



Clemente Australian Literature 2019 Grand Finale! Blogs

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Blogs**



"Down at the Dump" by Patrick White—What aspects of style make White's writing distinctive?

Nature



Beautiful

Reading Patrick White's characters, the Whally's in this short story is like listening to the conversation of my next door neighbours. There are swear words, high pitch voice and informal language involved. In this story, White included words that are used by a lot of people in their everyday conversations. For example, words like "waddaya get?" instead of "what do you get?", "missus" instead of wife. The informal style of his writing can be noticed when some of the characters of the story are talking to each other. This adds humour to his story and not boring to read. Like most writers, he showed his poetic side by using metaphors and he did this in formal writing when he narrates the story. He switches from formal to informal (or vice versa) style of writing. White has a way of making his narrative structure complex, perhaps to add interest in the story. His different characters especially Daise is also interesting. She is the dead person that talks that is about to be buried. The love story of Meg and Lummy made this story more varied and interesting to read. My favourite line is, "Now Meg Hogben and Lummy Whalley did not notice each other even when they looked". I think this is funny considering they knew each other. I like the idea that themes such as love and death are both in this short story.

Vivian Bazanez-Bell

In The Waiting Room

The painting "In the waiting room" was made in 1943 by Noel Counihan. In the painting it seems like this elderly woman is in some sort of waiting room hence the name, we can see this can be perceived as a symbolic point of view as if the woman is waiting for the depression to end so she can live a happy life. We can see from the edgy colours and the rough design that this lady is experiencing a traumatic time.

Alana Broomham



Artist : Noel Counihan Date : 1943

The way she is sitting down with her hands in her lap and leaning forward shows the viewer that the woman is uncomfortable and at an uneasy time in her life. From the dull colours we can experience the perception that her mind is in a dark place as if she is in a waiting room but with no one around. This represents that she feels alone letting her mind to drift off into deep thought. Is it possible that she is thinking about how to care for her family while the men are at war?

How this painting is an example of human experience in Australia is how all Australians suffered throughout this point in time. As shown in the painting "in the waiting room" it was an era of the great

depression. Due to the men being gone at war the woman was put in a position where they had to fend for themselves.

