

No apology to Shakespeare is necessary

Gloucester District U3A members were wowed at their Christmas party when Margaret Higgins read her poem to the audience. You could have heard a pin drop as Margaret read her Shakespeare-style poem to U3A members, particularly the newcomers or "tree-changers."

Margaret was inspired by her U3A fourth term course "Reading Shakespeare" which has been so ably led by our local drama expert, Maureen Hjorth. Her poem pays tribute to the Gloucester community and U3A. The heart-felt verse brought resounding applause on the night from all members present.

The Tree Change

With apologies to Shakespeare
By Margaret N Higgins

"Good wife, I prithee, this sounds strange
'Tis time we suffered a tree change.
We've done our dash, we've made our cash,
Through frantic traffic now we thrash,
Payeth huge sums to parking metres
If park we can; the costs that greet us
In every shop suffices
To prove their strength 'gainst country prices!
The agent speaketh glowingly
That Gloucester is the place to be"

"What! Leave my home, my children three
My cards, my friends, and go with thee
To a tiny town on Mid North Coast!
Of what great feature doth it boast?"
"Great natural beauty. It doth lie
Between the Bucketts and the Mograni!"
"The Bucketts and the Mograni!
Who nameth these wild mountains high?"

"A race as old as time and tide
Once dwelleth by the Riverside.
Who saved the settlers from starvation
When we were just a fledgling nation;
Your children three can visit Thee
'Tis where their offspring can roam free
And when they come, if full of care
They'll snuff the unpolluted air,
Where mountains circle lovingly.
Begone dull care, begone from Thee"

"What doeth they, to pass the time
Who dwell with Nature so sublime?"
"Good wife, yourself do not dismay
When work is done, why then they play
With every kind of sport on offer
And every pub and club for quaffers.
Their small shops make a brave display.
They've coffee shops and U3A."

"Good husband, fie you do surprise.
Change will be great, I do surmise
But, with Williamtown near Bucketts Way,
The whole world's but an hour away.
Let past a gentle memory be
With future fresh for Thou and me.
Our hopes and dreams we'll pack and pray
For Gloucester and for U3A."