

GREG McLAREN

from *Broken*

the rusting land  
littered with defunct place-names  
distilled from their solid ores –

Purnamoota Thackaringa Round  
Hill (Taltingan) Albion  
Tarrawingee Poolamacca,

Umberumberka Mundi  
Mundi German Charley's  
Old Hotel.

The zoom function  
on Google Earth spooks out  
to traces of Milparinka Tallangatta

Waukaringa Steiglitz  
Maytown Joadja  
echoes of Low Gothic Tocharian

cities of the Takla Makan  
Lotharingia the Khazar Empire  
Duchy of Courland

creases in the earth creekbeds

runnels      traces of old diggings  
and trenches      roadside ditches

viewed as satellite images online  
the map looks covered  
in paper rot or borer traces

in bark      riddles of streams  
once foul with use      depots  
for typhoid      *a pest more fatal*  
*than drink*

*"a pest more fatal than drink": Davenport Cleveland, cited in George Farvell, Ghost  
Towns of Australia, Rigby, 1965.*