



# Newsletter of Yarra Valley Orienteering Club

No. 216

August 2014



*Mel Gangemi demonstrating how to carry controls and young Emily - at Spring Gully event*



## Officebearers

*President:*  
David Goddard  
Tel: 9457 1836

*Secretary:*  
Belinda Dale  
6A Leura Street  
Surrey Hills 3127  
9830 4836  
Binna\_dale@hotmail.com

*Treasurer*  
Sheila Colls  
12 Evan Smith Close  
Macleod 3085  
9459 2402  
sheila.colls@bigpond.com

**Bank account details  
for payments:  
063009 00090157**

*Website:*  
[Http://www.yvoc.com.au](http://www.yvoc.com.au)

*Next newsletter:*  
October 2014  
**Newsletter Editor:**

**Ruth Goddard**  
17 Glenard Drive  
Heidelberg 3084  
9457 1836

### Details of Yarra Valley events

Sunday August 24 (MelBushO 7) Plenty Yarrambat  
 Coursesetter/organisers: Mel Gangemi, Tim Wardrop  
**Peter Black will be organising the roster pwb66@bigpond.net.au**

#### Coming events in Park/Street for YVOC:

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: Mill Park Lakes – setter Russell (This coming Saturday)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Doncaster heights – setter Margi

#### Park Street Summer Series

Wednesday 29 October: Kerrimuir – setter needed please

Thursday 13 November: Coburg Lake – setters Mel & Tim

Wednesday 10 December: Mont Eagle – setter needed please

Thursday 22 January: Greenhills (St Helena) – setter Russell

Wednesday 4 February: Blackburn Creekland – setter needed please

Thursday 26 February: **Park Street Champs at Springthorpe** – setter TBA – great to have a few helpers for these champs please

Thursday 5 March: Ruffey Lake – setter Ruth

#### Sprint into Spring

Saturday 25 October: Ruffey Lake

It is a fairly full calendar and I am hoping to get some volunteers for setting some of these events. Margi Freemantle mfreemantle42@gmail.com

*Are you able to fill in any of the spaces in the coming Park/Street events in summer?*



*Alex Randall in Alice Springs*

## **Inventioneering: Peter Lada**

By David Goddard



Peter is a good orienteer but his eyes light and his hands move with vigour when he speaks of his inventions. He is a mechanical engineer who has worked mainly in shipbuilding but whose interests include the smelting of non-ferrous metals, especially copper. In shipbuilding, his understanding of basic principles coupled with careful calculations and forceful presentation of his ideas led to several innovations in design and construction methods. He broke with tradition to devise a more forward location of one of a pair of bilge wells on fish-factory ships to simplify construction yet achieve the same purpose. And, in the emergency aftermath of an explosion on a ship under construction, he rapidly devised and deployed pontoons to aid rescue of those injured through the only available access. For this he received a medal for bravery.

Peter reckons that all his engineering skills and experience with innovations prepared him for what he regards as his most important project: one day within two hours, he made out of some scrap metal a cover for a skylight. That simple cover probably saved the lives of two people and two dogs during the catastrophic bush-fire in Kinglake on 7 February 2009.

### **Peter's life**

Peter was born in the city of Gdynia in northern Poland on the Baltic coast. Winter snow in the surrounding forests and mountains invited cross-country skiing. Inspired by the adventure books of Jack London and James Curwood about the way that trappers and native Americans travelled in Canada and Alaska, Peter ventured out alone. His two sisters were not interested and his school friends lacked skis. His father counselled him about exhaustion: "Fight any desire to stop and fall asleep; that will lead to certain death from hypothermia." Peter recalled this advice when, deep in the forest far from any settlement, he was caught in a blizzard.

Summer days saw Peter in dinghies and yachts. Because the Baltic Sea could be changeable and rough, his sailing club coach pressed him to undertake tough on-shore training in athletics. Peter accepted this and was diligent in his workouts. He considered that athletic skills ran in his family. His ancestors included knights settled on the eastern border of Poland to repel raids by Lithuanian tribes. Legend tells that one of them alone halted a group of raiders in the forest while his servant dashed back to bring help. Doubtless, this knight's skills in navigation and archery were needed then.

