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A'BECKETT, Sir William (1806-69)

Pursued a career as a barrister in London, England, before emigrating to Sydney in 1837. Was appointed unofficial Acting Solicitor General in 1841, and five years later was transferred to Port Phillip (now Melbourne) as resident judge. A'Beckett was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, which had been created after Victoria's official separation from New South Wales in 1851. He was renowned for his skill at adapting basic English law to suit colonial conditions, and presided over the trial of the Eureka Stockade rebels in 1855.

ABELES, Sir (Emil Herbert) Peter (1924-)

Born in Hungary. In 1950, a year after emigrating to Australia, he founded the transport company All-Trans which was taken over by Thomas Nationwide Transport (TNT) seventeen years later. With Abeles as managing director and deputy chairman, TNT has become one of the fastest growing transport organizations in the world, expanding overseas in the 1970s and acquiring control of Ansett Airlines of Australia in partnership with Rupert Murdoch. During the 1980s, Abeles received considerable support from the then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and by the 1987 stock market crash his personal wealth was estimated at $37 million. However the 1990s have proved less successful, with TNT announcing a loss of $200 million in 1991.

ACTON, Prudence Leigh (1943-)

Born in Benalla, Victoria and educated at the Royal Melbourne Institute of

Technology, Prue Acton has been involved in the commercial fashion field since the age of nineteen. In 1964 she opened her own fashion house, and over the next twenty years received numerous fashion awards, capturing popular support on the local market, and internationally, with substantial exports to New Zealand, the USA and Japan. She has also designed uniforms for Australian Commonwealth Games and Olympic teams.

ADAMS, George (1839-1904)

Born in Hertfordshire, England, he emigrated to New South Wales at the age of sixteen. After working on a sheep station and as a butcher and stock dealer in Goulburn for twenty years, Adams took up the licence of the Steam Packet Hotel in Kiama. In 1878 he took charge of Tattersall's in Sydney. The hotel operated a popular sweepstake in the Tin Bar which originally catered for Tattersall's Club members, but went public after Adams' takeover. His venture was extremely successful, and by 1884 he was able to purchase the hotel. The Tattersall's Sweepstakes continued to grow in popularity, and by 1890 Adams was a millionaire, his establishment becoming a favoured meeting place for the city's most prominent businessmen. He spent a further 32000 pounds on converting the Tin Bar into the famous Marble Bar, now part of the Sydney Hilton, before being compelled to relocate his business interstate as a result of religious opposition to gambling.

ADAMS, Phillip Andrew (1939-)

Born in Melbourne in 1939, Adams has worked as a journalist, a writer and an advertising executive. As a film critic and producer, he was instrumental

in revitalising the Australian film industry in the 1960s and 70s. He was a founding member of the Australia Council and the committee of the Australian Film and Television School, and was the first chairman of the Film, Radio and Television Board. His own film productions include *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie, Don's Party* and *The Getting of Wisdom.* Since devising the advertising campaign for the Labor Party in 1972, Adams has been involved in such government initiated activities as Life-Be In It, and the International Year of the Disabled (1981). Published collections of his newspaper column include *Adams With Added Enzymes* and *The Unspeakable Adams.*

ADAM-SMITH, Patricia Jean (1926-)

Born in 1926 in a remote area of Victoria, she was educated by correspondence. In 1954 she began working as a radio officer on a trading boat; the first woman to do so on an Australian vessel. She was an adult education officer in Hobart between 1960 and 67, during which time she received the first of her four literary fellowships. Her seventeen books include the autobiographical *Hear the Train Blow, an Australian Childhood* (1964), and *Folklore of Australian Railwaymen* (1969). Adam-Smith also wrote the well known book *The Anzacs*, in 1979. A year later she was awarded an OBE for services to literature.

ADAMSON, Lawrence Arthur (1860-1932)

Born 1860 in the British Isles. After an Oxford University education he began practicing law, but ill-health led to his emigration to Australia in 1885. Intending to resume his career as a barrister, Adamson was employed as a college

tutor while awaiting admittance to the bar. By the next year, he had become senior resident master at Wesley College, teaching English, history and sport, and in 1893 he was appointed resident tutor at Trinity College, Melbourne University. Five years later he became joint-headmaster of the University High School. In 1902 he returned to Wesley College as headmaster, and by the time of his retirement and death in 1932, enrollments at the college had increased by 500%. Adamson was instrumental in raising standards of teaching and extending secondary education in Victoria.

