

**Classical Association of New South Wales  
Reading competition 2010**

**Readings for the preliminary round, 9 and 11 June 2010**

**Year 11 Latin: Lucretius *De rerum natura* 2.1-9, 12-13**

- 1     Suave, mari magno turbantibus aequora ventis  
      e terra magnum alterius spectare laborem;  
      non quia vexari quemquamst iucunda voluptas,  
      sed quibus ipse malis careas quia cernere suavest.
- 5     suave etiam belli certamina magna tueri  
      per campos instructa tua sine parte pericli;  
      sed nihil dulcius est, bene quam munita tenere  
      edita doctrina sapientum templa serena,  
      despicere unde queas alios passimque videre
- 10    errare atque viam palantis quaerere vitae,  
      certare ingenio, contendere nobilitate,  
      noctes atque dies niti praestante labore  
      ad summas emergere opes rerumque potiri.
- 14    o miseras hominum mentis, o pectora caeca!

*The well-defended strongholds of the wise*

Sweet, when the great sea's water is stirred to his depths by the storm-winds,  
Standing ashore to descry one afar-off mightily struggling:  
Not that a neighbour's sorrow to you yields dulcet enjoyment:  
But that the sight hath a sweetness, of ills ourselves are exempt from.  
Sweet too 'tis to behold, on a broad plain mustering, war hosts  
Arm them for some great battle, one's self unscathed by the danger:—  
Yet still happier this: to possess, impregvably guarded,  
Those calm heights of the sages, which have for an origin Wisdom:  
Thence to survey our fellows, observe them this way and that way  
Wander amid life's path, poor stragglers seeking a highway:  
Watch mind battle with mind, and escutcheon rival escutcheon:  
Gaze on that untold strife, which is waged 'neath the sun and the starlight,  
Up as they toil on the surface whereon rest Riches and Empire.  
O race born unto trouble! O minds all lacking of eyesight!

Translation by Charles Stuart Calverley