

UNDER THE SHADOW

**Under the shadow of the towering smoke
the Arthurs Creek gathering laugh and joke
Helping strangers and cheering their friends
Live testament to those we won't see again
The fires that raced through now lurk on the hill
A hundred houses, now thirty stand still
Red bands on their wrists and hearts on their sleeve
The survivors of Strathewen are a special breed
The end of the valley and far from the crowd
Shy of the media and stubborn and proud**

Under the shadow

A note from the first memorial service for Strathewen, 2 years ago, held at Arthurs Creek. A reminder of how strong people were then, and that now, they're out of the shadow, yet memories remain and a journey still ahead.

By Laurence Webb

