

Following the tumultuous scenes in Sydney and the impressive formality of Canberra --- the Gothic has brought the Queen from the Australian mainland, to Hobart, capital of Tasmania. One hundred and fifty years after its colonisation, this southern island of the Commonwealth, awaits <sup>happily</sup> the arrival of the Queen from far off London. ~~And -- as the Royal travellers drove through Hobart's streets -- there was that familiar, <sup>again</sup> spontaneous happiness that has welcomed them everywhere.~~

But this time there was a tragic contrast, back on the mainland. In Queensland --- and in parts of New South Wales where the Queen herself had been only recently --- severe floods following a cyclone had spread a mantle of devastation and misery. In the Lismore district, where Her Majesty had spent a night, roads and railways were now blocked. This was the <sup>ironic</sup> awful/ending of a long period of drought.

In this sudden catastrophe, thousands were rendered homeless. Many lost their lives; and many more were reported missing.

So there was a shadow of grief cast over the welcome, when the Queen arrived in Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. But when ~~the~~ these moments came --- Melbourne, too, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ gave greetings from ~~xxxxxx~~ the heart. //