shared by all
Hearts torn will pain and bleed
One wonders when the war is done
If they will still believe

30.4.1981

BEYOND ORION'S BELT

I've come to visit you today
So don't be shy – don't run away
I'm only here to lend a hand
To give you help now if I can

I know I look a little scary
And understand why you are wary
But really I am very nice
And want to give you some advice

I come from out beyond the stars
You cannot see them where you are
A little left where you are knelt
Just beyond Orion's belt

It really is a pretty place
And I can see upon your face
A little fear but trust in me
I'm only here to help you see

We know your earth is in a mess
And all of human kind I guess
But do not worry 'bout your fate
There still is time, it's not too late

A little guidance to help you by
Is coming down from out the sky
From way out there beyond the blue
We'll show you what you need to do

So when the night is falling black
You'll know that we are coming back
We'll see you through another day
And help to guide you on your way

We'll see you'll see your future bright
As you join us in eternal flight
A little east where you are knelt
Just beyond Orion's belt

12.9.2000

BLESSED IS MY FATHER

We were stilled in the silence of sorrow and tears
Saying farewell to one loved all these years
The day had come coldly as the wind gave a sigh
And we stood in the chapel to say our goodbye

The pain that we felt we felt never before
The loss we were grieving – the pain that we bore
The flag covered casket was all I could see
How I wished that the spirit had so taken me

Our family and friends had all gathered that day
To mourn for our father who had passed away
I couldn't believe I'd not see him again
My own loving father – my tutor and friend

At the grave I stood there with a flower in hand
My body was shaking – the tears freely ran
As they lowered the casket I said my goodbye
Around me not one eye had so remained dry

Now fifteen years onward I remember each day
His smile and his laughter – his words he did say
His strong caring nature – his wisdom and love
Blessed is my father in heaven above

31.5.2004

In memory of my father – passed away 1st.12th.1989

BO AND BEN

Bo and Ben were at it again
And the whole damned town went crazy
That hairy old fool and that woolly sheep
Seemed somewhat slightly hazy

They burned around through the centre of town
And the people all cursed and swore
As they tore up roads and thumb their nose
At them and the bloody law

But have no fear for Sam is here
That copper who rides a Harley
He'll see to them and stuff their game
'Cause he is somewhat gnarly

He roars ahead and pulls them up
And says 'Sam, what's your game
That sheep ain't got no helmet on
You've stuffed your licence again

'Get off the road and head on home
And settle for goodness sake
And stick Bo in that paddock, man
Or I'll turn him into steak'

4.4.2010

BOOM BOOM THE DINOSAUR

Boom Boom the dinosaur walking through my dreams at night
Boom Boom the dinosaur was an overwhelming sight
He stood there in all his glory – towering over one and all
Romp through my dreams I saw him – made me feel so very small

Boom Boom the dinosaur stomping through my dreams he went
Boom Boom the dinosaur a rumble through the ground he sent
On and on he swayed in rhythm to the beating of my heart
Thumping on across my dreamland – living in a world apart

Boom Boom the dinosaur passes on and leaves no trace
Boom Boom the dinosaur wanders on in all his grace
Awakened by the light of dawn I arise to greet the day
Knowing that by night lights falling he will come again my way

Boom Boom the dinosaur walking through my dreams at night
Boom Boom the dinosaur was an overwhelming sight
Through my dreams he'll always wander – stomping, swaying as he runs
Through the night as I lay sleeping 'til the rising of the sun

2.2.1994

BROTHER MEETS BROTHER

He looked at the one who was holding the gun
And a smile ran across his stained face
And for a moment they stared with common thoughts shared
Standing in still face to face

Who could have known that so far from home
That they would meet up with each other
But there they both stood as foes on the sand
As enemies brother meets brother

T'was a sign of good will that caused them to still
And something inside them was freed
Like two winds from two shores but both from the same core
Sensed the great joy that did seed

14.9.1980

Written after my father told me the story of two Italian brothers who met in North Africa during WW11. One was in the Italian army and had been taken prisoner, and the other was serving with the Australian army. My father said it was the strangest thing he saw as they embraced each other with joy.

BRUMBY RUN

Across the burning desert from the inland whence they came
Down the outback tracks of dusty soil and sand
Where the mulga bush grows sparsely and the gum trees reach up high
Ran the brumbies 'cross the wind swept dry red land

Bulldust whipped up from their hooves resting in the air
Where the blazing sun blisters on the boil
Brolga's comb the waters of the drying ponds around
And the brumbies race across the virgin soil

The thunders send a shudder through the waking droopy land
O'er the outback with its dangers lurking near
And the deadly taipan trembles in the brushes there in still
While the brumbies make the whole land cringe in fear

O'er the lake where dingoes drink upon a parched dry bed
The ghost herd of the brumbies makes its way
And wombats snort and grumble at the intrusion of their land
On the edge of cooling forests where they stray

Through the dense thick growth beyond to mountains high and wide
Where the howling winds strike a fearful song
The brumbies tread in numbers for their ghost are seeking life
And searching for a place where they belong

The stockman rides old Sunrise in the sunsets early evening
As the station hands all turned in for the day
But old Tom had come to join him on the long and endless ride
And the tawny mouth had seen them on their way

Over hill and gully through the forests thick and dark
The stockmen ride the lonely dusty track
In their search for ghostly brumbies who have led them on the search
And neither horse nor rider would turn back

For they hunt the ghostly brumbies who now ride the churning winds
 'Cross a land where only fools would ever roam
On their endless journey through the barren dry red land
 In their endless search for somewhere to call home

People speak of shadows that go blazing in the night
 Of spectres making haste upon the air
And they marvel at the sights they see and simply nod their heads
 As they wonder now - were they were really there

Across the burning desert from the inland whence they came
 Down the outback tracks of dusty soil and sand
Where the mulga bush grows sparsely and the gum trees reach up high
 Ran the brumbies 'cross the wind swept dry red land

17.1.2010

BUSY BEE

See the little busy bee buzzing up and down
Collecting all the pollen from the blossoms she has found
Moving there from tree to tree and singing every day
This is the greatest worker nature really can display

7.11.2010

BUTTERFLY

Butterfly that makes me smile
On a pair of gentle wings
The breeze that lifts her upward
Where the waiting breeze it sings

Rainbows touch her dainty wings
With colours bold and bright
And send out lonely whispers
Through the deep and darkened night

Butterfly passing by
While the gentle wind does blow
She is searching for her loved one
In the flower beds below

Soon she'll sing her happy song
As her suitor comes in sight
And together they will linger
Through the stillness of the night

Butterfly flies up so high
Now another day is come
She is rejoicing for her youngins
Who will join her one by one?

See them glide across the sky
Watch their dainty show
As the wings caress the gentle breeze
While we watch here below

Butterfly gliding by
On a pair of gentle wings
Brings happiness to all that see
And make the whole day sing

20.12.2009

BUTTERFLY WINGS

A rainbow has touched the butterfly's wings
Its colours so beautifully bright
It woke with the dawn - of the coming of day
And rose on its pre morning flight

A rainbow had rained on the flowers below
Where the butterfly hovered today
The glorious shades of their petals conveyed
That the spring was well on its way

A rainbow had touched the butterfly's wings
As it fluttered on by me this morn'
A rainbow had given me hope for the day
As it came forth to meet me at dawn

9.7.2006

CANYONS OF HELL

They called themselves masters – the leaders of men
Determined to conquer – again and again

Their armies so mighty marched stiffly and tall
Engrossed by the power that guttered them all

With pitiless fury the kingdoms did fell
And the flames leapt up from the canyons of hell

And eyes burning amber with madness and lust
Looked gallantly over the deserts of dust

And dragons inspired spat venom of fire
And the flames of hell leapt higher and higher

Their tales wisped thunder in slashing the air
And spears of scales their enemies snared

And here in the pits in the darkness of night
We huddle in horror and pray for the light

Around us they fever with violence and hate
And fever bred fever and sealed our fate

We practiced his evil and now we were doomed
Our blindness had led us to eternal gloom

Through a tunnel of cinders and orange red glow
We tumble on downward to the fires below

And there we were numbered and numbers were we
Imprisoned forever in the amber hot sea

And so we look on – unable to tell
And the flames leap up from the canyons of hell

29.6.1981

CENTURION TANK

Today we went to the Caribbean
And I really said my thanks
For nothing could have caught my eye more
Than two Centurion tanks

They were sitting there in all their glory
Two monsters made of steel
And I wondered at their morbid past
And thought, could this be real

Their rusted hulks had seen their time
God knows where they had been
What battles they had fought back then
What horrors they had seen

The turrets now were welded shut
Their tracks were stilled with time
The guns looked out on peaceful fields
Their past they left behind

But still, they carried in their tracks
The mud from where they'd been
What little creatures stuck inside
Would history one day gleam

As we stood there in awe of them
I swear a voice came through
Say, friend we did our best for peace
It's the gift we left for you

I felt a tear form in my eye
As I gazed upon these tanks
I silenced for a little while
And gave my heart felt thanks

The lumbering relics that stand there now
May one day rust from sight
But their memories will be remembered long
For their giving in the fight

Two Centurion tanks stood there
Upon the grassy knoll
Looking out on peaceful fields
While a distant bell did toll

30.5.2009

CHANGING TIMES

My daddy died of cancer
After seven years of weariness and pain
He suffered through the anguish and the torment
And he never once complained
And now five years have passed since then
And mother never lets a day go by
That she would fail to leave her chores
And saunter down to be at his grave side

Anna's picking daisies in the meadow
And she always stays alone
She never wants to see her friends
And when they call she says she's never home
And sometimes in the evening
When we go to bed and stars invade the sky
I lay there in the darkness
And I listen and I hear my sister cry

In the spring the soldiers came
And army trucks and tanks were in the street
I saw a lot of people there
And heard the sound of constant marching feet
They took our home and mamma
Found a little place in town for us to stay
And Anna's always moaning
And she's getting worse with every passing day

There's a boy who lives nearby
Who spends his time about the market square
I know that he's been steeling
And I told him but he doesn't seem to care
I guess we had expected it
When Freda came and told us of her son
The soldiers caught him steeling
And they shot him when he turned and tried to run

Anna's caught a virus
And she's been confined to bed for a few days
She really looks so pale
And I think she look just terrible that way
The doctor came to see her
And he left the room and he was looking grim
And mothers sitting weeping
By the window and she doesn't say a thing

Autumn leaves were falling
And the colours really looked a pretty sight
The meadows splashed and vibrant
And the many shades of pastel were so bright
The daisies Anna picked last spring
Are lying in her chest upon the floor
Ma keeps them just for memory sake
With all the others she had picked before

When the spring came round once more
And the meadows were in flower once again
Mamma went and picked them
And she sat and made a lovely daisy chain
Threading them with tenderness
Just the way that Anna used to do
She wound them and she made a cross
And put them in the chest in Anna's room

I think the soldiers are getting wise
To what's been going on across the way
They've been 'round here twice this week
And somehow I think it might be up today
It is an ever fearful hour
And I'm afraid that they'll cotton onto mum
'Cause she's been working over there
And someone might just tell them what she's done

I knew it had to happen
And mamma had been arrested overnight
They set the house on fire
And the angry flames were rising in the sky
I hid as mamma told me
And I watched as she was bundled in the van
I guess it's up to me
To try and carry on and do the best I can

4.7.1982

CHARMAINE'S EGG

Charmaine the chook was very sad
Today when she strode 'round the farm
Her egg was gone – her great big egg
Who on earth would do it harm

With flapping wings a flying 'round
In fitful rage – she clucked and clawed
Demanding answers quick and fast
And to the rooster raged and roared

'My egg - my egg - my great big egg
Has gone - a thief has kidnapped it
What will you do to get it back
Before I throw a temper fit'

The rooster sighed and said 'my dear
Have no fear for I will see
Just who has kidnapped your poor egg
And return it promptly back to thee'

'Then do it fast' she cried and wailed
'My egg was such a grandiose thing
It was my only joy and pride
The best of all the rest on wing'

'I know who took your egg today'
A little chicken clucked with joy
'It was the man from out the house
He came a calling with a boy'

'Go now' she clucked and pushed him on
The rooster knew he had no choice
He had to go and get that egg
He had to give the hens a voice

So off he set with feathers ruffled
To the farmhouse to retrieve her egg
He'd do anything to get it back
He'd ask, he'd plead, go down and beg

He said to farmer Joe, 'my friend
That egg was the best she ever laid
She was the queen among the rest
Until your uncouth morning raid

I do not come and take your bread
Nor steal your kids and so you see
You must now go and get that egg
And return it promptly back to me

What's that you say you cannot do
Good lord dear farmer - what a hide
You put that dear departed egg
Into a pan and proudly fried

What will I do I ask you now
Charmaine will screech and rant and rave
She'll pull out feathers everywhere
She'll drive me to an early grave

What's that you say to me' dear sir
You have a plan, now let me hear
You can replace her soft fried egg
Oh goodie goodie – bring it here'

And so the rooster went straight back
To give Charmaine the egg and quick
Unknown to her it was of course
A plastic one - of course a trick

But Charmaine didn't know at all
And she was still the farmyard queen
Who showed the other hens around
She was the best there's ever been

27.5.2010

CHECK

A twitch – an unbearable sense of foreboding
Life's doors had opened into a new world
Casting shadows where before no shadows fell
And my sense of being was lured before

Had not I the thought of mind to run
To flee from this oppressive stalemate
A game of chess brought to the brink of check
And I was the pawn

My mind was carving through the tranquil waters
Into the murky depths of the unknown
With fear riding shot gun at my side
And terror as my guide

Darkness had given me such a whack
And caused me to reel back in fright
Unable to discern fact from fiction
I played right into their hands

Lost before the crafty inventor
Of this unwinnable game
My soul forged forth against the tide
And shuddered in the cold arena

I would lie there tempting them
Willing myself to rise above the deepest dread
Only to find that they had countered my move
And dragged me back where it all began

And so the game goes on in silence
One step forward and two steps back
They give me room to move and walk some
Before once again putting me in check

Should I ever find myself fleeing them
And winning just one round
Then I should become unconditionally free
And check would certainly be my mate

21.7.2007

CHILLY WINDS

Upon a high blue mountain in the cool of winters breath
Where chilly winds cross over with the sudden touch of death

A lonely stranger wanders in his coat of wool and fur
And cries out to the sunken night 'what did you do with her'

His eyes are misty pools of tears he's cried for ever more
His ageing hands are frozen stiff within the gloves he wore
And his feet are chilblained laden – he is dying there inside
But still he seeks his love one lost upon the mountain side

If you listen to the chilling winds that blow down from afar
Across the ragged mountains sleeping sound beneath the stars
You will hear his words of sorrow fly from mountain to the sea
Words that echo mournfully 'please bring her back to me'

10.3.2011

COLD THE WIND BLOWS

Cold the wind blows – cold the wind blows
Cold is the breath of the wind to and throe
Mean is the touch of the breeze in the trees
Cold is the wind as it tackles the leaves

Cold the wind blows as it sighs through the night
Cold are the shadows that follow in flight
Mean is its smile as it runs through the grass
Cold is its touch as it grabs at my arse

Cold the wind blows as cranky as sin
Cold is its breath as it closes on in
Cold is its laugh as it blows everywhere
Cold on my skin and it's cold in my hair

Cold on my back and so cold on my spine
Cold is the wind as it follows behind
Cold is its breath as it breathes down my back
Cold is the wind as it blows down the track

Cold the wind blows – cold the wind blows
Cold is the breath of the wind to and throe
Cold are its hands as it pushes me on
I am so glad I have underpants on

Cold is the wind of the winter that's come
Cold is the wind even under the sun
Cold are the nights and so cold are the days
I wish that by God it would all blow away

30.5.2004

COME ONE DAY

Come one day I'm gonna be master
Won't be slave to the voice within
Gonna have strength to fight disaster
Face it all with a great big grin

Walk so tall and pace the long highway
Gonna get rhythm with a swinging beat
Follow my drum that has long been silent
Climb that stairway under my feet

Come one day I'm gonna see brightness
Challenge each day with a strength so keen
Race through life like a cannon ball roaring
A trail of dust will be all to be seen

Follow the rhythm of the life of nature
Challenge each day as it comes along
Stand my ground as my own true master
Come one day – let it be not long

8.11.1982

COME WALK WITH ME

Come walk with me my friend
For I've a tale that I must tell
Come take my hand and follow me
Let's walk this night in hell

Can you see the rising plume
Of the smoke that fills the air
The acrid smell of cordite
And the sounds of great despair

Can you taste the dust that flies
In the air as the cannons roar
The taste of death has touched your buds
My friend – this is war

Can you feel the trembling ground
As the tanks roll 'cross the land
Can you feel the fear we feel
As we dive into the sand

Can you hear the mournful cries
Of those we left behind
The souls that died but linger on
In each and every mind

Can you sense the cold cold hand
Upon your shoulder placed
Can you sense death walking near
Into your presence graced

And can you hear the haunting cries
Of the souls as they lay dying
Can you see the bloods so red
My friend – why are you crying

See that flag that flies so proud
It stands for freedom friend
Honour it and those who serve
Until the bitter end

Come walk with me my friend
I'll guide you home this night
Remember those that keep you safe
And sheltered from the fight

4.11.2008

DA KITTY

Da dog said he had enough of me
And dropped me on my posterior
Now he's gone and enveloped me
Addressed it to Siberia

Well just he wait, I'll get him yet
Dat dog ain't gonna laugh
I'll tie him in da trough outside
And give him such a barf!

2.1.2010

(Written for a contest about a cat and dog. The
Prompt was a picture of a kitten in an envelope.)

DA LIDDLE BOIDS

Da boids dat live in my 'ome town
Day got a lot ov nerves
Daze wakes me ups when I iz sleepin'
And I az a lot of woids

Daze lizin to me but da boids are smarts
Coz daze ave wings an all
And when ize gettin' a liddle mads
Daze luffs and duz boids calz

Ize tink dair coot an alz dat stuffs
Coz I likes liddle boids
Soze I don really gets too mads
An mine is happy woids

Soze as yo can seez
Dis iz all in fun
Da boids ave wun me art
And all daze long I luv to seez
Dem boids playz in da parkz

6.8.2010

DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

T'was a cold and dark and stormy night
Black clouds had rolled on in
And lightning split across the sky
And thunder made a din

I nestled in my comfy bed
Just listening to the sound
The cracking thunder split the night
And rain came pelting down

I pulled the covers over my head
I hid from nature's show
I closed my eyes to run away
I didn't want to know

I counted every clap I heard
I saw each spark of light
I felt the trembling ground beneath
This dark and stormy night

I heard the wailing sirens sound
I heard the raindrops tap
Upon the old tin roof above
I heard another clap

I heard the songs of birds outside
I opened up my eyes
T'was morning and the storm had passed
And nature's show had died

I sat down in my garden chair
And watched the birds in flight
And thought about old nature's show
That dark and stormy night

21.2.2004

DEAREST FATHER

Dearest father I won't forget you
Even though the years are long
I still love you and I miss you
And for you I will be strong

Dearest father I think about you
In the nights when all is still
How I miss you my dearest father
And you know I always will

Dearest father – dear dearest father
How I wish that you were here
But still I love you now and forever
Can you see it in my tears

Dearest father I still remember
Every word you ever said
And the picture of your warm smile
Is planted in my head

Dearest father I hope you hear me
In the heavens up above
Know how I miss you – how I miss you
And I'm sending you my love

18.6.2005

DEATH

The General turned 'round and he faced all his men
 Battle torn figures stood tall
 Rifles in hand as they stood in their line
 And death keeps an eye on them all

 Out in the mud where the dead all now lay
 A morbid hand touches the soil
As death strikes a blow on the figures out there
 Who die in their hour of toil

And trenches of blood and hell torn dead figures
 And shelters that gave with the strain
 Hold darkness and merciless eyes of old death
 Who thrives in a horrible reign

 Death hath no pity and sidles along
 And pounces on any and all
Marching in file side by side with each man
 And leaps with a curdling call

 A file of soldiers marks the time of the beat
 And the song and the tune are divine
And death holds a flag as he marches along
 At the front of the weary torn line

And in the cities the cries of the children are heard
 And women who weep in their pain
And death stalks them constantly evil and cruel
 To death all flesh is the same

 A touch of a hand that is icy and cold
 Upon each a shoulder will place
The mark of the one who holds claim on each soul
 The one who wears death on his face

20.10.1982

DEEP DARK ABYSS

A deep dark abyss triumphed in the waning night
 Rendering the space it squandered in void
A sharp eerie place where no stars nor the moon entered
 It collected all my attention as I stood there stunned

There were clouds distantly rolling in from the west
 Great streaks of lightning sweeping across the sky
And thunder claps could be heard and a rumble beneath my feet
 But I was holding fast to this sight there before me

Confused – in wonder – and devoured by its presence
I remained rooted to the spot – waiting and anticipating
 But the great dark emptiness silently lingered
And I was drawn closer and closer to its aphonic secret

Then the morning light showered its first rays of sun upon me
 And I gazed upward into the waking sky
Unable to comprehend – not understanding – without knowing
 And the deep dark void was nowhere to be seen

Some hours had passed – fluttered by and disappeared
My memory devoid of any comprehension of what had occurred
 Nor whether anything had occurred in the lost hours
And what had become of the deep emptiness that had lingered

I was quieted inside – I was stilled of outwardly words
I was shafted by the night that tore passed me and left no meaning
 Had I not lingered that moment to examine this peculiar sight
 I should not be asking myself now – what does it all mean

19.6.2005

DID SOMEONE CALL MY NAME

A cold and lonely winter night – the rain was pouring down
Alone I sat before the fire – my thoughts all scattered 'round
I listened to the howling wind – the drops upon my pane
I heard a voice come seeping through – did someone call my name

I bolted up my heart in fear – I scanned the darkened room
A shudder racing through my soul – I gazed into the gloom
But silence filled my lonely home – no sound was heard to call
Just sadness was surrounding me – just sorrow – that was all

I sat back down and closed my eyes and listened to the rain
When all at once again I heard a voice call out my name
I did not move – I could not move – I sat in utter fear
I felt a breeze go passing by – I felt a presence near

I wound my arms around myself – I dared not look to see
I heard a sigh – I felt a hand that settled down on me
I felt my body ease and still – and fear subside away
I felt the presence calming me – again I heard my name

I opened up my eyes to see but nothing was in sight
The presence there had come and gone that lonely winters night
And silence filled my lonely home – no sound was heard to call
Just sadness was surrounding me – just sorrow – that was all

20.3.2004

DID YOU EVER

Did you ever stop to listen to the movement of the night
Or still your words a moment just to hear
If you had you might have heard a voice crying out to you
A voice that might have filled your heart with tears

Did you ever stop in still a time to look upon the land
To see the fear the earth was spilling forth
If you had you might have hung your head and hidden it in shame
You might have seen the loss that you had wrought

Did you ever look beyond your needs and take the time to stand
And wonder at the loss that met your eye
If you had you might have seen the pain and sorrow that you caused
You might have even stopped to give reply

Did you ever see the animals that were reaching out to you
Did you ever stop and wonder where they went
If you had you might have still had hope and confidence in man
Did you ever – tell me – did you ever

16.1.2004

DO NOT MOCK ME

Do not mock me nor raise your voice
In defiance of my will
Nor dare to tempt this heart of mine
No evil dare you spill

Do not mock me with your evil ways
Nor challenge this will of I
For so long have I learnt your rules
And by those rules you'll die

These years have you held claim on me
For your sake flee tonight
Do not mock me Lucifer my friend
For now I stand to fight

30.12.1982

DOG TIME

My human took me for a walk today
It was something that made me happy
But the way my human carries on
Sometimes makes me feel snappy

It's my time out in this great big world
I look forward to every day
But every time I stop to take a sniff
She quickly pulls me away

It's my nature and I learn a lot from this
My nose is my special eye
So not getting to do my natural thing
I miss who was passing by

And another thing that really makes me mad
Is when I see a beautiful tree
I just want to stop and admire it
And just take a wee small pee

But no, will she let me stop a while
Not a minute I regretfully say
For just as I cock my leg to it
She quickly pulls me away

I need to pee just like anything else
I'm living just like you
I don't come by when you're having a pee
And drag your butt off the loo

She's always talking into that little black thing
She's got stuck to her ear
And sitting on that big long block
And forgetting why we are here

It was my walk time don't you know
It was my time to run and play
So why do you leave me standing here
While you are chatting away

Hence please remember when we go out
To stay off that bloody phone
'Cause if you want to take it for a walk
You can bloody leave me at home

22.7.2010

Written for a contest with the prompt being a dog
Waiting for its owner to get off the phone.

DOGS

Villainess Vinnie was viciously vile
He wore on his face a venomous smile
Very vindictive – ferociously viewed
From a very long distance – a mile or two

Cursed young Kaiser with a capital K
Keeps all the cursed crude strangers away
A comical keeper he quickly condemns
With a crooked quick nip to a visitors shin

Yellow young Yarram was yapping away
His tail a wag as you pass him today
And gentle he is but greedy as well
And a lively and trusting pet dog for a pal

Vargus was vicious as Vinnie was vile
He wore on his face not a very nice smile
He is also protective of his master's home
A very good reason you should leave him alone

Dogs will be dogs in their own special way
Either as guard dogs or friends just to play
You cannot deny – they've captured us all
With their loving characters so innocently tall

12.9.1986

Written about dogs my sister and our friends had.
Vinnie, Vargus and Kaiser were all
Dobermans and Yarram was a Collie.

DON'T CRY NO MORE

When the little babe was born it was such a chilly day
And a southerly was blowing all around
There were war drums in the air and uncertainty everywhere
And there was sadness to be heard in every sound

And the little babe he cried in his cradle oh so sad
He had come into a world so filled with fear
But his daddy held him tight as he cuddled him each night
And he listened as he whispered in his ear

‘Sleep little darling don’t cry no more
Dream your sweet dreams while you may
I’m here to guide you – I’m always beside you
I’ll keep the darkness at bay’

Now it’s many years on and his dad’s passed away
And another little baby is born
She is seeing the dawning of another world war
And she cries in her cradle forlorn

And her father walks in and he cuddles her close
And he whispers so soft in her ear
The words he did know he had heard long ago
And she listens as he holds her so near

‘Sleep little darling don’t cry no more
Dream your sweet dreams while you may
I’m here to guide you – I’m always beside you
I’ll keep the darkness at bay’

21.11.2004

DON'T FEAR

Sorrow had all but surrounded me
And sadness was all that I knew
Pain had been following me all of my youth
And there was nothing that I could do

Every time that I turned around
Trouble was there before
Anger and tears were my constant friends
And loneliness was the cross I bore

My childhood was filled with so much hurt
Dreams were things that I yearned
A place in life where I would not grieve
A place where there was no concern

And then I heard such a gentle voice
Whisper so soft in my ear
The voice I heard said just these words
They said 'my friend, don't fear'

And all through my life I remembered these words
Echoing deep in my mind
And my childhood has all but slipped away
But the memory lingers behind

And whenever things are looking bad
And I am filled with sorrow and fear
I remember the voice that spoke to me
That said 'my friend, don't fear'

25.4.2004

DON'T WHISPER MY NAME

Don't whisper my name when you see me passing
I know what the looks are all for
Don't turn away when I look straight at you
Don't shake your head sadly – I know

Don't avoid talking in case you upset me
I know what you all want to know
Don't be afraid of just asking the question
Just ask it and then let it go

Don't look at me when you think I'm not looking
I know what is crossing your mind
I'll tell you my secret if you want to ask me
Just ask me and things will be fine

Don't lower your eyes when the subject is mentioned
I've had plenty of time to adjust
Like all those before me and those that come after
Discussion is surely a must

Don't sigh and smile and pretend I'm no wiser
To what you are wanting to learn
I've got the answer right here and I'm waiting
To give it and still your concern

Don't whisper my name when you see me passing
Don't avoid talking to me
What happened to me just might happen to you
And then you will see what I see

30.5.2004

DRACULA'S DANCE PARTY

Dracula was up and the night was awake
All the werewolves were howling outside
And Frankenstein stood on the balcony there
With the Hunchback right there at his side

T'was a blue moon above and the gang were all there
For a party was about to begin
The whole graveyard shift was already there
And the bats were all out on the wing

Wolfman was waiting for Drac to announce
That the party was ready to roll
And the vampires danced on the terrace above
While the devil searched 'round for a soul

Dracula opened his black flowing cape
And smiled as he set into motion
The party that all had been so waiting for
And they hit the floor with a commotion

Swinging and rolling and hurling around
The dancers swept 'round with the rhythm
While Boris's band on the stage rocked along
Enjoying the night they were given

The graveyard below was alive with such joy
All the dead of the night were enjoying
The party that Dracula threw for them there
And the spells of the night were employing

T'was only when such a blue moon came about
That our Drac would call on all the sleeping
They'd dance in the night 'til the morning came along
T'was tradition that they were all keeping

So when the blue moon comes about you again
And the stars up above are there prancing
Remember this is the night of the dead
And the time when they all come out dancing

19.9.2011

DRAGONS

The evil King could not believe
That dragons were all nice
He thought them fierce and angry
And would not take advice

He called the mighty Priestess
Who was fair and pale of skin
And told her of the words he heard
That sure embarrassed him

The Priestess gave a little smile
And said 'you are deceived
Fantastic things can happen
If you just try to believe'

Encouraging a little faith
Though empty were his eyes
He tried to look excited
But his gaze was full of lies

He called on all the hunters
All the Knights he called to fore
And from that day on all mankind
And dragons went to war

27.12.2009

DREAM WEAVER

He'd come on silent step last night
My heart was yet to know
Just what the presence really meant
And what gifts he would sow

Through silent dreams I wandered on
'Til music caught my ear
And I had turned to see him there
Just two steps to the rear

I knew his heart for it had been
With mine since I was born
And standing there I saw the light
My friend had meekly worn

Hand in hand we wandered on
Through dreams that made me swoon
'Til darkness once again took flight
And light lit up my room

Awaking from my tender dreams
I sighed and bid good-bye
To he who I knew would return
When the golden moon came by

27.6.2010

DREAMS

When I dream – I dream alone
In the moonlights golden candle
Where a seed was sown

So long ago – in yonder days
My dreams are filled with yearning
Lost along the way

Where did they go – why did they come
Why did they leave me restless
Neath the morning sun

I live my days – not knowing why
My life has been so empty
And what makes me cry

I feel the pain – the longing for
A thing I cannot handle
Or can see no more

All through my life – I've searched in vain
To understand the wanting
That leaves me in pain

I feel apart – from other man
As down the road of life I walk
Throughout the land

I feel the need – I live the test
I need to find the answer
That will give me rest

But life goes on – and so it seems
I'll dream my dreams alone
And all they'll be is dreams

When I lay down – I call to them
And hope that they will answer me
And return again

But until that time – I'll wander through
This life that I was given
And dream dreams I knew

3.7.2004

Written for a song contest.

DRUNK AGAIN

He's sleeping like a baby 'cause he got so pissed last night
Was out there on the town all eve and really looks a sight
We thought that he'd come home by dawn and curl up on his mat
But no he's drunk there in the lane that devil of a cat

He's smoked a packet or two I see for butts are everywhere
And even one hangs from his mouth like he doesn't even care
His breath smells bad and his furs a mess and his eyes are just like glass
When he wakes up I'll give him heaps and kick him in the arse

He's sleeping like a baby 'cause he got so pissed last night
He cannot even move this morn and looks a sorry sight
We thought that he'd come home by dawn and curl up on his mat
That's what you get when you take in a drunken homeless cat

22.11.2009

Written for a contest with a cat as the prompt. The cat was lying on the ground with an empty bottle and a pack of cigarettes.

