

## Diary — 2002 Tropical Rainforest & Reef Safari — 1

### Day 1 Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 Cairns to Mission Beach

(1) Gathering the nineteen in the Kukubuggul (we talk a lot) and three crew: Suzanne expected to be picked up last and was picked up first with a consequent flurry. After everyone else John picked up the microphone we needed to hear him, then we picked Kurrnji (Cassowary), and then we were off.

(2) Next we headed south to *Babinda Boulders* and waterfall. Lovely walk through the rainforest before reaching the falls. A primitive tumble of rocks and a satisfying rush of water, It was overcast and started to sprinkle while we were having morning tea. Then we travelled on to *Eubenangee swamp* .

(3) *Eubenangee swamp* . We climbed the perfect knoll overlooking the swamp. Some of us saw Hardheads (ducks), Whistling Kites, Cormorants, and Black Pacific Ducks. The rest of us watched the birdwatchers watching the birds ( we would love to include a photograph of this).

(4) Bramston Beach for a look see, then on to *iJosephine Falls* had a great lunch of ham, pineapple, salad and four seeds bread, with beaut fruitcake courtesy of John's wife Sharyn.

Walked to the Falls, several platforms for viewing, some of us spotted a lovely tree orchid hanging over the pool. There were two bravehearts from Ireland swimming. Drove on to *Innisfail*.

(5) *Innisfail*. On the way we saw chestnut breasted finches, cane cutting, stopped at South Johnstone River, viewed figbirds, drongos and peaceful doves, Then on down the Bruce Highway, past Paronella Park ( an idea of a castle), did not stop. On to *Lacey's Creek* .

(6) *Lacey's Creek* walk where the sighting of the day was a mature Cassowary - a very majestic bird with vibrant colours. We saw many examples of the fruits that they eat, Kurrnji says that many of these plants would not germinate without processing through the digestive system of the cassowary,

While walking through the rainforest we saw a Rufous Fantail then on to the pool where we saw three perfect saw shelled tortoises swimming in the tranquillity they were made for, Jungle perch and oxeve herring completed the pool's beauty.

(7) *Mission Beach* our first resting place.

### Day 2 Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July Kennedy Reserve & Hull River

Due to the threat of rain and the high tide in the morning, the itinerary was reversed. At Clump Mountains some reached the top and some reached the bottom. Michael found nutmeg and match box and black bean pods. Some walked on the beach. Had an interesting morning tea, water and tea was reversed causing a few complications.

Ross Overton Park C4, arbor of trees at the C4 saw a video of Cassowary and chicks, some spent up big! and some did not. Weather improved. Lunch back at Mission Beach.

At Edmund Kennedy Reserve, some got to the end and some only started; some read a book; some came back with beach treasures. Sand crabs, small and big, sand worm castings. Great scenery, Dunk Island other down to Hinchinbrook. Great scenery. At the ice cream stop (magnums) several birds

Hull River Cruise: Cassowary Male and chick; lots of photos; Down Jackie Jackie Creek on to the "River Rat"; Crocodiles only eat dogs; 60% of mangroves food drops down and ends up as prawns and crab food- recyclers

Down the river Crabs in the pots on the way, a female one claw less and a leg missing and then was put back into the river; White Bellied sea Eagle, Darter, kingfisher, a number of these. Explore the Mangroves

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BBQ fish, some ate lots and some did not and some did not eat at all. Back into the boat -dark now - spotlighting for crocs, saw two crocs, and 3 plus metres.

We then stopped to check our crab-pots and in the meantime some became disoriented. FL thought that we were going in the wrong direction (with others) and divided the boat people.

Stopped and played the didgeridoo and ended a great, but very long day.

### **Day 3 Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July Murray Falls - Edmund Kennedy**

A night of "collywobbles. The day was greeted by checking how many had fallen by the wayside. Before leaving Mission Beach, Karranji (Michael) showed Brian J how to recognize a "DROPALOT" tree.

Our first stop was the Licuala Forest Park. Beautiful fan palms throughout the area. No cassowaries sighted, but Joyce was quite excited on finding the eggs on the Children's walk.

Our next stop was at a banana plantation where we were able to speak to the people preparing the bananas for market. The second grade bananas are sold in the wayside stall.

On to Tully for morning tea and much needed chemist supplies. The plume of smoke indicated that the sugar mill was in full production.

