

BUSH BOYS

SUMMER 2007-08

Explorers A Quarterly Publication

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

A NEW BUSH BOYS BOOK !!

Exciting News: Fr James Tierney has written a brand new Bush Boys book, *New Boys in the Bush*.

This exciting adventure features new Bush Boys, Jack, Jim and Joe Lawson who have just moved from the city to the bush, together with their parents, grandmother and six brothers and sisters. Their new home, *Terra Sancta*, is a rambling old house without any modern conveniences, even electricity.

The Bush Boys settle into their new way of life. They discover for themselves how to fell trees and chop wood, how to light the fires needed for cooking and hot water, how to start up and drive the old Land Rover. They enjoy exploring the old house and home paddocks. However, what they *really* want to do is explore the bush, the Wild Bush Mountains, which stretch out on the other side of the property fence. They want to discover for themselves how to be explorers of the bush, just like their ancestor, Lawson.

Dad says that if the boys work hard at their jobs and school work and stay out of trouble for a whole week, they will be rewarded by being allowed to go off and explore the bush on their own. But will the boys survive their Pioneer Week without getting into mischief? Can they even survive the week by staying alive? And if Dad grants them an Explorer Week will they be able to avoid the Seven Deadly Dangers of the bush?

This exciting bush adventure is full of discoveries. Dad is pleased to see his Bush Boys finding out things for themselves but finally, it is Dad who makes a most important discovery of his own.

Order your copies of *New Boys in the Bush* and the new combined volume of *Bush Boys and Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys* from Cardinal Faith Resources Inc <fr@cardinalnewman.com.au>
Each book is \$16.50
www.cardinalnewman.com.au

...“Jack, Jim and Joe: you are on a week’s trial. You must *prove* yourselves to be worthy sons of pioneers and settlers of the olden days. Your reward for success will be exploring on your own. For a whole week, work your minds and muscles at the family’s jobs. And at your schoolwork . And by *being good*. Do well, and from next Monday we shall count your exploring the bush as afternoon school – go where you like, do what you like. Only come home in time for jobs and tea.”

Mum was as amazed as the boys.
Unheard of freedom! Perhaps too much?

From *New Boys in the Bush*, Chapter 11: On Trial, page 102

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



Father James Tierney
-
before he needed
spectacles



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NEW BOYS IN THE BUSH

The Lawsons of Guntawang



James Tierney

Books by Father James Tierney

Bush Boys & Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys
Combined Volume (**\$16.50**)
Bush Boys and Bush Rangers (**\$13**)
Bush Boys on the Move (**\$16.50**)
New Boys in the Bush (**\$16.50**)

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

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Greg hunted for the sausages. They were in his knapsack, inside a wrapping of grease-proof paper, which had an outer wrapping of newspaper.

There were two each, but even the larger of the two dixies would hold only six. He laid two aside. Then he put a few spoonfuls of water in the dixie with the six sausages, and set them over the blaze.

"Don't you poke holes in them?" asked Peter.

"Not until the water boils off," replied Greg. "We'll need a couple of sticks like pencils – could you sharpen a few, please?" Peter did so...

...Peter poked lots of holes in the sausages, rolling them round with a second stick. Little jets of hot fat came spurting out, and the sausages made that nice sizzling noise and gave off the most appetising smell.

Perhaps you can cook your family dinner using the following easy sausage- pasta recipe.

SAUSAGE WITH PASTA SHELLS

500g pasta shells
500g sausages
1 onion finely chopped
1 large can tomatoes (about 800g)
1 tsp sugar
2 cloves garlic
35g fresh or a tsp or two dried basil
½ cup pecarino or parmesan cheese

Cook sausages until well browned and cooked through. Slice into pieces when cool enough to handle.

Soften onion with garlic in a little fat or water. Add tomato, sugar and 1 cup of water, reduce heat and simmer until sauce has thickened. (about 12 minutes)

Pour sauce over cooked pasta, add sausages, basil and half the cheese. Stir. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top before serving.

...Take all the sausages out, Peter," said Greg, "and pour the fat into that rusty tin."

Peter put the sausages aside on clean sticks. He rested the dixie on the bars and, with a quick twist, tipped the fat straight into the fire. At once, flames volcanoed in the fireplace and into his face. Peter leaped back, and they all smelt the burnt hair on his forehead.