In 1969, at the age of 19, Peter became an apprentice fitter and turner at a shipyard

in nearby Gdansk, working on ship maintenance. The shipyard employed 10 000 people and he worked there for 14 years. During that time, he attended the Technical University of Gdansk to study mechanical engineering. There he met Anna and they were married. Wages were modest and flats tended to be reserved for party members, so he, Anna, and their daughter Hania lived in a single room in Gdansk.

During the 1970s, food prices in Poland rose ahead of wages and anti-government sentiment grew. Peter, like other young men, distributed anti-government leaflets and took part in demonstrations. He considered that his being fit then aided survival as he could outrun any police or secret agents who wanted to arrest him. He feared being arrested at home and barricaded his front door at night and had a plan to escape from his fifth-storey flat through the balconies. He feared gaol and even considered living as a fugitive or escaping from Poland across the Baltic Sea on a sailboard. But for some reason these officials never came for him.



At the shipyard, he was thought of as a dissident because he often made jokes about Polish political leaders. This may have affected his boss's will to promote him but he was *not* punished – perhaps because of the importance of his engineering work or because they felt his jokes were apt. His innovations were valued and he won awards. Eventually, he was promoted to one of the Managing Director's advisory groups. He started teaching at the school for shipbuilders.

In 1980, there was a general strike which was settled by a pact between strikers and the government. This pact brought into being the Solidarity movement. Because of his rescue work following the aforementioned explosion, other workers urged Peter to take a prominent part in Solidarity. He declined, citing a conflict of interest between his advisory group work and union activism.

A year later, some leaders of Solidarity were arrested and gaoled. Peter then left the shipyard. He first helped a friend who made and sold puppets by conducting puppet shows at markets. He then started a bakery shop and ran this for four years. When government rules relaxed, he again took up engineering with a small company.

In 1989, an election in Poland saw the communist government lose power. Shipbuilding declined. Peter's sister, already in Australia, suggested that Peter might move to Melbourne because a naval shipyard was here. Peter and Hania were already orienteering, usually travelling to events by public transport – sometimes by overnight train across Poland. When Peter suggested to Hania, then aged 15, that they may come to Australia, she asked, "Do they have orienteering there?" A pen friend of Peter mailed them a copy of the 1985 World Orienteering Championship map of Mt Kooyoora. On seeing the map, both Hania and Peter were sold on Australia!

Peter regarded coming to Australia as an adventure-seeking enterprise. It was, of course, a difficult decision to leave their parents and friends but they took the approach, "Let's try". Peter was 40 years old with fifteen years' experience in shipbuilding as a mechanical engineer, inventor, teacher and manager. His wife, Anna, was qualified as a civil engineer and also had experience in shipbuilding. They were readily accepted as immigrants.

However, as non-citizens, they were precluded from working in the naval dockyard. Peter first obtained work with a company that was keen to win contracts to service Russian fish-factory ships in Melbourne. The problem was that all the technical documents about the ships were written in Russian. Peter, with his knowledge of building ships for Russia and sufficient English gained from schooling in Poland and classes on arrival in Australia, was able to translate the documents.

His next job was with a company that designed non-ferrous smelters. He was not impressed by the management, but the work gave scope for his innovative talents.

He worked three years with them but, on gaining Australian citizenship, he took work at Williamstown naval dockyard building Anzac frigates.

He worked at the dockyard for seven years, but his interest in smelter design had been kindled. He designed a new method of smelting. He lodged a patent application for the process which had attracted some clients.

However, the smelting company (that Peter had left to join the dockyard) had different expectations to him. They claimed rights to the process and took Peter to court. This took its toll on Peter and Anna. Their home was raided by lawyers and police searching for documents. He developed panic attacks and could not sleep at night. The emotional trauma continued for many months. Fortunately, the court appointed an expert who submitted evidence that the company had never developed such a process and that the invention belonged to Peter. Nonetheless, a clause in Peter's contract precluded his doing anything to harm the commercial interests of the company. As a result, implementation of this new process was stymied.

Peter was aggrieved. He considered that business law in Australia seemed hostile towards inventors, giving all ownership of the inventions conceived by the employees to the owners of the businesses. He said this feels as though employees don't own then their own brains ... and no-one in Australia complains about it!

Not long ago, the smelting company was sold to a European entity. Peter hopes that the new owners will turn out to have different business ethics and will be happy to work with him on implementation of his inventions.



