

# Reputations rise and fall

Tony Stephens

The child health expert and 2003 Australian of the Year Fiona Stanley is in the running to replace the former nuclear scientist Sir Mark Oliphant. Steve Waugh may take over from his fellow Australian cricket captain Sir Don Bradman.

Ruth Cracknell has left a spot, perhaps, for actors Cate Blanchett or Nicole Kidman. The Anzac Ted Matthews has gone but one of the few surviving World War I veterans, such as Ted Smout, could take his place, as may the Chief of the Defence Force, General Peter Cosgrove.

The National Trust formally announces today the search for 15 "living national treasures". Those chosen will replace the 15 men and women who have died since Australians voted for 100 "treasures" in 1997.

Readers of *The Sydney Morning Herald* are invited to submit nominations. The successful nominees will be inducted at a dinner at Sydney Town Hall on April 6, with many of the remaining 85 expected to attend.

The original list attracted much acclaim and some criticism when released six years ago. The Prime Minister, John Howard, said he did not agree with every name on the list but that it showed the rich diversity of Australian society.

Michael Ball, of the National Trust's Living National Treasures Committee, said yesterday that a people's vote was more democratic than a selection panel.

He said his ideal national treasure would be remembered in 100 years, their names would ring true and the echoes of their voices would still be heard.

Anyone compiling such a list runs into arguments after the first dozen or so. There was no doubt about Bradman, for example, whom Mr Howard called "the greatest living Australian".

There is no doubt about Dame Joan Sutherland, who became one of the leading sopranos of the century, known worldwide as *La Stupenda*. If there were any doubt about the satirist Barry Humphries there could be none about his creations, Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson.

Sir Gus Nossal and the Nobel Prize-winner Peter Doherty are



Updating the rollcall of 100 Living National Treasures: Cate Blanchett (above) may join such figures as Hazel Hawke

## HELP CHOOSE AUSTRALIA'S LIVING TREASURES

The National Trust, in association with *The Sydney Morning Herald*, is seeking nominations for those people who have made outstanding contributions to our society in any field of human endeavour. Nominees must be living and have made a substantial and enduring contribution. More than one person can be nominated, with each nomination counting as one vote. There is no need to rank your nominations. To vote, you can fax the National Trust on (02) 9241 2303, send an email to [treasures@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au](mailto:treasures@nsw.nationaltrust.org.au), or post a letter to the Executive Director, National Trust of Australia (NSW), GPO Box 518, Sydney 2001.



treasured for their scientific research, Cathy Freeman and Betty Cuthbert for their athleticism and grit, Gough and Margaret Whitlam for their continued and stylish contribution to the national debate - and their sense of fun.

Heroes and celebrities are not necessarily national treasures or vice versa. Howard Florey was an international hero who might have saved 50 million lives by helping to develop medical uses for penicillin - but most Australians know little of him.

Many Australians now treasure Kylie Minogue; but will she be remembered in 100 years?

Voters will define "treasure" in different ways. Importance or greatness does not necessarily relate directly to amiability or respect. Influence is not the same thing as fame. Rupert Murdoch and Jim Wolfensohn, the World Bank president, are probably the most influential Australians internationally but they might not rate as treasures. It will be surprising, too, if the Queen of Australia qualifies.

National treasure might come somewhere between hero and celebrity while possessing qualities relating to one or both of those characters. "Where your treasure is," St Matthew said, "there will your heart be, also."

Mr Ball admitted that some of the surviving list would not be included if the original 100 were chosen today. Dr Peter Hollingworth, a popular choice six years ago, might not have made it after his term as governor-general. The politician Cheryl Kernot and Jennie George