Geoffrey Graham



Bernard O'Dowd's Poem – Australia

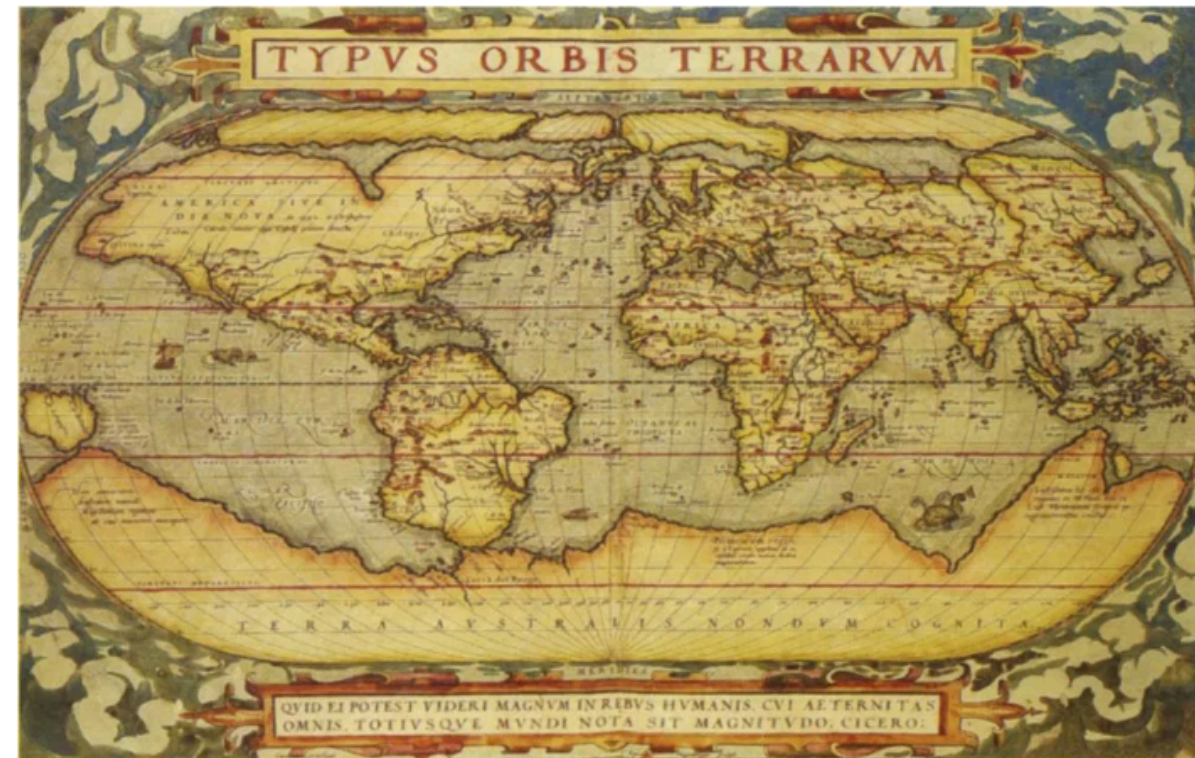
Posted by GEOFFREY on APRIL 14, 2019

The following is an exposition of Bernard O'Dowd's Poem Australia.

LAST sea-thing dredged by sailor Time from Space,

One of the responsibilities of the First Mate of a Ship is to stand in the beside the Captains office with a pair of binoculars to search for danger ahead. In Europe there was a land known for many centuries simply as the land "down under". In 1770 Captain Cook on board the sailing ship Endeavour, was sent by the British Admiralty to make to make astronomical observations. But the real reason that he was traveling towards down under was to find the southern continent. (14.)

If you look closely at this reproduction of the world map made in 1570 you will notice that Australia appears as one land mass called "Terra Australis—Cognita"



World map showing the Great South Land, or 'Terra Australis nondum cognita'. From Abraham Ortelius' *Theatrum orbis terrarum*.

The Great South Land * Other maps read;
Terra Australis—Incognita"

Are you a drift Sargasso, where the West? In halcyon calm rebuilds her fatal nest?

Australia's coast lines are surrounded by seaweed, called Sargassum. There is also a region of the North Atlantic Oceans that are bounded by four ocean current that have caused a gyre to form. The sargassum seaweed very common in the area. (21.)

At the time this poem was being written there were many forces being used on the Australian people to form the Federation of Australian 1901. Its possible that O'Dowd wants us to ask the question? What will happen if the six Australian colonist band together and forfeit their individual boarders, cultures and unite into one country?



Sargassum seaweed

Geoffrey Graham



UNCATEGORIZED

Francis Webb's – Harry

Reading Francis Webb's – Harry, was for me a little like digging up the past. Because back when I was a child my mother had a few mental health break downs and she was taken to Cumberland Hospital.



Cumberland Hospital

Unfortunately for me Mental health has always been something that has been a part of my life for one reason or another. When I was a kid my mother told me how they drug her up so much with medication that she couldn't control her bladder, if that wasn't bad enough she also told me that one night the TV was on and playing the movie "The Exorcist" 1973.

She asked the staff to turn it off but they wouldn't because someone else wanted to watch it. Can you imagine that, being drugged up and losing your mind and then having to view a movie like that?

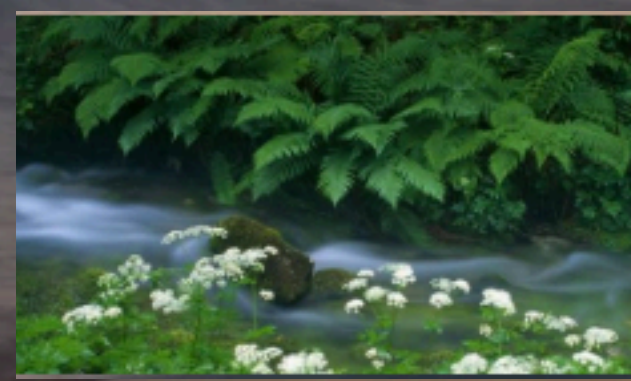
Harry had his own experience with being institutionalised where he asks "We have been plucked from the world of commonsense". I've often commented to others about the difference between private and public health care. Because if you have a mental health issue and don't have private health care you will go to the public hospital. These places are like prison's, where the nurse's are more like security guards. Personally I believe that people like Harry and my mother are just like the rest of us. They need love, acceptance and need human connection. I also believe that each one of us has a role to play and given the opportunity I never run away from people with mental health issues, like so many other people do.

