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TAYLOR, Florence Mary (1879-1969)

Came to Australia with her family as a small child. Prematurely orphaned, Taylor had to care for two younger sisters while working as a clerk in an architecture firm and studying architecture at night school. Prevented from entering that faculty at Sydney University because of her sex, she spent ten years as a wife, during this time becoming the first woman to fly a glider in 1909. Taylor re-applied to university in 1920, and hence became the first female student of architecture in Australian history. Her outspoken, anti-establishment views created long-term friction between herself and her educators, but her unmistakable talent and hard work led her to become an expert on town planning. Awarded an OBE in 1939, she was dubbed “The Empire’s Most Remarkable Woman” in 1955.

TAYLOR, George Augustine (1872-1928)

Born in Sydney, he became a freelance cartoonist, contributing to the *Bulletin* and to London *Punch* - the first Australian to have illustrations accepted by England’s leading satirical magazine. Taylor also worked for London *Studio* and founded his own journal in 1898 entitled *Ha-Ha*. With the turn of the century, he began experimenting in the field of aerodynamics, building the first aircraft factory in the southern hemisphere and co-founding the Aerial League of Australia. The first recorded flight in Australian history took place in 1909, Taylor launching his home-made biplane glider, closely followed by his wife, Florence. Also interested in wireless communication, Taylor was one of the first to demonstrate that pictures could be transmitted via wireless.

TAYLOR, Leslie (1888-1927)

Notorious underworld crime figure Squizzy Taylor was born in Melbourne and worked as a jockey. By the age of 19, Taylor had been convicted of a number of charges including assault. After two murder acquittals, Taylor began a profitable jury-rigging business and adopted American criminal tactics, hiring willing conmen to operate on his behalf. Taylor's criminal activities covered gambling, pimping for prostitutes, race-fixing, illegal liquor and armed robberies. Until his death in a shoot-out with gangster John Cutmore, Taylor was considered the leader of organised crime in Melbourne.

TAYLOR, Sir Patrick Gordon (1896-1966)

Born in Sydney, Gordon Taylor's aviation career began with the Royal Flying Corps in World War I, for which he was awarded the Military Cross. After working in England, Taylor returned to Australia to work for Australian National Airways, and after it folded in 1932, he continued to work with both Charles Ulm and Kingsford-Smith. During the 1930s Taylor flew with Kingsford-Smith in the first flight from Australia to America, and performed his most daring aviation feat in 1935 when the two men crossed the Tasman on their way from England to New Zealand with oil leaking from their engines. Taylor climbed onto the wing five times to replace the oil and was awarded the George Medal for his bravery. He continued his career flying for the RAAF and commercial operators, receiving a knighthood in 1954.

TEBBUTT, John (1834-1916)

Born in Windsor, NSW, Tebbutt began his involvement in astronomy using simple navigation equipment. He went on to construct an observatory at his home in 1861, in this year discovering the orbit of a comet later named after him. In 1879 he built a larger observatory, which greatly assisted his studies, allowing him to observe various phenomena such as double and variable stars, the transit of Venus and the movement of moon satellites. His work was published in over 300 papers, featuring in both Australian and British scientific journals. In 1908, Tebbutt wrote *Astronomical Memoirs*, an account of his life's work, its importance commemorated on the first 100 dollar notes printed during the 1980s.

TENNANT, Kylie (1912-88)

Although born in Sydney, Tennant's life experience in country towns is reflected in her literature, her first novel being published in 1935 under the title *Tiburón*. Her impressions of the Great Depression supplied much of the inspiration for this novel, and also for her award-winning, *The Battlers*. Following this tale of migrant workers, Tennant then wrote about World War II in *The Joyful Condemned* (1953). During the late 1960s, she lived in Sydney slums to gain experience of the world of homeless youth and petty criminals featured in *Tell Morning This* (1967). Tennant also wrote a number of other novels, plays, children's books and non-fiction works.

THERRY, John Joseph (1790-1864)

Of Irish descent, Father Therry was sent to Australia after his ordination in 1815 as a Roman Catholic chaplain to the colony. Sometimes the only Catholic priest in NSW, he was a strong campaigner for the rights of underprivileged people, and after the setback of his suspension by Governor Darling in 1826, Therry went on to work in Hobart and Melbourne during the 1840s. During his early years of work, Therry founded the Church of St Mary in Sydney. This church later became the city's Roman Catholic cathedral, establishing the Catholic religion firmly within the social structure of the young colony.

THIELE, Colin (1920-)

Born in South Australia in 1920, Thiele has lived and worked in that State for his entire life. Educated at Adelaide University, Thiele's teaching career was postponed during his World War II service with the RAAF. He then worked in the education profession until 1980, moving from teacher, to high school principal and then director of a Teacher's College. It was during this time that Thiele began his prolific literary career. His output of children's books includes the highly successful *Storm Boy* (1963) and *Blue Fin* (1969), *The Fire in the Stone* (1973), (all three of which were later filmed), and *The Valley Between* (1981), which won the Children's Book of the Year Award. Thiele has also written poetry, radio plays, short stories and non-fiction.

