

BUSH BOYS

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Explorers

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The Official Magazine of Father James Tierney's Bush Boys Books

Camping Characters

Catechesis on Five Fingers

WHO CAN COME ON A BUSH CAMP?

Tick off answers on the five fingers:

THUMB:

Only those whose attitude is **safety first**: no accidents!

FOREFINGER:

Only those who try to keep the **Ten Commandments**.

LONG FINGER:

- ◆ Only those who consistently **show goodwill**:
- ◆ Co-operative, not difficult to get on with
- ◆ Obedient, not stubborn
- ◆ Cheerful, not moody, gloomy or grumpy
- ◆ Smiling, not grim or scowling
- ◆ Encouraging, not belittling
- ◆ Eager to help, not standing by uselessly
- ◆ Good natured, not bad tempered
- ◆ Self-controlled, not quick tempered or short tempered
- ◆ Easy going, not hard to live with
- ◆ Peacemaker, not quarrelsome
- ◆ Willing worker, not lazy
- ◆ Safety conscious, not reckless

RING FINGER:

Only those who:

- ◆ **Answer properly** when spoken to
- ◆ **Obey, at once**

LITTLE FINGER:

Only those who already have the **basic training**:

- ◆ Camping knowledge
- ◆ Camping skills
- ◆ Some camping equipment
- ◆ Willing to eat camp cooking



Father James Tierney -
before he needed
spectacles



Father James Tierney — retired Parish Priest,
Catechetics Consultant and Author.

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The Books by Father James Tierney

- Bush Boys (\$5)
- Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys (\$2)
- Bush Boys and Bush Rangers (\$10)
- Bush Boys on the Move (\$15)

Catholic Family Catechism Disciples' Edition with
50 Questions and Answers. (\$5)

All available from Cardinal Newman Faith
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Email: fr@cardinalnewman.com.au

Edited by Sue and Andy Elvis

Email: elvisfamily@optusnet.com.au

Finding the Way Without a Compass

Use a Compass Plant!

Eucalypts are compass plants. To obtain light, Eucalyptus leaves turn their flat surfaces towards the morning and evening sunlight. The leaves are then pointing either North or South. At midday, the leaves are turned edgewise to avoid the heat of the noon sun.

Lichens and mosses grow in the greatest numbers on the shaded sides of trees ie the south side.

In older trees, the annual growth rings (have a look at a stump) are larger on the side that faces the Equator.

Flowering plants generally face the main course of the sun to flower better ie they face north.

Find North Using A Watch:

See Fr Tierney 's *Bush Boys* book for instructions p 28



If you do not have an analogue watch, draw a clock face and mark on the hands at the correct time and then proceed according to Fr Tierney 's instructions.

Alternate instructions: Fr Tierney says: "To find north from digital watches, use the fact that the sun seemingly moves at 15° per hour across the sky; and that $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ is roughly the angle between thumb and little finger held at arm 's length. See pictures in *Bush Boys on the Move* p. 492. Thus at 2 p.m. for example, the sun is $2 \times 15^\circ$ past north; therefore north is 30° to the right of the sun. This is an angle of a bit less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ handspans of the outstretched fingers. Such body angles need to be personalised to allow for individual variation. "

Test This One Out!

Churches are often built on an east to west line. The bell-tower is often at the western end. Next time you are in town, take your compass with you and check the orientation of all the churches.

Father Tierney adds: "The eastern orientation of churches emphasizes the rising of the sun as a symbol of Christ the Daystar coming again each day, a symbol of a symbol of His Second Coming. Mass with the priest facing east, leading the people to the altar, is linked with this. Pope Benedict XVI prefers this orientation, using body language as theological signs for man 's adoration of God, rather than that of the community absorbed in itself. "

Potatoes Cooked in the Ashes

- ◆ Select large new potatoes.
- ◆ Rake away ashes of the fire and dig a little shallow pit.
- ◆ Line it with warm ashes and pack the potatoes in a single layer.
- ◆ Put another layer of hot ashes free from coals over them and on top light the fire for cooking dinner.
- ◆ Give the potatoes at least one hour to cook and at the end of that time test them with a small, stiff twig.
- ◆ After removing the potatoes from the ashes, dust and clean them, split them lengthwise and serve with a dab of butter on each half.

*"Good camping food is
nutritious, cheap to buy, light to
carry, easy to package,
prepare and wash up"*

Wattle Day



September 1 is Wattle Day!

