

BUSH BOYS

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The Ten Commandments in Ten Words

Then the sentry was withdrawn and they depended on silence and the side-creek to conceal them while they settled to doze, daydream, or write up their log books.

Sam said proudly, "I'm doing the Bush Boy's promise to keep the Ten Commandments. Greg's showing me how to boil them down to Ten Words."

"I've done nearly all the Ten Commandments," Bernie whispered cheerfully. Whether 'done' meant 'learned' or 'broken' was not clear.

With Greg dictating, Sam wrote in his log book:

Bush Boys Ten Words – in brief:
Creator, Name, Day, Obey;
Kind, Pure, Honest; Truthful, Clean,
Generous.

Bush Boy's Ten Words – in more detail:

1. Adore God the Creator (source of man's dignity, duty, destiny).
2. Honour His Name (no perjury, blasphemy, profanity, obscenity).
3. Keep His Holy Day: (keep all days holy by prayer).
4. Honour and Obey parents (and all lawful authority).
5. Be Kind and firm: (respect life, and control temper).
6. Be Pure with God's temple (our bodies and girls).
7. Be Honest: respect property (it's on loan from God).
8. Be Truthful, (also hold your tongue to be kind).
9. Think Clean thoughts (be clean-minded).
10. Think Generous thoughts (imitate God's goodwill).

From ***Bush Boys on the Move***, page 281, Chapter 21: On the Run



Father James Tierney
before he needed
spectacles

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Q. 36: *Say God's Commandments:*

1. I am the LORD Thy God...
thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not take the Name
of the LORD thy God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Honour thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness
against thy neighbour.
9. Thou shalt not covet
thy neighbour's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet
thy neighbour's goods.

From ***Catholic Family Catechism, Disciples' Edition with 50 Questions and Answers***

Father James Tierney - Retired Parish Priest,
Catechetics Consultant and Author



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)

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How Gunpowder Works

Gunpowder was invented in the 9th century by Chinese alchemists. Although it can explode, its principal use is as a propellant. Originally, it was made by mixing sulphur, charcoal and saltpetre (potassium nitrate). These ingredients were mixed together to form a fine dry powder. This powder could be mixed with a liquid and then be pushed through a screen to make small pellets. The pellets were allowed to dry.

The charcoal in gunpowder, together with the sulphur, is the fuel. Charcoal originally came from the willow tree but grapevine, elder, hazel, laurel and pine cones have all been used. Sugar can replace the charcoal. Carbon from charcoal plus oxygen forms carbon dioxide and energy. In a wood fire, carbon draws oxygen from the air and heat is produced in a slow reaction. The saltpetre in gunpowder provides extra oxygen. It reacts with the carbon and sulphur to form nitrogen and carbon dioxide gases, and potassium sulphide. The expanding gases provide the propelling action.

A lot of smoke is produced by gunpowder. This smoke can impair vision both on the battle field or when viewing fireworks. Changing the ratio of the ingredients will affect the rate at which gunpowder burns and the amount of smoke that is produced.

The Gunpowder Plot

James I, King of Scotland succeeded Queen Elizabeth I when she died in 1603. He took the title James VI, King of the British Isles. Unlike his Catholic mother, Mary Queen of Scots, James was a Protestant. And it was soon evident that he, like Queen Elizabeth, would continue the persecutions against the Catholics. In those days Catholics had to practice their faith in secret. The penalty for not converting to the religion of the monarch was death.

A group of Catholics including two men called Catesby and Fawkes, could endure living a hidden Catholic life no longer. They wanted to remove the Protestant king from the throne. They decided to blow up Parliament on a day when they knew James I and his son would be in the building. Their plan is known as the Gunpowder Plot. A letter was delivered to the Catholic Lord Monteagle warning him to stay away from Parliament on the day when the plot was to be carried out.

