

AUSTLIT AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

(By Jacqueline Stockdale)

Amo, D. (2 works by)

(a.k.a. Miller, Dudley Anne; D.; Delta; D.AMO)

Born: United States of America (USA)

Gender: Female

Biography:

After graduating as an art teacher in the U.S., Amo moved to Far North Queensland where she remained and raised a family

Anderson, Gus (85 works by , 1 work published or printed by)

(birth name: Anderson, Gustaf Adolph Ross)

Born: 11 Dec 1883 Howard, Queensland

Died: 6 Apr 1970 Maryborough, Queensland

Gender: Male

Biography:

Gus Anderson was born shortly after his parents arrived in Maryborough, Queensland, from Scotland. He spent almost all of his life farming in the Howard and Childers districts of Queensland, but also did some work in the coal mines. In 1908 Anderson married Elizabeth Hamilton, a Howard resident. He loved the bush and nature, and dedicated his life to his wife, his family and to helping others. Anderson is the father of [Edith M. Eardley](#) (q.v.).



Andrews, Diane (5 works by)

(birth name: Pithie, Diane)

Born: 6 Oct 1953 New Zealand

Gender: Female

Heritage: New Zealander

Arrived in Australia: 1987

See also:

[Diane Andrews Publishing](#)

Biography:

Diane Andrews, born in Wainuiomata, N. Z., has worked in many fields, from laboratory assistant and waitress, to theatrical wig maker. Having sailed up from Sydney, she and her husband made Cairns their home. Diane's interests include fossicking, sailing, writing, publishing, and performing poetry. She is a mother of two, and also a grandmother.

Ashe, John (65 works by)

(a.k.a. Ashe, John Harold)

Born: 4 Sep 1907 Drummoyne, New South Wales

Gender: Male

Biography:

Well known in country music circles, Ashe composed the music and lyrics of many songs, including *I Lost My Heart on Hayman Island* (1957) and *Sunny Queensland* (1959). He cites his love of poetry as having been sparked by Palgrave's Golden Treasury, which he won as a maths prize at the Townsville Grammar School in 1923. Over time, he found that he had 'acquired the facility of writing musical verse' which he wrote until the advent of World War II. An interest in music was also being honed and after some time he found he had an ability for composing melodies, and went on to become a 'comparatively well-known Australian songwriter'. Ashe states that the influence of the English poets was so strong upon him that nothing of his early works - such as *Songs of Sentiment* - revealed that their author was Australian. However, he claims that 'the Australian in me later asserted itself in my country songs and *The Great Barrier Reef Island Songs*'.

Barr, Janice (9 works by)

Born: Melbourne, Victoria

Gender: Female

Biography:

Janice Barr, a Darwin-based author of poems and short stories, grew up in Melbourne and moved to the Northern Territory in 1982. She has published several poems, notably in *The Bulletin* (Literary Supplement).

Barrett, Charles (250 works by all writing names)

(a.k.a. Barrett, Charles Leslie; Barrett, Charles L)

Also writes as: Barrett, C. L.; Barr, Donald (2 works); An Australian (1879-1959) (1 work); Wurama

Born: 26 Jun 1879 Hawthorn, Victoria

Died: 16 Jan 1959 Melbourne, Victoria

Gender: Male

Biography:

Well-known naturalist and journalist. Author of more than 100 books, whose topics include Indigenous Australians, natural history, travel, history, social life and customs. He contributed the column 'From my Inglenook: Gossip on Nature, Men and Books' to *All About Books* (1929) and edited *The Victorian Naturalist* (1925-40), *Pals* (1920-27) and some Australian First World War journals.

Barton, Edmund (Sir) (0 works by)

(a.k.a. Barton, Toby (Sir); Barton, Toby)

Born: 18 Jan 1849 Glebe, New South Wales

Died: 7 Jan 1920 Medlow Bath, New South Wales

Biography:

Sir Edmund Barton was Australia's first prime minister. In 1865 he matriculated at the University of Sydney, graduated B.A. in 1868 and M. A. in 1870. He began working for

solicitor Henry Bradley and then with barrister G. C. Davies, and in 1871 he was admitted to the Bar. In 1880 he was elected member for Wellington, won East Sydney in 1882 and was nominated to the Upper House in 1887.

He believed in Australia's destiny as a nation and strongly supported Federation. By March 1897 he had become 'the acknowledged leader of the federal movement', his prestige vastly increased by 'years of patient advocacy'. He was the first of forty-nine candidates elected to the Australasian Federal Convention, and on 22 March in Adelaide Barton was elected leader (and later chairman) of the drafting and constitutional committees. On 22 July 1898 Barton resigned from the council to stand against Reid in the general election. He was narrowly defeated, but in September won a by-election for the Hastings and Macleay assembly seat and was immediately elected leader of the Opposition.

