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WACKETT, Sir Lawrence James (1896-1982)

Born in Queensland, he later moved to Canberra to study at Duntroon Military College. After fighting with the Royal Flying Corps in World War I, Wackett went on to graduate in Science from Melbourne University and establish a research workshop for aircraft construction in Sydney. The workshop was closed during the Depression, but the government nevertheless requested that Wackett supervise the construction of planes in the lead up to and during World War II. Wackett's own designs proved more efficient and powerful than the American designed planes of the time. After the war, Wackett directed the building of new jets. His services were rewarded with a knighthood in 1954.

WAINEWRIGHT, Thomas Griffiths (1794-1847)

Born near London in 1794, he mingled with the literary elite in London society life, gaining a reputation as a debonair playboy, a poet, an artist and a rascal. Such illustrious acquaintances as Dickens and Bulwyer Lytton were said to have modelled villains on Wainewright, who was transported to Australia in 1837 for forgery. His foppish ways and delicate health saved him from hard labour, and instead he worked in the prison hospital and painted his impressions of Hobart society. A mercurial character with strangely conflicting character traits, Wainewright's artworks vary from pornographic drawings to wholesome, proper portraits of Hobart folk. Pardoned in 1846 he died in obscurity the following year.

WAITE, Edgar Ravenswood (1866-1928)

An Englishman by birth, Waite was educated in Manchester. His early career in zoology began with a number of curatorial positions at Leeds Museum leading to his appointment to the Australian Museum in Sydney. He worked there from 1893-1906. His work largely encompassed the biology of vertebrates, specialising in birds, reptiles and fish examined during his expeditions to sub-Antarctic islands. He published over 200 scientific papers and several books.

WALKER, Alan (1911-)

Born in 1911 in Sydney, in 1934 he was ordained a minister of the Methodist Church and over the next thirty years became a high-profile preacher and campaigner for social causes. He became Superintendent of the Waverley Methodist Mission in 1944, attended the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948 and was part of the Australian Delegation at the United Nations the following year. In 1963 Walker created Lifeline, with the slogan "Help is as close as the telephone". By 1966 the idea had been adopted in other countries, and that year Walker became President of Lifeline International. He was knighted in 1981.

WALKER, Kath (1920-93)

Born Kathleen Jean Mary Roska, she grew up on Stradbroke Island, in Moreton Bay, Queensland. Whilst working as a domestic hand, Oodgeroo Noonuccal educated herself, later working as a telephonist with the Austral-

ian Women's Army, and then as a stenographer. During this time in the 1940s and 50s, she became increasingly interested in poetry, publishing a volume of her own work in 1964 entitled *We Are Going*. It was the first book of verse to be published by an Aborigine. She continued to write and publish her work, going on to win several literary awards and gaining a Fulbright Scholarship in 1978. Noonuccal's work for Aboriginal rights, especially those of her people, the Noonuccal tribe, is reflected in her writing. In the 1980s, she chose to be known by her tribal name, rather than her married name, Kath Walker.

WALKLEY, William Gaston (1896-1976)

Born in New Zealand, he came to Australia in 1936 and founded Ampol Petroleum Ltd. In 1952 Walkley merged with two American oil companies to form West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd, and by 1969 the firm had struck commercially viable quantities of oil and had built the first oil tanker in Australia. A patron of Australian sports and a generous supporter of numerous charities, in 1956 he created the Walkley Award for journalism. He was knighted in 1967.

WALLACE, George Stevenson (1894-1960)

The son of a comedian, Wallace was born and grew up in Aberdeen, NSW. His career on the stage began at age 3, his childhood filled with pantomime and theatrics. By the end of World War I, Wallace was one of the most well-known vaudeville entertainers in the country, particularly as part of the Dinks and Onkus comedy duo. Wallace's buffoon image and agility as a dancer

eventually led to film work. He appeared in films as diverse as *His Royal Highness* (1932), *Rats of Tobruk* (1944) and *Wherever She Goes* (1951).

WALSH, John Richard (1941-)

Born in 1941 in Sydney, he worked as an assistant director of the Australia Institute of Industrial Psychology in his early career. In 1963, however, he moved into publishing, joining Martin Sharp and Richard Neville to start *Oz* magazine. He was involved in the infamous 1964 obscenity trial, resulting in a six month sentence which was quashed two years later on appeal. During most of the 1970s Walsh published *Nation Review* and from 1972 to 1986 he was chief executive of Angus & Robertson. Since 1990 Walsh has worked as a chief executive for Australian Consolidated Press, owned by media magnate Kerry Packer. Positions on the Literature Board of Australia and the Australian Book Publishers' Association have reinforced Walsh's status within Australian publishing circles.