Lord Monteagle took the letter to Robert Cecil, James' secretary of state. Cecil ordered a search of the cellars of the Parliament and caught Fawkes red-handed with the barrels of gunpowder on November 5th. Fawkes was arrested with other conspirators, imprisoned, tried and sentenced to death. On January 31 1606, he was taken from the Tower of London to Westminster and executed opposite the building he tried to blow up. Because of this plot, James I became even more fearful and full of hate for the Catholics.

People in England began to celebrate 'Guy Fawkes Day' each November 5th. Even today, children make an effigy of Guy Fawkes. They roam the streets asking for "a penny for the guy" before burning their 'guy' on top of a bonfire.

"...As I was saying, there are accelerants to light cooking fires when the kindling is damp – like Little Lucifers, candle wax, kero-soaked rags or sprinkled sugar. And there are other accelerants more powerful than these – like those black pellets. We didn't think of it before, but they're a fire accelerant. In fact, they're one of the most powerful fire accelerants."

"What?" demanded Bernie with crude bluntness. The others hushed him and waited more patiently.

With a little smile, John revealed the mystery. "The black pellets are ... GUNPOWDER!"

Kev watched Greg's face and could almost see the wheels turning in his mind. Then Greg spoke, "Ah! *That* would explain a lot – the flash of flame, the boomph, the smoke, the smell...But they don't look like gunpowder."

"Oh yes they do," rejoined John in his best professor-style. It's just that it's not the fine-as-dust ordinary gunpowder in fireworks. These pellets are gunpowder made into little black lumps to slow the explosion for blasting rocks in a quarry."

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 354, Chapter 26: "Eureka!"

DID YOU KNOW?

Before each session of the British Parliament is opened, the cellars of the building are ceremoniously searched – as they have been every year since the Gunpowder Plot - before the arrival of the Queen.

The Gunpowder Plot is one of the most famous conspiracies in history. The facts of the plot are often debated by historians. Read more about the Gunpowder Plot in Warren Carroll's *The Cleaving of Christendom* or Anne Carroll's *Christ the King, Lord of History*, both available for sale, www.cardinalnewman.com.au

Keeping A Journal

Chick Peeper, the ornithologist in *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, kept a journal and sketch books recording all the birds he sighted. In *Bush Boys on the Move*, the Bush Boys are allowed to go camping as long as they each keep a daily log book or journal. Many famous explorers kept journals or diaries recording their adventures. Perhaps you could keep a journal too. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ A journal can be kept in a notebook or on loose-leaf paper in a folder.
- ◆ Make a journal for a special event eg a record of a holiday
- ◆ Have a different log book for different topics eg a nature notebook, a book review notebook, a notebook of favourite poems
- ◆ Keep a general journal containing anything that interests you eg diary entries, poems, quotations, recipes, drawings, stories, descriptions, news items, favourite words, jokes, photos, cartoons, prayers, favourite passages from literature etc

...The National Museum is offering a small reward and expenses paid to whoever finds the missing log books and sketches of Dr Chick Peeper, the famous Australian ornithologist, who tramped these ranges frequently until his death a year ago.

Chick Peeper had often told his learned friends that Mt Rumdoodle was his favourite spot for birds, and that he usually camped out in a tent nearby, but used a cave to cook in if it rained.

He also told these friends that he kept his journals and sketchbooks in an army ammunition box.

...If you find the box and it's too heavy, I'll help you carry it.

It's sure to be in the cave, and there's probably a track to the cave from Mt Rumdoodle...

From *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, page 155, Chapter 19: On Top of the World

Burke and Wills

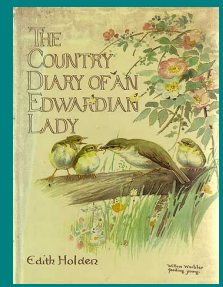
In 1860, the centre of Australia was unknown, unmapped and unexplored. The government of South Australia offered a prize for the first expedition to cross this unknown centre from south to north. Robert O'Hara Burke led an expedition from Melbourne. Three men, Burke, Wills and King made it to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Having accomplished their goal, they set out on the return journey immediately because their supplies were low. When they reached the depot camp at Cooper's Crossing, they found that the rest of the expedition party, after waiting for nearly five months, had left. Burke and Wills never made it back to Melbourne: they died of starvation.