On 29 June 1899 the draft constitution bill was approved. In August it seemed likely that Reid would be defeated in the House. Barton resigned as leader of the Opposition as, unacceptable to the Labor Party, he could not form a government. Barton resigned from parliament in February 1900, but in September he contacted the Colonial Office about details of the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. It was widely believed that he would be first prime minister.

It came as a shock when on 19 December 1900 the governor-general asked Lyne to form the first Commonwealth ministry. Barton refused to serve as attorney-general and when, after frantic efforts by Deakin, Lyne failed to form a ministry, Barton was commissioned to do so. On Christmas Day he named his cabinet, with himself as Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. It was fitting that Australia's first Prime Minister was native-born. The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on 1 January 1901. By 1903 parliament was proving difficult to manage. On 23 September 1903 Barton resigned and a few days later became senior puisne judge of the High Court.

In 1920, Barton died suddenly of heart failure and after a state funeral service at St Andrew's Cathedral, was buried in the Church of England section of South Head cemetery. He was survived by his wife, four sons and two daughters.

Beckett, J. T. (1 work by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

A former Melbourne journalist, Beckett was Chief Inspector of Aborigines for the Northern Territory from around 1911 until his position was made redundant in May 1917. The circumstances surrounding Beckett's dismissal led to a Royal Commission in which he exposed the questionable actions of various individuals and public servants towards Aboriginal people. In 1920, Beckett took up residence on Vanderlin Island in the Pellew Group, just off the coast from Borroloola.

Berrell, Celia (2 works by)

Gender: Female

Heritage: English

Arrived in Australia: ca.1978

Biography:

In the late 1970s, Celia Berrell left her career as a mathematics and science teacher in the U. K. to visit Australia. She remained in Australia and found a new direction in writing poetry.

Bottrill, Chris (1 work by)

Biography:

Chris Bottrill has been a member of [Writers in Townsville](#)

Bowditch, Jim (30 works by)

Born: Jul 1920 London, England

Gender: Male

Heritage: English

Arrived in Australia: 1937

Biography:

After a basic education, Jim Bowditch left school at the age of fifteen during the depression in the 1930s. At the age of seventeen, after a few years in menial jobs, Bowditch decided to farewell his family and the cold English climate in favour of Australia. He spent several years in various unskilled jobs before enrolling in the Australian Army after World War II broke out. He was discharged in 1946 and once again spent a few years going from job to job before being offered a position as a journalist with the *Centralian Advocate*. This opportunity was the beginning of a forty year career in journalism and writing.

Brown, Nadine (1 work by)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Nadine Brown has studied Creative Writing at Curtin University in Western Australia and writes novels, short stories and poetry, some of which have been published in such literary journals as *Page Seventeen*, *Antipodes*, and *Indigo*.

Bryant, Eldon (1 work by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Eldon Bryant has been a Life Member and past President of the Royal Australian Artillery Association, North Queensland.

Burt, T. (4 works by *all writing names*, 1 work published or printed by)
(a.k.a. Burt, Thomas)

Also writes as: *A Moonta-ite* (1 work)

Born: United Kingdom (UK)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Burt was a resident of Palmerston (Darwin), N. T. for several years, where he practised as a barrister.

Byers, Des (2 works by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Byers worked as a boner at the Queera meat works, south of Cairns.

Campbell-Thomson, Chris (4 works by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Chris Campbell-Thomson's boyhood was spent in Argentina and Kenya. During his working life he was in the British Army with The King's African Rifles in Kenya, the 10th Ghurkha Rifles in South East Asia, as well as the Australian Army in Vietnam, and finally with the Federal Police in Cyprus.

Collins, P. F. (2 works by , 2 works published or printed by)

(a.k.a. [Percy the Poet])

Gender: Male

Biography:

Collins was the author of a number of broadsheets published by himself in Sydney, mainly during World War 1, including *Our Australian Boys in France*, *Australia's Welcome Home to the ANZAC Heroes*, *Blood-stained Kaiser Bill*, *Keep Australia White* and *To the Memory of Les Darcy*.

Coote, Errol (2 works by)

(birth name: Coote, Errol Hampton)

Born: ca.1898 Sydney, New South Wales

Died: Oct 1973 Melbourne, Victoria

Gender: Male

Biography:

After serving in France during World War I, Errol Coote worked as a journalist in Sydney. He was one of Australia's pioneer aviators and piloted the reconnaissance plane in the famous 1930 expedition to Central Australia in search of Lasseter's Reef. He had met [Harold Bell Lasseter](#) in Sydney, and helped form the company that financed the expedition to search for the reef Lasseter claimed to have found. He later wrote the story of the expedition in *Hell's Airport*.