Lunch stop — Murray Falls — known as the prettiest falls in Queensland. Due to the clearing of the land and barbed wire, the mahogany glider has become an endangered species in this area. Walk to the bottom of the falls and then lunch. A number of Ulysses butterflies sighted.

Walked to Upper Murray Falls. Learnt a number of interesting facts from Karranji (Michael). The canopy of the forest is often too high to recognize the tree from its leaves and flowers. The Aborigines determine the type of tree by crushing the bark. The bark that Michael crushed for us was similar to the smell of cucumber. Michael found this nut from a candlenut tree. This nut was eaten by the White tailed rat. The Aborigines use the shell of the nut as a whistle. Although this feat was tried by many in the group, Hiro was the only one who was successful.

Our next stop was "Galmarra" on the edge of the Edmund Kennedy National Park. Plenty of mosquito repellent required. We were greeted here by Margaret Thorsburne, the famous environmental campaigner for Hinchinbrook. Here she and her friends hosted us to teas and pikelets. Before leaving her property, Margaret led us through the Valley of the Giants, a magnificent stand of paperbarks, many of which could be well over 1000 years old. An unforgettable experience.

### **Day 4 Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July Edmund Kennedy NP - Wallaman**

A day of strong contrasts. Starting with the morning walk through the flat Edmund Kennedy National Park. Hearing from John about the large variety of mangroves there.

Generously we shared morning tea with myriads of mosquitos.

There was some dispute in the leadership about lunch but it was eventually resolved that we returned to the motel, hurriedly packed up lunch.

In the afternoon due to a number of people feeling the effect of the collywobbles a smaller party went to the highest single drop falls in Australia — The Wallaman Falls.

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En route we made a few stops. We deviated to see one of the prawn farms and see the interesting ant and button plants and we paid a short visit to a lookout overlooking the Seymour River and Hinchinbrook Channel with the dark foreboding island in the background.

At the falls the party resisted the urge to walk to the bottom of the fall but we met three Germans who did and who we had seen from the top. It reminded F.L. that it was a German, Samuel Hoffmeister, who was the swaggie in *Walzing Matilda* and that the "Walz" referred to him being a "journeyman",

Birds seen from the bus were a Jabiru, an Emerald Dove and a huge flock of peewees (Magpie larks).

#### Day 5 Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July Hinchinbrook Island

Today the group was off to a rather rushed start, because we had to board a boat to the Island at 9.00am. We hurriedly packed our lunches, climbed aboard the bus, stopped briefly to post letters/postcards and go to the chemist, and arrived in time to buy cappuccinos (at \$4.00 a pop!!).

There were about sixty passengers aboard, so that meant that there had to be three ferry trips approaching and leaving the Island from the launch. The water was relatively calm when we set out, and a few motorboats of fishermen were visible. The scene was somewhat reminiscent of the Inside Passage along the southwest coast of Canada. The boat crew informed us of the other islands and groups of islands we could see, including which ones where camping and trekking were allowed. He mentioned that Cape Richards had won an eco-tourism award. The boat stopped there briefly to deliver some supplies and to show passengers how 'Clyde', a 15-year-old gopher, was fed. We were told that Torres Strait pigeons were sometimes seen in the area, too. We were told about dugongs also, what they feed on, how often they breed and how they are distantly related to elephants!

The Aboriginal people of Hinchinbrook Island (*Munamadanny*), are the Bandjin, or saltwater people. A Reverend Edward Fuller had attempted to establish a mission on the island in 1878, but didn't succeed because nearly all the local aboriginal people had gone to the mainland at that time. By 1900 there were no Aborigines living on the Island at all. Most had been hunted and shot by aboriginal police.

The launch then took us up Channel No. 8 of Missionary Bay, and let us out in a forest of mangoes. From there the group walked through to Ramsay Bay, and even managed to do a bit of the Thorsborne Trail (named after Arthur and Margaret), before having to return to the punt.

It was here that Michael explained how a tree branch bent twice can indicate directions, and how cannonball mangroves can be used as a mental puzzle, something like a Rubic cube.

The group was then taken to Cape Richards, where we walked from the jetty, to North Shepherd Beach and to Macushla - a very scenic trek. John gave us a demonstration of what environmental activism means by booting a goanna out of the way that dropped down out of a tree right above him! (It hit him as it sought to grab one of the biscuits remaining after afternoon tea on North Shepherd Beach)

We arrived at Macushla in time to have drinks, and boarded the launch back to Cardwell. The tide was quite low, but we just slid through alright. We were then told a bit about Keith Williams and his development projects -- not a friend to us conservationists!!

