

Down Under Ditties

*Rhymes of our times
2023*

A compilation of items written by

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“Dr DC”*

*Prompted by news items in the print
version of the NZ Herald*

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Foreword

In December 2022 as part of a New Year resolution, I decided to write a “Ditty a Day” to the NZ Herald newspaper. This was prompted by looking at a collection of the best cartoons of 2022 by Rod Emmerson from the NZ Herald. Noting that Emmerson must have to produce a cartoon a day throughout the year, I thought why not a “Ditty a Day” – based on an item in the print copy of the Herald of that day.

I managed just over a hundred then stopped when I got Covid - and newspaper articles seemed to contain little to make fun of (was this long Covid affecting my brain?).

Later I looked over the 2023 items and enjoyed being reminded of events that had caught my attention and the summaries

that the rhymes gave – often with a humorous twist. Why not a book of them?

I kicked the project off with the following email to NZ Herald:

*As I hope you will see
I am Doctor DeeCee
A ditty a day
I will send your way
Throughout 2023*

*Publish or not
I won't care a jot
The daily mental strain
Will be good for my brain
So, feel free to just bin the lot
Well, if it's not too much cheek*

*Perhaps once a week
If any merit you detect
You could one select
And give your readers a peek*

*I ask for no pay
For this is word play
I'll aim to amuse
Seek not to abuse
And maybe make someone's day.*

*Please don't show my name
For that could cause shame
Perhaps "Ditty for Today"
"Doctor DC's Ditty" would be OK
But I won't take any blame*

It is fun to look at each day's paper and pick an item to focus on – to distil the essence in rhyme, make fun, or prompt thinking on issues. I hope that readers will enjoy them for what they are.

Best wishes.

David Conway

"Dr DC"

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