

Claret & cannelloni

The younger poets

LES MURRAY

Christopher Koch

Mark O'Connor

Peter Porter

Peter Goldsworthy

Chris Wallace-Crabbe

Alan Gould

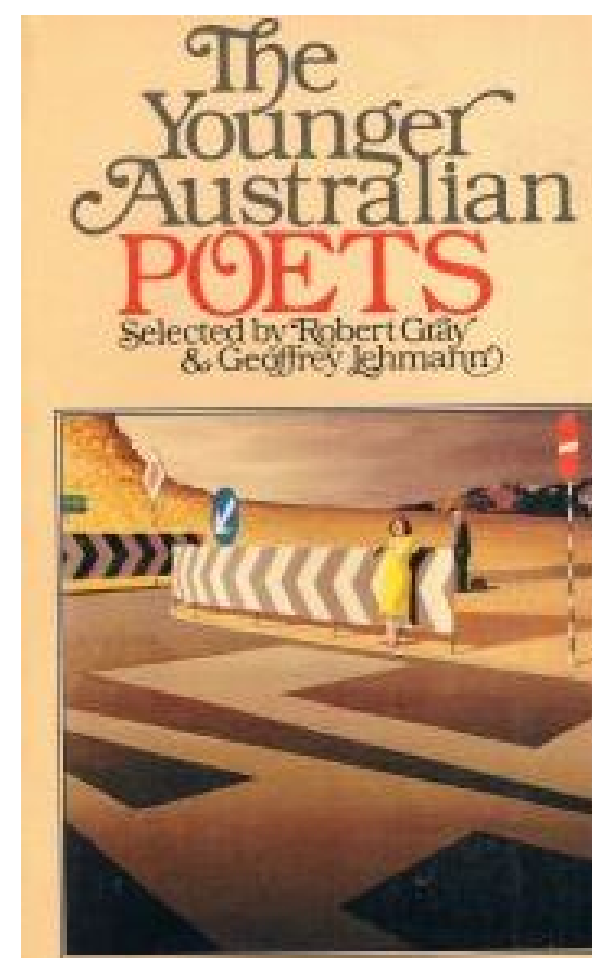
Robert Gray

Jamie Grant

Bruce Beaver

PeterKocan

Jennifer Rankin



Book cover

The term the 'Younger Poets' was coined by editors **ROBERT GRAY** and **GEOFFREY LEHMANN**

During the 1970s there was an 'explosion' of poetry output in Sydney and Melbourne. This led to factionalism. There was also an ascendancy of a younger group of predominately Melbourne poets over an older group of poets in Sydney (termed

In the 1970s and 80s the Murray home in Chatswood was the focus of many gatherings and dinner parties (cannelloni and claret) hosted by Les and Valerie Murray

vitalists).

A number of Sydney poets, including **LES MURRAY**, further developed the Australian literary condition. On the other hand, there was a group of poets, the so-called "generation of '68' who were opposed to Australian literary influences. This led to the introduction of 'modernist innovation' into the Australian literary tradition.

Australian poetry was polarised by both geography and association. This was underpinned by economic competition in a society where funding of the arts was by way of direct grants.

In Sydney, one of the most outstanding poets was **LES MURRAY**.

For many years Les lived in Edgar Street, Chatswood. Les had married Valerie Morelli of Italian heritage. Their guest at Claret & Cannelloni nights included many 'Younger Poets' as well as prominent poets such as **KENNETH SLESSOR, DOUGLAS STEWART** and **GEOFFREY LEHMANN**,

work's turned its back on sweat brilliantly
but when they start to loom, these towers
disappear. Dus;s lightswitches reveal
yellow Business branching kilotall
and haloed with stellar geometry
Mirror-Glass Skyscrapers

Les Murray