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## From the Darling Ranges to the Swan

Joyce Parkes

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**From the Darling Ranges to the Swan Coastal Plain**  
(For B.H.G., B.M.G., I.M.P., and J.M.G.P.)  
*Joyce Parke (Ballajura, Western Australia)*

After thirty-eight years in Darlington, a place  
of roads as steep as learning, scarps as dense  
as love, paths meandering like amity, dwellings  
as manifold as interpretation, Alas moved to  
Ballajura. Surveying her losses and gains, she

stretched to see what could be gleaned from this  
territory of sand, lakes, plains. Of the frost or  
fire brood, nurture saw her mood grow from sad  
to glad – interested, rather than authoritarian.  
This house with a garden, a verandah, a garage

and gates, smiles at her and at visitors who  
will note the difference between argument and  
discontent, find rigour in dissent and go for  
a spell in the garden where shallots, chillies,  
parsley, lemons, lettuce and kale provide

vitamin A and C — where daisies, a daffodil,  
a plane tree, a banksia, a melaleuca, geraniums,  
and a hibiscus offer vitamin be and see. Re-  
turning inside, looking at her book shelves  
carrying volumes speaking of pleas for

understanding, has her write, when solitary  
again, that without a dweller there could not  
be a sojourner, without a sojourner no  
country to traverse, without country no  
writers to cast an eye on eaves and leaves.