

Ray Liversidge

LANDSCAPE AND LANGUAGE

Vowels like water, consonants like rock

Howard Nemerov

So, what to make of this country?
Is it not to be understood, as Sturt said?

Are we to be seduced by budding shrub
and wildflower purpler than the prose of Giles,

only to be taken for a *long reconnoitring ride*,
like Leichhardt, around a river bend

and onto an unbegotten plain where there are
no vwls lk wtr, cnsnnts lk rck?