### Peter's orienteering

In Australia, Peter and Hania sought social contacts with similar outlooks and values to orienteering friends in Poland. On the Sea Cat when travelling to Tasmania for the World Masters Games in 1992, Peter got chatting with Ian Cheyne, a member of our club. Because Peter and Hania had no car, Ian kindly provided them with lifts to events. Peter relates that one day Ian was unavailable and arranged for Peter Black to pick them up. He had to drive to their home from far across Melbourne. Peter Lada expressed his grateful surprise that Peter Black would do this. To this day, he remembers the response: "It's in memory of the Polish fighter pilots that I remember well, dying during Battle of Britain." Such well-meant and friendly acts helped Peter and Hania very much in their first steps in Australia. They were pleasantly surprised by how similar orienteers in Australia were to orienteers in Poland.



After this, Hania and Peter started to go to almost every orienteering event in Victoria. Anna, however, preferred bushwalking, so they did that too. Hania was the driving force and guide for all these activities. Peter and Anna simply complied!

One of their favourite destinations was Wilson's Promontory. There they learnt the tough-going and hazards of the Australian bush. One day, near the end of a long walk, they decided to take a 'shortcut' through the bush. They found themselves in fading light stuck in very dense vegetation full of deep holes. They didn't panic, but it took four hours of extremely hard work and good orienteering skills to get out of trouble whence, on reaching the carpark, they were exhausted and bleeding from deep cuts by razor sharp edges of grass leaves. This was a hard lesson but, since then, they've grown to enjoy the excitement of running in wild bush.

Peter retains his athletic prowess. He runs almost daily in Lysterfield Lake park with the motto, 'No dinner before running'. He is skilled at problem-solving. Thus, he considers tough, technical terrain to be ideal. He has myopia so he lifts his glasses to read his map. One day in the future, he would love to enter himself, daughter Hania, and her young daughter Ella in the Easter family relay.

He would like to see orienteering thrive in Australia. Perhaps it needs a movie with a good script based on orienteering, he smiles.



Peter contributes to all our club-run events. He takes a role on the roster and is always there to collect controls. My lasting mental image of Peter is his seemingly cheerful return to the registration area at the packing-up stage of an event with an armful of the most remote controls. We value your presence and what you do, Peter.



## 2014 AUST MTBO CHAMPS – A CHANCE FOR CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN TRAVELS

Kathy Liley writes:

**Mid 2013:** The 2014 Australian MTBO Champs will be in Alice Springs in June . Alice Springs is a long way away. Am I that committed? I often seem to miss the Aus MTBO Champs when they are interstate. It's a long way to take a bike ... But perhaps it would be an excuse for another road trip – haven't been to Uluru since 1975 (as a teacher on a school trip); haven't been to Kakadu and the Top End. Would want to get a new car though. It's a possibility.

**Late 2013:** OK I've got the car. It's bigger all round than the previous one, but curiously doesn't fit the bike inside quite as well as the old one. So sounds like it's a plan. Say 8 weeks away leaving early June ...

**January 2014:** Talking to the MTBO 'heavies'. Mountain biking around Alice Springs is great. But you really need tubeless tyres (they have goo inside them which expands to fill small holes to minimise problems with punctures) because of the thorns and small sharp rocks. Hmm. That sounds a bit hard. And all I know about tubeless tyres is the problems people seem to have when the goo doesn't work properly. And thorns and sharp rocks – maybe the riding will be too difficult for me. Maybe I won't go ... But it would be nice to get back to Uluru and the Olgas.

**Easter 2014:** A long drive to Mudgee and back. I don't think I can be bothered going all that way (to Alice and Darwin etc). Maybe I won't go. But Ruth and David point out that just because I go to Alice Springs doesn't mean I have to go all the way to Darwin! (it's an extra 1000 km from Tennant Creek to Darwin.) Hmm. Back to the drawing board.

**May-June 2014:** So all of a sudden it's late May. Dates are sorted. Will have to leave here on 31 May to fit in the tourist stuff before Alice. Bit of a last minute rush to get the tyres changed to tubeless (after some dithering by my local bike shop). And I'm off. Have decided to skip Darwin and come home via Western Queensland – haven't been out there before. So only 4-5 weeks away. Mentally, that seems more manageable.

You can read about the route and some of the places I visited on the way on the blog that I keep when I head off for a while:

<http://travellingkathy.blogspot.com.au/> Some great scenery and sunsets. Though not quite as warm as I'd hoped during the days. Guess I'll have to get to the Top End on another trip to get the warmer weather.