It all happened in a flash. "Are the sausages all right?" Greg enquired dryly. And Peter thought to himself, "We avoid burns by not fooling with fire...I'm an idjit – always learning the hard way."

From **Bush Boys**, Chapter 14: No Diving or Bombing!

Q 49. *What is the First Aid for burns?*

The first aid for minor burns is to immerse them in icy water, but for major burns to cover them with a clean wet cloth, treat for shock and get a doctor.

SNIPPETS OF SAUSAGE HISTORY

- ◆ Sausages have been around for over 5000 years. They were known in Sumeria, present day Iraq.
- ◆ In 900 BC sausage sellers walked up and down the aisles of Greek theatres selling their snacks.
- ◆ In 320 AD sausage eating was banned by the Church and the Roman Emperor Constantine I because of their link to pagan festivals.
- ◆ Emperor Leo V banned sausages again about nine hundred years ago. The reason for this ban is unknown. It is reported that the emperor said that sausage sellers would be "severely scourged, smoothly shaved and banished from our realm forever".
- ◆ The earliest sausages weren't divided into links. This occurred for the first time during the reign of Charles I.
- ◆ Henry V stated that "War without fire is as worthless as sausages without mustard".
- ◆ Sausages became known as bangers during the Second World War. This nickname resulted from their tendency to explode with a bang when fried.

Q 48. *How do we avoid burns?*

We avoid burns by not fooling with fire, and never passing hot things over someone.

Note: Burns include scalds

EXTINGUISHING FAT AND OIL FIRES

As Peter found out you have to be very careful when cooking with any kind of fat. Fats heat to an extremely high temperature and can even go up in flames. Fats are an ideal fuel for a fire and these fires are difficult to put out. Fat fires can cause horrific burns so it is important to know how to deal correctly with fats when cooking. If a fire does occur it is important to know what to do.

Fires frequently begin in pans of oil intended for deep frying. If your pan suddenly goes up in flames follow this procedure:

- ◆ Turn off the stove.
- ◆ Don't move the pan.
- ◆ Protect your hand with an oven glove or tea towel
- ◆ Smother the flames with a fire blanket or pan lid or larger pan.
- ◆ Leave the pan to cool.
- ◆ Never use water or flour to smother the flames. This will result in a fireball.

Restaurants, take-away shops and chip making factories produce a great deal of waste fat. A revolutionary process has been developed to convert this fat into diesel oil which can be used as a fuel for diesel cars. Read an article on this topic at www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/london/series9/week_two.shtml

Bernie made no effort to slow at all. His brothers, cousins and friends were aghast at his suicidal speed. His bike was jumping like a kangaroo and going at a great pace when the front wheel hit the level rock at the top of the gorge with a sickening *b-oy-ng-ng*. Bernie jerked up his handlebars like mounting a gutter to get his front wheel up twenty five centimetres onto the bridge. Fortunately, the solid rubber tyres stood up to the impact. As it was, spokes snapped, fouled on forks, squawked a few times and then flew off in all directions. But his front wheel was running free on the left side log. He flung his weight forward. The back wheel hit the bridge with another sickening *b-oy-ng-ng*. More spokes flew off...and bike and Bernie were racing across the splintery log...It was a superb piece of steering.

From *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*, Chapter 37: On the Run, pp 374-375

BERTS ON BIKES

St John Ambulance volunteers are present at many sporting, community and entertainment events. If you are present at such an event and have an accident or fall ill, a volunteer will be on hand to help you. These officers deal with everything from simple cuts and abrasions to more serious resuscitations. If necessary, they will work to keep a patient stable until care can be transferred to a doctor, nurse or hospital.

Imagine you are at a well attended event such as the New Year's Eve fireworks in Sydney. The streets are full of people and it can be difficult for a vehicle to make its way quickly through the slow moving crowd. In the centre of this mass of merrymakers is someone in need of medical attention. How does a St John Ambulance volunteer get to the patient as fast as possible? It is in situations of this kind that a BERT is activated. A BERT is a St John Ambulance **Bicycle Emergency Response Team**.

