

Goodwill flows
Sweet as syrup on damper
I'm so happy
Sitting here
Complete, contented
Free

Saw a fellow writer
Just now
We hailed each other
He tendered his phone number
For future reference
Well, I haven't bought
His poems lately
Either

Lillian Tait

A SNAKE WITH FRIENDS

Last Sunday
A bush python
Was sighted
Coiled across the joists
Of the timber framed
Unceiled 'Ladies'

The first person
To notice the black
And silver presence
Was restored
With strong hot tea

Later
With the excitement
Of discovery
Relieved and relieved
After the second cup
Was fortified

A curious promenade
Took place
Started by those
In the know

They who could be
Trusted not to panic
And want it hacked
Out of existence
I had a look
It was a glorious
Beast
Must have been nine or ten
Feet long
And thick with possum
I suspect

C. J. Lennings

THEME FOR A DETECTIVE NOVEL

The shelves lie lengthways on the wall
“good enough to sleep in”, the trainee laughs,
“more like a coffin”, the manager snarls
stacking rolls of toilet paper,
“and will be, if I find you sleeping here”
he adds.