

Australian Ecology

The tutor said that the original people
lived in a totally meaningful world.

How sensible beneath this clear winter sky
of southern stars--the forest still glowing
from a prescribed burn!

The landscape is farmed
by fire. Potential is layered in waves--
viviparous seeds here, delayed blastocysts there.

A male marsupial mouse copulates violently
before death. A satin bird searches
for treasures and dreams of you.

And when a rival destroys the bower,
I lay eggs and suckle milk and coppice new shoots--
flocks of botanical phoenix.

Surely, the best explanation is some theoretical
lycanthropy of guilt and retribution.