

THE PEARLY GATES

by Harry Dunn

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As you walk along the Esplanade, on your daily seaside stroll,
You will pass a princely palace -
The Royal and Ancient Invy Country Club and Exclusive House of Bowl,
And at the western entrance to this Taj Mahal you'll see
An extravagance in architecture - The Pearly Gates of Inverloch,
The City By The Sea.

This brand-new set of entrance gates,
Not your common garden type, of tortured tubes and mesh,
But fancy wrought-iron portals, powder-coated heavy-weights
With finials on top, the regal *fleur-de-lis*;
Installed last week by volunteers - Parksy, Ron and Dave, the Garys and Mick Coram,
- Supervised by me -
With maximum profanity and minimal decorum,
Those impressive Pearly Gates, at Inverloch-on-Sea.

Yesterday, a bus-load of Asian tourists, jet-lagged and temper-frayed,
On a Budget U-drive Round-Australia tour,
Had somehow badly strayed;
Their destination: Philip Island,
To see the penguins on parade,
But it seems they missed the Island turn-off and arrived in Inverloch,
They were dis-Oriented - they had clearly lost their way,
And were still in jet-lag shock.

They alighted from their U-Drive near the Invy Bowling Club,
Thoroughly confused, but mightily impressed;
'Must be Sydney Oplah-House' said the U-Drive tourist guide
'Not Oplah-House, but Melbourne MCG' another tourist guessed;
Another, overwhelmed by those shiny Pearly Gates, opined
'Maybe we all got killed, and now in Aussie Heaven'
And their joy was manifest.

Rumour has it that those gilded gates, already most impressive
Will be further beautified by bowling sculptures, purely for display,
Mounted on the gate-posts, sculptures modern and expressive:
And the great creative artist commissioned for this task
Is a man of presidential bearing - more than that we cannot say
'Til he unveils his works of art and sheds his iron mask
On the Pearly Gates Grand-op'ning Day.

And to cap off all this grandeur, a gilded Coat Of Arms is underway
To be mounted near the Pearly Gates,
These gates already more sumptuous than any member reckoned:
This gilded Coat Of Arms, in illuminated lettering will state:

**INVERLOCH ROYAL AND ANCIENT BOWLS AND COUNTRY CLUB
BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY
ELIZABETH THE SECOND**

This brand-new gilded entrance to the hallowed bowling rinks -
Is considered by those volunteers as Golden, Heaven-sent, Pre-eminent and Pearly,
The gates to Paradise on earth - to he who bowls and drinks,
But to certain *bowling widows*, whose spouses come home tired, emotional and late,
They are in fact the *Gates of Hell*, delaying their return
Sober, safe and early,
And on the Naming of the Gates,
What do you, dear reader, think?