- ◆ The first Wattle Day was celebrated on 1 September 1910 in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.
- ◆ Celebration of Wattle Day reached its height during World War 1. On that day, wattle sprigs were sold to raise funds for the war effort. Soldiers in hospitals overseas, received boxes of wattle sent from Australia. It became the custom to enclose a wattle sprig with each letter to a soldier to remind him of home.
- ◆ On September 1 1988, the Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha* was proclaimed Australia's national floral emblem.



Wattle Church

Australia! Australia! so fair to behold
While the blue sky is arching above;
The stranger should never have need to be told,
That the Wattle-bloom means that her heart is of gold,
And the Waratah red blood of love.
From Henry Lawson's poem "Waratah and Wattle" 1905

Did You Know?

- ◆ Australians representing their country in international sporting events usually wear the colours green and gold. These colours are said to be based on the flowers and leaves of the wattle.
- ◆ The wattle gets its name from the building method known as "wattle and daub". Early settlers used black wattle to build the walls of their huts using the wattle and daub method because these plants were plentiful and their cut stems were flexible. Because of this, the name "wattle" was given to the Acacia family. The interesting fact is that the black wattle is not a wattle at all and Acacias were never used in early Sydney times though they were used at a later date.
- ◆ Wattle blossoms are found on the Australian Coat of Arms and the Order of Australia.
- ◆ The Queen has a favourite Golden Wattle brooch. She wears this when she wants to identify with Australia. Her 1954 coronation dress was embroidered with all the flowers of the Commonwealth including the wattle.
- ◆ It is said that there is a wattle flowering somewhere in Australia at any time of the year.

Find out more about wattle:

- ◆ Find out what makes a wattle
- ◆ Draw some local species
- ◆ Find out the uses of the wattle

Visit the website:

www.worldwidewattle.com/schools/australia

Wattle and Daub

This is the oldest known building method for making a weatherproof structure. Branches and saplings are cut and woven onto wooden frames to create panels called wattles. These panels are then daubed with mud to fill the gaps. A hut could be built in a day and dried out at night by burning a fire inside.

" For the first time, they noticed red tipped gum leaves, with here and there a hint of golden light, as of a glory that was veiled — for a moment.

Beneath were several sorts of wattle, some pale gold and others the rich yellow of old gold.

There were several bushes with little blue flowers, and the sweet scent of honey filled the air. The beauty seized their souls and held them spellbound. "



Chapter 10, DOWN KOALA CREEK—BUSH BOYS

The Wombat — The World's Rarest Large Mammal

- ◆ Wombats are Australian marsupials.
- ◆ They are the world 's largest burrowing mammals. The female wombat has a pouch that faces backwards to prevent dirt from entering it when it is burrowing.
- ◆ Wombat young are called joeys.
- ◆ We tend to think of the wombat as slow and docile but when they need to, they can get up quite a speed. They can cover 100m in less than 10 sec, which is as fast as the fastest Olympian sprinter!
- ◆ Because wombats have a habit of going through an obstacle rather than around it, they have gained a reputation for being rather stupid. Actually, they are quite intelligent animals. They are however stubborn and refuse to change their course preferring to use their great strength to move whatever lies in their way.
- ◆ This tendency to plough down everything in sight has led to them being labelled as pests by farmers who object when they find yet another section of their fence no longer standing. Sometimes frustrated farmers resort to poisoning wombats.
- ◆ A wombat spends ¾ of its time in its burrow. A resting wombat can lower its metabolism by a third slowing its heartbeat and respiration in order to conserve energy.
- ◆ We have all seen wombats lying on the side of the road with their legs in the air: failed attempts to cross the road. But did you know that a relaxed wombat will also assume this position!
- ◆ The wombat we are most likely to see is the common wombat.
- ◆ The northern hairy nosed wombat is the rarest Australian marsupial and probably the world 's rarest large mammal. It is classified as critically endangered.
- ◆ The northern hairy nosed wombat is presumed extinct in NSW.
- ◆ Wombats have to compete with introduced species such as cattle, sheep and rabbits for food. This has led to the decline of the northern hairy nosed wombat in NSW.
- ◆ The natural habitat of the wombat is disappearing due to land clearing.
- ◆ Since 1970, wombats have been protected in NSW.



The Wombat

The wombat lives across the seas,
Among the far Antipodes.
He may exist on nuts and berries,
Or then again on missionaries;
His distant habitat precludes
Conclusive knowledge of his moods,
But I would not engage the wombat
In any form of mortal combat.

Ogden Nash

Religion In Code

JMJ stands for **Jesus, Mary and Joseph**, the Holy Family.

