

Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts Soc. Inc.
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Committee of Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts

President: Simone Wong

Vice Presidents: Mary-Anne McShane, Heather Martin OAM

Secretary: Deirdre Hulton

Treasurer: Lynnette Kee

Speech Convenor – Simone Wong

Music Convenors –Vikki Armour, Heather Martin OAM

Dance Convenor – Helen Green

Trophy Coordinator: Annette Simpson

Public Officer Lynnette Kee

Minutes Secretary: Mary-Anne McShane

Committee of Management:

Vikki Armour, Beth Brooks, Amanda Cossins, Helen Green, Deirdre Hulton, Bryanne Jardine, Lynnette Kee, Peter Kelly, Beryl Lawther, Michele Lourie, Mary-Anne McShane, Heather Martin, Lyn Pond, Annette Simpson, Debbie Tietzel, Di Wilder, Simone Wong.

Message from the Convenor - Simone Wong

On behalf of the Speech and Drama Sub-Committee, I am pleased to welcome competitors both new, and seasoned, to another wonderful Speech competition.

The Speech genre has been growing each year, proving that the performing arts is a vital and much appreciated part of our culture. In a world full of screens, it is heartening to see how many people still value the beauty and power of the spoken word in all its forms.

Thank you to all our competitors, teachers and families for continuing to keep this great tradition alive.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2026.

Warm wishes,

Simone Wong

Message from the President - Simone Wong

On behalf of the Committee, I am thrilled to invite you to enter another exciting year for the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts in 2026.

It always gives me such immense joy and pride to welcome you all. Festivals of this longevity in Australia are rare. In fact, the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts ranks as the top three longest running Festivals and Eisteddfods in Australia, making it not only locally but nationally significant.

This is testament to the incredible volunteer hours that are provided all year round by a dedicated and passionate committee, many of whom have given decades of time and experience to making the Festival and its three genres accessible to a wide range of performers.

Thank you to our sponsors for demonstrating your belief in the importance of supporting the performing arts and to our competitors, for daring to put yourselves on the stage and share your talent with us all.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2026.

Warm wishes,

Simone Wong

GENERAL FESTIVAL REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- a) In these regulations, the word 'Committee', shall mean the Committee of the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts Society Inc.
- b) The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.
- c) Programming positions will be strictly observed (unless changed by the Convenor).
- d) In OWN CHOICE competitions, marks will be awarded for quality of selections.

2. BREACH OF REGULATION

Any competitor deemed to be in breach of a section's regulations will be furnished with an Adjudicator's Report containing comments only.

3. ENTRIES

- a) No entry will be accepted unless accompanied by the full fee as per Schedule.
- b) Entries should be through Comps-Online. Please be sure that ALL particulars are provided.

4. COMPETITIONS

- a) No competitor will be allowed to perform the same item in more than one section, unless otherwise stated.
- b) Due to time commitments or unnecessary repetition, the Adjudicator may 'ring off' a competitor before completion of the performance. This does not necessarily signify disapproval or rejection.
- c) All competitors in Championship Sections must enter and perform in their corresponding age or open sections. (Restricted sections not accepted.)
- d) Please keep Props to a MINIMUM and be sure they can be handled by the stagehands. All props to be removed from the precincts of the stage at the conclusion of each session.
- e) Persons required to manipulate props or to play music will be allowed in the stage wings, but only during the relative performance.
- f) Sections may be split or combined if warranted, at the discretion of the convener.
- g) The competition is open to amateurs only, not professionals or teachers. (A professional is defined as a person who earns a major part of his/her income from the practice of the art, or who uses the art as a primary means of livelihood.)
- h) Persons with disabilities are encouraged to enter the competitions. Please advise by email of any additional requirements or if wheelchair access to the stage is required.

