

June Barnes and Nell Bell

The Following email is from June Barnes and was posted on the Storytell Chat line

Hi Annie, and welcome to STORYTELL.

Annie appears to have been a little modest in her introduction. But then again understatement is typical of the true Australian character.

Anne E Stewart is regularly interviewed on various radio programs (ABC and others) and has appeared as the chosen storyteller on several television shows including the very popular Lift Off. Annie is also a regular guest storyteller at the Dromkeen Society (an institution nurturing and developing children's literature in conjunction with Scholastic) where respected Australian and overseas authors and illustrators are honoured. She is on hallowed turf because this is where you can nibble on vegemite sandwiches with the likes of Mem Fox, the renowned Australian storyteller/author from South Australia who started the storytelling guild in that state. She is also one of the few storytellers to have worn the very grand Storytellers Cape and like Bryce Courtney she has also sat on the storytellers' throne at Dromkeen.

But unlike the peacocks which strut imperiously in the bushland setting around the grand old Dromkeen homestead, Annie Stewart does not give herself royal airs. She has the class and character that comes from a secure inner knowledge of her value as a person and a professional . She does not need to shout her credentials in an attempt to prove them.

Annie comes to storytelling with a love of literature and her librarian training. But don't be fooled by that, you won't find Annie Stewart whispering behind the bookshelves. Like Judi Dench her voice will arrest your attention. And you are more likely to find her in the outback chasing buffalo and yelling for another beer at the pub!

Her sense of community and respect for all, wins Annie many friends including many of the Australian Aboriginal people and their Keepers of Tales. She is always happy to help out in any way to support, not only her local community, but also the storytelling community. One of her outstanding contributions is as Senior Writer for 'swag of yarns'...

June Barnes Editor "Swag Of Yarns"

Nell Bell's Reference on my 2001 Churchill Fellowship Application.

I am recognised overseas as a storyteller and an Ambassador for Australia. It is from this perspective I feel Anne would be an outstanding representative of Australia Storytelling.. I have known Anne both personally and professionally for many years. She has my respect and admiration as a researcher and communicator with all levels and ages of society.

Anne has lived and worked with Aboriginal Communities and individuals in The Northern Territory and Western Australia, country and urban Victoria and she has been granted and entrusted with the retelling of their stories. Her researched and created stories from the lives and conditions of the people of Ballarat and Elwood are of value to educators and her

reputation as an honest, entertaining and knowledgeable teller has preceded her in the UK and USA.

Nell Bell Australian Storytelling Guild,

Life Member Representative Bi-Centenary Education USA 1988 Graduate Diploma  
Children's Literature