WALTON, Nancy-Bird (1915-)

Born in 1915 in Sydney, Nancy Bird began her flying career at the age of 18 under the tutelage of Charles Kingsford-Smith. She obtained her commercial flying licence in 1934 and joined the Far West Children's Health Scheme the following year. Walton operated as an air ambulance and baby clinic service and became the first Australian woman to be employed as a commercial pilot. She went on to run her own charter service in Queensland. During her flying career, Walton won numerous prizes for aviation races both in Australia and overseas. Founding the Australian Women Pilot's Association in

1950, Watson has remained both president and patron and was awarded the Order of Australia in 1990 for her services to aviation in this country.

WARD, Frederick (1835-70)

Born in NSW, Ward's criminal life began as a teenager with several early convictions for cattle duffing (stealing, and usually altering brands in the process of this). A term of imprisonment on Cockatoo Island was cut short by his successful attempt to swim to freedom in 1863. Upon commencing life as an unconventional bushranger who acted in a courteous manner towards his victims, Ward, now calling himself Captain Thunderbolt, was chased north by Parkes' bounty hunters. Working the New England roads, Thunderbolt robbed coaches, mailbags and sometimes struggling farmers and settlers. He often worked alone, but sometimes came with reinforcements. Thunderbolt's days were ended when he was shot dead by State troopers. The legend of his life has since been depicted in ballads, plays, books and two films.

WATERHOUSE, Henry (1770-1812)

Born in England, he went to sea as a boy and arrived in Australia on the First Fleet as a midshipman. Returning to England in 1791, Waterhouse then accompanied the newly appointed Governor of NSW, Captain John Hunter, to the colony. A year later in 1796 he was sent to the Cape of Good Hope to obtain livestock for the settlement, and there he obtained a flock of Spanish Merino sheep - the first to be introduced to Australia. Although only a quarter of the animals survived the journey, a number of settlers were supplied with lambs, including John Macarthur and Samuel Marsden. Waterhouse set up

his own sheep runs on a number of land grants, but found colonial life did not agree with him and returned to England in 1800.

WATSON, John Christian (1867-1941)

Born in Chile of British parents and educated in New Zealand, Watson first worked as a printing apprentice in his mid-teens. In 1886 he moved to Sydney and became a member of the Labour Leagues in 1891. His interest in politics led to his election to the NSW parliament in 1894, later being elected to the first Federal parliament. Watson was Labor leader in the 1901 government, subsequently becoming the first Labor Prime Minister of Australia in 1904 after the fall of the Deakin administration. His minority government, however, struggled against various opposition parties, particularly in trade union issues. After his deposal as party leader in 1907 and his parliamentary resignation in 1910, Watson's fall from Party grace came with his expulsion from Labor in 1916 over the issue of conscription.

WEAVER, Jacki (1947-)

Born in Sydney in 1947, her acting career began whilst still in school. Her appearance in *Cinderella* for the Phillip Street Theatre led to extensive involvement in the Old Tote Theatre Company and the Nimrod Theatre. Weaver began to branch into television work in the early 1970s, becoming well-known as a panelist on the ABC series *Would You Believe*. She also began big screen work, featuring in *Stork* (1971), *Alvin Purple* (1973), *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (1975), *The Removalists* (1975) and *Caddie* (1976). During the 1980s Weaver starred in the musical *They're Playing Our Song* and enjoyed

an extended season with John Waters in *Shadowlands*. She has continued to act in many Australian Film productions and appears on stage around the country in musicals and plays.

WEBB, Francis Charles (1925-73)

Born in Adelaide, after working in Canada and England he settled in Sydney where he began to write poetry. "A Drum for Ben Boyd" was published in serial form in the *Bulletin* before appearing in a volume of verse in 1948 which went on to win the Grace Levin Prize for poetry. Webb received a Commonwealth Literary Fund Fellowship in 1957. His other works include *Socrates and Other Poems* (1961), *Leichhardt in Theatre* (1952), *Collected Poems* (1969), and two radio plays in verse, *Birthday* (1953) and *Ghost of the Cock* (1964).