Crawford, Gilbert (1 work by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Gilbert Crawford was a reader on the night staff of the *Daily Mercury* office in Mackay, North Queensland, in the early 1900s.

Crossland, Jack (25 works by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Crossland was a cane-farmer in the Smithfield, Queensland, area during the 1950s. Married to [Linda Crossland](#).

Cusack, T. A. (2 works by)

(birth name: Cusack, Timothy Arthur)

Died: 3 Sep 1945 Sydney, New South Wales

Gender: Male

Biography:

T. A. Cusack, journalist and writer, worked as a reporter for the A. B. C., and was the co-author of *Nulli Secundus: A History of the Second Battalion, AIF, 1914-1919* (1942). He served in 2nd Battalion, 1st A. I. F. during W.W.1.

Cuthbertson, James Lister (48 works by *all writing names*)

(a.k.a. Cuthbertson, James L.)

Also writes as: [C.](#) (2 works)

Born: 1851 Glasgow, Scotland

Died: 1910 Mount Gambier, South Australia

Gender: Male

Arrived in Australia: 1874

Biography:

Cuthbertson studied at Oxford University and when he came to Australia he became a master at Geelong Grammar School where he taught for many years. While there he was founder and editor of the 'Annual and Quarterly', and wrote *Barwon Ballads*. His poems about the school's sporting activities and particularly its 'Head of the River' crews were well known to Victorian public-school boys. Some of his poems were set to music by [Frank Hutchens](#).

Daly, Bhama (3 works by)

Born: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Gender: Female

Arrived in Australia: 1978

Biography:

Bhama Daly worked as a registered nurse in London before migrating to Cairns. After arriving in

Australia, she completed a doctorate in English Literature in order to pursue her interest in teaching and writing.



Delaney, David J. (4 works by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

David Delaney left school aged fifteen and has had no formal education in writing. Discovering a passion and talent for writing bush poetry later in life, Delaney has self-published popular poetry books and is exploring his interests in memoir and short story writing. Delaney's work is described as 'quintessentially Australian'.

Dirngayg, Amy (5 works by)

Born: ca.1920

Gender: Female

Heritage: Aboriginal

Biography:

Amy Dirngayg was spotted early in her life as a promising worker and spent much of her life in the service of Elsey Station. She always participated in bush life and had great enthusiasm for fishing. Lurdurdminyi, or Crescent Lagoon, is her country and she hails from a line of Jawayway, or rainmakers, through her father.

Dodds, Phillipa (1 work by)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Phillipa Dodds taught English as a Second Language in Europe for seventeen years, ten of which were spent in Greece.

Dowling, Caroline (2 works by)

Born: 1959 Cairns, Queensland

Gender: Female

Biography:

Caroline Dowling was born in Cairns but grew up in Cambodia, Nigeria, and Australia. She has lived in Brisbane where she worked as a counsellor whilst writing poetry in her spare time

Dugdale, R. D. (1 work by)

(birth name: Dugdale, Robert Alma Balakclava Inkerman Sebastopol Delhi) (a.k.a. Dugdale, Robert Delhi)

Born: ca.1857 India

Died: 29 Oct 1930 Darwin area, Northern Territory

Gender: Male

Biography:

Born in India, Robert Dugdale went on to lead a varied and colourful life, the last twenty-five years of which were spent mainly in the Northern Territory, though he also spent some years in New Guinea. His later career included mineral testing, mining, caretaking, clerical work and writing, his one notable work being *The Way of the World*. Dugdale was also a keen spiritualist. At the time of his death, he had a wife and grown-up family living in Western Australia.

Evans, Mathew (1 work by)

Died: 1923 Mareeba area, Queensland

Gender: Male

Biography:

Evans lived at Buln Buln near Warragul in Victoria but came north to Queensland in the early 1920s, where he died tragically at Wolfram Camp, west of Cairns.

Fair, Roger (1 work by)

(birth name: Fair, Thomas Roger)

Born: 1889 Yarrawonga, Victoria

Gender: Male

Biography:

Roger Fair was a grocer before enlisting in the Army on 16 December, 1914, at age twenty-five. He served at Gallipoli for several months in 1915 (14th Batt., 1st A. I. F. Reg. No. 1738) until illness saw him returned to Australia on the hospital ship 'Kanowna'. After the war he worked at radio stations in Bendigo and Brisbane, and later as a Public Relations Consultant in Brisbane.

Finlayson, J. C. (1 work by)

Gender: Female

Biography:

J. C. Finlayson was a nurse who spent time in Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory during the early years of the twentieth century.

Frost, John (1 work by)

Born: 1784

Died: 1877

Gender: Male

Biography:

Frost was a Chartist leader who was transported to Australia in 1840. After being pardoned in 1855 he returned to Britain where he wrote an account of his experiences, *The Horrors of Convict Life*.