AMDG stands for the Latin, *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*, **To the greater glory of God**; though it is often roughly translated, **All My Deeds for God.** ”

IOGD stands for the Latin, *In omnibus glorificetur Deus*, **In all things may God be glorified**, which was the motto of St Benedict, A.D. 480-550; the patron saint of Europe.

From Catholic Family Catechism Disciples ' Edition with 50 Questions and Answers by Fr James Tierney.

Want to know more ?

Print off a fact sheet from the NSW Parks and Wildlife website:

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Visit the Wombania information center's website: www.wombania.com

“The wilderness has rules of her own “

Answer - Fallen Word Puzzle Page 7:

food.

Never get parted from your knapsack, nor from the

Answer - Fallen Word Puzzle Page 5:

The Lost Child

Frederick McCubbin (1855–1917), painted many scenes of the bush. One of his most famous works is *The Lost Child*. This painting was inspired by an incident which occurred in May 1885: Twelve year old Clara Crosbie was found alive after being lost in the bush for three weeks.

In the middle distance of the painting, there is a child. She has just started to cry as she realises she has become lost. We can tell that she hasn't been lost for very long because her clothes are still in good condition and she still clutches a bunch of wildflowers in the fold of her pinafore. Perhaps she became lost as she wandered through the bush collecting the flowers.



Finding Clara Crosbie

After three weeks lost in the bush 1885

View *The Lost Child* online and look out for a copy for your collection

Q 42: How do we avoid getting lost?

We avoid getting lost by following a good leader, not splitting up the party, navigating by creeks and ridges, map and compass, sun and stars. (ABC of Camping)

Scroggin

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Granola
- 1/2 cup Peanuts
- 1/2 cup Sultanas
- 1 cup favourite cereal
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup favourite small dry snack

Preparation:

- ◆ Mix everything in a bowl or put in a large ziplock bag and shake.
- ◆ Add anything extra you want as long as it's dry.

With trail mix it's hard to go wrong!
Enough for a long trip or to share!

Scroggin

Greg was delighted. "Congratulations, everyone, and a full dose of Scroggin all round."

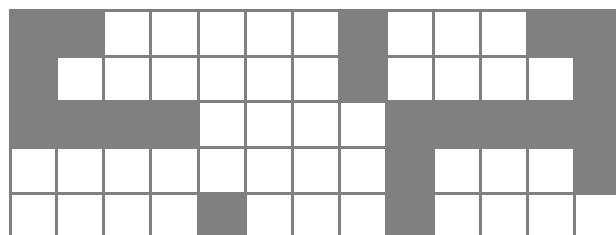
Bernie knew which pocket of Greg's knapsack to find it. He poured out the doses into six grubby hands.

"What's it made of?" wondered Kev.

"Can't you see?" scoffed Bernie. "It's a sort of chocolate Muesli: small bits of chocolate, peanuts, chopped apricot, salt, glucose powder – a teaspoon of this and you'll go like a rocket all day. And you've got a tablespoon."

Bush Boys On The Move

Chapter 14, PP179



E C

N E T E H R O

P A R Y O R K E O O

F N A P S T U R G F O M

K R O M V A D E F N T R D

Fallen Phrase Puzzle

The letters have fallen vertically down from this puzzle. See if you can reassemble the letters in their correct places to form a piece of Bush Boys advice.

(Answer shown on Page 4)

Top Knots

Get out your copy of Fr James Tierney 's *The Bush Boys* and learn some new knots.

Use your knots to:

- ◆ Make a friendship bracelet. Use string, coloured cord, embroidery thread etc to tie a bracelet using a selection of your favourite knots.
- ◆ Make some edible knots using this pretzel recipe.