DYING

A young soldier stood there in silence
His eyes sweeping over the ground
Before him the dead were all lying
Where the others had cut them all down

His rifle he dropped on the gold sand
And he clasped both his hands to his head
As he looked on the scene there before him
That ran with the blood of the dead

He dropped to his knees and was crying
Such carnage he suffered to see
He mourned for the dead all around him
And wondered how this could all be

Then he lifted his eyes to the heavens
And prayed that the worst was all gone
That the war would be over quickly
So no other soldier would die

Then a hand came and pressed on his shoulder
And he turned to look into the eye
Of the figure that was standing beside him
And again the young soldier did cry

Then he rose to his feet and stood staring
At the figure that stood at his side
A halo was shining around him
And peace was the feeling inside

A great light came down from the heavens
And the soldiers walked into the light
And the young soldier turned and went with them
His battle was over that night

25.10.2004

EARTHS DEATH

I was standing outside looking upward
And over the tree line I spied
A great orange mist in the distance
That rose in the light morning sky

I stood there in silence and wondered
Just what this odd mist could thus be
It was turning and rolling on over
And looking so strangely to me

It took on a glow that was fiery
A yellow haze hung all around
Up over the tree line it floated
And slowly was coming on down

I ran into the house and I shouted
'Come quickly – come see what I see'
And my father came running at my call
To see what the fussing could be

He stood and he looked in the distance
And his face became pale and white
He grabbed at my arm and he turned me
And ushered me quickly inside

I looked at my father in wonder
He turned and he looked in my eye
He said 'that is sulphur we're seeing
That's choking the blue morning sky'

From the window I saw it rise over
The trees and it floated on down
Upon the green grasses around us
And all of the landscape around

And so it had come like a great death
On our shoulders a cold hand was placed
Our lives would be snuffed out forever
There was nothing worse we could have faced

Such horror was brought to our planet
The war had turned day into night
All over the world we were dying
There was nowhere we could all hide

Such is the torment of mankind
Such is our fate evermore
Life had been so taken from us
Now there would be no more war

The earth was left barren and lifeless
No creature had lived – all had died
We perished in history forever
And only the angels had cried

27.11.2004

ECHOING VOICE

The sound of the cannons and the guns fell silent
The bombs that were falling fell still
For somewhere a distant a small voice was crying
Somewhere just over the hill

Although all around me the fighting was bloody
The sounds of the battle were nil
I heard not the sounds but the voice that was crying
Somewhere just over the hill

My gun and my knife discarded in battle
I ran in a moment of fear
Out in the midst of the battle we're fighting
I swore that the voice was so near

Running and crawling and howling with anger
I followed the voice in my ear
Pushing thus onward in search of the crying
I knew that the voice was so near

The sharp splitting pain that ran through my body
And caused me to stumble and fall
Cut off the light that I had been under
I heard not the voice anymore

17.3.1983

ERMA

A long long time ago in a land so far away
A young man found a cause to push for might it did display
He joined the marching armies of darkness dressed in black
He looked ahead to better times and never once looked back

He had a friend beside him – a lady dark and cold
The ladies name was Erma and she was a deadly soul
He took her almost everywhere – she was his joy and pride
He slept in peace most every night with Erma at his side

Hear the guns a spitting – hear the cannons roar
See the flames fly in the sky in this forsaken war
Feel the ground a tremble – see the brightly flak
Watch the young man marching on and never looking back

He came to a farmhouse where there was a cell below
A place to hide from enemies – his constant searching foe
He dove into the cellar but waiting there for him
Was such a soldier deadly in the dark and gloomy dim

Erma was no match for him and the soldier cut him down
He lay there in blood and gore upon the dusty ground
He cried out in his anger but his voice there quickly stilled
Erma cut right into him and he was swiftly killed

Hear the guns a spitting – hear the cannons roar
See the flames fly in the sky in this forsaken war
Feel the ground a tremble – see the brightly flak
Watch the young man marching on and never looking back

18.4.1984

EYES IN THE SKY

Scanning the sky with me scope one night
I got me a rather nasty fright
For somewhere afar in the heavenly sea
Two eyes were gazing back at me

Now who or what I cannot say
Was looking back from far away
But what a shock I undertook
When I had chanced to take a look

Now there were stars away so high
Sitting in the moonlit sky
But not before had I seen so
Two gazing eyes in that abode

But me with all my bravery
Plucked up the courage just to see
If there was so indeed two eyes
Sitting in the moonlit sky

And when I looked for them again
I could not see them on that plain
And I will never really know
If what I saw was really so

21.2.1982

FACT OF THE FACTS

Nomie couldn't see why a fact was so
So he said unto himself – he said 'I do not know
Is a fact a fact – a fact that it is so
I'm not sure that that's a fact
But then – I do not know'

So he said to Tamba – a bear of factual thought
'Tamba I've a problem and your knowledge I have sought
Is it right for me to say a fact is what it is
Or is it something else again I've not yet learnt to quiz'

Tamba with his store of thought said 'Nomie you must see
A fact is but a fact of life for all eternity'
Then Nomie brushed his whiskers and shook his tiny head
It was thus a fact that he had not got what was said

So he said to Sheaber – a dog who lived nearby
'I understand a fact's a fact but I do not know why'
And Sheaber said to Nomie – 'what Tamba says is true'
A fact is just a fact of life which answers it for you'

You see he said – a facts a fact and we are facts as well
And it's a fact that it is so – so what is there to tell
But Nomie couldn't see why a fact was so
So he said unto himself – he said 'I do not know'

13.8.1980

FAITH

There on the sand with a rifle in hand
The soldier was cursing the sky
The night had turned black - there was no turning back
And the days they went running on by

The battle rang out and he we heard someone shout
'Hit the ground – incoming – get down'
But the soldier stood there - filled up with despair
He didn't hear nought – not a sound

There was pain in his side and the little dog cried
As he sat by his master that day
As he watched the eyes dim of his faithful young friend
He knew he was going away

Deep in the desert with sand drifting over
The land - the soldier had died
And the little dog lay on the mound of soft earth
And nightly the little dog cried

His kind loving friend he would not see no more
But he kept up his vigil in vain
'Til angels came down and swept him away
To go join his young friend again

18.4.2010

FALLS

Rolling on over – rolling around
Tumbling tumbling tumbling down
The waters were raging
The washes were white
Over and over
It spilled through the night

The roaring got louder
The nearer we drew
Louder and louder
The waters voice grew

Downward it showered
Onward it ran
Further and further
Across the wide land

Crashing and dashing
And rolling some more
Over and over
The waters did pour

The falls were in splendour
The rivers were strong
The falls of Niagara
Are singing their song

16.1.2004

FATHER WIND

The wind was blowing – the sky was grey
There was news of storm clouds on the way
The hills looked dull in their shadowy hues
Of greens and blacks and browns and blues

The grasses swayed and bent their heads
And flowers bowed within their beds
And the waters afar stood up to see
If it would surely come to be

And seeing it would dived to the floor
In washes of white upon the shore
The trees put up their leafy arms
To warn the land of coming harms

And the birds and beasts in wayward form
Took shelter from the coming storm
Vengeful winds from eastern skies
Resounded with their chilling cries

And laughing clouds of black they roared
Tormenting all from shore to shore
With gripping hands it took the earth
And shook the ground in all its worth

And just to show its might and strength
It sent a flash of light in length
That touched the clouds and wriggled down
In sound defiance to the ground

It struck the earth with a mighty clap
That reported back a curdling crack
And then the clouds let go with all
It rained and hailed and snowed and poured

It shook and shook the land with glee
And tossed it 'bout so viciously
And all the while the father wind
Was watching on with a sullen grin

He nursed his anger though kind and warm
Preparing to disperse the storm
That from the east was cruel and cold
And sought to get a locking hold

But father wind of north they say
Would not be part of torrid play
And sounded from a distant shore
To send his warming hands before

And looked and saw and shook his head
A wind of hate should not be lead
But scorned and turned with merciless force
Back to its place and on its course

He sought the winds who roamed the west
And south to join him on his quest
And all came forth with righteous ways
To turn the eastern skies away

And in its fear the eastern wept
And turned and raced 'til none was left
And father wind held up his hand
And calmed the shaken frightened land

He bowed his head upon the ground
And dried the soils the east had drowned
And with his smile of warmth and love
He roamed the waking skies above

Father wind of northern skies
Is listening for those chilling cries
He guards his ground with loving care
With peaceful hands and warming air

12.5.1982

FEEDING TIME

I went down to the lake today
And maggies came by to say g'day
And as I went walking along my way
The maggies came walking to

We went to the seat and I sat me down
And the maggies all gathered - all standing around
Because they all knew some food could be found
And I was their friend who would do

I fed them meat and they waited in line
Each one was given a piece at a time
Then after the meat the bread so divine
And they waited all looking so meek

Then the ducks came out of the lake to see
What they could all get by coming to me
And they all got bread which was no mystery
And they waddled around at my feet

The ducks and the maggies were having a ball
There was no fighting or squabbling at all
They all got along in the sunshine's light fall
And I was enjoying my time

After the bread and the meat were all spent
I packed up my back and I quietly went
For tomorrow they knew I would be back again
And more morsels they would definitely find

2.4.2011

FEELING

What said I to my sister that night
That scared me and caused me to fear
Her answer that night I had not understood
I wondered at this much more than I should
Why didn't my sister hear

We had settled ourselves in bed that night
Her in her bed and me near the door
I was staying with her a couple of days
Doing our thing in childish ways
I never slept there anymore

I placed down my head not a moment to soon
When a feeling got swept over me
My body unable to move I was scared
I could do nothing as I lay in my bed
I was shocked to an awful degree

There I was unable to move – unable to cry
I was held by an invisible force
I felt myself heavy as if like a brick
The feeling around me was heavy and thick
I had not a moments recourse

Then I felt as if I had begun to rise
And the terror it filled me no end
I tried to break free
Of this thing holding me
I cried out again and again

I was angry and scared as I lay in my bed
I knew that I wasn't asleep
As the feeling came quicker
And the terror got thicker
I thought I would break down and weep

But just at that moment when the terror rose over
To the point where I thought I would die
I felt myself rise
For a moment then I
Let out a deafening cry

My body slammed down as if thrown by force
I tingled from my head to my toe
I lay there just thinking
Not speaking nor blinking
Just waiting for this to just go

I sat up in my bed and fast turned my head
And stared at my sister in fright
I asked her thus why
She had not answered my cry
Her answer confused me that night

She said to me sis 'you never said nothing'
I said 'I had called out your name'
But she said I had not
I was silent that night
I'd not uttered nothing again

What was it that caused such a disturbance in me
And caused me to wonder in fear
I had not had before
This feeling and more
But it would come back to haunt me again

2.8.2002

FIELD MOUSE

I am a tiny wee small mouse
And live in a tiny wee small house
My house is in a field you know
Beneath a great big wheel barrow

I share my home with other mice
Quite cosy and we think quite nice
Our home is warm and safe to be
When weather changes are set free

We run around in the field all day
We love to sleep and we love to play
Our field is grand so big and wide
And gives us places we can hide

When I am old and fragile to
And the body sighs and life is through
I hope in heaven on that day
I find God's field where I can play

5.11.2010

FOOD CHAIN

Two butterflies were fluttering by
Two little souls on the breeze
Winging around in the garden outside
And settling down on the leaves

One little spider was spinning her web
Spinning it 'round and 'round
From branch to branch she spun it so well
'Til she had it finished and sound

One little bird was flapping around
On a branch of a soaring gum tree
Singing a song as he moved back and forth
Chattering out on the breeze

Two little butterflies fluttering by
Flutter right into her web
Two little souls would be dinner tonight
For the spider who cocooned both them

One little spider was spinning her web
Spinning it 'round and 'round
'Til one little bird picked her out of her web
And gobbled her up and straight down

One little bird had eaten his fill
And night was now coming around
He'll sleep tonight in the soaring gum tree
'Til morning light comes floating down

28.2.2004

FOREVER DARK

What lies beneath the restless waves of time
Or the doors of eternity far from our view
What memories lay sleeping in the canyons of our minds
Memories of lives we once knew

From the paths of our lives we stray frequently
Unable to detach ourselves from the darkness
Restless days followed by restless nights
A canopy above us shutting out the light

Our lives begin and end with exactness
With little understanding of where we have been
Or where we are going, or what purpose there is
Our eyes blinded, regrettably closed to understanding

Dusk and dawn meet not – nor cross to enlighten us
The yin and yang of existence hand in hand
Lead us, but we do not see what lies before
And trudge carelessly into the future

Only at the door of exit do we fully understand ourselves
Yet, even then we do not heed the call
Yes – the restless waves of time keep moving on
While we flounder in its wake

4.4.2003

FROM NEW YORK CITY

Our boss he is American
He hails from New York City
He drives a Toorak tractor
Which we think is such a pity

He comes to work most every morn
Just hitting half past eight
We're supposed to start at seven
Man, we think our boss is great

He dishes out our daily work
Like he isn't there at all
He tells us all just where to go
In his New York City drawl

He's always got a smile for us
And tales to make us laugh
And other stories that he tells
That makes us want to barf

We get so many weeks a year
For holidays you see
But our boss has used ten years worth
And he's only been here three

He hates to work indoors all day
The computer drives him mad
We call him out for some small thing
And for that he's really glad

Sometimes when he is sitting there
At lunchtime, he is snoring
When someone yells, hey boss wake up
It's New York City calling

He rushes out to grab the phone
We're sitting there all beaming
There's no one on the other end
He comes back in all steaming

Oh what such fun we have each day
Our boss is something great
We think he's tops, the best of all
He really is our mate

So that you see is our small ode
Our special little ditty
To someone that we love so much
Who hails from New York City

9.11.2008

(Toorak tractor – 4 wheel drive)

GATHERING OF THE MIST

Like the gathering of the phantoms
The mist rolled o'er the land
Upon the hills and grasses
It lays a frosty hand

The peaks upon the mountains
Lay covered with a cloud
Of snow white mist that lingers long
As though to form a shroud

And the seas in all their splendour
Rise up to greet the day
With foamy waves of misty clouds
To see night on its way

Though the morning meets us coldly
The day it seems so bright
For the gathering of the mist today
Has caught us with delight

And the dew drops touched the flowers
As gently as the can
And for a time there lays a white
Of mist that hugs the land

The gathering of the mist today
Rolled slowly o'er the land
Upon the hills and grasses
It laid a frosty hand

22.1.1983

GINGER BOY

'Tis a wee wee boy that sleeps in still
He's dreaming of another day
When the sun comes up and he awakes
And he can run and play

This ginger ball is oh so small
He loves to bounce and run
He chases shadows and hides in them
When he's playing with his mum

Dreaming dreams of future days
With friends all on the fly
And they will stake out other kits
And pounce as they go by

Yes little ginger likes to play
His mission is to run
And fill up all the hours ahead
With lots of games and fun

13.2.2010

Written for a contest about cats.

GOD BLESS

When my daddy went away to war far from our land
I cried and cried and cried 'cause I didn't understand
I stood out on the balcony and screamed out in the air
'Daddy please come back to me - daddy don't you care'

The ship sails out and moves away 'til she's no longer seen
Out on the tossing ocean where the waters swell is green
Lost upon the heaving waves so far from anyone
Daddy's sits upon her deck singing as he cleans his gun

I'm sitting in my room today - a little girl of four
Playing with my little toys and unaware of war
I'm thinking 'bout my daddy and the day that he comes home
I'm sitting playing with my toys when mum picks up the phone

Today we went to see the ships that came from far away
The ships that brought the soldiers home and home is where they'll stay
I looked into my mummies eyes and saw a tear drop fall
I saw a smile cross mummies face when she heard daddy call

Now I am so much older and my daddy's passed away
And mum and I are standing here looking there upon his grave
I'm thinking back to days gone by when I was only four
The moment that the mighty ship brought daddy back from war

My daddy was a soldier and he fought for this great land
He fought to keep our country safe on foreign golden sand
I know he's there in heaven and he's watching over me
God bless the fighting spirit of the ones that keep us free

31.1.2010

GOLDEN CANDLES

A golden candle burns as the darkness comes to call
A guiding flame moves upward in the night
A flicker there of hope that may bring on peace to all
If only we would walk within the light

The rumbling ground – the shifting earth beneath our feet we feel
The violent claps that echo in the gloom
The turning of our lives we sense is oh so very real
As we head toward our destiny of doom

Our lands have woke in anger and the people live in fear
There are tears of sadness falling all around
And we push ourselves thus onward to the end so very near
To the very edge of exit we are bound

A golden candle burns as the darkness closes in
And a guiding flame is spreading 'cross the lands
A flicker there of hope in the corridors so dim
If only we would reach and take the hand

Burning flesh and rotting dead lay putrid all around
Acrid smoke is filling up the air
And lonely people gather in their hour of hardened toil
And satin makes a grab for what is there

Billions lie in darkness – they have nothing more to fear
Their lives have been destructed, one and all
Not one soul lived to tell when the angels shed a tear
No living thing had lived to hear the call

A golden candle dies as the darkness sweeps on by
And a guiding flame is shrinking in the night
A flicker there of hope that had made the angels cry
If only we had walked within the light

9.10.2004

GUARDIAN OF LIGHT

The moon was shining brightly on the night that we had met
The shadows fell about us everywhere
The sound of guns were cracking in the darkness all around
And thunder from the cannons filled the air

I saw a soldier running through the shadows of the trees
I saw him dive for cover in the dark
I ran to meet the challenge with my weapon in my hand
And I heard the machine gun start to bark

I felt the burning tingle in my side as I went down
My weapon fell upon the muddy soil
My body filled with anguish with the pain that I did bare
I heard the voice of the echoing guns recoil

Then in the darkened tree line I had seen her come down
A lady came a crashing to my side
She knelt down there beside me and she took my chilly hand
And in the darkness I had seen her smile

I looked upon the lady as she kneeled and gazed at me
I saw the gentle light that came on down
And I realized this lady was the guardian of light
And in her presence peace and love were found

The angel of the heavens had come down to comfort me
And together we had walked in brilliant light
To heavens gate where I was bound with the spirit guiding me
An angel took me home that moonlit night

19.4.2005

Written for a military contest

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Someone came knocking on my door
I wondered who it could be
I was curious 'bout the strangers knock
Who could visiting me

Didn't sound like my neighbour Bob
He'd practically bash the door down
And it couldn't be my neighbour Pam
She's as gentle as a lamb

I wondered if it were Cousin Ed
He's as potty as a goose in a flap
Maybe it's Cecil from the corner house
Nah! He'd normally just rap rap

Here I am all on my own
Hungry as hungry can be
Isn't it just like a salesman, hey
To come calling just when it's tea

Well I won't answer him in
He can bloody well wait
I've food to be eating
And it's right on my plate

He can stand there forever
Starting ringing the bell
Scratch all he likes
He can piss off to hell

Hmmm, now I have finished
And my eating is through
I suppose I'll go see
Who I've not answered to

I walk to the door
And I gaze through the glass
The sight that I see
Sits me flat on my ass

That's not bloody right
That's a gator out there
We don't have gators
But I don't really care

He's staring at me
He's a bloody big grinner
Oh my God
Guess who's coming to dinner

8.11.2008

GYPSY

A little mouse that we called Gypsy
Was feeling just somewhat quite tipsy
When she drank a small mug full of beer
We watched her as she toppled over
On the head of our puppy named Rover
And onto the floor the poor dear

She tried hard to get to her feet
Her antics were funny and sweet
And Gypsy was hiccupping madly
She took her one step and then two
And swaggered as the effects grew
And Rover was watching her sadly

We sensed a big smile on her face
As she waddled all over the place
What a spell that mouse had us under
Then Gypsy bumped into the door
And went sprawling all over the floor
And Rovers eyes followed with wonder

Then up on her hind legs she drew
As her faith and her confidence grew
And she sparred with an invisible foe
She did a slight jog and tap dance
As Rover watched on in a trance
And to the floor poor Gypsy did go

Then Gypsy's head flopped all around
As she rolled there all over the ground
Then she fell on her back where she stayed
She slept and she slept through the night
We'd never seen a funnier sight
Than when Gypsy got plastered that day

17.1.2004

HANDS

I will not forget the hands that night of nights
Nor the memory of them returning
They were scary hands – such inhuman hands
That reached for me in bed

I knew I was asleep but that didn't matter
These hands were quite real
They were ugly and long
And grey and intruding
I was filled with terror

Although I was dreaming I knew I was dreaming
Trying to arouse myself to flee
But my body was paralysed
I could do nothing
I was completely at its beck

This feeling of paralysis I had felt before
But I was awake when I felt it last
This time I knew it was something more
I'd feel it again with the same terror
I was helpless

It was trying to pull me through the bed
Oh, I remember those hands so well
Like the skin of a lizard or something similar
But they were there

I relived this feeling once more in the future
But I would never see them again
They were embedded in my minds eye
And that's just where they will stay
I did not like them at all

2.8.2002

HEADING BACK HOME

Standing on the side of the road
Waiting for a lift back home
I didn't have a dime
But plenty of time
Looking to unburden my load

Looking like I'd never had sleep
Blisters on the soles of my feet
I'd trudged many days
Hitching rides on the way
I had myself a promise to keep

The light in the distance was bright
The glare makes me shut my eyes tight
I'm waiting its coming
And the engine is humming
In the dead of the warm summer night

I open my eyes and I see
Two angels coming closer to me
They're taking me home
Never more shall I roam
The angels have set my soul free

17.1.2004

Written for a song contest

HEAVENS QUAY

The ship was slowly moving through the harbour
Three thousand people stood upon the quay
Their eyes were misted with this day's departure
The lonely ship was heading off to sea

The lights upon the shore were slowly fading
The darkened night was moving in so grey
And still the people stood there hushed and watching
Until the shadows took the ship away

Upon the rolling waves out on the ocean
The lonely ship was slicing through the dark
Heading for the battle fields way yonder
Where everything was cold and very stark

The stars above would guide them to their mooring
Upon a land that rang with war and pain
Where soldiers would defend their rights for freedom
And many would not leave the shores again

And on the shores of home the kin will wait them
They'll hunger for the men to come on home
They'll cry a thousand tears there in their sorrow
Where sadness has for so long now be sown

The mighty waves crashed white upon the waters
The lonely ship was heaving in the swell
A rising storm was moving fast in on them
The lightning and the thunder led to hell

Upon a distant wave there came a terror
That sank beneath the waves and out of view
And then a mighty boom had shook the lone ship
And the lonely ship was sinking in the blue

The war had come to meet them on the ocean
A submarine had got them in its sight
And sent the lonely ship down to the bottom
Of the ocean on this dark and dismal night

Now many tears are falling on the home shores
The waters of their eyes will fill the seas
May God have mercy on the souls forsaken
May the angels guide them safe to heavens quay

5.2.2005

HITLER THREW A TANTRUM!

Hitler threw a tantrum
When Rommel made a boo
He wailed just like a baby
Like, what we're gonna do

There he was upon the floor
Pulling out his hair
Kicking and a screaming
Like a bloody wounded bear

While Goering sat there waiting
He was gloating deep inside
He saw the chance a coming
And his joy he couldn't hide

A grin upon his face broke out
His teeth all white and gleaming
An opening was there for him
Now Hitler was all steaming

And Goebbels sat there still and sound
Just lookin' on in awe
While Hitler spat the dummy
And rolled jerking on the floor

Then Himmler made an entrance
And he stood in shocked surprise
To see the leader lying there
And ranting hateful cries

Quickly he did turn around
And bolted through the door
He didn't want to witness this
He'd seen it all before

And Albert Spear came running in
And saw his fuehrer baying
While Goebbels and that Goering swine
Sat still and watched him flaying

And all the brass outside the door
Could hear him loud and clear
They shook their heads in solemnness
They shivered in their fear

And so the story went on and on
Until his life was through
But he'd never thrown a tantrum
Like when Rommel made a boo

11.11.2008

HOOPS AND STEEPLES

I came here to have some fun
And to meet some kindly people
But some of you want me to jump
Through hoops and over steeples

I don't care less about that word
I spelt wrong in my writing
I don't care 'bout that comma missed
For God sake stop your fighting

Just get a life and hang the errors
It's fun what we are after
Don't get down and look for faults
When all we want is laughter

If I am after these things, mate
I'll ask for critical viewing
So back off if I do not ask
Just enjoy what we are doing

5.6.2010

Written for a contest about unsolicited feedback

HOPE IN THE HANDS OF THEIR GLORY

Hope in the hands of their glory
Sorrow will follow on through
Sadness will accompany them onward
And tears will be flowing there to

Their eyes will know fear walking with them
Their bodies will tremble and shake
Their minds will be spinning and warping
With every step that they do take

Their thoughts will incite them to question
The path that they all have to stride
They'll hunger and thirst for their freedom
And know all the anguish inside

They'll march down the road all together
Concealing the torment they feel
They'll silently look at each other
And wonder if it is all real

They'll see all the horror come to them
They'll fight to survive if they can
And death will come calling upon them
And death will give name to each man

And their loved ones will all be there waiting
For them if they all should return
And after the long years have passed them
They'll wonder what lessons were learned

Hope in the hands of their glory
Sorrows will follow in flight
Sadness will accompany them onward
Throughout all the rest of their lives

3.7.2004

I AM

I am the keeper of thee - you will know
I am protector and shield
I am the guide who will carry you home
I am what is not revealed

I am the one who speaks in your heart
I am the one that you feel
I am the one who whispers your name
When you think that I am not real

I am the stars and the moon up above
I am the one who will carry you high
I am the preacher that preachers you love
And will give you life after you die

You will know thee when your time is done
No secret shall hide thee from view
All is revealed as you walk in the light
Thy kingdom is waiting for you

I am the keeper of thee – in this life
I am your spirit – you know
I am the angel who will welcome you there
To the realm of your heavenly home

7.12.2008

I AM PUZZLE

Some people call me a puzzle
But I am not the Rubics kind
Nor am I the jigsaw one
With a piece you cannot find

I am not the crossword one
You see in the paper each day
I'm not the one that's hidden inside
Others words to turn your hair grey

I am the one they speak of
That drives the men all mad
I am the one who is opposite them
I am a woman and glad

31.1.2010

Written for contest about women

I SAW

Sunday morning with a golden sun peeking through the clouds
I awoke to the strained chirping of the little birds
Gentle winds blowing across the green grassy expanse
And the filtering of sadness in the lost and aimless words

We had parted on bad terms while the music played in the background
Anger and pain turned and paced through the door
Little did I know that the moment you walked away from me
I would see your beautiful smiling face no more

They said the wreck was balanced on an outcrop over the cliff
Your unseeing eyes gazing out into the morning light
In your hand a letter of forgiveness written for me
As you slipped away in the quiet of the night

With that big morning sun staring down upon me this solemn morning
Tears streak my face as the rains come my way
And I let go of the feelings that brought this about
And run to join you on this most painful day

Upon the stones where the graves stand dark and barren
Words only they alone could understand read bold
And two souls walk in the shadows of the cemetery clock
Where time allows the years to unfold

I saw the ghostly figures on this strange and silent morning
Dancing among the flowers that swayed in the cooling dawn
I saw true love prancing in the hereafter
And I saw why such a vision was born

28.8.2010

I SAW THIS BROLGA

I saw this thing just the other day
It was so big and it was so grey
It dipped and tossed then flew away
Such beauty was enticing

It had big wings that stretched so wide
Glided out through the country side
It free fell down and loudly cried
As through the air was slicing

This thing was big and it was grey
And hummed as it went on its way
And I thought what a magic day
To see such things of wonder

And to the mountains it did fly
Shot up in the big blue sky
Disappeared from 'fore my eye
Warm memories of down under

28.8.2010

IF EVER

If ever you need someone to take you by the hand
To hold you when you're lonely – to cheer you when you're sad
To climb the hills beside you when you want to give in
Just call and I'll come running – no matter where you be

If ever times against you and you are feeling down
I'll cheer you like a crying child is cheered by a funny clown
And if ever you should need a soul in times of loss and pain
Remember I'll be waiting – if you should call my name

Like rain is life to roses – so life I'll be to you
I'll be your sun and shining star and guide you if you choose
I'll dry the tears you're crying and be there evermore
For what are friends worth having – if not to come on call

21.2.1982

IF GOD SENT THE ANGELS

We've lived in a world where the clouds always call
A place that is covered in shadows and cold
And if God sent the angels to come comfort me
I know that my old heart would then be set free

We've trod many miles through this unjustly life
You and me darling both husband and wife
Although we're together we're always alone
There's sadness that's calling our little place home

Our lives have been tethered by memories so strong
Of things that we've witnessed that were all so wrong
When we were young children we had seen it all
Suffered the heartaches that always did call

Now the years had rolled on and now we do see
That the memories won't let go of you or of me
And if God sent the angels to see us both by
I know that together we would be able to fly

Fly from the pains that have dogged us through life
Glide from the anger and all of the strife
And leave all the memories behind us my friend
And sadness would not fill our little home then

22.2.1988

IN BATTLE

The battle songs were sounding in the distance
The sounds of terror filled the stifled air
And the echo of the weapons filled the heavens
A ricocheting history everywhere

The solid ground we stood on now was shaking
The memory of our peace was pushed aside
The war cries sounded loud from every corner
Of our earth through every country far and wide

Tanks rolled out to meet the moving forces
Smoke and fire and blood was everywhere
And the cracking of the rifles left an echo
That lingered in the blackened smoky air

The raging seas were filled with ships all over
Beneath the waves the submarines did glide
And in the skies the mighty fighters thundered
Alas from here there was no place to hide

And the mighty spirit called on all the angels
For below a war of hate was sounding clear
They were sent to bring back all the fallen
And every angel called had shed a tear

They moved across the lands so filled with anger
And their wings had touched the dying and the dead
And the waters of the earth had risen sharply
Because of all the tears that they had shed

Then silence fell upon our earth so lowly
The mighty spirit lifted up its hand
And it banished there the demon that came calling
And had shaken every corner of each land

And the angels lifted up our fading spirits
And peace had come upon us all again
And the only tears you'll see the angels crying
Are those that fall upon us when it rains

21.3.2005

IN LIFE

When the rains falling down - the angels are crying
When the winds start to blow – they're angry and mad
When the sun's shining down - they're happy and smiling
The heavens are watching the progress of man

When a baby is born – then a flower is blooming
When a flower bows its head – a soul passed away
When the stars are on high and the moon is there golden
The angels are putting themselves on display

The spirits are there and they're watching us daily
They're guiding us through this school we attend
The process of learning and growing much wiser
They're there 'til eternity comes to an end

26.3.2004

IN THE NIGHT

When the evening shadows come and the stars are shining down
And the golden moon above lies softly on the ground
When the birds are left in sleep and the crickets start to sing
And a cooling wind does blowing moving bats upon the wing

I will rise to meet the dark and walk softly in the night
With the shadows at my feet and the owls above in flight
I will sit out in my chair and I will watch the moon beams dance
Through the southern lights above as through the clouds they glance

I will wait to hear you call on the breeze that's passing by
Perhaps your silhouette will glide over in the night
I will see the fiery tails of the meteors that fall
Blazing 'cross the sky above and downward one and all

I will blend there in the shadows hiding from the trials of day
And listen to the whisper of the winds that pass my way
I will taste the peace around me and harmony will flow
And the rhythm of the universe will rest on me below

And when my eyes are restless and I trudge away to bed
The humming of the night that's come will slumber in my head
And when the morning wakes me with a gentle kiss of light
I'll travel through the coming day and wait for you this night

9.1.2005

JENNY

Sweet dreamin' Jenny – sweet dreamin' girl
Head on your pillow and lost in a world
Full of great wonder that all children know
A place of pure beauty no adult can go

I see you sleep soundly with a smile on your face
Wish I could follow to that special place
Where little kids laughter is filling the air
Oh how I wish I was still running there

Sweet dreamin' Jenny – sweet dreamin' girl
I watch as you sleep as your magic unfurls
Taking you off in a land of pure joy
A world only meant for the girls and the boys

10.4.2010

JESSIE'S RETURN

The long dead form of Jessie James steps in to the street
And challenges the dark menacing shadow before him
His hands to his hips barely touching the tip of his guns
While his eyes glazed and dead stare upon his nemesis

Slowly they make their way forward- the moment hushed
As people gather in the saloon to watch
And the moon above covers with dark eerie cloud
While the coyote lets out a howl so mournful
It sends a shiver through the town

Jessie's footsteps echo across the street
While his nemesis's long black coat sways around him
His hands twitching in anticipation of the draw to come

You hear the sighs of the crowd awaiting the outcome
And sense the fear that drives their curiousness
As the two flaking, bony forms slowly approach
Their dripping skin falling to the ground in pools of mould

And the moment arrives as they stare the dead mans stare
Both taking the stance as the coyote once again howls
And the hands of both rip their guns from their holsters

They aim and fire and from their guns falls the little flags...
Trick or treat and for a moment, Jessie smiles
As a great heavy fog fills the street and as they both vanish
Into the mist, we hear the cry – 'until next year, Jessie.'