Giles, A. J. (1 work by)

(a.k.a. Giles, Alfred)

Born: 18 Feb 1846 England

Died: 20 Mar 1931 Adelaide, South Australia

Gender: Male

Arrived in Australia: 22 Jun 1849

Biography:

Giles was an explorer and pioneer settler in the Northern Territory. He was the first manager of Springvale Station near Katherine, N.T.

Giles, Harold (1 work by)

Born: Northern Territory

Gender: Male

Biography:

Harold Giles was born at Springvale Station near Katherine in the Northern Territory, where his father was the first manager. Harold Giles went on to become a policeman and later manager of Elsey Station (1928-1954). The Northern Territory Archives in Darwin holds Giles's 'Springvale Diary'.

Gillen, F. J. (4 works by)

(birth name: Gillen, Francis James)

Born: ca.28 Oct 1855 Cavan, South Australia

Note: Date of birth registration

Died: 1912

Gender: Male

Heritage: Irish

Biography:

Francis James Gillen was born of Irish parents who emigrated to Australia in 1855, and originally settled in the Cavan, South Australia, area. It was not long before they moved to Clare, South Australia, where Francis spent his early years.

On 15 January 1867, aged eleven, Francis joined the Public Service as a telegraph messenger. At fifteen, he was transferred to Adelaide as a junior assistant, and it was from this time that he studied at the School of Mines in the evenings. With the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line (O. T. L.) in the 1870s, Gillen was rapidly promoted and in 1875 was posted to Alice Springs as an operator with the O. T. L. In December 1892 he was made Post and Telegraph Master in charge of an extensive area.

Gillen's time spent in the Northern Territory meant that he often came into contact with the local Aboriginal people, for whom he developed an abiding interest, and deep affection and regard. He learned the Aranda's language and was admitted as a fully initiated member of their tribe. He was known by them as 'Oknirrabata', which means 'great teacher', an honour that enabled him to attend ceremonies and be given information about tribal law and rituals.

In 1894, Gillen met [Baldwin Spencer](#) who visited Alice Springs with the Horn Expedition. Spencer encouraged Gillen to pursue his anthropological interest, and promised to collaborate with him in publishing a book. This inspired Gillen to collect and record as much information as he could on the Aboriginal people of the area. Gillen had refused two major inducements to leave the centre, preferring to stay and continue his anthropological work after being encouraged by Spencer. Spencer and Gillen regularly worked together for several years after their initial encounter, and in 1899 produced a book, *The Native Tribes of Central Australia*, and their work in central Australia then came to the attention of [James Frazer](#), who maintained an active interest in their ongoing research.

In all, Gillen spent twenty-four years in the interior, during which time, as well as his O. T. L. duties, he was a Sub-Protector of Aborigines and a Special Magistrate. He departed Alice Springs in April, 1899.

Gillen married Amelia Maude Besley on 5 August 1891 in Mount Gambier, South Australia and they had five children. He died, aged fifty-six, from the effects of an obscure, progressive muscle-wasting disease - amyotrophic lateral sclerosis - leaving his wife penniless and wondering why her husband had not received the recognition or wealth that Spencer had.

Gray, Lucy

(a.k.a. Roberts, Lucy)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Sketcher and diarist, Lucy Gray was a daughter of Rev. C.W. Roberts of Woodrising, Tasmania. After her marriage to Charles Gray she lived in North Queensland. From September 1868 to November 1872 she kept an illustrated journal. Among its numerous small sketches are several of the huts on the Grays' property and a view of Mount McConnell on the Flinders River. The illustrations are usually incorporated within the text. Mrs Gray obviously intended her journal to be quite widely circulated, even if only within the family, and reworked both illustrations and journal. Occasionally two versions of the same illustration or diary extract survive, with one being clearly the more polished.

Gsell, F. X. (2 works by)

(birth name: Gsell, François Xavier)

Born: 1872 Strasbourg, France

Died: 1960

Gender: Male

Heritage: French

Arrived in Australia: 1897

Biography:

Francis Xavier Gsell was born near Strasbourg in Alsace-Lorraine in 1872. He left home at fourteen to study for the priesthood in the historic town of Issoudun, France, headquarters of the Missionaries of the

Sacred Heart. His scholastic brilliance was so apparent that after a few years he was chosen to continue his studies in Rome. There he learnt to speak Italian and, at twenty-five, was awarded a Doctorate in Divinity. A fellow student at the Gregorian University was His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Gsell came to Australia in 1897 as Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Sacred Scripture at the newly formed scholasticate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Kensington, N.S.W. In 1900 he went to Papua and worked near Pt. Moresby for six years. His life's work began in 1906 with his appointment as Administrator Apostolic of the Northern Territory. He was consecrated Bishop of Darwin in 1938