When the call goes out for help, two volunteers, each on specially modified mountain bikes, will set off, weaving their way in and out of the crowd, or racing alongside it, on route to the medical emergency. With a full first aid kit split between the two bikes, the officers will be able to deal with all kinds of casualties. One bike will carry an oxyviva or oxygen cylinder, mask and fittings. The second bike will have on board a defibrillator for restarting hearts.

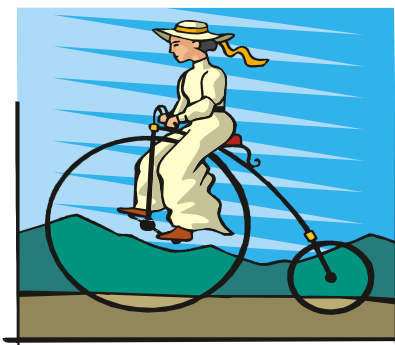
When the BERT reaches the patient, it can assess the situation and provide the necessary care, or radio for further assistance. If the situation is serious they can stabilise the patient while waiting for an ambulance or other emergency vehicle to arrive.

If you are ever treated by a BERT, you can be sure you will be looked after by highly trained officers. Each member of a BERT receives additional specialised training before they are put into action as part of a very effective mounted care unit.

Have you ever thought about joining the St John Ambulance Association? The junior division is for 8-10 year olds. 11-18 year old children form the cadet section. The cadets can move on to the adult division and become St John Ambulance officers. If you would like to help others in your community perhaps you could join this volunteer association. Once you are 18, you might like to train further and become part of a BERT.

A QUICK CYCLE THROUGH BIKE HISTORY

- ◆ 1817 - The first bike was more like a walking machine. It had two inline wheels, the front one steerable. There were no pedals: riders pushed with their feet to propel it along. It needed a smooth pathway to run along and so was not a practical form of transport.
- ◆ 1865 - A machine known as a velocipede was developed. The front wheel had pedals attached. Like the earlier walking machine, the velocipede was made of wood. Metal tyres were a later addition. Riding over the cobblestone roads of these times was very uncomfortable and so this bike was nicknamed 'the boneshaker'.



- ◆ 1870 - The first all metal bike appeared. These bikes still had the pedals attached to the front wheel. Prior to 1870, the front wheel was of the same size as the rear one. Now the front wheel became larger and larger as it was realised that the larger the wheel, the further one could travel with one rotation of the pedals. These bikes, although popular, were unstable. They had a tendency to tip forward, depositing the rider on his head.
- ◆ Ladies, in long skirts, and gentlemen, such as doctors preferring a more dignified form of transportation, welcomed the development of the high wheel tricycle which borrowed some of its mechanical innovations from the automobile industry.
- ◆ Two wheeled bikes were improved by placing the larger wheel at the rear instead of at the front. These more stable bikes were known as the high wheel safety bikes.
- ◆ The next improvement was the development of gears. One rotation of a smaller wheel using gear

ratios could result in the same speed as one rotation of a larger wheel. There was now no need for one wheel to be larger than the other. Bikes could return to the two-same-size-wheel design of former years. But these new bikes were a lot more uncomfortable to ride than the high wheel bikes. They had hard rubber tyres and no shock absorption system. Shock absorbing spokes had yet to be thought of.

- ◆ So a bicycle rider could choose a comfortable ride on a high-wheeled bike or a jarring but safer ride on a same-size-wheel bike. The development of the pneumatic tyre revolutionised bike design. Now bikes were built with both wheels the same size and not only were they safe, they were comfortable as well. The popularity of bicycles soared.

USING BUSH BOYS IN YOUR EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM

If you live in NSW, a plan of studies for each child must be prepared and approved before a period of registration for homeschooling will be granted by the Board of Studies. This plan must cover, for primary school students, the six key learning areas of English, mathematics, science and technology, society and its environment, creative and practical arts, personal development and health, and physical education.

Did you know the Bush Boys books are packed full of information that will help you study the six key learning areas? By using the books and the *Bush Boys Explorers* (BBE) magazines you can plan a Bush Boys unit which should satisfy all the curriculum requirements of the Board of Studies.

