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## **NAMATJIRA, Albert (1902-59)**

Born in Central Australia, Namatjira spent his early life at a Lutheran Mission near Alice Springs. He was initiated under Aboriginal tribal law as well as being baptised a Christian, the dual nature of his social standing being a difficult situation throughout his life. He was part of a Central Australian group of painters taught and encouraged by Rex Batterbee, with whom Namatjira had an association for over 20 years. It was through his watercolour landscapes that Namatjira came to wide recognition in the Australian community, he and his wife being granted Australian citizenship in 1957, before Aboriginal suffrage was introduced. Prone to alcoholism, he returned to the mission of his childhood in ill health the year of his death.

## **NEILSON, John Shaw (1872-1942)**

Born in Penola, SA into an impoverished rural family, Neilson received little formal education and worked as a labourer. In spite of his hard life, the beauty of inland Australia inspired Neilson, who won the junior prize in a poetry competition for the Australian Natives Association. After the *Bulletin* accepted one of his poems in 1896, Neilson became a regular contributor from 1901-06. Although after this period his sight began to deteriorate, he went on to publish numerous books of poetry, including *Ballads and Lyrical Poems* (1923) and *Beauty Imposes* (1938). The appearance of several posthumous volumes confirms Neilson's stature as one of the country's best lyric poets.

## **NEVILLE, Richard (1941- )**

Neville was born in Sydney, where during his university life he edited *Tharunka* and *Noise*. In 1963 he founded *Oz* magazine with friends Richard Walsh and Martin Sharp. A satirical and provocative publication, *Oz* managed to garner much controversy over its portrayal of the church, royalty and other traditional establishments. Subjects such as these led the magazine to an obscenity trial in 1964. Neville's six month sentence was later quashed, and with his move to London, he relaunched *Oz* magazine. Again the magazine was controversial, the staff being charged with "issuing a publication likely to corrupt public morals" in a notorious case in 1971. *Oz* magazine folded in 1973, and Neville returned to Australia in 1979 as a journalist. Since this time he has published a number of books, including *Playing Around* (1991).

## **NEVIN, Robyn Anne (1942- )**

After being educated in both Victoria and Tasmania, Nevin graduated from NIDA in Sydney in 1960. After some stage acting there she returned to Hobart to host radio and television shows. During the early 1970s she settled in Sydney where she gained leading roles in many plays including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Her flexibility as an actress allowed her an entrance into film, debuting in Schepisi's 1979 film *Libido*. Since then she has featured in numerous films and television programs and has won several professional awards, including three Logies.

## **NEWCOMBE, John David (1944- )**

Born in Sydney in 1944, he began playing at the age of seven, and, under the guidance of respected coach Harry Hopman, won the Australian junior title three times. Newcombe's first opportunity to represent Australia came with his selection for the 1963 Davis Cup team, which remained successful up to 1967. Newcombe won the Wimbledon singles title in 1967, 70 and 71, and the doubles title with Tony Roche and Ken Fletcher five times. After turning professional in 1968, Newcombe won eight World Championship Tennis tournament and many Open titles. After his retirement in 1975, Newcombe has since managed his extensive business interests, been president of the Association of Tennis Professionals, implemented a successful junior tennis scheme and was awarded the Order of Australia in 1989.

## **NEWTON, Albert Watson (1938- )**

Born in 1938 in Melbourne, Bert Newton began his career in the entertainment industry as a radio announcer for 3XY in 1954. His first television position came in 1957 when he joined Channel 7 Melbourne, from whence he progressed to Channel 9 in 1959. It was here that Newton appeared on the *Tonight Show*, where he established his trademark interview style, peppered with comedic touches. Later he became compere of *New Faces*, a popular talent search program. Since leaving Channel 9 in 1986, Newton has often appeared as a Master of Ceremonies at gala events and currently hosts *Good Morning Australia* on Channel 10. He has also received numerous Logie Awards during his extensive career.

## **NEWTON-JOHN, Olivia (1948- )**

Born in England, the daughter of a university professor, she migrated to Australia with her family at the age of five and settled in Melbourne. Interested in country and western music from an early age, Newton-John became a popular singer for television before travelling to England where she featured on the small screen with Cliff Richard during the late 1960s. She then moved to the United States in 1971 and returned to country music, releasing *The banks of the Ohio*, which sold over 250 000 copies. In 1978, Newton-John moved into film, when she starred in the immensely popular *Grease*, followed by *Xanadu*, another musically orientated film which propelled her into pop music stardom. Since the release of several successful albums in the 1980s, Newton-John has managed a number of international retail businesses and now appears as a presenter on Australian television.

## **NICHOLLS, Sir Douglas Ralph (1906-88)**

Nicholls was born and educated at the Aboriginal mission station at Cummeragunja in NSW. During his younger years he was particularly interested in sport, and after leaving school he played representative Australian Rules for Victoria, his nickname being "The Black Streak". In the early 1930s, Nicholls was baptised in the Church of Christ and after army service in World War II he conducted church services for Aboriginals in Fitzroy. Nicholls became increasingly involved in welfare and rights issues for Aboriginals and was subsequently awarded an OBE in 1968. He was the first Aborigine to receive a knighthood (1972) and his term as State Governor of South Australia 1976-77 was foreshortened by ill health, after which he retired.

