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4 poems published in "Australian Poetry Since 1788"

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On The Road To Gundagai

‘...heading straight for home’
~*Jack O’Hagen*

After church the drive, the singsong: Dad in tenor mode
winds the Vauxhall down Mount Dandenong Rd.;

lulled, Mum’s glad, these patterns still keep:
Janet reading, Carol pulling faces, Margie asleep.

Till, beyond such certainties, each arrives
(stride-, stroll- or stumbling through their lives)

out of those soul-on-sleeve
days, with what was/ is/ might be something to believe.

So Dad dies, Mum re-marries and shifts,
Janet lectures, Carol designs, Margie drifts.

Oh millstone/ loadstar
(that time of faiths/ a Sunday in the car)

behold your future, its, by extension, splendor:
welcome, ladies to The Age of Gender!