

Australia Needs Mothers

MANY PARENTS and nearly all schools now believe the secular feminism from Academe and governments and bureaucrats. They strive to bring up girls not only to have the opportunity for a career or a profession, but to have no other option.

Very few are bringing up girls for motherhood.

'Equal opportunity' insists that 50% of all workers in every job be female. It does not recognize motherhood, except as incidental. Indeed, it calls for 'affirmative action' to redress the alleged imbalance by discriminating against men.

Yet motherhood is the ultimate, naturally speaking, in true femininity, though virginity consecrated to God is supernaturally even more noble.

Similarly, fatherhood, by supporting a home and providing protection for women and children (including hunting and war!), is the ultimate in masculinity, except for what is supernaturally nobler, the priesthood and celibacy consecrated to God.

PAID WORK AND THE DIVINE PLAN

Paid work, careers and professional careers, *dollars and dominance*, are not ends in themselves, but means to an end. The true end is first of all family, then the good of the country and the world.

A great truth has been forgotten. God put us on earth to become saints and populate Heaven. This is why motherhood and fatherhood are the *usual* ultimate vocations for boys and girls, (with consecrated virginity and priesthood even nobler).

BRINGING UP GIRLS

To be Eternally Feminine

Something more is needed than schools which prepare girls for careers and professions. Our country and Church need some full-time mothers as 'role models' so that girls feel free to choose motherhood, without suffering discrimination.

Girls who have a mother who stays at home have a *role model* for a wife, mother, nurse, seamstress, laundress, gardener, teacher, even home-schooling teacher, cook, cleaner, entertainer, careers adviser, psychologist, hairdresser, marriage counsellor, sibling arbiter, judge, foreman (if it's a large family), even a chiropodist (for grandparents), etc., etc., (readers' suggestions will be appreciated).

Then there are cottage industries, old and new, ranging from dress-making, music teaching, remedial reading (and coaching other school subjects), *de luxe* jam making and pottery, through to high-tech word processing, typesetting and spreadsheet accountancy.

The Valiant Woman ran a business out of her home — Proverbs 31:10ff.

VOCATIONS TO SERVICE

If we could 'get it right' for motherhood in Australia, we would more likely 'get it right' about boys becoming priests, too. Motherhood, like the priesthood, demands great generosity towards God and people, because mothers forego career opportunities enjoyed by men, such as prospects of promotion and financial *independence*. Fathers, in turn, *depend* on home-maker mothers, just as priests *depend* on their spouse, Mother Church.

Are boys and girls brave enough for such mutual dependence? It seems to me that a girl who wants to be a full-time mother needs the courage and determination that it used to take to become a nun. Such girls are the real hope for Australia and, indeed, for the Church to achieve Her mission.

MORE ON MOTHERS

A FAMILY needs its Mum...

Way back in 1970, Mr Paul Keating told Parliament that: "Women should stay at home making babies because an Australian infant is preferable to an immigrant.

"... Family life is the very basis of our nationhood. In the past couple of years the government has boasted about the increasing number of women in the workforce.

"Rather than something to be proud of, I feel it is something of which we should be ashamed."

Weekend Australian 13-14th February, 1993.

Again, from a snippet letter to the Editor in 1993:

"How sad that our Prime Minister would see increased child-care funding as a major social advance. We are supposed to believe it is a good thing for Australia's children to be cared for by strangers, rather than by their parents who love them."

Letters, In Brief, *Australian* 16 February, 1993.

The above was first printed 21 years ago in the old *Newsletter Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre* n. 117, March 1993. It is even more relevant now, with the mounting campaign of contraceptionists, feminists, and sodomists against marriage and biological family.

The quotes above from Mr Paul Keating were from his maiden speech to Federal Parliament in 1970. He was elected to Parliament in 1969. He was berating the then Liberal government for making working men send their wives out to work.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,
Father James Tierney
The Rev. B.J.H. Tierney

How the times have changed since 1970 and 1993!

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

for full-time mothers!

NO DISCRIMINATION

against families!

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

for unborn babes!

Read It Aloud! — *BUSH BOYS*

THE BACK COVER of *Bush Boys* claims that its "short chapters are ideal for reading in bed or curled up on a comfy chair, and also for reading aloud at home or at school..."

