

Ode to Charlie

Like wonderful dreams that come and go
There was one man I was honoured to know
A heart of gold, a sharp tongue of steel
He made people think of how we should feel
About ourselves, about all others
About the tears and young minds smothered
About the hopeful then thankful kin
Thank you Charlie – now they can swim

Charlie Perkins and the 1967 Freedom Riders who brought about change in country towns –
Aboriginal kids were then allowed to swim in public swimming pools!

Evonne Goolagong-Cawley 23 April 2004, Moscow, Russia.