WEIR, Peter Lindsay (1944-)

Born in Sydney in 1944, Weir worked as a real estate agent, actor, TV stage-hand and writer for radio before turning to documentary films in the late 1960s. His work at the Commonwealth Film Unit led him into an eminent career as an independent director that now spans over 20 years. His output includes many pivotal films in Australian cinematic history, including *The Cars That Ate Paris* (1974), *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (1975), *Gallipoli* (1981) and *The Year of Living Dangerously* (1982). An AFI Award for *Gallipoli* confirmed his status as a leading director, leading to US productions such as *Witness* (1985), *Dead Poets Society* (1989) - both of which received Oscar nominations - and *Green Card* (1990).

WELCH, Garth de Burgh (1936-)

Born in Brisbane in 1936, he began his international career as a ballet dancer when Borovansky asked him to join his Sydney-based ballet company in 1955. Later this decade, Welch travelled overseas to dance in Paris, returning in 1962 to join the new Australian Ballet. Up until 1975, Welch was a principal dancer for the Australian Ballet, featuring in many classics such as *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Coppelia* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. Welch partnered such prima ballerinas as Margot Fonteyn, and his sometime wife, Marilyn Jones. He has danced in many modern works created especially for him by such artists such as Robert Helpmann and Graeme Murphy, also choreographing his own works. Welch and Jones ran a ballet school in Sydney for five years in the 1980s, and in 1984 Welch came out of retirement to perform in *After Venice* for the Sydney Dance Company.

WENTWORTH, D'Arcy (1762-1827)

Of Irish descent, Wentworth served as a volunteer in the American War of Independence before returning to England as a doctor's apprentice. After two court acquittals for highway robbery, Wentworth sailed for NSW in 1790. He first worked on Norfolk Island as a surgeon before moving to Parramatta in 1799. When Sydney Hospital opened in 1810, he was principal surgeon at the institution under Governor Macquarie. He also held positions as a police magistrate and superintendent of police. Wentworth's friendship with the colony's authority figures allowed him to become a founder of the Bank of NSW in 1816. He retired in 1819 with large land grants which his son, William, later inherited.

WENTWORTH, William Charles (1793-1872)

Born in Sydney, he was the eldest son of D'Arcy Wentworth. He was educated in England, returning to Australia in 1810 and becoming the first Australian born person to hold an important official position as the provost-marshal for Governor Macquarie. After crossing the Blue Mountains with Blaxland and Lawson, Wentworth returned to England in 1816 to study law, his calling to the bar occurring in 1822. Wentworth returned to the colony in 1824 and established the *Australian*, the colony's first independent newspaper. Through this medium and also through public meetings, Wentworth expressed his opinions on political and social reforms necessary for the colony's maturation. During the 1830s and 1850s, Wentworth's various political activities led to the formation of a new Legislative Council in 1842, the drafting of new constitutions and the re-evaluation of property laws. Wentworth was also a founding father of the University of Sydney.

WEST, John (1809-73)

The son of a minister, West became a Colonial Missionary in 1838, taking up the appointment of Minister of St Johns, Launceston in 1842. After a decade of intense anti-transportation campaigning from the pulpit and in newspapers, West published *A History of Tasmania*, which was one of the first works ever written on Australian history. He co-founded the *Examiner* in 1842, and his frequent contributions to the *Sydney Morning Herald* led to an appointment as the paper's first official editor in 1854. West held this position for nearly twenty years, also helping to establish the evangelical school, Camden College in Sydney.

WEST, Morris Langlo (1916-)

Born in 1916 in Melbourne, he studied for the priesthood but decided against taking his final vows. Instead, he went to war until 1943, after which he wrote for radio. Moving to Italy in 1955, West published his first book to achieve international success two years later. *Children of the Sun* was followed by several acclaimed novels, including the award winning *The Devil's Advocate*, *The Shoes of the Fisherman*, which was adapted to the screen, and *Daughter of Silence*, which was staged in the United States and Australia. West's novels explore Roman Catholicism and the nature of power, incorporating psychological drama and intrigue. After living in Europe, Britain and America for twenty years, he returned to settle in Australia in 1982.

