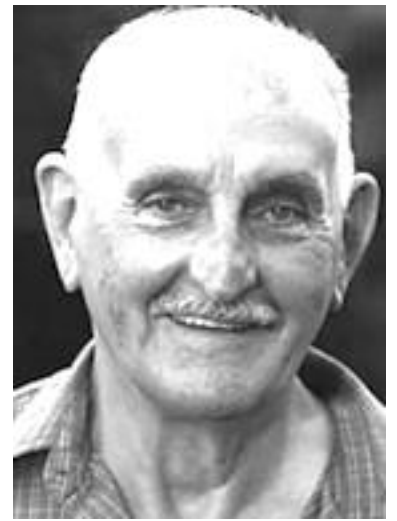


BRUCE DAWE



Biographical

- Born in Geelong, Victoria —1930, - Son of a Labourer
- Sister had verse published
- Father sang ballads,- Mother recited poems of 19th C.
- Brother & he read: Westerns, thrillers and sci-fi.

Education:

- Left school early and worked at odd jobs, - farm hand, handyman, gardener and postman.
- Dawe joined the R.A.A.F for 9 YRS
- Later studied at University part-time, - gaining a B.A. M.A. & Ph D.
- Became lecturer at University in Queensland

General Features about Dawe's poetry:

- He writes about, and for, the common man; the ordinary bloke, the "*little Aussie battler*".
 - Ordinary people
 - Ordinary experiences
- He is concerned with life cycles, rites of passage; rituals of common experience
- He celebrates the importance of community
- He identifies more closely with the experience of working class people - not a glamourized portrayal of Australians – revealing a dislike (or scepticism) of authority and politicians.
- His poetry humorous [irony; dry Australian wit] and laconic insights (which means that it is brief and/or to the point)
- **Language** of the everyday Australians - the vernacular.
 - He captures the everyday speech patterns of 'ordinary Australians' in the way he structures his poems (such as in the rhythm, pace and format he uses). This is called using **vernacular language**:
 - ☛ the choice of words and "voice" is of ordinary people
 - ☛ the tone used in his poems is natural/ realistic
 - ☛ his characters/ personas/ speakers reflects the "*passing parade of fools... heroes, victims, innocents and lovable people who fill our day*".
 - There is tendency to avoid using emotive language, which has the effect of giving emotional distance between the speaker and reader, reflecting the Australian attitude of social detachment or non-involvement.
 - His **tone** may often be satiric, which has the effect of challenging his readers to think about their response to the theme/ topic/ situation; a challenge to accepted values
 - His **tone** can also be warm, showing a fondness for, or personal interest in, the theme/ topic/ situation.

Common Themes:

- Modern living, Suburbia, loneliness, old age, death & love
- War and its detrimental effects on all.
- Sport
- Commercialism