So was it worth it? The point of the trip was clearly the Aus MTBO Champs. And Alice Springs certainly is a mecca for mountainbiking. The built-up areas of the town are spread among various linked flat areas that are surrounded by and intruded into by low stony hills. Alleyways lead through the housing areas out to the 'bush'. A good network of old 4WD tracks and new single-track MTB tracks criss-cross all the nearby hills and along the watercourses. Most of the competitors arrived by air with bikes in boxes or bags. They got the

local airport transport to their accommodation near the centre of town at the Chifley Resort which is bike-friendly, and didn't need to hire cars for the weekend because the venues for the 3 events were all within riding distance right on the edge of town. I stayed at the Stuart Caravan Park which is also close to the centre of town. From there I could easily have managed without a car for the weekend.

Some of the riding is quite technical – and loved by the MTB experts. But much of it is not so technical and pretty manageable for the rest of us. Sure there were some times when I pushed my bike along a short section of sandy track where a water-course (well I guess it would be a watercourse after heavy rain – more like a 'sandy' course) crossed the track, or up a stepped-rocky track where I didn't have the strength to ride up the incline, or along/up/down a track covered in fairly large loose stones – but the areas where they sent the shorter courses didn't have so much of these surfaces. Often it was just really nice and interesting riding. And the MTBO maps indicate the difficulty of riding of the tracks, so it's possible to avoid the more difficult tracks (unless of course that's where your control is!) After it was all over and everyone else had headed home or hired vans to do some touring, I stayed on for a few days and went back out to explore the main area east of the Todd River and near the Telegraph Station.

The event doubled as the Oceania Championships and there was a small contingent of New Zealanders there to contest the ANZ Challenge. They weren't able to bring quite as many riders as usual so for the first time for many years, Australia won the challenge. There were enough Victorians there for Victoria to win the interstate challenge.

Also from YVOC were Alex and Liz Randall. Alex won the Middle Distance event (M21) and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Long Distance. Kathy (W60) won the middle and long, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Sprint Distance.

*This is typical of the terrain - on the Long Distance map, with views all around if you had time to stop and look.*



*A track high on the long distance map.*



So would I go to Alice Springs for MTBO again? Yes I would! And my tubeless tyres worked well (so far, anyway). I took them to a bike shop in Broken Hill for some minor maintenance and the guy there reckoned one shouldn't ride with anything else!





MTBO map , Telegraph station is part of course 3 on the long distance course. 1:15000.  
 Darkest yellow is sand. The flatter suburban areas "poke into" the surrounding hills.

### Spring Gully State Series 29 June 2014

Coursesetter: Ted van Geldermalsen

Organiser: Ruth Goddard



The middle of winter is more conducive to sitting at home than spending a Sunday morning out in the forest. However, 146 people thought otherwise and pre-entered for the event at Spring Gully, between Chewton and Fryerstown; only 11 of them did not come. About 24 others came to enter on the day, some of them for their first orienteering event. And they were not disappointed. Ted put a concentrated effort into setting challenging courses in both the gold mining diggings and the spur gully terrain. Discerning orienteers know to expect good courses from Ted. It is never a good idea to be without a controller for a state series event. However, there were no complaints.

As Kathy was away in the outback, Ted volunteered to put his SI training to use and set up the event on the computer and Sheila agreed to run it on the day. Outside help was needed on the day because there had been updates to the software.

The assembly area was next to a dam which YVOC last used in 2007 at a much hotter time of the year – at that time there was some swimming. On this occasion it was the amusement for young children who threw stones in. The finish chute along the dam wall had the potential to be amusement for everyone, but no one slipped there. Rain stayed away until the afternoon.

Russell as usual brought up the trailer on Saturday and had thought of many pieces of equipment we could need for a wet day. He helped set up including cutting up a tree on the finish chute – and then he took home the muddy, wet mess in Sunday afternoon. Christine and Vincent came on Saturday too, helping to set everything up – and then helped again on Sunday morning.

It is great to have the confidence in people on the roster being ready to start work at the time requested and to think about how they will fit in their run. Jobs are thoughtfully done. And then everyone stayed at the end until control collection time to help bring them back in.

