





Retro series chapbooks are printed  
in Hawai'i on recycled paper.

thou sand

hi	brid
thou	sand
oh	kay
you	rope
one	2
you	buck
up	set
up	brid
you	sand
one	kay
you	rope
oh	2
thou	buck
hi	set
hi	buck
thou	2
oh	rope
you	kay
one	sand
you	brid
up	set
set	you
brid	one
sand	you
kay	oh
rope	thou
2	hi
buck	up
up	2
buck	hi
thou	kay
rope	oh
you	brid
sand	one
you	set

like kaf-

ka no=  
one can stand the sounds stan=  
ding up head out the win=  
dow get=  
ting a=  
long on feet most=  
ly fa=  
shion in parts like pa=  
ris ap=  
pa=  
rent=  
ly some=  
times you on=  
ly feel it in the su=  
burbs in the sun=  
light it chan=  
ges & how can we use oth=  
ers lives to get strong=  
er when you move there like kaf=  
ka no=  
one can un=  
der=  
stand it the words dont sit with  
the bo=  
dy & twelve years la=  
ter de=  
ci=  
ding you want a chi=  
hua=  
ha in the mor=  
ning strong & black like kaf=  
ka with the ro=  
mance ta=  
ken out break=  
down non=  
life a=  
head & thats what you do let it get  
dar=  
ker & then co=  
ming back to the text you re=  
write it au=

to=  
ma=  
ti=  
cal=  
ly as if free from the pub-  
lic ser-  
vice jobs are bad ha-  
bits so is su-  
gar or rea-  
ding a=  
vai=  
la=  
ble in one strong draught from a  
chi-  
nese doc-  
tor like kaf-  
ka this is where we part com-  
pa-  
ny & like e-  
li-  
ot & like bre-  
ton it all as-  
cends in-  
to e-  
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gy theres so lit-  
tle re-  
spect to have since that ge-  
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ther way or-  
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one stays the plea-

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tain the men con=  
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ces have a mark like clothes hang=  
ing in your bed=  
room a glance back at a way of be=  
ing when hap=  
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ly or was the sum=  
mer more in=  
tense & what seemed bro=  
ken at the be=  
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ping it=  
self in=  
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    on the ho=  
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gainst a se:  
cond splin:  
er what hap:  
pens when it works is you have a ru:  
di:  
men:  
ta:  
ry shel:  
ter a shel:  
ter for bee:  
tles that want to be pea:  
cocks & in their re:  
sent:  
ment tear down the gum:  
trees they go a:  
round shop:  
ping for new names to go by de:  
ri:  
ving no sa:  
tis:  
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tion from the beau:  
ti:  
ful la:  
tin name theyve been gi:  
ven come let me take you or let  
me be ta:  
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lee up through the gul:  
ley & a:  
cross the ridge poin:  
ting out se:  
crets hi:  
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ming friends of no un:  
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stan:  
ding of no ex:  
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tions of no e:  
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p what are these shel:  
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tures live here & what has hap:  
pened to these poor trees could it  
    be a home:  
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ly way we can de:  
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ing moths of all co:  
lours dusts of the rain:



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way re:  
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ber the string a:  
cross the world & the wheel:  
chaired wo:  
man with a bad re:  
pu:  
ta:  
tion thats what im tal:  
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bout self:  
pre:  
ser:  
va:  
tion run free think of it a:  
no:  
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stead of a land thats re:  
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ly co:  
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nised or a house to be en:

tered by brea:  
king or key where theres al:  
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ties & books are like lo:  
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one has one & e:  
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ry:  
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one has bee:  
tles no:  
one has dus:  
ters no:  
one has splin:  
ters cut:  
ting up their feet but try & for:  
get this de:  
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guage theres no e:  
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    what are the tools whats been i:  
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ded e:  
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mi:  
li:  
ar were al:  
rea:  
dy here save your i:  
ro:  
ny my dar:  
ling for your el:

ders o:  
ther:  
wise let sun pour from your mouth  
sun or rain no mat:  
ter we cant go out:  
side yet weve poems to write as al:  
ways if you re:  
quire cre:  
dit its on:  
ly yours to give theres no hi:  
er:  
ar:  
chy best a:  
void the par:  
ties you dont know are on you know  
our fore:  
bears arent un:  
dif:  
fe:  
ren:  
ti:  
a:  
ted some sucked of course but o:  
thers claimed whats theirs & like a  
clas:  
sic or a ro:  
mance be:  
cause thats what this is be an exam:  
ple not an exa:  
mi:  
ner the mo:  
ral theres more but you can fi:  
gure it out its o:  
k to out:  
weird with a ne:  
o e:  
pic but keep po:  
ker:  
faced if it out:  
weirds you

about the poet

Michael Farrell  
grew up in  
Bombala on the  
Monaro in S.E.  
N.S.W. (not to  
be confused with  
the Martian  
crater); it  
is now known  
as 'Platypus  
country.' His  
books include  
ode ode,  
a raiders guide,  
the graphic  
poetry book  
BREAK ME OUCH,  
Out of the Box:  
Contemporary  
Australian Gay  
and Lesbian Poets  
(co-edited with  
Jill Jones), and  
most recently  
thempark.  
Michael lives in  
Fitzroy in the  
inner north of  
Melbourne.

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