31.10.2009

JOURNEY TO THE EDGE OF TIME

I go back through an age old life
Shrouded by anger and hunger and strife
Lead by a yearning – a desperate soul
Reaching for something – unseen – untold

Rishamian – you did it for me
Challenged my right to set my soul free
Guided me through those waters of pain
Watching me – helping me handle the strain

You followed my path with undaunted faith
Giving me strength to walk in your wake
Showed me the passage I'm fated to walk
With hands so warm you hold as we talk

Now – nightly I walk to the edge of a time
A life that has haunted and shadowed in mine
And I see through the blind as I stand and I gaze
With wonder in silence the depth of the days

Is the clock not just an image of mind
That has bound and distracted the oneness of time
How little it means on the edge that I follow
Of the life that I led or the space that I borrow

Risha came to me when I was a child
When times were uncertain and thoughts were so wild
The lights from above were so calming and bright
And ushered me on through the veil of night

The soft spoken words echoed loud through the years
Through the days of despair – through the buckets of tears
Through my youth when it seemed that nothing was fair
Through all of these things my Risha was there

Each star in the sky that shines brightly at night
Is a beacon to Risha – my guardian of light
Through the darkness of space and the void that's so black
I know that my Risha will one day come back

So I will wait with true longing for my friend to return
Though I've grown old with years, Risha's presence still burns
And when that day comes and we're together again
I'll walk in the light with my childhood friend

3.11.2002

JUST A MYSTERY

In the darkness of the night
When the moon was shining bright
And a gentle wind was blowing all around
There were shadows everywhere
And a silence filled the air
When a little bit of mystery floated down

I was sitting in my chair
Looking at the stars up there
When a shooting star went blazing cross the sky
Underneath the golden moon
It had fallen to its doom
Then something just behind it caught my eye

A spinning wheel I'd never seen
Flashing red and blue and green
Dogged the path of the meteor as it went by
Then it turned and spun away
And I don't know to this day
Where it went or what it was that caught my eye

It did a loop and hovered there
Just a moment in the air
As I watched it it became a ball of light
Flickered off then flickered on
And in a moment it was gone
Just a little mystery passing in the night

16.1.2004

JUST ASK ME

Ask me to run on the ashes of amber
And walk through the valley of death
And I will oblige at your every command
‘Til I can no longer contend

Ask me to lie in a pit hole of snakes
And burn in the deserts of dust
And I will oblige at your every command
Because you have asked and I must

Ask me to lie on the crossroads of hate
And give up my all to my foe
And I will oblige at your every command
Because you have wanted it so

Ask me to fight when the battle is lost
Ask me to cover for thee
And I will oblige at your every command
Because you have wished it of me

Ask me to stand and be counted in turn
And suffer for what you believe
And I will oblige at your every command
Because you have done it for me

Ask me my country and I shall do all
Ask me and I will be there
I will oblige at your every command
Because I have loved you so dear

14.9.1982

JUST CRUISING

Some peoples see us on our bike
And ask where we're going
We say we just are going out
But where we are not knowing

We ride along the highway
And we wave to all that pass
We hope we do not overturn
And end up on our arse

Me little sister sitting there
Says 'watch the road you git
'Cause if you don't we might just crash
And end up in the shit'

We pass a lot of travellers
Who just stare as we go by
Me little sister hates their stares
And spits right in their eye

We are just funny hamsters
Who just like to have some fun
And if you do not like our style
You can stick it up your bum

26.9.2009

(Written for a contest)

JUST FOR YOU

If the morning comes with grey skies rolling over
And the winds around are pushing you too far
Raise your head and look beyond your little sorrows
You will know that I will be there where you are

If the sunrays up above don't filter downward
And the moon above don't lift its golden head
Take a step back and think for just a moment
And listen to the words that I had said

I will guide you through the darkening storm that's coming
You just take my hand and I will guide you through
And though the raging seas might reach to pull you under
You can bet that I will be there just for you

If you find yourself immersed in swollen rivers
And your life begins to ebb away with time
Close your eyes and picture me there with you
And you will find that I will be there close behind

If the night falls black and no stars shine in heaven
And the evening shadows fall so cold with dew
Don't be sad and let the tears start there falling
'Cause you know that I will be there through and through

And when the time has come that you are parting
From this crazy world around you – nod your head
Think about the bright new morning coming
And remember long the words that I have said

I will guide you through the darkening storm that's coming
You just take my hand and I will see you through
And though the raging seas might reach to pull you under
You can bet that I will be there just for you

5.2.2005

JUST SHADOWS OF ME

My old childhood friends had been silent for years
But the memories were there and so were the tears
As the years rolled onward, I feared they would be
Just memories to hunger – just shadows of me

Thus life had moved onward and my childhood friends
Had ceased to come calling – I've not seen them again
Though their names live within me – their presence has gone
And the yearning for contact has long lingered on

Must we lose what we had, as young children were known
To forget and regret what had somewhere been sown
I will always hold there in the depths of my mind
My childhood friends through the passage of time

My old childhood friends had been silent for years
But the memories were there and so were the tears
As the years rolled onward, I feared they would be
Just memories to hunger – just shadows of me

21.2.2004

KANGAROO MAN

A fox may glide and a bat may fly
A lizard may drop his tail
But there's none as grand as the kangaroo man
That I saw on the outback trail

So tall and grand was the kangaroo man
Bubbling over with pride
He was wild and free like the ghost gum tree
Dotting Australia's country side

22.7.1974

KENSINGTON FOWLER – 2

Kensington fowler was weakened and old
Taking each day as it came
Sharing each hour with his faithful old hound
In their ageing but humble domain

They were once full of game but a tragedy came
When the woman that loved them had died
Heartaches and sorrow proved too much to bare
They needed a place they could hide

Ten miles or so west of the town they now live
Growing old happy together
In their old hut – their small humble domain
By the banks of a rambling river

By the light of the moon and the light of the sun
Together they share every day
Kensington Fowler and his faithful old hound
Silently tread on their way

Now the autumn leaves fall where the angels had called
And the meadows are vibrant and green
Lucerne grows high in its praise to the sky
That shines with a dazzling gleam

He lies in the grasses of Kensington
The willows a wall and a shade
His bed is a blanket of Lucerne
From nature of which it was made

He lived in a shanty of gum bark
And now in a meadow of green
The autumn leaves falling around him
The season of mystical being

Awakened one evening by angels
To the sound of the heavenly bells
Spirited off to a new land
In which he would ever dwell

10.12.1976

KENSINGTON FOWLER

When Kensington Fowler went off to the war
He left there behind him a wife he adored
A beautiful lady with kindness and charm
Holding a baby asleep in her arms

He marched away with a tear in his eye
To leave her was tearing him all up inside
Without her he felt he was nothing at all
But he had to answer the old battle call

Then a letter arrived and left him so grey
Their poor little girl had so passed away
Now his young wife was left there alone
Alone in her sadness – alone in their home

With no one to hold her and no one to care
No one to help her in her sad despair
He sent her a puppy to help her get through
He did not know what else he could do

He prayed that the puppy would give her some hope
To stand by her side and help her to cope
Then the war it was turning and came to an end
And Kensington Fowler was homebound again

He cherished his wife with eternal love
And thanked the Great Spirit from somewhere above
Together again they were never apart
She was the one that was close to his heart

Their days they were spent with their faithful old hound
And nothing in life could have kept them both down
‘Til one lonely winter on a cold chilly day
His beautiful wife had slipped quietly away

His sorrow was such that he hid from the world
He yearned for the love of this beautiful girl
Kensington Fowler and his faithful old hound
Lived out their days in a shanty they found

Days turned to years and the years rolled by
And Fowler grew old with his dog at his side
By a rambling river they lived out the years
With memories to hold them and plenty of tears

With the sky up above and the stars as their light
Kensington Fowler slipped off in the night
Together again with the love of his heart
Somewhere in heaven and never apart

28.11.2004

KITTEN

I was passing on by a small pet store
And I looked in the window and spied
A small little kitten there sitting
With tears falling down from her eyes

Her black coat was blue in the morning
Her eyes were as green as the sea
In the depths of the ocean out yonder
And the kitten looked straight up at me

I felt my eyes mist in the shadows
Of the canopy over the store
And I felt as she tugged at my heart-strings
And I couldn't take it anymore

I opened the door and I entered
And picked up the kitten so small
And she purred as I held her close to me
This tiny little fluff of a ball

I gave the old lady a shilling
She gave me a smile in reply
And me and the kitten were bonded
And not one tear fell from her eye

Her eyes shone like stars in the heavens
Her purring was soothing my heart
Her soft coat I ran through my fingers
From this day we would never part

5.2.2005

This is how I first saw my cat Lowannah

KITTY AND I

The cat looked up at me with green contriving eyes
I knew the mischief brewing in his head
He'd tried it all before and I knew his crafty scheme
Was to see me on his dish and somewhat dead

He looked me in the eye with that look I seen before
He was thinking things he should not think of me
I sat here feeling wary 'cause that cat was rather scary
He was plotting how to get me for his tea

So I did a little hop - and I chirped a little bit
'Cause I figured that I hadn't none to lose
I flapped a little wing then I flapped a little more
I had to wake that puppy from his snooze

Then the kitty started coming – he was coming really fast
He was ready for the leap into the air
How I thought my days were over but protective little Rover
Caught him mid flight and had swiped him fair and square

Little kitty tumbled over and he landed by the wall
And he shrieked as Rover thundered 'cross the floor
He went scattling through the room with Rover on his tail
And I heard him screech and spit and shriek some more

And I sit here on my swing feeling good about myself
And I sing a song and dance so happily
'Til the next time kitty tries to eat me with his eyes
And considers how I'd taste to be his tea

2.12.2008

LIFE AND DEATH

Distant stars have shone this night
On mortal plains of earth so bright
And racing comets seek their doom
Beneath a watching yellow moon

In galaxies of far-off worlds
Where planets sleep and rocks are hurled
At time as it retreats to rest
From days of searching our requests

The mortal essence has looked ahead
To other souls who now have fled
To greet their maker watching down
Upon our earth that's snoozing sound

When sleep has come and life is done
We race to meet the waking sun
Where souls embrace and see once more
The reason why we came before

Our lessons learnt we now renew
For spirits wiser can review
As they move on to higher plains
The losses and the greater gains

Death is not a thing to fear
For life is but a journey here
Where mortal lives will one day find
The reasons we were left behind

2.10.2010

LITTLE ACCIDENT

I got to get the washing done before the master comes
I did a little wee wee on her jumper
I hope that little dog don't tell cause if she does I swear
I'll jump right up and I'm really gonna thump her

I didn't really mean it 'cause I'm just a little kitty
But that doggy kind of scared me into action
But if she just says one word 'bout the wee wee that I did
I'm gonna put that bitch in permanent traction

10.1.2010

Written for a contest.

Prompt was a kitten coming out of a washing machine.

LITTLE LUPA

Little Lupa the elephant was out walking one day
When he came across an antelope who asked him to play
But Lupa just hung his head and he began to cry
And through the tears Lupa told the antelope why

I can't find my mummy and I do not know why
I've trumpeted and trumpeted but I've got no reply
I have walked many miles now and such pain I've incurred
I can't play today you see, I can't find the herd

So on and on he trudged 'til he came upon a lion
Who looked upon Lupa who was standing there and cryin'
And the lion asked of Lupa just what had caused him fears
And Lupa just hung his head and said through the tears

I can't find my mummy and I can't find the herd
I've trumpeted and trumpeted but I've not heard a word
I have wandered for many miles and I'm feeling so alone
I've got to find my mummy now so I can hurry home

In the night little Lupa took a nap 'neath the trees
He awakened in the early morn by a noise on the breeze
In the distance he heard it call – a loud trumpeting cry
And Lupa did trumpet back and wiped a tear from his eye

Little Lupa the elephant was in the herd again
He was there with his mummy on the hot golden plain
He was trumpeting and calling to the antelope and lion
Just to tell them little Lupa was okay and doing fine

20.12.2003

LITTLE SHANTY

There was a little shanty made of gum bark on a hillside
And a river rambled in the backwoods there
And an old man sits upon a log
In conference with his sleeping dog
And wastes away the hours that they share

And the skies grow dark and so there under
The hillside falls in silent slumber
And the man and dog drift off in far off dream
And the dawning greets them with a song
And the river rambles ever on
So far away upon the hills of green

A man who turned his life around
And put his faith in natures ground
And trusted in her wisdom and her law
He gave to her – she gave to him
He trusted in her every whim
And he could not have given any more

12.9.1976

LITTLE SH*T

It wasn't my fault and I swear he was rude
When we entered the street on that day
I got out of the truck to get him off the road
But the bugger just chased me away

He was not very happy and this he made clear
As he bit at my leg and growled low
I kicked him away with my boot but alas
He got pissed off because of the blow

He came at me again and I warded him off
As I walked up the street and away
He followed me down as I kept him in sight
And he wasn't out there to just play

I jumped in the truck and he followed us out
The little shit spoilt my day
But of course it is Friday the 13th you see
And I really should have just stayed away

14.8.2010

This is the first time I had been bitten by a dog.
Of course, it was only a little terrier
but his bite was quite good!

LIVING IN THE YESTERDAY

There's a long winding road that runs northward
Where kangaroos once bound on the plane
And the kookaburras laughed without a reason
While the lyrebirds lived up to their own name

With a bluey on his back he humped the country
And a billy at his side he travelled far
'Cross the wide and open country there before him
Underneath the sky that bore the southern star

Morgan he was once a merchant sailor
Seeking out adventures near and wide
Searching for a love to hold forever
To be there standing firmly by his side

And along came Sandy from the southern ocean
A beauty that he couldn't leave behind
He gave up all the fortunes he was seeking
To be with Sandy 'pon the Condamine

Forty years went by and then one morning
His pretty Sandy sadly passed away
Morgan found it hard to live without her
And wanders through the country to this day

He travels where the desert sands are falling
He wanders where the forest calls his name
And he can hear the trade winds softly calling
And beckoning him on the seas again

But Morgan cannot leave the land she sleeps in
He cannot leave her memory far behind
Sandy's voice still echoes in his dreaming
Still there with him and walking at his side

He's living in the yesterday together
With Sandy as he roams the open land
Pining for the love that's gone forever
Where the southern star looks down on southern sands

21.11.2009

LONESTAR

Lonestar you are a real champ
A friend that makes me smile each day
When you are here on A.P friend
I feel my sadness slip away

But today we're here to wish you well
And send you all our love this time
And hope you have a happy one
With all your friends and family kind

Though miles may part us in great blue seas
Across the ocean waves I'll say
To you my friend I send three cheers
And wish you the best of all birthdays

Happy birthday Lonestar!
3.7.2010

This was written for a friends birthday.
He lives in West Virginia

LONG LOST PLAINS

On the long lost plains of the long lost lands
The howling winds raced to and thro
Back and forth in pursuit of what
There was no place to go

Forward lunged the great wide spread
To the horizon where it toyed
To blister on its eternal stretch
Baked in the timeless void

The scorching suns vexed on the seas
Of the heavens above arrayed
Burning amber – seething hot
O'er the plains where it had strayed

The sands whirl – hungrily twisting
In a rip that whips and cries
Across the long lost plains and back
Teased by the bonding skies

Lurch the winds of the east so rude
Clashing with the winds of north
Entangling south and western gusts
They wrestle back and forth

On the long lost plains of the long lost lands
The howling winds raced to and thro
Back and forth in pursuit of what
There was no place to go

8.8.1980

LOOK INTO THE JUNGLE

Look into the jungle on a cold and moonless night
Where shadows do not linger and the birds will soon take flight

Listen to the tremble of the creatures all around
Hush now hear the silence as it moves across the ground

Dark clouds hanging over in the sky are looking grey
But patches in the heavens say that light is on its way
Beams of light will shower on the jungle floor below
And listen to the creeping of that something in the glow

Shafts of light that spear down startle all in sight
There's terror in the jungle on this scary moonless night
Within the great green cover there is something lurking near
Something that sets birds in flight causing all to fear

Squeals and howls and darting eyes look for hidden life
A master of the jungle is in there to bring them strife
Coat of orange blazing bright stripes of coal dark black
Move within the shadows there making soundless track

Dawn is breaking over where the creatures sit and stare
Looking for the trouble that they know is lurking there
Broken shadow creeping through the dense and sleepy night
Keeps the creatures all alert until the breaking light

Sunlight falls upon the land upon the waking ground
Shades of night are shaken off as warmth comes floating down
And in the wispy shadows of the brushes where they hide
Creeping tigers lurk about in silence there inside

6.4.2010

LOOKING FOR ME

I was running upon a wind swept meadow
Racing to the morning sun
Running away from the life behind me
Looking for a better one

I climbed the hills and swam the waters
Deeper than the deepest sea
Tread the mountain steep and winding
Searching everywhere for me

I flew on the winds of a great tornado
Searching for that place in time
Running and running and pushing thus onward
Looking for the place that's mine

I was running upon a wind swept meadow
Racing to the dawning light
Heading toward a place before me
Running from the darkened night

20.3.2004

LORDS IN MY DREAMS

The land of the lords in a canyon of gold
Twine mystic and beauty where wonders unfold
A land of the masters – enchanting – serene
An era of magic revolves in my dreams

Old masters of time in my dream world do run
Saluting the heavens and praising the sun
Bowed in their splendour of their golden abode
Wearing their costumes of diamond laced robes

Oh fair are the lords of the eras of time
Masters of wonder and old world's sublime
What magic possessed – amore had been
As I walked with them there in the land of my dreams

20.2.1982

LOST IN DEATH

Solid large hands clasping the soft veil
Between fingers worked hard to the bone
Knelt before the grave – shivering
In the cold morning light
His body trembles.

Tears stain the marbled stone
Words of love looking back at him
Words he had not uttered in life
Yet could not speak in death

Dark clouds cross overhead
Thunder coursing through the air
The ground shaking but not felt by him
His mind cries out

He lifts his head and gazes
Into the soft blue eyes of his love
She once again blows him a kiss
And slowly walks from the graveyard
Leaving him to await her return

27.6.2010

LOWANNAH

When Lani was just a young kitten
She toppled about on the floor
But now she's a big black go getter
She doesn't fall down anymore

She stands with her head up and knowing
She walks with a gait that is proud
Her eyes are so black and much wiser
Than others that move in her crowd

She's as sure as the sun is of rising
Her temperament humble but strong
She knows just how to get by you
And love you when something is wrong

She plays her games just like a kitten
She hasn't a care in the world
She loves to be loved and starts purring
When up on your lap she is curled

My Lani is just such an angel
In the form of a beautiful cat
My friend who is there for me always
And you can't get any better than that

17.1.2004

In memory of Lowannah – died 11.4.2002

MAGGIE'S VISIT

A maggie came by to visit today
He sat on the fence in his usual way
I said, 'hello maggie, how are you this morn'
He looked back at me just a little forlorn

He looked in the sky and I followed his gaze
I looked at the clouds through the grey misty haze
He looked back at me with a questioning eye
As if to say to me, 'why, why, why'

I sighed and I smiled, I knew he was sad
For the smog that we saw was really quite bad
For he was a father, he had youngins' near by
He was worried, so worried about the dark sky

I said, 'All the fumes and pollution out there
Are hanging around and consuming the air
Those factories o'er yonder are causing the stench'
And maggie looked out as he sat on the fence

I said to him, 'maggie, don't you worry none
There's nothing at all that can block out your sun
It's dry and it's still and it's hanging today
It's man's sorry doing, it will soon fade away'

What more could I say to this beautiful bird
That was seeking some sense in the answer he heard
What could I say to allay all his fears
What could I do to hold back all my tears

And maggie sat there as he looked down on me
I could see by his look he was sad as can be
And he took to the air - he winged off in the sun
And I wonder, just wonder, what on earth have we done

2.11.2008

MARKETS OF THE LOST

Yesterday, I played the party to the one
Who sells the fruits of anger
In the markets of the restless
Where time has long been visioned
By a blanket cold and taunting

And a jesting master reaping
Up the vast unknown pleasures
From the squatters grieved and standing
On the edge of their own time

So many searching faces
Gazing out upon the turmoil
Of the bustling world of strangers
Who equip the hopeless figures
With the right to mock the standing
Of the highest one of all

Little is in wanting
But so much in want of needing
Is prescribed to feed the borrowed
From the hand of one who cares
And if the hunger settled
And the soul no longer yearning
There is peace to be forth giving
In the next pass over world

4.11.1982

MAXIE THE MONKEY

Maxie the monkey was having such fun
Climbing the trees like his mother had done
Jumping and swinging and romping around
Then Maxie came down and he sat on the ground

We watched him and watched him and wondered thus why
He sat there in silence as the people passed by
His look was so sad and his eyes were so blue
What troubled sweet Maxie as he sat there in view

He moved not a finger and uttered no sound
His gaze was out yonder and we turned around
To see what it was that made Maxie so grim
To see what it was that had so troubled him

Not far away sat a child on a seat
A small tiny girl with no shoes on her feet
She sat there just staring with a face that was red
Red from the tears that the child had shed

We turned to see Maxie lift up his two hands
And made a few signs we did not understand
We looked at the girl with the tears in her eyes
She lifted her hands and she gave a reply

They signed to each other – who knows what was said
But Maxie the monkey had something to share
And sweet little Maxie he reached to the child
And the signs that he made, made the little girl smile

Then the little girl rose and she wandered away
And Maxie the monkey he started to play
Jumping and swinging and romping around
Somehow between them a friendship was found

28.2.2004

ME

I've been searching for myself
Since I knew that I existed
Feeling lost and out of place and feeling low
With this feeling deep inside
I'm searching for the answer
Just where do I belong – where do I go

There's a yearning in my heart
But the meaning is uncertain
There's something in my mind that calls to me
Looking for that place of mine
In the abyss of existence
Searching for that special place to set me free

In the advent of my learning
I may find a new direction
My heart will be at ease – in harmony
I will walk with new found strength
In the light that shines so brightly
Understanding then – my destiny

9.1.2005

ME AND MY DAD

My dad and I have so much fun
We like to play upon the sands
He keeps me safe with loving hands
And here we love to run

With gentle arms he tosses me
I fly just like a bird on high
That wings across the clear blue sky
And dad's my big tall tree

At dusk when night is coming down
We walk and talk 'bout anything
And sometimes we just love to sing
'Til day is sleeping sound

And with sleep now there in my head
I curl up tight and make a wish
Then give my dad a loving kiss
And slumber in my bed

I know that my dad will be near
To keep me safe and keep me sound
When night is floating all around
My dad will be right here

27.8.2011

MEERKATS

The meerkats live a hasty life
Avoiding all that troubled strife
They stand up high to look around
And live way down under the ground

They roam in groups in search of food
The young ones kept back in the brood
Where aunts and uncles will take care
To make sure they are safe out there

They have a lot to do each day
But always find some time to play
And youngsters have a lot of fun
While the adults all lie in the sun

But always on the look out there
They search the deserts hotly air
For dangers that may fly on high
In the sultry hot and reckless sky

Meerkats are such a joyous sight
That live by love but sure can fight
I wish that they could live forever
Because I think they are so clever

1.4.2011

MOLLERS RACE

T'was a race, t'was a race, how it showed on his face
A grin that was crooked and mean
With brows that were bushy, they shadowed his eyes
A scar from his cheek to his spleen

With his ruptured old nag with a back that did sag
And legs that were crooked and puffed
He mounted her once, he mounted her twice
On the third round, he mounted her stuffed

Then he got him a steed with a nature for greed
Though no one was game for to tell
And he ate and he ate to his belly so fat
Went off like a rocket to hell

It was Blamey no doubt who set off the shout
That Moller was bursting with rage
And the town folk who knew of Moller Belkou
Immediately sent for a cage

And young jimmy young took a hold of his gun
For he knew of the matter a nigh
And he pointed and sneezed and the trigger he squeezed
And blew himself straight to the sky

Then old trooper sheen took notes at the scene
Then set off to see judge Omore
But his fate was in fact when he was stopped in his tracks
By the steel of the old jailer's door

The town heard the smack as the trooper's nose cracked
And the heard the great steel door slam
Then they waited with awe for judgy Omore
To tell them the worse of old Sam

And Moller was sitting at the river side spitting
Obscenities into the night
His face was contorted and fists he was sporting
Just spoiling for someone to fight

In an hour or two, the day would be new
And the race would be got underway
But Moller of course was without him a horse
So he stole him a rickety grey

With his nobbled kneed horse, he entered the course
Its pigeon toes twisted galore
He set its nose straight at the barrier gate
Though how he did no one was sure

Now Moller he swore he would win it for sure
And off went the gun with a bang
And a blanket of dust over all it was cast
As the nags from the barrier sprang

Down through the straight the horses had raced
With Lannigan leading the field
And Poller came next on frolicking Bess
And Moller was hot on her heels

You stupid old hag Moller spat at the nag
And gave her a jab with his whip
And the horse in defence through him over the fence
To land in the mud in the dip

Crikey, he said and he fell on his head
And rolled on his back in the dirt
And as the stretcher came out, he was quoted to shout
'Blimey, that didn't half hurt'

He went to the inn drank a bottle of gin
And spirits of varying kinds
And he lit him a smoke with a match and the dope
Exploded himself out of time

13.4.1983

MOONBEAMS AND SUNRAYS

When the moonbeams touch the flowers you'll be sleeping
When the sunrays touch the sand dunes I will rise
I will look toward the southeast skies out yonder
And I will see the sleeping shadows touch your eyes

I will be with you as you sleep in silent slumber
I will see you in my mind and give a smile
I will know the dreams you're dreaming will protect you
And I will send you all my love these distant miles

When the moonbeams touch the sand dunes I'll be sleeping
When the sunrays touch the flowers you will rise
You will look toward the north west skies out yonder
And see the sleeping shadows touch my eyes

You will be with me as I sleep in silent slumber
You will see me in your mind and give a smile
You will know the dreams I'm dreaming will protect me
And you will send me all your love these distant miles

And when the day has come and we are together
We will sleep beneath the moonbeams shining down
And we will rise to feel the sunrays fall upon us
We will walk both arm in arm with love we found

So until that day comes we'll watch together
The sunrays and the moonbeams as they reign
Over us and send our love across the waters
'Til that day when we are together once again

9.1.2005

MORNING SUN

The morning sun was awakened to
The ashes all around
The pluming smoke that filled the air
Leapt up from off the ground

The trees were dead – the grasses gone
The sky so dull and black
And everywhere the sun shone down
No living thing looked back

The burning smell of flesh was strong
The flames leapt wild and red
The morning sun came out to see
An earth that was so dead

Across the lands, it travelled so
In search of life to find
But nothing did the sun there see
No life was left behind

A wicked war – a deadly war
Was waged upon each land
Our earth destroyed by so much hate
By battles fought by man

The morning sun thus bowed its head
And the tears began to fall
There was nothing left to smile upon
Not one thing lived at all

A morning wind – a heavenly wind
Blew sadly cross the skies
Just dust was left to fill the lands
And the tears the gods had cried

26.3.2006

MOTHER GOOSE

When I grow up I'd like to be
The ruler of eternity
I'd be the leader good and strong
And help to move our lives along

But just for now I will sit by
And read this book before my eye
It is the book that will teach me
The truths about our destiny

I'll learn so much and put to use
The secrets of old mother goose
And when I grow and rule by hand
We'll all play in her wonderland

12.9.2010

MOUNTAIN GOLD

High up in the mountains
A long long time ago
By a mountain stream
Where the hills are green
And the mountain ashes grow

There lived an old prospector
Who didn't have a dime
But he lived on hope
On the mountain slope
That a big strike he would find

His walls were the trees around him
His roof was the big blue sky
His bed it seemed
Was the grass of green
O'er the mountains high and wide

He roamed the mountains over
For gold was there he knew
He'd dig each day
As he made his way
Through the hills so big and blue

The waters of the mountains
Was where he bathed and swam
And food he ate
From the mountain plate
That stretched across the land

His dreams and hopes were calling him
He worked those mountains round
'Til he grew old
In his search for gold
And he lay his body down

And I bet there in the heavens
In the arms of the mountain fold
You will find him there
In the open air
Searching for his dream of gold

9.1.2005

MY BATTLE

My doctor told me that I'm fat
And I can't really handle that
So then I made my New Year vow
To prove her wrong that silly cow

Walk and walk and walk and walk
Is all I do and never talk
For where I go the animals play
I try not to disturb their day

My rolls of fat are splashing 'round
And some flop down and hit the ground
And up they bounce in their disgrace
And hit me in my goddamned face

So then I try to run and see
If all those rolls of fat leave me
But every day when I return
They're all still there – what a concern

My doc says I need exercise
Move those rolls and tranquilize
My appetite that's pretty sharp
My doc goes on and on she harps

Up every day when the sky gets light
I walk to lose and win the fight
Of the battle of the bulge ahead
And remember what my doctor said

She's right you know – I do agree
This weight does not become poor me
I'll exercise most every day
Whittle all these kilos away

7.1.2011

MY CAT

My cat came up to me today
As sat there in my lap
He looked at me with loving eyes
Such a gentle loving chap

His eyes were bright
His nose was black
His fur was white
And black at that

He purred and made a lovely noise
I smiled as I looked down
I thought I saw him smiling back
And then I had to frown

He was so sharp
And such a sprite
And let one rip
There in the night

My cat then trotted off by God
And left me all alone
With watering eyes that could not see
From the fart that he had blown

7.1.2011

MY CAT LUKE

My little cat is black not white
He sleeps all day and he hunts all night
He howls at the moon when the moon is high
And checks me out with a cheeky eye

He flicks his tail as he leaves the door
Then turns around and gives me more
He's got eyes that are wise and green
And an attitude like you've never seen

He roams the house like he owns it all
And never comes when I give the call
He opens doors then he runs away
And hides on me 'cause he wants to play

When the 'Tele's on he makes a scene
Plonks right down in front of the screen
He turns his head as he checks me out
Raises his brow and ups his snout

Frowns at me when the food is late
Then walks away with a haughty gait
Takes my chair when I want to rest
'Cause he thinks he should have the best

Stares down dogs at the garden path
Sneers at them when they start to bark
He wakes me up in the dead of night
'Cause he thinks he should – 'cause he thinks it's right

He tries to get to the window ledge
And he thinks it's fun to use my head
As a stepping stone for him to cross
He lets me know who he thinks is boss

He catches mice and he brings them in
And he thinks that I should welcome them
And if I start to read a book
He gives me such a dirty look

Up he gets and he comes my way
And flicks his paw to turn the page
And satisfied that he was right
He wanders off into the night

And come the morning when I rise
He's sitting staring in my eyes
As if to say – you know my friend
It's time to start it all again

12.10.2003

MY COMPUTER

My computer threw a tizzy
For the umpteenth time this year
And I'm getting rather tired of its game
If it tries once more I swear
I'll throw it through the air
And buy another I hope won't do the same

21.2.2009

MY FRIEND

I share my heart with you my friend
I share with you my all
And all I have is yours my friend
My friend is yours my all

If life should let you down my friend
Just up and give a call
And I shall hear your plea my friend
I'll not desert at all

And if the time must come my friend
That you should have to part
I'll not stand in your way my friend
I'll have you in my heart

30.1.1980

MY FRIEND THE RAVEN

My friend the raven
Comes down to see
He walks at my side
He never fears me

We walk up the platform
I give him his share
Of meat I was keeping
To give to him there

He takes it flies down
Between the train tracks
Puts it between stones
Then quickly comes back

When he has all the meat
He knows when it's gone
He hides the last piece
And then he flies on

I like my young raven friend
Who I see every day
And smile knowing friendship
Again came my way

17.9.2010

MY GUEST

The day was over as the shadows came 'round
My mind was sinking as darkness came down
My body was tired from the week I went through
And sleep was the thing I was looking on to

All of my thoughts they were slipping away
The end of my work and another long day
I settled down on my bed just to rest
Not thinking that I was to welcome a guest

My eyes closed and I was now sleeping in dreams
My mind wandered off – not a thought to be gleaned
And some time that night I was awakened in fright
Someone had come and disturbed me that night

I opened my eyes - there was darkness around
And someone was there though there wasn't a sound
A tingling feeling raced right up my spine
I lay there in fear with this thought in my mind

I then saw a shadow – it was closing on in
A shadow of something that was cast in the dim
I tried to rise but my body was stilled
I couldn't move there and it gave me a chill

I felt a cool hand lay on the top of my head
A feeling of terror had so filled me with dread
A voice ever still was now clear in my mind
A voice that was speaking with words that were kind

I felt myself rise and I moved through the air
The voice of my guest was all over me there
This night had come fearful and I was alone
I was taken away from the peace of my home

A cold cold table was beneath me and I
Tried to escape from the figures nearby
They were probing my mind and making me see
Things that I thought were not meant for me

They were testing me there and making me mad
 Unable to fight I was left very sad
 Then I woke up in my own little bed
The thought of these things so clear in my head

I was filled with such fear – confusion did reign
Who was the guest that had uttered my name
 I couldn't sleep and I rose up in fright
 Unable to function I sat in the night

Wondering what had just happened to me
Where had I been and what did it all mean
 I spoke not of this to no one for I knew
They'd think me mad and somehow it was true

Now when I lay down to sleep in my bed
The thought of these guests rush straight through my head
 I dread every night that I lay down to rest
In wonder if someone will come be my guest

21.3.2005

MY HEART

I see the flag a raising on the tower far away
And my heart is beating faster in the dawn
The sound of distant thunder leaves me feeling oh so strange
And another era of anger now is born

I hear the boots a pounding on the pavements down below
The rhythm of my heart is out of time
The day has come in sorrow and our fears begin to grow
We hunger for the peace we left behind

I see the soldiers marching down the street and close my eyes
My heart is shattered – by the curse of man
I try to close my ears so I will not hear the cries
Of the ones I know they call the truly damned

I hear the sound of breaking glass and screams come flowing in
My heart is breaking to see it coming through
The sickly sounds of war have again brought us to sin
How I wish for the good times that we knew

The sounds of cracking rifles make us shudder in the light
My heart is full of sorrow – so much pain
And the little children whimper in their mother's arms in fright
And the tears that are falling seem like rain

I sense the sound of bitterness in every voice I hear
My heart is aching sadly on this day
The cursed sound of engines of the war machines is clear
And all that we can do is hush and pray

A yellow star is blazing on the chest of many souls
My heart begins to falter – then it dies
I cannot go on living in a world that's growing cold
For in the face of the spirit does it fly

I raised my arms to heaven and I cried to be released
My heart is longing for the world above
Now I walk within the light of the angels and in peace
My heart is now in glory with our God

11.12.2004

MY KEYBOARD

White as white as it can be
Or at least that how it was
My keyboard has a glitch or two
But still it does its job