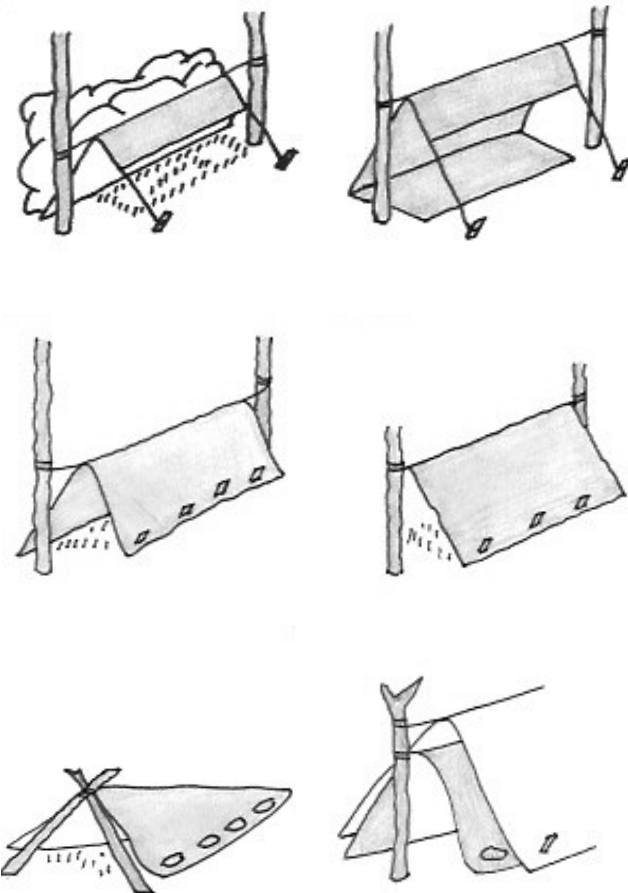
Having trouble with your knots? Visit a website with animated knots.

Eg www.42brghtn.mlstral.co.uk

Top Knots

Some quick and easy ways to make a shelter using a rope and a waterproof sheet such as a groundsheet or a tarpaulin.

See Bush Boys PP332 for appropriate knots



Pretzels

2 cups warm water
2 packs dried yeast
1/3 cup sugar
2 tsp salt
¼ cup soft margarine or oil
1 egg
approx. 6 ½ cups plain flour

Put water in a large bowl and sprinkle in yeast.

Stir before adding sugar, salt, oil, beaten egg and 3 cups flour.

Beat until smooth. Add enough additional flour to make a stiff dough.

Cover bowl tightly with aluminium foil and refrigerate for 2-24 hrs.

Turn out dough onto floured board. Roll pieces of dough into thin sausage shapes and tie into knots.

Place knotted pretzels on lightly greased baking sheets.

Glaze pretzels and sprinkle with coarse salt.

(Glaze: 1 egg yolk and 2 Tbsp water)

Bake at 200° C for 20-25 mins.

Fire Danger Ratings

We have all seen bush fire ratings signs, but do you know what the fire danger index means?

Low – Moderate

On these days a fire will either go out or be easily put out.

High

On these days a fire may need extra effort to manage it.

The fire can be either put out rapidly or managed with bush around it in cooler weather in the evening or on the next day. A house could be threatened.

Very High

Fires start to move more quickly and are more intense.

Sparks and embers occur and property can be threatened.

A house with proper safeguards can be protected if the householder is present.

Extreme

On these days there is a risk of a severe wildfire. A fire becomes uncontrollable very quickly, and it is impossible to put out, even in low-fuel areas.

Australia's State Emblems

Australian Capital Territory

Animal: No official emblem
 Floral: Royal Bluebell
 Bird: Gang-Gang Cockatoo

New South Wales

Animal: Platypus
 Floral: Waratah
 Bird: Kookaburra

Northern Territory

Animal: Red Kangaroo
 Floral: Sturt's Desert Rose
 Bird: Wedge-Tailed Eagle

Queensland

Animal: Koala
 Floral: Cooktown Orchid
 Bird: Brolga

South Australia

Animal: Hairy-Nosed Wombat
 Floral: Sturt's Desert Pea
 Bird: Piping Shrike (unofficial)

Tasmania

Animal: Tasmanian Devil (unofficial)
 Floral: Tasmanian Blue Gum
 Bird: No Official Emblem

Victoria

Animal: Leadbeater's Possum
 Floral: Common heath
 Bird: Helmeted Honeyeater

Western Australia

Animal: Numbat
 Floral: Red and Green Kangaroo Paw
 Bird: Black Swan

For the Sake of the Bush, Don't Make a Mess!

Tactical Withdrawal (From Chapter 22, *Bush Boys*)

Greg continued: "My friend the Ranger says it's evil for people to sling their rubbish and break bottles." They certainly agreed with that. Greg continued, "But he says there are three grades of people."

"What!" said Peter, "How come?"