Find out more about the Burke and Wills expedition. Visit www.burkeandwills.com.au and <http://www.nla.gov.au/epubs/wills.html> to read the diaries of Burke, Wills and the other explorers

Keeping A Nature Notebook

- ◆ A spiral bound notebook with good quality blank pages is ideal. A small pocket sized book is handy for carrying on bush walks. However, a larger book may be preferred.
- ◆ Collect a set of different grade sketching pencils, a set of colouring pencils including water colour pencils or perhaps watercolour paints and brushes.
- ◆ A waterproof zipped bag could be used to keep all equipment together.
- ◆ Record animals and plants seen on walks or even in your backyard.
- ◆ Label your drawings as accurately as you can. Research your subject using nature guides and add extra information to your drawings.
- ◆ Record where you found your specimens and the date.
- ◆ Return and draw plants in different seasons.
- ◆ Add appropriate poems or quotations to the pages of your notebooks.

For a good example of a nature notebook look at *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* by Edith Holden. Look in your library for journals of famous explorers.



"The-four-Cumberlands-and-Sam-are-going-on-a-camping-trip-next-week-and-may-I-go-please, please?" He expected Mum to say 'no' straightaway so he raced on, "And-it-counts-as-school-work-cos-we've-gotta-keep-a-daily-log-book" – he looked appealingly at Dad – "and it-will-be-just-like-the-scouts-you-were-in-Dad-and-real-good-for-me..." he ran out of breath.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 95, Chapter 7: At King's Cave

Interesting Facts About Kangaroos

- ◆ The first time a kangaroo was seen by a European was in Endeavour Bay where Captain James Cook was doing some repairs to his ship. The scientists on the voyage asked the aborigines what the strange creatures were. The aborigines' reply sounded like 'kang-u-roo'. This was the first time an aboriginal word was used in the English language.
- ◆ Kangaroos belong to the macropodid family. Macropodid means 'big feet'.
- ◆ Kangaroos are not able to walk.
- ◆ When a kangaroo moves at a slow speed, it puts its forelegs on the ground and forms a tripod with its tail. Then it swings its back legs forwards.
- ◆ Tree kangaroos are the only kangaroos that can move their hind legs independently.
- ◆ When kangaroos first start to hop they use a lot of energy but when in motion, they use less energy than an animal that walks on four legs.
- ◆ The quokka is a kind of kangaroo. When a quokka was sighted on an island in the late 17th century by a Dutch sea captain, it was thought to be a rat. The captain named the island 'Rottnest'. Rottnest means 'rats nest' in Dutch.

During breakfast they had another wildlife experience. Five big kangaroos loped through their clearing. They froze at the sight of the boys, and the boys froze too, in the hope of keeping them in view as long as possible. But at an unseen signal from the old man roo, they sloped off effortlessly.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 24: Commando Raid

Australia's Coat Of Arms

The kangaroo is found on Australia's coat of arms. Coats of arms have been in use for over eight hundred years. Kings, Lords and knights would go into battle proudly wearing their family symbols or 'arms' on tunics worn over their armour. A coat of arms was a symbol of courage and motivation and was intended to give terror to the enemy.

Knights had to obtain special permission from the king to carry their own coat of arms. Later, towns, people and organisations which found favour with the Crown for outstanding loyalty and courage, were also granted coats of arms.

Australia's first coat of arms was granted by King Edward VII in 1908. It showed the kangaroo and emu supporting a shield while standing on a grassy mound. In 1912, King George V granted Australia a second coat of arms. This second arms includes the symbols of the states together with Australia's floral emblem, the Golden Wattle. Again, the kangaroo and emu support the shield. It is said that these two native animals were chosen because of the common belief that neither animal can walk backwards easily, reflecting a nation intent on moving forward.