## **NICHOLS, Isaac (1770-1819)**

Nichols was born in England and after a conviction for theft was transported to the penal colony of NSW. A few years after his arrival, Governor Hunter appointed him a convict gang overseer, and after his sentence has been completed in 1797, Nichols was granted 20 hectares of land at Concord. Following an unfair trial over stolen goods in 1799, whereupon Nichols was later pardoned by Governor Hunter, Nichols continued to farm extensively in Concord, Hunter's Hill and Petersham, his lands amounting to over 600 hectares. His position as Sydney's first postmaster came in 1809, where he directed and distributed all parcels and letters addressed to members of the colony. Under Governor Macquarie, Nichols also held the position of Superintendent of Convicts.

## **NICHOLSON, Sir Charles (1808-1903)**

He migrated from England to Australia in 1834 and became involved in the cultural and social life of Sydney soon after his arrival. He was a member of the Legislative Council from 1843-1856 and had a great enthusiasm for the University of Sydney. His interest in the institution led him to donate his personal collection of Egyptian, Roman, Greek and Etruscan artifacts which were purchased from his private wealth. After the separation of the colony of Queensland in 1859, Nicholson became a member of its Legislative Council. He then returned to England in 1862 and spent the remainder of his life promoting Australia through writings and lectures.

## **NILAND, D'Arcy Francis (1917-67)**

Niland was born in Glen Innes NSW and held a variety of manual jobs, including opal mining and shearing before he began writing seriously. Niland produced a number of radio scripts and stories before his first novel *The Shiralee* (1955) achieved instant success. In 1956 he wrote a joint autobiography, *The Drums Go Bong*, with his wife, author Ruth Park, which was succeeded by *Call Me When The Cross Turns Over* (1957) and *The Big Smoke* (1959). Niland received numerous literary awards and had both *The Shiralee* and *Dead Man Running* adapted to the screen.

## **NOFFS, Theodore Delvin (1926-94)**

Better known as “Ted”, Noffs was born in Sydney and after an education at Parramatta High School and Sydney University, where he studied as an engineer, he became a trainee minister for the Methodist Church. After working for the Far West Mission he was ordained in 1952 and became a minister for parishes in NSW and in Chicago, USA. He returned to Sydney and started the Wayside Chapel in 1964; the first “drop-in” centre in the world, containing a cafe, counselling centre, chapel and theatre. Noffs went on to set up Lifeline, and emergency telephone counselling service, and Australia’s first drug referral centre located in Kings Cross. Noffs suffered a severe stroke in 1987 and since his death in 1994 his work has been continued by his son and his wife, Margaret.

## **NOLAN, Sir Sidney Robert (1917-92)**

Born in Melbourne, Nolan studied at a number of technical colleges and also at the National Gallery. After working for a hat factory, he became more settled on a painting career, sharing a studio and working with experimental styles. Nolan was influenced by his first patron John Reed, who encouraged him and purchased many of his paintings. A series of vivid wheatfield landscapes was succeeded by the Ned Kelly series in 1945, which won him significant renown. The celebration of such potent Australian imagery and mythology evident in both of the Kelly series is threaded throughout most of Nolan's work. He was awarded many art prizes and honorary doctorates, and was knighted in 1983.

## **NORMAN, Gregory John (1955- )**

A Queeslander by birth, Greg Norman gave up his childhood interest of surfing at the age of sixteen. Norman decided to concentrate on golf, his mother being an avid golf player herself. When he was twenty, Norman turned professional and in 1976 won his first major tournament, the West Lakes Classic in Adelaide. By 1980 he had gained his nickname "The Great White Shark" and was the highest money-earner on the European Golf Circuit. During the 1980s, Norman won the Australian Open three times, and also won the Italian and French Opens, the Australian PGA four times and the Australian Masters five times. Although his career has been somewhat hampered by new players and inconsistency in form, Norman, who is now based in the United States, is still a top prize winner on the International Golf Circuit.



## **NORTON, John (1858-1916)**

Norton, a colourful character, was born in England and moved to Australia in 1884. He worked as a reporter for the *Evening News* and became associated with the colony's labour movement. In 1890 he began writing for *Truth* where Norton made a number of contentious remarks about Queen Victoria, bringing him notoriety. His election to the Sydney City Council and the New South Wales Parliament, where he often appeared drunk, allowed him to seize full control of *Truth*. On the back of the newspaper's lewd and often fabricated stories, normally featuring prominent people, Norton amassed a fortune by blackmailing the aforesaid people, demanding money if they did not wish the usually scandalous story to be published in *Truth*. His wife left him in 1915 and Norton died the following year of renal cirrhosis.

## **NOSSAL, Sir Gustav Joseph Victor (1931- )**

Born in Austria in 1931, he studied at the University of Sydney where he graduated in Science, Medicine and Surgery. His post-graduate studies at Melbourne University led to the awarding of a PhD in 1960. It was at this university that Nossal was appointed Professor of Medical Biology in 1965, simultaneously commencing his directorship of the Institute of Medical Research. Nossal's research has centered largely on antibodies, the nature of cells and immunology. During the 1970s and 80s, he published a number of scientific papers and was declared a Fellow and Associate of many internationally based scientific societies and academies. Nossal was knighted in 1977.

## **NOYCE, Phil (1950- )**

Born in 1950 in Sydney, Noyce was one of the first students to attend the Australian Film and Television School. He began making films during his time as a student in the early 1970s, and soon after he had graduated, Noyce received two Australian Film Institute awards in 1977 and 78 for documentary work that he had undertaken. His film *Newsfront* (1978) brought the director international attention, winning all the major AFI awards and was successful at the Cannes Film Festival in France and other international festivals. The following feature film made by Noyce, *Heatwave* (1982), was subsequently selected to screen during the Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Festival. Since this time, Noyce has been heavily involved in television directing, although he has continued his interest in film-making.