



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower and upper primary

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. About the illustrator	2
4. Interview with the author	2
5. Pre-reading questions	2
6. Key study topics	3
7. Other books in this series	4
8. Worksheets	5

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** History, English, Literacy

THEMES

- Australian History
- Exploration
- Antarctica

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

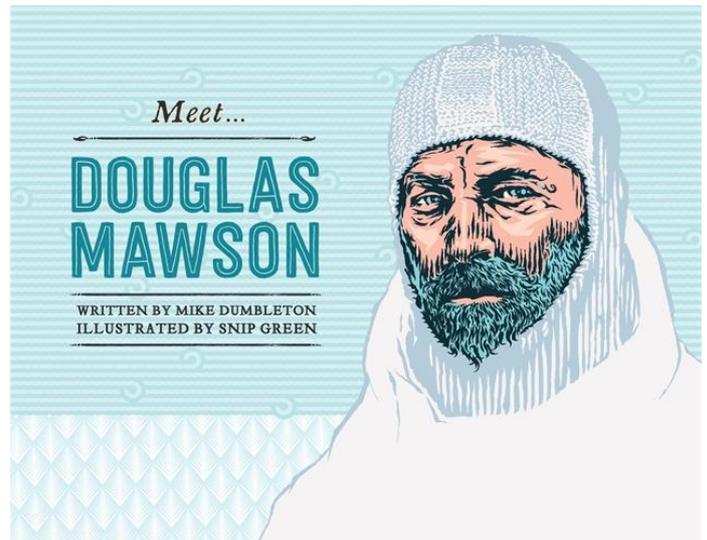
PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780857981950 (hardback)
9780857981974 (ebook)
9780857981967 (paperback)

These notes may be reproduced free of charge for use and study within schools but they may not be reproduced (either in whole or in part) and offered for commercial sale.

Visit penguin.com.au/teachers to find out how our fantastic Penguin Random House Australia books can be used in the classroom, sign up to the teachers' newsletter and follow us on [@penguinteachers](https://twitter.com/penguinteachers).

Copyright © Penguin Random House Australia
2014



Meet Douglas Mawson

Written by Mike Dumbleton

Illustrated by Snip Green

PLOT SUMMARY

The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the first Australian Antarctic Expedition (1911–14), led by Douglas Mawson.

In this book, we follow Mawson and his team on their journey to Antarctica, as well as on their dangerous and challenging trek across the frozen continent as they attempt to gather scientific and geological information.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Dumbleton is a writer with many educational and children's books to his credit. Mike has just returned to his home town of Adelaide after working in New York as a Literacy Consultant.

Seven of Mike's picture books have been selected as 'Notable Books' by the Children's Book Council of Australia, and *Passing On* was shortlisted for the 2002 Book of the Year Awards. Also, *Muddled-up Farm* was selected as Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year 2003, as well as the National Simultaneous Storytime Book for 2004. Mike's young adult fiction title *Watch Out for Jamie Joel* was shortlisted in the 2004 Adelaide Festival Awards for Children's Literature, and his picture book *Cat* was selected as a 2008 CBCA Honour Book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Snip Green has a degree in graphic design and has been an art director for classic Australian surf label Mambo. Strong demand for his illustrations led him to collaborations with artists, writers, musicians and clients to build shared visions and find new ways to make the world an interesting place to look at. This is his first children's picture book.

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

1. Can you tell us a little bit about your research for this project and the resources you used?

I did extensive research, using a mixture of books and internet sites. I had to cross-check information because of conflicting details. A real highlight was the chance to research primary sources by visiting the Mawson Gallery in the South Australian Museum, where I saw Mawson's half sledge on display.

2. Did your opinion of Douglas Mawson change or deepen as you wrote the book?

I developed a new respect for Douglas Mawson, and his team, for their commitment to researching the unknown and their perseverance in the face of extreme conditions which were always potentially life-threatening.