Harney, W. E. (106 works by *all writing names*)

(birth name: Harney, William Edward) (a.k.a. Harney, Bill)

Also writes as: [Bilarni](#)

Born: 18 Apr 1895 Charters Towers, Queensland

Died: 31 Dec 1962 Mooloolaba, Queensland

Gender: Male

Biography:

Bill Harney was a drover, bushman, soldier in the First World War, and a patrol officer in the Native Affairs Branch of the Northern Territory. He was also a member of several UN expeditions into Arnhem Land, curator of Ayers Rock reservation, and an ardent supporter of the cause of Aborigines, to whom he was known as 'Bilarni'. He wrote extensively on his wanderings and life among Aboriginal people, and also worked as a broadcaster both in Australia and for the BBC. At Groote Eylandt on 5 April, 1927, Bill married Linda Beattie, who was of Aboriginal heritage. They had two children, a daughter, Beattie, and a son, Billy. However, Linda fell ill with osteo-tuberculosis and died in 1930. Beattie died at five years of age from T.B., and in 1945 the teenaged Billy accidentally drowned whilst trying to rescue a young boy in the Todd River.

Harris, Nell (1 work by)

(birth name: Tansley, Nell)

Born: 1904 Sydenham, New South Wales

Gender: Female

Biography:

Nell Harris was born into a working class family in southern Sydney. Always a top student, she trained as a teacher and in 1926 was sent to the small town of Wee Waa in northwest N. S. W. where she met farmer Dick Harris. By 1929 Dick was working at the Anglican mission, Oenpelli, in Arnhem Land. Nell joined him there in 1933. She proved to be a person of remarkable strength, humour, energy, courage, and good will. She had five children, raising some of them away from any medical support with, in the early years, only two external supplies of food a year. During this time, she taught Aboriginal children and adults and, at the end of 1941, along with other non-Aboriginal women, she left N. T. during the war. Between 1944 and 1965 she worked at various N.T. missions. Her deep Christian commitment was revealed in her finding all people interesting and equally valuable. A raconteur, Nell told hundreds of stories of her life which have been compiled, using her own words, into a biography.

Hautot, Carol (3 works by)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Carol Hautot's entry to writing came via a background of writing business documents, but a five year stay on Christmas Island inspired her to develop her creative side

Henry, E. K. (1 work by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

The editor of the Northern Territory Times and Gazette stated in the issue of 26 April 1917 that Corp. E. K. Henry 'was once a resident of Darwin, in the employ of P. R. Allen and Co.' and noted that he had been 'all through the fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and after being engaged on staff duties in England, is now probably in the thick of the fighting on the Western Front.'

Hillard, Nell (4 works by)

Born: New South Wales

Gender: Female

Biography:

After finishing high school, Nell Hillard went on to Business College. With her husband she joined the United Nations which took them, and their three children, to Teheran and Baghdad.

Hulton-Sams, Frederick

(birth name: Hulton-Sams, Frederick Edward Barwick) (a.k.a. Hulton-Sams, Rev.; Hulton-Sams, Rev. Frederick Edward)

Died: 31 Jul 1915 France

Gender: Male

Biography:

Rev. Hulton-Sams lived in Longreach, Queensland and was known as Queensland's 'fighting parson'. During WWI, he returned to England and enlisted in the army. Hulton-Sams died in Flanders while commanding his company.

Jilimbirrnga, Lulu (3 works by)

Born: ca.1920

Gender: Female

Heritage: Aboriginal Alawa people

Biography:

Lulu Jilimbirrnga had an Alawa mother and a father who was brought to the Elsey area, Northern Territory, early in the twentieth century as a police tracker from the far west - Lulu thinks he was from the Victoria River district. Lulu grew up integrated into the station community life of the western Roper River. One of her main dreamings is catfish, represented at several places in the immediate Elsey Area. Over the course of her life, Lulu attained a wealth of regional knowledge, a far-reaching grasp of kin

connections within the regions, and a knowledge of Mangarrayi language, people and places.

Johnston, Harry (1 work by)

(birth name: Johnston, Henry Hamilton) (a.k.a. Johnston, Harry Hamilton)

Born: 12 Jun 1858 London, England

Died: 31 Aug 1927 Nottinghamshire, England

Gender: Male

Biography:

Sir Harry Hamilton Johnston was a British explorer, botanist, zoologist, artist, pioneer and colonial administrator who travelled widely in Africa. He published many books on African and colonial subjects, including Australia.

