

"Clear, brief and easily assimilated by all"

BOOK REVIEW — by Felicity Elvis in 2003

### ***Bush Boys On the Move* by Father James Tierney**

**READING about the Bush Boys always fires my imagination**" — Callum, (aged 11).

*Bush Boys On The Move* is the fourth book in Fr James Tierney's 'Bush Boys' series. It is an exciting sequel, but doesn't need to be read after the other three books, as it is also an excellent book on its own. *Bush Boys On The Move* has just been published, and is filled with adventures to thrill boys' (as well as girls!) hearts.

**"Please, Mum, just one more chapter?"** — Imogen, (aged 8).

My family was privileged to be asked to proof read *Bush Boys On The Move* before it was published. My parents read it out loud around the table after dinner to us. All of us enjoyed it, from five year-old Charlotte to Mum and Dad!

**"The mystery of the strange black boxes added a slightly sinister effect leading up to a big surprise. (Or would have, had not a certain little brother given the surprise away beforehand.)"** Duncan, (aged 15).

Some members of my family became so eager to know the ending that they stole away with the book and read it to themselves! The book is a really excellent 'read aloud' book, with each chapter leaving my brothers and sisters asking for more! Father Tierney has kindly put a break in the middle of each chapter for those who wish to read the book in smaller doses.

**"I think the book is great... when it gets going it is fast paced and exciting"** — Callum.

The story is just as well written and exciting as its predecessors. It blends mystery, adventure, camping lore, and action together to create a believable, gripping story that speeds up and becomes ever more suspenseful as the book reaches its climax. Many of the moments in the book are a boy's dreams come true as the six Bush Boys bushwalk, swim and camp in the National Park, while unravelling the mystery surrounding the three strange men also camping there.

**"In *Bush Boys On The Move* the famous band gets... another set of new recruits who help reintroduce the series"** — Duncan.

As always with a 'Bush Boys' book, the story is packed with interesting characters both old and new. New ones include the eccentric Uncle Arthur, the sinister Smoodge and his sidekicks, and the down to earth farmer Piggy O'Reilly. The story is told from the viewpoint of Kevin Keys, a new recruit to the Bush Boys, who has his first adventure with the Bush Boys in the book. He and Nigerian Samson Kalumbo add two more entertaining characters to the ever-widening ranks of the Bush Boys gang.

**"I think that the villains are very entertaining and that Smoodge's and Bully's good suits really make them properly qualified city slickers. Their arguments, complaints and ultimate betrayal makes them more than not-so-pretty faces"** — Duncan.

Readers will truly enjoy the villains of this book. Having already faced exam-cheating yahoos, hired kidnappers and rival school children in the three previous books, the resourceful Bush Boys face a new and sinister gang of baddies — the Tricky Trio. Their appearances in the National Park spark off a mystery for the Bush Boys, with new questions arising at every turn. Who are Bully, Smoodge and Weedy really, and what are they doing camping in the National Park? Why don't they like meeting the boys? Why do they try to stop the boy's camping trip? What are the Black Boxes, and what is the Tricky Trio doing with them? The suspense rises as the Bush Boys try to make sense of their opponents' actions before it's too late...

**"I've always wanted to do things like the Bush Boys: camping, swimming, having adventures etc"** — Callum.

As well as the mystery story and camping adventure, the book is (literally!) jam-packed with maps, safety rules, camping lore, knots etc. Five appendices contain detailed information on many of the topics, including homeschooling and teaching camping to boys, mentioned in the story, complete with many pictures and diagrams to make the explanations totally clear. Appendices 1 and 2 will probably be the boys' favourites — they explain exactly how to camp like the Bush Boys! There are also many maps tracing the Bush Boys' movements.

**"*Bush Boys On The Move* is a very good book and it's nice to see the Bush Boys still going well after a dozen years or more"** — Duncan. All in all, *Bush Boys On The Move* is a really enjoyable, entertaining and informative book. Perhaps the most amazing thing about *Bush Boys On The Move* is the author's ability to combine so many different elements into one cohesive book. The book can be read as an adventure book, as a camping manual or as a detective story. After reading *Bush Boys On The Move*, most of my family was inspired to get our well thumbed copies of *Bush Boys*, *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys* and *Bush Boys and Bush: Rangers* off the shelf and enjoy them all over again! Though this is a book about boys, many girls will enjoy the book as much as the boys. I know that my sisters, Charlotte and Imogen, and I did, as much as my brothers Duncan and Callum.

Felicity Elvis (aged 16 in 2003).