Speech - mfpa.speech1923@gmail.com

Music - mfpa.music@gmail.com

Dance - mfpa.dance@gmail.com

- i) The proposed programme of competition is:-

Festival Dates for 2026

Speech and Drama - Thursday 18th June 2026 to Wednesday 24th June 2026

Music - Friday 27th June 2026 to Thursday 2nd July 2026

Dance - Saturday 4th July 2026 to Friday 10th July 2026

Gala Concert - Wednesday 29th July 2026

5. AGE

Age for competitors is listed in the individual regulations for each genre

6. TIME LIMITS

- a) Time limits have been specified throughout this schedule. In fairness to all and in the interest of accurate programming, PLEASE COMPLY WITH THESE LIMITS. Should time limits be exceeded, the adjudicator may penalise.
- b) A timer will be used for the Festival.

7. PRIZES

- a) The adjudicator's decision is final and he/she will have the power to withhold or divide prizes according to merit.
- b) The adjudicator may also be entitled to recommend the awarding of a second prize only, if the performance has not sufficient merit to carry first prize.

8. PROTESTS

- a) Protests need to be lodged with the Convenor, in writing, within one hour after the completion of the relevant section and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$10.00, which shall be forfeited if the protest is deemed to be unfounded.
- b) The decision of the Committee in all questions arising out of, or not provided for by these regulations, shall be final.
- c) 'Lack of knowledge' regarding Regulations will not be accepted as a bona fide reason for infringement of any Regulation.
- d) ALL competitors compete entirely at their own risk.

9. PHOTOGRAPHY

- a) Flash photography is not allowed. For Dance, professional photographs and videos are available, at a reasonable cost.
- b) Photography is not allowed in the Dressing Rooms. The Committee has the right to remove any person who contravenes this direction.

10. PETS

Animals are not permitted in the Auditorium except for Guide Dogs and Assistance Dogs. In the case of Assistance Dogs a Handler's Identity Card may be requested.

11. REGULATIONS IN THE PROGRAMME

- a) The General Regulations and Competition Rules specific to each of the disciplines are printed in the SCHEDULE and most will not be repeated in the PROGRAMME.
- b) Make sure you read the General Regulations and Specific Regulations as changes may occur.

12. PRAMS AND STROLLERS

Pram and Strollers are NOT permitted backstage, on the stairwells, or in the dressing room

13. UNCLAIMED ITEMS / PROPERTY

- a) Lost property will be kept for 2 weeks and then given to charity.
- b) Unclaimed Adjudicator's Reports, Music CDs and USB sticks/drives will be kept until the completion of the Festival.

14. UNAUTHORISED PERSONS

Unauthorised persons and parents are not to be backstage, or in the Announcer's area unless assisting with props.

15. EFTPOS

EFTPOS is available at the auditorium, but NO cash out.

SPEECH AND DRAMA COMPETITION RULES

Please make sure you check the GENERAL FESTIVAL REGULATIONS, as well as the SPEECH & DRAMA COMPETITION RULES. If in doubt, contact the Convenor.

DATES: Thursday 18th June 2026 to Wednesday 24th June

Gala Concert - Wednesday 29th July 2026

SCHOOL CHOIR DAYS: Monday 22nd and Wednesday 24th June

ENTRIES CLOSE: 8th May, 2026

ENTRIES THROUGH: Comps Online - www.comps-online.com.au

AUDITORIUM: MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE

CONVENOR: Simone Wong

Enquiries- mfpa.speech1923@gmail.com or 0439 937 449

STAGE: 11m wide X 8m deep

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TEACHERS AND PARENTS:

There are a number of changes this year so please check everything carefully.

Please note that once the Speech & Drama Programme has been finalised, no alterations or additions will be made, unless Committee error. Any changes on the day of performance are at the discretion of the Convenor. Check your entries thoroughly.

1. AGE

Age for Speech and Drama is 1st January 2026

2. COMPETITORS

- a) Competitors, please mark your name off at the front desk prior to your session.
- b) Copies of all 'Own Choice' material should be scanned and emailed as a PDF file to mfpa.speech1923@gmail.com a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the Festival with SECTION **NUMBER** and **COMPETITOR NUMBER** and **NAME** clearly marked in the TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER. It is suggested that a hard copy be brought by the competitor, as insurance against inadvertent loss.
- c) Unless otherwise stated, all pieces are to be performed from MEMORY.

3. GUIDELINES FOR MATERIAL

- a) The selection must be of suitable length and difficulty for each age group.
- b) In choosing your selections, consideration should be given to the appropriateness of the material to the age and experience of the entrant and the boundaries of good taste. Please consider your audience.

