

361 Wynnum North Road

Wynnum 4178

Dear Lake -- or are we sufficiently old friends for me to say

"Dear David?

Anyway, it seems an age since I saw you, and I have it on very good authority that you are about to publish a book of poems, so you may be feeling in the mood for a drink and some music and talk one of these evenings.

The usual end-of-term shivoo (Governor Macquarie used the word, so it's perfectly convenable) will be on at my place on Friday, 10 December. I compose about one piece of music a year, and get the kids to play it, and this year it's a "quodlibet" -- not exactly in the style of the late J.S. Bach -- on the bush polka tune Old Black Alice. My pretty little flute-player is much taken with the thing, and plays her part with tremendous gusto. We hope to do a Mozart divertimento as well, just to compensate!

I've only just seen the review of "Op. 8" in Makar. The reviewer took two pages to say that he didn't like it. On the other hand, I'm told that Southerly has given me a very favourable review. Swings and roundabouts! One rather nice thing is that un-literary people, generally a bit wary of "modern" poetry, who hear me recite from Op. 8 go racing out to buy the book. My Bandicoots did a bush-ballad recital at a social given by CSIRO employees a few weeks ago, and included two ballads of mine. No less than eight copies of the book were sold as an immediate result. Similar results in Toowoomba last week. Will there be anything in your book that the Bandicoots will be able to use -- alongside The Streets of Forbes and Holy Dan?

Please do come to our end-of-term, and bring poems to read.

;Salud y pesetas!

John Manifold.