Screenshot



Laura's creative journal

Interesting Ideas on Oz Literature



In “Five Days Old” how does the presence of the child raise questions about the nature and purpose of existence?

laurapkgreen Uncategorized May 4, 2019 1 Minute

Laura Green



When I first heard the story behind the writer Francis Webb, and his poems detailing his experiences of psychiatric centres. I was saddened to imagine the level of treatment of the mentally ill in that time. His poems about “Ward Two” were quite confronting and unpleasant in their truthfulness.

Then I read “Five Days Old”, which resonated with me instantly, as I remember that first moment I laid eyes on my newborn nephew 8 weeks ago, and I was enraptured. The poem reveals the moment when Francis Webb was handed a newborn baby, as a therapeutic method to assist with his condition.

I remember that first moment I laid eyes on my newborn nephew 8 weeks ago, and I was enraptured. The poem reveals the moment when Francis Webb was handed a newborn baby, as a therapeutic method to assist with his condition.

The circle of life is an important theory to comprehend the purpose of our existence. The “absorbed skies” are personified as they “bleed stars of innocence”. I understand this to mean, the skies absorb our souls when we pass on, and then bleed new life upon the earth in the form of an innocent baby.

The last two lines in the first stanza, “to blown straw was given all the fullness of heaven” is a contrasting statement. An uncomfortable, soiled environment holds a baby that is pure and unblemished, emphasising how amazing the gift of life is.

The diction term “**too** pure for my tongue to praise”, reinforces how in awe Webb is of this mystical creation.

The euphonic sounds of “snowflake...windfall and word of truth” in the fifth stanza radiates a beautiful harmonic sensation, influencing a deep connection with the writer’s riveting experience.

The second last stanza teaches us about the nature of our existence, when we single out life’s gifts, such as a baby, then our fears are “as faint and remote as sin out here by the manger”.

Unastrayan

julie is a literature junkie

Australian Literature student at ACU



Our big ugly fat-necked wombat headed* Prime Minister
Got his knickers in a twist over some animal rights protesters
"It's shameful, it's unastrayan!!!" he roared and pounded his chest
Keep living in ignorant bliss you pig eating buffoon.

At the RSL Club some drongo shoves a meat tray in my face
"Raffle ticket love, to help out our fishing club mates?"
"PISS OFF!" I yell articulately and recoil in disgust
He waves his finger, "You know what you is, you is Unastrayan!"

I hate Australia Day and its tacky Chinese made shite
"Check out me Straya day singlet, hat and thongs!"
And I can't stand our National Anthem...
No particular reason, it's just a really crap song!

I hate the smell of beer, and drunken sozzled fools
I hate John Williamson and his woeful song True Blue
The Melbourne Cup, rugby league, cricket & BBQ's
Add vegemite to the list cause yep I hate that too

I hope every McDonalds burns to the ground
I wish every abattoir to be shut down
I desire every duck hunter dies a slow and painful death
I pray the circus lions turn on their tormentors and rip them all to shreds

So I *am* Unastrayan, and that's fine by me
For as the great man Gandhi once proclaimed...
***The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged
by the way its animals are treated***
Australia has a long way to go in that respect, and that is the real shame.

*apologies to Ned Kelly and wombats

ART GALLERY EXPERIENCE

I had a fantastic time visiting the Art Gallery of NSW, it was my first time there. I had fun learning about the Australian paintings from the early 19th century to the late 20th century. I loved the painting called “Still glides the stream and shall for ever glide” by Arthur Streeton. It was like the painting invited me in. With my imagination I could see myself sitting on the hill over looking the valley.



Still glides the stream, and shall for ever glide

1890

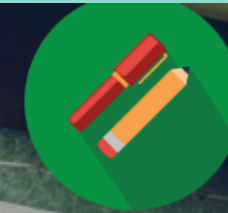


Arthur Streeton

The scenery that is before me is in the late afternoon on a summer's day. There is a beautiful greenery and a lagoon blue river that flows throughout the whole painting. I can see this because of the way that it's dark and overcast in the lower front of the painting. The painting is still bright with the sun as it seems to be going down over the hills in the background at the top of the painting.

Streeton made the river stand out by making it the main focus of the painting as it winds down into the valley and how it looks so peaceful and relaxing. There are cows getting herded across the river to get to the fresh grass on

the other side. In the background there is a small town you can tell this for you can see a church tower. The church tower stands out to me because of how tall it is and how it is centered within the middle of the painting. If you focus long enough you can see the magpies swooping something in the long grass. I've enjoyed looking at this painting for it makes you look at the finer details in the picture because it makes you feel like you're really there.