WEST, Winifred Mary (1881-1971)

Born in England, she studied at Cambridge University, although as a woman she was not permitted to graduate. Coming to Sydney in 1907, West worked at the Australian Museum and studied art at night at Julian Ashton's school. With the aim of gathering support and funds for a girls school in Australia, West and her friend and business partner Phyllis Clubbe sailed for England in 1910. On their return two years later, they chose a site at Mittagong in NSW, and Frensham School (named after West's birthplace), was opened in 1913. By 1918 it had over a hundred students and a reputation for providing what would now be known as a progressive education. West placed much emphasis on artistic creativity and physical education, later opening another school, Sturt, which offered practical education for children intending to leave school early to become artisans. Resigning as headmistress of Frensham in

1938, West remained on the Frensham Council until 1956.

WHERRETT, Richard (1940-)

Born and educated in Sydney, he later travelled to London to attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. After his studies, Wherrett worked as a freelance director for about eight years before returning to Australia. His work with the Sydney Theatre Company, for which he is most renowned, was preceded by stints with the Nimrod and Old Tote Theatre companies during the 1970s. As director of the STC from 1979-90, Wherrett introduced a broad repertory, including new plays alongside Shakespeare. Perhaps Wherret's most famous production was *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*, first performed by the Nimrod Theatre in 1976, followed closely by productions in London and the United States. He continues to work in Sydney drama circles whilst maintaining interests overseas.

WHITE, Patrick (1912-)

Born in London in 1912 into a wealthy Australian grazier family, White came to NSW as a child and as a young man worked as a jackaroo on his parents' properties. Returning to England in 1932, he studied at Cambridge before entering World War II as an intelligence officer with the Royal Air Force. His first novels were published at this time and were well received in literary circles. White met his life partner, Manoly Lascaris, while stationed in Greece during the war, and the couple settled in Australia in 1948. *The Aunt's Story* was published that year, and whilst living on a farm at Castle Hill, White wrote *The Tree of Man* (1955), which confirmed his importance as a writer in

Australia and overseas. This was followed by the masterpieces, *Voss*, (1957) and *Riders in the Chariot* (1961), both of which won Miles Franklin Awards. As White's unique treatment of language developed through the later novels, such as *The Solid Mandala* (1966) and *The Vivisector* (1970), some critics became alienated by the seemingly obscure style. However in 1973 White was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for *The Eye of the Storm*. With the prize money, he established the Patrick White Award for Australian fiction. Although apparently averse to the attentions of the media, White was outspoken on many issues, including the Vietnam War and Aboriginal rights. He encouraged young painters and actors, professing to be envious of the colour and three-dimensionality of their artforms. White wrote a number of plays, an autobiography, *Flaws in the Glass* (1981), and collections of short stories. In the final years of his life, he cooperated with writer David Marr, who published the biography, *Patrick White: A Life*, in 1991. Patrick White died in 1990.

WHITEHEAD, John (?-1814)

His birthdate unknown, he came to Australia as a convict in 1804. The following year he was among a number of prisoners to be turned out of the colony to fend for themselves because of a food shortage in Van Diemen's Land. Refusing to return to the penal settlement when asked, he and his gang were outlawed. They turned to bushranging, looting and pillaging the homesteads of Southern Tasmania before Whitehead was fatally wounded in a shootout with police. Before he died, Whitehead asked his second-in-command to decapitate him after his death so that his body could not be officially identified and his pursuers would miss out on claiming a reward.

WHITELY, Brett (1939-92)

Born and educated in Sydney, Whitely received a travel scholarship in 1960 following his studies at the Julian Ashton Art School. During his time overseas, Whitely became popular with dealers in London particularly, gaining much publicity and attention. His intense, often tragic and sometimes surreal paintings and drawings have a wide appeal, winning him the Archibald Prize for Portraiture twice, the Wynne Prize for Landscape three times and the Sulman Prize twice. Since his death, Whitely's house has been transformed into a gallery, showcasing his work and life - a testament to his national and international fame.

WHITLAM, Edward Gough (1916-)

Born in Melbourne, Whitlam's studies led him to a brilliant career as a lawyer. However, he became interested in politics, entering the House of Representatives in 1952. Although not considered a typical Labor man, Whitlam's obvious ability led him to become deputy leader of the Federal Labor Party by 1960. Arthur Calwell's difficult election in 1966 led to his replacement by Whitlam, who at the 1972 elections claimed victory with younger candidates and more convincing policies. It was however, the inexperience of his ministers and some poor economic decisions which led to the party's eventual downfall. The many social achievements made by his government were overshadowed when Sir John Kerr used his reserve powers as Governor-General to dismiss Whitlam's government after its politically rocky ride. Whitlam retired from the parliament in 1977 and since this time has been an ambassador to UNESCO and advisor and chairperson on national commit-

tees and boards.