Some keys stick and will not move
Others have not heard
That I want letters that I type
And not ones it prefers

The k's and l's work hand in hand
But backward as I type
They cannot sort themselves both out
And the m's and n's both fight

My fingers try to do their best
But the keyboard don't agree
With things I want to say at times
And tries to out think me

But all in all it still does well
And may last one more year
While we battle over words
That we both type on here

8.1.2011

MY KING

I played my cards right and I won me a king
And the king was the master at most everything

It didn't quite matter what ever I said
He always knew better – so learned and read

I didn't know much but I sure knew the cue
Whatever I did he would do better to
Wherever we went – wherever we stayed
He always out thought me or so he would say

He could cook anything leaving me in the dirt
He even looked better in my skimp minnie skirt
He could sing up storm and dance like a swan
Whatever, whatever my patience was gone

I packed up my bags and I walked through the door
And never looked back - didn't care anymore
My king that I chose was a joke in disguise
The pool that I won was a pile of lies

So I never played cards after that anymore
To win me a king's not what I'm looking for
For deep in my heart I am looking for he
A soul mate that ain't out competing with me

6.2.2011

MY PUPPY

Here I look and there I look and still I cannot see
up and down and all around, where can that puppy be
I've looked out and I've looked in, no puppy was in sight
I fear my little puppy may be lost there in the night

I walk up and I walk down, my heart is feeling low
I cannot stop 'cause all I think is where did puppy go
Out and in and up and down I search about the house
I'm looking for a little pup that's quieter than a mouse

down the stairs and up the stairs I tread and still can't see
the little puppy anywhere and this just burns in me
I look up and I look down and search about in vain
I dare not think that my puppy is lost there in the rain

I run up and I run down the street in fear and fright
I pray to God to help me find my puppy in the night
I run inside and as I stand upon the step I see
A little clue that just might tell me where my puppy be

His tail is wagging just a bit for he is hiding there
Behind the long long curtains that hang down behind my chair
I pick him up - he looks at me- his eyes so big and bright
And cuddle him so thankful I had found him in the night

24.4.2010

MY WINTER HAS PASSED

My winter has passed
And your presence with it
Leaving me wondering
What on earth will
The sun bring to me
Tomorrow

Tomorrow the sun may shine
And hug me in its embrace
But your memory
Will always
Remind me that winter
Is just around the corner

21.12.2010

MYSTIC SPIRAL

Mystic spiral dancing 'round
Colours giving light
In my dreams so still and sound
You spin me through the night

Mystic spiral lords my dreams
With wonders to admire
Enchanting me in peaceful sleep
Sending my spirit higher

23.6.2011

NEW LOVE

A little bird is singing in the treetops far away
Singing to his mate below to welcome in the day
Within a clutch of flowers she is listening to his call
Swaying to his gentle song upon the garden wall

Little bird is flying to her mate there in the trees
Calling to her love one who sends music on the breeze
Spreading wings of wonder that glide silently above
Two little birds are dancing while their courtship brings them love

Come the spring to follow when the moon is shining high
Three little chicks are hatching in the nest now by and by
While two small birds they sit nearby singing with delight
Rejoicing at the three young births that sets their hearts in flight

A flight of love is winging up above this very morn
Two little birds are singing of the arrivals in the dawn
Their joy is sprayed with sunbeams that come from up above
To welcome in the newborn babes that grew from tender love

26.12.2009

NEWS REPORT

There was a news flash on TV today
I stopped to hear what for
The reporter said this just came in
So they're telling us the score

Is Obama really a citizen
I'm not sure that's the case
I hear the news reports that say
He is from outer space

They've tracked his ship in days gone by
And when he landed here
He told them he was sent by God
God's right hand man we hear

The reports came in both thick and fast
Obama denied them all
But we who listen to the news
Know he ain't human at all

We heard the maid that cleans their lodge
Saw them the other night
Slip out their skins and do strange things
That were not really right

I've heard the FBI is thinking
Of putting out a hit
On Obama 'cause he's such a klutz
Gives everyone the shits

I cannot say too much at all
This is all I heard them say
On the six o'clock news last night
I'll find out more today

6.2.2011
Written for a contest

NIGER

There was a young man called Niger
Who thought he could wrestle a tiger
But the tiger was strong and just led him on
Now Niger's inside of the tiger

5.9.2008

NIGHT

The night had come – the day was done
And stars came out to play
The moon on high was shining bright
The clouds had moved away

He sat down in his back yard chair
And closed his eyes to all
The cooing doves up in the trees
Lent peace with every call

A cooling wind blew cross his face
The air was still quite warm
And somewhere in this great big world
Another child was born

The stillness of the aging hours
The memories he did reap
And angel's wings swept over him
He slept a lasting sleep

15.12.2003

NIGHT FEARS

At night when I lay down to sleep in the shadows of my mind
A testing feeling covers me and fear is what I find
Upon my pillow my head lays soft – my heart in beating still
I watch the silver of the moon play on my window sill

At first I lay in calm of thought – my body filled with rest
‘Til something unforeseen by me decides to be my guest
My heart beat quickens – eyes alert – I search but do not see
That something that is lurking there and watching over me

I tell myself – be not afraid – go quickly off to sleep
So as to cheat this thing I fear that lingers at my feet
Silence – deathly silence is gripping at my soul
I close my eyes to run away from that which seems so cold

The night draws long and butterflies rise up to fill my hours
I coil myself in dreaded wait of night’s uncertain powers
Here I am – nestled in the bosom of the thing I do not see
Teasing fingers on my skin that distract my reality

I wait with bated breath in the dimness of my room
Not sure just what will happen next – I stare into the gloom
I look – I search – I probe – with every sense I can
Distracted from my calm of sleep – I wonder if I am

The tingle on my skin grows strong – my heart is beating quicker
A sweat runs down my frightened face – the feelings getting thicker
I curl myself beneath the blankets in hope that it will pass
My eyes shut tight against the light – I fall asleep at last

Upon my face the light shines bright – with gentleness it runs
Waking me from my deep sleep is the rising of the sun
I arise to meet the morning light and sigh now night is done
And laugh to think how I had feared the night now day has come

31.3.2003

NIGHTS FLIGHT

Burning amber flying high
Across the darkened southern sky
While night winds blew
And stars were bright
It came upon a soundless night

With silver form encased in gold
It passed above in heavens fold
Silent wings
And mystery born
Caught my eye before the dawn

Moon on high shooting beams
Of mystic skies and solar sheens
They rode the air
Without a sound
Gliding high above the ground

For there above they were to be
In golden flames of destiny
Calling space
Of distant time
Leaving not a clue behind

Night winds cry and call my name
And high above they search again
For solar waves
To take them home
As 'cross the mystery heavens roam

30.7.2010

NIGHT TERRORS

Upon the walls they bounce and climb
They do it nearly every time
Just after dark when silence falls
I see them there upon the walls

The strange aroma in the air
Of nutmeg lingers everywhere
In shadow they appear in force
To scare me witless here of course

They jump and moan and make me scream
And wish that they had never been
They laugh and holler all night long
I wish they'd go back where they belong

Through the night when all is still
They come and tease me with a chill
I bury my head there beneath
The cover of my thin top sheet

They always make me want to run
But running is no goddamn fun
When they give flight and make you scream
And chase you through your waking dream

Of night I am afraid to meet
And wonder what is at my feet
So I will sleep with my light on
And hope that terror moves along

19.9.2010

NOMORE

Butterflies rest in the clover
The bees have all flown away
There's no flowers for them to fly to
No pollen collecting today

Although it's the middle of summer
The birds have all taken to flight
They're migrating southward I gather
Far away from the darkness of night

There's a pretty young colt in the stable
So young and so helpless and weak
His mother lays snuggled beside him
For as yet he cannot find his feet

There's a flower of gold in the garden
But tomorrow it may well be dead
For all of the others have withered
And not one of them stands in the bed

The children are no longer laughing
And neither are playing their games
A nuclear bomb has exploded
And radioactivity reigns

The streets and the cities deserted
And no one is there to be found
They're either all dead or are dying
And some of them are underground

The songs of the birds have all faded
The land is all covered with dust
The waters have all been polluted
And machinery covered with rust

The baron world stands in its sorrow
There's nothing left – no one to share
No more is the earth that we tortured
It's over and done with for e'er

14.6.1982

NOW I LAY ME DOWN

In the past when the nights were grey
And all my friends had gone away
I lay there in my soft warm bed
And hear these words echo through my head

Now I lay me down to sleep
Mark and Mathew at my feet
At my head are Luke and John
Keep me safe 'til the day is come

When all my youth was done and gone
And all my friends had said – so long
I'd climb into my comfy bed
And hear these words echo through my head

Now as I lay down to sleep
Mark and Mathew at my feet
At my head are Luke and John
Keep me safe 'til dawn is come

And now I'm old with my youth long gone
And all my friends have passed beyond
I still lie in my comfy bed
And hear these words echo through my head

Now I lay me down to sleep
Mark and Mathew at my feet
At my head are Luke and John
Keep me safe 'til the angels come

25.4.2004

OH DEAR

Oh dear now what am I suppose to do
Where's the dog when you need him the most
Who can I blame since the dogs not around
Maybe - perhaps- well - the host

No one would ever believe it was me
I'm so cute and so fluffy and small
They'll all think it's her and all look so strange
Wouldn't believe it was me - not at all

And when they blame her she'll look for the dog
'Cause she thinks that he's under the table
And I'll just sit here and be just so cute
And fluffy while I am still able

26.12.2009

(Written for a contest about a kitten)

OH HEART

Leave off oh weakened heart
You have beat vainly to survive
The strain of trying to make ends meet
Is not worth all the pain inside

14.3.1976

OH, THE JOYS OF OWNING A FELINE

A cat makes a dash 'cross the lawn in the night
A tomcat gives chase as he follows in flight
And there on the fence they partake in a fight
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

The night was so black but the moon looked below
And showered her light on the battle and so
The word was sent out and an audience showed
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

I heard someone shout, shut those howling cats up
And that was the cue for the energized pup
He started to bark, woke the neighbourhood up
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

Now a chorus grew strong in the night oh so black
The dogs reaching pitch as the cats answered back
And someone yelled out, hey the harmonies flat
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

Then a siren was heard from somewhere down the street
And the dogs and the cats did their best to compete
They cried and they barked and they all kept the beat
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

When all was in silence my Lukey retired
And curled himself up on the bed that required
He take up three quarters, as he had desired
Oh, the joys of owning a feline.

22.6.2009

OLD COUNCIL GARBAGE TRUCK

An old white council garbage truck was driving down the road
Upon the back, two councilmen were picking up their load
From early morning onward, they would run their rounds and then
The old white council garbage truck would travel home again

Now garbos are a wonder – they keep going, rain or sun
They go about their daily job – they pick ‘em up and run
You never hear them moaning ‘bout the things they gotta do
They’re out there every morning cleaning your mess up for you

And when the day is over and all have done their best
They sit and have a coffee and enjoy a well-earned rest
But when the morning’s coming, you can bet they’re on the run
In the old white council garbage truck before the rising of the sun

31.5.2004

OLD RILEY

Old Riley stood below the old willow tree
A dream in his heart – a memory to see
A vision before him – as clear as can be
Old Riley was thinking of running round free

The mountains way yonder had captured his eye
The clouds floating over the endless blue sky
Old Riley was thinking but didn't know why
He was penned in this field as all passed him by

The trees of the forest were calling it seemed
The gurgling stream and the valley so green
And the birds flying over were singing the theme
Of freedom to Riley who yearned for his dream

There in the yard he was watching the bay
The colt he had fathered that blissfully played
And raced back and forth in the field every day
While Riley stood thinking of times far away

Now he'd lived a good life and he didn't complain
For he'd had a good friend in old Tommy Blaine
The horseman who had given old Riley his name
And had loved old Riley and Riley the same

Old Tommy Blaine came a walking one day
And saddled old Riley and they both stole away
Out into the meadows where the deer were at play
And the river was running where the shadows did stray

He spoke to old Riley of the days long ago
When as a young colt he had raced through the snow
With the flakes flying up and his mane all a flow
And he turned and gazed at that silent willow

The horsemen had run him right down through the glen
And in through the forest and upward again
'Til Riley was tired and just couldn't contend
With the steeds he was fleeing and the will of these men

They broke old Riley's young spirit that day
Roped him and led him from his home, far away
To this place where he found he was committed to stay
Never to wander now, never to stray

Now here they both stood in the meadow out there
Old Riley and Tommy in the cool morning air
And there was silence all round the grey aging pair
Tommy and Riley had something to share

Tommy then planted a kiss on the bay
Unsaddled old Riley and softly did say
'Go now my friend, today is your day'
And old Tommy turned and wandered away

Day's crept by and old Tommy grew sad
Missing the friend in Riley he had
Though for old Riley's freedom he was feeling quite glad
He was tired and lonely and feeling so bad

Then one morn as Tommy sat there in his chair
He heard a whinny that came from somewhere
It blew in on the wind – on the cool morning air
And Tommy gazed out at the shadow out there

It was old Riley coming – he was homebound again
He'd loved all the freedom but missed his old friend
He had made his way back from the once calling glen
He knew he would never leave Tommy again

Now old Riley stands below the old willow tree
Glad to be home now – just glad to be
Home where he knew his spirit was free
Free to be where he wanted to be

6.4.2009

ON GUARD

On guard I am most every night
Just after darkness falls
Aware that something in the gloom
Will tip toe softly through my room
And through the silent hall

As I lay down to sleep at night
The shadows start to play
And every sound will catch my ear
And bring about that awful fear
That will not go away

My mind begins its nightly check
My focus clear and ready
To catch the culprit at its game
Perhaps I'll learn to give it name
And teach the mind to steady

On guard I am most every night
Confused and unaware
Just why the dark unsettles me
And why it will not let me be
And what is lurking there

23.2.2003

ON THE DAY THE ANGELS CRIED

The morning came to greet us and a chilling wind did blow
And anger rang across the lands and fell on us below
The earth had echoed silence and the feeling deep inside
Was one of great emotion on the day the angels cried

I looked into the heavens that were clouding up above
And saw the wings of pure white that lifted up the dove
I watched him looking down upon our earth so cold and grey
And saw him flap his wings of white and sadly fly away

A war of hate was raging o'er the earth this very morn
And soldiers were departing for the battlefields forlorn
We stood upon the station there to bid them our farewell
And tears were falling freely and had turned our day to hell

And down upon the quay there, there were hundreds milling 'round
To watch the ships glide safely out and onward through the sound
With heavy hearts we watched them go – our tears had filled the bay
And stillness gripped our choking souls and sorrow led the way

Throughout the months that followed we were left in utter grief
Our lives had been dismembered in this war of disbelief
For many soldiers went that day and we were left to yearn
The hours of darkness over us in wait for their return

The months went by and the years did pass – so many souls were lost
Such bitter times had fallen us – such sadness it had cost
The soldiers that did not return were grieved throughout the years
Their memories kept in silent thought and showers of falling tears

And I walk upon the shoreline and I remember what they gave
For freedom and for our good lives we live unto this day
And I see the skies above us as the dark clouds roll on by
And a snow-white dove is winging there where once the angels cried

20.3.2005

ON THE WINGS OF A BIRD

On the wings of a bird I go flying
Flying right into the night
Soaring in the clear blue yonder
With the stars and the moon as my guide

Way up there I wing my way over
The oceans and meadows of green
I glide over all that is sleeping
And wonder at all I have seen

On the wings of a bird I am sailing
On the wings that will take me up high
Up there where silence is golden
On the wings of a bird I will fly

I will glide where no danger can chase me
I will fly where no troubles can go
I will wing my way into tomorrow
And leave not a trace down below

I will fly on the wings that are lifting
And glide my way up to the sun
I will wing my way right through the darkness
‘Til morning when light shadows come

On the wings of a bird I go flying
Flying right into the night
In my dreams I will soar through the heavens
And all that I see will be right

29.2.2004

(Dedicated to Shag – died 28.2.2004)

ONE HUNDRED SOLDIERS

One hundred soldiers were marching
Up over the hill they did tread
They didn't look back on the fighting
Their battle was over they said

Their weapons they left on the gold sands
They didn't need them anymore
The tanks they left burning behind them
It was no longer their war

Before them a great light was shining
The gates of the heavens were wide
And one hundred soldiers went forward
To join with the spirit inside

21.11.2004

ONE LITTLE CHILD

One little child is weeping
While another is laughing away
One little child is dying inside
While another is seizing the day

One little child is hoping
Another is living their dream
One little child is growing up fast
While the other is blissfully keen

One little child is walking
In shadows that cover their day
While the other runs straight for tomorrow
So spirited – young and so gay

One little child has fallen
A bright star is lighting the night
While another young child is gazing up there
At the shooting star crossing the sky

One little child is sleeping
In the arms of the spirits and so
Another young child is born to the world
While the angels are watching below

18.6.2005

ONE LONELY BELL

One lonely bell was ringing
Ringing from so far away
It was ringing to tell of the passing
Of old Mr. Rogers today

And the birds that were flying up yonder
Were stilled – they did not make a sound
The songs that they sung had been silenced
As they sat looking over the town

And all of the people had gathered
In the streets and they all bowed their heads
And the young children sat nearby weeping
'Cause old Mr. Rogers was dead

The man that drove the old milk cart
Had tears running down from his eyes
As the lonely bell rang through the valley
And echoed across the grey skies

The parson stood there in the doorway
Receiving the mourners that called
To the chapel that stood by the road side
To farewell a friend to them all

There they prayed to the spirit to guide him
To love him like they all had done
To take care of old Mr. Rogers
And keep him in his loving arms

And the lonely bell rang through the valley
So still was the coming of day
It was ringing for Roger the milk horse
To see him this morn on his way

27.3.2004

ONE SUMMER EVENING

T'was on a summer evening
When the stars came out to play
Where up above the golden moon
Smiled down upon the bay

Where the silver waters rippled
And the cooling winds did blow
Across a silent sandy beach
Where the tidal rivers flow

With sandy dunes to line the way
And waters pure and clear
There came a distant humming
That had carried to our ear

And gliding there just up above
With lights a flashing 'round
There came a ship from distant world
That settled 'pon the ground

We moved away in somewhat fear
Not knowing what it be
The heat from off its body
Giving warmth to all who see

And slowly ever slowly
Came a glaring flash of light
As a little door did open
On this craft there in the night

We squinted as we waited
And within a flash we saw
A little creature standing
By the wide and open door

It looked upon us gravely
Kind of worry on its face
And waved a little spindly arm
In front of its own face

Its legs were crossed together
Then it shouted loud and true
'Oh please could some body
Tell me where to find the loo!'

1.8.2010

OTTO VON BISMARCK

T'was a changing mood - thus here we see
A new minister president reigned
Otto Von Bismarck by the king was appointed
Though his enthusiasm was doubtful and strained

'By iron and blood shall the questions be answered'
Von Bismarck told the chambers and said
'Majority votes nor speeches won't solve it'
T'was the first speech these words were bred

In 1815 – Von Bismarck was born
And Napoleons final defeat
From a land owning gentry family he came
And in his youth he was tall and slim

But Von Bismarck you see had a love for the drink
And food and so he grew fat
For coupled together, the food and the drink
They tended to send you like that

He entered Gottingen University
Von Bismarck – he worked very hard
Completed his studies in Berlin and he
His law examinations did pass

To become a civil servant, he disdained the idea
To Pomerania back he did go
Where he successfully managed his families' estate
Though run down – he salvaged it so

He joined a religious group did he
And a Pietist he was to marry
Johanna Von Puttkamer – his wife to be
In 1847 did tarry

As the Prussian envoy to the federal diet
In 1851 was to be
And he stayed in Frankfurt for seven years
Learning statesmanship and diplomacy

In 1861 after the death of the king
The new Monarch took into heart
Removed the conservative Bismarck from there
For good relations he thought it was smart

He sent him as Prussian ambassador
To St.Peterburg – the Monarch he had
And Bismarck he stayed for three years there
Then to Paris was transferred instead

At forty-seven Von Bismarck became
The Minister President then
Had an imposing personality and spoke many tongues
And a ready wit was likened to him

‘I will either be the greatest scoundrel’
Von Bismarck had said
‘Or the greatest man in Prussia’ he spoke
And no other man could match his political writings
Barr Abraham Lincoln – I quote

Von Bismarck was highly emotional
And a promiscuous lover was he
A passionate gambler he was ever so much
And he would cry very easily

He suffered hysterical outbursts
Cholecystitis and more
Jaundice and also convulsions as such
And a nervous barbarian, Gola Mann had called

He behaved arrogantly I have heard it was said
And that he felt that he lived in a world
Of hostility surrounded by enemies as such
And conspirators much to his dread

‘If I have an enemy in my power’ he said
‘I must destroy him’ for this was his way
And much of the writings to carry on him
Would picture Von Bismarck that way

Of the iron Chancellor, Gladstone had said
In his opinion – the ultimate one
‘He had made Germany great,’ he said
‘And Germans small’ quote thus

Although the history of Bismarck is long
Alas my time is all gone
And so I close this short review
On Otto Von Bismarck of mine

14.9.1982

OUR CAR

Our car broke down last night
And it looked really sad
It stared at us as we walked away
It thought that it'd been bad

All night long we left it there
In the car park through the night
In the cold and dark it stood
We felt sorry for its plight

But came the morning JJ left
To see what could be done
He took some tools and headed off
To make that old car run

Back he came some time later
He smiled as to me he said
The goddamned spark plug led is bust
So gotta take another instead

Again he went and then rang me
To tell me what he found
The car now has a flat battery
And he was standing around

Waiting for the tow truck man
To come and get the car
And bring them both home and safe
So I know where they are

Now the car is home and safe at last
And JJ's looking fine
Put the car on the charge
And waited for a time

That's the joys of motoring
There's always something to do
But please make sure you say goodnight
To your car when you are through

So it will sleep both safe and sound
And know you really care
When you shut the whole day down
And leave it standing there

16.4.2011

OUR CUPBOARD

We have a cupboard in our house
That's full of bits and pieces
Got lots of stuff you wouldn't believe
Looked over by a family of mieces

There's balls galore, don't know what for
'Cause we never used them ever
Got stacks of books and fishing hooks
And a vane to tell us the weather

There's a model of Tarzan sitting there
On the shelf just above the jar
There's tools and stools and marbles there
But I don't know where they are

There's hogs and dogs and a petrified log
And a picture of Morton bay
There's bits of this and bits of that
That we might need some day

Oh, there's my turtle I once named Myrtle
Sitting on our old grey mat
And the mice are weary 'cause somewhere there
Is Caesar our Burmese cat

Our cupboard is full of goodies galore
Useless old bits and pieces
That might some day come into play
Watched over by a family of mieces

31.1.2010

Written for a contest

OUTBACK PLAIN

On the dusty track in the great outback
Where the emus rule the plain
With the kangaroo and cockatoo too
And the buffalo do the same

There is peace and joy and nothing to destroy
What is free and roaming the same
They all grandly stride living side by side
On the dusty outback plain

A didgeridoo will filter to you
When the Aborigines are playing
In the dreaming time they will happily find
Peace on the outback plain

Come on and enjoy every girl and boy
The rhythm of the song we're playin'
Let's all head back to the dusty track
Out on the outback plain

20.8.1990

PATTER

Just as the day was starting – my mind was filled with cheer
By the time the night was falling – my heart was filled with tear
The dawn had met me smiling – and set my feet aground
But dusk had taken my laughter and turned my world around

I began with a sigh of contentment – and eager to meet the day
But as I went racing into the night – all that was brushed away
I sat in my chair in cold silence – I couldn't believe it was true
My little friend Patter had left me – there was nothing I could do

His little soul winged off to heaven – I didn't get to say good-bye
And I could do nothing but sit there - in silence and let myself cry
The dusk had come calling upon me – and taken away my young friend
Yes, Patter had left me forever – and I would not see him again

7.5.2004

PLATFORM NUMBER THREE

The khaki clad figure stepped down from the train
A rifle slung low on his back
He stood looking round on platform number three
Beside him his old army pack

There was laughter and tears and reunions that day
Families rejoicing around
The boys had come back from the Great War afar
Home was where they were all bound

And the khaki clad figure stood there looking round
Scanning platform number three
Somewhere out there was a friend that he missed
A friend he was longing to see

And a silence fell there as they all turned around
As a figure went running on by
Right through the crowd on platform number three
Right to the young soldiers side

A little black dog with big starry eyes
Went flying right into his arms
And the khaki clad figure held him ever close
As everyone looked on in calm

Now the years have passed but I still can recall
The morning we all went on down
To meet all the soldiers returning again
Returning to our little town

And now when I go to catch me a train
At the station – I look and I see
A statue of a dog and a khaki clad man
In the middle of platform number three

9.3.2004

PLEASE

At the foot of her bed she kneels in prayer
And prays that the spirit might hear her out there
Clutching her teddy with pure sweet love
She prays to the spirit from somewhere above

Her mother and father are standing close by
Hearing her prayer she is sending on high
Their eyes fill with tears at the words she does say
The prayer that she's praying makes them turn away

'Take care of mummy and please make her smile
Please keep her safely and don't let her cry
And take care of daddy and dry up his tears
Please keep them safely throughout all the years

And take care of Bobby – my brother of three
Please keep him safely for eternity
And take care of sally – my sister and friend
Please keep her safely 'til times at an end

And take care of fluffy – my teddy bear too
Please keep him safely 'til time is all through
And now that I've said all my prayers you can see
There's only one left and that prayer is for me

Please take care of me when my time is come
Please keep me safely in your loving arms
And just one more thing now before I am through
I want to say thank you and you take care too'

23.2.2004

PRIMROSE PAM AND BIG EYED SCHNEIDER

Little pretty Primrose Pam
Lived her life within a pan
That stood so idle on the shelf
So Primrose kept it for herself

Noisy hairy big-eyed Schneider
Was the households widow spider
Who couldn't understand just why
Primrose flew when he came by

So noisy Schneider met with Buck
The nippy nasty farmyard duck
When asked by Schneider, answered back
The only word he knew – quack, quack

So Schneider tried to talk with Cass
The silly stubborn farmyard ass
Who blankly refused to say a thing
When big-eyed Schneider spoke to him

So Schneider asked old slimy Jim
Why Primrose kept avoiding him
But slimy Jim just slid away
Suggesting Schneider make a play

Schneider yelled in his noisy tone
If Primrose Pam is still at home
She'll fly when she catches sight of me
I cannot fly like a bumblebee

Then take a lesson or two he said
On how to fly in gallant spread
Just a lesson or two will do you grand
And soon you'll have your Primrose Pam

A spider can't fly, Schneider replied
Oh really, said Jim, I wonder why
And slid through the grass leaving him
Bewildered and puzzled and very grim

Schneider the spider's big eyes got wider
Wondering how he would get close beside her
And he thought and he thought and he thought so hard
As he wandered around the green farmyard

Then suddenly an idea sprang to mind
I'll ask Primrose to come and be mine
Yes, said Schneider, we'll marry of course
I'll ask the view of Henry the horse

Neigh, said Henry, that wouldn't be wise
You marry Primrose and you will quite surely die
For pretty Primrose is a great Queen bee
You'll tarry a while then she'll have you for tea

The life of a queen is loyal and grand
You'll do yourself harm to take her sweet hand
Though you are a widow and deadly to all
To Primrose's army, you'd in the end fall

Schneider went home and never went out
Stayed in all day, not leaving his house
He knew that he'd never have pretty Primrose
And this is where my story must close

16.10.1979

PUG

Pug had been watching my colour TV
And noted a show he was interested to see
A dog like himself that was strutting around
And making us laugh in this silly old town

He squinted and frowned and finally turned
I saw in his eyes the question that burned
He wanted to know who that doggy could be
And pug had expected an answer from me

I smiled and I laughed and my pug got uptight
And wandered away in the dead of the night
I searched for him here and I searched for him there
But I couldn't find little pug anywhere

All through the night I was pacing about
Wondering where my pug had gone out
When there on the telly I saw him walk in
I sat and I gaped then I started to grin

There was my pug in a curious pose
Wearing a globe on the end of his nose
He was strutting and howling pretending to be
That little pug dog from the MIB

I wailed with laughter and nearly did choke
But soon realized it a dream and awoke
And there on the bed was my pug curled up tight
Snoring and dreaming in the still of the night

5.2.2011

RAIN

One tiny raindrop is falling below
And a rose in the garden is blooming
As clouds up above begin their great show
And soon the whole place will be swooning

Another small drop and its two to the ground
The heavens are starting to open
A distant the sound of the thunder is heard
And all of the earth is awoken

Another great splash and downward she comes
The heavens let go with the water
The land that is dry is seeking in thirst
Thank God she gave more than she ought e'er

Rain pelting down on the dusty dry earth
Giving new life to the dying
All of the creatures are swimming in mirth
While the heavens continue their crying

A storm has broke forth and the land is in wash
There is beauty to come with the giving
For now all will bloom and life will renew
And bring 'bout much joy for the living

27.12.2009

RAINBOW COLORS

In the country – in the lowlands
Where the mist rolls slowly by
And the feet of old Jack Frost
Leave footprints every night

And a silver blanket covers
O'er the grasses green and tall
There's a rainbow hanging over
The sky above to catch it all

Colours so soft and wispy
Intertwine their pastel shades
And reach down into the valleys
And beyond in to the glades

Where they slumber in the shadows
Of the night gown cool and still
'Til the morning comes to fetch them
And led them far beyond the hill

19.1.1983

ROGER

There once was a spider named Roger,
Came into our house as a lodger.
We left him alone 'cause he needed a home,
And besides that, Roger would dodge ya.

Now Roger was a big guy, you see.
A huntsman, he don't bother me.
He stays near the ceiling, he's somewhat appealing,
And it's good that he's roaming round free.

He's as big as my palm and he's hairy,
But some people find him quite scary,
But I find him quite shy, this big hairy guy,
I can't understand those who's weary.

So if you see Roger one day,
Come into your house, let him stay.
He'll catch all the flies and bugs that pass by,
You'll never regret that he came.

