The Matron of Murray Culture

With quiet determination
She speaks with Aussie charm,
Before us stretch the hectares
Of pasture land and farm.
The stockmen and the horses
Rise up before our eyes,
They live in her descriptions
Her stories make us wise.
She knows the Upper Murray
She speaks of old-times past
With phrases like “No worry,”
She makes each moment last.
She talks about the rivers,
Describes the days of tin.
She speaks of old Jack Riley,
Of country pride, and kin.
She shows us the museum,
Each photo and display
She manages to surround us
With life from older days.
We know her as Val Ordish
The matron of recall
If Val can’t recall it
It happened not at all.
We sit in shaded wonder
And listen to her tales.
Val Ordish makes us ponder
Her memory never fails.
So here’s to our Val Ordish
The Queen of culture true.
Australia wouldn’t serve us, Val,
Without the likes of you.

Dedicated to Val Ordish
By David M. Lucas, Ph.D.
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