4. TIME LIMITS

- a) Time limits have been specified throughout this schedule. Should time limits be exceeded, the adjudicator may penalise.

- b) A timer will be used for the Festival.

Time limits are maximum times – selections may be shorter.

5. COSTUMES AND PROPS

- a) Costumes are required for Drama Sections, including Shakespeare.
- b) Costumes are optional for 5 years and 6 Years in all sections.
- c) Please keep props to a minimum and ensure they are capable of being handled by the Stage Hands.

6. NOVICE HUMOROUS SECTIONS

- a) Novice Humorous Sections are for competitors who have never received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any Speech & Drama Section of any eisteddfod or festival to date.
- b) Competitors in NOVICE HUMOROUS may also enter HUMOROUS but they must use a different poem.

7. SIGHT READING AND IMPROVISATIONS

Sight Readings and Improvisations will be provided by the Adjudicator.

Sight Reading Lengths -

8yrs to 12yrs = approximately 12 lines

13yrs to 17yrs = half page text

Improvisation title to be provided by the Adjudicator. Each competitor will be given an age-appropriate preparation time off stage. A bell will be rung 30 seconds before finish time.

8. VERSE SPEAKING

Verse Speaking is to be NON humorous

9. DRAMA

Dramatisation from a Published or Devised piece assuming language, movement and dress of original character. Portray one character only.

10. PROSE: A Selection from a novel.

a) Prose is to be memorised (**exception is for Prose sections for 12 years and over where they are to be prepared but not memorised.**)

b) The selection may include narration, description and dialogue. It should be spoken in the story-telling style but should not be performed as a dramatic scene.

11. MIME

Mime costume, all black (No music allowed.)

12. POEMS IN PAIRS

A poem recited by 2 people. Some unison work is required.

13. GROUP DRAMA / POEM / MIME

Minimum of 3 performers, maximum of 10 performers in all age groups.

14. AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competitors must enter the following 4 sections to qualify for the J.J. Richards Age Championships.

Ages 7 to 14 Years: Verse Speaking, Prose, Drama, Mime.

Scholarship - 15 to 17 Years must enter six sections – Verse Speaking, Humorous Verse, Sight Reading, Memorised Prose, Drama and Mime

7 Years: \$20.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$10.00

8 Years: \$25.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$15.00

9 Years: \$25.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$15.00

10 Years: \$30.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$15.00

11 Years: \$30.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$15.00
12 Years: \$40.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$20.00
13 Years: \$40.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$20.00
14 Years: \$50.00 plus trophy Runner Up: \$25.00
15 - 17 Years \$300.00 for the Aggregate Winner: \$200 for the RUNNER UP

ENTRY FEES:

Solos: \$8.00 per item
Duos, Trios and Groups: \$12.00
Choirs: \$15.00 per choir
Age Championships and J.J. Richards Memorial Scholarship \$30.00 per person

15. PERPETUAL TROPHIES/SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:

Our thanks to the many sponsors who every year continue to give their support to the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts Inc. Scholarships and awards may be added prior to Festival. Listed below, our perpetual awards and trophies only.

Regulations and Guidelines referring to awards and scholarships.

The scholarship winner is to be chosen by the adjudicator with no consultation or discussion with committee members

The adjudicator's decision is final. The Committee will not enter into correspondence regarding any outcome.

The scholarship should be awarded to the most outstanding performer.

It is recommended, but not required, that the scholarship be awarded to a senior student with overall excellence in 3 or more sections in the current Festival.

Each scholarship may only be awarded once to each awardee

J. J. Richards Memorial Scholarship for Speech and Drama – Perpetual Trophy and \$600.00

Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM Runner Up (to J. J. Richards Memorial Scholarship) - \$100.00

J.J. Richards Championships for each Age Group – 7 to 14 years (see 15 above)

Halpin Family Trophy – awarded to 15 -17 Years Aggregate Winner. Runner up \$200

Murwillumbah Central Rotary Encouragement Award Trophy – presented in each age group.