6.9.2008

ROGER LEAVES HOME

Do you remember my story 'bout Roger
Who came into my home as a lodger
Well, the bugger has grown
And now has left home
The mischievous, unthoughtful codger

I was just getting to like the old boy
With his hairy legs and manner so coy
But now he's no longer
A boy and he's stronger
He's saying goodbye and ahoy

Well just let that fellow come back
I'll give him a mighty old slap
I'll make him so pay
For going away
And leaving me worried as crap

28.9.2009

RUN LIKE THE WIND

Run like the wind to the end of time
Where journeys are tested and true
And if God is about he will surely be proud
That he had gotten to know little you

His children run wild as they play their games
But sometimes the games are of horror
So run like the wind to the end of time
And God will be waiting tomorrow

Spare not your thoughts but scream as you will
Let the whole world know that you're living
And run like the wind to the end of time
Because you know that our God is forgiving

Don't let your life lay there wasted and dead
Laugh and rejoice to the end
So run like the wind to the end of time
And God will laugh with you my friend

5.2.2011

RUN LITTLE MOUSE

Run little mousy – run, run, run
Run right out to the morning sun
Move those feet and lift that tail
The old pussycat is on your trail

Quiet little mousy - make no sound
The old pussycat will track you down
Hold your breath 'til it is spent
The old pussycat has got your scent

Run little mousy, run away
Run for cover, don't linger, I say
Make a dash for the rubbish bin
The old pussycat is closing in

Now little mousy, you're safe and sound
But the old pussycat is hanging around
Stay right there 'til the coast is clear
Otherwise it will cost you dear

Run little mousy – run, run, run
Run right out to the morning sun
Stay alert and stay at bay
So you may live another day

30.5.2004

RUN LITTLE RABBIT

Run little rabbit
Run across the meadow
Don't stop and look at me
Your life has been spared
In this moment of wiseness
Run little rabbit, run free

Run little rabbit
Go run through the pastures
Race like the wind in the air
Lay back your ears
Go sprinting out there
Go live your life without care

Run little rabbit
Go run to tomorrow
Run from the fear displayed
Don't turn round
And look behind you
Take flight and live for today

Run little rabbit
Go run across the valley
Go frolic in the morning sun
Live your life
Be free now forever
Run little rabbit go run

30.4.2004

RUN OF THE STEERS

The cattle had never been run before
the drovers had all agreed
and all the hands across the land
came out in search of thee

Now once they'd seen the steers afar
across the reds of sand
but no one had come near to them
in that forsaken land

By dark of night they topped the hill
in wait for them to come
for it was said the leading steer
had set them on the run

For though the steers from inland hence
would span the valleys there
for waters from the rivers flowed
and inland t'was dry and bare

Yet men have said of desert treks
where steers were seen to roam
in heat that dried and scorched their skins
like they were quite at home

And said they too where all was dry
the steers held long and fast
that there they'd seen the roaming herds
grow fat on desert dust

And still the drovers held in wait
because the word had come
that men had seen the roaming herds
before the setting sun

Four days and nights had come and gone
and dawn was nearing knew
when old man Jim let out a yell
the steers had come in view

And distantly there came the sound
of hooves of many steers
A stampede more than hundreds strong
had finally appeared

Now drive them hard and drive them fast
the order hit the air
Let not one steer escape that herd
and let not one man spare

A run of runs was thus begun
across a land so damned
valiant men on valiant steeds
woke up a sleeping land

A roar engulfed the glens and hills
a thunder shook the ground
A trail that blazed a mile long
was racing eastward bound

Six days they drove in cold and wet
At last the end was near
For soon they'd reach the watered land
where they could hold the steers

And resting from the cattle drive
they sighed with great relief
for many men had tried before
and all had come to grief

And yet the herd was still not held
although they thought t'was done
for one and only one was free
and he was on the run

A great big steer with endless pride
and gallant, free and bold
was watching o'er the mighty herd
that man had sought to hold

By night as o'er by night they stole
he edged his way the same
and stealthy neared their sleeping camps
like a hunter stalking game

The sparks from off the campfire rose
alighting to his steps
crackling in the quiet night
where e'er the black one crept

His eyes in watch, aware and clear
reviewed the paths around
and fronted to his mighty herd
and still there was no sound

by night as o'er by night he stole
the herd stole off the same
and stealthy did they move away
back to the desert plain

No man had since been near to them
not one could match the wit
of he who led the desert herd
as he the black one did

The herds from out the desert lands
were set upon the run
on golden sands so fiercely hot
beneath a blazing sun

And men had said of desert treks
where steers were seen to roam
in heat that dried and scorched their skins
like they were quite at home

2.4.1987

SANDS

The hot burning sands ranged near and wide
Exploding under the drenching golden sun
Drying and exhausting to all who ventured
And played havoc with their turbulent minds

The seas of the skies above lured them forth
So days and nights roosted one on one
And weary travellers were unable to obtain
Clarity from the mix that led them onward

Upon the reaching desert sands
Dried bones of those who had gone before
Met their eyes, while beneath the hungry grains
Bones of those perished lay buried and forgotten

Was this not the same sands before us
That led our ancestors on the same search
Calling to them so they followed blindly
And disappeared into the past

9.7.2006

SCRUFFY DOG

Who owns that scruffy dog that's walking down the street
He's got eyes that twinkle and there's music in his feet

He's going for a walk as he does every day
Who owns that scruffy dog that prances by my way

I see him every morning as he takes a stroll alone
I wonder if this little soul has got a loving home
But then I know it must be so because I see so clear
Laughter in his shining eyes and not a hint of fear

Who owns that scruffy dog that's walking there on air
The little dog with big blue eyes that doesn't have a care
I wish the world of good for him and hope that life is kind
Who owns that scruffy dog of happiness divine

23.1.2010

SEASONS

Small clouds of bugs and honeybees buzzing
 Twittering birds in the trees
The croaking of frogs in the calm of the dusk
 And butterflies catching the breeze

 The sound of the ocean churning afar
 The clouds in the waning blue sky
And sunrays of warmth of the echoing summer
 Move off as the autumn comes by

 The mist of the mornings making us chill
 The frost on the grasses and plains
The falling of leaves as the trees shed their coats
 And the sound of the pattering rains

 The warmth of the fires there in the night
 The smell of the smoke in the air
The comfort of home, the cosy log fire
 And the silence that travels the air

 The snows of the winters are calling again
 The cold nights are creeping around
The feet of Jack Frost upon the green grass
 And winters breath comes floating down

 The chill in our souls that keeps us indoors
 Where we spend our days waiting there
For the coming of spring that will soon arrive
 And bring back the warmth to the air

 The sighting of buds that make their way out
 The birth of the flowers is seen
The warm colours filling the gardens around
 And spring is now making the scene

 The birds that return from the migratory routes
 Sing in the sun of the spring
And the sounds of the crickets lay claim to the soils
 And the bees are all out on the wing

New life has sprung from the land once again
And the sounds of the young are in song
As we witness the coming of the next generation
Of wildlife that happens along

Flowers bloom proudly and stand everywhere
While the trees reach way up to the sun
And the butterflies fly as the honeybees buzz
And summer sets spring on the run

All of the seasons move there hand in hand
As we pass through them, onward we climb
Each has its time and time is forever
And the seasons are ever sublime

7.5.2004

SECRET OF THE RIVER

Down upon the river
Where the willows trees do weep
There something living on her banks
And her secret I will keep
She is a wide, wide river
And there's many a willow there
But upon her banks there lives a soul
Who sings in the morning air

It isn't a bird in feathers
Nor a cow in coat of brown
It isn't a horse nor pig of course
That sings the morning down
It lives in silent slumber
'Til the golden sun shines through
Then through the air
Somewhere out there
Its song will filter through

The wide, wide river rambles
Upon the great big land
It weaves and runs forever
With banks of golden sand
And the river hums in harmony
As it flows forever on
With the secret on her sandy banks
Singing its morning song

11.4.2010

SECRETS OF THE NIGHT

For as the sun and the moon rise meet
And the flicker of the candles rise
And the rampant shades that live by night
Come forth to where I lie

Sounds that do not come by day
And sights not seen before
Approach the climax of their hours
While sounds of day withdraw

The very state of which is come
Now breeds a fear so strong
And all the nights' strange allies stand
In deep and silent song

And soon you learn to play the game
And lock your thoughts within
And spirit in its prime of wake
Lays ready to begin

Once realized the darkened night
No longer rules the dim
You take the night light in your stride
Now ruled by that within

Stand before the turning shades
And gaze deep into time
And all the wonders conjured up
From deep within the mind

Darkness in its simple state
So meekly plays the tune
Awaking all when called to fore
A perfect sight in bloom

For as the moon and the sunrise meet
And the flicker of the candles die
And the rampant shades that live by day
Come forth confirmed and tried

29.12.1982

SHARING

The battle was wild and I cried like a child
My nerve had departed from me
I lay in my trench and I shuddered in fear
Far over the deep heaving sea

A stranger knelt down and he gave me his hand
And he smiled like an angel on high
And there through the cloud of tears I cried
I could see he was not on our side

Two soldiers we lay with not much we could say
For neither could speak the same tongue
The night hovered dimly and rainy and cold
And the sound of the battle went on

And we lay there so still in the dark and the chill
Not eager to take up the fight
We talked as we lay though we'd not understood
The words of the other that day

We shared with each other a smoke and a drink
And photos of families back home
And somehow it seemed that the battle had ceased
And all of my terror had flown

3.7.1980

SILENT VISITOR

In the southern sky at midnight
When the town was busy sleeping
And all the people tucked up tight
Something unknown came creeping

Across the darkened skies above
With no clouds born this morning
While stars all slept in yonder space
It came before the dawning

A tower bright so bright can be
Of lights was gliding lowly
O'er southern skies in silent flight
And ever, ever slowly

It paused and waited just a while
It blinked and headed yonder
Above our heads and onward
To somewhere else to squander

We watched it come we watched it leave
It filled our hearts with wonder
Just what had come that silent night
And visited us down under

6.6.2010

SILLINESS GALORE

There once was a hippopotami
Who made himself a salad pie
And threw it in a rhino's eye
And the rhino cried but I don't know why

For the rhino made a salad cake
And threw it at a sleeping snake
Then the snake got mad and cursed at him
But I don't know why he seemed so grim

'Cause the snake once made salad cake too
And stuck it in a horses shoe
And the horse got mad and said 'up you'
Well, what else was a horse to do

Then the horse went and made a salad pie
And threw it in the great big eye
Of a roaming hippopotami
That's why the hippo let one fly

2.1.2010

SILVER MACHINES

They're flying around in their silver machines
Somewhere way up in the blue
They're winging around and they're making no sound
They're making their way down to you

They're flying around in their silver machines
In the nights when the sky is so black
They're giving you glimpses of things that might be
They're out there and they're coming back

They're flying around in their silver machines
In the heavens of blue up on high
They're giving you hope where there's no hope to give
They're flying right into your life

They're flying around in their silver machines
In the heavens where the stars twinkle bright
They're coming on down and they're hanging around
They're waiting for the time that is right

They're flying around in their silver machines
They're here and they're here to stay
They're bringing us out of the darkness we're in
They're here, they're not going away

They're flying around in their silver machines
They're waiting and watching with care
They're taking their time, they're making no haste
While they watch us from somewhere out there

23.2.2004

SIMBA THE KITTEN

Simba the kitten was a spritely little cat
She played and played for hours in my grandma's old blue hat
She ran and jumped at shadows and she rolled upon the floor
She sparred there in the mirror with the cat upon the door

She thought she was a tiger as she crept around the house
Her wide blue eyes were searching for a cunning little mouse
Together they played daily and when the day was through
Together they would curl right up and sleep the hours through

Simba liked to watch me when I showered every day
She'd swat the water droplets then she'd turn and run away
She'd hide among the bushes and she'd watch the birds in flight
And when they swooped upon her she would run away in fright

She'd run right down the passage and skid into the wall
She'd stand right up and shake herself and pounce upon her ball
At night when we were sleeping she'd sneak into our room
And jump upon the bed where she'd sit and have a groom

Now Simba's almost nineteen – yes, she's in her aging years
Her eyes are almost blinded and she weeps a constant tear
I know that when she's sleeping she dreams of days gone by
Of days of youthful wonder when nothing made her cry

And as I watch her dreaming I shed a tear or two
I know that one day very soon her life will be all through
But 'til that time is on us we will love her every day
And think about the life she had when she was young at play

When Simba's days are over – she will sleep a peaceful sleep
And when I lay there dreaming – into my dreams she'll creep
Dear Simba how I love you – what a friend you've been to me
Now sleep my friend – sleep my friend – now the spirits set you free

5.4.2004

SLEEP LITTLE BABY

Sleep little baby now sleep as you will
There's snow on the mountains and frost in the hills
There's a glowing log fire that's keeping us warm
Sleep little baby now sleep 'til the dawn

Sleep little baby now sleep through the night
Dream your sweet dreams 'til dawn is so bright
And the angels will guide you and watch over you
So sleep little baby 'til the night is all through

Sleep little baby now sleep as you may
'Til lights golden candles chase the darkness away
Close your eyes softly and slumber my dear
In dreams little darling – there's nothing to fear

Sleep little baby now sleep as you might
Sleep in the arms of the angels tonight
'Til morning comes calling and light leads the way
Sleep little baby now sleep as you may

23.7.2004

SMALL GARDEN BED

The old man walked up to the hilltop
His footsteps so lightly they tread
To the peak where the sun was now rising
To the place of the small garden bed

T'was here that he sat without moving
His eyes settled down on the ground
While the birds soared above in the blue sky
He sat with his tears falling down

His old hands were now shaking with sorrow
His body did tremble in time
For the loss of his love he was grieving
For the loss of his mate he did pine

Around him the trees swayed in rhythm
To the gentle wind stroking the leaves
And the grasses were flowing like water
From the tears of the old man who grieved

In the garden bed sat a small angel
Its arms reaching up to the sky
And its eyes were so trained on the heavens
While the old man sat silently by

The flowers that grew in the garden
Were blooming a brightly display
In the small patch of earth that they clung to
Where she had spent many a day

And daily he climbs to the hilltop
As the years they roll slowly away
He waits for the day he will join her
He longs for that happiest day

The old man walks up to the hilltop
To tend to his garden each dawn
His tears giving life to the flowers
To the garden where his love, he mourns

5.4.2004

SNOW WHITE WINGS

A dove flies out upon a winter morn
Its snow white wings are spreading in the dawn
And aloft the winds he is soaring ever high
For he has seen a vision in his eye

Across the world the dove he makes his way
He's bringing hope to brighten up our day
For below him there are tears all around
The folk below have stumbled on the ground

The war machines are bringing fears to fore
The sleeping world is waking up to war
But the snow white dove has dreams of peace to bring
From high above upon a snow white wing

So listen well when you look up in the sky
And see the spread of wings of peace in flight
Go embrace the day and make your feelings known
Open up your hearts where the seed of love is sown

And the snow white dove will open up his wings
And cover you with hope for better things
And the world will see a new morn filled with love
Born on snow white wings from somewhere up above

A dove flies out upon a winter morn
Its snow white wings are spreading in the dawn
And aloft the winds he is soaring ever high
For he has seen a new world by and by

18.6.2005

SOMEONE FOR ME

His coat was all muddy and shaggy and brown
His eyes were as sad as can be
His little tail hung as he looked in the eyes
And he thought – ‘is this human for me’

The young man walked by without giving him thought
And the puppy he hung his head low
And he shuffled along on four weary sore paws
And he wondered where he would thus go

He walked down the street as the people passed by
They smiled but nobody could see
The want in his eyes and the train of his thought
As he thought – ‘is this human for me’

The night became cold and he shivered and shook
And he lay ‘neath some bushes to sleep
And he dreamed of a day he would find him a home
And no more would this young puppy weep

When the morning came by – this young puppy woke
To a world that was passing him by
He was hungry and cold and his spirit was low
And the small puppy sat there and cried

Then a little girl passed with her father right then
And she stopped and she looked and could see
And she smiled as she turned to her father and said
‘Oh dad – is that puppy for me’

Now the puppy he lives in a home full of love
And his eyes are as bright as can be
And he holds his head high as he thinks to himself
‘Yes – I knew there was someone for me’

21.11.2004

SONG OF LOVE

From the mountains high and wide
To the oceans deep and blue
Where horizon meets the land masses
I sing a song for you
Where the grasses sway in time
To the winds that slowly hum
I wrote a song of love to you
And set it on the run

In the heavens up on high
You will hear my words resound
Tumbling through the universe
That tells of love I've found
Glancing off the twinkling stars
And dancing in the sun
I wrote a song of love for you
And set it on the run

8.12.2009

SORROW

When the evening shadow fall
And the cool winds blow
I sit down in my chair
And I close my eyes

Then the tears fall on my cheeks
And sadness fills my soul
And loneliness comes calling to me
Despair that makes me cry

The days have become years in length
And nothing could ease my pain
A cold shudder races through me
And sadness becomes my friend

Why oh why did it have to be
Why did fate call his name
And leave me rocking on the edge
With no laughter to guide me again

I can still feel the touch of his hands
And the calming voice in his call
His gentle whisper in my ear
But now I am left alone

How many years will I have to wait
‘Til we are reunited again
And walk hand in hand
In the light of the heavenly home

How heavy are the evening shadows
That surround me these long days
How cold the winds outside
And haunting is there call

Will the spirit take pity on me
And led me to where he waits
And grant me what burns in my soul
Or should I be left with nothing at all

27.11.2004

SOUTHERN STAR

The southern star shines brightly forth
In the canyons of his mind
Beckoning sands on the island afar
Setting his heart a pine

As he sits and looks about him
A grief clouds through his soul
That land afar beneath the cross
Of the southern shores behold

The waning hills a distant
Stand boldly in his eyes
As if to taunt that lonely heart
Reminding of southern skies

And he mourns the nights so bleakly
The days as they go by
Forever thinking of that land
Beneath the southern sky

10.7.1983

SPRING

The wind swept passed my window
And the leaves they swayed in time
To the coming day that springs anew
In its spring coat so sublime

The clouds above were snowy white
Like wool fleeced from a lamb
And the sun behind was peaking through
To greet the waking land

I arose from off my bed right then
And ran to meet the morn
The soaring trees and singing birds
Where little ones were born

The green grass sprung a new life to
It danced to natures call
And I was there that brand new morn
To stand and catch it all

The perfume of the emerging flowers
Where bees were buzzing round
And croaking frogs upon the rocks
Around my pond were found

A lizard makes a morning dash
To hide within the grass
And butterflies they flutter by
Upon the winds that pass

So I sit down in my garden chair
And still my thoughts a while
To be a part of springs new life
And its sounds that make me smile

And a magpie comes and sings to me
And he winks a knowing eye
For he knows the time has come to see
A new world by and by

7.1.2005

STARRY SUMMER NIGHT

I was standing on the balcony one starry summer night
My scope fixed on the golden moon so big and all so bright
The air was warm – the night was calm and I was so at ease
When something floated by me there upon the gentle breeze

I did not see the moving wings as it glided in the night
Just a silhouette was in my scope that gave me quite a fright
I moved my eyes to gaze above – I heard no single sound
The thing that moved within my view flew close and settled down

I raised my head to look at it – it turned and looked at me
I smiled and sighed and thought out loud – how foolish I could be
The silhouette I saw come in - that flew across my sight
Was just a lonely barn owl in the clutches of the night

He sat there for a moment as he gazed down at me there
Then suddenly he took to flight – no sound to break the air
And I was left alone once more in the bright and silent light
Just the moon and me and the sky above this starry summer night

6.2.2006

STAY AWHILE

Stay a while and hold me
Before you walk out the door
I know you must leave me
But just one moment more

The nights are so lonely
And I'm afraid of the gloom
Just stay a while and hold me
And hurry back soon

When you walk through the door
Every day I despair
'Cause I know in the darkness
They will be waiting there

And every night I'm thinking
Will this night be the night
That they come down to fetch me
And leave me in a fright

Stay a while and hold me
And reassure me dear
Just one moment longer
To dispel all my fear

You can feel my heart tremble
And my hands start to shake
And my eyes fill with tears
At the journeys you make

When the sound of your car
Is distant then I know
That the night that is coming
Will make my fears all grow

They will come in the darkness
In silence there and me
Will long for your presence
To so comfort me

Stay a while and hold me
I know you don't know
Just why I am trembling
And what makes it so

Just one moment longer
Won't really matter at all
One last hug now baby
Before the night doth fall

30.5.2004

STRANGE DREAM

What is that cow doing in my dream
Her friends are coming to
And what's that frog doing on the wall
Is that what dream frogs do

I see a hive of bees nearby
But surely they should know
Building hives inside my room
Will bring on quite a show

Now what the heck is that doing there
A little calf so meek
I'm sitting in my bed in awe
At these things at my feet

Such wonders have engulfed my dream
And when the morn's in light
I smile at all these things I saw
In my room there last night

27.6.2010

SUPPORTING US

The conflicts of the world are great and reach from shore to shore

Many lives are sacrificed to fight these horrid wars

Families look and see the strain these souls fight every day

Be they at home, supporting teams or stationed far away

We look upon these souls that stand defending all we know

The forces that we know command the freedom that they sow

Every soul that stands to fight and all supporting teams

Make sure we see the brighter days and live our sought our dreams

Be they soldiers marching forth or sailors sailing far

Or airmen winging cross the skies all guided by that star

That saw the baby Jesus laid in manger in the past

That gave us life like they do now and light upon us cast

Marines that drive the way for all, these souls are born to fight

And cherished by the folk at home through each day and night

We wish them all the very best wherever they may be

God bless them all and keep them safe for all eternity

10.12.2009

SUSIE

Susie walked away without a word
I saw her just today leave me behind
I never thought I'd ever see her go
That was the last thing that had crossed my mind

Her black coat that she wore was shiny bright
The days had caught her in her early prime
She was the best friend I had ever known
Now Susie's gone and I am left behind

I ran into the fields and loud I cried
I called for my friend Susie, come on home
I couldn't understand why she had left me
Standing there in tears and all alone

I saw it in her eyes as she was leaving
I knew she knew I loved her with my heart
I thought I saw her smile and a tear forming
Susie girl and I were now apart

The next day as I rose to meet the morning
I wandered down the stairs without a word
When somewhere in the distance bells were ringing
And a happy song was what my spirit heard

I saw her standing there in all her spender
Susie girl had come on home to me
My father couldn't bear to see me crying
And fetched her and had let our friendship be

I ran to meet my Susie and I hugged her
Her eyes were sparkling in the morning glow
Susie girl and I were friends forever
Until the mighty spirit took her home

21.10.2009

SWEET DREAMS

Oh dreams sweet dreams on a cold frosty night
While the winds are a howling afar
And the stars up above are so big and so bright
There is peace to be found in your arms

In my dreams I will wander upon a lone hill
In the darkness of winter so deep
I will search for you there and rejoice at your find
And together we will slumber in sleep

When I rise in the morning sorrow will be found
And a tear will fall down from my eye
For I know I can't keep you while daylights around
And I will wait for the night to come by

The angels had called and they'd left me alone
Oh why did they take you away
Now all I have left is the memories of you
And the dreams that we share every day

Oh dreams sweet dreams on a cold frosty night
While the winds are a howling above
I will walk with you there and together we'll be
Lost there in the dreams of my love

18.4.2010

SWEET TINY BIRD

A sweet tiny bird was sitting
Upon the garden wall
His small dark eyes were looking at me
And then I heard him call

His song was so disarming
His chirping sad and low
I watched him as he sat there
Looking at me below

The night was quickly falling
And stars were there on high
And the sweet little bird just sat there
With sorrow in his eye

I looked into the heavens
Where the moon was shining bright
And I wondered at the sweet little bird
Who called to me that night

While darkness came a calling
And the air was cool and dim
The distant horizon flashed with light
A storm was rolling in

But the sweet little bird just sat there
His eyes fixed hard on me
I wondered just what he was thinking
Just what the problem be

Then I lowered my eyes a moment
And saw there on the ground
A small form of another bird
Lying there so sound

And the sweet little bird he twittered
His song so sad and blue
I picked up the form of this sleeping bird
I knew what I had to do

I found a small box in the cabin
And placed in the small still bird
And took him back out to the garden
And dug a small hole in the earth

I buried it low 'mong the flowers
And placed a small cross on his grave
And the sweet little bird, he sang a small song
And casually went on his way

And now when I enter my garden
And see the small cross standing there
I wonder about the sweet little bird
And the moment that we did share

25.4.2004

SWOLLEN RIVERS

Swollen rivers passing on by
Raging waters – why oh why
Soul taking waters making me cry
Swollen rivers form in my eye

I think about you
When the night is so grey
Thinking about why
You were taken away

My heart was breaking
When the night came around
Swollen rivers
Dragging me down

Tumbling waters racing on through
Rolling and breaking – what could I do
Dragging me down and making me cry
Swollen rivers form in my eye

5.2.2005

TAKING HIM DOWN

There's a mighty big wind coming out of the sky
A rustle of leaves as it's moving on by
And I'm just about to tell the old devil why
The reason I'm taking him down

He has stolen my life and he's given me pain
Taken my love that I held to in vain
And now I am gonna tell that devil so plain
The reason I'm taking him down

His been such a pain in my butt all these years
Given me sorrows and causing me tears
Haunting my dreams and inflaming my fears
Now I am taking him down

Now Satan you know that I've picked up your scent
I do not deserve all this misery sent
You can run for your life 'cause I will not relent
You demon, I am taking you down

With the wind at my back, I will follow your trail
And hound you forever and swear I won't fail
To bring you to justice - your evil impale
Lucifer, I'm taking you down

With faith on my side I will follow on through
And destroy what you have - your disciples and you
And you will know then what the Gods will not do
To find you - and then bring you down

18.10.2009

TEAR DROPS FROM HEAVEN

A rain drop from heaven made me sad today
The lonely nights of missing you won't go away
I struggle with my sorrow almost every day
And the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

As I gaze upon your picture I am left in tears
Thinking 'bout the times we shared through the years
Now all I have are memories and all my fears
And the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

Your gentle touch and loving smile I knew so well
The laughter that had echoed forth put me in your spell
Now there is darkness all around where I now do dwell
And the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

Each night is full of sorrow now I'm left alone
My heart is sad and broken where your seed was sown
I'm looking back on days where our love had grown
And the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

My whole life has been shattered I can't take it now
The empty space I'm living in is pure hell
The abyss is growing wider in which I do dwell
And the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

I listen to your voice that echoes in my mind
The gentle words that comfort me and peace I find
For just one little moment our arms are entwined
Then the tear drops from the heavens fall on me

8.1.2005

TESTIMONY

God had commanded thee woman and man
Called them together and harked them to stand
For a grievance lay hard - not the way he had planned
And the beasts had a right to be heard

From each land he had gathered them all in one place
To bare witness - to listen to the animals case
Said he – ‘do not stand and turn blindly your face
For I hearken thee hand on each word’

Now they gathered as said in the will of the Lord
As the beasts from the wild in his presence record
The plights and the pains that were such their reward
For the living in the presence of man

The grievance was bitter and the grievance was sad
But no hate from within did the animals have
They said – ‘listen a while and for that we will be glad
And no other thing do we demand’

So they spoke with free will as the people stood by
And they told them of the reasons – the wishes and why
The animals there must be left to abide
Without fear of mankind and his ill

They told them of the deeds that man did was so wrong
For destroying them meant death for all and so long
As man kept on cheating gods gift before long
They would find that his wrath he would spill

Now – what reason they had for their destruction of life
Could not cover the fact that their continuing strife
Would led to distinction of man and his life
That they fought to so desperately keep

Survival for all whether for beast or for man
Was the only way man would continue to stand
And recover this world and keep proudly each land
And the riches that he would thus reap

Now – their story was short but the message was clear
And the question now was just how many did hear
Since a silence was long and a hush did adhere
In the presence of God on that day

Had the warning been heeded it was hard to define
And the only way now was to bare with the time
To see what would become of the message divine
And the testimony given that day

15.6.1983

THAT'S WHEN THE CLOUDS CAME

I was looking out there in the great southern sky
I was searching the stars and the moon up on high
I was watching the planes crossing there with a din
And that's when the black clouds came all rushing in

They blocked out my view of the heavens on high
I cursed at the clouds as they covered the sky
I sat in my chair as a gusty wind blew
I was mad at the black clouds for blocking my view

I picked up my scope and I headed indoors
As I heard the deep rumble and the thunderous roar
The rain pelted down as the lightning flashed bright
And the black clouds got blacker and stayed overnight

The next day the skies were all sunny and blue
And I packed off to work as I normally do
And all through the week there was sunshine on high
I worked like a dog 'til the weekend came by

I was happy when Friday had ended for me
The moon was up early and bright as can be
I got out my scope – I was happy as sin
And that's when the black clouds came all rolling in

I can't see the man in the moon smiling down
I can't see the stars as they gather around
I can't see the meteors crossing the blue
'Cause the black clouds above are all blocking my view

I think I will write me a letter tonight
And send it on up to the spirit on high
And ask for the reason he has done what he done
By sending the black clouds to spoil my fun

So I wrote it and sent it and waited reply
All week there was sunshine up there in the sky
Then Friday came round and the stars made a show
And the meteors flashed while I watched from below

And the man in the moon he was smiling down
So I got out my scope and I set it aground
Pointed it upward and looked with a grin
And that's when the black clouds came all rushing in

I guess that my letter had not reached the one
Who took some great pleasure in spoiling my fun
So I picked up my scope and I put it away
In the box on the shelf and that's where it will stay

And each night there after the skies became clear
The moon and the stars all together appeared
And the meteors raced cross the heavens again
And the black clouds they did not come all racing in

I waited and waited for weeks at a time
No clouds appeared and it was blowing my mind
Then I gave into the pressure I saw
And got down my scope and proceeded once more

I was looking out there in the great southern sky
I was searching the stars and the moon up on high
I was watching the planes crossing there with a din
And that's when the black clouds came all rolling in

23.2.2004

THE ANGRY CREATURE

Once upon a time there was a creature sure and right
Who terrorized the neighbourhood in the dark of each new night
He ran amuck the streets afar and howled at each new moon
And all the people stayed inside in case they met their doom

This creature was an angry soul- we cringed when he drew near
He cried and roared and caused us all to hide in so much fear
He trampled all the flowers and he broke the fences down
Tore up all the grasses on the streets throughout our town

Then one night as he strode about a child was seen to run
Toward the angry creature and we thought that she was done
But the creature stopped and gave a smile and settled where he be
While the little girl told stories of love, peace and harmony

Like little red riding hood who walked into the woods
This little girl had came upon a soul who meant no good
But just a moment spent with him had showed us all that day
That even angry creatures need some time to run and play

The barriers were broken down and we all began to see
That such a lonely creature needed friends and company
The laughter uttered forth by her and stories that she told
Had given love a place to live and soothed an angry soul

25.7.2010

THE ANIMALS

We can talk about the animals that live out in the wild
Fascinate the children with such stories that beguile
Tickle all their fancies with these wonders told in mirth
And let them see the beauty of this great and mighty earth

There's pandas, bears, and antelopes and birds of every size
Elephants and tigers that will brighten up their eyes
Show them snakes and wombats and the mighty polar bear
Let them see the beauty while the creatures are still there

The mountain lions and jaguars and leopards roaming free
Monkeys and orangutangs that live up in the trees
Tell the children about the whales that one day may not be
Because of man these giants will vanish from the open sea

Meerkats on the plains afar and jumpy kangaroos
And turtle doves and all the love that they can show to you
Let them know about the frogs, all creatures great and small
Let them see this life so free 'fore its not there at all

Tell them all the stories of the creatures they may know
Of how they live together in this jungle we call home
How nature gives them what they need - providing every day
Let the children see it all before it slips away

21.10.2009

THE ANTIQUE CLOCK

The antique clock that Ray had bought stood proudly in the hall
Its peaceful chime that kept the time spoke out to one and all
Just fifteen when he bought it home, a costly bit of gear
But Ray worked hard to pay it off – it took him near a year

That faithful clock had perfect pitch, not one strike out of line
Its pendulum swung back and forth in keeping flawless time
Our home was such a warmly place, as solid as a rock
A loving place watched over by Ray's soothing antique clock

Ray finished school and got a job and worked to earn his keep
He worked by nights counting stock instead of counting sheep
A young boy full of wisdom he had grown to be a man
Wise and caring, full of life and ready to make a stand

But well made plans were laid to waste as war broke out again
The cry went out and answers came from all the brave young men
And we stood there upon the quay that cold and fateful day
We cried and waved and cried some more as loved ones sailed away

I cried into my pillow that night, I wept for my baby boy
I slept not a wink, nor dreamed no dream, just sorrow did deploy
And by the dark of night I lay in still listening to the chime
Of Rays soothing antique clock as it keep its perfect time

Months roll on and the years creep by and the days never cease
And war keeps all our babies there, oh how we wish for peace
But we also know our men are brave and fight to keep us free
We support them all with loving hearts though heavy they will be

Then the doorbell rang a strangely ring – so woeful I declare
I walked toward the glass front door to see just who was there
A shaft of light had hit my face as the door I opened wide
Two soldiers stood there staring back, I could do naught but cry

The call had come from far away and our hearts beat hard and fast
For news it brought had set us back and a shadow o'er us cast
We felt the pain deep in our hearts, our sorrow much to bare
And the clock chimed loud as if it knew its owner died somewhere

We shed our tears and said our prayer, our sadness would not ease
It grew as evening came along and mourned upon the breeze
And the sturdy clock that stood so tall let out one mournful chime
One last peal and then it hushed - and silenced for all time

29.12.2008

THE BABY KEYBOARD

'Welcome little keyboard' I said when I got home
I didn't have an inkling - not a clue
That the little baby keyboard that I bought home today
Would make my life a misery, it's true

I ditched the one I used to have - it had become so old
I put it in the back there in the shed
And proudly put the baby one upon the table top
And smiled and promptly wandered off to bed

Well come the day a dawning I was left in shock and awe
When I entered in the study what a mess
My little baby keyboard had destroyed the goddamned room
And my computer sat there looking quite distressed

No one thought to tell me that the little baby keyboard
Had been owned by someone delving in black magic
And I brought the baby home without a thought at all
And now the situation is so tragic

It has four little legs that look like little twigs
As it runs across the desktop doing flips
Evil little laughter as it spits out dirty words
I swear I'm gonna cut this beast to bits

My computer sits there trembling – frightened I must say
By this little baby monster I bought home
Come the morning this day after I will rid our house of it
And retrieve the old one sitting all alone

Now my old and trusty keyboard is happy sitting here
Upon the desktop where it lives with so much glee
With my rattling old computer that I swear is chatting loud
To the keyboard more than they both do with me.