#### Day 6 Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> July Kirrama Range — Ravenshoe

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Woke to a beautiful sunny day. Big pack up after three nights in the one spot. Spent a very pleasant hour in the Information Centre while the crew packed the bus and trailer.

North to Kennedy to turn off for the road over the Kirrima Range, which was built for the loggers. Dirt road. Saw a red bellied black snake sunning itself on the road. Wonderful view down Kennedy Valley and over Hinchinbrook Island. Stopped to look at the an *Angiopteris evecta* fern which is 350 million years old.

Had our cuppa then did the Society Flat Rainforest Walk. Saw huge Kauri Pines (*Agathis spp*) with lots of huge epiphytes, big Flooded gums and Syzygium Vine with bright red powder puff flowers. Further on, a big logging truck gave us all a big fright. It seemed to take up all the road. Very different landscape through Kirrama Station.

Lunch at Blencoe River. Delighted the birdwatchers. The wattle in this area was in flower as well as *Grevillia pteridifolia*, little water-lilies etc. Continued on for a short while and dropped off the trailer before going down to look at Blencoe Falls u o y e papiee

The brave ones jumped over onto a rock to get good photos. Absolutely wonderful falls with groves of hoop pines. FL saw a rock wallaby which quickly disappeared. The next property we went through was the property where TV's "Survivor" was shot. The road was very dry and we were driving through bull dust which managed to seep into the bus.

Stopped at the Herbert River where we saw basalt rocks from early volcanic activity. FL showed us a fresh-water black bream which had been caught by an Aborigine. Saw many different species of wallaby but they all scattered off into the bush very quickly. 5.10 p.m. - what bliss - TARRERD ROAD. 5 minutes later back to dirt again. But tarred road again not long after. 170 Km almost all dirt from the Bruce Highway to Kennedy Highway.

Quick comfort stop at Mt. Garnett (plus ice creams) then on to Ravenshoe. Spotted a large flock of Whistler Ducks. Lovely Mauvy-pink sunset as we neared Ravenshoe.

A wonderful old 2-storey timber B & B . Rachel McConnell gave us a short history of the building. Part of it was built in 1901 in Herberton. This was used during the war as a Boarding House for boys. In 1950 this section was moved to Ravenshoe. The other part was built in the Irvingbank area in 1890. The building was used as a Convent from 1950 to 1976.

Hiro was most impressed and very happy that Rachel could speak to him in Japanese. He had a big smile on his face every time she spoke with him. The birdwatchers saw Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, honeyeaters, lorikeets etc. but the sight of the day was the most wonderfully coloured Scarlet Honeyeater. The food preparers and FL were very pleased not to have to do any work. Our dinner was Potato and Leek Soup and Corned Beef followed by tea or coffee and after dinner mints. A lovely end to the day.

### Day 7

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> July

### The Barron — Tablelands Tour

9am start - quick trip through Ravenshoe to see where the platypus lives.

Then off to Mount Hypipamee Crater, a "diatrema" i.e. steam emerged through molten lava "like hot needles through butter" resulting in a crater that collects surface water. Very dramatic!

Then we took the lower walk down to Dinner Falls

From there we went on to Atherton Very neat, sunny and enjoyable. Stocked up with fruit, vegies and postcards.

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Morning tea at the impressive Curtain Fig enhanced by a recent boardwalk.

Lunch with hungry scrub turkeys at Lake Eacham. Some of us enjoyed the turtles - they seemed uncomplicated! Birds seen on our walk around the lake included a little yellow robin, female rifle bird, darter, little pied cormorant, pelican, a spotted catbird, grey haired robin, and a yellow spotted honeybird. FL walked past a redbellied black snake but the rest of us skirted very cautiously round it.

Next was a visit to Malanda, the milk centre of the Tablelands, and then on to Millaa Millaa to see the dairy farmer wrestling the cow (sculpture). Ice cream time (pie time for Rodney) - our addictions are emerging (cappuccini for Bryan, burger rings for Hiro (and dog), and coke for Michael/Kurranji), we've yet to learn the rest.

