

Australian Writers

A. B. ("Banjo") Paterson (1864-1941)

Andrew Barton Paterson was born in New South Wales in 1864. After the publication of The Man From Snowy River and Other Verses in 1895, he became something of a literary celebrity in Australia. Paterson is best remembered as the author of Waltzing Matilda - Australia's unofficial national anthem. A film was made of his poem, The Man From Snowy River.

Henry Lawson (1867 - 1922)

Henry Lawson was born on the goldfields in New South Wales on 17 June, 1867, the son of a Norwegian seaman and an activist for women's rights. Lawson suffered from deafness and was often teased as a result. He led a troubled life but is one of Australia's best-known and loved early writers. There are many collections of his poems and short stories.

Henry Handel Richardson (1870 – 1946)

Henry Handel Richardson was the pen name of Ethel Florence Lindesay Richardson. She was born in Melbourne, Victoria where she attended Presbyterian Ladies College between the ages of 13 and 17. This experience was the basis for her novel The Getting of Wisdom. There is an excellent film of this book.

Miles Franklin (1879 - 1954)

Miles Franklin was born Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin in 1879 in the countryside of New South Wales. Her best-known book is My Brilliant Career which has been made into an extremely good film. She was a member of the early Australian feminist movement.

Joan Lindsay (1896 – 1984)

Picnic at Hanging Rock (***) was published in 1967. The book concerns the story of a girl's school outing on St. Valentine's Day, 1900, in the Australian outback and the mysterious disappearances that occur during that outing. The book was later made into an excellent movie.

Christina Stead (1902 - 1983)

Christina Stead was born and raised in Australia but spent the bulk of her life abroad, before returning to Australia to live. Considered by many to have been one of Australia's greatest novelists, she was often spoken of in Nobel Prize terms, especially in regards to her greatest novel The Man Who Loved Children, which was based heavily on her childhood.

Patrick White (1912 – 1990)

Patrick White may be Australia's best-known writer. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1973. You can read his autobiography and more about his books at http://www.literature-awards.com/patrick_white_autobiography.htm

David Malouf (1934 -)

David Malouf was born in Brisbane, Queensland in 1934. His father's family came to Australia in the 1880s from Lebanon and his mother's family from London just before World War I. He now writes full-time and lives part of the year in Australia and part in southern Tuscany in Italy. Try Johnno .

Olga Masters (? - 1986)

Olga Masters was born in New South Wales. She married at twenty-one and, with a family of seven children and part-time work in journalism, had little opportunity to develop her interest in writing fiction. In the brief four years between the publication of her first volume of short stories and her death, she was celebrated as one of Australia's most powerful and original writers. You can find her work in Collected Stories.

Sally Morgan (1951 -)

Sally Morgan is an Australian Aboriginal writer who was born in Perth, Western Australia. My Place (***) was Sally Morgan's first book, and upon publication it immediately achieved best-seller status. It has since sold over half a million copies in Australia, and been published in the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Malaysia, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Germany, France, Switzerland and Holland.

As well as writing, Sally Morgan has established an international reputation as an artist.

Poetry

The best way to start enjoying Australian poetry is with an anthology that covers a selection of poetry from the 200 years of writing in English there.

There are many websites where you can read poetry. You could start with <http://home.iprimus.com.au/michellejbailey/poetry.htm>
<http://www.acn.gov.au/articles/1998/08/poetry.htm>

or by looking for the names of individual writers such as John Shaw Neilson, Mary Gilmore, Judith Wright, A.D. Hope, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Judith Rodriguez...

Children's books

Norman Lindsay, The Magic Pudding (a classic book, now also a film)
<http://central.dot.net.au/~frankl/magic.htm>

Ruth Park, The Harp in the South (and many more)

Morris Gleitzman and Paul Jennings are now very popular with young readers.

For other Australian children's writers, see <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ozlit/children.html>

Useful websites about Australian literature and culture

<http://www.middlemiss.org/lit/lit.html>
<http://setis.library.usyd.edu.au/ozlit/ozlitbrowse.html>

<http://www.acn.net.au/>