7.3.2010

THE BEASTS RIDE

The word had been sent and it travelled the wind
‘Cross the hot desert plains and the mountains and glens
‘Til it found it an ear that listened and heard
And the town was aghast at the sound of the word

Then upward it rose and onward it went
‘Til the winds had died down and its journey was spent
And it settled itself on the cool ocean floor
At the place where the word had been uttered before

In the guise of a dove it had come to the place
Where evil and good would run out their race
And the winds would take flight away from the shore
For the battle would rage with a thunderous roar

Then the dove flapped its wings and upward it flew
‘Cause the word that it brought was now ringing true
For over the hill on the crest in the east
Came the dark evil figure in the form of the beast

And the horse that he rode was as black as the sky
With fiery red eyes and a cold chilling cry
And its hooves beat like thunder across the far hill
And they heard the beast roar in a way that did chill

Then they heard the wind sigh and they saw the great light
And stillness and silence pervaded the night
And the beast on its mount stopped startled and cold
For it faced there before it the masters of old

Now there was no going forward and there was no going back
For the angels of God stood there barring his track
They were there to the left – they were there to the right
They were there in their numbers to take up the fight

With fire and flames the beast stood its ground
While the town folk looked on and the angels stood sound
And the skies split asunder and a flash that did awe
As the earth shook and groaned and rumbled some more

And up on its hinds did the beast mount rise
With rage in its whine and flames in its eyes
It pummelled the ground with hooves as of steel
Alas we all knew that its presents was real

And the angels of God stood there unmoved and unfear'd
As the beast took its stance and the mount groaned and reared
There was no giving ground – there was no giving way
There was no backing down to the beast on that day

Then a silence recoiled through the dimness around
And a great earthly shudder swept through the whole ground
And a deep drawling thunder rose up and so fast
And the earth rocked and cracked and splintered apart

In terror the mount turned in haste to take flight
As a great flash of fire lit up the whole night
And the sound of the bugle was heard from afar
And the devil froze there – every corner a bar

Fire and flames leapt from the earth in a swell
And dragged that beast back to the centre of hell
And the earth stilled and calmed – fearing no more
And the dove he returned to take rest on the shore

There was peace to be found on the shore the next day
And the dove flapped its wings and glided away
And calmness embodied the whole of the land
As God touched the earth with his gentle warm hands

4.4.1990

THE BEES

T'was a hot summer day
And the temperature was 40
The bees were all buzzing around
There was water to drink
And the bees were all there
Keeping cool with the sun beating down

But some of the bees
They just couldn't swim
And we had to come calling you see
Rescuing them when they fell on in
T'was a pleasure for JJ and me

The bees drank a lot
And the day was so hot
But we knew that they would be right
Floating around on the rafts that we built
Through the day until it was night

2.1.2011

The temperature reached 40 Celsius this day

THE BIG GOLDEN MOON

I had come home late one afternoon
To see a great big golden moon
Sitting up above me in the sky

There were stars a twinkling far
And a swiftly shooting star
And a comet racing downward by and by

There was darkness all around
And I soon was to be found
Sitting in my chair and looking up above

For the night had come too soon
And that great big golden moon
Was sending me a pocket full of love

For my love had once be there
Now he sleeps in our gods care
Where the universe is always on the roam

And I know that he has seen
That that golden moons bright sheen
Will be watching me until I travel home

So until that time draws near
You can find me sitting here
Looking up into a sky so crystal clear

Where the golden moon does shine
In the memories of my mind
Thinking of my love I miss so dear

26.1.2010

THE BULLY ANTS

A Bull Ant came down from the Anthill today
And stopped at a nest of Red Ants on the way
He said 'I have something I'm needing to say
So I think you had better take heed'

The Red Ants all turned and looked at the chap
That stood there so mighty, so big and so black
But not once did any of the Ants answer back
For the Bull Ant looked fiercely indeed

The Bull Ant looked up at the mid morning sun
And chastised his self for the deed to be done
He said 'it ain't easy and it isn't no fun
But there is something that needs to be said'

'Our home it is growing and I think you all know
That our forest's so big but the food source is low
So it means you just have to pack up and go
'Cause our colony needs to be fed'

The Red Ants all stood as a minute passed by
Smiling at him but without a reply
'Til the leader waltzed up and spat in his eye
Then huffed as he sauntered away

The Bull Ants' mouth gaped, he just couldn't believe
The little Red Ants would ever conceive
The idea they could take of him no heed
And really just treat him that way

So he turned feeling lowly and went to the nest
And said to the leader 'I did my best
I pleaded and told them of our small request
And what did they do but just smile'

The leader said 'boys, it is time that they saw
The Bull Ants are strong and won't take it no more
Them pushing us round - what is this ever for
And all that they do is revile'

‘Go tell them my friend they had better be nice
Tell them to take and just heed my advice
And warn that that we will not ask them twice
Now go while I work out a plan’

So the Bull Ant set off to deliver the news
To the little Red Ants who were quickly amused
And it seemed that the problem would not be defused
‘Cause the Red Ants would not leave the land

He said ‘we can’t go on like this every day
‘Tis better to yield than to defy and to stay
Why don’t you just move – just get away
Just give us some room to call home’

The Red Ants said nought, they weren’t talkers you see
They waltzed all around him as cocky can be
They jumped on his back and they laughed merrily
While the leader played drums on his dome

The Bull Ant went back to the leader and said
‘I told them, they laughed and they drummed on my head’
‘Tis better I think they we eat them instead’
Said the leader ‘now that is my plan’

So with might on their side they set off in the dark
To find the Red Ants camped somewhere in the bark
That lay on the ground in the forest so stark
That sat in the heart of their land

The Bull Ants ate hearty that summer gone by
And this here my friends is the reason thus why
You’ll never see Red Ants and Bull Ants abide
Side by side in the forests so tall

For the Bull Ants they found that the red Ants were sweet
And tasted so good for their youngling’s to eat
It was quite an advance from their being so meek
When the Red Ants had bullied them all

Now the Bull Ants stand tall and they'll fight when they need
They don't give a bugger 'bout who or what breed
They'll even consider it be you or me
So be careful if you step on their mound

They'll gather their tribe and they'll fight to the end
They attack with all might for their nest to defend
And just you take heed if you see them my friend
- Give them a wide birth all around

21.10.2009

THE CALL OF THE WILD

The call of the wild had awakened the land
There was something amiss on the wind
And word was sent forth to employ every hand
That would heed and would come rushing in

Nature knows where there is danger at hand
And all eyes are at watch and aware
Of the little girl lost in this wide open land
And the warning was spreading out there

Oh, the trundling hills in their velvet blue coats
Hark at the call of the wild
And the animals stop, silent, still in the tracks
At the cry of a desperate child

Why even the rivers had lent us its ears
And had run to be part of the search
Rushing on down from the mountains afar
To the brooks that had followed the birch

And a fox is on guard on the slope of a hill
As he scans 'cross the valleys and leas
Searching for signs of the little girl lost
While an owl keeps his watch in the trees

Many's the call that had come from the wild
As the winds had so harkened that day
And thousands of eyes swept out over the land
As they watched for the young ones face

But the little girl hears not the cries that go forth
For she sleeps in a dream of content
And her mother weeps long in the arms of the Lord
While she prays as her tears are spent

Nightfall comes 'round as the sun leaves the sky
And the moon lifts her head in the dark
As she sends out a glow on the earth down below
On the scene that is looking so stark

And a shadow does fall on the earth down below
While the search is in swing in the night
There are tears to be shed and some fears to be fed
For the little girl lost and her plight

Cold is the night as the searchers spread out
All their hopes are now looking quite dim
When somewhere afar they had heard a loud cry
That had made them crawl under their skin

The cry that they heard had come in on the wind
A dingo had howled in the night
But the cry that he gave was to help them to save
A little girl lost from their sight

They ran to the spot where the horizon spread wide
And they gazed o'er the meadow a flow
And they called for the child and an answer came back
From a craggy ledge just down below

And a mother weeps tears of joy for her girl
And she sweeps all her worries away
As the little girl lost comes down from the hill
On the shoulders of Constable Grey

And the brook flows away and the rivers move on
And the owl gives a hoot of delight
As peace now befalls o'er the land once again
And the creatures all sleep in the night

Oh, the trundling hills in their velvet blue coats
Harked at the call of the wild
And the animals, stopped, silent, still in their tracks
At the cry of a desperate child

30.5.2009

THE CAT AND THE MOUSE

The night is dark, the night is black
I see the eyes of a prowling cat
I stand, I freeze, I dare not move
To make a sound, my life I'd lose

He creeps along in search of me
I close my eyes to what might be
My heart runs wild, my body shakes
With each and every step he takes

The night is long, the hours crawl
His silhouette upon the wall
His eyes are wild, I know his game
Will put an end to my good name

I can hear the rhythm of his hungry breath
Nearer, nearer, in step with death
He stops, he stares, he sniffs the air
I must not let him know I'm there

He stalks the dark on four black paws
Devilish big with long curved claws
His ears are pricked for every sound
Ready to strike with a monstrous bound

He moves, he glides across the floor
As if not searching anymore
I weep with fear, I cannot run
I fear, I feel my time has come

He sits and licks his furry coat
A lump is in my tender throat
And then without a moments thought
He strikes and has the prey he sought

Another mouse has crossed his path
I swear I heard the big cat laugh
But me I ran and hid away
Survived another torrid day

But well I know that late one night
I may well meet the same cruel plight
That cat's alert, forever aware
That another mouse is somewhere there

So for the time I rest within
My tiny hole so dark and dim
And pray aloud for one more day
That I am not the great cats prey

14.3.1978

THE DEVILS HOUSE

We started out from Banda beach with a score of twenty two
By the time we reached the Spa of Karn - only five had seen it through
There was Bill and Bob and Jack and Ted and Tom to name but five
Who made the trek across the land where death and hunger thrived

Ned was first to meet his fate on a fall from Lekkie Ridge
His footing marred by age old rock that served us as a bridge
We reached the crest by night in cold – our bodies reeked with pain
Our food supplies had long been gone – our water drunk and drained

T'was said the tracks upon the hills – where danger roamed on quest
Was where the devil made his home and he would be our guest
We feared him not for we were strong – our days began in prayer
We would not let the devil win – if we should meet him there

T'was 'bout the time in the wee small hours – just after we awoke
We heard the sound that chilled us through – our peace so rudely broke
Up we jumped to catch the sight of the figure lurking near
The deep red eyes that stared us down - caused us to run in fear

We ran we did – we did not look back – we raced to get away
And the breath of the demon followed close – again we sought to pray
And as we did - we heard the sound - that filtered through the air
The trumpets of the guiding lights - were sounding loud out there

We turned to see the demon stop – we heard his evil roar
We saw him split with fire and flame – we turned and fled before
Then the angels came to be our shield – against the dark of night
They spread their wings across our path – they covered us with light

The devils roar was heard afar across the rolling hills
We did not stop to look at all – our bodies filled with chills
We felt the blow across our souls – his breath across our backs
We heard his chilling laugh some more – he dogged our every tracks

But the angels would not let him pass – they checked his every move
They took the rear and covered us – we knew they couldn't lose
We ran without a moments rest until we reached the fall
That led us to the Spa of Karn – we did not stop at all

T'was there we saw the demon fall – the angels took him down
They sent him back to hell that night we heard the trumpets sound
At the Spa of Karn they came in droves to welcome us that night
But we did not speak of the test – nor of the demons flight

Not many men had run the run across that place so damned
And those that did and lived to tell would not forget the land
For though we thought that we were strong – and Lucifer no test
We learnt our lesson well that night – that he had been our guest

20.12.2003

THE DOG THAT ATE THE SNAIL

I'd like to tell you all a tale about a dog that ate a snail
But not just any snail by far – he was the next Olympic star
For Joe had trained this snail just right and fed him only vegemite
And vegemite it made him run – Lord, he could out run anyone

Joe found him in the garden shed and thought the creature was quite dead
Picked him up and tossed him far – he landed near a vegemite jar
That stood aside the recycle bin that Joe had not yet put there-in
It's lid not quite on top and tight - invitation to the vegemite

Joe went about his chores that morn forgot the snail there on the lawn
He didn't see the snail rise and climb that jar with great surprise
For there inside the snail found a taste that almost knocked him down
His head did spin – his eyes popped out and he began to run about

Joe came out and saw the snail do two laps of the garden pail
Then up the wall he ran so fast leaving Joe a little aghast
A snail that's speed was next to none – was born to run and run and run
And so Joe thought he'd train the snail and set him on the Olympic trail

And train he did both day and night the snail until he was just right
The snail could now run laps around Joe's mangy dog – his jealous hound
That saw that Joe had given to this snail attention through and through
And planned to see this slimy thing would never be Olympic king

He waited 'til Joe went away and then he made his final play
Found that snail all snug and tight inside the jar of vegemite
Coaxed him out onto the ground and gobbled that Olympic snail down
And that was the end of all Joes' glory and also to this little story

25.10.2009

THE DRUMS

Hear the sound of the far off drums
Beating drums that fill the night
And hear the call of the bugle blow
That says the angels are in flight

The devil made an entrance here
And the angels came below
To quell the sins he's spreading
Stop the ill he means to sow

Hear the beat of the distant drums
Sound out across the land
angel's wings take them high
They're watching over man

The demon's breath blows 'cross the earth
Tempting falsehoods follow
Evil whispers in our minds
Our souls to sadly swallow

Pounding drums from distant sound
The air begins to rattle
As heavens gate are opened wide
Thus begins the mighty battle

With faith and hope we can stand firm
Defeat the evil swell
Turn that demon 'round again
And send him back to hell

10.4 2010

THE EMU

Once there was an emu – lived in the great outback
He camped along a river where the winding track ran back
Where river gums were sprawling and the crocs all sunbathed long
An emu on the river danced and sang a silly song

When Mollie the koala passed she had to stop and see
If it were true the emu was as silly as can be
She sat atop her feeding ground and gazed on down below
To see the emu do his dance and sing up quite a show

Now Ben the old man kangaroo saw Mollie sitting there
Laughing loud and cackling as she gazed out there somewhere
He followed where her eyes did led and saw what there she saw
The emu on the river bank and dancing up a storm

And kookaburra Kelly flew in on the morning flight
And took a perch to watch the show that was a crazy sight
While Maverick the dingo stood upon the rocky hill
And watched the other critters watch the silly dancing dill

12.9.2009

THE EMU'S VISIT

I came home one afternoon to find an emu at my door
I looked at him, he looked at me, I wasn't really sure
He stamped a foot and said to me without a God damned care
'I'm looking for my lady friend, have you seen her anywhere'

I shook my head and he just huffed and looked about the place
This emu must be mad I thought from the look upon his face
I did not dare to make a move for his legs were mighty strong
To have one up my human ass was not where it belonged

He sighed a sigh and nodded as he strolled down to the gate
He turned as he was leaving and he shouted, 'hey there mate
If you should see her passing, you just holler that she's found
'Cause if you don't I'll come right back and kick your shit house down'

13.9.2009

THE FARMYARD DANCE

A little pig was running round the farmyard having fun
With Tweak the dog and Nell the cat and a horse named Silver Sun
They raced across the pasture and they rolled down on the ground
And danced upon the hay bales with the warm sun beating down

And the gander did the goose step as the hens they did the hop
While Mick the bull he did the strut across the farmyard lot
And little teeny Dumpling, the mouse came out to see
While the kookaburra laughed out loud as he sat up in the tree

There Bruce the crazy hamster turned his wheel into a ball
And rolled out of the farmhouse to the sun to join them all
While Tinkerbelle the little lamb went jumping cross the lawn
And Scooter Boy the silverback played tag with Kit the fawn

And in a line conga they had danced into the night
With the evening moon above them cascading silver light
And in the dusk that covers them, they'll hush and sleep 'til day
When once again the golden sun will call them out to play

16.3.2009

THE FIREFLY

A little firefly, that's me
If you come by you will see
Such displays that will delight
In the darkness of the night

Forever living life so free
A little firefly, that's me
I light the way for all to come
Making light when day is done

See the wonders I do share
Lighting up the midnight air
A little firefly, that's me
Amazing you eternally

By the river I do fly
Amazing those that pass me by
Giving light for all to see
A little firefly, that's me

22.11.2009

THE FORGET ME NOT FLOWER

Willy was just a small garden snail
Just beginning his journey in life
He had no idea 'bout the dangers out there
Nor the things that would bring him strife

He was born under a forget me not flower
When spring was just starting to bloom
And the birds and the bees were raising their young
And the air smelt of sweet perfume

Willy came out on a day that was cold
And the ground was all wet from the rain
And he followed the group wherever they went
And they went where the veggies were layin'

He didn't know the dangers this posed
As he slithered across the damp ground
He just knew that he was to follow and go
Where the food source was to be found

Poor Willy the snail was too young to die
But he went where no snail should go
Defence of our crops is utmost to us
There's no giving where our veggies grow

Willy was born at an unlucky time
Now he sleeps in the realms of the dead
There's a sign in that garden to warn all the snails
No trespasses here will be fed

Yes I remember poor Willy but what could I do
The bugger should have just read the sign
He might have been born under a forget me not flower
But that veggie patch was bloody mine

8.11.2008
Written for a contest

THE GAZONAPEDE

Have you ever seen a Gazonapede
That roams the dark of night
Striking fear into the heart
And giving all a fright.

Have you heard them out there
With the wind swishing through the trees
Their woeful cries that make you start
The children stop and freeze

Have you seen a Gazonapede
Lurking in the dark
Maybe in your backyard
Or in the local park

They're waiting for a victim there
Perhaps it might be you
They'll catch you when you least expect
They know just what you do

Gazonapedes are darkly souls
They're creatures of the night
Lurking in the shadows there
To give someone a fright

When you were young and carefree
And living life to the full
Did mum and dad give you the spiel
Like all good parents would

Did dad tell you the frightening things
Gazonapedes would do
If you were bad and troublesome
What it would do to you

Did mum tell you the scary tales
That came from years gone by
Of children who were eaten up
By this creature on the fly

Gazonapedes are waiting there
In the dark and restless night
Looking for another soul
That he might want to smite

So if you're lying in your bed
And a shadow meets your eye
It just might be the Gazonapede
On guard and passing by

So close your eyes and go to sleep
Make not a single sound
The Gazonapede will pass on by
Out on his nightly round

24.1.2009

THE GHOST SHIP

A strong head wind mockingly leers as it beats upon my bow
As the waves breach from the dark morbid water
Together they wreak havoc, pushing me this way, then that
But I hold myself high and rise to meet the challenge

A laughing gull glides overhead
But the winds untamed
Reach up to sweep it from its course
And the gull stunned and frightened, lands upon my deck

I soothe this pitiful spirit as he rests his weary bones
While the waves and the winds keep beating upon me
But I shall not allow them to take me down
Nor shall I allow them to wrestle this soul from my care

The skies above painted in battle greys beat their drums
And toss flaming spears wantonly
And the gull feared and trembling seeks shelter within
While I continue to fight the fray

As I throw my bow downward to avoid the winds strike
The waves come crashing upon me
But I quickly heave upward and leave them in my wake
Tossing my wretched form onward

A whirlpool is tossed in my path
I find myself spinning and spinning
A vortex grasping my desperate heart
As I struggle to remain as I am

I desperately fight the surging waters
As they loop and loop around me
But I shall shield my little companion
From their torment and ill will

As I revolve desolately in this whirlpool
I glimpse grey figures on a distant swell
And I hear the echo of their call
As they led a charge toward me

Sonar bounces off my heavy body now weakened and frail
As soft whistles tantalize my essence
Giving me strength to thrust myself forward
And release this dying spirit from the grip of death

Soon they come riding my bow waves
Joyfully leaping and flipping in my shadow
Singing their harmonious song
Like an orchestra mounting to its crescendo

And the seas roll and make way for us
As we journey the abandoned oceans
Seeking comfort in the lights of some far off port
That seems to forever evade us

Now and then we glimpse hope on the tides
Only to have it fade before us
But my companion and I sail our endless journey
Forever hopeful of finding land

And thus if you shall see us upon the high seas
Lost in the spray and mist of the deep
Then you shall know that we are forever possessed
Of optimism of finding our way home

25.12.2008

THE GHOSTLY WHISPER

A shadow crept across the floor and up upon the wall
And slew across the wooden beams and down into the hall
Where in the dim of this cold night with snow most everywhere
I heard the ghostly whisper of someone who wasn't there

The shadow flittered through the door and up upon the ceiling
And danced a jig up on the light that left the bulb a reeling
It tumbled down the wall and went a spinning 'cross the room
And someone who was not quite there went hiding in the gloom

I heard the softly whisper of someone who wasn't there
I heard the sound of little feet that wafted in the air
Then from the darkened corner it had flayed across the floor
And in a flash it blinkered out and wasn't anymore

17.3.2009

THE GOLDEN MOON

She is the golden moon of light that travels by and by
She leaves when day is calling and the sun lights up the sky
But sometimes she gets curious and lingers just to see
If life by day is all that it is all made out to be

The golden moon she rises when the sun glows up above
She brings us all her mystery that's bound with golden love
Embracing us in warming light and a smile of riches fair
Our love is full of wonder when the golden moon is there

When dusk fall down upon us we will see her shining face
Sending us her happiness that falls most every place
And when the stars are shining she will see us through with light
Cradled in her loving arms throughout the coming night

The golden moon she rises and she stretches 'cross the land
Laying down her shadows that she touched with gentle hands
With the cooing of the doves below she'll sail with us 'til dawn
Rocking on the waves of life 'til another day is born

And sometimes you will see her in the morning light of day
Looking out on waking skies as she slowly slips away
To rest 'til night is calling and she raises up her head
And sings us golden lullabies as the sun slips off to bed

The golden moon she rises to our love that we both share
Her kisses planted on our dreams she holds with tender care
And our hands entwined in harmony will feel her wisping by
While angels dance in heaven and the moon lights up the sky

26.9.2009

THE GREAT LIGHT

The mud's were so thick – they were tinged oh so red
Around us the wounded – the dying – the dead
The tanks were advancing like monsters of steel
The rumbling ground 'neath our feet we could feel

I ran through the mud and my terror was strong
I dived in the trench and I landed headlong
While the rifles were cracking I cowered in fright
And the sounds of the battle rang out in the night

Then someone came crashing right down on me there
My heart skipped a beat and I jumped in the air
I grabbed for my knife and I stabbed in a craze
Then crawled to the end and I sat in a daze

My body was shaking and my terror was high
I curled myself up like a baby and cried
My mind it was spinning – my thoughts they were scattered
My whole soul was churning – my calm had been shattered

And as I lay there in my horror and fear
I heard a soft groan that came straight to my ear
I raised up my head and I wiped my wet eye
And I heard a low whimper from the other guy

I crawled on my knees and I stopped where he lay
I looked at his face that was muddy and grey
I lay down my hand on the top of his head
I felt really bad for his blood I had shed

I calmed him and talked as he gazed in my face
While the battle went on all over the place
I cradled him close as I held his cool hand
And rocked him so gently this dying young man

Then the sounds of the battle were hushed in the night
I raised up my head there before a great light
There were angels all over – they were coming our way
They stood there in splendour with love on display

I heard the man sigh – I was left there alone
I felt his last breath as they spirited him home
And the great light had faded and the night became grey
The angels had come and slipped quietly away

And I smiled to myself as the tears freely ran
For I knew he was safe in the great spirits hands
I'd seen me an angel – I'd seen me pure love
Come from the kingdom of heaven above

1.8.2004

THE GREATEST HURT OF ALL

Though I'll lie awake in darkness
With a heavy heart and cry
I'll walk with you forever
For your memory will never die

Though I'll crave to have you with me
And my hurt runs ever deep
I'll walk with you forever
For your memory will not sleep

If I had been born of magic
With the power to heal your ill
I would have cured you in an instant
And you'd be with me still

If God could have but humbled
And looked in my heart to see
He could have spared you, my friend
And instead drained life from me

I would have gladly humbled
With a joyous heart to know
That you'd live long and happy
Oh, if it could have been so

But my heart is heavy laden
And my soul in sorrow cries
And a barren feeling fills me
And the morning heavy lies

I will walk with you forever
'Til' time is void and still
I'll not lay waste your memory
My days you'll wholly fill

And though I'll lie awake in darkness
Every night I'll steel away
To meet you in my memory
Where the heart is light each day

20.12.1984

(In memory of Hobo – the most beautiful cat
Died 20.12.1984)

THE GRUMPY BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS

It was just this morning
My human feeders came
And gave me something I didn't know
And it was them to blame

I thought it tasted yummy
And sat nicely in my tum'
But late at night with my sweet girl
It burst right out my bum

Oh boy she was so angry
She said I smelt like shit
She said 'get out my goddamned tree
Before I have a fit'

So if I'm looking grumpy
You've probably got it right
'Cause I haven't had a moments sleep
Been farting through the night

23.5.2010
(Written for a contest)

THE HANDS OF TERROR

They came by night when all was dark
And filled my hours with dread
I had no thought of who they were
Or if they were the dead

There painful grip upon my heart
With hands of deathly grey
Brought terror to my silent night
I could not get away

Such screams I screamed upon the night
Such horror made me flinch
But paralysed I could not flee
I could not move an inch

My body filled with so much dread
Their hands of icy steel
In cased my mind in terror strong
I cried, 'You are not real!'

With no reply they pulled me down
I felt my mind go numb
How could I fight such terrors
When my body had succumb

A tingling upon my soul
Had moved across my skin
Like teasing fingers dragging down
From head to lower shin

Cries and pleas of help rang out
My mind was filled with dread
When suddenly my body rose
And slammed back on the bed

Such terrors had come calling by
I not know who they be
But hope and pray they don't return
To bring such fear to me

4.10.2010

THE JOEY

Let me tell you all a story 'bout the tears I couldn't hide
A mother lying by the ride with a Joey there inside
It was on a sunny morning but the rain was falling down
For my eyes were filled with tears with this sadly thing I found

I took him from the pouch and I started right away
To get this little soul some help to save his life today
Although the sun was shining the rain came pelting down
No sadder sight had I ever seen than that Joey I had found

The refuge that I took him too were there to meet the call
They took the little Joey in without a thought at all
They gave him all the love they could they gave him all their care
And little Joey thrived on this and so well he had faired

With other little Joeys he grew up so big and strong
They finally released him out where Kangaroos belong
Jumping there with other 'roos all lost in fun and play
I thank the Lord that I was there to help him on that

12.2.1998

THE KNIGHT OF GOD'S SWORD

The cry had been heard many times before
The sound of anger brought forth by war
For God and for country he had sworn to fight
But which was which and which was right

From a land afar he had found his way
Through time and space to see this day
Two grown men had come to fight
What was the knight to do that's right

He knelt and prayed in silence there
While cries rang out across the air
With tears a flow and sorrowful pain
He called to God to please explain

Why he was sent to see this fight
That made his old heart burn tonight
For he had vowed to country and King
To do their bidding 'bove anything

But too in heart he knew inside
This battle he could not abide
No soul he would stand by and see
Perish long into our history

In stillness he knelt there to pray
And God's answer soon came his way
For although king and country called
God's word was word and ruled them all

The knight now clear of what was true
Set out to do what knights must do
For in his heart of hearts he saw
No reason for this wretched war

The native tribes must live and free
For it was in their destiny
Their lives would be now his to save
Keep history from the eternal grave

And to the sword he took his stand
To fight for life as God had planned
And as our history will one day tell
The knight's honour was God's as well

17.5.2010

Written for a contest

THE LITTLE BEAR

At the window she stands and stares
Tears running down her face
Her hands clutch at the window ledge
Sorrow has her embrace

And her little bear is her friend
He will hold all her secrets inside
He'll listen to her and utter no sound
And gather the tears she cries

In her world she makes believe
And her little bear is no toy
He gives her hope and comforts her
Through the nights in memories void

In the youth of her years he'll be
The strength that will carry her on
He'll share her dreams and sail with her
On the waters of youths small pond

Then one day she'll call no more
He will not hear her voice come through
For the years have taken her from her dreams
She has now something else to do

16.8.1984

THE LITTLE BEAR – 2

The little girl took up her little bear friend
And faced to the dark greying skies
There at the window she confided in him
While the tears trickled down from her eyes

‘Little bear I am so lonely’
She cried as she gazed far away
‘I long for those arms that may hold me
And cradle me softly each day’

‘It’s been a long wait and I’m thinking
That, that day may well never be
But still I keep hoping and praying
There’s someone there waiting for me’

A little bear sits at the window alone
The long years have passed slowly by
He sits there and thinks of his little girl friend
And a tear trickles out of his eye

He remembers the arms that had held him
He remembers the things that she said
He remembers the day that she wandered away
And never came calling again

13.4.1988

THE LITTLE BIRD

A little bird flying on the wing
Across the skies of blue
Searching for a home to find
Such a place he never knew

Below the forests bare were gone
And the seas were rough with foam
But on the little bird he flew
Searching for a home

Grasses swaying down below
But the trees were dead and gone
Concrete jungles met his eyes
And so he travelled on

When the little bird lays down his soul
It will be in fields of green
And God will take him home with him
To trees he's never seen

18.4.2010

THE LITTLE FISH

There was a little fish swimming 'round in the bay
He swam passed another fish that swam the other way
When all at once he saw ahead a dangling in the light
A little silver hooky thing that gave him quite a fright

But just as he was 'bout to turn and head the other way
A little worm called out to him and beckoned him to play
The little fish he shook his head and said he couldn't do
'Cause little silver hooky things, they did bad things to you

The little worm he laughed out loud and said, 'that isn't so
And if you want to know the truth, then to you I will show
Just come a little closer and don't worry what was said
I'll tell you all the truth about this thing above your head'

The little fish was not quite sure and didn't dare to near
The little silver hooky thing a dangling in the air
For worms were known to tell such lies, he had been taught in school
And he was learned, so learned he was – he wasn't someone's fool

The worm he sighed and rolled his eyes and said, 'oh well I see
You do not want to know the truth – what really this could be
Well if that is the way it is, then go! Be on your way
I'll find another little fish that will come out and play'

The little fish he turned around and swam back through the bay
And back into the ocean where he'd live another day
And as he swam his mind began to think about that worm
And words the worm had said to him and he began to turn

For this young fish you see was not the brightest in the school
He had a little trouble with that cursed golden rule
Something 'bout a lying worm he'd a problem taking in
And a bit he learned about a little silver hooky thing

He knew the golden rule had said, don't trust a worm that lies
Who swings upon a hooky thing and smiles as you pass by
Don't listen if he says hello and beckons you to come
A little closer to that thing and have a little fun

The little fishy thought out loud, confusion in his eyes
He said, 'just how can one fish tell If worms are telling lies'
It seemed a little strange to him, this lesson he had learned
About a silver hooky thing and sneaky lying worms

He went to ask the little worm a question just to see
If it were true that little worms were liars constantly
The little worm he laughed again and said, 'my little friend
D' you think I'd tell a lie to you, my friend you do offend'

The little fishy sighed a sigh and said, 'I think I see
You are my friend and since it's so, you wouldn't lie to me'
And so the little fishy swam a little closer in
To play a game with wormy on the little hooky thing

Farewell to little fishy in the ocean there so blue
Who didn't heed the golden rule he had been taught at school
Who never listened to the words the wise ones always said
Who played upon a hooky thing and ended up quite dead

30.5.2009

THE SOLDIER

The little soldier stands alone upon the dusty shelf
Waiting for his master who will take him out to play
But time is wasting in this house – footsteps do not come
There's something very wrong with this today

Silence echoes everywhere – no laughter meets his ears
No sound has caused his little heart to run
When will the little master come to take him from the shelf
To play together having so much fun

Year on year he stands alone in hope that one day soon
A little voice will call to him once more
And tender hands will hold him close assuring him again
As master comes a dancing through the door

Tears of sorrow fall from eyes that wait to see the smile
Of the little face that loved to daily play
But there's silence in this lonely house – nothing anywhere
There's something very wrong with this today

12.6.1983

Written for a contest

THE LITTLE WHITE DUCK

There once was a little white duck
Who was blind in both his eyes
And the only way he could get around
Was through the others cries

They'd shout 'go left – go right, mate'
They'd shout 'come here - go there'
They'd shout 'go up' – they'd shout 'go down'
'Til he could go nowhere

This little white duck was lonely
'Cause none would be his friend
Every time he went to move around
They'd start it all again

They'd shout 'go left - go right, mate'
They'd shout 'come here – go there'
They'd shout 'go up' – they'd shout 'go down'
'Til he could go nowhere

Then one bright summer morning
As he sat there so sad
He heard a voice that spoke to him
And he didn't feel so bad

The voice called – 'Billy ducky
My little rubber friend
Please come with me and you will see
All the love you cannot spend'

And the other ducks sat watching
They couldn't believe their eyes
The little boy took the little toy
And silenced all their cries

They'd shout 'go left – go right, mate'
They'd shout 'come here – go there'
They'd shout 'go up' – they'd shout 'go down'
Now they don't shout nowhere

26.9.2009

THE LONELY HAT

There's nothing sadder than a lonely hat
Sitting on a stand where once two sat
In a passageway where the light shone through
That stained glass door where love reigned true

A lonely hat on a lonely stand
A wedding ring on the old man's hand
A teardrop falls on the wooden floor
Her footsteps there he'd hear no more

An empty vase where cuttings were placed
Brought sadness forth to the old man's face
His shaking hands that shielded his eyes
Let's no one see all the tears he cries

A portrait hangs on the living room wall
A dusty frame where night creatures crawl
And Spider webs twinkle in the firelight
And a lady looks down on the old man's plight

There's a thump and a moan just behind his chair
And he turns and gasps at her standing there
And he whispers 'love, my life, my friend
I beg you please don't leave again'

She frowns and sighs and says 'my dear
Don't fret my love, I'm always here
And dry those tears you foolish man
Come, she smiled, now take my hand'

Now that stand is empty and the vase is gone
And the portrait there has faded with time
The dust had settled and covered it all
And spider webs decorate the hall

There's nothing sadder than a lonely hat
Sitting on a stand where once two sat
And two gold bands have so been laid
On the marble stone that is their grave

16.10.2008

THE LONESOME BELL

Upon a moonless winter night
Where all was dark and shadows fell
When came a stirring in my sight
I heard a far off lonesome bell

The bell had rung within the gloom
The eerie sound of night did call
And shadows danced there in the room
And played upon the lounge room wall

I sat in still and quiet wait
For something had engaged my fear
Set forth the terror of my fate
What was that something lurking near

The fire sparked and caught my eye
And still I could not move at all
The dread that raced in me did fly
For something moved upon the wall

A darkened form moved in the night
It lurked within the shadows there
I braced myself to take to flight
And dashed out of my comfy chair

The light switch there I flicked upon
And brightness fell about me there
For then I saw what was not gone
A form that caused my heart a scare

A spider big and hairy stood
And gazed at me with bulging eyes
I laughed so loud as loud I could
And let out one big thankful sigh

The hunter had begun to roam
When I had heard that lonesome bell
And made my place his place of home
The night the rains and shadows fell

13.11.2010

THE MEETING

Sitting in the bushes on a cold and windy day
I saw a little face peek out but quickly move away
I smiled and got down on my knees for I was somewhat sure
This little tiny creature would come forth to me some more

I took a piece of bread I had and placed it on the ground
And waited ever silent for this creature to come around
And a little nose was peeking out then two sweet eyes appeared
He sniffed the air and looked at me and warily drew near

Little feet had grabbed the bread he sat and chewed away
I watched him with such honour that I could see this today
His little eyes were dark and small but twinkled oh so bright
As he gazed upon me kneeling there in the early morning light

When he had finished eating he turned 'round and ran away
A tiny little creature really started off my day
I walked away with such a smile and happy just to see
The creature that I came upon that shared this time with me

24.7.2010

THE MILK HORSE

The clip clop of hooves on the cobbled streets sounded
The dawning was not far away
While sleepy eyes opened to the sound of the wagon
That would bring them their milk for the day

The great big Clydesdale that was pulling the wagon
Seemed happy to be on the go
Moving along – he was swaying in motion
To the whistling song of big Joe

The children came out to rejoice with his coming
They laughed as they ran at his side
And the old Clydesdale kept clip clopping onward
Down through the valley so wide

All of the people would smile when they saw him
The milk horse was doing his beat
And the sound of the hooves clip clopped on the roadway
And down to the end of the street

The clinking of bottles was heard through the valley
Each day as the milk cart went on
Delivering milk to the people that lived there
Until every bottle was gone

The valley was proud of the horse that had served them
All the years he had pulled on the dray
Making his round through the sleepy old valley
And bringing them milk every day

9.10.2004

THE MIST

I awake to a misty morning moving low across the land
And I see the day that's dawning with the touch of natures hand
the land is slowly waking and the creatures make a start
And it's cold out there this morning but the beauty warms my heart

Moving low upon the meadow over hill and through the glen
The mist curls lightly over as it visits us again
Our eyes are filled with wonder on another misty day
And it's cold out there this morning as it slowly moves away

Little birds begin to chatter while the eagle takes to flight
They have waited for this moment through a long and lonely night
Soon the sun will rise and greet them and send sunrays to them all
And it's cold out there this morning but it's warm here in my soul

There's a sigh from out the mountains where the creatures are at play
For they love a misty morning that means sunshine for the day
Out upon the lowly meadow mist rolls lowly through the glen
and we'll wait another morning 'til the mist comes by again

27.10.2009

THE MOSQUITO

The helipad is ready and I'm taking off in flight
There's something very precious on the wind
I'm souping up my motor for this long and weary night
While waiting for the dark to come on in

It's okay in the daytime but it sure is great at night
When things just seem to fall all into place
There are motors really roaring – the time is drawing near
And everyone is moving round in haste

I look up to the sky and I see the night come down
I know this is the moment to deploy
I'm seeking out my prey with ever searching eyes
As the call goes up destroy! destroy! destroy!

