

GRIFFITH CENTENARY FOUR AUGUST TWENTY SIXTEEN

Griffith is a hidden treasure
Remote to most Australians
If only they'd make the effort to
Find out what makes us unique, they'd
Feel the same way as we do
In love with our drive and compassion
The cosmopolitan lifestyle and
Harmonious multiculturalism.

Central to our success
Ever since nineteen sixteen, until
Now and hopefully, forever, is
The water from far away
East in The Great Divide
Not far from our nation's capital
Arrested by two large dams on
Rivers that carry it to the MIA;
Yet, the Plan has created uncertainty.

Far too much flows downstream, some
Out to the Southern Ocean
Unless further changes are made, will the
Region progress as before?

Almost anything could be grown, they said
Under sunny skies on good soils
Green fields would replace parched lands
Until the area was transformed, though

Success was slow at first, with
Trials and tribulations for pioneers.
Tested by the bureaucracy
Whose plots were small and advice poor
Eventually these hurdles were overcome
Newer crops planted on larger farms
Till returns increased and the future was
brighter;
Yesterday's scheme looked like having a
tomorrow.

Since the end of World War Two
Immigrants made Griffith what it is today
Xenophobia free, an example to all
Though at times it's been tested, it's
Even stronger as a result, because we're
Ever striving higher, together
Now that's worth celebrating!

Allan Haggarty