Find out which symbols on the shield represent each state. What do the border of the shield, the blue and gold wreath, and the Commonwealth Star represent?

The Convict Kangaroo

In the days of convicts and transportation, a penal colony was built on the Tasman Peninsula of Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania). It was called Port Arthur. Port Arthur was perfectly positioned as a penal colony. It was separated from the rest of Van Dieman's Land by two open and exposed necks of land. The necks were called Eagle Hawk Neck and East Bay Neck. Eagle Hawk Neck was a narrow isthmus and had to be crossed by any man wanting to leave the Tasman Peninsula. A permanent guard station had to be posted here after prisoners started escaping. A string of nine tethered dogs was placed across the neck, together with a row of oil lamps which formed primitive searchlights.

Despite the security measures, the convicts became obsessed with finding a way across the neck. One prisoner, a former actor, William Hunt, came up with an ingenious plan. He disguised himself as an enormous 'boomer' or male kangaroo and decided to hop across Eagle Hawk Neck. He nearly made it across to safety. Two guards thinking he really was a kangaroo, spotted him and gave chase. They levelled their muskets intending to shoot. They were rather surprised when the frightened escapee cried, "Don't shoot, I am only Billy Hunt."

Read Father John O'Neill's book, *Cappy*, which is set in Van Dieman's Land during the days of transportation. Available for sale, www.cardinalnewman.com.au



Why The Deli Bacon Didn't Poison Kev

Salting, especially of meat, is an ancient food preservation technique. The salt draws out moisture thus creating an environment inhospitable to bacteria. Salted meat can last for years if salted in the right conditions: The meat needs to be salted in cold weather so that the meat does not spoil while the salt has time to take effect. Salting was used to preserve meat up until the middle of the 20th century when it was eventually replaced by refrigeration and freezing. Today, salting is still used to produce dried beef, corned beef, pastrami and the deli bacon the bush boys ate in *Bush Boys on the Move*.

Sydney, Salt and Settlement

At the time of the First Fleet, meat was preserved by the techniques of drying, smoking or salting. Salting was the preferred method as England's climate isn't suitable for solar drying and dried meat is unattractive. Barrels of salted meat formed part of the provisions supplied to all ships sailing for Australia.

For a long time, the colonists relied on imported salted meat. In the early days of settlement there was little local meat available to preserve. When the first attempts at salting local meat occurred, a source of salt was needed. This salt was obtained from provisions. The settlers tried to produce a local source of salt. Both in Sydney and Van Diemen's Land, salt was recovered from sea water. The meat preserved using this salt was unattractive and of an inferior quality. So for a long time imported salt was preferred for salting. For many years salted meat was imported by the settlers of Sydney but by 1830, with the development of the pastoral industry and improvements in technology, they were able to export their own salted product.

In 1843 the price of sheep and cattle in New South Wales fell dramatically. It was in this year that the Sydney Salting Company was established. This company would kill the stock of a pastoralist and cure the meat. The salted meat would be packed into casks bearing the company's brand name and the pastoralist would then export it. The export of salted meat was affected by the development of heat processing which was introduced to Australia in 1845. From 1870 most of the meat exported from Australia was canned. The development of refrigeration technology also led to the demise of the salting industry.

It was an easy meal, with bacon instead of sausages, the usual potato and beans, and onion without gravy.

"I didn't think bacon would keep so long out of a fridge," marvelled Kev. "Won't it poison us?"

Bernie leapt to his brother's defence. "It's deli bacon, with more salt in it than butcher's bacon."

"It keeps even better unsliced," said Greg, "but rashers'll keep for days – as long as you don't wrap 'em in plastic."