I can sense it on the breeze and it really is a joy
I can see the burning fires that draw me down
But the meal is getting jumping and is truly flipping out
Really makes it hard to judge where I am bound

There's a shout then there's a cry and a mighty hardy - whack!
There goes old brother Lenny -God bless his soul
While young Jerry's had his fill and is looking mighty fat
But I'm still in flight and seeking out my goal

Now I can really wait no longer and I dive without a care
Hit my mark and feel the oozing – oh so fine
Forgetting 'bout the danger as I drink my hearty meal
Do not see the menace coming up behind

I saw Lenny just today - as we stood beside the rest
We were watching as they bid us both, farewell
Splattered in our early prime just for making meals of them
They had squashed us and had sent us both to hell

26.9.2009

THE MOUSE'S STORY

'Do you really think you ought to do that
To my brand new hat you cheeky young cat
I was wearing it today to impress all my friends
So please stop that, you'll ruin the threads

Pardon me, sir but I was just curious to see
Who was beneath this strange hat and well blow me
It was you who was wearing this hat on your head
I think it looks fine but would look better red

Well red doesn't suit and I like what I got
And I don't care whether you like it or not
Paws off my friend go play somewhere else
Go tease the dog on the lawn near the house

Dear me dear sir you are cranky today
What's got your goat you would wish me away
Your hat was so pretty I wanted to know
Just who it was wearing that was there below

Well now that you know, don't be bothering me
I got to be going, I have mouses to see
They're all getting ready for the king to arrive
And the hat that I wear will be a surprise

Forgive me dear sir but I don't mean to grin
But I think you should know that the hat that your in
Says something on top that I think you should read
I was covering it up so nobody would see

You know I can't read said the mouse to the cat
And please keep your paws off my newly bought hat
Whatever it says it can wait 'til tomorrow
So go you young thing and please do not follow

I beg you dear sir but you should really know
Why I am cannot leave you to wander alone
I really can help you but you must trust me
So please will you sir let me help you to see

Oh very well cat, make it quick and then go
What is this thing that you wish me to know
Out with it now don't be wasting my time
Tell me the reason you are walking behind

Please dear sir I will tell you again
But only because you are my best friend
The words on your hat that you bought that I see
Say kitty cat kitty cat oh please eat me

The mouse looked at him in a terrible trance
The kitty cat laughed and started to prance
I got you my friend now run off and play
'Cause today is the first, it's April fools day

4.4.2010

Written for a contest.

Prompt was a picture of a cat and
A mouse with a leaf on its head.

THE OLD DOG

The old dog sat down in the meadow
His one friend had left him alone
His sad eyes were failing him quickly
And his body was tagging along

The grasses about him were swaying
In rhythm to the wind in the trees
And the voices of the angels were calling
He could hear their sweet song on the breeze

As the night it came calling upon him
And the cool winds were whispering 'round
The old dog lay down in the grasses
And the angels came calling on down

When he awoke he was bathed in a glory
Of colours that were shining so bright
And before him his old friend was standing
And calling him into the light

He rose to his feet and went running
Right into the arms of his friend
Now together they'll wander forever
And never be parted again

28.11.2004

THE PASSING OF TEDDY

The toys were all scattered across the girl's floor
And she sat on her bed and was crying
Cradled in arm was her small fluffy bear
And she wept 'cause her fluffy was dying

Her mother walked in and she spoke to the child
And the girl looked up at her in sorrow
She said 'mummy dear I'm afraid to let go
'Cause I know I won't have him tomorrow'

Her mother sat down and she cradled her close
As she looked in the eyes of her daughter
The pretty blue eyes that were saddened but wise
As she hugged the small bear that she bought her

And the songs of the angels came calling to her
As she dreamed of her teddy that day
And fluffy he waits as the years roll by
His life had been taken away

16.1.2004

THE PINNY WACKLE PEOPLE

I took a trip on a sailing ship
To the land of the Pinny Wackle people
They live on the banks of the Yonnie Yonnie Yunger
And got a church with a great big steeple

They've all got guns and mighty big ones
That they fire at the people of Hasty
They shoot meat pies and hot French fries
And their enemy think they're tasty

The old grey king had a secret thing
That he kept in a low locked cellar
His wife wanted to know what the thing could be
But alas the king wouldn't tell her

She hired a man from the Hasty land
To come prying on the Pinny Wackle people
She wanted to know what was hidden below
In the church with the great big steeple

So up he snuck in the dead of the dark
When the Pinny Wackle people lay sleeping
To the church nearby with the steeple high
And inside the man went creeping

Down the stair he trotted with care
Didn't want to wake the land of slumber
He found the room where the thing was hid
And did a jig and a kind of rumba

Happy as can be he shouted with glee
'Now I know what the king is hiding'
And the soldiers came from the floor above
Down the stairs they all went gliding

The man from the land of Hasty was banned
And sent packing on the Yonnie Yonnie River
They set him adrift in a little paper boat
Without clothes that made him shiver

And the queen stood by with a tear in her eye
Looking down on the Pinny Wackle people
She'd never know what was hidden below
In the church with the great big steeple

14.5.2010

THE PRESENCE

I heard a distant humming in the back blocks of my mind
I heard the distant whisper as it followed on behind
It had torn me from my slumber when the night was dark and still
As it crossed the velvet void above and hovered o'er the hill

I arose to take a peek out there to see what I could see
In time to see a smiling face there peeking back at me
And I wondered at this presence though I didn't feel afraid
For contact had been driven and connection had been made

Above the sweeping hilltop it was sitting there in sight
Quietly in the darkness it had come to me that night
And the voice that I kept hearing in my head was clear and kind
And it echoed in the darkness and it filled my sleepy mind

There was something 'bout this presence that had awakened much in me
I didn't understand at first – then I began to see
I remembered something lost in time from when I was a child
I remembered who had owned that voice and that had made me smile

From the distance in the darkness he had called to me once more
Assuring me that he was there and would be evermore
And when the morning rays fell and my eyes were filled with light
I was warmed to know that I was not alone there in the night

18.3.2003

THE PURPLE COW

I've seen a purple cow my friend
Though I wouldn't shout it loudly
I've seen it on my nightly jaunts
Of this I am so proudly

As I walk home I see her pass
I stagger As I greet her
I chat a bit and stagger on
So glad that I could meet her

31.1.2009

THE RAIDING PARTY

It was Captain William Hunter who had led the squad to slaughter
For the squad was not yet ready for the task ahead of them
They were green as sprouting saplings in a forest dark and eerie
And the Captain saw no danger and he led the bastards in

They snuck up behind the hillside in the cover of the bushes
And they saw the deed for doing in the valley just below
Captain Hunter briefed them swiftly and he turned toward the danger
As the squad in mocking dumbness stood there stiffly in a row

He upped his arms for battle and prepared to raid the valley
As the occupants below were busy setting things in place
And with gallant boldness daring he snuck off among the grasses
With his battle helmet dangling and with lust upon his face

And with Captain William Hunter in the point and quite fanatic
The squad had formed a column and had followed on behind
As the occupants below went about their routine duty
With their backs toward the hillside, they were easy prey and blind

Once upon the flatland, they had charged with mass dispersion
And commenced to raid the party who had now come to alert
And with weapons near and handy they stood tall to face the raiders
And replied with death most instant from the cans that they did squirt

So Captain William Hunter and his squad of new green raiders
Were exterminated swiftly from the valley evermore
For no ant has yet been able to find defence protective
To beat the can of pest spray that the human party bore

8.11.1980

THE ROMANCE

Pat was a rat and I'm certain of that
While Pete was a parrot with pride
And Henry the horse was a champion of course
And was always right there at their side

Poor Lenny the lion was forever trying
To make it with Millie the mule
But Ollie the owl just couldn't see how
And thought that the cat was a fool

Pat said to Pete who passed it to Henry
'Old Lenny is losing the plot'
But Henry just sighed and sorrowfully said
'I think that is more than he's got'

Pete looked at Pat who stared up at Ollie
Who was watching old Lenny nearby
Gazing at Millie who was acting quite silly
And talking to Freddie the fly

Henry looked 'round with a kind of a frown
And shook his sad head to and thro
Said 'Lenny my son it cannot be done
Poor Millie will suffer you know'

Lenny just growled and pattered away
He was mad at the words that he heard
Old Henry had said that ran through his head
Lenny thought it was rather absurd

Lenny found Millie and asked her to dance
And Millie said she would be pleased
So they danced in the night with the moon all so bright
While Ollie looked down through the trees

Then Lenny said 'Millie, I love you my dear
Let's spend our lives rolling in clover'
And there in the night he gave her a love bite
On the neck and the romance was over

21.11.2009

THE ROOSTER AND THE HEN

Said the rooster to the hen who was standing by the door
‘Your eyes are lovely laden lady - can you give me more’
She turned a wicked wily face and looked him in the eye
And said ‘my dear rooster - give me one good reason why’

He fluffed himself and set his comb so it was standing tall
He looked upon the lovely lass but no words came at all
He couldn’t give an answer although many thoughts had passed
And all the reasons he could give were many and quite vast

She sighed and shook her dainty head - saddened by his voice
That uttered not a single word and left her just one choice
She said ‘my dear rooster if you cannot give reply
Then sadly I must answer no – and leave you by and by’

The rooster gazed upon the hen – he never thought before
That any hen would ever leave and march on out the door
He crowed and cried and begged her stay and sadly he did say
‘My dear I fear I will regret if you do not come play’

The hen looked there on upon him and she said, ‘I cannot do
For you have no good reason why I should stay with you
You crow and cry and carry on but never I regret
In all this time we’ve stood here have you given answer yet’

She trotted off her head held high - the rooster watched her leave
He saw her cross the farmyard on this darkly summer eve
When from a dimly corner came a crashing and a cry
And rooster saw the hen’s demise right there before his eye

He crowed and cried and raced about – he’d gotten in a flap
He saw the poor old hen go down and heard her neck go snap
And as the hen was carried off he shouted out ‘my dear
I forgot to mention this before but the fox is lurking near

12.3.2011

THE SEARCH

You walked into my life so long ago
And like a silent panther creeping in the night
You slipped into the shadows of my soul
Only fleetingly giving form to your presence

You prowled in the darkest depths of my being
Allowing me only the occasional thought of your existence
Not giving reason nor need for your being there
You became that which I needed to know

I have hunted you like a lost soul in time
Trying endlessly to coax you out of the abyss
The catacombs of the deepest recesses of thought
But you hide there as if afraid for me to know you

I know you're there for I feel your presence in my times of need
I feel your unseen hands gently pushing me forward
And I hear your voice whisper like a gentle breeze
But your words unrecognized do not linger in my mind

At nights when I sleep and I search for you there
Chasing you across the barren landscapes of dreams
Only to have you flee before me in hushed steps
Avoiding even just a touch that might awaken my knowing

If your name should ever be spoken and your face ever be seen
Should you cease to exist and leave me forever
Should I be satisfied with just the thought that you are there
Sometimes I wonder whether perhaps you are aware

1.9.2002

The Secret of the Pinny Wackle people's church (The sequel to the Pinny
Wackle people)

The Pinny Wackle people
Were standing by the door
Of the Yonnie Yonnie Yunger church
But were not really sure
Why they were even standing there
Or why they even came
But the king had said to come along
And so they played the game

The queen was in her night dress
And the king was in his gown
He looked upon the people
That were standing all around
They seemed to be a little lost
Unsure 'bout what to do
But they couldn't turn and walk away
'Cause that would be quite rude

The queen looked up and gave a yawn
The king a friendly smile
He chuckled and his belly moved
In rhythm for a while
Then silence fell upon the crowd
What was the king to say
As everybody waited
On this most auspicious day

'Within these walls' the king began
'I have a secret there
And it has been a secret
Since the winds had roamed the air
And now the time has come my friends
To share this day with you
The secret that I have in there
Hidden from your view'

But just as he was about to speak
They were taken by surprise
When a mighty flavoursome meat pie
Hit him right between the eyes
The king went down and all the town
Stood there in shock and awe
As the king lay there upon the ground
Outside the church's door

They rushed the king away in haste
And the queen began to cry
She never learned the secret
That was hidden there inside
Now she would have to wait again
With all the other people
To learn the secret locked inside
The church with the great big steeple

25.7.2010

THE SHARK AND I

I went down to the beach
And I took a barrow with me
I fell in love with a white shark there
That invited me in for tea

I used my wheelbarrow to gather
Some food for the nightly feast
'Cause the white shark said we'd eat well
That low down lying beast

For you see he had lied to me
And when I had entered the water
The great white shark grabbed hold of me
And I don't think he'd ought' a

So I whacked him on the nose
'Cause that's just what I do
When great white sharks take snaps at me
Well, wouldn't you whack him to?

13.2.2010

Written for a word bank contest
(A word bank contest is when the writers
are given a list of words and they
have to write a poem using all of them.)

THE SHIP

The ship rose up from the valley
And it climbed in the dark evening sky
Not a sound did it make as it ascended up there
And a vision was seen in my eye

Silently up did it climb ever more
And its lights were flashing in time
As they charged back and forth – rotating the rim
As ever more upward it climbed

Like the winds in the night, it zipped in the sky
And then suddenly halted up there
Then it blinked in the dark and disappeared from sight
Just the moon and the stars filled the air

I stood there in awe as I waited return
But the night became black and so dim
As the clouds gathered 'round and shrouded the earth
And a thunderstorm came rolling in

I remember that night like it was yesterday
Such a vision was placed in my eye
The rotating lights of the great climbing ship
As it rose from the valley that night

3.7.2004

THE SKATEBOARDING COCKROACH

I saw something very strange today
Stranger than ever before.
A skateboarding cockroach raced on by.
Across my kitchen floor.

I didn't know what to think of it
And it really blew my mind
I'd never seen a skateboarding cockroach.
And a better one you'd never find

With all legs going he spun those wheels
As he dashed beneath the sink
Then came out skating like he was on
A God damned skating rink

A little helmet on his head
Little boots upon his feet
He made that skateboard really move
While I sat there on my seat

He did a fancy trick or two
As he spun around in flight
Then rode that skateboard to the fridge
And disappeared from sight

He isn't just a normal roach
Like hangs around the house
When he's not skating cross my floor
He's riding 'pon a mouse

8.7.2009

THE STAIRCASE

Darkness falls up the walls
Upon the staircase gliding high
Shadows dancing, tripping, prancing
Up each step now by and by

Dusk revives to bring us wonder
Stillness will not settle here
Footsteps come – whispers echo
A rising shudder – something near

Eyes behold a figure gliding
Upon the staircase to the sky
Little hands grip the railings
Turns and smiles and winks an eye

Little angel climbing upward
On the staircase winding round
Up toward the heavens waiting
Disappears without a sound

Darkness falls upon the walls
Shadows flowing in the night
A little soul goes home to father
On a winding staircase flight

29.11.2008

THE STICK

The drying old forest was as tall as can be
And the creatures that dwelled there lived well
The sunshine had given it life once again
Come the season of the rains it would swell

The canopy high was alive with new life
As the birds brought their fledglings to reign
But down on the floor in the darkness and still
A lone stick was living in vain

He had arrived in the world as a little soft bud
And had grown to an immature twig
Competing for light with the trees springing up
All around him that were ever so big

As the days came and went he had gathered new strength
And the forest around became thick
This little soft twig that was vying for life
Turned into a barely seen stick

He sighed and he cried and he begged for some light
But the others weren't taking no heed
They overlooked him on the floor down below
Just a stick hardly out of its seed

Then the skies became dark and the rain tumbled down
And a new type of magic was seen
As it breathed new life into the saplings below
And everything sprouted out green

The stick took a breath and he wriggled his toes
As his growing pains lifted him high
And he reached for the sun that was waiting for him
In that canopy high in the sky

All of the forest gave out a big sigh
At the site of this towering one
No longer a stick but a giant so tall
A beautiful mighty Red Gum

23.10.2009

THE SUN MET THE MOON

The sun met the moon as she whispered good-bye
To the stars as they crept off to sleep
She whispered 'hello and good-bye to you, sir
Farewell' and away she did creep

The sun smiled down on the waters below
Who bowed their white veils to him
They rose to his touch – oh, they liked it so much
They raced to the beach with a grin

The sun saw the trees on the oceans gold shore
And bid them the brightest hello
They swayed 'neath the sky and the wind gave a sigh
The warmth of his touch was a flow

Throughout the day he went through the land
Touching all with a soft smile
'Til late in the eve, he saw he must leave
For the moon would awake in a while

The sun met the moon as she whispered 'hello'
To the stars as they crept out to peek
She whispered 'hello and good-bye to you, sir'
As off to his sleep he did creep

2.3.1980

THE THRONE ROOM

This here is my throne, said the queen
And no one can sit here if I haven't been
For there might be a moment of great alert
And I can't sit there if you're having a squirt

There's no happier place I'd rather be
At the very moment I am wanting a pee
Than in that room and on that throne
Getting relief, so leave it alone

What about my throne, said the king to she
What happens if I am wanting a pee
Hmmm, she groaned, if that time should call
Nick out back and use the wall

14.1.2009

THE TOYS

The toys are all scattered around on the floor
As the little boy talks to his dragon
While a soldier looks on as he stands there so staunch
And a cowboy looks out from the wagon

Up on the desk is a shaggy old mutt
A small fluffy dog he calls scratches
Who sits near a clown whose clothes are in rags
And made up from old bits and patches

A photo stands near and the boy sheds a tear
As he gazes upon the old picture
While the dragon looks on at the face that has gone
And has left the boy sad for his sister

There in the corner a little bear stands
His little eyes blue as the ocean
Staring upon the scene there before
And feeling the young boys emotion

And the boy bows his head as he cries for his sis'
While the dragon sheds scales of pure sorrow
Hoping that maybe the sun will come out
And shine on his playmate tomorrow

26.12.2009

THE TUMBLEWEED

The flowers were beauties they covered the land
Such a sight was a pleasure beheld
The roses were strong and proudly they stood
Such lovelies stood out from the crowd

But passing there by was a large tumbleweed
And he stopped to admire the scene
The picturesque show made the tumbleweed sigh
And wished that a rose he had been

‘Oh a rose - me a rose - how I wish I had been
But alas I am loosened and freed
Alone and bemoaned without any such love
Born a great wild tumbleweed’

As he stood there on the outer and all
All the roses were being admired
Pictures and words of great love given forth
From those who had greatly desired

And the tumbleweed stood ever so sadly alone
‘Til a big wind caught up with him there
Pushing him on on his journey so long
To wander where no body cared

And as he flew passed by the roses and all
His heart gave a pitiful cry
A tumbleweeds life is but one of transition
Where everything passes on by

‘Oh a rose - me a rose - how I wish I had been
But alas I am loosened and freed
Alone and bemoaned without any such love
I am a wild tumbleweed’

22.8.2010

THE UNIVERSE HUMS

The universe hums in deep deep space
Haunting sounds that coo the soul
Where comets fly and leave no trace
And things vanish in cold black holes

Our earth goes round and round the sun
Its motion keeping time
With distant planets on the run
From stars they left behind

On cosmic waves the whispers ride
As ears listen for distant sound
Of neighbours who might just abide
On far-off planets spinning round

Time races through the distant past
Exploding matter that sends out signs
Of distant earths that once were cast
And now are nothings left behind

In the still of night when shadows fall
When silence of the slumber comes
Listen to the distant call
Of far off reaches as they hum

For somewhere in that silent night
An answer may be flying through
The cosmic skies in seeking flight
To bring an answer back to you

9.12.2008

THE UNKNOWN GUEST

I lay sleeping – a blissful sleep - unaware and without concern
The days trials resting somewhere in the back of my mind
No trepidation had followed me there
What dreams I dreamt unsure
When something soon awakened me
The night I well remember

There lay I as I opened my eyes – for what reason yet unknown
And turned to face the dark – the simple act of looking
No reason to speak of I recall
No noise to stir me to rise
Yet something had reached out to me
Was I still dreaming

As I looked I saw a figure that stood at the end of my bed
But there was no fear nor worry
The figure stood in still
Staring back at me silently
I stared back not really concerned
Should I wonder

It was not quite a silhouette nor a solid form to speak of
Yet it was a someone with shape
A transparent figure clear to me
We stared for just a moment
I recall no great fright to myself
I just stared

A flowing white form that did not cause the heart to tremble
Nor so did it move away
It stood tall and without request
I did not try to guess at its need
Nor at its reason for being
It was just there

And then I turned to gaze at the clock at my bedside
The time well – it was questionable
Either quarter to or quarter past three
Its exactness slipped from mind
And when I turned to look again
My night visitor had vanished

For many years I wondered about that figure that night
Many reasons could have explained it
Many explanations could have dashed it
But whatever the case – I saw it
It has stayed with me in time
And I still wonder

2.8.2002

THE VOICE

In my mind there came a voice
That called from far away
A voice I knew I should recall
From some time yesterday

The whisper that engulfs my soul
I really need to know
The voice was planted in my mind
From some time long ago

I lay there in the darkened night
And listened to it speak
The words I cannot understand
Fall crumbled at my feet

The sounds I hear come crashing through
As I try to understand
But I am left in darkness
In the wasteland that I am

The voice had called so long ago
And planted in my soul
But now the message that it speaks
Just leaves me feeling cold

In my mind I speak my words
In the hope that it will hear
And then I feel the presence
As it whispers in my ear

I hear the voice – and then recall
And then I understand
The words fall softly in my ear
I am just what I am

In my mind I hear a voice
That reaches out to me
But time has left me lost to know
And left me blind to see

7.5.2004

THE WEB

Spin your web so fine today
Enchant me with your style
From branch to branch and leaf to leaf
Such beauty you have entwined

Small ones of the little world
Whose wonders captured me
A silk of which is born a web
That decorates my Xmas tree

11.4.1980

THE WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE

I am the wedge-tailed eagle and I fly o'er land and sea
I seek a place of solitude where God's creatures all run free
I am the mighty hunter of the skies – I am the king
I am the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

I've seen the Snowy River and the riders down below
I saw the height of mount Baw-Baw when covered thick with snow
The colour of the Dandy's when they came alive in spring
I am the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

I've been to Wilson's Promontory when summer hit the land
I've landed there on squeaky beach with all its squeaky sand
And across the Tidal River I had flown as the tide came in
I am the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

I've flown across the Bass Strait and I've seen its mighty waves
Stopped a while near Buchan town and seen the Buchan caves
Glided cross Apollo bay and been to Point Franklin
I am the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

I flew across the Grampians and took shelter at Kalkee
Winged my way cross Hindmarsh Lake and to the desert sea
I reached the Sunset Country when the winter turned to spring
I am the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

So now you know my story and the places that I go
Of all the things I see above when I look down below
I am the human traveller who has seen most everything
Through eyes of the wedge-tailed eagle flying free upon the wing

13.9.2009

THE WIND

A sweet little angel is here in my life
A baby to give me much joy through the years
Hear the wind sigh as it croons to the baby
To banish away all the tears

Ten tiny toes and a smile so engaging
A small button nose that is twitching all day
Pretty blue eyes that are filled with much laughter
The wind blew all dangers away

The universe hums and a melody lingers
Harmony rings through the skies up above
While a sweet little baby is sleeping so soundly
The wind blew in heavens sweet love

14.2.2010

THE WINGS

The up reaching wings of the swan
Slowly descended over the day
Giving warmth and shade to all
And cradled the sleeping figures

Night came forth silently stepping
Its cool breeze lay upon us
And its curtains of darkness
Embodied our tired souls

With the wings of the swan
Protecting us through the darkness
We marched on through our dreams
'Til daybreak called once more

The swan's wings slowly rose
To beckon in the new day
And we awakened to the dawn
To meet the new morning

The up reaching wings of the swan
Splashed upon the land
Lending light as it glided onward
To meet the dusk that would follow

9.7.2006

THE WOOD WOLF

There once was a girl called Mona
She went to visit her grandma in the wood
Where lived a wolf that liked to dance and sing
I guess like any good wood wolf would

Now don't go stumbling on my words my friends
For Mona needs you to get her by
If you should stumble and fall, that just wouldn't do
'Cause wood wolves would grab her passing by

And what would the wood wolf do with her you ask
As you wonder and at me you puzzled glance
Well, he'd do what wood wolves would always do
Sing to her and ask the girl to dance

14.2.2009

THE WOODEN BRIDGE

Upon the wooden bridge I stand
And listen to the beat
Of the waters as they're crashing down
With ducklings at my feet

The skies are blue so crystal clear
The air so warm and still
I listen to the sounds of life
Of waters as they spill

The trees are standing tall and proud
With singing birds today
And as I stand and wonder
I am softly swept away

The lake is smoothly glistening
In the sun's soft gentle rays
A perfume sweet and calming
Upon my soul it lays

And the ducklings are all waiting
For their morsels that I share
Upon the lake's old wooden bridge
That finds me standing there

Each time I call upon the lake
Its waters tell a tell
About the life that went before
That stands upon the trail

Where pioneers had once walked down
To the waters still and blue
And built a life now done and gone
But left for me and you

Upon the wooden bridge I stand
As the waters tumble down
Upon the rocks into the lake
Where ducklings can be found

I listen to the whistling of
The winds as they pass by
And sigh as I become as one
With nature at my side

6.2.2011

THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH

A prehistoric creature came waltzing through my life
And I thought this was to be my final fate
He was big and bold and scary
And somewhat kinda hairy
As he lumbered down the sidewalk to my gate

Now I can't say I was happy with this giant on the sidewalk
But I'd rather had him there than on my drive
He stood looking at me staring
With that look that he was wearing
That told me of the mischief deep inside

I thought I saw him grin as he tapped the gate a touch
Then he tapped a little harder and I cried
As he swept the gate away
With a wiggle of his sway
And that creature stood there looming now inside

I shouted and I stamped and I did an angry dance
As he stood there gazing at me somewhat feared
Then I saw it in his eye
And I silenced by and by
As this monster of a creature shed a tear

Now I could not be so angry with a creature that was weeping
'Cause his little heart was breaking I could see
He was looking for someone
Just to have a little fun
And that someone he was seeking had been me

So I sat upon the step and I called the creature over
'Cause I knew he wouldn't hurt me anymore
And his trunk he lifted high
As he gave a gleeful cry
And came thumping cross the yard to my front door

He stood and looked at me with a twinkle in his eye
Then turned and walked to where the flowers be
He gentle reached his snout
And picked a red rose out
Then came and placed that rose upon my knee

So now as I lay sleeping I go in search of him
And we trundle through the dark 'til morning light
In this realm where all is certain
My friends cross through that curtain
And frolic with me through the dreamy night

3.3.2009

THE YOUNG MAN

The young man was ridin' out over the country
His buddies were there at his side
Out over the prairie he was heading to Mary
The girl to soon be his bride

A beautiful lady with eyes dark as black coal
He smiled at the thought of her there
Her skin soft and silken dressed up in white satin
With the longest and darkest black hair

But ahead in the city where they were all headin'
A tragedy happened that day
He laughed as they rode on not knowing the reason
His heart became heavy and grey

Smoke billowed over the prairie and he saw
The vultures were soaring on high
There were screams in the distant that carried right to them
And an eagle cried out in the sky

The young men rode faster to reach the towns centre
But too late they saw in despair
The dead all around them and very few livin'
There was sadness that hung in the air

The young man ran over to Mary's and found her
The lady was barely alive
She smiled as he held her and whispered 'I love you'
In the young man's arms she then died

T'was such a sad journey and one filled with heartache
As they took to the hilltop that day
When the funeral was over and Mary no longer
The young man rode sadly away

The young man rode off in the sunset that evening
Alone he went out on the prairie
He took up his gun at the setting of the sun
And gladly went to join his sweet Mary

1.4.2010

THE ZEISS GLASSES

He stood on the wadi and looked 'cross the land
A pair of Zeiss glasses was clutched in his hand
While the shifting sands stirred and a northerly moaned
The desert air quivered and shimmered and groaned

There were sounds of the battle that rang everywhere
'Cross the plains and the hills - in the hot sultry air
Where the vultures were flying and awaiting their meal
Of the pickings to come and the flesh they would steal

His visor cap pulled low down over his eyes
Protecting from dust and the hot desert skies
His mind leaping back to a place far away
A place that he hoped he'd return to some day

A screech and a wail and he turned with his gun
And gazed at the shadow that crossed over the sun
The wings full of wind keeping the shadow up right
And he stood there in awe of the eagle in flight

And a scorpion darts from the bushes nearby
And turns in a circle as he looks at the sky
Now getting his bearings he turns and makes haste
For the sand was on fire and he'd no time to waste

With the Zeiss glasses raised the old soldier looked out
When somewhere behind him he heard someone shout
And he froze where he stood as the eagle flew high
And the vultures kept vigil as they let out a cry

He raised up his arms with the glasses in one
While there in the other he held up his gun
He bowed down his head and he silently wept
As he tried to retain what pride he had left

Northward the winds carried the eagle away
While the vultures continued to circle their prey
As this old worldly soldier was marched to the rear
His war finally over and with no more to fear

And the pair of Zeiss glasses of the old worldly soul
Now stand on the shelf as the years unfold
For the old worldly soldier has marched to the sky
Where the eagle once flew in the years gone by

12.9.2009

THEY

At which juncture they came – they lulled behind
An army of frolicking people
Lost! Irrecoverable – dead and buried
No more to hear – auspicious of no hour
Persistent in their unfailing effort to be

They endured long inconstant nights
And hours of uncertainty during day
Streaked out across a compassionate
And yielding land

Shiny, disc shaped, with an eye like a pearl
Stood on throngs (like claws)
Nose vibrating white and black
Its body silvery shimmered
As the morning sun broke through
The streaking webbed grass

The people stood neither afraid nor repelled
Nor drawn by its provocative stance
It neither tempted nor rebuffed them
Its body shimmering and pulsating