Jose, Roger

Born: ca.1896 Picton, New South Wales

Died: 7 Oct 1963

Gender: Male

Biography:

Roger Jose lived a hermitic existence in Borroloola, N.T., from some time around 1916 and made it his life's work to maintain a 200 mile-long road that led from the deserted town to Anthony's Lagoon Station. Inspired by personal pride in the road and the work he put into maintaining it, Roger wrote poetry about it. He was also the first white man in the N.T. to legally marry an Aboriginal woman.

Note:

Ted Egan wrote a song, *Roger Was No Death Adder*, about Jose. Jose also featured in a television documentary, *The Hermits of Borroloola*, by David Attenborough.



Libke, Carol (3 works by)

(birth name: Craigen, Carol)

Born: 26 Oct 1952 Georgetown, Guyana

Gender: Female

Heritage: West-Indian

Arrived in Australia: 1967

Biography:

Carol Libke attained a degree in Journalism. Her writing includes poetry and plays and, as a member of the [Tropical Writers Group](#) in Cairns, her short stories have been published in the group's anthologies from 2007 to 2009. She was also commissioned to write *Our Club : The History of Ellis Beach Surf Lifesaving Club 1957-2007*.

Lirrawi, Jackeroo (1 work by)

Died: 1995

Gender: Male
Heritage: Aboriginal

Biography:

Jackeroo Lirrawi is the grandson of Jawoyn man, Yiworrondo, or Jungle Dick, and the nephew of [Lulu Jilimbirnga](#). As his English name suggests, he spent his younger years working as a stockman for Elsey Station. His Aboriginal name, Lirrawi, means 'black cockatoo' and is a mark of his connection to Gurrayan, a black cockatoo place at Goondooloo, a small property immediately to the north of Elsey.

Little, M. I. (2 works by)
(a.k.a. Little, Maud Isabel)

Born: Sep 1876 Darwin, Northern Territory
Died: 1961 Victoria
Gender: Female

Biography:

Maud Isabel Little was the daughter of well-known Northern Territorian John Archibald Graham Little, Post and Telegraph Superintendent, and his wife Matilda Cecily (Johnston), originally of Penola, South Australia. Little's mother died soon after she was born, and she and her siblings were sent south for their education. Her sister Edith, nine years older than Little, attended Miss Brunskill's school in Semaphore, South Australia, then went to Sydney University. As the book *Dunham Days* shows great familiarity with 'Subiaco', a Benedictine convent on the Parramatta River near Sydney, it is likely that Little received at least some of her education there.

On the death of her father in Darwin in 1906, Little went to live with her sister in Mt Gambier, South Australia. Contemporary records in Northern Territory newspapers indicate that Little was a proficient pianist and violinist, as she and her sister, Mrs Lawrie, are mentioned as having played at public occasions between 1895 and 1901

Maitland, Mr. (1 work by)

Born: ca.1868
Gender: Male

Biography:

Maitland worked as a coach driver in Tasmania in his younger days. In 1958, at around ninety years old, he was still working as a 'bottle-o' in Camberwell, Victoria.

Masson, Elsie R. (11 works by)
(birth name: Masson, Elsie Rosaline)

Died: 1935
Gender: Female

Biography:

Elsie R. Masson was the second daughter of Prof. Orme Masson, University of Melbourne. On 6 March, 1919, she married the famous Polish anthropologist, Bronislaw Malinowski, in Melbourne, and they had

three daughters.

Mayhew, George (2 works by)

(birth name: Mayhew, George Washington) (a.k.a. Mayhew, G. W.)

Gender: Male

Biography:

George Mayhew arrived in Darwin in the early 1880s. From 1890 to 1899, he was editor and part-owner of the *Northern Territory Times and Gazette*. He also stood, unsuccessfully, as a candidate for election as Northern Territory representative in the South Australian parliament.

Mayhew was described by those who knew and worked with him as a 'born humorist' and a 'clever writer, in a vein of broad humour that was often very satirical; but he never dipped his pen in gall.'

Mayhew died in Darwin 'from that painful disease known as "chalky gout"', and 'left a widow and a little son, Jack, in Perth, W. A.'

McBain, Ian (4 works by)

(birth name: McBain, Ian Marsden) (a.k.a. McBain, Captain Ian)

Born: 22 Jul 1905 London, England

Gender: Male

Biography:

Captain Ian McBain was a World War II Engineers Officer in charge of camouflaging camps, vehicles, etc so that they would not be identifiable from the air. Prior to joining the army, Ian had been a cartoonist with the *Courier Mail* in Brisbane, and after the war he held a similar position with an Adelaide newspaper. As well as this, he was a qualified architect.

McMahon, Stella (85 works by , 1 work published or printed by)

(a.k.a. McMahon, Stella Rosemary)

Born: Jersey, Channel Islands, United Kingdom (UK)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Stella McMahon developed a love of words at a very early age and credits her mother with instilling this in her. 'I was reading at the age of four' she says 'and have been putting stories and poems together for as long as I can remember'. Stella has lived for many years in the Charters Towers area, where she has raised her four children.

