

# Alistair Paterson

## Wedding out West . . .

It shouldn't – shouldn't have been there  
the notice on the wall at Kumanan's wedding  
but it was & the West was there with it  
with that notice of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1881 . . .

'To thieves, thugs, fakirs & bunko steerers  
among whom are J.J. Harlin, alias 'Off Wheeler'  
Little Jack, Wm Hedges, Billy the Kid,  
Pock Marked Charlie & about twenty others,'

the known, the unknown, the forgotten . . .

'If found, within the limits of this city,' it says  
(implying perhaps we should fear for ourselves  
& what might happen)

'as after ten o'clock P.M. this night, here,  
you will be invited,' (all of us, perhaps)

'to attend a Grand Neck-Tie Party the expenses  
of which will be borne by 100 substantial  
citizens of Las Vegas,' as specified March 24<sup>th</sup>

But that was quite a while ago, out in a desert  
the one that surrounds a transformed city  
& the protagonists almost forgotten –  
gunfire, Iraq, Afghanistan

well it shouldn't have been there, should it?  
last Sunday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 when  
we were out West at Kumeu, celebrating  
Jennifer & Kumanan's wedding . . .