

## Penrose Forest Way

*Lorne Johnson*

Enclosed  
and ensnared

by endless acres  
of felled radiata pine debris,

a mist-wrapped scrap  
of forgotten swamp

with glowing bottlebrushes,  
swaying, matted rushes,

fresh sundew kiss marks,  
dancing coral ferns,

flashing golden Christmas Bells,  
a party of trilling, hiding

Southern Emu-wrens,  
and the faint chiming

of midsummer rainwater  
trickling through a soggy gully

into sphagnum moss,  
montane peat, then slowly,

slowly on through siltstone  
and shale... seeping

into the molten heart  
of everything,

almost.

**Lorne Johnson** lives in Newtown, Sydney and teaches at Ascham School. He is a fan of punk rock, Jim Jarmusch, classic American cars, bushwalking and birding. His poetry has appeared in many publications. Pitt Street Poetry released *Morton* back in 2016.