Ted's comment:

*I could not have done the event with a controller as they would not have been able to cope with or accepted my "just in time" system for planning. Initial course plans were completely scrapped and started again three weeks before the event and the courses were only finalised and the last controls taped during three days on site over the final fortnight, the last being on the Monday before the event when I also spent an hour and a half cutting back blackberry bushes in the gorge in the rain. I felt the courses and other details improved with each iteration and this would not have occurred if they had needed to be locked in for a controller a month before the event.*



## MelBushO at Pound Bend, July 13

Ruth Goddard, organiser

Pound Bend has some unique features—the shape of the river making an enclosure and the man-made tunnel through the narrowest part. The tunnel was made to divert the Yarra River through it while the loop could be drained and searched for gold.

Thomas Top first mapped Pound Bend as a final year school project and although Parks Victoria were happy for us to run an event, it has only been the format of MelBushO which has enabled us to run one. The area is small without a large number of features and restrictions like private land in sections. With a few loops it was possible to make the longest course 5.6km.

Due to the large number of kangaroos trapped in this area Ruth elected to have a section reserved for them—unfortunately she did not make the area very explicit and one person was upset. Next time ...

The weather forecast promised rain, hail and snow to low-lying areas but in fact the day was cool and fine. Underfoot it was muddy and the prevalence of fungi indicated earlier rain. Ted and Margi arrived early with a tent to shield the computers from drops off the trees above.

People came—David and Peter carefully parked them (possible to fit 65 cars in the parking areas). John and Jackie Dempster and Jackie Sheldon and Kathy 'processed' everyone at registration using the OLynx system owned by Orienteering Victoria. Ian and Debbie Dodd oversaw the use of this extra piece of technology which makes registration and result printing easier. We also used the old card system of displaying them individually on the sandwich boards. Sheila and Belinda quickly briefed the many newcomers.

As usual YV people were there to collect controls and provide help throughout the event.

This venue is probably best used once every second or third year due to the lack of complexity. In the warmer months there may be more non-orienteers vying for the car parking. Thought, we are paying a fee to Parks Victoria for using the venue, should we be out of the way of the general public who pay nothing?



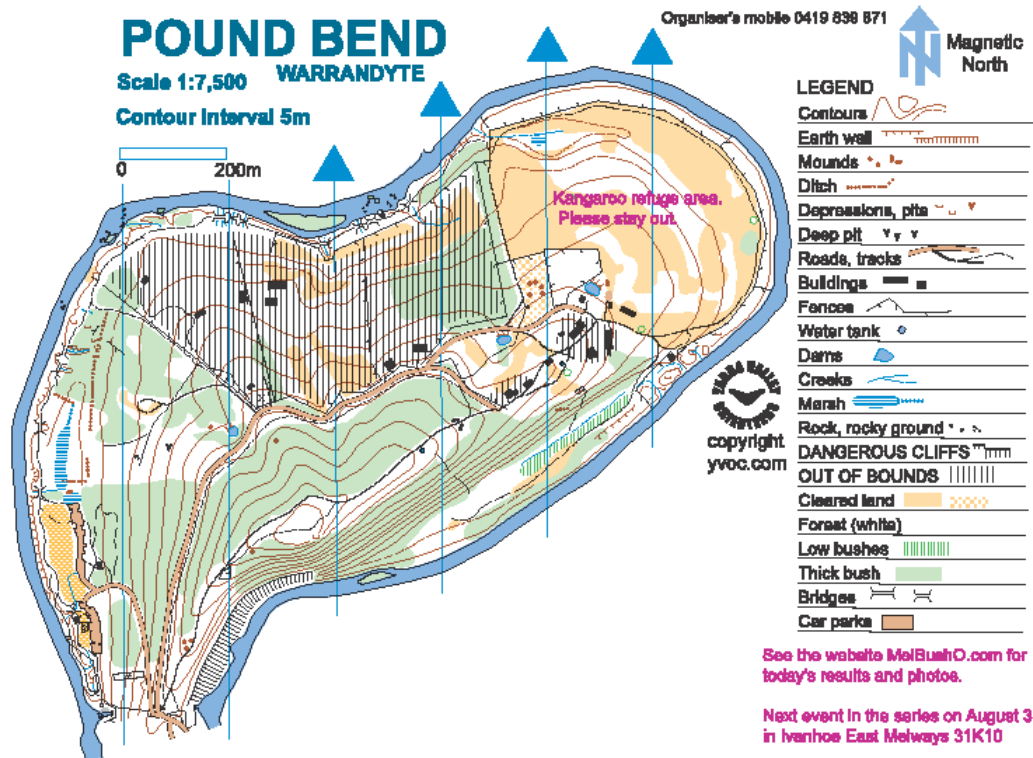
*Katherine and Luka with car*



*John and Jackie always look good in their matching YV outfits. They are feeling they have too much exposure so this may be the last photo for a little while!*



