
AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

VOLUME 14 1940–1980

Di-Kel



GENERAL EDITOR

JOHN RITCHIE

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PREFACE

In 1940 Alex Gurney's comic strip, 'Bluey and Curley', centred on two larrikin Australian soldiers, first appeared in the pages of Melbourne's *Sun-News Pictorial*. In 1980 Special Broadcasting Services (S.B.S.) commenced television transmission in Sydney on channel VHF-0 and included an Italian variety programme. Many of the events that occurred and the people who rose to prominence in the intervening years provide the subject matter for volume 14 of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. It contains 666 entries by 572 authors and is the second of four in the 1940-1980 section which will include some 2700 lives.

Spanning the years from 1940 to 1980, volumes 13 to 16 illustrate such themes as immigration, accelerating industrialism, urbanization and suburbanization, and war (World War II, Korea, Malaya and Vietnam). While other themes are also illuminated—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 14 the subjects range from John Fraser, a national serviceman who died at the age of 23, to the temperance worker Cecelia Downing who lived until she was 94 years old. Although the majority of the men and women included in this volume flourished in the 1940-1980 period, a minority of the lives, like that of the anthropologist Alfred Haddon, who was born in 1855, 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. Volume 13, the first of the 1940-1980 section, was published in 1993. 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 volumes 12 to 14. An index to volumes 1-12 was published in 1991 and the *A.D.B.* was produced on CD-ROM in 1996. 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 marked a change from the *floruit* to the 'date of death' principle. When volumes 15-16 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, notoriety or eccentrics. A number had to be omitted through pressure of space or lack of material, and thereby joined the great mass

PREFACE

whose members richly deserve a more honoured place, but thousands of these names, and information about them, have been accumulated in the biographical register at the A.D.B.'s offices in the Australian National University.

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 to 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 Returned & Services League of Australia, the Australian Department of Defence and the Australian Red Cross Society; to the Royal Society of New South Wales, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Australasian College of Radiologists, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the New South Wales Medical Board, the Dental Board of New South Wales, the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales, the Medical Women's Society of New South Wales, the Institution of Radio and Electronic Engineers, the New South Wales Police Service, the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Chartered Institute of Transport in Australia, the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries in Australia, the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of New South Wales, the State Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Automotive Industries of New South Wales, the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales, the Motor Traders Association of New South Wales, the National Australia Bank, the Westpac Banking Corporation, the Australasian Performing Right Association, the Australian Music Examinations Board, International P.E.N. Australia, the Australian Club, the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, the Loyal Orange Institution of New South Wales, the Royal Sydney Golf Club, the Australian Golf Club, the New South Wales Ladies' Golf Union, the Australian Jockey Club, Hockey New South Wales, the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia, the South Sydney District Rugby League Football Club, the Salvation Army, and Relationships Australia, all in Sydney; to the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists, the Australian Institute of Radiographers, the Baker Medical Research Institute, the Dental Board of Australia, the Australian Institute of Physics, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the Institute of Patent Attorneys of Australia, the Churches of Christ in Australia, the Mercy Public Hospitals Inc., the Villa Maria Society for the Blind, the Victorian Artists Society, the Education History Research Service and the Australian Hockey Association, all in Melbourne; and to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Australian Academy of Science, the

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