Here is a sample plan:

English: Poetry: Explore the poetry of Henry Lawson, memorise a poem, write out a verse to practice handwriting, BBE: summer 05-06;
Learn how to tell a story, BBE: winter 06;
Read a novel by Rudyard Kipling, BBE: winter 07.

Society and Its Environment:
Research the Gunpowder Plot, BBE: spring 06;
Learn the states, their capitals and their emblems, BBE: spring 05;
Learn the national anthem, BBE: spring 06;
Find out about bushrangers, BBE: summer 06-07.

Science and Technology:
Find out how gunpowder works, BBE: spring 06;
Learn about the nervous system, BBE: winter 06;
Discover how soap works, BBE: winter 07.

Creative and Practical Arts:
Discover bark paintings, BBE: autumn 07;
Do a photography project, BBE: spring 07;

Explore the paintings of Frederick McCubbin, BBE: spring 05.

Personal Development:

Learn the Ten Commandments, BBE: spring 06;
Learn the importance of obedience, discipline and courtesy, BBE: summer 06-07;
Find out what a parable is and read the story of the Good Samaritan, BBE: autumn 07.

Health and Physical Education:

Avoid spinal cord injury, BBE: winter 06;
Try skipping, BBE: spring 07;
Learn about skincare and the sun, BBE: summer 05-06.

Mathematics:

Homeschooling ideas, BBE: winter 07;
The 5 regular polyhedra, *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*: page 55;
How long to sunset? *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*: Chapter 10.

For more ideas on using the Bush Boys books in your educational curriculum see the Bush Boys Unit Study, available: "Downloads" www.cardinalnewman.com.au



On Friday morning at nine o'clock the government homeschooling inspector arrived at *Black Wattle Lodge*.

Pete and John and their four sisters had laid out their text books and work books. Their mother added her master plan for each pupil's work. The inspector liked what he saw and what they said and especially their eagerness. He smiled approvingly, and murmured to Mrs Elizabeth Cumberland, "The secure child; the eager adolescent; the mature adult..." and gave them the maximum registration of two years.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, Chapter 5: The Day before 'The Picnic', page 59

...God gave man dignity, duty and destiny. Thus a Christian curriculum is based on a simple and profound truth:

God made us to know love and serve Him here on earth and to see and enjoy Him for ever in Heaven.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 500

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Peter read the story of The Writing on the Wall from the book of Daniel in the Bible. In this story, King Belshazzar is having a feast. He orders the gold and silver vessels, which his father Nebuchadnezzar had stolen from the temple, to be used. While everyone is feasting, the fingers of a man's hand appear and begin writing a message on the wall. The king is frightened and cannot understand the words and their meaning. Daniel is summoned to interpret the writing on the wall. He says that the writing is a message from God who has weighed Balthazar in the balance and found him wanting.

Mr Cumberland...said, "We often have a story or a Bible reading after tea. Tonight, Pete has suggested 'The Writing on the Wall' in the book of Daniel and he's offered to read it to us"...

...Pete had already marked the place in one of the schoolroom Bibles, Daniel chapter 5. He now fetched it, opened it and began to read. As he read the creepier parts, his voice quivered with emotion. In fact, Daniel the Prophet, his adventures and their strange setting in a faraway land in a faraway age caught them all up and spirited them away from the familiar sights and sounds of the cosy kitchen in *The Hills of Home*.

From *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*, Chapter 7: The Writing on the Wall, page 69

Read the story of The Writing on the Wall in your Bible: Daniel, chapter 5 and find out the meaning of the message and what happened to the king.

SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

There are various signs associated with different groups of people. The children in *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers* were looking in the caves for a sign showing crossed pistols, a sign they thought was associated with local bushrangers of years gone by. They were searching for bushranger gold and thought that it might be hidden in a cave with the sign of the crossed pistols.

Four girls from the Wild Bush Mountains Grammar School asked Mrs Cumberland if the Bush Boys had found the bushrangers' mark in any of the caves in the bush. Mrs Cumberland replied, "I told them... that, so far, you had only found the skull and cross bones, but I didn't tell them Greg had put it there himself." Greg had a habit of drawing skull and cross bones as his sign in various caves.

Greg borrowed his sign from the pirates. Whenever we think of the skull and cross bones the image of a pirate ship, complete with a Jolly Roger, comes to mind. A Jolly Roger is the name given to a flag which identifies its user as a pirate. Typically the flag has a picture of a skull and cross bones on it, the pirates' sign.