*Starter, Ray*



*Fungi seen in Pound Bend (above) and on the other side of the Yarra River (on the right). Although the size of a pizza, I don't think it was edible.*

The winning poem ... see next page for an explanation of the competition

## Standard error

An inference that's very often made –  
'a population tends to closely share  
some feature that a smaller group displayed' –  
is why my students need to be aware  
of standard error. Yet, it's hard to learn,  
and students' drive to listen fades with each  
attempt of mine to strive for ways to earn  
attention till my message has its reach.

The teaching cycle brings around today  
my yearly chance to make this topic clear.  
I'll aid my students, shorten what I say,  
and they can later go and persevere ...  
... ask how it differs from the things it's like,  
and why we need it, what we couldn't do  
if it weren't here. But can my students strike  
the hours in busy lives to see this through ...  
... to think and tell themselves of things they know ...  
related things ... then try to make the link  
with standard error, find their gaps and so  
seek remedy where knowledge meets its brink?

It's four months on. A student whom I taught  
then calls to see me and in measured way  
explains she liked the insight I had brought  
to 'estimation', then goes on to say:  
"My research gathered data from a group,  
defined a mob of which the group's just part;  
a feature in the group at six per cent  
would be, I thought, like echoed in the mob.  
I viewed the group as sample of the mob;  
but samples vary some from whence they're drawn.  
Your standard error helped me calculate  
how far from six my estimate might stray."

She smiles and says she'd thought I'd like to know  
that standard error served to underlie  
her thinking. Yes, I'm happy that is so –  
but more, she'd thought it worth enough to try.

David Goddard  
June 2014

From Monash Memo (Monash University)

Home | News

# The rhymes and reasons of teaching



**16 July 2014**

*Standard Error* by Dr David Goddard from the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine has won first prize in an inaugural University poetry competition.

The Office of the Vice-Provost (Learning and Teaching) is behind the poetry competition, which invited submissions on the theme of "Teaching as a human experience".

The competition offered a first prize of either publication in Volume One of the anthology series *Teaching as a Human Experience: An Anthology of Contemporary Poems*, or a cash prize. Dr Goddard's poem has been submitted for consideration to the editor of the anthology, Patrick Blessinger, Founder and Executive Director of the Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association.



Dr David Goddard

The poems in the collection will deal with contemporary teaching experiences of professors, instructors and others working in education. It will cover the many roles teachers play, including instructing, lecturing, mentoring, facilitating, coaching, guiding and leading.

As illustrated in Dr Goddard's poem, viewing teaching and learning through the lens of poetry provides a novel way to engage teachers and students more deeply in the teaching-learning process. This competition sought to showcase the creative use of language and writing, and demonstrate how these skills can be used for creative self-expression, professional development and personal empowerment.

*And the second poem submitted by David:*

## Boring!

Semester ends.  
My students leave our class  
and give their feedback sheets to me –  
some with smiles. Some just pass.

Most judge the time we shared well-spent,  
nourishing,  
providing useful steps toward what they seek.  
But one writes: "Boring and irrelevant".

(continued over...)

(from previous page)

My first reaction: no it's not!  
I've shared with you the pleasure that I gained  
when once I practised in this field –  
the sensate highs, the dismal lows.

"Boring?" Yeah! Boring as a fine repast,  
a garden,  
a flamenco,  
or rapid cycling through an icy morn!

Bravado fades. Now "Boring" bores at me.  
Is my teaching structure holed and weak  
like beetle larvae leave a timber floor?  
A wave of frailty laps my verve.

I think about the content that I gave –  
how carefully selected were my words,  
of what went in and what was cut away,  
how tasks were matched to real events  
and humour built on simple truths.  
This gift. This guide. This part of me.

But, that's my view. It isn't his or hers.

Rejected gift. I feel diminished. Yet  
I'm buoyed by knowing what I gave  
will aid my other students' care  
for those who later come to them in need.

Oh! Why did I not sooner see the chance  
to taste that student's values and depict where they  
and what I teach  
align enough to show this subject's worth  
to how that student thinks and lives?

David Goddard  
5 June 2014