3. Why did you choose to tell this particular part of Mawson's story?

It was an amazing chapter in Mawson's life, which showed exceptional courage and a strength of human spirit that is seldom seen and should not be forgotten.

4. What was the most challenging part of the project?

It was a challenge to tell the story in a way that brings Mawson to life and reveals both the exhilaration and desperation of his experiences as well as the factual information.

5. What was the most rewarding part of the project?

Seeing Snip Green's wonderful illustrations. The vast, stark backgrounds emphasise the explorer's small presence in the landscapes and the scale of the challenges they faced.

6. What do you think is Mawson's greatest legacy?

I think Mawson's greatest legacy was his dedication to meticulous scientific research, which he documented over many years. He was not simply focused on adventures and heroics, they were an integral part of exploring an unknown, inhospitable and unpredictable continent.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What does the front cover of *Meet Douglas Mawson* tell you about the book?

- Who is the subject of the book?
- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?

2. Does the back cover give you more clues about the book?

- Does the blurb explain who Douglas Mawson is and what he is famous for?

3. What do you already know about Douglas Mawson and Antarctica? Start a list and add to it as you read the book.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

Questions

1. Create a simple story map of the key elements in the narrative e.g. the setting; characters; beginning, middle and end. See Worksheet 1.
2. The text in *Meet Douglas Mawson* is organised into simple sentences and short paragraphs. Does this style suit the story? Why? Discuss how the text works in conjunction with the



illustrations and why it is effective to have only short paragraphs on each page.

3. Make a list of words in the text that relate specifically to Antarctica and exploration (e.g. glacier, frostbite, sledge, crevasse, blizzard). Write simple definitions of these words.
4. What does the language used in the book tell you about the climate in Antarctica?
5. There is a timeline at the back of the book with facts about the expedition and the rest of Mawson's career. How is the language in this section different from the rest of the book?

History

Questions

1. This year (2014) marks the 100th anniversary of the Australian Antarctic Expedition (1911–14) led by Douglas Mawson. How different do you think the same expedition would be today? Think about things like modern technology and transport.
2. Mawson and his team left for Antarctica in 1911 and Mawson returned in February 1914. What else was happening in the world at this time? (Use the timeline at the back of the book for extra information).

Activities

1. Research the life of one of Douglas Mawson's companions on the expedition – Belgrave Ninnis or Dr Xavier Mertz. Create your own 32-page picture book about your chosen subject, complete with illustrations.

Visual Literacy

Questions

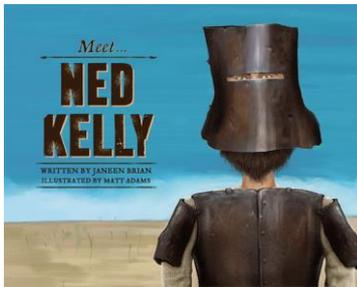
1. List the colours used throughout the book. Why do you think the illustrator has chosen to use so few colours? What do the colours tell you about the climate in Antarctica?
2. The illustrator has used different patterns to indicate various weather conditions such as wind and snow. Do you think this is an effective way to show the different conditions?

Activities

1. Choose a season and make your own weather collage. Think about which colours, textures and patterns best suit the season you have chosen. See Worksheet 2.
2. Choose one spread from the book to analyse. Make two columns. In one column write down everything the text tells you about the story on that page. In the other column, write down everything the illustration tells you about the story on that page. Does the illustration tell you extra things that are not in the text?



