



Local Author
Spotlight

Author, Peter Perkins

Outback Comes to Life in Real-fiction Thrillers

Story *Sally Eberhardt* Photo *slapics*

Redcliffe author, Peter Perkins, has a knack for depicting real people and real stories from the Outback in ripping yarns that both thrill and give perspective to life out west.

The Adam Mann series, consisting of *The Condamine Bell*, *Yellowbelly*, and the recently published third book, *I'll be Six Next Birthday*, is about a childhood friend whom Peter said taught him bushcraft and much more.

"All my books are real-fiction, my characters are real people, and the stories real life. Adam's real story is in there, the fiction adds reality," Peter said.

"Adam was the embodiment of my Cairns school mate – a smart, quiet, disadvantaged, mixed-blood, barefoot boy with a fractured family. I went to boarding school – he became a station-hand in borrowed boots. Five years later he was a man – I, still a callow youth!" Peter said.

Born in Miles, Peter spent all his formative years in the bush. He joined the Bank of New South Wales and transferred around Queensland, as a manager working in many country towns.

His passion for the outback glows and he hopes to instill a shared love of the bush in his readers, as well as a closer appreciation of the value of the farmers who put food on our plates.

"Bush people know how to use their time, love, friendships, tolerance and acceptance more effectively – they waste nothing. If love is lost in the city, the bushie will show you how to recycle it," Peter said.

Peter's love of prose came from his parents, who were amateur thespians.

"We read and discussed Shakespeare, Alfred Noyes' *The Highwayman* and Tennyson's *The Charge of the Light Brigade* to name a few. They embody action, passion, insight, intrigue and honesty. All these qualities I bring to my books."

An active member of Redcliffe Writers Group, Peter's advice to aspiring writers is to write from your heart, and your head will follow.

"Time is the currency of life and opportunity your vehicle of passage through it. Waste neither, for they are your most precious commodities."

To learn more about Peter and his books, go to www.peterperkinsauthor.com and immerse yourself in the colourful characters and Aussie humour of the Outback.