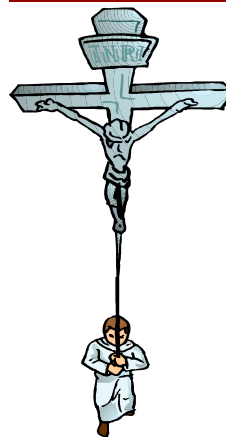
Where did this image of death come from? It is thought that the skull and cross bones were copied from similar symbols found on older crucifixes. Crucifixes made before the 1800s almost always had a skull and cross bones under the Cross of Jesus. They depicted death which Jesus triumphed over. They also alluded to the site of crucifixion, Golgotha, which means 'the skull'. From early Roman times until the Middle Ages, skulls and cross bones were also found in catacombs, churches, church crypts, monasteries and graveyards.

So the pirates took this symbol of death for their own. They corrupted the original meaning of the skull and cross bones. From the 1800s the symbol became better known for its association with killing rather than for having a religious meaning. And so crucifixes depicting skull and cross bones went out of favour.



The early Christians identified themselves by various secret signs known only to themselves and not to their persecutors. See *Bush Boys Explorers*, Summer 05-06

SIGNS OF THE CROSS



One sign that identifies us as Catholics is the Sign of the Cross. This is a short prayer we can make many times a day. When we make the Sign of the Cross we are saying we belong to God, we are Catholics and we believe in the Creed of the Church. As we touch our foreheads we think of God the Father, the head of our lives. We point to our hearts and know that Jesus loves us and we should love Him. Our strong shoulders remind us that the Holy Spirit is our strength.

Take your time making the sign of the cross, thinking about the Blessed Trinity while you touch your head, heart and shoulders: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

On the other hand, Mr Cumberland didn't really care about old inscriptions and he hoped fervently there would be no more 'adventures' like those of the last two weeks. So he tried to distract them by reminding Greg of the verse he had once taught him:

"What a poser he must be,
who writes his name on rock or tree."

From *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*, Chapter 6: Bunyip's Lair, page 59

VANDALISING THE BUSH

The Bush Boys found the bushrangers' inscriptions in the caves very interesting. These inscriptions resulted in an exciting adventure. However, not all inscriptions are welcome. Mr Cumberland reminds Greg that we should never wilfully damage the beauty of the bush by writing our names on rocks and trees.

Someone who wilfully damages something beautiful or valuable is known as a vandal. The word 'vandal' comes from the Latin, *vandalus*. This was the name of a Teutonic tribe who invaded Western Europe in the 4th and 5th centuries. *Vandalus* means 'wanderers'.

The Vandals were a nomadic tribe who sacked Rome in 455. It is interesting to note that there is no evidence that the Vandals wilfully destroyed the public buildings of Rome when they captured this city. Nevertheless the name of this tribe is now used to describe those people who wilfully or maliciously destroy public or private property or things of beauty or value.

Inside The Hut the clothes of the three youths were strewn about – on the benches, on both bunks, and hanging on the wall from nails. Three pairs of shoes sat on the earth floor – "Look at their boots!" exclaimed Bernie, in a hoarse whisper, loaded with criticism, "Just waiting for an invasion of funnel web spiders to take up residence."

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 24: Commando Raid

FUNNEL WEB SPIDERS

If you live in the Sydney region you may be familiar with funnel web spiders. As these spiders are one of the most dangerous spiders in the world you may be in the habit of watching out for them.

What do funnel web spiders look like? They are large bulky spiders. The females reach 35mm in length while the smaller males are around 25mm long. They have black glossy heads and dark brown or purplish abdomens. Their legs are covered in fine hairs.

Some animals would rather retreat than defend

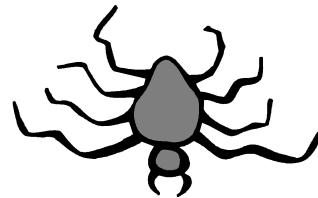
themselves when attacked. But not the funnel web spider. This creature is extremely aggressive. If provoked, it will raise its front legs off the ground and bring its fangs up and forward ready to strike. If it decides to attack, these large fangs will strike downwards with great force and speed. Acidic venom will be injected into the spider's victim. Not all mammals are affected by this venom. Unfortunately for us, the toxin will have a rapid effect on our nervous systems.

