

VICTORIA – A DAY IN THE LIFE

I woke upon a diamond dawn
I walked into a Melbourne morn
And feeling like I'd been reborn
Embraced a new beginning

Victoria, my thoughts succinct
A busker in the laneway winked
The pieces of a jigsaw linked
And sent my soul a spinning

As on a tram and in the vibe
Surrounded by a friendly tribe
Excitement like I can't describe
I shared in their devotion

To cafes, shops and rooftop bars
And hotels worth their weight in stars
To Brunswick Street and restaurant cars
With kindred wheels in motion

And up ahead past Flinders Station
There the Square of Federation
Paved the way for inspiration
Love and life colluded

The Yarra River's gentle tease
Was cruising on a Southgate breeze
Past gardens, parks and ancient trees
Aquariums included

Conventions, Shows and Exhibitions
Scienceworks and compositions
Galleries of great traditions
Tastefully delivered

And there amongst the Birrarung
Through eerie mist, in native tongue
A Wurundjeri song was sung
I well and truly shivered

Heritage define the score
As history oozed from every pore!
With concert halls and art galore
The perfect culture-quencher

Lunch was lived on Sydney Road
As famous food and fine wine flowed
Then afterwards, in shopping mode
Another brave adventure!

Ripponlea was on the bill
Rialto deck and what a thrill!
I went and conquered Flagstaff Hill!
Then climbed Eureka Tower!

Museums told a treasured tale
For Ned, I did Old Melbourne Gaol
The MCG - an epic gale
Of theatre, grace and power!

For Boxing Day had cast its spell
The roaring crowds of AFL
Like Flemington – the Cup Day swell
And Aussie Open racquet

A city built on sporting fames
Now F1 legends lodge their claims!
Olympic history, Commonwealth Games
And Huntingdale's gold jacket!

With dreams to dream and folk to meet
I caught a train at Spencer Street
A Puffing Billy – what a treat!
It took me to Geelong

The Waterfront was proudly purring
Ocean Road was Greatly stirring
Sights and sojourns soon conferring
Memories so strong

Festivals to sit and soak
The sound of Falls, Port Fairy Folk
Otway Fly – I went for broke!
A Daylesford Spa was calling

Royal Mail and Dunkeld rings
With Lindenderry, Hepburn Springs
The Grampians on Brambuk's wings
And Creswick Forest sprawling
Tarrawarra's canvas glows
Were just as sweet as Bendigo's

And then I felt the winter snows
At Hotham and at Huski

Skiing through Balgownie vines
With Phillip Island's Silver shines
And Buckland Valley boutique wines
In flavours rich and musky

Romantics earn the right to brag
Comedians a festive gag
And Sovereign Hill with Lalor's flag
Had Ballarat in raptures!

Three fine zoos to search and see
Melbourne, Healesville, Werribee
The Murray River sets me free!
Such harmony it captures!

Tours that flow and tides that ebb
Surf it on the worldwide web
Relaxing on a wave celeb
Though modestly endearing

Every colour every creed
Colours melt and passions bleed
Fun for kids – awards decreed
The Hall of Fame is cheering!

I cheered along, I let it sing!
For Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring
I rolled that great big ball of string
And welcomed nature's greeting

Clean and green and sanctified
I loved it all – I laughed I cried
The aspiration un-denied
My heart, in tribute, beating

It beats in time to life... but adversity is rife...

For somewhere on this journey
On that celebrated track
I looked towards the sky...
But the sky that day was black

From tree to tree and town to town
The world today turned upside down
I can't ignore the pain inside
The courage shown, the people's pride

To stand together, women, men...
And vow to fight, rebuild again
Thou will not walk alone...amen...

The spirit that invokes the fight
The wings that give the vision flight
The smile inside this room tonight
Victoria - sing loudly!

The emu and the kangaroo
The beauty tried - the beauty true
The dream starts here – the dream is YOU
Victoria - stand proudly!

You're the State's divine releases
You're the jigsaw's stunning pieces!
True potential never ceases
Fill your sails with gold!

All the joy and all the sorrow
Inspiration – yours to borrow
Go as one! Embrace tomorrow!
Endless tales untold

And that is where the secret lies
That's the star that lights your skies
Leaves future in your eyes
And paints your heart with glory

The path is yours to commandeer
The time has come – the moment's here
Plant it in your children's ear
And celebrate the story

I strode towards the setting sun
Admiring the magic spun
And feeling like I'd just begun
The night was gladly grinning

Victoria – my thoughts succinct
Again, that busker warmly winked
The pieces of a jigsaw linked
And sent my soul a spinning...

Congratulations Victoria!

Rupert McCall