Murwillumbah Theatre Company Perpetual Trophy - Senior Drama Award

Tweed Theatre Company Perpetual Trophy - Encouragement Award

Lydia Pender Memorial Trophy plus MFPA \$50.00 – Australian Poem

MFPA Medallion plus \$50.00: Selection from Shakespeare – 15 to 17 years

PLEASE NOTE: ALL perpetual trophies are presented to the awardees for photographs and then retained by the MFPA for engraving. Please Return to Simone Wong before leaving the festival.

Section	Category	Max time limit
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5 Years & Under

500 TRADITIONAL NURSERY RHYME (in costume) 1 min

501 LIGHT or HUMOROUS VERSE 1 min

6 Years & Under

601 LIGHT / HUMOROUS VERSE 1 ½ mins

602 CHARACTER RECITAL (in costume) 1 ½ mins

603 MIME 1 ½ mins 604 POEMS IN PAIRS 1 ½ mins

7 Years

701 VERSE SPEAKING 1 ½ mins

702 MEMORISED PROSE 1 ½ mins

703 HUMOROUS VERSE 1 ½ mins

704 NOVICE HUMOROUS VERSE 1 ½ mins

705 MIME 1 ½ mins

706 DRAMA 1 ½ mins

707 POEMS IN PAIRS 1 ½ mins

8 Years

801 VERSE SPEAKING 2 mins

802 MEMORISED PROSE 2 mins

803 HUMOROUS VERSE 2 mins

804 NOVICE HUMOROUS VERSE 2 mins

805 MIME 2 mins

806 DRAMA 2 mins

807 SIGHT READING 2 mins

808 POEMS IN PAIRS 2 mins

809 DUO MIME 2 mins

810 DUOLOGUE 3 mins

8 Years & Under *

811 GROUP POEM 3 mins

812 GROUP MIME 3 mins

813 GROUP DRAMA 3 mins

814 GROUP PERFORMANCE POEM 3 mins (May include costumes and props.)

* Groups: Minimum 3, Maximum 10 performers

9 Years

- 901 VERSE SPEAKING 2 ½ mins
- 902 MEMORISED PROSE 2 ½ mins
- 903 HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins
- 904 NOVICE HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins
- 905 MIME 2 ½ mins
- 906 DRAMA 2 ½ mins
- 907 SIGHT READING 2 ½ mins
- 908 POEMS IN PAIRS 2 ½ mins
- 909 DUO Mime 2 ½ mins
- 910 DUOLOGUE 3 mins

10 Years

- 1001 VERSE SPEAKING 2 ½ mins
- 1002 MEMORISED PROSE 2 ½ mins
- 1003 HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins
- 1004 NOVICE HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins
- 1005 MIME 2 ½ mins
- 1006 DRAMA 3 mins
- 1007 SIGHT READING 2 ½ mins
- 1008 POEMS IN PAIRS 2 ½ mins
- 1009 DUO MIME 2 ½ mins
- 1010 DUOLOGUE 3 mins

10 Years & Under *

- 1011 GROUP POEM 3 ½ mins
- 1012 GROUP MIME 3 ½ mins
- 1013 GROUP DRAMA 3 ½ mins
- 1014 GROUP PERFORMANCE POEM 3 ½ mins

(May include costumes and props.)

* Groups: Minimum 3, Maximum 10 performers

11 Years

1101 VERSE SPEAKING 2 ½ mins

1102 MEMORISED PROSE 2 ½ mins

1103 HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins

1104 DUO MIME 2 ½ mins 1

105 MIME 2 ½ mins

1106 DRAMA 3 mins

1107 SIGHT READING 2 ½ mins

1108 POEM IN PAIRS 3 mins

1109 DUOLOGUE 2 ½ mins

1110 IMPROVISATION 2 mins

12 Years

1201 VERSE SPEAKING 2 ½ mins

1202 MEMORISED PROSE 2 ½ mins

1203 HUMOROUS VERSE 2 ½ mins

1204 DUO MIME 2 ½ mins 1

1205 MIME 2 ½ mins

1206 DRAMA 3 mins

1207 SIGHT READING 2 ½ mins

1208 POEM IN PAIRS 3 mins

1209 DUOLOGUE 2 ½ mins

1210 IMPROVISATION 2 mins

12 Years & Under *

1211 GROUP POEM 3 ½ mins

1212 GROUP MIME 4 mins

1213 GROUP DRAMA 4 mins

1214 GROUP PERFORMANCE POEM 4 mins

(May include costumes and props.)

