

# FOREWORD

The display which is being made at Farmer's Blaxland Galleries in connection with Authors Week is unique in many ways and one which should enlist the interest of all good Australians.

No less than 1600 books written by Australians, or by outsiders about Australia, have been given or lent to the Committee, and will be included in the Book Exhibition. In addition to books, there will also be book-plates, portraits of authors, bindings, manuscripts and other literary treasures. Mr. J. J. Hardie is in charge of this exhibition, which will open on April 8 at 9.30.

To illustrate the versatility of Australian writers, a number of pageants representing scenes from Australian books will be performed every afternoon. There will be 10 of these pageants, and 60 actors and actresses will be engaged in their production, under the direction of Mr. John Gould and Miss Jeanie Ranken. The first performance will be on Monday, April 8, after the opening ceremony, when the Governor, Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, will officially launch Authors Week.

The Week will conclude with a Grand Ball on Saturday, April 13, to be held in Blaxland Galleries at 8.30 p.m., concluding at 1.30 a.m. Both plain and fancy dress will be worn, and the hall will be appropriately decorated to give the literary atmosphere.

Fellowship of  
Australian Writers

## Australian Authors Week

*Under the Patronage and in the Presence of His Excellency the Governor, Brigadier-General The Hon. Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.*

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### PAGEANT COMMITTEE:

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#### COMMITTEE

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| Miss Jeanie Ranken | Mr. Frank Dalby Davison |
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# Australian Authors Week Pageant

## THE PROGRAMME

*Under the auspices of  
The Fellowship of Australian Writers*

Pageant Master: John Gould. † Co-producer: Jeanie Ranken.  
Musical Director: Lute Drummond.

Assisted by Haagen Holenbergh

Stage Manager: Frank Clune

Asst. Stage Manager: Dorothy McDonogh

Wardrobe Mistress: Thelma Clune

Costumes by J. C. Williamson, Ltd., and Mrs. Gabriel

Programme Sellers: Students of "Doone"

### 1. THE PROLOGUE *By Jeanie Ranken*

Spoken by Marie Bremner

Good Audience! Your ears a moment, pray;  
From out Australian Literature to-day  
The Dream Folk will step forth to give you greeting,  
And play their parts for you. And does the meeting  
Content you, will you think on all it means  
To hold in memory these Folk of Dreams—  
There are so many scenes we'd like to show,  
But time is short—Though Art is long you know—  
Bushland Bards who sang of roving ways;  
And Robbery under Arms in olden days;  
Old Haxby wandering with his Circus Band;  
And "We" who loved the "Never Never" Land;  
The mighty pageants of the past unfold,  
We hear the Dramas of old Greece retold  
In singing words:—One taught that Poesie  
Is bound by no clime, but wanders fancy free;  
A Wild Swan singing—all the unnamed Band  
Of Troubadours who tell of story land:—  
Let us look forward—see our literature  
Growing in power and beauty, founded sure  
On that sincerity without which art  
In the great scheme of things has little part.  
So we may worship at old shrines, yet be  
The voice of our own Land and Time, and see  
The Commonplaces of our duller days  
Lightened by laughter, and the wand'ring ways  
Of Dreams—and when old Time has struck his Knell,  
The Dream may be the business—

Who can tell?

### 2. THE DROVERS *By Louis Esson*

Time: Early morning

The Drovers are bringing a big mob of store bullocks overland. The cattle are restless, needing food and water. The jackeroo has fired his revolver at a dingo and rushed the mob off camp. In the stampede Briglow Bill is fatally injured. The Boss, Alec. McKay, decides that he and his men push on with the cattle. He leaves Briglow in the charge of Pidgeon (a black boy) and promises to return to camp when he and his men have got the cattle to water.

The characters in the final scene are:—

Alec. McKay (the Boss)	Charles Cunnington
Briglow Bill	Anthony Grist
Pidgeon (a black boy)	Vern Cunnington

### 3. RICHARD MAHONY MEETS POLLY *By Henry Handel Richardson*

Tilly Beamish	Alix Lamb
Jinny Beamish	Betty Higgins
Polly Turnham	Jean McIlraith
Mrs. Beamish	Marie Boyers
Purdy Smith	Ewart Collings
Richard Mahony	Frederick Hyde

### 4. THE DIGGERS *By Leon Gellert*

Speaker: John Gould

The Digger	Frank Clune
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### 5. TO-MORROW *By John Le Gay Brereton*

Scene: The interior of Appleby's cottage. Mistress Appleby is bustling about the room, thinking the while of the morrow, when she hopes to become the mistress of Robert Greene. Greene has just left the cottage in the company of friends. He has decided on a final carouse at the tavern of the "Golden Rose". He too is thinking of the morrow, when he hopes to cast aside forever his evil companions, his mad drinking bouts and everything connected with the life of dissipation that he has led for so long.

Mistress Greene enters and precipitates the dramatic situation. The scene ends tragically upon the death of Master Appleby.  
Time: London, about 1592.

Mistress Greene	Frances Lane
Mistress Appleby	Marie Boyers
Master Greene	Frederick Hyde
Master Appleby	Ewart Collings

## 12. EPILOGUE

By *BARTLETT ADAMSON*

Spoken by Marie Bremner

Now, though the moving pageant ends,  
Keep this for memory, good friends.

These actors you have seen and heard,  
Have sought to show, by deed and word,  
How variously, for your delight,  
Our own Australian authors write.  
Not only of the lonely bush,  
Nor goldfield rush, nor city push,  
Nor yet alone of outlaw-days,  
Nor even old colonial ways,  
Their stories tell. But ranging far,  
Our writers roam through peace and war,  
Making the whole wide world their stage  
And taking toll of every age.

Yet all these tales, how so they change,  
Give scarce a hint of what wide range  
Waits to delight the one who looks  
To these, our own Australian books.

And since all books, or so it seems,  
Are born of dreams, and since those dreams  
Demand, much more than we may guess,  
The subtle touch of friendliness.  
Good friends! how great, how great the cheer  
You give us by your presence here,  
Inspiring all, unconsciously,  
To greater tales and dreams to be.

The dream lives, though the pageant ends.  
And so farewell, farewell, good friends!

## Acknowledgments and sincere thanks to

Farmer & Company, Limited	Burlakov Lightfoot Ballet
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Amalgamated Wireless	Tal Ordell
Marie Bremner	Ethelwynne Kirk
Marie Boyers	Peter Osborn
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The Fellowship of Australian Writers wishes to express particular thanks for the help rendered by Farmer & Company, Limited.

On Thursday Miss Sylvia Whitty will take Miss Marie Boyers' place.