

Friday 10 January 2014

RYDE SALUTES 'BANJO' PATERSON

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson, Australia's favourite bush poet, the City of Ryde is holding a month-long festival – *Ryde-ing with the Banjo* - that plays tribute to his colourful life, his work and his strong connection to the Ryde area.

'Banjo' Paterson

Andrew Barton 'Banjo' Paterson is Australia's best loved bush poet. He was an author, solicitor, war journalist and horseman. He wrote many ballads and poems about Australian outback life, most notably *Waltzing Matilda*, *The Man from Snowy River* and *Clancy of the Overflow*.

'Banjo' Paterson was born and raised in rural New South Wales. Drovers, bushrangers, bullock teams and horsemen from the Snowy Mountains were the familiar sights of his youth that inspired his writings.

His strong connection to the Ryde area began when aged 10 he went to live with his grandmother in Gladesville's historic Rockend Cottage while attending the Sydney Grammar School. It was Emily Barton who encouraged her grandson to read and write verse.

After completing school 'Banjo' became a clerk in a Sydney law firm and was admitted as a solicitor in 1886. It was at this time that he began publishing verse in the *Bulletin* and *Sydney Mail* under the pseudonyms 'B' and 'The Banjo' (after a favourite horse).

In 1895, at the age of 31, 'Banjo' Paterson achieved two milestones in Australian writing. He composed his now famous ballad *Waltzing Matilda*, and his first book, *The Man from Snowy River*, was published by Angus & Robertson, marking the beginning of an epoch in Australian publishing. This hallmark publication sold out its first edition within a week and went through four editions in six months.

The works of 'Banjo' Paterson have helped shape the romantic image of the Australia bushman and have inspired films, theatre and special events such as the Sydney Olympic Opening Ceremony. For over 100 years his work has consistently outsold any other collection of Australian poetry.

'Banjo' Paterson is an Australian icon and his face and the words to *Waltzing Matilda* are immortalised on the \$10 note.

RYDE-ING WITH THE BANJO

'Banjo' Musical Morning Tea with the Rainbow Singers

The Rainbow Singers celebrate the birthday of 'Banjo' Paterson with a captivating arrangement of 'Waltzing Matilda' and other Australiana tunes.

Date: Monday, 10 February
Time: 10.30 -11.30am
Location: Ryde Library
Cost: Gold coin contribution. Refreshments provided
Bookings: Essential 9952 8352

The Life and Poems of Banjo Paterson
A bi-lingual presentation in Mandarin and English

Join Ryde Library Service librarian Jinru Zhu as she recounts the events in Banjo Paterson's life in Mandarin; assisted by Local Studies Librarian Angela Phippen

Date: Friday, 14 February
Time: 1.30 – 3.00 pm
Location: Eastwood Library
Cost: Gold coin contribution. Refreshments provided
Bookings: Essential 9952 8352

The Life and Times of 'Banjo' Paterson
Presented by Gregory Blaxell

Join us on Banjo's birthday to hear the fascinating story of his life and work. Presented by well-known local author and historian Gregory Blaxell. Be prepared to sing Happy Birthday and share in Banjo's birthday cake!

Date: Monday, 17 February
Time: 10.30 - 12 noon
Location: Ryde Library
Cost: Gold coin contribution. Refreshments provided
Bookings: Essential 9952 8352

An Evening with 'the Banjo'
Presented by Gregory Blaxell; with musical accompaniment by Ryde Library's own Ryde Rovers

Join well-known local author and historian Gregory Blaxell as he reads from the poems and stories of Banjo Paterson. Be prepared to sing the roof off the library as we all join in 'Waltzing Matilda'

Date: Thursday, 20 February
Time: 6.30 – 8.00 pm
Location: Ryde Library
Cost: Gold coin contribution. Refreshments provided
Bookings: Essential 9952 8352

Guided Walk through Banjo Paterson Park, incl Looking Glass Bay Park and Bedlam Point.

To celebrate 150 years since Banjo Paterson's birth and in acknowledgement of his strong local connections to the City of Ryde area, the Guided Walk will include a special Banjo Paterson poetry reading by local historian and author Gregory Blaxell.

Date: Sunday 23 February 2014

Session 1: 10.00am – 12noon

Session 2: 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Location: Banjo Paterson Park, Gladesville

Cost: FREE – Active In Ryde program

Bookings: Essential – 9952 8222. Bookings open on 13 January. Book early as places are strictly limited.

Pre-school 'Banjo' storytimes

From Tuesday 11 February until Friday 21 February our usual children's storytimes will celebrate the life and works of 'Banjo' Paterson with Australiana themed stories and crafts.

Waltzing Matilda (Australia's unofficial national anthem)

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong
Under the shade of a coolibah tree,
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled:
"Who'll come a-waltzing Matilda, with me?"

Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Matilda
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda, with me
And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled:
"You'll come a-waltzing Matilda, with me."