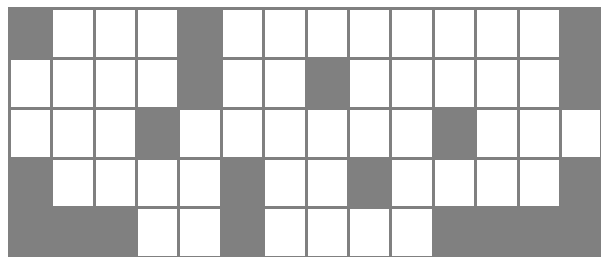
"Grade 1," said Greg, "are basically good. They clean up their own mess. Grade 2 are better: they don't make a mess. But grade 3 are best, because they not only don't make a mess, but they clean up the mess other people make, for the sake of the bush and of the innocent."

Peter was amazed at such impracticality. But then he was impressed. It was a totally new idea – would he adopt it as his personal ideal? (Page 184)

Find out more about what to do with your rubbish when in the bush:

Read Q36: *What does rubbish disposal mean?*

The Australian Bush Catechism of Camping



M L

U A T W B L M O L

H S O R A E N E T R L N

M H I S E A R V S S A E I

W N O M C O O A I T I H E S

Fallen Phrase Puzzle

The letters have fallen vertically down from this puzzle. See if you can reassemble the letters in their correct places to form a Bush Boys' saying.

(Answer shown on Page 4)

Find out more about the animal, plant and bird that are your state's Emblems. Perhaps you can draw a map of Australia placing on it, the states and their emblems. Do you know what your state's flag looks like? Visit www.csu.edu.au/australia/emblems

Morse Code

Morse Code should be learnt as sounds, then with torch or flag. Learn that "di dah is A" (i.e. dit dah) rather than "A is di dah" (let alone dot dash). Dah is three times as long as dit; space between dits and dahs is length of dir; space between letters is length of dah. Learn to read Morse before sending.

Visit a website that has a Morse Code simulator.

- ◆ Samuel Morse's original code was later modified by operators and it is this one that should be learnt.
- ◆ Morse Code has been officially abolished by the army, navy and airforce..
- ◆ The first message Samuel Morse sent to his assistant in the next room was "What God hath wrought!". (Numbers 23:23)
- ◆ You can purchase a Morse Code Trainer Kit from Dick Smith's or you could try building a buzzer circuit of your own.

di dah	· -	A	dah di di dit	- . . .	B	dah di dah dit	- . . .	C
dit	·	E	di di dahdit	. . . .	F	di dah dah dah	· - - -	J
dah di dit	- . .	D	dah dah dit	- - .	G	dah dah di dah	- - . -	Q
di di di dit	. . . .	H	dah di dah	- . -	K	dah di dah dah	- . - -	Y
di dit	. .	I	di dah di dit	. - . .	L	di dah dah dah dah	· - - - -	1
dah dah	- -	M	dah dah dah	- - -	O	di di dah dah dah	· . - - -	2
dah dit	- .	N	di dah dah dit	. - - .	P	di di di dah dah	. . . - -	3
di dah dit	· - .	R	di di di dah	. . . -	V	dah di di di dit	-	6
di di dit	. . .	S	dah di di dah	- . . -	X	dah dah di di dit	- - . . .	7
dah	-	T	dah dah di dit	- - . .	Z	dah dah dah di dit	- - - . .	8
di di dah	. . -	U	di di di di dah	. . . . -	4	dah dah dah dah dit	- - - - .	9
di dah dah	· - -	W	di di di di dit	. . . . .	5	dah dah dah dah dah	- - - - -	0

Down Koala Creek (From Bush Boys Chapter 10)

The sunlight danced on the rippled surface. The leaves, too, were lit in ever-changing patterns by the rays of light flickering playfully off the water. As well, the leaves themselves swayed gently; and the surface reflected each in turn. All about them was a garden, alive with many birds. The blade grass, with its spears, and ferns and bracken, seemed everywhere. Green moss on grey rocks added to the beauty of the scene. (Page 89)

Then as the creek rounded a gentle bend to the right, the Koala Pool appeared before them.

Its inside bend was a sandbank, as good as any at the seaside. Below the sand lay a pool, as crystal clear as Ducky. Like a precious jewel in a surround of finely worked gold, the pool had its own perfect setting of rugged rocks and stumpy shrubs, against the background of bigger timber and the grandeur of the gorge. (Page 93)

For the first time, they noticed red tipped gum leaves, with here and there a hint of golden light, as of a glory that was veiled - for the moment.

Beneath were several bushes with little blue flowers, and the sweet scent of honey filled the air. The beauty seized their souls and held them spellbound. (Page 94)

Perhaps you would like to illustrate the above quotes. Pay particular attention to the descriptions of the different landforms and flora mentioned. You could add your your favourite part of the quote to your picture.