1215 DUO IMPROVISATION 3 mins

* Groups: Minimum 3, Maximum 10 performers

13 - 14 Years

- 1401 VERSE SPEAKING 3 mins
- 1402 MEMORISED PROSE 3 mins
- 1403 HUMOROUS VERSE 3 mins
- 1404 MIME 3 mins
- 1405 DRAMA 3 mins
- 1406 SIGHT READING 3 mins
- 1407 IMPROVISATION 4 mins
- 1408 DUOLOGUE. 3 mins
- 1409 DUO MIME 2 mins

14 Years & Under

- 1410 SHAKESPEARE SELECTION (One character) 3 mins
- 1411 DUO IMPROVISATION 3 mins
- 1412 GROUP DRAMA 4 mins
- 1414 AUSTRALIAN POEM 3 mins *Poem must have an Australian Theme and Author (Lydia Pender Memorial Trophy + MFPA \$50)*
- 1415 GROUP PERFORMANCE POEM 3 mins

15 to 17 Years

- 1501 VERSE SPEAKING 4 mins
- 1502 MEMORISED PROSE READING 4 mins
- 1503 HUMOROUS VERSE 4 mins
- 1504 MIME 4 mins
- 1505 DRAMA 4 mins
- 1506 SIGHT READING 4 mins
- 1507 IMPROVISATION 3 mins
- 1508 DUOLOGUE 4 mins
- 1509 DUO MIME 3 mins
- 1510 SHAKESPEARE SELECTION (One character)
- 1500 HSC Drama (Non-competitive)
- 15 to 17 years 4 mins MFPA Prize Medallion and \$50.00 prize

Non-competitive section for HSC students to perform their dramas and receive written comments from the Adjudicator.

This section will be programmed after school hours.

Open Age (5-18 Years)

- 1511 GROUP DRAMA 7-10 mins

1600 J.J. RICHARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
15 Years to 20 Years, Amateur only.

Previous 1st place winners of this section are not eligible.

Competitors to present a **memorised, themed** and **linked** creative presentation of no longer than 15 minutes, which consists of 3 performances from the following

- Lyric poem
- Humorous poem or humorous prose
- Drama
- Mime

Own choice of theme. Costume, props, music and all genres optional.

Entry fee for this section is \$30.00.

GUIDELINES FOR MATERIAL

1. Please be considerate of your audience and stay within the boundaries of 'good taste', no expletives or unsavoury topics please
2. Pieces **MAY NOT** be repeated in other sections of the festival.
3. Unless there are four competitors in this section, the competition will be cancelled and entry fee refunded.

SCHOOL SECTIONS – CHORAL SPEAKING RULES AND GUIDELINES

Choral Speaking is the group interpretation of a poem or prose. The piece is spoken by the choir as a whole but solo and group voices may be included. Actions and gestures may be used if suggested by the piece.

ALL enquiries to Simone Wong or Michele Lourie Entry fee \$15.00 per choir.

1. Choirs must all be in school uniform but may have a hint of character (e.g., witch hat; shawl etc) Props are to be hand-held only.
 2. Small school's choir section to be from schools with a maximum of 110 students. It may be multi-stage and can be own choice or an appropriate choice from the set poem sections
 3. NO school bags to be taken into the auditorium. This will allow more room for students.
 4. Choir Days: Primary and Kindergarten choirs will be held Monday 22nd June, 2026 and Wednesday 24th June 2026 – Specific times to be advised
 5. Closing date for entries: 8th May 2026
- Teachers accompanying choirs are to wear their school's name badge for free entry with their choir.