The undated letter below was, with the permission of its author, first printed 21 years ago in the old "Newsletter Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre" n. 117, in March 1993, and with bold emphasis added:

Dear Father Tierney,

I received a copy of *Bush Boys* from your sister whilst I was Headteacher of Scarsdale Primary School, and I promised that I would write a few words to you to tell of my experience with the story.

It had been a long established practice of mine to read a story, in serial form, to the children, on a daily basis. I was quite selective in the choice of book for I have firm views as to the value of example in literature.

Let me preface my remarks by saying that **under normal circumstances I would not have chosen your book, for the style appeared to me to be too contrived.** However, I have been an avid fan of your father's writings for many years, and that, together with your sister's good nature, prevailed.

The children took a very keen interest in the story. They discussed the plot and characters at length and with enthusiasm. They approved of the development of the story, and ensured that I found time each day to continue the reading. Their enjoyment in the story was obvious.

When I was about half way through the story I went on leave, and left the book on my table. My replacement was given no choice. I did not return to teaching but retired instead. At a farewell function the children returned the book to me, again indicating the pleasure the story had given them.

I have given a great deal of thought as to why my appreciation of the story was so different to that of the children. Some factors which contribute to the children liking the story probably do not relate to the story at all — for example, the mere fact that the reading provided them with a quiet time each day, and, without false modesty, the standard of the reading. On the other hand, **the children were able to identify closely with the characters, they were impressed with the obvious practicality of the advice and information in the story, and the style closely approximated their own.**

Enthusiasm is contagious, fortunately, and so is enjoyment. That the Scarsdale children enjoyed your story is beyond doubt. Any discussion is academic, for after all, the story was passed by the greatest critics — its projected audience.

The foregoing is too formal: the story satisfied and pleased the children and that, surely, is praise indeed.

Congratulations, and best wishes for the future.

[Signed:] *Ted Lynes.*

PLEASE copy this review of *Bush Boys* for teachers in your children's school and your bookshop. **It just goes to show that children's preferences sometimes confound adult judgements.**

THE THIRD PARAGRAPH in Mr Ted Lynes's letter pays tribute to my father (1892-1972) who wrote his novels and short stories, published from 1942-1965, under the pen name, "Brian James", thus borrowing my Christian names.

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INTERWOVEN THEMES

ADVENTURE is the story line in all five *Bush Boys* books. But beneath the surface are a number of interwoven themes on the weightier matters of life:

- **Stable marriages** (and also coping with one parent dead) as the firm basis for family life and raising children.
- **Complementarity of bread-winner and home-maker.**
- The fathers in the various families exemplify their proper **fatherly role.**
- These books have been welcomed as wholesome for **manners, courtesies and virtues**, and these are not weakened but rather made more convincing by some naughtiness and the possibility of consequences, if and when they are caught at it.
- The Boy Scouts was started in 1907 as a **movement**, and did not become an **organization** until later. By contrast, Appendix 3 in *Bush Boys on the Move* proposes a new family-based formation in bushcraft, so that no formal organization would ever be needed.
- **Christianity** is presented as a normal part of an integrated life, and not 'a private extra' never to be mentioned. Yet an author must avoid preachiness. Since this author is a Catholic priest, the Catholic Church is more prominent than Anglican or Uniting churches, though these get honourable mentions.
- The *Bush Boys* Books may be unique in Australian children's adventure stories in that the later ones have an unusual background of **home schooling**, though it is not mentioned till the end of the second book.
- The boys are very **conscious of not being girls.** And the girls are conscious of *not* doing everything boys do, even if sometimes they would like to. They do not usually dress like the boys, and they exemplify a 'growing-towards' their future mothering role, including that of ennobling boys and men, and redeeming male tendencies to brutishness, as wives and mothers must do, to sensitize the emotional lives of husbands and sons so often lacking in males, from original sin and from fatherly inadequacies in former generations, plus the greater psycho-fragility of males.
- There is **no profanity, crudity, obscenity.** Euphemisms profaning God or Jesus, namely Gosh, Golly, by Gum, Geewhiz, Gee, Jeez, and also drat, damn, heck, are avoided (or, with Gosh and Golly, purged in second editions).
- **The absence of TV** might shock readers whose fathers might not easily forego the news and sport.
- **Bush Boys books are 'living books'** written by an author passionate about what he is writing... full of ideas to feed the heart, soul and mind of youngsters.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

James Tierney
The Rev. B.J.H. Tierney