On to Millaa Millaa Falls where a tree kangaroo hung dangerously from a branch above the falls (seen by some), then to Zillie Falls followed by Ellinjaa Falls - the walk to the bottom was well worth it.

Then up to McHugh Lookout for the panoramic view over the Atherton Tablelands with Bellendon Ker and Bartle Frere in the background. Next we stopped at the freezing Windy Hill to be updated on the rather fearsome wind generators.

As we returned to our Convent we were privileged to hear from our Fearsome Leader of his initiation and continuing tumultuous times battling for Fraser Island and other environmental issues. We are deeply impressed by these and respectful of his efforts.

### Day 8 Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July Barrine, Tinaroo

Program for day was changed we found this out on the way.

Platypus sighted at the creek by Lois.

Picked up the wheel by the highest pub on the highest road in the highest town

Stopped for photo opportunity for "Tree kangaroos cross here" sign.

To Herberton for Queensland architectural heritage homes.

Hasties Swamp (Nyleta wetland) National Park for water birds with the majority being Plumed whistling ducks.

Little shopping stop by a leopard tree from South America

Lake Barrine stopped for lunch. Saw kauri trees, Pelican, variety of ducks. Some walked and some had coffee.

Gillies Highway rather bendey

Danbulla State Forest Drive — Cathedral Fig

Lake Euramoo. Forest bokout. Door jammed and more interest in the door than the lake. Finding the Red lever took time and tricky. Coolish weather few drops of rain. Spotted Wompoo pigeon

Tinaroo Dam or large container of coffees and ice-creams Drowned trees lake dry-ish. Barron River no flow in the Barron River below the dam caused by diversion to the irrigation channel

Returning to Ravenshoe: Cranes flying. Saw peanut hay !baled up in rolls for cattle. Potatoes ready in August — 2 crops per year

Bromfield Swampon the way — Johnson River source CRANES: 2 types. Sarus and brolga 120 plus

Carried on home for a quick dinner before spotlighting for possoms with Charlie Hawkins.

### Day 9

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Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July  
Undara *et al*

The morning began well with platypus spotting — successful for some and unsuccessful for others. Then some dispersed to the market and other parts of the metropolis so the bus set off to reassemble our party from various pick-up points.

Young Hiro from far-off Japan  
One day was a most unhappy man  
The bus rumbled away  
He shouted after it, "*Hey!*  
*You've completely upset my day plan.*"

Jeanne Klovdahl

Our first stop for the day was at Little Millstream Falls. These come down over granite rocks. On to the Millstream National Park — an area that was used

by the Army during the 2ns World War. The vegetation here represent 50 years of regrowth. The Millstream Falls are here, spilling over a basalt lava flow. These are the widest falls in Australia. Open eucalypt forest is dominated by stringybarks, bloodwoods and ironbarks. Bottle brushes (callistemons) border the creek.

A quick walk along the nature loop f the Forty Mile Scrub National Park. This park is 720 metres above sea levelon the top of the Great Divide.

Lunch at Kalkani Crater before tackling the walking track around the crater perimeter. This gave us a magnificent panoramic view of craters and lava flows n the area.

On to Undara to begin our tour of the lava caves. We were very lucky to have Val Speedie as our guide through the area. The caves were each different but spectacular in their own way. The massive fig trees growing at the entrance to two f them certainly proved that these should not be grown in suburbia.

A quick trip to the Bluff to watch the sunset — a great orange ball giving a colourful but brief afterglow. Evening meal at Undara before travelling home in the dark. We were briefly entertained by a pair of bettongs during our feasting.

Day 10  
Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July  
To Cape Tribulation

Through the misty rain we farewellled our gratuitous hostess, Rachel McConnell , who with her mother in-law, Helen, and husband Ian made us very welcome at The Old Convent, Ravenshoe.

We are heading to the coast at Cape Tribulation which was named by Captain Cook after his "Endeavour" ran on to the reef. His log read, "*Here began all or tribulations*". He also named Mt Sorrow and Mt Misery to register his unhappiness. He set off in his crippled ship to Cooktown where his ship was repaired. Cooktown is the only place on the o about 500 miles of coast between Cairns and Cape Melville where this would have been possible. This adds to the evidence that Cook was in possession of charts based on the exploration of Cristado de Mendonca in 1514.

As we drive along much needed rain is falling. Stopped in Atherton for John to shop (and for us to grab our fix of cappucino) and then to Tolga for others to partake of morning tea.

