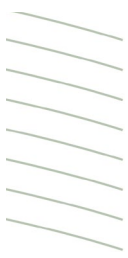


The Big Re-Set Resaid: The Conference in Clerihews

By Philip Harvey

Librarian, The Carmelite Monastery Library, Community of the Holy Name Library

The *ANZTLA EJournal* keeps records of conference summaries, given at their conclusion if there is time, as a recap for attendees. Time was not available to write or deliver a Melbourne 2024 summary, but afterwards the President requested me to compose one anyway. Verse seemed an idea, but what verse? The limerick can sound unserious, and the sonnet demands concentration. I chose instead the clerihew, a droll device that can be accurate when it chooses; AI can't do this. Like the limerick, anyone can make up clerihews. It is a four-line biographical poem invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956). The first line is the name of the poem's subject, often a famous person but in this case famous to theological librarians for speaking at our conference. The metre can be irregular, but the rhyme scheme is always AABB, which is where the fun is, finding rhymes for people's names. Any resemblance between my clerihews and the conference presenters is quite deliberate but I don't expect letters from their lawyers.



Melanie Hechenberger
Zoomed half-hour surges
Sorted X in Pettee with brio
And assistance from baby Theo.

Melissa Parent
Made time well-spent
Sharing the latest updates, cluey
Everything on point in Dewey.

Philip Harvey
With a history
Took the hard slog out of cataloguing
But how do we describe non-stop blogging?

Michael McGirr
Could but concur
Cultivating memory gives us hope
As he took his next call from the Pope.

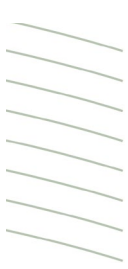


Mary Carroll and Simon Wakeling
Sang the same hymn, no mistaking:
People expect more than can ever be done
Libraries should cater for everyone.

Melissa Parent
Signed, sealed and sent
A love letter to the future, a starter
Writ in most impeccable metadata.

Liz Staer and Kate Wimer
Did not work by egg-timer
Information is abundant, universal, undeniable
But what is valid, valuable and verifiable?

Kerrie Stevens and Gillian Cain
Made the statistics perfectly plain
People expect more and we deliver more
Despite reductions, budget cuts and ... more.



Nick Gellatly

Most gallantly

Proposed overhaul of what's

A perennial puzzle – AULOTS!

Cindy Derrenbacker

Described a home tracker -

Belief in self, the righting of wronging

Makes for an architecture of belonging.

Susan Ebertz

Drew on experts

Herself giving boxloads of stunning expressions

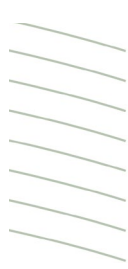
For any and everyone's planning successions.

Helen Greenwood

Quite understood

The unlikely but legal need for a quorum

And scribbled furiously though the Forum.



Sai Santoyo, Neil Horvath, and Mark Hangartner

Iambic pentameter (almost) partners

Proved themselves worldly-wise

With the hundred meanings of ‘rightsize’.

Huw Sandaver

Tagged ‘Engraver’

With incisive subfields on work forms cerebral

And multiplied entries for medieval cathedrals.

Albrecht Dürer

Welcomed tourers

Who engraved and incised as he pleased

But could only imagine the Antipodes.

The Royal Botanic Gardens

Contained gigantic bargains

Flowers galore popping up like Kusama dots

And canopies spread like cathedral tops.



The State Library of Victoria

Hushed inside, outside noisy noisier

Bookended walks from naarm ngarrgu ('Melbourne knowledge')

Noisiest travellers tramping noisily then back to college.

Geoff the Chef

Treble clefs

Arias and trills enjoyed from Grace Notes Singers

When not making dinners that were real humdingers.

Elizabeth Greentree

El-e-ment-ar-eeeeee

Not, fashioned AI assistants by having chats -

Lack imagination but nice enough chaps.

Philip Harvey

AI? Who, me?

Wrote these clerihews -

He couldn't refuse.