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General Editor
JOHN RITCHIE
AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

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PREFACE

In January 1940 cheering crowds farewelled soldiers of the 6th Division as they sailed to do battle in the deserts of the Middle East. In December 1980 an inquest into the death of Azaria Chamberlain began at Alice Springs. Many of the events that occurred and the people who rose to prominence in the intervening years provide the subject matter for volume 13 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. It contains 670 entries by 537 authors and is the first of four in the 1940-1980 section which will include some 2700 lives.

Spanning the years from 1940 to 1980, volumes 13 to 16 illuminate the themes of immigration, accelerating industrialism, urbanization and suburbanization, and war (World War II, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam). While other themes are also reflected—material progress, increasing cultural maturity, conservative and radical politics, conflict and harmony, loss of isolation and innocence—the emphasis of the biographies is on the individuals. The entries throw light on the complexity of the human situation, and on the greatness and the littleness of moral response and actual behaviour which this can evoke. In volume 13 the subjects range from Robert Davies, a midshipman who died at the age of 18, to the pharmacist Henry Cox who lived until he was 104 years old. Although the majority of the men and women included in these volumes flourished in the 1940-1980 period, a minority of the lives, like that of the explorer Caroline Barnett, who was born in 1860, reveal facets of Australian history long before 1940.

The two volumes of the 1788-1850 section, the four of the 1851-1890 section and the six of the 1891-1939 section were published from 1966 to 1990. The late Douglas Pike was general editor for volumes 1 to 5, Bede Nairn for volume 6, Nairn and Geoffrey Serle for volumes 7 to 10, Serle for volume 11 and John Ritchie for volume 12. An index to volumes 1-12 was published in 1991. The chronological division was designed to simplify production, for 7211 entries have been included in volumes 1-12 (volumes 1-2, for 1788-1850, had 1116 entries; volumes 3-6, for 1851-1890, 2053; volumes 6-12, for 1891-1939, 4042). For the period from 1788 to 1939, the placing of each individual’s name in the appropriate section was determined by when he/she did his/her most important work (*floruit*). By contrast, the 1940-1980 section only includes individuals who died in this period. Volume 13 thus marks a change from the *floruit* to the ‘date of death’ principle. When volumes 13-16 have been completed, the *A.D.B.* will begin work on the period 1981-1990.

The choice of names for inclusion required prolonged consultation. After quotas were estimated, working parties in each State, and the Armed Services and Commonwealth working parties, prepared provisional lists which were widely circulated and carefully amended. Many of the names were obviously significant and worthy of inclusion as leaders in politics, business, the armed services, the church, the professions, the arts and the labour movement. Some have been included as representatives of ethnic and social minorities, and of a wide range of occupations; others have found a place as innovators, notorieties or eccentrics. A number had to be omitted through pressure of space or lack of material, and thereby joined the great mass whose members richly deserve a more honoured place, but thousands of these names, and information about them, have accumulated in the biographical register at the *A.D.B.* headquarters in the Australian National University.
Preface

Most authors were nominated by working parties. The burden of writing has been shared almost equally by the staff of universities and by a variety of other specialists.

The *A.D.B.* is a project based on consultation and co-operation. The Research School of Social Sciences at the A.N.U. has borne the cost of the headquarters staff, of much research and of occasional special contingencies, while other Australian universities have supported the project in numerous ways. The *A.D.B.*'s policies were originally determined by a national committee composed mainly of representatives from the departments of history in each Australian university. In Canberra the editorial board has kept in touch with these representatives, and with working parties, librarians, archivists and other local experts, as well as with research assistants in each Australian capital city and correspondents overseas. With such varied support, the *A.D.B.* is truly a national project.
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Within Australia the A.D.B. is indebted to many librarians and archivists, schools, colleges, universities, institutes, historical and genealogical societies, and numerous other organizations; to the editors of the Northern Territory Dictionary of Biography; to the Australian War Memorial, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and the Australian Archives; to the archives and public records offices in the various States and Territories, and registrars of probates and of the Supreme and Family courts, whose co-operation has solved many problems; to various town and shire clerks; to the Police Department, the Australian Dental Association, Big Brother Movement Ltd, the Powerhouse Museum, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales, the Royal Society of New South Wales, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Technical and Further Education History Unit, all in Sydney; to the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, the Association of Professional Engineers Australia and the Victorian Artists Society, all in Melbourne; to the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, Queensland; to the company historian, Qantas Airways Ltd; and to the Australian Department of Defence for authenticating a host of details. Warm thanks for the free gift of their time and talents are due to contributors, to members of the editorial board and to the working parties. For particular advice the A.D.B. owes much to Stuart W. Alldritt, Cecily Close, Chris Coulthard-Clark, Mary Eagle, Bill Gammage, Bryan Gandevia, Joan Hughes, Oliver MacDonagh, Norm Neill, Hank Nelson, Greg Pemberton, Bill Ramson, Caroline Simpson, Kenneth Smith, F. B. Smith, R. J. M. Tolhurst, Peter Yeend, Norbert Zmijewski, and the staff of the National Library of Australia.

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