Its doors verbally open (at least that's what's thought)
A pacifying voice sounds
Snags and snaps (sounds)
To the villainous Brahman steak

28.10.1980

THEY CAME UPON

They came upon a morning warm
And started up a deadly storm
That soon would rage for years to come
And make her want to scream and run

Removed and put in a place of fear
That brought this child to many tears
Angered and wild and hating each day
This confused child must get away

She saw the side of anger strong
And wondered what she did was wrong
No soul to hug to keep her warm
She cried alone in the early dawn

Where had life gone and left her there
Distrusting all with hate to bare
Those years would see her die inside
Form lack of tenderness she cried

The years passed and she moved away
But still it haunts her to this day
T'was life so young that had been born
And swallowed in the early dawn

But in those years there was a friend
That helped her cope until the end
When she would leave and grow in life
And put behind her all that strife

They came upon an early dawn
And took from her the life so born
But life is kinder to her now
And it doesn't matter anyhow

13.11.2010

THIS LITTLE SOUL

The tender life that I hold so near
A hand full of love is with this dear
The innocent soul I know one day
Will grow and then will move away

But 'til that time, I'll keep him near
Protect and shelter him from fear
Hold him close and soothe his soul
And give him all the love I hold

This little faun, God's gift to man
Lays sleeping in my folded hands
A gentle heart will see this faun
Will greet the coming of the dawn

31.10.08

THROUGH THEIR EYES

A small flock of doves had landed nearby
And were picking around for some seed
I watched them out there from my window inside
I wanted to see what they see

My spirit went out to join with the flock
To see through their little black eyes
I saw what they saw as they pecked all around
And when they went soaring on high

I felt our wings flap as we took to the air
I felt our small hearts beating low
I felt our warm breath as we breathed a great sigh
I saw what they saw down below

I saw a big maggie come swooping on in
I saw him as he settled down
In the garden below where the doves liked to be
I saw him go walking around

I felt all the patience the doves did possess
As they waited for him to depart
I lived through their eyes, the day they had lived
I lived in the cooing doves heart

I stand at my window and watch all the doves
As they peck at the seeds in the lawn
And I think to myself - how I think to myself
I am glad that the doves were all born

2.5.2005

TIARA

I'm sorry I wasn't there for you
The day you passed away
But I searched for you most everywhere
And miss you to this day

Your eyes were always worried
And you always seemed so shy
I miss you my sweet Tari
And I cried the day you died

No one understood you
Said you were a crazy cat
I didn't care what they all said
I always had your back

But when she died that morning
Lord, I could have cursed your name
For Tari was my angel
But you took her all the same

I'm sorry my sweet Tari
How I wish that you were here
But I know that you are happy
In God's heaven - safe my dear

19.9.2010

TOMMY

When Tommy and I had answered the call
To arms like our brothers had done
I didn't know then what I would know today
And what would cause Tommy to run

We fought in the fields and we fought in the towns
And we fought on the hot burning sands
We laughed and we drank and we sang with the rest
As we fought on the soils of far lands

The weapons of war had been set to explode
In our minds as we struggled to live
We ran the foe down but they soon pushed us back
We gave everything that we could give

Tommy and I were out scouting one day
When the enemy happened on by
Relieved of our guns we were taken to task
And prisoners were Tommy and I

So many months we had spent in the camp
As our spirits we tried to retain
But Tommy my friend he was finding it hard
It was sending him slowly insane

He became bitter and marched up and down
Like a tiger imprisoned by man
His eyes became blank and his voice became stilled
And he was constantly wrenching his hands

We all kept an eye on young Tommy there on
Not knowing what he would thus do
His mind had collapsed – he had withered away
And the guards kept an eye on him to

Like a child in fear he would cry every night
He would rock himself quietly to sleep
He'd sit on the ground and converse with himself
Tommy had crashed in a heap

Tommy's war had been fought in the dark
In the shadows of his dying mind
And won in the hours between darkness and dawn
And peace is what Tommy did find

A small wooden cross on a mound of dry soil
Was where they laid Tommy to rest
I remember him long – I remember him well
I remember him like all the rest

31.7.2004

TOUCH OF DUSK

A long dark shadow creeps over the hills
On the meadow as the sun goes down
And the moon lifts her head to bid you hello
And cloaks the earth in a soft gown

The twittering birds hush silent and still
The sky turns to slumberous blue
As the lanterns of night from the heavens above
Touch on a delicate hue

As the gentle night wind skips lightly and cool
Its fingers it runs through my hair
And brushes my face as if to say, hi
And a song filters all through the air

So swiftly had the dusk come calling
As swiftly had turned and was gone
And morning light rode on the airwaves
With a smile as the maiden of dawn

And the hands of dark and dawn touched
A kiss of farewell to the night
Dawn lifted her head in a greeting
And cuddled the earth in a soft light

30.8.1974

UNICORN

I am a horse of course of course
But alas I'm not the same
I have a horn upon my head
Do you now know my name

14.12.2008

UPON A MEADOW

Upon a quiet meadow, in a land so far from home
Where the moonlight casts its golden light – a solitary figure roams
He walks upon the grasses so white with misty frost
And dreams about the land afar and the life that he had lost

When the dew is falling over the land with frosty hands
He wanders in the lonely nights dreaming of golden sands
His eyes are full of yearning – his heart so filled with pain
His nights are filled with longing for his home to see again

From the homes beyond the hilltop the lamp lights shine so bright
And no one sees the lonely soul that walks there in the night
They do not see him standing and gazing all so far
Towards the skies above them there in search of the southern star

The people in their homes there don't know he's there at all
They do not see his lonely form but they hear his wanting call
For when the nights are silent and the winds are hushed and still
They can hear the voice come drifting down across the darkened hill

And the years are passing onward but still the figure roams
Dreaming about the life he had and the place that he called home
He walks upon a meadow in a land so far away
Just dreaming of the life he knew he hopes to see some day

18.7.2004

VAGRANT HILLS

The vagrant hills that stand afar
With autumns coat so light
Clothing it with shades of peace
That makes the land glow bright

Its blues and yellows and greens and pales
And reds and oranges to
Lay a carpet so soft upon the ground
It makes a wonderful view

And through the shades that line the way
Upon the hills and glens
Chasing lights of the autumn sun
Come frolicking back again

And the birds on wing glide down to rest
In the cloak of the evening light
Until the morning lamps of dawn
Again set them in flight

The vagrant hills that stand afar
With autumns coat so gay
Clothe the land with shades of peace
That sees us on our way

26.7.1983

VALENTINE BLUES

'Tis Valentines dear that is making the scene
And my love I have nothing to give
My bank card is bust and I'm feeling so mean
And no money to buy you things with

Now the sheriff is coming and I'm off like a rocket
Can't pay anything, there's no cash in my pocket

But don't despair love for when I return
You will see that I love you so dear
My whole heart for you will constantly burn
And our lives together will share

But for now I must go and I bid you farewell
Cause the cops are not far off my trail
I love you my dear but it sure would be swell
If you come bail me out of the jail?

5.2.2010

Written for a contest

VISION OF FEAR

There were eyes full of wisdom with a story to tell
And a face aged by horror and the memory of hell
And the words must be spoke and I knew only too well
That it was something that couldn't be stilled

As the hands held the book and the eyes blurred fell
There was a vision to see and all doubt to dispel
I sat silent and waited 'til she let drop her shell
And recall what it was to be spilled

Of her life she spoke nil but for a time of great pain
When the earth reeked of filth and a much greater shame
That could only be matched by the devil's own name
And the evil that stuck to his own

For she saw a cold age when man brought hate to acclaim
And a spark was set free that ignited the flame
And those that sought piece sought it only in vain
And the worst in mankind had been shown

'This young Jewish girl' she said closing her eyes
'Was more than shame to my homeland that lies
On the vast growing continent that rose to the cries
Of a man that was wanton and cold'

Then she looked at the book and the tears did rise
She saw neath a great mourning and the young girl's replies
To the futile excuse why so many should die
And the world wouldn't hear or be told

I had been reading this book as a diary was wrote
When she came and sat there with a message to tote
She quietly revealed what it was that it spoke
And I heard as I never before

'Ann Frank' she said and I caught on the note
For her voice cradled sadness and t'was somehow remote
For each word was a witness to what couldn't denote
The feeling that her crying eyes saw

Though times have passed in long turned years
And memories swept back behind clouded tears
It was plain that still there lingered fears
And the vision of loss was plain

And in all just thought I saw somehow that here
Was a story needing telling and so I should hear
For t'was so that I should for two sides must adhere
And this woman must speak of the reign

Though these years had been blessed by a stabling run
Although nations still fought and still toted the gun
And most nations had vowed, in a sense become one
In a world that was striking for peace

There was still a concern for as man blindly spun
In creation of weapons that might blacken pour sun
This woman still lived in a past gone and done
And still thriving on memories so deep

As she said 'I had worked for the underground then
And our course was the cause of freedom for all men
We had riddled the hills and the mountains to defend
What was surely the existence of man

I saw much that was evil and we had to contend
With a power that sought to rule over all men
And as Europe was caught up in the struggle again
It was forced on far stretches of land

And the children far worse had been swept by the tide
As their youth was snatched from them, they had reason to cry
For what is a man that would bring death to abide
In the innocent company of babes

They had been used and abused by the turn of the tide
And they had hungered and pained but there was no place to hide
And they marched down that road with death walking in stride
And the only release was a grave

I could try to explain but there is not such a way
To reveal what it is that lies deep and so grey
For there are no words yet known that could explicitly say
What it is and how heavy it lies

I can't impress on you what the words can't display
For only experience could do such in a way
And I hope that by God you will not see it replayed
For all love of our God it defies'

As I listened to her I could sense every word
Was bound heavy by wisdom and for all that I heard
I had somehow come through a great battle occurred
In a vision of fear that was felt

Though as written by me it cannot be referred
As the closest to truth, though to me is preferred
For it is as close as I want to come near to incur
And be left without wanting and doubt

From the book of Ann Frank had come a story so damned
By a woman who was shamed by her own rightful land
And had been forced to seek hither another to give her its hand
To encompass what pride she had left

Though she felt much inside for her country, her stand
Was not fought in her hate for her people or land
But the tide of that age that she fought to disband
And the reign of its leaders detest

There were eyes full of wisdom with a story to tell
And a face aged by horror and the memories of hell
And the words must be spoke and I knew only too well
That it was something that couldn't be stilled

As the hands held the book and the eyes blurred fell
There was a vision to see and all doubt to dispel
I sat silent and waited 'til she let drop her shell
And recall what it was to be spilled

1.3.1983

VISION OF LOVE

A small shaggy dog was trotting along
With a twinkle in his big brown eyes
His head he held high as he wandered on by
And his tail pointed up to the sky

What happiness showed in the eyes that did glow
What peace there was born on his face
What love there was seen in the eyes that did gleam
As he trotted on by me with grace

There at his side with a face full of pride
Was a small girl so happy to be
Walking along with this small shaggy dog
And together they made a fine team

I watched them a while as they wandered away
And I smiled at the vision of love
A small shaggy dog and a sweet little girl
Who were paired by the spirit above

21.3.2005

WANDERING CAT

My cat he has gone walk about
Perhaps you might have seen him
He's kind of black and kind of white
And looks like he is dreaming

His eyes are sparkling blue and bright
He has one paw that's yellow
And he talks lots if you should stop
And pat this gentle fellow

Have you seen my little cat
Somewhere along your travels
He may be sneaking round your house
In search of balls to unravel

My cat is nice so very nice
And his manners are quite charming
He even seems to smile at you
Which can be so disarming

My cat has gone walk about
Please tell if you see
Where my little friend has gone
And bring him back to me

21.8.2011

WANDERING JOE

Joe's parents came from Germany when he was only three
And they settled in the bush where they really fitted in
There they made themselves a life away from pain and strife
And wandering Joe had marvelled at the wonders surrounding him

Wandering Joe became a roaming man and travelled all across the land
Carrying just his sack and cane wherever he did go
All his life he had wanted to stray and knew no other way
Fitting in with nature and the creatures he got to know

He had started out at just sixteen and never turned around again
For the open road was all that wandering Joe was living for
Humping up and down those dusty tracks, never once did he look back
Wandering Joe was a man of little and needed nothing more

At the age of just eighteen, so much country he had seen
From the great outback to Alice, he had tramped along it all
Walking tall in the light of God, just him and his crooked rod
Then came the day this country gave out the solemn call

Wandering Joe he didn't walk away for he knew he had to stay
There was more to this call than anyone had ever known
He had to fight – he had to stand to protect this golden land
This great wide land that wandering Joe had always called his home

And so they sent him far away cross the seas and he yearned each day
That he could return to the place that had given him his life
On the African sands he tried and on the African sands he died
Wandering Joe's world had been shattered in a single violent night

As Joe lay there bloodied and pained with his life force slipping away
He shed a sad tear as he reached for the hands of his friends
He pleaded that they get him home to the only place he had known
Back to the land where he would be free once again

In the hills above a little town, they laid wandering Joe's body down
In the quiet of the bush, in the bosom of this golden land
And wandering Joe was free to roam in the country he called his home
He was free in the arms of God – may he rest this wandering man

25.9.2004

WASHING THE LAND

I wash the land with a palette of colour
Emerge it in sunrays and beams
I crystal the scope with a mystical frost
With silvery dew that blankets the land

A trickling fountain of aqua's and greens
And sensitive lemons and shimmering creams
I pastel the scene with vigorous blues
Lushes grass greens and a sprinkle of hues

Enrich it with beauty so wild and free
So natural – so simple – so rightly serene
And lastly I bathe it with nature's sweet charm
A lingering splendour of beauty and calm

12.8.1976

WATCHING THE DAWNING

Go to sleep dear and rise early
Wipe the sleep away from your eyes
And go to the window and look dear
Far up there way up in the sky

Gaze out to where darkness meets dawning
The horizon that cradles the light
And see the sun peek up to greet you
To chase of the dim of the night

For there I am watching the looming
Of darkness that's coming a new
But if you're there watching the dawning
Then light will rise over me to

The distance between us is taunting
I'm saddened that we are apart
I'm looking out to the horizon
With you resting close to my heart

And if you are there gazing yonder
To the horizon so far from you dear
Our souls will meet there in the shadows
Of the barriers of death and of fear

Our thought will entwine and unite us
And keep me from losing my mind
And nothing will touch me – no never
If you are there watching each time

So keep your eyes on the horizon
So darkness won't hover on me
And send me your smile on the sunrays
Watch the dawn watch over me

I will see you though miles may part us
I will feel your presence my love
When I am here watching the darkness
And you there the dawning above

23.9.1980

WE WILL REMEMBER

With the light of day reaching up from beyond the horizon
We awaken once more to remember
We give prayers for those lost in the carnage
For those who now sleep in the heavenly realm
And we shed our tears in silence as we bow to pray for them

With the coming of the dawn is the feeling of sorrow
As we once more pay tribute to those taken from our earth
And who now sit at the throne of the one and almighty

When Saint Peter opened the gates that unforgettable morning
The cries of a million angels showered upon the earth
And heaven saw dark clouds roll across the Angelic skies

With the light of day once more reaching from beyond the horizon
I recall the moment and tears well in my eyes
I never knew one could feel so numb
And we shall remember long into the years, into the centuries

WE WILL REMEMBER!

11.9.2009

WEARY SOULS

Weary souls may pass tonight – their figures held with pride
Their banners raised and flying proud – tribute to days gone by
These soldiers march in solemnest - of times they did endure
A call to honour those that died – their memories strong and pure

Let's not forget the sacrifice they gave nor turn your head
Don't lay waste their memory – honour all the dead
They proudly march with eyes ahead – medals on their chest
They march into our history – they are the very best

Weary souls may pass tonight – while you lay sleeping sound
A bugle call may thus be heard – somewhere, sometime, somehow
And as your mind begins to rest – your eyes in restful sleep
These soldiers may march in your dreams and cause your dreams to weep

The ghostly sight of soldiers as they march on down the street
Step lightly to the sound of drums and mark it with their feet
And people stop and wonder at this ghostly parade tonight
Memories stirred and feelings felt for those that fought the fight

Weary souls may pass tonight – let's stand and honour them
Those that lived and those that died – families and friends
For they march in time all to the beat of bugles as they call
To honour all the fighting men – God bless them one and all

24.1.2009

WEEPING WILLOW

Through the eyes of a child I had marvelled
At the willow that stood by the road
The great weeping branches that touched me
And the wonders in me it had sowed

I played 'neath its shadows in summer
Its form was a wondrous sight
And when darkness came calling upon me
Its silhouette soared in the night

I sat and I watched it sway gently
In the breeze of the days that came by
Its massive form reaching the heavens
And bringing much joy to my eyes

Through the years it had sowed its own magic
The image had lived in my soul
The great weeping willow remembered
As the days and the years unfold

What stories it held that old willow
The days had been good to it then
And I think as I sit and remember
Will anyone marvel again

21.2.2004

WHAT THE ELEPHANT SAW

Once upon a morning
An elephant went out
To meet the herd arriving
When the rains were near about

He saw a gazelle running
And he heard a lion roar
But the elephant kept walking
'Cross the plains and he saw more

He saw a mighty giraffe
Reaching up into a tree
A wild dog a running
From the lion he did flee

He saw upon a river bank
A busking crocodile
And wildebeest a coming
He would feast on in a while

And a zebra doing ballet
On the fringes of the plains
Where forest meets the desert
And the monkeys play their games

springboks springing upward
As they dance the dance of life
While gemsboks roam the gold sands
Avoiding those that bring them strife

The jackal runs a panic
When he faces with a lion
While hyenas laugh at this sight
'Cause they are always prying

Yes, the elephant has seen it all
And will do once again
For life is full of wonder
On the African wild plain

3.4.2010

WHEN THE DAY COMES

When the sun shines 'pon the mountains
And the whispering winds come by
There will be songs of harmony
That race 'cross the clear blue sky

When the day is new and waking
And the birds are up winging 'round
I will waken to the voice that moves
'Cross the sleepy silent ground

For it was on a day like this
That you left me sad and blue
But the breaking of the morning dear
Will always remind me of you

In heavens meadows you wander
While I cry my tears each day
And I'll sit and dream about you
And the time you went away

Should the day come by to greet me
That you call my name once more
I will run to find your arms again
When I pass through heavens door

9.10.2010

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

I use to be a swinger long before I got too old
Now all I swing are rolls of fat that come in folds on folds
And I use to have a lover but his name I can't remember
I think I saw him on the beach in shorts this last November

Still thinking he was very young his mind had gone way south
Those lumps beneath those shorts he wore were keenly pushing out
And when he smiled his teeth were black and scared me very much
And I will not consider even thinking 'bout his crutch

But when I first had met the chap he was a sexy one
I saw him on the subway - well I saw his cutish bum
He wasn't very tall at all - just a midget you might say
He wore a batman costume and I just had to pass his way

He was drinking from a bottle - it was whiskey there's no doubt
He winked at me and smiled and he promptly passed right out
And being a kind stranger I just had to take him in
For he was mighty sexy - well maybe that was just the gin

We spent some years in clover doing things the hippy way
Him drinking down his whiskey and me gin most every day
We frolicked in the fart sack - boy he really knew his stuff
We rumbled and we tumbled and we sure got mighty rough

At 80 years I still can see the goodness in this man
How much I miss the times we had when swinging cross the land
My memories are slightly mixed but a smile I still can call
Thinking 'bout our nights we spent while having such a ball

He's lost in dream now poor old sod still thinking he is young
He hasn't got the looks he had - no more that cutish bum
Just mysteries beneath those shorts nobody wants to see
While his sucking on his whiskey flask and ageing merrily

4.4.2010

Written for a contest

WHEN WILL THEY COME FOR ME

When will they come for me – when will they come
 The little boy cried in the hall
 The matron looked on at the tear stained face
 How could she answer that call

The days came and went but the little boy stayed
 Tormented by loneliness he quite often prayed
 But time after time all the people went by
 He runs through the hallway and loudly he cries

When will they come for me – when will they come
 The little boy cried in the hall
 The matron looked on at the tear stained face
 How could she answer that call

Sometimes the pain just got too much to bare
 He'd run to the meadow and sit in despair
His young heart was breaking – he didn't know why
And all through the air you could hear the boys cry

When will they come for me – when will they come
 The little boy cried to them all
 The matron looked on at the tear stained face
 How could she answer that call

T'was deep in the winter and the air bore a chill
 The little boy fell – he was plainly quite ill
 The matron looked on as he fast passed away
 She still hears the last words he uttered that day

When will they come for me – when will they come
 The little boy asked of them all
 The matron looked on at the peaceful young face
 Someone had answered his call

15.12.2003

WHEN YOU HEAR SOMEONE KNOCKING

When you hear someone knocking at the door of your heart

Will you answer – will you let them come in
Will you open the door and permit them to enter
Or keep it locked tight from within

Will you shout go away for I'm taking no lodgers
Will you tell them that you can't oblige
Or will you receive them with love and with caring
And throw the hearts doors open wide

If you hear someone knocking at the door of your heart
You'd better answer and let them come in
Open the door and permit them to enter
And don't keep it locked from within

For it may be the spirit who's paying the visit
It may be the father outside
It may be the lord there asking admittance
So throw the hearts doors open wide

If you hear someone knocking at the door of your heart
Don't falter and turn them away
For the key of the kingdom is bound in this question
And you may find you'll need it some day

12.5.1977

WHERE THE APPLE TREES GROW

Down in the orchard where the apple trees grow
He wanders in the dim morning light
While on the horizon the moons going down
And the birds are all taking to flight

The whispering wind gently crosses the valley
A distant the shadows they fall
While the rays of the sun they lay lightly upon him
And he hears the old church bell a toll

His eyes are all wet from the tears he is crying
As down his old face they do roll
With his hands in his pockets he walks there in silence
As he remembers just what made it so

The sounds of the day they came calling upon him
But his memories they led him away
Back to the time when he walked arm in arm
With his wife who was taken away

His trembling hands he wipes over his cheeks
As he turns his old head to the sun
And he mourns for the love of his life gone forever
And he wonders what he could have done

He remembers the night and the cries spilling over
The orchard where the apple trees grew
The spine chilling cries that caused him to shudder
The sense of great dread that came through

He remembers thus running and calling her name
And the light that was shining so bright
He remembers just watching as the thing lifted upward
And spirited her off in the night

Now twenty years gone he goes down to the orchard
To the place where the apple trees grow
In hope that one day that she will be returning
And the tears from his eyes ever flow

As the sun settles down on the horizon out yonder
And the moon lifts its head in the night
The old man walks there in the silence and darkness
And waits for the love of his life

The whispering wind gently crosses the valley
As over the mountain it goes
While one lonely soul walks down through the orchard
Down where the apple trees grow

30.5.2004

WHO SHOOK MY TREE

'Who shook my tree' cried the monkey from above
As he gazed down to the forest floor below
And the Wiley monkeys smiled as they looked up in denial
No one was taking credit for this show

And the youngsters stood there dazed
But young Giles he was not fazed
As he clambered up the branches to his side
And he looked him in the eye
And he asked the reason why
He had scared them with his awful screeching cry

And the old man looked upon him with a gaze that made him still
And he wrinkled up his aging crooked brow
As young Giles he sat there waiting
With the forest noise abating
And the others wondered what would happen now

'Who shook my tree' said the monkey big and strong
And he waited for young Giles to make his plea
And young Giles he winked an eye
And he said 'it was not I
I am much too small to do this silly deed'

Then young Giles he moved in closer and he whispered in his ear
'I will help you find the culprit of this crime
I will question them in turn
And the answer I will learn
And the villain will be punished in no time'

Then young Giles he swung away to the forest down below
And the old man gave a knowing seeping grin
Amused at Giles reaction
As he paced among the faction
That were waiting for the youngster to begin

Young Giles he looked upon them with a careful telling eye
As he tried to make a case from what he knew
He was bold as he was daring
And the old man wise and caring
Kept a watchful eye on everyone in view

And his mother sat nearby with a twinkle in her eye
As she shook her head and watched the cheeky troupe
 They were laughing as they swayed
 And they clapped in mass display
As he walked among the cheerful little group

Then young Giles he stopped and stared and he made a finger sign
 And everyone fell silent and in still
 As he cast his eyes around
 And they uttered not a sound
While they waited for the boy to speak at will

Then he scanned his eyes above and allowed himself a smile
And was just about to speak when someone cried
 And they scampered up the trees
 Through the branches and the leaves
And they turned as one to see the reason why

There was shifting in the bushes and a thumping on the ground
As young Giles he stood below and watched in awe
 As a mighty figure greying
 Came a stomping and a swaying
Through the forest to the monkeys barren floor

And young Giles he turned to face it
 As his little heart went racing
And he scrambled up the branches to the top
 And he sat there looking down
 At the creature on the ground
And the monkey thought his beating heart would stop

Then it hit him in an instant and he turned toward the elder
As he frantically began to jump and bend
 ‘The one that shook your tree
 Is the one beneath you see
The one that has a tail at both his ends’

And the elephant looked up with a look of pain and hurt
As she shook her head so quick from side to side
 ‘I did not shake your tree
 Not an inch – it wasn’t me’
And the elephant began to sob and cry

And a thunder roar was heard through the thickets just nearby
And a shudder raced right through the monkey band
As the monarch lumbered near
And the matriarch appeared
It was obvious that they were really mad

And the little one she turned toward her mommy and her dad
And she told them through the sobs the reason why
‘He accused me of a deed
And it wasn’t even me
That little hairy monkey told a lie’

And the monarch looked around and he stomped upon the ground
He was angered by this news and shook the tree
And the old man monkey chattered
As the troupe they turned and scattered
Through the canopy the lot began to flee

‘Oh young Giles what have you done’ said his mother on the run
‘You should never have had made the baby weep
Now we’re running for our lives
And if anyone survives
We will have to find another place to sleep’

Now young Giles he felt quite sick and he stopped and turned around
And he clambered to the forest floor below
There he waited rather fearful
With his eyes a little tearful
He would right the wrongs that he had started so

When the elephants had neared little Giles he stood his ground
And he pleaded that they listen to his case
He repented for his lie
That had made the baby cry
And the tears began to flow down Giles face

And the elephants all knowing looked upon the little chimp
And their hearts began to ease and then they sighed
As their tiny baby Riss
Gave young Giles a little kiss
And forgave him for his silly little lie

And the old grey monkey man sat up high upon his limb
As the troupe they laughed and ran and jumped with glee
And the words would never more be uttered not at all
From the old man once again – ‘who shook my tree’

3.8.2002

WHO WAS THAT STRANGER

Who was that stranger that was walking in the night
The stranger that strode down the street on silent steps of light
His golden hair of curls hung loosely cross his shoulders low
Who was that stranger I had seen so long ago

The moon was brightly shining and the stars were twinkling high
The cool air had encompassed us when he went walking by
We watched from our location on the steps not far away
And a halo was surrounding him and light had lit the way

We felt a warming feeling as he turned to our dismay
His blue eyes sparkled in the light of lamps across the way
He smiled at us a smile that left us feeling all so right
Then the stranger turned and he strode off into the night

Who was that stranger that had walked there in the gloom
On that cold and lonely night of nights beneath that silver moon
His golden hair of curls hung loosely cross his shoulders low
Who was that stranger I had seen so long ago

3.7.2004

WILD AND FREE

His coat is as black as the sky of night
His eyes are as blue as the sea
His blaze is as white as the snow on the ground
He's as wild as he is free

He stands sixteen hands as he surveys the dale
And the mares as they graze in the glen
He's as wise as an owl in the trees up above
He is master of all he defends

He runs like the wind with his mane flowing back
And his head he holds mighty and tall
And he rears himself up in a manner of pride
As he keeps a close eye on it all

He's a great wild stallion – a brumby of strength
He's a God in his own special right
He lives to run free on the wide open land
Neath the sun and the moonlight of night

He's as black as the night when the moon is asleep
And his eyes are as blue as the sea
He's as bold as they come and when he's on the run
He's as wild as he is free

5.6.2004

WINTER

It happened in the fall of the year ninety two
It was but oh a dreary day - the grass was white with dew
The flowers had but withered - the trees had shed their coats
And we could tell that winter neared - by the sound of the birdies notes

Migrating from the chilly lands - their wings were preened for flight
Cascading from the inland hills - they left us in the night
As winter round the corner – the grasses bowed and swayed
The trees shook off their autumn coat – of beauty they displayed

We thus prepared for changing winds – for rains and blizzard snow
Our land was wrapped and ready – for all this we would know
And came it did so strong and fierce – yes, winter had but seen
That we would face her hardships – as she changed our land of green

She ripped and roared with fury – her hands of ice encased
Our land with blankets snowy white – in every seeming place
Yes, winter knew her job so well – she did it well and fine
And we would wait to see again – her charming days sublime

26.9.1980

WITH THE ANIMALS

I love my little garden
It really is a sight
I love the little creatures
That come calling day and night

I love the little flowers
That are growing on my lawn
I love the way the birds can play
From sun ups early dawn

I love the way the bees all buzz
The butterflies in flight
I love the possums coming out
To wander through the night

I love the snails that crawl on by
When rain is lightly falling
I love the bats that glide up there
And the owls soft gentle calling

The crickets in the cool of eve
The frogs that croak in summer
I love the way the fox comes by
And does a swift turn runner

I love to sit and watch them all
These creatures full of wonder
And when the moon is out at night
It shines on me down under

These wonders always make me smile
Their beauty is entrancing
And after watching them a while
My heart goes off a dancing

3.1.2011

WONDER

A shadow on the wall at night
A sudden noise that stirs the soul
A chill that clings upon your form
Resounds within the depths of you

A shudder that engulfs your thoughts
Unknown forces moving in
A feeling that this should not be
A wonder that goes surging through

Disarming feelings gripping tight
A flicker of a forming view
A voice deep in the heart resounds
A touch that makes you still in thought

A presence that is somewhere there
Eyes that watch but never see
You wonder if it's there at all
This is what the night has brought

Wonders wonders come to you
Was it there or was it not
Were those feelings real at all
Was that the voice of night you think

Did you see a flicker form
Did you touch a thing unknown
Many wonders pass you by
As of to sleeps realms you sink

20.9.1983

WORDS OF THE WIND

I walk out in the crisp cool dusk
To the meadows up to yonder hill
With the moons silver gaze alighting my path
And the stars in the heavens mill

With a coat draped across my shoulders
In silence I wander up there
And ponder the days and the wonders of life
With the winds blowing through my hair

And I hear the breeze whisper so gently
So soft that the words fall away
And the silhouette of the dark mountains
Seem to beckon them over to play

The horizon is nestled in pastel
The shades soon will slumber 'til dawn
And the lunar above hums with mystery
Like a deep deep black velvet lawn

I am drawn with an urge to be knowing
To be wise to the weave of the loom
Of the tapestry God has created
From the birth to the pass at the tomb

I am wanting forever now seeking
Perplexed by the things that I know
And longing to learn of the questions
And the answers that they will thus sow

The hills are a mirage of colour
Their shades are beckoning hands
Concealing the depths of my yearning
To seek out the secrets of man

And the curtains of night are now falling
As I turn and concede to the night
But tomorrow I'll return to this hilltop
In the stillness of dusk's soft light

20.1.1984

YOU

When times were tough and things were bad

And all was looking grim

You came along and cheered me up

And made my old heart sing

You questioned not my state of mind

Nor why I cried all night

But buoyed me on with loving care

And led me through the night

You kept me warm and safe each day

You showed me life could be

A joy to live and live I did

'Cause you were there with me

20.11.2011

YOU MAY NOT KNOW

When you lay asleep at night
While the stars are shining bright
And moonlight falls upon your bedroom wall
There will be shadows dancing round
And you will not hear the sound
Of footsteps creeping softly through the hall

When your ears are left in sleep
You will not hear someone creep
Passed your bedroom door and whisper with a sigh
You will not know whence they come
But when mornings on the run
They will leave you 'til the darkness comes again

They may whisper in your ear
Words you may not even hear
They will enter in your dreams and exit so
They will wisp you up and take you
From your dreams they'll somehow make you
Then return you and you may not even know

They will show you wonders far away
And give you hope for better days
And teach you but the lessons will be stilled
You may remember not a thing
When they all come gliding in
Until the object of the lessons are fulfilled

When you lay asleep at night
While the moon is shining bright
And the stars are blazing brightly in the sky
They will come on silent steps
And you will not know that they've crept
Into your life and never know the reason why

21.2.2004

YOUNG PIXIE

There's nothing left of pixie town
Went up in smoke and burnt right down
Now pixies all have little frowns
They wear beneath their little crowns

When they tried to find the truth
Of how the fire started
They discovered that a little Imp
Had all but fast departed

They found him in the forest dark
Hiding like a thief
And when they asked him 'bout the fire
So sadly did he weep

'I tried with matches
I tried with twigs
I tried with all my might
But when nothing worked at all
I tried with dynamite'

The pixie all were quite impressed
Because not one could ever have guessed
That he would do his very best
To make a party for the rest

Now pixies dance there in the night
Far from all and far from sight
And some day maybe you just might
See pixie dust that shines so bright

11.4.1982

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