WHITTON, John (1820-98)

Of English birth, he moved to Australia after his training in order to take up a position as NSW Chief Engineer of Railways. His post lasted from 1855 to 1890, and during this period he directed a number of substantial projects within the Railway System, extending the main lines to the Victorian Queensland borders and designing tunnels, bridges and viaducts. Amongst his bridge designs were proposals for a suspension bridge traversing Sydney Harbour and the construction of the Hawkesbury River bridge which allowed a complete rail line from Brisbane to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. It is interesting to note that Whitton recommended the standardisation of the States' rail gauge - advice which has not been heeded to this day.

WILKINS, Sir George Hubert (1888-1958)

Born and educated in South Australia, Wilkins studied engineering before he travelled to Britain as a young man. Here he worked as a photographer and journeyed to the Arctic in 1913-16 under the command of Stefansson. Wilkins' polar travels continued in 1921-22 when he accompanied Shackleton on his last Antarctic expedition. Principally working as a photographer and naturalist up until the late 1920s, Wilkins began to pursue a career in polar aviation, making several record flights. In 1928, Wilkins specifically made a number of both Arctic and Antarctic exploratory flights. Wilkins was knighted in 1928.

WILLIAMS, Frederick Ronald (1927-82)

A Melburnian by birth, he studied art at the National Gallery and George Bell schools before travelling to London in the early 1950s. In this early period of his work, Williams focused on etchings and landscape paintings. His minimalistic style placed emphasis on the muted palette of the Australian bush. His commercial and critical success led him to pursue other subjects, winning the Helen Rubinstein scholarship on the basis of his portraiture and landscape paintings. Many of his works are held in galleries in Australia, the US and Europe.

WILLIAMS, Harold (1893-1976)

Born in Sydney, he was more interested in sport than music as a teenager, but after serving in World War I, Williams studied singing in England. His debut was made at Wigmore Hall in London a year later, and its success led to work as an operatic baritone. For the next fifteen years Williams sang with the British National Opera and at Covent Garden, forging a reputation as one of the finest soloists of the time. He visited Australia in 1929 and returned to live in Sydney during World War II, but only settled permanently in 1952 when he took the post of Professor of Singing at Sydney Conservatorium.

WILLIAMS, John Christopher (1941-)

Born in Melbourne in 1941, Williams' early interest was encouraged by his father, himself a well known guitarist in Britain. In 1952, Williams' family returned to England, whereupon he continued his guitar studies at the Royal

College of Music and also with Andre Segonia. Williams spent three years in Italy at the Accademia Chigiana from 1957-1960, during this period making his professional debut. His sparkling tone and virtuosic technique brought Williams wide acclaim, particularly as he worked not only within the classical repertoire but also as a member of the popular group Sky. He has a long-held interest in folk and non-western music, performing around the world, making television specials and directing a number of music festivals in Australia and overseas.

WILLIAMS, Robyn (1944-)

Williams was born in Wales and studied science at London University. He came to Australia and joined the ABC Radio Science Unit in 1972, becoming its executive producer in 1975. Williams' focus as a broadcaster has been to make scientific developments accessible to the broader public, which he achieved with radio shows such as *The Science Show* and *Ockham's Razor*. His community and public work has included executive positions with the Commission For the Future and The Australian Museum Trust. As well as his radio work, Williams has written several popular books on science and continues to work for the ABC in both radio and television. His achievements have been recognised by honorary doctorates from a number of Australian Universities.

WILLIAMSON, David Keith (1942-)

Born and educated in Melbourne, Williamson lectured in mechanical engineering and psychology whilst writing his first plays. Success came with *The*

Removalists (1972), for which Williamson gained commercial and critical credibility. As well as plays such as *Don's Party* (1973), *The Department* (1975), *The Club* (1977) and *Emerald City* (1987), Williamson has also written screenplays including adaptations of his own work. One of Australia's most popular dramatists, Williamson's plays enjoy almost continuous production, *Money and Friends* being the most recent work to attract audiences in Sydney and Melbourne.

