Amy Chinnock, "A Poem for Grandfather"

The Mabel Innes Prize for Lyric Verse

The prize is open to any undergraduate student at James Cook University. The prize was founded in 1962 by the late Mr A.H. Innes. Recipients are chosen by a committee comprising the Head of the School of Humanities, James Cook University, a person nominated by the Head of the School, and a person nominated by the University Council.

The prize, worth $500 in 2003, was awarded this year to Amy Chinnock, of Cairns.

Amy Chinnock

A POEM FOR GRANDFATHER

Years have gone by
Memories faded into the stillness of dusk
Granddaughter wonders what to say and how
Grandfather's not doing so well
The gap widens when it is time to draw it together
I try to speak I try to think
Words don't come easy,
Melting into silence before they are even spoken
Can he hear my thoughts
As an ocean they flow
The tide is going out slowly, slowly
Will the words come before I see the entire beach
Before Grandfather sees the entire sky
Perhaps,
In the passing of a breeze
Granddaughter will speak with grandfather