ALLEN, Peter (1944-92)

Born in country NSW, singer, song writer and pianist Allen originally performed in a double act with Chris Bell. The duo was an international success, and after parting with Bell, Allen established himself as a solo performer with such hits as "I Go To Rio" and the popular classic, "I Still Call Australia Home". His international profile led to a brief marriage with American performer Liza Minelli and residency in the United States.

ALLEN, Sir Harold Brookes (1854-1926)

Born in Victoria in 1854, he studied extensively at Melbourne University, gaining degrees in medicine, science and law. In 1882, after several years as editor of the Australian Medical Journal, he became professor of pathology and anatomy at Melbourne University. Sir Harold was involved with the Australian Red Cross, the Royal Commission into the Sanitary State of Melbourne, and was general secretary to the Intercolonial Medical Conference of 1889. From 1906 to 1924, he was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Mel-

bourne University, and died two years after his retirement.

ALLSOP, Raymond Cottam (1898-1972)

Born in Randwick, NSW, Allsop was granted an experimental radio licence in 1911, and commenced an inspired amateur career as a radio pioneer. He was among the earliest experimenters in wireless telegraphy in this country, and during World War I he worked in military radio communications. When commercial radio was established in 1923, Allsop began working as a radio engineer with 2BL, Sydney, and developed his own cinematic sound-recording technique before becoming a radar operator in World War II. After the war, he was a staunch supporter of the radio industry, and was an advocate of frequency modulation (FM) radio twenty years before its introduction in 1974.

ANDERSON, Dame Judith (1898-1992)

Born in Adelaide, she debuted on the Sydney stage in 1915, three years later moving to the United States where she achieved success on the New York stage. In 1937 she made her British theatre debut, before filming Alfred Hitchcock's acclaimed thriller *Rebecca*, for which she received an Academy Award nomination. At the age of forty-nine she played the title role in the Broadway production of Euripedes' *Medea*, a performance which won her recognition as the foremost female stage actor in America. Her other films include *Laura* (1944) and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1958). She toured Australia eight times, and was made a Dame in 1960.

ANDERSON, Keith (1898-1929)

Born in Perth, WA in 1898, he served in the Royal Flying Corps in World War I, afterwards working with Charles Kingsford Smith in West Australian Airways. In 1927, Anderson and two other aviators made the first commercial flight around Australia. When in March 1929 Kingsford Smith was reported missing shortly after departing Sydney for England in his plane, the *Southern Cross*, Anderson immediately joined the search. He and his associate were forced down in central Australia by an engine and compass malfunction, and both men died of thirst. Ironically, Kingsford Smith and his crew all survived their ordeal. The wreckage of Anderson's aircraft, the *Kookaburra*, was recovered in 1978, and is on display in Alice Springs.

ANDERSON, Sir Francis (1858-1941)

Scottish-born philosopher and educationalist, he emigrated to Melbourne in 1886 after a distinguished academic career which included working as assistant to the professor of moral philosophy at Glasgow University. Moving to NSW, he became philosophy lecturer at Sydney University in 1888. Anderson made a hugely influential speech in 1901 which was to have a lasting effect on education practices in NSW. In it, he attacked the low standard of education in public schools and demanded a higher status for teachers. His protest directly resulted in an extensive enquiry which led to profound changes in teaching methods and a complete reorganisation of the teacher-training system. He was knighted in 1936.

ANDREWS, John Hamilton (1933-)

Born in Sydney in 1933, the son of a stone-mason. Studied architecture at Sydney University, where he won a scholarship to Harvard in the United States. There he obtained his master's degree, and lectured for a time, before establishing a private practice in Canada in 1962. Andrews designed a college for the University of Toronto which was internationally acclaimed, and from 1967 to 69 he was professor of architecture at that institution. In 1970 he returned to Australia, where he has designed such buildings as the King George Tower, Sydney, and the Cameron Offices in Canberra. Andrews has many other public buildings to his name in Australia, Canada and the USA, one of which, the Canadian National Tower, is the tallest free-standing structure in the world.

