

## Banjo Paterson Park Yass



In the 1950's Yass very proudly dedicated a park in the township to the memory of Banjo Paterson.

You can wander around the rose garden and admire his bust in bonze, excerpts from some of his most well known poems as well as information regarding his connection to the area about his life.

## Banjo Paterson Ten Dollar Note



*My little collie pup works silently and wide  
You'll see her climbing up along the mountainside  
As silent as a fox, you'll see her come and go  
A shadow through the rocks, where ash and  
messmate grow  
Then list to sight and sound, behind some  
rugged steep, she works her way around and  
gathers up the sheep  
Mountain Squatter*

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# Yass Valley

## Banjo Paterson

1864 - 1941

Andrew Barton Paterson



Yass Valley Information Centre  
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## Banjo Paterson *Early Days*

Andrew Barton (Bartie) Paterson was the oldest of seven Paterson children. He was five when his father moved to 'Illalong Station' near Binalong.

The station lay on the main route between Sydney & Melbourne, so there were frequent travellers along the road from bullockies to Cobb & Co coaches.

Young Bartie was fascinated with the bullocks, although warned by his parents not to talk or become friendly with them, he nevertheless yarned to many passing by. Without a doubt these men formed the beginnings of some of the great characters of the bush, that he would write about later in life.



A trip to the racetrack at Bogolong (known now as Bookham) was perhaps the inspiration for 'Old Pardon, the Son of Reprieve'. At 8, the stations roustabout took young Bartie to the New Year's Day race meet. The pony Bartie rode had a very light saddle and one of the jockeys borrowed it for the race, promising him a ginger beer if he won. Bartie collected his ginger beer after the horse 'Pardon' won by a comfortable margin.

## Banjo Paterson *School Days*

A governess was employed by the Paterson's to teach Bartie to read and write, as the Paterson household was never lacking in an appreciation of the things of culture.

Bartie started school in Binalng. The school was four miles from his home at Illalong, and he rode a horse bareback to and from school. Binalong is where the bushranger, Johnny Gilbert was shot and buried and Paterson claims to have known descendants of Dunn, another bushranger who was a member of the bushranger group.

Paterson's poem 'How Gilbert Died' came from experiences of these early days in Binalong. Bartie attended Binalong school for two years and recalled many events of these days, like gaunt Irish schoolmaster and the coming of the railway to the area.

These school days were all too soon over and the Paterson family decided Bartie should attend Sydney Grammar School as a day student and live with his grandmother in Gladesville. He continued to return to Illalong during the holidays, even playing cricket for the local team.

Bartie had been a diligent, event brilliant student and matriculated at sixteen, then he began to work for a solicitor's firm.

## Banjo Paterson *Coodravale*

The love of the bush never left 'Banjo', a pen name he took from a horse, owned by his family.

After years in the city, he was ready to return to his 'Mountain Station' and the opportunity came through an advertisement in the Town & Country Journal. The advertisement offered the property of 'Coodravale', near Wee Jasper for sale, in the rugged country between what is now Canberra and Yass. Paterson, with a syndicate, took over the 40,00 acre property. It offered his children the opportunity to grow up experiencing country life, which was his wish.

Paterson's experience at "Coodravale" were reflected with at least two ballads - 'The Road to Hogan's Gap' & 'Mountain Squatter'



'Coodravale Homestead' Wee Jasper NSW