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We then passed through Mareeba which has changed from a tobacco crop because of falling demand to cane mangoes and other fruits.

The cloud now lifted as we passed through the Mitchell River catchment area . (No evidence of Spear grass here). We passed Lake Mitchell and saw the Mt Windsor Tableland almost as high as Bartle Frere, with a huge cloud enveloping the top. Passed through Mt Molloy, great spot for birding at camping ground. Nearby Abbatoir Swamp Environmental Park near the turn-off to Mossman has failed because of the surrounding cane fields. We passed lychee orchards Kingfisher Park below Mt Windsor. Change of environment on the range but no views of the coast because of the heavy weather on the Rex Highway. Beautiful views on a good day out to the islands.

We descended through the mist on the windy road passing into the Douglas Shire on the plain to arrive at Mossman Rotary Park for lunch.

The rain had cleared and we passed turn-off to "Karnak" where Dianne Cilento established a meditation centre after she gave up her movie career and a marriage to Sean Connery. Snapper Island in view on Wonga beach coastal drive.

Crossed the Daintree River in more heavy rain. We grounded on leaving the ferry and nearly had to get out of the bus, Rodney gave it full throttle and we powered up the ramp with the trailer still in tow. Passed Cow Bay Airstrip put in by George Quaid to show prospective clients from the south his sub-divided rainforest blocks. The Commonwealth Government kept promising to buy the remaining undeveloped blocks but it is still in the future.

We stopped for the rainforest boardwalk at "Jindalba" in light rain and later for a second walk at Maardja beside Oliver Creek. The Kuku-Yalanji were the traditional owners of this country which covered much of the northern part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area.

We passed the "bouncing stones" area where people once bounced stones off each other. It is an important Aboriginal site. People have now been stopped by the rebuilding of the road with double lines and no parking provisions.

On the Maardja walk we saw a wompoo pigeon, rifle-bird, catbird and yellow spotted honeyeater. Michael and I saw a feral pig and kept walking and soon it crossed the path behind us. (it was a big one with tusks.

After crossing the Noah Range the coral reef is very close to the shore. We arrived at Ferntrees Rainforest Resort where we stay for two night at 5.30 pm and had to be back on the bus to go the the Research Station to prepare a delicious apricott chicken , rice and Waldorf salad and for dessert an incredible Christmas Delight.

Hugh showed us his pet fruit bats, Annie and Rex. Annie is pregnant again at 17 year. They are our closest relatives to the primates.

### **Thermos Song**

*(Parody on "Cup of Tea")*

**Lois Pinketon**

I am a thermos as you can see  
There are no markings anywhere on me.  
Am I just hot water or am I tea?  
It's a vexing question for anyone but me.

Am I empty or am I full?  
Am I upright or standing on my head?  
If you take my cap off you will see  
That I will make you a lovely cup of tea.

**Day 11**  
**Tuesday, 30 July**  
**Mackay Cay & Party**  
**By the Apostles**

At “Ferntrees” up at 6.00 am. Breakfast is an array of cereals, fruits, muffins etc.

On the bus at 7.30 am to the beach! A quick trip to obtain a great view of Cape Tribulation before heading off to join our small craft taking us out to the “Rum Runner”, which took us to the reef surrounding a sandy cay on Undine Reef. There we anchored, filled out the required paper work and chose our snorkelling gear. Most of us had a “go” and were soon paddling and drifting over another world of coral, parrot fish, butterfly fish and a myriad of other species of varying colours, sizes and shapes. We also saw two humpback whales sporting in the distance.

Cain explained that coral requires four ingredients to survive and grow – sun, salt, warmth (22-29° C) and clean water. He said that the polyp is actually a jellyfish. It performs its functions through one hole. Algae live in a symbiotic relationship with coral polyps. The algae synthesize the energy from the sun and the coral polyps absorb the energy from the algae in return for providing the algae habitat. Coral spawns simultaneously over a stretch of up to 300 kilometres. This increases the chance of survival.

Cain also explained that some fish are capable of changing colour, size, shape and even sex in order to perpetuate their species.

On the homeward journey we received cake, fruit and wine.

An exceptionally good day of fellowship and fun was enjoyed by all.