WILLIAMSON, James Cassius (1845-1913)

An American by birth, Williamson's first encounter with Australia came when he toured as an actor during the 1860s and 70s. In 1880 he moved to Melbourne, leasing the Theatre Royal and forming a consortium with his two main competitors, George Musgrove and Arthur Garner. Known as "The Firm", this organisation grew substantially in its first decade of existence, controlling theatres in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. The policy of J. C. Williamson Ltd (as it was known from 1911 onward), was to bring out international artists as well as famous Australian performers who worked largely overseas. Williamson's most illustrious acts included Sarah Bernhardt and Nellie Melba. He died a wealthy man in Paris.

WILLIAMSON, Malcolm Benjamin Graham Christopher (1931-)

Born and educated in Sydney he commenced studies at the NSW Conservatorium of Music. After this, he went to Paris and then to England, where he worked as a church organist while composing in his spare time. In

1956 his efforts came to fruition with the performance of his organ work *Fons Amoris*. His music is characterised by an unwillingness to embrace either conservatism or the avant-garde. Williamson was appointed the Master of Queen's Musick in 1975 and continues to compose and perform. His works include symphonic music, operas and cantatas as well as piano and organ pieces.

WILLS, William John (1834-61)

Of English birth, Wills came to Australia in 1852 to work as a surveyor and later as a meteorologist. Having established a reputation for being hard-working, Wills found himself as second in command to Robert Burke for an exploratory mission to Central Australia. After reaching the Gulf of Carpentaria, Burke and Wills, with John King and Charles Gray, tried to return to their depot at Cooper's Creek. However, Gray died on the way, and the surviving three found the camp had been abandoned - tragically only seven hours before their arrival. The party, against Wills' wishes, continued to move southward, but to no avail. Burke and Wills died around the 30 June 1861 from starvation and sheer exhaustion, Wills' faithfulness to his headstrong leader rewarded by an untimely death.

WINDICH, Tommy (1840-76)

Born in Western Australia as one of the Kokar people, he was taken from his tribe and raised in Bunbury. Accomplished in bushcraft, Windich could also ride and shoot, and became a police tracker and guide to many government-employed surveyors. Between 1869 and 1874, he accompanied the Forrest

brothers John and Alexander on a number of expeditions. When Windich died, the brothers marked his grave with a stone that was inscribed with the words “Tommy Windich - An Aboriginal native of Western Australia of great intelligence and fidelity. “ John Forrest discovered the Windich Springs in 1874 and named them after his friend and guide.

WINSTANLEY, Eliza (1818-82)

The daughter of a back-drop painter in a Sydney theatre, she made her stage debut at 15 and from that point on was Sydney’s favourite actress. Capable of playing Shakespeare, comedy and melodrama, Winstanley could also sing, and on her marriage to musician Charles O’Flaherty, they moved to England where she continued her career success. After performing in Shakespeare productions in London and New York, Winstanley became a permanent member of the Drury Lane company. She was the first Australian performer to receive an invitation to appear at a Royal Command Performance for British monarch Queen Victoria. Retiring from the stage in 1865, for the last seventeen years of her life she published 33 novels under the nom de plume “Ariele”. Winstanley died in Sydney.

WITHERS, Walter (1854-1914)

Born in England, he studied at the Royal College of Art in London and was an established painter by the time of his emigration to Australia in 1882. He became fascinated by the bush, joining the Heidelberg School in 1889 after a sojourn in London and Paris. Withers taught painting from 1891, some of his classes being attended by the Lindsays. His works include *Breezy Day Near*

Geelong (1896), *The Coming Storm* (1898) and *The Storm*, which won him the inaugural Wynne Prize for Landscape in 1897.

WITHNELL, Emma Mary (1842-1928)

Born in Western Australia, she married John Withnell at barely 18, and six years later the couple and their two children chartered a boat to Port Hedland. They ran aground on the way, and with what was left of their possessions, the family built a small house a few kilometres inland from their unplanned landing place. Over the next 25 years the Withnells faced such hardships as cyclone and bushfire. While John ran a butcher's shop, Emma ran the property, ministering to sick Aborigines, inoculating them, delivering their babies, and becoming known to them as "Medicine Woman". Her philanthropy extended to whites when a typhoid epidemic broke out in a nearby gold-mining camp in 1887. In 1890 the Withnells retired to Emma's birthplace, Guildford.