THROUGH MY EYES

Clements 2019

Heather Broomham

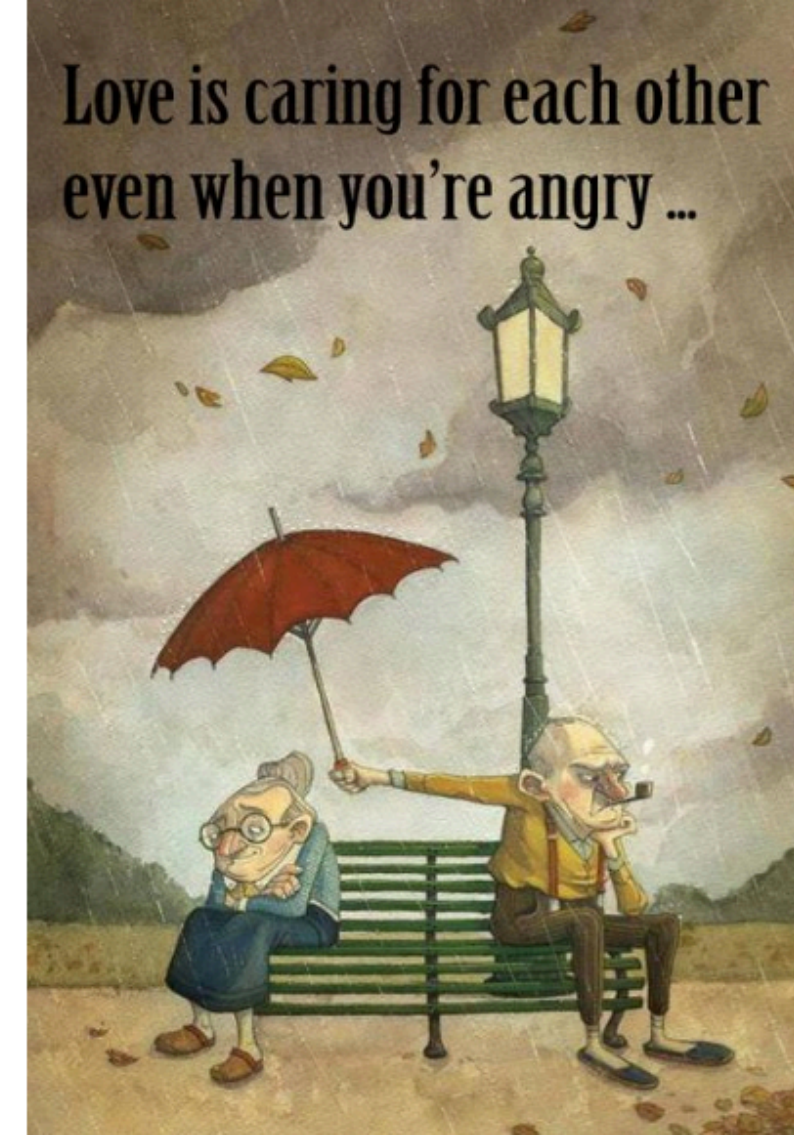
Understanding Dame Mary Gilmore's poem "Eve song"

"Eve Song" is a poem that described the remarkable characteristics that are inherent to an Australian woman. She portrayed the Australian female as strong, affectionate and hard working. She used the name "Eve" to depict a woman full of beauty, compassion and character.

However, no matter how valuable women were, they still felt left alone, taken for granted and not given enough importance in their family. The society was male dominated. Indeed, there existed gender inequality even way back then. This was something Mary Gilmore despised being a promoter of woman's right. She expressed her disappointments and frustrations towards men, by criticizing their behaviour, challenging their strength and demeaning their integrity.

I sense a love and hate connection between man and the woman in the poem. The woman expresses her frustrations and disappointments towards men, yet giving also their arms as comforting pillows for their man to rest. There was a conflict between the woman's emotion and their actions which was apparently described in the last two stanzas of the poem. Women's emotions can sometimes be subtle to man. Their forgiving and sensible nature could often be misunderstood as their weakness. Playing the role of a wife and a mother, woman carries a significant portion of raising a family. The unending obligations and daily challenges can be emotionally and physically draining. It takes away a lot of a woman's freedom as well. However, the loving nature of a woman can be veiled. Women often set aside their own personal frustrations and sentiments for the sake of their love ones. They often choose to reconcile, forgive and continue to love even more.

