Vacant Block (Lismore)

Peter Mitchell

Follow this and additional works at: https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes

Part of the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation
Retrieved from https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol7/iss1/2

This Poetry is posted at Research Online.
https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/vol7/iss1/2
Vacant Block (Lismore)

Wijabal custodianship is an eternal river
   around
   and across
this vacant block
   between the cinema and the cafe.

Once,
   a child called 'hopscotch one, hopscotch two',
while others,
   brothers and sisters perhaps,
   joined dandelions in wristlets of natural jewels.

Now,
   fist-sized stones pock the dessiccated soil,
   pebbles scatter the bare patches,
   farmers' friends tangle its neglected air.

This inattention is a gift as
   this lot is
   an oblivion to the local council,
   forgotten by planners and builders,
   an elision to the call of buildings.

   In the future,
   a sustenance of climbing beans,
   cherry tomatoes
   and cos lettuce will prevail
as community gardeners co-join
   the rivers of limitless stewardship.

-Peter Mitchell
Peter Mitchell is the author of the poetry chapbook, *The Scarlet Moment* (Picaro Press, 2009). Living in Lismore (Bundjalung Country, NSW), he writes poetry, short fiction, memoir and literary criticism. His writing has been published in international and national print and online journals, magazines and anthologies. In 2014, he was awarded the Dorothy Hewett Flagship Fellowship for Poetry (Varuna Writers’ Centre) and, in 2015, completed the first draft of his memoir, *Fragments of the Lurgi*, on an Artist with Disability grant (Australia Council). In 2016, he will complete the second draft.