From *Bush Boys on the Move*: page 287, Chapter 21: On the Run

Salt of the Earth

There are many references to salt in the Bible. Salt was used for many purposes. At the time of Jesus, all sacrifices had to be salted before they could be offered to God. Newborn babies were rubbed with salt. Salt was used to preserve meat and fish. Salt was used as a remedy for toothache: a grain of salt was placed in a tooth cavity.

Salt was obtained from the shores of the Dead Sea. In those days, people did not know how to refine salt so salt was really a mixture of salt and sand. Sometimes the salt was more sand than salt. Jesus said to his followers: "You are the salt of the earth but if the salt has lost its taste, it is good for nothing except to be thrown out and trodden under the foot of men." Perhaps the salt which "has lost its taste" is more sand than salt.

Find as many references to salt in the Bible as you can. Here are a few to start you off: Mark 9:50, Ezekiel 43:24, Ezekiel 16:4, Colossians 4:6, Mark 9:49

Bacon and Eggs in a Paper Bag

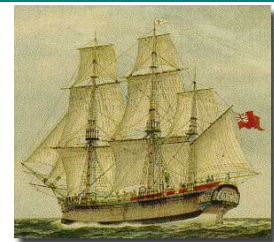
Ingredients:

- ◆ Two strips of thick bacon
- ◆ One paper lunch bag
- ◆ One egg
- ◆ One stick

Preparation:

- ◆ Cut bacon in two, place in bag, covering the bottom
- ◆ Crack egg and put in paper bag on top of bacon
- ◆ Fold lunch bag down 3 times and poke a hole through with the stick
- ◆ Hold over charcoal and cook

Watch as the grease from the bacon protects the bag and cooks the meal!



The Ballad of the Drover

Across the stony ridges,
Across the rolling plain,
Young Harry Dale, the drover,
Comes riding home again.
And well his stock-horse bears him,
And light of heart is he,
And stoutly his old pack-horse
Is trotting by his knee.

Up Queensland way with cattle
He travelled regions vast;
And many months have vanished
Since home-folk saw him last.
He hums a song of someone
He hopes to marry soon;
And hobble-chains and camp-ware
Keep jingling to the tune.

Beyond the hazy dado
Against the lower skies
And yon blue line of ranges
The homestead station lies.
And thitherward the drover
Jogs through the lazy noon,
While hobble-chains and camp-ware
Are jingling to a tune.

An hour has filled the heavens
With storm-clouds inky black;
At times the lightning trickles
Around the drover's track;
But Harry pushes onward,
His horses' strength he tries,
In hope to reach the river
Before the flood shall rise.

The thunder from above him
Goes rolling o'er the plain;
And down on thirsty pastures
In torrents falls the rain.
And every creek and gully
Sends forth its little flood,
Till the river runs a banker,
All stained with yellow mud.

Now Harry speaks to Rover,
The best dog on the plains,
And to his hardy horses,
And strokes their shaggy manes;
'We've breasted bigger rivers
When floods were at their height
Nor shall this gutter stop us
From getting home to-night!'

The thunder growls a warning,
The ghastly lightnings gleam,
As the drover turns his horses
To swim the fatal stream.
But, oh! The flood runs stronger
Than e'er it ran before;
The saddle horse is failing
And only half-way o'er!

When flashes next the lightning,
The flood's grey breast is blank,
And a cattle dog and pack-horse
Are struggling up the bank
But in the lonely homestead
The girl will wait in vain -
He'll never pass the stations
In charge of stock again.

The faithful dog a moment
Sits panting on the bank,
And then swims through the current
To where his master sank.
And round and round in circles
He fights with failing strength,
Till borne down by the waters,
The old dog sinks at length

Across the flooded lowlands
And slopes of sodden loam
The pack-horse struggles onward,
To take dumb tidings home.
And mud-stained, wet and weary,
Through ranges dark goes he;
While hobble-chains and tinware
Are sounding eerily.

The floods are in the ocean,
The stream is clear again,
And now a verdant carpet
Is stretched across the plain.
But someones' eyes are saddened,
And sorrow for the drover
Who sleeps among the reeds.

