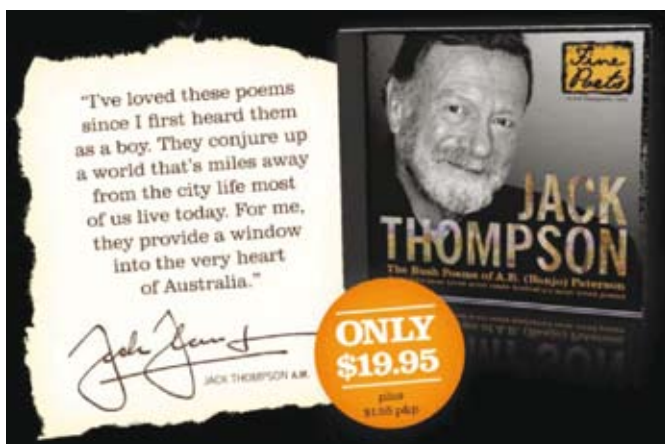


Film legend Jack Thompson has a passion for Australia's most famous poet, Banjo Paterson — so much so that he has recorded a CD of Paterson's greatest poems, bringing each line of these well-loved verses to life.

Banjo Paterson's poems show his appreciation of the early Australian people and settlements, which is still a prime building block of today's multicultural Australia. His poems deserve to be appreciated and understood by all Australians, from all our diverse backgrounds.

## www.finepoets.com

Using this website you can download a printable PDF file of the Banjo Paterson poems, listen to a sample of each poem read by Jack Thompson, purchase audio files of individual poems, and purchase the complete CD containing all 16 poems.



**Purchase online or contact:**  
 Fine Poets, PO Box 2124, Clovelly NSW 2031  
 Phone: (02) 9665 6135 Fax: (02) 9665 4378  
 Email: [info@finepoets.com](mailto:info@finepoets.com)

## Australian poetry in our classrooms

The teaching of poetry is required under the current Australian literacy curriculum. Poetry offers scope for a range of speaking, listening, viewing and drama activities, and provides opportunities to explore language and the playful properties of colloquial speech, in a range of curriculum areas.

### Curriculum links

- English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Poetry, Interpretation
- SOSE/HSIE: Change and Continuity, Significant Events and People, Identities
- Science and Technology: Using Technology, The Earth and its Surroundings
- Creative and Practical Arts: Drama, Drawing
- Mathematics: Mapping, Money

### Questions and activities

- What was Banjo Paterson's real name?
- On which Australian banknote will you find Banjo Paterson? What else can you find on this note?
- Banjo Paterson's poetry is well-known, but he was also skilled in other work. What else did he do?
- In the poem Clancy of the Overflow, Paterson refers to the Lachlan River. Trace the route of this river and imagine what Paterson would have been writing about.
- Where is The Man from Ironbark set?
- Keep a list of words that you are not familiar with in Banjo Paterson's poems. Using your dictionary, find the meanings of these words. Are these words you use today?
- Mini-project 1: Research Banjo Paterson's life and poems using books and the internet. Find out about his date/place of birth and death, family history, schooling, famous poems, occupations and travel, and any other interesting facts.
- Mini-project 2: Select one of Banjo Paterson's poems. Describe in your own words what the poem means to you. Explain what the poem is about. List different adjectives that provide the descriptions in the poem. Illustrate the poem. Choose a verse or two to learn, then recite your verse to the class — you may even want to dress up for your performance.



Additional activities for this unit can be downloaded from the *Teachers' Toolkit* website. (Search in Download Lesson Plans.)