

True Wit & Beauty

Joe Byrne, Dan & Ned Kelly,
and Steve Hart

Anna Kerdijk Nicholson

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Murray Cod

Dick Shelton has bubbles at his nose,
looks a grim fishy white
at the bottom of Hughes Creek,
he's not much of a swimmer,

so Ned lunges at him
with automatic power—
Dick & Ned are legs, arms, drawers—
then a sudden blast into the Avenel air

and Dick's muddy, dragged up the bank,
spewing, gulping air,
water springing from his eyes and nose
when he chucks up.

You looked like a Murray Cod
down there, Dick
Ned says,
and near as big.