ANGAS, George Fife (1789-1879)

Although one of the founders of South Australia, Angas was born in England and did not settle in the colony until 1851, almost twenty years after his great influence on the State of South Australia began. He took over his father's shipping business in 1831, and soon joined the board of the South Australian Association, arranging for the first group of settlers to sail for Adelaide in 1836. Two years later, he personally financed the immigration of 620 persecuted German Lutherans to South Australia, and assisted in founding the South Australian School Society to provide education for the children of settlers. His son emigrated in 1843, and eight years later Andrews himself sailed for Australia, settling in the Barossa region where the town of Angaston is named after him.

ANSETT, Sir Reginald Myers (1909-81)

Born in Inglewood, Victoria, he left school at fourteen to work in his parents' knitting factory. He gained his pilot's licence in 1929, but started his business career with a road transport company. He was so successful that legislation was passed preventing him from extending his existing route, so in 1936 he formed Ansett Airways and began flying between Hamilton and Melbourne. After World War II Ansett diversified his business interests to include coach services and tourism to compensate for losses caused by competition from two other airline companies, ANA and TAA (now Australian Airlines). In 1957 he bought out ANA, leaving just one major competitor. Ansett was knighted in 1969.

ANTILL, Sir John Henry (1904-86)

Born in Sydney, his early musical training was acquired at St. Andrews Cathedral School. He worked for the railways for five years before enrolling at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1921. He studied violin and composition with Alfred Hill and joined the ABC Symphony Orchestra, also working for the ABC as supervisor of music and then federal music editor from 1949 until 1968. Antill is best known for his composition *Corroboree*, begun in 1936 and first performed ten years later, conducted by Eugene Goossens. It was recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra and performed as a ballet in 1950. Antill was knighted in 1981.

ARCHER, Robyn (1948-)

Born Robyn Smith in Adelaide in 1948, she worked as a high school English teacher by day and sang in clubs at night before being invited to join the Adelaide State Opera Company in 1974. Her strong contralto voice and interpretation of Brecht operas gained her international recognition, and in 1977 she performed a season of Brecht at the National Theatre, London. She is well-known throughout Australia for her solo, cabaret-style shows, and has toured South-East Asia and the United States. She has recorded many albums and won a Performing Arts scholarship to study Brecht with the Berliner Ensemble.

ARCHIBALD, Jules Francois (1856-1919)

Born in Geelong, Victoria with the first names of John Feltham, he changed these as a young man. After a variety of jobs, he became a journalist, and in 1880 he and a colleague published the first issue of the Sydney *Bulletin.* The literary content of the journal was Archibald's responsibility, and amongst his writers were Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson. Norman Lindsay was commissioned as illustrator. The *Bulletin* became an influential reformist publication, its political and social stance reflecting the new nationalism of the period. Archibald sold his share in the Bulletin five years before his death, and in his will he made provision for an annual prize for portraiture, now the coveted Archibald Prize.

ARMSTRONG, Gillian May (1950-)

Born in Melbourne in 1950, Armstrong took private drama lessons before studying theatre costume design and film making at Technical College. She moved to Sydney in 1972, having won a scholarship to the new Australian Film and Television School. She made several films and documentaries early in her career, but the feature film *My Brilliant Career*, adapted from the novel by Miles Franklin, ensured her international acclaim in 1979. Although she has worked in Hollywood with considerable success, she dislikes the conservatism of the American film industry, choosing to continue her career in Australia.

ARNOTT, William (1827-1901)

Scottish born Arnott was an apprentice pastry-cook before emigrating to NSW to try his luck on the goldfields. He soon discovered he could earn much more from baking for the miners and in 1853 he set up a baking and confectionery business in Maitland. He moved to Newcastle in 1865, where he built his first factory in 1877, purchasing another in Sydney in 1894. Arnott's Biscuits Ltd was a family business for eighty years, and still produces three quarters of the biscuits eaten in Australia.