Section	Category	Maximum Time Limit
Own Choice		
400	SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Years 9 and 10	5 Mins
401	SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Years 7 and 8	5 Mins
402	PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Years 5 & 6	4 Mins
403	PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Years 3 & 4	3 Mins
404	INFANT SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Years 1 & 2	3 Mins
405	INFANT SCHOOL STUDENTS - Speaking Choir Kindergarten	2 Mins
410	SMALL SCHOOL - Speaking Choir (Multi or Single Stage)	“Own Choice” or from Set Poems

Set Poems

406 EARLY STAGE 1 - Speaking Choir Kindergarten/ES1

407 STAGE 1 – Speaking Choir Years 1 & 2:

408 STAGE 2 – Speaking Choir Years 3 & 4:

409 STAGE 3 – Speaking Choir Years 5 & 6:

** The set poem cannot be used in any own choice choir sections. Because of limited time, the same choir may not enter both “Own Choice” and “Set Poem”.*

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) Set Poem - “There’s An Ocean In This Seashell” by Graham Denton

There’s an ocean in this seashell
That I’m holding to my ear.
As I listen very closely
It’s an ocean I can hear.
It is swishing, it is swashing,
It is sloshing all about.
It is splashing, it is thrashing.
It is dashing in and out.

There’s an ocean in this seashell,
But wherever can it be?
When I look inside this seashell
There is nothing there to see.
Yet I know it was an ocean
For I heard its mighty roar,
As I listened to this seashell
That I found upon the shore.

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) Set Poem “I think My Dog’s a Police Car” Natalie Jane Prior

I think my dog’s a police car,
A police car with a tail:
‘cause when the squad car goes waaaa-woo!
My dog begins to wail,
Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa!
Woo! Woo! Woo!

I think my dog’s an ambulance,
‘cause when they speed to help,
And play their weee-ee!! Yup-yup-yup!
He starts to howl and yelp,
Weee-ee! Weee-ee!
Yup-yup-yup! Weee-ee!

I think my dog’s a fire truck,
A fire truck with eyes:
‘cause when he sees one zooming past,
He lifts his head and cries,
WaaaaAA! WAaaaaaa!
Oah! Oah! WaaaaAA!

I think my dog’s a clever boy,
So when he starts his song
At all the sirens rushing by,
I help him sing along!
Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa!
Woo! Woo! Woo!
Weee-ee! Weee-ee!
Yup-yup-yup! Weee-ee!
WaaaaAA! WAaaaaaa!
Oah! Oah! WaaaaAA!

Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) Set Poem *The Brush Turkey* by Alexa Moses

Our brush turkey is back once more,
Digging 'round the kangaroo paw.
Mum grabs the broom and stomps straight out
To shoo and holler, kick and shout.

Our turkey has a fan-like tail,
A small red head, a coughing wail,
A dangling scarf of brightest yellow -
He is a strange, determined fellow.

He makes a nest of leaves he shreds,
It's taller even than my head.
My mother knocks it down and then
He builds it right back up again.

Our turkey's fled and Mum storms in,
She sets the broom beside the bin.
I hurry to our bird's defence,
I tell her, 'Grown-ups don't make sense!'

'Our turkey tries and tries *and tries*,
You told me that's how champions rise!'
Mum laughs, then shrugs, and then observes,
'You're not a pesky digging bird.'

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Set Poem - “The Strawberry” by Michele Lourie

A pleasant fellow we once knew
(none more phlegmatic in our view)
Awoke one morning with the thought
That things were not the way they ought
To be. And he was right.
For, on his head, quite overnight
A strawberry, uninvited, had grown.

So, he took himself off to his GP
Who, though he charged an exorbitant fee
Could not help. Just ‘ummed’ and ‘aahed’
And wrote the details on a card
Followed by a large question mark.

A consultant specialist was nonplussed
He examined the strawberry with disgust
Written all over his clever face
‘I’ve never seen such a troublesome case.’
He cried, as he stroked his beard in awe.

Our friend left for home feeling quite raw.
When, passing his local shops he saw
Angelo, the Fruiterer, who beamed with delight
When that giant fruit came into sight.
‘Mama Mia, will you looka at that!’ he cried.

“That’sa the besta Berryitis I ever havea spied.
But, you needa the cure, so come alonga inside.’
And without more ado, from his back fridge he drew
A LARGE BOWL OF WHIPPED CREAM.

Well, a strawberry always goes best with whipped cream.