

# Teachers' notes

## Banjo and Lawson

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### Timeline 1831 to 1993

I developed this Timeline during my research and writing process. Like most of my research the majority of the information gathered never made it directly into the play, but I still think it will be of interest to students in their studies as it was for me.

- 1831            The HERALD (Sydney) later to become the Sydney Morning Herald Newspaper is first printed
- 1854 - The 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Telegraph line is erected and starts operations between Melbourne and Williamstown. It is 17 Kilometre long. This is only 10 years after the world's first telegraph line operates in USA.
- 1860's    The life expectancy of Male Australians born in the 1860's is 47.
- 1864 17<sup>th</sup> February Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson born near Orange, NSW. Died 1941 aged 77.
- 1867    The telegraph line now connects Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and via the longest undersea cable in the world, at the time, Tasmania.
- 1867 7<sup>th</sup> June    Henry Archibald Hertzberg Lawson born in Grenfell NSW. Died 1922 aged 55.
- 1872 the Telegraph line is completed between Adelaide and Darwin and is connected to an underwater cable that goes from Darwin to Java and from there all the way across Europe to England.
- 1880 30<sup>th</sup> January The Bulletin magazine is first published – it is a weekly publication and becomes known as the 'bushman's bible'.
- 1882 – 9<sup>th</sup> December Brisbane is the first town in Australia to turn on eight electric street lights in Queen Street -the main street. This is Australia's first recorded use of electricity for public purposes.
- 1885 Banjo Paterson has his first poems published in the Bulletin. The poem was 'El Mahdi to the Australian Troops'.
- 1887 The Bulletin publishes Henry Lawson's poetry for the first time. The poem was 'A Song of the Republic'.

- 1900 Population of Australia is said to be 3,765,339
- 1922 - Henry Archibald Hertzberg Lawson dies aged 55.
- 1924 - First Public radio broadcast in Australia Lic. 1 Commenced 9 Jan 1924 in Sydney – Melbourne same year.
- 1929 - The first Television Test took place in Melbourne.
- 1934 - there is one hour of Television being broadcast a day to 18 receivers in Brisbane. This was after 18 months of test transmissions.
- 1941 - Andrew Barton “Banjo” Paterson dies aged 77.
- 1954 - The first public Broadcast of TV in Sydney and Melbourne.
- 1965 - 45% of Australians live without a flushing toilet.
- 1993 The last publicly provided telegraph service in Australia is closed.

## **The poets and their poetry**

Paterson is said to be the romantic while Lawson is said to be the realist.

## **Henry Lawson writings used in the Show**

Poverty - 1897

Past Carin’ - written in 1899 about the droughts he witnessed in 1892 –’93 Western NSW & QLD

Even though the poem, Past Carin’ is written by a man, (Henry Lawson), it is said to be one of, if not the first Australian poem written about women from a woman’s point of view. i.e. In the woman’s voice.

A Child In The Dark - Also known as ‘A Child In The Dark and a Foreign Father’ (Short Story).

Commenced while Henry was in England it was finished back in Australia in the Bulletin in 1902. Only a part of the story is used in the play. When read from beginning to end the story is even sadder and darker and lines like “and the old year died as many old years had died” take on a deeper meaning with the knowledge that Henry attempted suicide soon after the story’s publication.

Faces In The Street - 1888

On The Night Train - 1922 said to be Henry’s last Poem of merit

Knocked Up - 1893

The Never-Never Land - 1901 (written while Henry and Bertha are in England -Deleted from script during the rehearsal period)

The Lily of St. Leonards - 1907 (Deleted from script during the rehearsal period)

To Hannah - 1904

### **Henry Lawson *quotes***

“Beer makes you feel the way you should feel without beer.”

“I never lived in a house yet without there was something wrong with it.” (not used in the script)

### **Banjo Paterson poetry used in the show**

The Geebung Polo Club - 1893 first published in the Antipodean – An annual Australian literary periodical.

Lost ‘He ought to be home’, said the old Man, ‘without there’s something amiss’

Clancy of the Overflow - 1889

The Man From Snowy River - 1890

Mulga Bill’s Bicycle - 25/07/1896 in The Sydney Mail newspaper

### **Lousia Lawson (nee Albury) (1848 – 1920) Poetry used in the show**

Coming Home.

#### **Other information about Louisa not in the play.**

When her husband Peter died in 1888 he left her one thousand one hundred and three pounds, a considerable sum of money. The basic wage was introduced in Australia in 1907 ( 19 years later) at that time it was two pound two shilling.

When Louisa died in 1920 she left nothing to her son Henry. She had been a member of the temperance movement that campaigned against the consumption of alcohol. She did not approve of Henry’s drinking habits.

### **Other People mentioned in the script.**

Sister MacCallum - sister in charge of the Mental Hospital Darlinghurst.

Mrs Isabel Byers – Henry Lawson’s landlady for the later part of his life. Henry referred to her as ‘The Little Mother’.

Bertha Lawson (nee Bredt) - Henry Lawson's wife.

Hannah Thornburn - Henry Lawson's second love.

Mr Jules Archibald (Archie) - Editor of Bulletin Magazine (this is the man who bequeathed in his will funds for the Archibald fountain in Hyde Park in Sydney and the Archibald prize for portrait painting.

## References used in the Writing

### Books

**Short Stories of Henry Lawson** by Dean Thomas - Hodder & Stoughton - ISBN 0 340 50341 6

**Henry Lawson Poems** - Introduction and Chronology by Colin Rodrick - John Ferguson Pty Ltd - Printed by Macarthur Press - ISBN 0 909134 16 2

**The World of Henry Lawson** Published by Lansdowne Press Sydney 1974 ISBN 0 7018 1429 2

**Henry Lawson A Stranger on the Darling** by Robyn Burrow & Alan Barton - Angus & Robertson ISBN 0 - 207 - 18969 - 2

**The Best of Banjo Paterson** Selected by Walter Stone Published by Lansdowne Press Sydney 1977 - ISBN 07018 1428 4

**Louisa** by Brian Matthews Published by Penguin Books

Books looked for but was unable to find "Henry Lawson by His Mates" Edited by Bertha Lawson & J.Le Gay Brereton Published 1931 and 1973

### Web pages

Henry Lawson's Socialist Vision

<https://openjournals.library.sydney.edu.au/index.php/SSSC/article/viewFile/8274/8397>

Excerpts from:- A Wife's Heart The untold story of Bertha and Henry Lawson By Kerrie Davies

<http://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/social-affairs/separation-and-single-parenting-tribulations-henry-lawson%E2%80%99s-wife>

**Australian schooling and Literacy levels:-**

Looking at History – Blog Richard Brown Nineteenth Century Society -

<http://richardjohnbr.blogspot.com.au/2011/01/literacy-revised-version.html>

Government schools of New South Wales from 1848. -

[http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/story/instruction\\_act.shtm](http://www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au/story/instruction_act.shtm)

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/La-Trobe-Journal-99-Jim-Grahame.pdf>

<https://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/lawson-henry>