ARTHUR, Sir George (1784-1854)

Born in England, he succeeded William Sorell as Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land in 1824. A penal colony, Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), had considerable independence from the mainland settlements, and

under Arthur treatment of convicts was probably more severe than anywhere else in Australia. In 1832 he founded the notorious Port Arthur gaol, and around the same time decided to forcibly remove the island's entire Aboriginal population to the Tasman Peninsula. Only two were captured although Arthur had employed over 2000 men to undertake the operation. Instead, he arranged for a Methodist preacher to persuade the Aboriginals to be moved to an island in Bass Strait, and by the turn of the century the race was extinct.

ASCHE, Oscar Stanger (1871-1936)

Born in Victoria in 1871, he spent most of his life in England, also studying drama in Norway. By the late nineteenth century he was established internationally as a leading theatrical figure, particularly in Shakespearean roles. He wrote, produced and acted in *Chu-Chin-Chow,* which ran on the London stage for a record six years, and was manager of His Majesty's Theatre in London in 1907. Asche made several tours of Australia, and published his autobiography in 1929. In later life he made several films, and died in 1936.

ASHTON, Julian (1851-1942)

Came to Australia from England in 1878, and began working as an illustrator for a Melbourne newspaper. He became staff artist on the *Bulletin* after moving to Sydney, also beginning his life-long campaign for the recognition of Australian art. He advocated impressionism rather than the staid, studio-style of the day, and was president of the Art Society of NSW from 1886 until 1892. In 1896 Ashton opened his own art school from which some of Australia's most noted artists would emerge. In his capacity as trustee of the Art

Gallery of NSW he was responsible for increasing the number of Australian works purchased by the gallery.

ASKIN, Sir Robert William (1908-81)

Raised in Glebe, Sydney, he fought in New Guinea in World War II, returning home to a banking job. In 1949 he was elected as Liberal member for Collaroy, and went on to become deputy leader of the NSW Liberal Party in 1954 and its leader in 1959. He was Premier of NSW for ten years from 1965, breaking a twenty-four year spell of Labor governments. Noted for his extreme opposition to Vietnam War demonstrators, he nonetheless moved the Liberal Party's stance closer to the centre, cultivating the support of many traditional Labor followers. He was knighted in 1972 and retired three years later.

ASTLEY, Thea Beatrice May (1925-)

An arts graduate of the University of Queensland, she is the recipient of two Commonwealth Literary Fund Fellowships, and three of her many novels won Miles Franklin awards in the 1960s. She has also written several short stories and published her poetry in anthologies. She was appointed a senior English tutor at Macquarie University, Sydney in 1968 and became a Fellow in English a decade later. Astley retired in 1979, and received the Order of Australia in 1980.

ATKINS, Richard (1745-1820)

Came to Australia in 1791 after beginning his career in the British army.

Although he had no legal training, he was appointed a magistrate in Sydney and was soon promoted to registrar of the Vice-Admiralty Court. Under Governor Hunter he held several high-ranking official positions and in 1802 Atkins became Judge-Advocate despite his complete lack of legal qualification. He presided over the Rum Rebellion trials, and when in 1808 John Macarthur was tried for his part in it, Macarthur raised an objection to Atkins on the grounds of incompetence and bias. In 1809 Governor Macquarie arrived in the colony and Atkins was replaced, returning to England where he died in debt and obscurity.

AUSTRAL, Florence (1894-1968)

Born Florence Wilson in Richmond, Victoria, she began studying music at the age of seventeen. Three years later she won the Ballarat Eisteddfod, and began studying at Melbourne University Conservatorium, moving to the United States in 1919 to further her musical education and experience. Having turned down a place in the New York Metropolitan Opera, she moved to England to continue her studies in London. She adopted the surname Austral in 1922 and began her professional career singing Wagner with the British National Opera Company. She went on to appear in every Wagner opera at Covent Garden until 1940. Austral was principal soprano with the Berlin State Opera Company for a year and toured Canada and the USA before returning to Australia permanently.

AYERS, Sir Henry (1821-97)

Emigrating to Australia from England at the age of nineteen, he was elected

to the Legislative Council of South Australia in 1857 and held his seat for nearly four decades. Between 1863 and 1873 Ayers was premier of SA four times and remained a prominent figure in several other ministries in the last years of the nineteenth century. He was connected with the South Australian Mining Association for nearly half a century, and throughout his long career he strongly encouraged the exploration of central Australia. As a result of this, when William Gosse reached the world's largest monolith in 1873 he named it after Sir Henry Ayers.