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The Best Australian Humorous Writing

Edited by Andrew O'Keefe
& Steve Vizard
Melbourne University Press,
\$32.99



ANYTHING that can make me laugh at this time of year is doing well. This collection's got everything, from in-your-face ranting (Catherine Deveny on four-wheel-drives) to droll political post-mortems by the likes of Mungo MacCallum and Frank Devine. Punning on John Howard's failure to recognise that he had passed his use-by date, MacCallum observes: "He might be mired in the *merde*, but he remained undeterred." Devine imagines Howard getting a kick from watching his enemies suffer from *scheissenbedauern*, the invented German word for "distress at seeing things turn out well". And, if you like your humour from unexpected quarters, there's also Alexander Downer on *Keating! The Musical* and Germaine Greer on Victoria Beckham's dress sense. If you spot someone on the tram howling with outrage or delight, they're probably reading this anthology.