SECOND REVIEW — by Father Peter Murphy in 2003

## *Bush Boys on the Move*

by Father James Tierney, Newman Publications, 2003, pp. 512

**WHAT A HEALTHY** and truly wholesome book is *Bush Boys on the Move*. Clearly Fr James Tierney has surpassed himself in his latest book on bush boy adventures. Ideal as a Christmas present for dads and kids, this novel is packed with 441 pages of adventures, camping insights, basic moral norms and brilliant ideas. But wait, there's more! Its thirty-one chapters of pithy and exciting events is based on the Cumberland boys' six day camping trek that cuts new turf in the realm of mystery, skirmishes with criminals, incredible scenery, practical hints and combating foes with tried and true bush skills. So be careful not to dismiss this fourth bush boys book as just another book for camping fanatics. For what is most significant about this novel is its axiological [study of values] Catholic content. Behind the drama, which is well pitched and concisely metered out in short bite-size chapters, lies a virtue based formation shrouded in a great outdoors plot.

Unlike most other kids' adventures, Tierney's *Bush Boys on the Move* will teach children the great virtues of justice, prudence, fortitude and temperance within a robust framework of Catholicism. It is not that these virtues are mentioned by name but rather via multiple examples. Good example is the mother of all virtues! Throughout the exciting text the boys, especially the older ones, Greg and Pete, become role models for Kev and Sam, teaching them how to be brave and strong, to respect authority, especially the advice of one's parents — who are the best teachers of their children — to moderate their urges and drives and to obey the leadership of others, all set within the context of adventures, serious business and fun. Of course, boys will be boys, and early in the book, the moral norm of 'honest always pays' is well imparted, concerning a case of trespass and pilfering of farm products. With particular interest, I found the subtle references of forgiveness and punishment, also most refreshing. Children need to know what steps exist and how to tread them when they sin. Otherwise they will enter into denial to hide their guilt or begin playing the old 'blame game'.

Our future lies with our kids, forming the boys of today into the men and dads of tomorrow. Men, that is, who are hardworking, generous, honest, sincere, tough and true blue. Fr Tierney captures those basic virtues to wed a healthy and holy formation of character. Even basic prayers before meals, not to mention night and morning prayers, said in a simple and natural manner, add a prayerful, but not pietistic ambience, to the thrilling chase and plot.

Last but not least, this book includes a classic but not excessively idiosyncratic [uniquely characteristic] appendix of 71 pages on how to camp, what to do, what not to do, what to take, how to begin and much more. I found some of the rope diagrams most knotty to decipher.

So even if you are a non-camping dad who has not yet experienced the joy of the clove hitch knot, here is your opportunity to teach and impress your boys in a few easy steps. Why send your children to scouts when dads are the best of teachers concerning the great outdoors? Remember *Bush Boys on the Move* is not just another book, it's all about creating real 'fathertime' with your kids and becoming their models and heroes, after all, why should TV run their lives.

### REVIEWER

This second review is by **The Rev. Dr. Peter Murphy, Senior Lecturer of Vianney College, Diocesan Seminary of Wagga Wagga, Parish Priest of Geehi Bush Camps.**

His review was originally prepared for *AD2000* by agreement with its editor. Although it arrived in time for the issue prior to Christmas, 2003, it was never published.

### AUTHOR'S NOTE on the Appendices

**The AUSTRALIAN BUSH CATECHISM OF CAMPING** in 50 Questions & Answers has been upgraded from its 1990 original in *Bush Boys* and is now the first part of APPENDIX 2 in *Bush Boys on the Move*. The Bush Boy adventure stories are themselves a sort of catechism, a life-situational catechesis', by which living flesh is put onto the bare bones of the camping 'doctrine' in the 'catechism'.

There are four other appendices:

APPENDIX 1 is **Greg's ABC of Camping** (which consists of the pictorials that Greg posted from *The Hills of Home* to Peter and John in the suburbs);

APPENDIX 3 is **Camping for Boys**, which includes "Camcraft and Leadership" for fathers tutoring sons;

APPENDIX 4 is on **Homeschooling**, its theory and practice, which provides the motivation and detail required to put it into practice; (for those who have not read the book, the point is that the Cumberland boys are homeschooled, and that their week's camping counts as a school excursion);

APPENDIX 5 is the **Index**, which is provided both for finding memorable items in the adventure and for planning one's own camping expeditions.

### SALES

The first book in the series, *Bush Boys*, and its sequel, *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, are now bargain priced at **\$10** each; after that comes *Bush Boys and Bush Rangers*, **\$13**, and the fourth book, *Bush Boys on the Move*, is **\$16**.

The bargain price for the set of four is **\$45.00**.