In the meantime, F.L. spent the day to work on AUSTROP business with Hugh. However the plans were interrupted by a phone call from the Australian Science Communicators advising Hugh that he had just been named the “Unsung Hero of Australian Science” for 2002. Other meanwhile prowled the beaches and the rainforest looking for interesting wildlife.

That night we held our final night with some interesting party pieces being produced (some of which are reproduced here.)

**Day 12**  
**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> July**  
**Cape Tribulation to Cairns**

Unfortunately, our last day! Off to the Research Station for a very interesting tour led by Hugh.

Many photos were taken of Old Boy, who was in the Information Centre being fed bananas.

Morning tea was had while touring the labs and the Bat House.

F.L. pointed out the huge golden flower in the canopy of the rainforest on the way down.

F.L. proved one of his mottos, “*It will fit,*” when he took over the driving from Rodney to get us to the lookout at Alexandra Range and we’re glad he did — the view of the mouth of the Daintree River and out over the Low Isles was beautiful.

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Michael pointed out a colony of flying foxes just as we reached the Daintree River Ferry where the crane that had been semi submerged was amazingly out of the river and working. A quick comfort stop and a hand out of the last of the fruit after we crossed the river.

And so back to canefields, a prawn farm, houses, etc.. Then in to Wonga Beach to visit John's friends Freda, Tim and Bob Goodsell and saw their beautiful open plan home built of recycled timber. The stained glass windows were beautiful. Freda had baked cakes (more weight put on) and made tea and coffee for us all. Northern tropical hospitality is wonderful. We heard of Freda's arrest while campaigning against the Franklin Dam in Tasmania and of her support for John in his Fraser Island campaign.

A bit further south to Mossman (Karranji's "territory" and no more "I don't know. This isn't my territory".) After a quick stop for tomatoes up towards Mossman Gorge for lunch, our final meal together.

After lunch Michael guided us through the Kuku-Yalanji Dreamtime walk. He lived up to our expectations with a very informative and educational talk. Full marks to Karranji! A wonderful afternoon tea of damper and tea was provided on our return,. Delicious.

After an hilarious group phot session, we had a quick drive up Mossman Gorge and then into Mossman again where Karranji had had photocopies of his newspaper cutting of his artistic abilities. A lovely surprise for all of us. Thank you Karranji.

A Quick side trip to Port Douglas then unfortunately it was a case of farewell to the first of our group at Palm Cove.

A wonderful safari! Thank you, crew.

### Viva La Difference

From snakes, goannas and crocs we have seen  
To swamps, mountains, islands and falls we have been  
An assortment of plants, short and tall, grand and lean,  
Such a great array of biodiversity in this varied scene.

### Garden Statues

John Sinclair

Many folk gain their inspiration by growing flowers  
Others vigorously tend their vege plots for hours  
But a few place things in their gardens that don't grow  
They place instead odd artificial sculptures just for show.  
Including swans and subjects made from old tyres  
Or concrete Aborigines or whatever else inspires  
But gardens of the more imaginative have their homes  
Adorned with a rich array of stone garden gnomes

### Reef and Rainforest Reflections

Helen Wolrige

Could you ever imagine our Fearless Leader  
Getting a fright? Well I couldn't either  
But when out of a tree a goanna did bail,  
And swiped his arm with a flailing tail,  
Up jumped FL with a mighty roar.  
It gave him a start, that's for sure.

Birds that we have never seen before  
Stiff necks from craning to see them soar,  
A mosaic of red earth, brown grass and trees  
Then on to the place where rainforest meets reef.

Fish and whales and turquoise sea  
I can think of nowhere I'd rather be  
And so next year — I know what I'll do —  
I'll sail further north with F.L. and his crew.

**Air Brooms**  
**John Sinclair**

Some brooms are made of straw or hair  
But now there's a new type causing some despair;  
It's a noisy contrivance which forces out air.

Other sweeping devices have long been on show,  
Including vacuums which suck rather than blow.  
Though these generally require the use of one's elbow.

If paths must be cleaned why not use a simple rake,  
Why use a machine with all the noise they make?  
Why not use muscles instead for goodness sake?

Witches in fables rode through the air on a broom,  
Now mortals carry new sweeping gadgets that boom  
Just another invention adding to environmental doom.

But modern technology loves inventing mechanical toys —  
The kinkier they are, the more they seduce the big boys,  
Resulting in National Parks being filled with unnatural NOISE.