Mendelsohn, Saul (2 works by)

(a.k.a. Betzalel Saul Mendelsohn; Sali Mendelsohn)

Born: ca.1844

Died: 19 Mar 1897 Nanango, Queensland

Gender: Male

Biography:

Mendelsohn, originally from Berlin, was a storekeeper in Nanango. He married Brisbane-born Abigail Rosensweig and they had at least six children, one of whom was [Oscar Mendelsohn](#) (q.v.).

Menehira, Hazel (7 works by)

Born: 1933 London, England

Gender: Female

Biography:

Menehira attained a Fellowship with Trinity College and enjoyed a career that included journalism, teaching, playwriting, adjudicating, and directing performing arts in New Zealand before retiring to focus on creative writing.

Messervy, Diana (2 works by)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Diana Messervy grew up in Stanthorpe, Qld. She went on to live in Asia, Papua New Guinea, and the U. S. A., before finally retiring from a teaching career to live on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland.

Niemann, J. H. (1 work by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

Relocating from Victoria with his wife and two children, Mr. J. H. Niemann was for some years the Government Chemist at Pine Creek in the Northern Territory.

Nurniyn, Mary (1 work by)

Gender: Female

Heritage: Aboriginal

Biography:

Mary Nurniyn is the daughter of Yiwirrondo, or Jungle Dick, whom she maintains was a Jawoyn man. Mary has a close parental connection to Elsey Station through her mother, Wijwij (or Topsy), whose Aboriginal name means 'possum' and marks a connection with an important area on the Roper River not far from the station homestead. Mary is also an Aunt of [Jackeroo Lirrawi](#)

Palmerston, Christie (1 work by)

(birth name: Carandini, Christofero Palmerston)

Born: ca.1850 Melbourne, Victoria

Note: Tranter states year of birth as either 1850 or 1851.

Died: 15 Jan 1897 Malaysia

Gender: Male

Heritage: English; Italian

Biography:

M. E. Tranter states that Christie Palmerston - explorer and prospector - was not, as legend suggests, the natural son of Lord Palmerston, but was the son of Casino Jerome, the 10th Marquis de Carandini of Sarzone, Italy, and his wife Mary Burgess, the daughter of a London coachman who had migrated to Van Dieman's Land. Palmerston's mother was a noted opera singer, known as Madame Carandini, who toured in the U.S.A., India and New Zealand. During his youth, Palmerston spent time working on Milanje Station in the Broad Sound district of Queensland. He seems to have been first heard of in North Queensland c.1873 at the Palmer River area. On 6th December, 1886, he married Theresa Rooney in Townsville, with whom he had one daughter, Rosina, born on 13th June, 1889. Family responsibilities saw him temporarily forgo his prospecting and exploring in favour of hotel-keeping for some years, though he later went prospecting in Borneo and then Malaya, where he became ill and died, aged forty-six.

Playford, T. (2 works by)

(a.k.a. Playford, Thomas)

Born: 1837 London, England

Died: 1915

Gender: Male

Heritage: English

Arrived in Australia: 1844

Biography:

Thomas Playford was born at Bethnal Green, London, and in 1844 he migrated with his family to Adelaide where his father took up land purchased some years earlier. After being educated at Thomas Muggs' School, Mitcham, Playford went on to the family farm then developed his own orchard before entering South Australian politics in 1868. He was elected Premier in June 1887 and served in that position until June 1889, and served a second term from 1890 to 1892. He was also an active member of literary and debating societies, and wrote detailed accounts of his travels. He married Mary Jane Kinsman in 1860 and after his death in 1915 he was survived by her, their five sons and five daughters. (Source: *Australian Dictionary of Biography Online*)

Price, Theodore (1 work by)

(a.k.a. Price, Theo)

Born: ca.1884 Cardiff, Wales (UK)

Died: 5 Aug 1938 Paddington, Queensland

Gender: Male

Heritage: British

Arrived in Australia: 1903

Biography:

After emigrating to Australia in 1903 at nineteen, Theo Price, then a plumber, settled in Victoria. He later travelled extensively through northern Queensland where he undertook employment in a variety of occupations, including cook and bookkeeper. In the early 1930s Price and his daughter, Rima, lived in Townsville, at times in very straitened circumstances,

and at this time he stated his occupation as author.