So what are the symptoms a person will experience if he has been bitten by a funnel web spider? For a start, the bite will be painful because of the large fangs and the acidity of the venom. Symptoms begin with a tingling of the area around the mouth, the tongue will twitch, the mouth will salivate profusely, eyes will water, the body will sweat and the muscles will begin to spasm. The victim will experience hypertension, a raised heartbeat and respiratory distress which may lead to death.

Not all bites from this venomous spider produce severe symptoms. The amount of venom injected and its strength determine the severity. However, it is wise to treat all bites as potentially lethal. Correct first aid treatment, including the use of a pressure-immobilisation bandage, should be performed. Anti-venom may be needed. The first batch of anti-venom was made available for use in 1980. Since then there have been no deaths from funnel web spider bites.

See *Bush Boys Explorers*, spring edition 2007 for more information on treating spider bites and the production of anti-venoms.

Do you know why funnel web spiders have this name? The name comes from the funnel shaped nest that these spiders spin. It is shaped like a long white silken tube with a pouch at one end in which the spider hides during the day. Because the tube usually has two entrances, it forms a Y shape. Funnel web spiders like to spin their nests in a hole or crevice. They like sheltered shady spots which are also humid and cool and will often be found under logs and rocks. Around the entrances of their nests the spiders will weave webs of trip lines. These will warn them when any likely prey is near.



If you are ever in the Central Coast area of NSW visit the Australian Reptile Park. A large viewing window in the Spider World section allows visitors to look into the funnel web spider laboratory. You may see a spider being milked of its venom.

"Well, next, Beth and I had a really pleasant visit to Miss Maisie Tanglewebb, the genealogist. She was just having a cuppa and made me one, too, and I gave Beth a feed. She was surrounded by old computers – yes, Greg, 8086s – and stacks of dusty documents that matched the cobwebs on the ceilings and, curled up on top of her high stool, she looked like an old friendly spider. She was a *very* different person from Messrs Guilfoyle and McGinty. She didn't ask or care what prompted my questions but was simply bursting to answer them.

From *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*, Chapter 21: Galway Crags Report, page 204

A DETECTIVE STORY

Mrs Maisie Tanglewood is a genealogist. A genealogist is a person, who through research, works out the ancestors of a particular person or family. Most people are aware of the names of their mother, father, brothers, sisters and grandparents together with their aunts, uncles and cousins. Some people may even know who their great grandparents are. But then the family tree may become a little hazy. If you have older relatives still living, you could ask them about their ancestors and perhaps add earlier names to your family tree.

Some people would like to know about family members who lived even earlier than anyone living can remember. They might ask a genealogist to help them or try and put together the story of their family for themselves. Putting together a family tree is a bit like being a detective: clues must be searched for, the pieces of the puzzle placed together one at a time until your tree starts filling with names of ancestors long forgotten.

There are lots of places a genealogist can look for clues about likely family ancestors. Some families may have old papers such as letters and diaries which will mention names. There are records which can be examined such as parish records of baptisms and burials. For a long time all births, marriages and deaths have been officially recorded. Census records can be looked at. Maybe old newspapers can give clues.

One of the most interesting places to search for clues of who might have belonged to your family is the cemetery. Often many members of the same family are buried in the same cemetery. By reading the inscriptions you might be able to work out who is related to whom. Husbands and wives are often buried side by side and the names of their children or grandchildren may be recorded. One of these children or grandchildren may also be buried in the cemetery and more information about their descendants could be recorded upon their headstones.

Working out a family tree requires patience and persistence. Some clues will lead to a dead end.

There may be a record of a person's baptism and marriage but then nothing else. Perhaps he or she moved away from an area where the family was living. But where to? A guess might have to be made and the records, in another likely parish, searched. It can be exciting when the trail becomes warm again!

