

The Spirit of Australia

*A Collection of Short Stories & Verse by
"Warrie" George Mansford*

The Man from Snowy River is part of Australia's folklore as he embodies that indomitable spirit, that will to have a go, a determination not to be defeated and that Australian larrikinism that we crave for. Within the Defence family, George Mansford is just as well known, and for the same reasons. Mention George "Warrie" Mansford and instantly the conversation becomes animated and stories are recounted about a man who rose from Private soldier to Brigadier but who never lost his humble beginnings. George Mansford is one of those rare men, whose word is binding, a man who is not afraid to speak his mind but does so only after very careful deliberation, a man who will never leave a friend behind and, in country terms, I would ride the river with George Mansford anytime, anyplace.

George Mansford is a laconic, patriotic Australian. He has a great zest for life and his eyes sparkle when he regales his many friends with tales of yester-years. He has proudly served his Nation in Korea, Malaya and South Vietnam. He leads from the front, calls a spade a shovel and was a tough soldier and commander. He laughs often and loudly but he has known sorrow during his life.

However there is much more to George Mansford than presented by this gruff, good-natured Australian. He has that rare talent of being able to express his deepest feelings and emotions in his poems. He is a prolific writer and his poems cover a wide spectrum of topics, often tinged with sadness, many with humour and many recall his experiences while serving in the Australian Army. Some of his poems demonstrate his frustration and disappointment with all Australian politicians in their failure to look after returned and retired service personnel.

George is an outstanding orator and I have seen him take an audience from raucous laughter to tears during a presentation about The Royal Australian Regiment. He is truly an inspiration and he is highly respected and treated with much affection by those who know him.

This collection of stories and verse encapsulates the Australian spirit, from the bush to Canberra, to distant lands, presented with the vitality and richness of George's many experiences and escapades, and of those with whom he served. I hope that it rekindles the reader's patriotism and inspires them to research our Nation's proud history.

I am sure that this collection of George's short stories and poems, will give you a far greater understanding of George Mansford than any character description can. George truly epitomises everything Australian and I am honoured to have George Mansford as a friend.

Neil Weekes, AM, MC
Brigadier (Retired)

For all general enquiries or anyone interested in purchasing a copy of **"The Spirit of Australia"** please contact Jeannette Bartlett direct via

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All profits from the sale of the first printing of the book will be donated to the following organisations.

- **Legacy**
- **The Royal Australian Regiment Association (Memorial Walk)**
- **Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (Memorial Grove)**

Your interest and support is greatly appreciated.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact- Jeannette Bartlett -Phone 0417 515773