

Things that make me happy

**A bear hug from behind,
watching Gotye in the Botanical Gardens.**

**Sun, warm sand
and waves that propel me strongly, arms extended,
towards the shore.**

**Sending my opponent scrambling
from one side of the court to the other
until she's wrong-footed by my winning shot.**

**A new recruit, handing out flyers
and organising events with a passion.**

**Long answering-machine messages from dad,
rich with love and character.**

**Conversations with my mum and sister,
brimming with empathy and advice.**

**Finding a home for pain in a poem,
setting down the pen with satisfaction.**

**A meal and good wine with friends,
laughter over Pictionary and Killer Bunnies.**

**Sliding into electric-fired flannelette sheets,
warming my hands on his hot skin.**

**Time to follow spontaneous inclinations
instead of to-do lists.**

**Weather warm enough to expose flesh
in shorts, singlets and sandals.**

**Floating in a world-heritage reef,
connecting with jungles of movement and colour.**

**Succulent mangoes, rich amber plums –
the taste of summer sweet in my mouth.**

**The voice of my best friend,
thousands of kilometres away,
cheerily offering me the use of her womb.**