THOMPSON, Jack (1940-)

Born John Payne in Sydney, he worked in a number of jobs in the outback,

particularly as a jackaroo in the Northern Territory. It was at this time that Thompson began acting with the Triangle Repertory Company. After studying at University, Thompson first gained recognition as Major Erskine in *Spyforce* (1971-72). In tandem with his television career, he branched into screen acting, featuring in many Australian productions such as *Caddie* (1976) and *The Club* (1980). Thompson made a 26 part TV series entitled *Jack Thompson Down Under*, which was broadcast in a number of other countries. His more recent films include *The Sum of Us* (1995), with Russell Crowe.

THOMSON, Peter William (1929-)

Born in 1929 in Melbourne, his interest in golf began at an early age. His talent came to national attention when he finished as the top amateur golfer in the 1948 Australian Open. By 1950 Thomson had turned professional, his first major win being the New Zealand Open, followed by his 1954 win at the British Open. Thomson was the first Australian golfer to achieve this result, after his earlier attempts resulting in two runner-up positions in the tournament. He went on to win four more times from 1955-65. He retired in 1979.

THORNTON, Sigrid (1959-)

Born in Canberra, she spent most of her childhood in England before returning to Australia in her teens. Her acting interest began by being focused on theatre work, but her discovery at age 13 by a talent scout led to regular appearances in such television series as *Homicide* and *Division 4*. Established within TV circles, Thornton then moved into films with *The Getting of Wisdom* (1977). Gaining international success with *The Man From Snowy*

River (1982), she moved to the United States in the late 1980s where she starred in the TV program *Paradise*. Since then, Thornton has spent time there and also back in Australia working on infotainment shows and narrating documentaries as well as continuing her acting career with television drama such as *Whipping Boy* (1996).

THRELKELD, Lancelot Edward (1788-1859)

Ordained by the London Missionary Society in 1815, he came to Australia two years later and after a period in the Society Islands returned to the mainland to establish an Aboriginal mission. The first settler to make a serious study of the Aboriginal language, Threlkeld published an Aboriginal grammar in 1834. He was also the first to transcribe the language into written form, and his achievements were recognised by the London Ethnological Society in 1851. Threlkeld continued his studies and his missionary work long after government funding had ceased. His diaries and observations were collected and published as *Australian Reminiscences and papers of L. E. Threlkeld: missionary to the Aborigines, 1824-59*.

THRING, Francis William (1883-1936)

Born in NSW, he became a vaudeville performer before buying into the Hoyts cinema firm. Selling his Hoyts holdings in 1931, he used the money to renovate His Majesty's Theatre in Melbourne, renaming it Efftie Studios. There Australia's first sound film, *Diggers*, was produced. *The Sentimental Bloke* (1931) is an example of the output of Thring's studios which was generally as popular in England as in Australia. Also interested in live theatre, he pro-

duced local works and classics, bringing overseas performers to Australia. In 1935 Thring opened the radio station 3XY in Melbourne.

TIMMS, Edward Vivian Thomas (1895-1960)

Born in Queensland and educated in Western Australia, he saw active service in World War I before settling in Sydney in 1925 to pursue a writing career. He wrote historical novels with exotic settings such as Italy and the West Indies, as well as a weighty Australian saga in twelve volumes, begun in 1949 and finished after Timms' death by his widow in 1971. Other books include *The Cripple in Black* (1930) and *Alicia Deane* (1931).

TORRENS, Sir Robert Richard (1814-84)

Born in Ireland he was educated in Dublin and worked as a customs clerk in London before taking up an appointment as Customs Collector in SA in 1840. In 1851 he was elected to the Legislative Council, and when SA gained independence as a State in 1857 Torrens became Colonial Secretary and then Premier of the new parliament. In the brief time he held government, Torrens introduced the Real Property Act, which later became known as the Torrens System, replacing the old deed system of transferring land with a single publicly registered document recording all transfers and mortgages. The legislation was later passed by the other States, and was also adopted in many countries around the world. In 1863 Torrens returned to England and to English politics.

TORRES, Luis Vaez de

Nothing is known of the Spaniard's life before 1605, when he was placed in command of one of three ships which set out to find the Great South Land. Reaching the New Hebrides, (now named Vanuatu) in 1606, Torres was separated from the expedition leader during a storm, and, without realising that Terra Australis Incognita lay just to the south, he became the first European to navigate the strait separating Papua New Guinea from the "unknown south land". He turned north, rounding Papua New Guinea and reaching the Philippines in 1607. The strait now bears his name.

TOWNS, Robert (1794-1873)

Born in England, he ran away to sea as a boy. From 1827, Towns made regular voyages to Australia, and fifteen years later he settled in Sydney. Having established a shipping and trading business, Towns & Co. , he expanded his interests to embrace Melanesian coconut plantations and whaling. The 1860s saw Towns extending his land holdings into Queensland, by the end of the decade owning more than 9000 square kilometres of sheep grazing property. As his involvement with Queensland grew, Towns realised the need for a port on the coast of northern Queensland. He and an associate chose a site on Cleveland Bay, and the settlement was named Townsville in 1865. Remaining a high-flying figure in Sydney, Towns was active in State politics, became President of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, and was one of the first members of the Sydney Yacht Squadron.

