

Get the Name Right: Helen Lyne

When people read the name 'Lyne',
they tend to pronounce it as 'Lynn'.

The Newcastle Poetry Prize is one
of the most prestigious poetry awards
in Australia. First prize is \$15,000.

In Oz if you're a poet
You're unlikely to be famous.
The British boast of Shakespeare
And the Irish favour Seamus.
The French will spruik the verses
Of their Charlie Baudelaire
Who wrote of bloody useless things
Like passion and despair.
To buy a book of poetry
Most Aussies wouldn't hurry.
Banjo's name might strike a chord
But not Malouf or Murray.

There's a Northern Beaches poet
Whose dazzling deathless verse
Is admired by admirers,
So she's likely to be terse
With people who are careless
And mispronounce her name
Cos thereby they deprive her
Of the benefits of fame.
She'd have a bit of money
And could buy some decent wine
If they ceased to call her Helen Lynn.
She's bloody Helen Lyne!

Once they get her name right,
The discerning and the wise
Judges of the Newcastle
Will bestow the Poets' Prize
On this champion versifier
Who likes to feature rhyme
Regardless if it's wonky,
Irrelevant or grime.
When she banks her fifteen thousand
She still won't be as famous
As the Captain of the Wallabies,
Or What's-his-name or Seamus.