# n rollcall of those we love



Gustav Nossal and Richard Tognetti. Main photo: Sahlan Hayes



## LIVING TREASURES

- |                           |                         |                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Philip Adams AO           | Bob Brown               | Thomas Keneally AO     |
| Peter Garrett             | Janet Holmes a Court AO | Tom Uren AO            |
| Les Murray AO             | Charles Perkins AO*     | Cheryl Kernof          |
| Betty Archdale MBE*       | Don Burrows AO MBE      | Anthony Warlow         |
| Jennie George             | Donald Horne AO         | Gal Waterhouse         |
| John Newcombe AO OBE      | Kieren Perkins OAM      | Peter Doherty AC       |
| Faith Bandler AM          | Eyonne Cawley AO MBE    | Rod Laver              |
| Shane Gould               | John Howard             | Morris West AO*        |
| Greg Norman AM            | Henry A. Reynolds       | Don Dunstan AC         |
| John Bell AM OBE          | Tim Costello            | Michael Leung          |
| Germaine Greer            | Robert Hughes AO        | Sim Dusty AO MBE*      |
| Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE  | Ken Rosewall            | Herb Elliot AC MBE     |
| Geoffrey Blainey AO       | Ruth Cracknell AM*      | Ted Matthews           |
| Rolf Harris AM OBE        | Barry Humphries AO      | Robyn Williams AM      |
| Arthur Boyd AC OBE*       | Bill Crews AM           | John Farnham AO        |
| John Hatton AO            | Elizabeth Jolley AO     | Colleen McCullough     |
| Pat O'Shane AM            | Dick Smith AO           | Dawn Fraser AO MBE     |
| Raelene Boyle MBE         | Bart Cummings AM        | Garry McDonald AO      |
| Hazel Hawke               | Barry Jones AO          | Calvin Tzeng           |
| (Mum) Shiril Smith AM MBE | Betty Cuthbert AM MBE   | Jack Mundey            |
| Sir Mark O'Donoghue AC    | Caroline Jones AO       | Judith Wright McKinney |
| Sir Donald Bradman AC     | Paul Keating            | Margaret Fulton OAM    |
| Margaret Olley AO         | Richard Tognetti        | Graeme Murphy AM       |
| Gabi Hollows              | Judy Davis              | John Wu AM             |
| Noel Pearson              |                         | Tim Winton             |



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|----------------------------|---|
| Gough Whitlam AC QC        | Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE AM                    |
| Ted Mack                   | Peter Hollingworth AO OBE                       |
| Margaret Whitlam AO        | Father Frank Brennan AO                         |
| David Williamson AO        | Peter Sculthorpe AO OBE                         |
| Sir Alan Walker Kt OBE DD* | Dame Joan Sutherland OM AC OBE                  |
| Ernie Dingo                | Sir Robert Cutler VC AK, KCMG, KStJ, KCVO, CBE* |
| Ian Kiernan AO OAM         | Sir William Deane AC KBE                        |
| Nancy Bird-Watson AO OBE   | Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG                    |
| Michael James Dodson AM    | Pat Dodson                                      |
| Malcolm Fraser AC CH       | Dame Leonie Kramer AC OBE                       |
| Walter Mikac               | Justice Marcus Einfeld AO QC                    |
| Roger Woodward AC OBE      | David Malouf AO                                 |
| Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM     | R M Williams AO CMG*                            |

\*deceased

would also be unlikely candidates today. John Hatton, the campaigning independent MLA, may be treasured still, but is now much less well known.

With the list to be revived every five years or so, its changing make-up will reflect inevitably the changing society.

Walker Mikac, who lost his wife and both daughters in the Port Arthur massacre, said later: "Remember that the power of love and creation will always triumph over the power of destruction and revenge."

Those words eased the national pain and remain treasured but voters this time may look for someone from the Ball tragedy – perhaps Fiona Wood, whose revolutionary work with burns victims will be remembered, or the Victorian footballer Jason McCartney.

John Landy, the first Australian to break the four-minute mile and the athlete remembered for having stopped in a race to help a fallen opponent, might have been unlucky to miss out on the first 100. Now there are moves to

extend his term as Governor of Victoria and he will be considered again. Ted Egan, the storyteller who is now Administrator of the Northern Territory, is expected to attract votes. So, too, will the NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir, who has crowned her career as an eminent child psychiatrist with her vice-regal role.

The Children's authors Paul Jennings and Mem Fox will win votes. The singer Jimmy Little could join the entertainers, while the actors Mel Gibson and Russell Crowe, the directors Peter Weir

and Phillip Noyce, H. G. Nelson and Roy Slaven, the cooks Tetsuya Wakuda and Stephanie Alexander, the winemaker and educator Len Evans, and the artist Judy Cassab will have support.

Lawyers are as likely treasures as journalists – but some will be nominated to join the High Court judge Michael Kirby and the Jesuit priest and lawyer Frank Brennan.

To name two architects is to guarantee an argument, but Harry Seidler could feature this time. New sportspeople could include Ian Thorpe and Kay Cottee.