Henry Lawson

First Aid For Near Drowning

- ◆ Never attempt a rescue beyond your swimming ability
- ◆ If someone else is present, send for help immediately
- ◆ Check for danger to yourself, the casualty and bystanders
- ◆ Check if the casualty is conscious
- ◆ Clear the airways of water and foreign objects
- ◆ Commence resuscitation while in the water or while wading ashore
- ◆ Once ashore, check airways again and resume resuscitation
- ◆ Check for a pulse and if absent begin CPR
- ◆ Seek medical aid urgently

Learn correct resuscitation techniques and CPR from an organisation such as the St John Ambulance Association

By now, Greg was at the porthole. "The valley's full of mist," he said. "I can't see a thing. And I think it must have rained. That roaring-rushing noise is the waterfall. The creek's in half-flood."

This was confirmed by John, who went down to fill the billies. "I nearly fell in," he explained. "The water's up to the higher ledge. And down there it's as dark as the inside of a black cow. And that waterfall really means business. It'd shove you under and not let you up!" ...

...Outside the mist lifted on an overcast day. The creek was up and rushing, and, as Peter explained, "Too flooded to get back to *The Hills of Home* today." ...he continued, "So we'll rescue Ruff ourselves."

From *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*,
pp 206-207, Chapter 25: Roaring Wind

Seven Deadly Dangers : Drowning

Drowning is usually the result of swimming accidents or trying to cross flooded rivers...

...As for crossing flooded creeks or rivers, don't! Flood waters are often fast flowing, opaque, with waves, whirlpools and turbulence, and carrying debris. Drownings occur when attempting a crossing. Better to light a fire and wait a few days for the water to go down..

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 475

Read *Drowning* in full to find out how to avoid swimming accidents and how to wade safely across a creek with a strong current.
Read *Megalong Tragedy* by Michael Baker



Pater Noster

Pater noster,
qui es in caelis,
sanctificetur nomen tuum.
Adveniat regnum tuum.
Fiat voluntas tua,
sicut in caelo et in terra.
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie,
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos
dimittimus debitoribus nostris.
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,
sed libera nos a malo.
Amen.

Ave Maria

Ave Maria,
gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
Sancta Maria,
mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.



Again Greg tried to get on top of the talk. He pulled out his pocket note book, and unfolded a piece of paper. "This is the owner's authority for us to camp here," he announced. "He's a scholar, so it's in Latin, but I'll translate it."

Kev and the others listened in surprise and admiration. Smoodge merely nodded.

Greg proclaimed it like a herald. "Public declaration to be heard by all: I permit the use for particular occasions of my dwelling at Hellow Hollow by Gregory Cumberland and his companions until revoked: given at the Wild Bush Mountains this Sunday 12th November, in the Year of the Lord: signed, Albert Rheinberger; witness, Matilda Schneider."

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 186, Chapter 14: Hellow Hollow

Good Reasons for Learning Latin

There is no country in the world where the national language is Latin. Latin was spoken by the Romans but when the Roman Empire fell many years ago Latin was no longer spoken. So why do people still learn Latin today? Isn't it a dead language? Here are a few good reasons why we learn this language:

- ◆ Did you know that over half the words in the English language come from Latin? Learning Latin helps with learning English.
- ◆ After the Roman Empire fell apart, Latin evolved into different languages in different places. Spanish, French and Italian all developed from the language of Latin. They are known as romance languages. Learning Latin makes the learning of these languages easier.
- ◆ Latin is the language of the Church. Today, the Mass is celebrated in the language of each country, but in earlier years all Masses were said in Latin. It is still possible to attend a Mass in Latin. There are many beautiful prayers and hymns which can be recited or sung in Latin.