TRAEGER, Alfred Herman (1895-1980)

Born in Victoria, he became an electrical engineer and in 1926 went to the Reverend John Flynn's Australian Inland Mission to install a radio link to isolated bush communities. There Traeger developed the pedal wireless which was to revolutionise communications in the outback. For the purpose of providing power for the radio, he converted a handle-operated generator to one which was pedal operated, thereby leaving the hands free to transmit messages. His invention was capable of transmitting signals over distances of approximately 500km, and by the early 1930s most remote stations and missions within this range of the base transmitter had been provided with a pedal wireless. A short time later Traeger developed a type-writer style keyboard to avoid the difficulty of all operators having to be conversant in Morse Code.

TRAVERS, Pamela Lyndon (1906-)

A Queenslander by birth, Travers' first literary efforts consisted of poetry, some of which was published in the anthology *Poetry in Australia* (1923). By the mid 1920s she had moved to England, having a varied career as a dancer and actor as well as a writer and journalist. Travers began writing children's books, the genre in which she later became most popular in the 1930s. It was at this time that she wrote the *Mary Poppins* series (1934-38), later writing other works such as *Happy Ever After* (1940), *The Fox at the Manger* (1962) and *Two Pairs of Shoes* (1980). Since World War II, Travers has lived and worked in the US as both a British public servant, and writer-in-residence at a number of colleges and universities.

TRUGANINI (1812?-76)

A member of the Bruny Island people, Truganini was taken with her husband by George Robinson to assist in rounding up the rest of the Aboriginal population - partly to protect them from massacre at the hands of European sealers and whalers, and partly to instill in them European habits. The settlement on Flinders Island, however, failed miserably, with many of the Aborigines dying of disease under Robinson's well-meaning custody. By 1838, Truganini had accompanied Robinson to Port Phillip to attempt to repeat the experiment. Truganini became part of a defiant core group which was sent back to Flinders Island and then to Oyster Bay. She was considered the last full-blooded Tasmanian Aborigine alive by 1873. Her bones were displayed in museums for most of this century, but in 1976 Aboriginal rights workers cremated them and scattered the ashes near her birthplace.

TRUMPER, Victor Thomas (1877-1915)

Born in Sydney, he began playing cricket at school and was chosen for the State team at the age of 17. His consistently fine batting performances led to his selection in the national side, and in 1899 he toured England, making 135 not out at one Test match at Lords. Playing in England again in the 1902 Test series, Trumper made a total of eleven centuries - one of them before lunch. He achieved an average of 94 during the 1910-11 series against South Africa. Considered the finest batsman of his period, Trumper's premature death came at the age of 37 from Bright's disease.

TUCKER, Albert (1914-)

Born in Melbourne in 1914, Tucker was a freelance writer and illustrator in the Depression years, having had no formal art training. He pursued his love of painting, becoming influenced over the years by surrealism and expressionism, attracting harsh criticism from conservative art circles. While President of the Contemporary Art Society, Tucker frequently stated his case in the progressive magazine *Angry Penguins*. He lived and worked in Europe from 1947, exhibiting in such cities as London, Amsterdam and Paris, later holding an exhibition in New York before returning to Australia in 1960. From that time on Tucker's painting has received greater recognition, his work depicting the harsher aspects of Australian life and history with an aggressive and confrontational style.

TUCKWELL, Barry Emmanuel (1931-)

Born in 1931 in Melbourne, he studied music on a scholarship at Sydney Conservatorium, majoring in French horn. By the age of 15 Tuckwell was taking casual work with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, later becoming principal horn with both the SSO and the Melbourne Symphony. From 1955 he was lead horn-player with the London Symphony Orchestra, serving for a period as Chairman of Directors of that orchestra and at the same time taking the post of Professor of Horn at the Royal Academy of Music. Tuckwell became an internationally acclaimed soloist and recording artist, branching into the field of conducting in the late 1970s, working with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for three years in the early 1980s. He was awarded the

Order of Australia in 1992.

TURNER, Ethel Sibyl (1872-1958)

Born in England she came to Australia with her parents at the age of nine. While still a teenager Turner began publishing a monthly magazine with her sister, and was later employed by the *Illustrated Sydney News* to write a children's page. She wrote her first novel at the age of 21; *Seven Little Australians*, and its sequel *The Family at Misrule*, written the following year, was an instant success in both Australia and England. They were followed by over thirty books in as many years, most of them for children. These include *The Little Larrikin* (1896), a travel book, *Ports and Happy Havens* (1912), and many volumes of short stories and poetry. Turner's best-loved work is still her first. *Seven Little Australians* was made into a film in 1939, a BBC TV serial in 1953 and later.