THE MEET SERIES



Meet... Ned Kelly
Janean Brian & Matt Adams
Australia's most famous bushranger



Meet... Mary MacKillop
Sally Murphy & Sonia Martinez
Australia's first saint



Meet... Captain Cook
Rae Murdie & Chris Nixon
Exploration and discovery



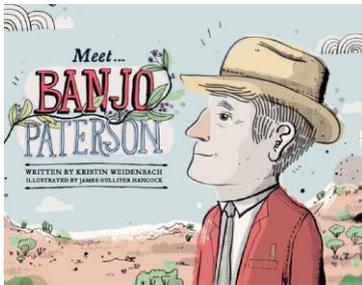
Meet... the Anzacs
Claire Saxby & Max Berry
How the Anzac legend began



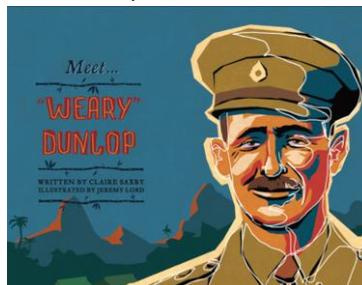
Meet... Douglas Mawson
Mike Dumbleton & Snip Green
Antarctic exploration and survival



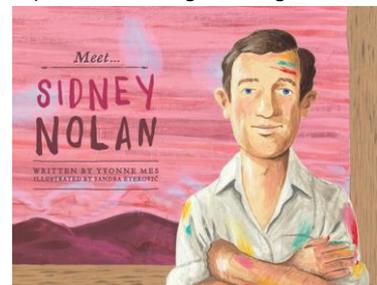
Meet... Nancy Bird Walton
Grace Atwood & Harry Slaghekke
A pioneer in the golden age of aviation



Meet... Banjo Paterson
Kristin Weidenbach & James Gulliver Hancock
Australia's most beloved poet



Meet... Weary Dunlop
Claire Saxby & Jeremy Lord
Wartime bravery and compassion



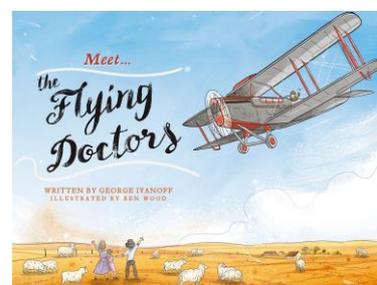
Meet... Sidney Nolan
Yvonne Mes & Sandra Eterović
A trailblazing artist



Meet... Don Bradman
Coral Vass & Brad Howe
A sporting legend and source of pride during hard times



Meet... Nellie Melba
Janean Brian & Claire Murphy
Australia's first classical music star



Meet... the Flying Doctors
George Ivanoff & Ben Wood
Australia's outback medical service

Teachers' notes for each book are available from penguin.com.au/teachers



WORKSHEET 1: STORY MAP

Book title:

Author:

Illustrator:

Characters:

Setting:

Beginning
Middle
End



WORKSHEET 2: COLLAGE

Choose a season and make your own weather collage. Think about which colours, textures and patterns best suit the season you have chosen. You could use: paint, fabric scraps, cellophane, crepe paper, newspaper, magazine clippings, crayons, textas and found objects. Most important of all, have fun!



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	PRICE
<i>Meet... Douglas Mawson</i>	Mike Dumbleton	9780857981967	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... the Anzacs</i>	Claire Saxby	9780857981936	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Banjo Paterson</i>	Kristin Weidenbach	9780857980090	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Captain Cook</i>	Rae Murdie	9780857980182	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Don Bradman</i>	Coral Vass	9781925324891	K-4	\$24.99		
<i>Meet... the Flying Doctors</i>	George Ivanoff	9780143780687	K-4	\$24.99		
<i>Meet... Mary MacKillop</i>	Sally Murphy	9781742757216	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Nancy Bird Walton</i>	Grace Atwood	9780857983879	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Ned Kelly</i>	Janeen Brian	9781742757193	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Nellie Melba</i>	Janeen Brian	9780143780298	K-4	\$24.99		
<i>Meet... Sidney Nolan</i>	Yvonne Mes	9780857985903	K-4	\$16.99		
<i>Meet... Weary Dunlop</i>	Claire Saxby	9780857985361	K-4	\$24.99		
PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.				TOTAL		

NAME: _____
 SCHOOL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 STATE: _____
 POSTCODE: _____
 TEL: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 ACCOUNT NO.: _____
 PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____

PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.