Famous Latin Quotations

- ◆ Et cetera, and the rest
- ◆ Cave canem, beware of the dog
- ◆ Post scriptum, written afterwards
- ◆ Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord
- ◆ Primum non nocere, first do no harm (the surgeon's motto)
- ◆ Pars tutor sequenda est, the safer course is to be followed
- ◆ Semper fidelis, always faithful
- ◆ Cum laude, with praise
- ◆ Et tu, Brute, even you, Brutus
- ◆ Ante meridiem, before noon
- ◆ Post meridiem, after noon

Learn a prayer such as the Hail Mary (Ave Maria) or the Our Father (Pater Noster) in Latin. Find some more famous Latin quotes. *Latin Grammar* and *Second Latin* by Scanlon and Scanlon available for sale www.cardinalnewman.com.au

What would your note have said?" Kev asked shrewdly, gauging that this would flatter Greg.

It did. Greg rolled off more Latin, just as he had to Smoodge two days before. "*Hoc volo, sic iubeo, dixi: Veni, vidi, vici.* It's from a couple of Roman dictators who said, "This I wish, thus I command, I have spoken," and "I came, I saw, I conquered."

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 278, Chapter 21: On the Run

My Country

The love of field and coppice, of green and shaded lanes,
Of ordered woods and gardens is running in your veins.
Strong love of grey-blue distance, brown streams
and soft, dim skies –
I know but cannot share it, my love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror – the wide brown land for me!

The stark white ring-barked forests, all tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains, the hot gold hush of noon,
Green tangle of the brushes where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops, and ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country! Her pitiless blue sky,
When, sick at heart, around us we see the cattle die –

But then the grey clouds gather, and we can bless again
The drumming of an army, the steady soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country! Land of the rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and famine she pays us back threefold.
Over the thirsty paddocks, watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness that thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country, a wilful, lavish land –
All you who have not loved her, you will not understand –
Though earth holds many splendours, wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country my homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea McKellar

Copy out your favourite verse and illustrate.

They gazed up with wonder at the night sky. The stars on a clear night are always glorious, whether people bother to look up at them or not. Peter started to roll off their names, with tones of affection for old friends. "There's the Saucepan," he said, "you know, Orion, the three bright stars in a row. And Betelgeuse and Rigel, Sirius and Archenar – and look!" He pointed to where, not far above the western horizon, a mysterious, fainter cluster battled unevenly with the moonlight, "The Pleiades!" he announced triumphantly, "the Seven Sisters."

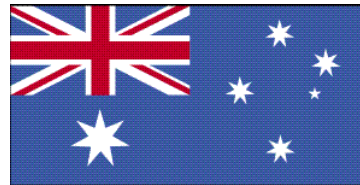
Greg said, "I know the Southern Cross," and he pointed south, to where it lay on its side. "The South Celestial Pole is where the long arm of the Cross meets the line between the Pointers. Under that, on earth, is true south." Peter, of course, knew this, but John did not. With their backs to the fire, which they tended from time to time, they faced the east, where the action was. Now there was a gentle red glow in the eastern sky, another fire far off on the edge of the world. The sun was coming, ready or not.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 19: Daybreak on Mount Mighty

National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair:
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.



Peter Dodds McCormack was the composer of *Advance Australia Fair*. After attending a concert in Sydney in 1878, where he heard the national anthems of various nations, he was determined that Australia would have its own national anthem. He composed the words and music of *Advance Australia Fair* that same year.

Although the tune was used on some major occasions in Australia's history such as the inauguration of the national capital in 1913, a hundred years passed before *Advance Australia Fair* became the national anthem.

During that time a number of competitions were held to find a song that would be an anthem for Australia. In 1977 a national poll was held to find a national song. The people were asked to choose between four tunes: *Advance Australia Fair*, *Waltzing Matilda*, *God Save the Queen* (the anthem in 1977) and *Song of Australia*. *Advance Australia Fair* won 43% of the vote.

However, it wasn't until 1984 that Peter McCormack's *Advance Australia Fair*, with slightly amended words, was proclaimed as Australia's national anthem.