Price had submitted a manuscript of a novel with 'a romantic fictional treatment of Aboriginal legends' to P. R. Stephensen's (q.v.) Endeavour Press in 1932. He referred to it as his 'Australian Mystical Romance' entitled 'Moongooloonga'. Craig Munro's *Wild Man of Letters : The Story of P. R. Stephensen* (1984) reports that Price wrote Stephensen a series of pleading letters desperately requesting an advance of twenty-five pounds as he and his daughter were almost starving. In July 1933, Price threatened suicide. Stephensen responded by sending Price an abridged version of the novel for approval and urged him to stay calm. Price realised there had been extensive amendments to his novel which he believed reduced his 'poetical prose' to 'school-boy simplicity'. However, he signed the contract to ensure he received the twenty-five pound advance on royalties.

The book was published in 1934 as *Gods in the Sand*. Munro comments: 'There was, however, almost universal acclaim for the improvement in book production and design which Stephensen brought about. Price's book, based on Aboriginal legends, had a particularly effective black jacket, and the *The Labor Daily* thought the best part of the book was its "well-designed cover", a sentiment shared even by Price's hometown paper, the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*.' The jacket of Price's *Gods in the Sand* was praised by the Melbourne *Sun* as 'cover artwork at its best - arresting, imaginative, delicate'. (Munro, p.142).

Just a few years later, in 1938, Price was living in Brisbane when he died. A brief article in the *Courier Mail* of 6 August 1938 states that 'Theo Price, 52, of Gordon Street, Paddington, died in the General Hospital last night from incised wounds on the neck and left arm. It is alleged that the injuries were received at his home yesterday.'

Prunty, Kenneth (34 works by)
(birth name: Prunty, Kenneth James)

Born: 1928 Drummoyne, New South Wales
Died: 31 Oct 1982 New South Wales
Gender: Male

Biography:

Biography:

Though a trained engineer, 'Ryko', who also contributed occasional pieces to the Northern Territory Times and Gazette, preferred to make his living as a photographer, and established himself as such in Darwin in 1915. Prior to this, in 1914, Ryko attempted to break the record for bicycling across Australia from Adelaide to Darwin. While engaged in this pursuit he also compiled detailed maps of facts and numerous photographs of the interior regions he passed through. These activities led to Reichenbach being viewed as 'highly dangerous' by Australian authorities during World War One, under suspicion of supplying information to Germany. Consequently, all his maps were confiscated by local military authorities and army Intelligence inquired into his background and activities.

Taylor, Michael (1 work by)

Born: 1926 Renmark, South Australia
Gender: Male

Biography:

Michael Taylor M. B., B. S. was educated in Adelaide and graduated in medicine at the University of

Adelaide where he held a Medical Research Fellowship.

Uhr, D'Arcy (2 works by)

Gender: Male

Biography:

D'Arcy Uhr spent time in the Northern Territory during the 1880s and 1890s and chronicled the adventures of his travels there.

Weiss, Kristen (1 work by)

Born: California, United States of America (USA)

Gender: Female

Biography:

Kristen Weiss undertook postgraduate studies in marine conservation and management, and has also participated in the postgraduate writing program, at James Cook University.

Wells, Richard (2 works by *all writing names*)

Also writes as: [Candid](#)

Born: England

Died: 24 Feb 1875 Queensland

Gender: Male

Arrived in Australia: 1853

Biography:

Richard Wells was born and educated in England, and served an apprenticeship as a chemist in London. He came to South Australia at the end of 1853 and, because he had some knowledge of shorthand, was engaged as a reporter for the *Adelaide Times*, where he rose to the level of sub-editor. In 1858 he was engaged by the *South Australian Register*, also as a sub-editor, but shortly afterwards was appointed editor-in-chief, a position he held for a number of years until being compelled to resign due to ill health. Whilst employed there, he also wrote a column, *Rough Notes*, under the pen-name 'Candid'. This column was the forerunner for the series *Echoes from the Bush*, by [John Howard Clark](#) (q.v.).

Hoping to improve his health, he went back to England for a time, before returning to Australia. Some time later, he went north by ship, escorting a cargo of goods for the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line in the Roper River area of the Northern Territory, before returning to Adelaide via Darwin. Shortly afterwards, he again visited the Roper River with M. Todd, with whom he travelled overland then back to Adelaide. Here, excitement over the mining boom in the Territory and the near-completion of the telegraph line was at a peak, facilitating the establishment of a new newspaper in the new settlement. A complete and up-to-date newspaper plant was shipped north and Mr. Wells returned as manager and editor of the new venture.

On 24 February 1875, while Wells was heading south for a holiday, the mail steamer *Gothenburg*, on which he was travelling, was wrecked off the Queensland coast . Wells drowned (along with over one hundred others who were on board), leaving a young wife and

child to mourn him.

Wignell, Peter (5 works by)

Born: 1951

Gender: Male

Biography:

Peter Wignell has lectured in Applied Linguistics in the Faculty of Education at the Northern Territory University.

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