STORIES ON STONES

Even if you are not exploring your family history, you may find a visit to your local cemetery very interesting. Here are a few things you could look out for:

- ♦ Try and locate the headstone with the oldest date on it and the most recent date.
- ♦ Look at the first names on the stones. What is the most common man's name and woman's name? Do names change over time? Can you find names that are not used these days?
- ♦ Can you find names indicative of a particular nationality? Some stones mention the person's country of birth if it wasn't Australia. What nationalities are represented in the cemetery?
- ♦ Some stones mention the cause of death especially if it was an accidental death. Maybe some people died because of illness or disease. Search the inscriptions for evidence of a cause of death.
- ♦ Do women live longer than men? Do wives outlive their husbands? Do a survey.
- ♦ Are there more than the usual number of deaths for a particular year? What might be the reason for this?
- ♦ Are there roughly similar numbers of deaths for each month of the year? Are there more deaths in a particular season?
- ♦ Look out for any unusual or particularly interesting inscriptions. Perhaps you may like to write them down.



PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

The headstones in a cemetery can tell us many stories. Each stone represents a person who once lived. Now no longer here, their souls have moved on to purgatory, heaven or hell. Perhaps while you are in the cemetery you can take the time to pray for these souls.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Q.17. *What happens in Purgatory?*

In Purgatory souls are purified of the effects of their sins *and made perfect for Heaven, helped by our Masses, merits, indulgences and prayers.*

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

SOME FAMOUS EPITAPHS

An inscription on a headstone is also known as an epitaph. Some epitaphs are very simple: they only record a person's name and dates of birth and death. Others are more personal and are chosen to reflect something about the dead person. There are many famous epitaphs.

Shakespeare is buried at the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford, England. It is said that he composed his own epitaph which reads:

Good friend for Jesus sake forbear,
To dig the dust enclosed here!
Blest be the man that spares these stones,
And curst be he that moves my bones.

Emily Dickinson was a 19th century American poet. She, apparently, was fascinated with 'marble stories'. Her own story is short and simple:

E.D. Called Back.

JESUS' GENEALOGY

A family tree is also known as a genealogy. Jesus' genealogy can be found in the Bible. During Advent, the readings for Mass include a list of Jesus' ancestors. In St Matthew's Gospel there are three sets of fourteen names in the family tree stretching from Abraham to Jesus. The three sets of names represent the three periods in Israel's history: the period of the patriarchs and judges, the period of the prophets and kings and the period of wisdom speakers and writers after the exile.

This family tree emphasizes that Jesus came from a family of real people and that he was a Jew. Not all Jesus' ancestors were good people. Like all families there are the black sheep and the 'skeletons in the closet'.

Recording family trees is an ancient tradition which has been rediscovered in recent times.

Two of the Gospels record Jesus' genealogy. Look up these readings: Matthew 1:2 -16 and Luke 3: 23 -38

There is a famous painting by Rubens called *St Teresa of Avila Interceding for the Souls in Purgatory*. Perhaps you can view this work online.

Six months ago, their Dad, Mr Paul Cumberland, had died suddenly. And only three months ago, the Cumberland family, Mum, the two boys and four girls had moved from interstate to this city suburb.

And now, they were invited to the Wild Bush Mountains, with Greg and Bernie, whose surname also was Cumberland, since their dad, Mr Matthew Cumberland, was a younger brother of Paul.

From ***Bush Boys***, Chapter 1: Good News from the Mountains

Can you draw up a family tree for the Cumberland family using the information in the *Bush Boys* books?

Q.8. *Who is Jesus Christ?*

Jesus Christ is true God and true man,
our Lord and Saviour,
the Son of God, who became
the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

God so loved the world
that He gave His only begotten Son,
so that whoever believes in Him might not perish
but might have eternal life. John 3:16



CAMPCRAFT AND LEADERSHIP

Have you ever been camping on your own like the Bush Boys? The Cumberland boys had to learn many facts, skills and virtues before their father thought they were equipped for an overnight camping trip on their own. He had to be sure they would act sensibly and would look after one another. They had to know how to avoid accidents but also have the skills to deal with any emergency if one occurred.

In Appendix 3 at the back of *Bush Boys on the Move* you will find **A Programme in Ten Steps** which a father can use with his sons to teach them the skills they need, in order to be allowed to go out into the bush alone. Perhaps your dad might agree to follow this plan during the long Christmas school holidays.