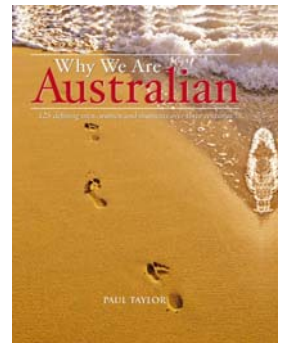




The Five Mile Press

For Release 12 November 2007



## Why We Are Australian

*125 defining men, women and moments over three centuries*

**Why We Are Australian** tracks the unique footprint that defines us as Australians; an identity so distinct that it's recognised and increasingly respected the world over.

Sometimes irreverent, often humorous and moving, and with more than 200 color illustrations in its 387-pages, Paul Taylor's new book demonstrates that our unique character lies somewhere in Australia's DNA and the molecules that carry genetic information and pass it from one generation to the next.

Molecules, he suggests, made up of the men, women and children of the First Fleet; the Man From Snowy River; Warnie; Ned Kelly; Paul Keating; the Melbourne gangland killings; Eureka Stockade; Bennelong and Governor Phillip; Sidney Nolan and Albert Namatjira; Germaine Greer and Lola Montez; the Conscriptio battles; the massacre at Myall Creek; Cathy Freeman; Malcolm Fraser's missing trousers; monsters like Martin Bryant and Ivan Milat; Paul Hogan, Dame Edna Everage, Kath & Kim and Ginger Meggs; the Rum Rebellion; Mabo; Gallipoli; Bondi beach and Uluru; the bombings of Darwin; the Bogle-Chandler mystery, the Dismissal; the Ashes Tests; bushfires, droughts and flooding rains, tragedies and triumphs, heroes and villains.

It's a big, glorious mosaic of fact, folklore and fiction beautifully illustrated with photographs, verse, cartoons and illustrations that will be a source of delight for those who wish to understand more about what defines us.

**Paul Taylor** got his taste for writing as a 12-year-old copyboy on a Melbourne institution, *The Sporting Globe*. He went on to work on more than a dozen newspapers in Australia, New Zealand and Fleet Street, among them *The Daily Mail*, *The Observer* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. He returned to Melbourne to become features editor of *The Sun News-Pictorial* and then *The Herald* before changing careers. As a copywriter his commercials for Foster's, featuring Paul Hogan, won America's top advertising awards.

He collated and edited *The Wit of Paul Keating: The Book We Had to Have* and wrote *Ned Kelly: Beyond the Legend*, *Australian Ripping Yarns* and *Australian Ripping Yarns 2*.

### **WHY WE ARE AUSTRALIAN by Paul Taylor**

**Published by:** The Five Mile Press **RRP:** \$49.95 [www.fivemile.com.au](http://www.fivemile.com.au)

**Size:** 387 pages full colour 295mm x 255 mm

**Publicity date:** Monday 12 November 2007

**Available from:** Good bookstores everywhere

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