Love is caring for each other
even when you're angry ...



Honeylene Matin-ao



My Autumn Garden Beauty

Thrust upward to the sky

Above the wall so high,

Refreshing look of pinks and greens

Flutter full and fancy devoid of sighs.

.

Green ribbonettes of slender leaves and stalks____

complementing heads of dancing blooms,

beaming happily in the autumnal air

humming sweet lullabies.

.

Hey, come and let us play.

In dulcet tone they seem to say,

to the zealous bees a-buzzing

who are mindless of their role in seed-making.

.

“We’re content of the nectar oh so sweet,

O so sweet a-sipping.

Allow us to hover and flit from flower to flower

Every now and then.” So the bees say.

My gaze darts out of the bedroom window

To a sunlit portion in the garden where bright

Teeny blooms of yellow often greet me with

A stunning HELLO!!

Ballerina-like

They sway in the winds

Whirling, swirling to and fro.



Lourdes Murphy- our garden poet...

Martin Sharp Tapestry

Site Title ritalearns

Rita learning about Australian literature.

Rita Tobin



Martin Sharp, in his tapestry "OZ", is illustrating a visual presentation of the words of Bernard O' Dowd's poem "Australia". The Tapestry itself is mounted in the foyer of the State Library of new South Wales. (State Library of New South Wales,. The "Oz" Tapestry.The Library. [Sydney]. [1993].

The tapestry depicts a visual image of the words of O'Dowd's poem and in this depiction relates important events of Australian history. The sailing ship on the ocean tells of the arrival of Captain Cook in 1770, followed by the arrival of The First Fleet in 1788. The small image of Australia on the opposite side of the tapestry shows the distance of Australia from western civilization.

Depictions of native flora and fauna echo O'Dowd's wonder at the difference in the Australian landscape to that of England. Especially, that of the Dingo and the way gum trees shed their bark. The Sun blazes down in the tapestry, just as the Sun blazes down on the countryside. Surrounded by sea O'Dowd likens Australia to the Sargasso sea, that area in the north Atlantic where four currents come together and seaweed gathers in a single mass without any landform. Martin Sharp depicts this by way of the fish he has swimming all around the landmass of Australia.

"Are you adrift Sargasso, where the west

In halcyon calm rebuilds her fatal nest"

Martin Sharp acknowledges the Aboriginal history of Australia in his depiction of the Ochre hand print, which is culturally significant to Aboriginal people. Uluru is an Aboriginal sacred sight in Central Australia currently administered by an indigenous council to promote and foster understanding. The painting also depicts the dingo which is native only native to Australia.

Celebration in Australian history is shown by the inclusion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and the Southern Cross emblazoned in the foreground of the tapestry. This is an illusion to the renowned fire works in Australia at different times of the year. Historic tragedy is shown in the depiction of the fire at Luna Park. On the 9th of June 1979 The Ghost Train at Luna Park amusement park in North Sydney caught fire. One adult and six children lost their lives

The Joy of Self-Discovery

- Reflections on learnings from Intro to Australian literature unit -

Hi! My name is Malia, and I have recently enrolled in the Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Clemente Program. This program is a "ground-breaking university course for all Australians experiencing disadvantage and social isolation", providing the necessary resources and opportunities to help support making a difference in people's lives through tertiary education (Australian Catholic University, 2019).

The unit we are currently covering is, An Introduction to Australian Literature; looking at the writings of various Australian authors and authors who speak about Australia and its culture in their work.

I would like to share with you, just a short reflection I had on Judith Wright's poem, "The Wattle – Tree", that we were introduced to in our class last week. Upon reading this poem, I instantly reflected on the spirituality of the author, contemplating about the journey of self-discovery seen through the lens of a Wattle tree.

In the first stanza, the tree shares its knowledge of "the four truths" it needs to have life: "earth, water, air, and the fire of the sun", and the "four truths" it holds within itself that gives it its identity: "root, limb and leaf unfold out of the seed". With this basic understanding of oneself, the tree "dreams it has a voice", a voice that can be found when one molds the elements of what gives it life with its own characteristics into "one word of gold", and that "gold" is joy.



A Day at the Art Gallery

Jenny Bird

What a great day we had at the art gallery. It was my first time there. I was in awe of all the paintings. I was able to see Australia through the eyes of the early white Australians. Then I could see the very different way the Aborigines did their paintings.