WOODFULL, William Maldon (1897-1965)

Born in Victoria, he played cricket for his State before making his Test debut in England in 1926. He became captain of the Australian side in 1930, and that season scored 1672 runs against the English Test team. Woodfull proved his strength of character and grace under pressure as captain during the infamous "bodyline" Ashes series in Australia in 1932-33. He and Bill Ponsford formed one of the all-time greatest opening partnerships for both Australia and the Victorian team, Woodfull twice batting through an entire Test innings against England. He retired in 1934 after captaining his team to reclaim the Ashes from England after the bodyline series the season before.

WOODWARD, Roger Robert (1942-)

Woodward was born and educated in Sydney, studying music firstly at the Conservatorium of Music. He then continued his studies overseas in Poland, London and New York, using these opportunities to perform in numerous competitions. Woodward's national and international pianistic success has led to his collaboration with major orchestras across the world and also close association with many 20th Century composers. He has recorded Beethoven, Chopin, and modern works by Sculthorpe and Takenitsu, showing a broad repertoire, although he chooses more and more to concentrate in his internationally acclaimed interpretations of Chopin's music. A founder of the Sydney International Piano Competition, Woodward now manages the Sydney Spring Festival of Music and lives in London and Sydney.

WOOTTEN, Sir George Frederick (1893-1970)

Born and educated in Sydney, Wootten trained at Duntroon Military College before serving at Gallipoli and in France and Belgium during the course of World War I. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Wootten worked as a solicitor before returning to the army at the outbreak of World War II. He participated in the siege of Tobruk and, as Major-General, led the 9th Australian Division in Borneo and New Guinea. In this rank, he was involved in the Japanese surrender at Borneo at the end of the war. Wootten was appointed Chairman of the Repatriation Commission in 1945, and on his retirement in 1958 he received a knighthood.

WRAGGE, Clement Lindley (1852-1922)

Born in England and orphaned at five years old, he studied law under duress, and at 22 made his way to Australia. After several years of wandering, working as a surveyor in Australia and a meteorologist in England, Wragge inherited a fortune in 1883 and settled in Adelaide. There he indulged his greatest love: the weather. The Queensland government commissioned him to set up a meteorological centre to analyse the intriguing weather patterns of the north. In an effort to popularise his subject, Wragge gave public lectures on science, and began giving women's names to cyclones. His sun spot theory of long range forecasting was the point from which later meteorologists such as Inigo Jones continued. His fiery personality meant Wragge often clashed with his colleagues, and he was sometimes dubbed "Inclement" Wragge. He moved to New Zealand in 1908.

WRAN, Neville Kenneth (1926-)

Wran was born in Sydney and studied law, his distinguished career as a solicitor leading to his appointment as a QC in 1968. His career in politics began in 1970, firstly a member of the NSW Legislative Council in 1970 and then of the Legislative Assembly in 1973. Wran's speedy promotion to leader of the opposition resulted in a one-seat majority in 1976. His position as Premier was further enforced with landslide electoral victories in 1978 and 1981. Wran's surprise resignation in 1986 followed unsubstantiated accusations of involvement in organised crime. He still holds the record for the longest running premiership of NSW.

WREN, John (1871-1953)

Born in Melbourne, Wren's lucrative career as a sports promoter and gambler had humble beginnings in the illegal totaliser he ran in his early adulthood. Wren progressed to promoting sports events such as boxing matches. He also brought a number of racehorses, his alliance with the racing industry marred by allegations of race riggings and bribes. By 1920, Wren had interests in the media, his investments holding much sway over the political climate of Victoria. His notoriety has made him the subject of several books, including *John Wren: Gambler* (1971) by Niall Brennan.

WRIGHT, Judith Arundell (1915-)

Born in 1915 on a New England farm, Wright moved to Sydney to study. Her first published volume of poetry, *The Moving Image*, appeared in 1946, the overall theme of her work reflecting the ties she felt with the land. Her work highly regarded, Wright continued to write and publish, her books exploring the importance of the environment and natural life in Australia, and the effects of white colonisation on the land and on Aboriginal society and culture. She has also written short stories, children's fiction and non-fiction, but it is her award winning poetry which establishes her as one of Australia's leading literary figures.