

## Satura Poetry Prize

This prize began with the support of the Honourable Dr John Jefferson Bray, J.J. Bray, who was a keen Friendly Streeter for many years while being the Chief Justice of SA as well as Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. I'd like to read a short poem from his *Adaptions from the Greek Anthology*, published in Number Two Friendly Street (1978), edited by Andrew Taylor and Ian Reid.

### After Long Absence

When your grape was green you denied me.

When your grape was ripe you despised me.

Can I have a nibble at the old sultana?

I trust that this competition will continue into the future, to honour one of our founding members, J.J. Bray.

Judging the Satura Poetry Prizel, I spent time thinking about *Chicken Feet*, reading Juia Wakefield's poem, with its potentially terrifying vision of the aged being eaten. This is a promising start to what could become a memorable poem. Similarly, *The iCloud* by Margaret Clark had me imagining the digital domain as weather, with corners of photographs poking from the cloud's edge, and spreadsheets raining down. A fascinating idea, which could go further.

*Speaking in Tongues* by Rob Walker got me into a linguistic groove with its olfactory stimulants and balmy salves. And how good to see a dedication to our inimitable Khahil Jureidini.

There are lots of other interesting poems including *Bare Bones* by Susan Reece and Graham Rowlands' *Jehova's Witnesses*. I laughed along with Alice Shore in her *Waiting for Fire*, and was saddened with her cow poem *There's an Empty Loneliness*. And many more.

But I was particularly drawn to *Courage* by Elaine Barker. This poem is rhythmically well controlled with an iambic-like pace, and uses half-rhymes effectively, with assonance giving assured resonance. The poem is plain and uncluttered, dignified, and stays focused on the subject of the returned soldier in a sustained manner which leads to a resolved ending.

I am pleased to award the Saturna Poetry Prize for 2016 to Elaine Barker for *Courage*.