Our blog this week is to pick a painting that spoke to us. I picked “Bailed Up” by Tom Roberts. When I was a young girl we were told many stories about family members. One story that stands out the most is this.

There was a young couple who had married. They went to Melbourne, in their own buggy, for their honeymoon. They had been travelling for days. One day they were held up by bushrangers. They told them to take everything they had, but please spare their life. The bushranger asked them what they were doing. He explained they were on their honeymoon. The bushranger then gave them the money and items back with a little extra money and told them to go on their way. Then they heard “Have a long and happy life.” At the next town, they told people what had happened to them and were told: “that sounds like the Kelly Gang.” They were so grateful and never saw them again.

Bailed Up By Tom Roberts (1895)



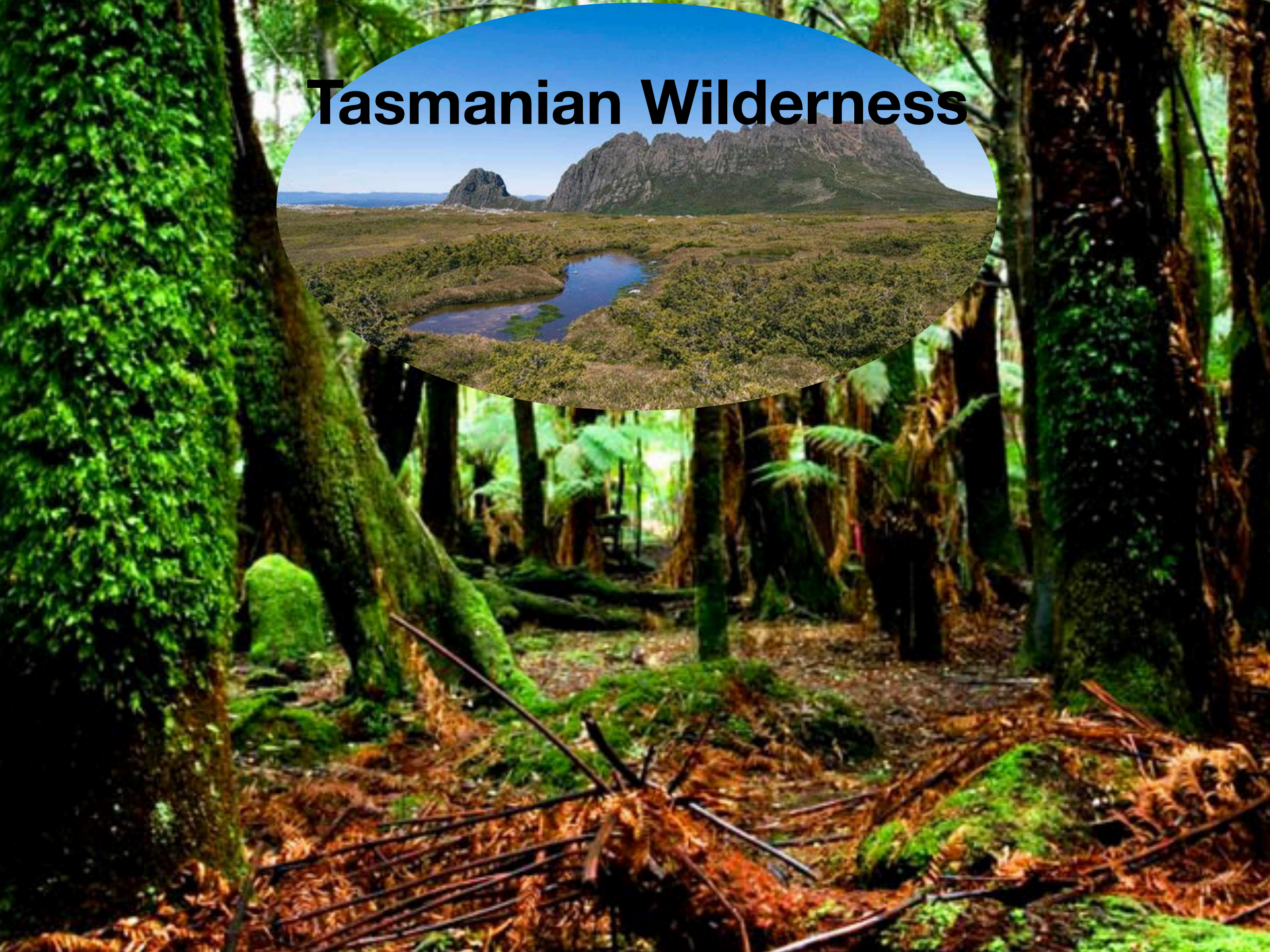


THE GOLDEN AGE

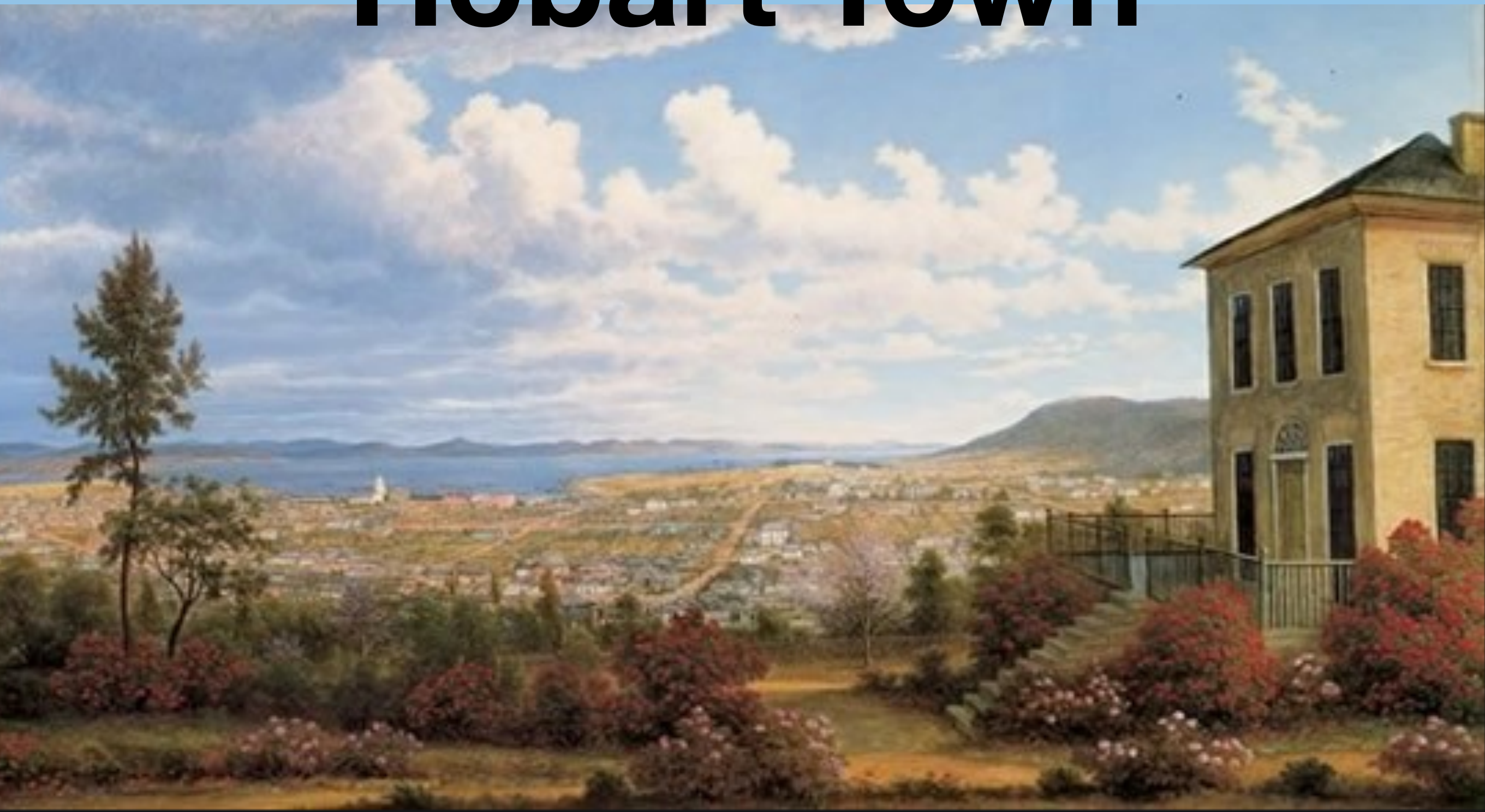
BY LOUIS NOWRA



Tasmanian Wilderness



Hobart Town



Prison of War



Hoy, Hoy I'm the Boy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khB2pTNQPre>

Tasmanian Wilderness





The End

