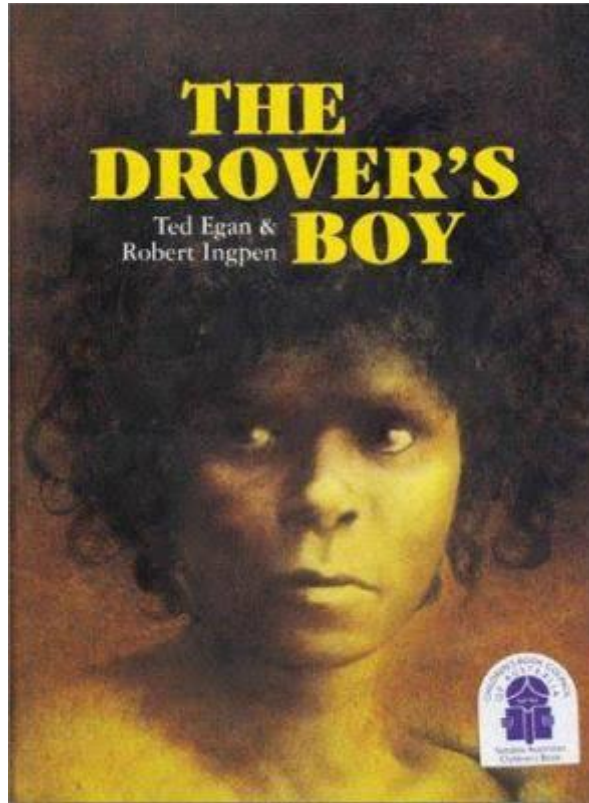


Ted Egan – The Drover's Boy



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The Drover's Boy

Scope and Content

The Drover's Boy first appeared as a song written, performed and recorded by Ted Egan in 1981. It was based on stories he had heard about Indigenous women working as stockmen in the rough and brutal outback/top end cattle industry through the 1800s and 1900s.

The song lyrics and music were included in songbooks produced by Egan in the 1980s and the song has since been performed widely by many country singers.

Egan's passion for retelling the story of *The Drover's Boy* grew. In the early 1990s, he and his wife, Nerys Evans, had a vision to produce a book based on the song, and then make a film along similar lines.

The book was published in 1997 and in 1998 filming for the movie commenced. Unfortunately, the production ran into financial difficulties, and the film was never finished.

This collection contains songbooks produced by Ted Egan, a compilation cassette tape and CD featuring the song *The Drover's Boy*, research papers, letters, and photographs of the posters produced for the book. These posters were later sold.

The negatives for the photos of the posters are also part of the collection. They were taken by photographer Dale Neill who, it appears, was simultaneously photographing work for other publications. One of those publications was *The Rabbits* written by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan. A decision has been made to keep all the negatives and photographs together in this finding aid. Reference has been made in Shaun Tan's Research File to their location here.

There is one other photograph that, to date, cannot be attributed to a publication.

All materials were received from The Literature Centre in Fremantle in late 2025.

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Ted Egan – The Drover's Boy				
Series No	Series name	Folder	Description	Box No.
1	Research Material	1.1	A3 photocopy of a black and white photograph of an indigenous girl (head and shoulders) used p18 <i>The Aboriginals Songbook</i> and on the cover of <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1
1		1.2	Unused A4 photocopy of a black and white photograph of an Indigenous girl (face only)	1
1		1.3	Photocopy <i>The Drover's Boy</i> pp 44-47 <i>The Overlanders Songbook</i>	1
1		1.4	Photocopy of pages from an unidentified publication pp7-19 <i>Introduction: A Perspective by Neris Evans</i> and pp25-27 <i>Ted Egan Talks About The Song</i>	1
1		1.5	<i>The Drover's Boy</i> song lyrics	
1	Media	1.6	Photocopy of part of an HG Nov/Dec 1995 article <i>Ode to the Drover's Boy</i> pp 54, 55, 56, 57,60,62 – the article discussed two potential films on the same subject	1
1	Book preparation	1.7	A3 photocopy of a storyboard signed "Ingpen 96"	1
1		1.8	A3 photocopy of 2 sketches pp16,17 and pp20,21 signed "Ingpen 97"	1
1		1.9	Photocopy of the CD cover and the book cover	1
1	Letter	1.10	Letter dated 10 Jan 1997 from Ted Egan to Robert Ingpen regarding material for the book. Photocopies of pictures from a book <i>Border & Beyond Comooweal 1884-1994</i> by Lilian Ada Miller pp46, 77 and another part page are attached.	1
1	Reviews	1.11	Photocopy p 16 <i>React</i> Summer edition 1997 Review by Helen Dean, Teacher ACT	1
1		1.12	Photocopy Magpies Volume 12 No 5 November 1997 Review by Rayma Turton	1
1		1.13	Photocopy <i>Echo</i> (?) Edition Wednesday 22/29 October 1997 p4. An article on Robert Ingpen refers to his work on <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1

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Series No	Series name	Folder	Description	Box No.
1	Newspaper Article	1.14	Article Australian newspaper dated 27 Jan 1997 Large picture of Ted Egan and leading actress Ningha Lawford. Article says filming to commence soon and stating still seeking funding.	1
1	Funding Promotional Material	1.15	Yirandi Productions Ltd fold out (A4 X3pp) funding promotional flyer for film <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1
1		1.16	Yirandi Productions Ltd fold out Invitation to invest flyer for film <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1
1	Review	1.17	Australian Book Review December 1997/ January 1998 by Linnet Hunter	1
1	Letter	1.18	Letter dated 4 Feb 1998 from Robert Ingpen to Lesley Reece, The Literature Centre discussing the sale of artwork and the mediums used to create them.	1
1	Review	1.19	The Weekend Australian May 8-9, 1999, story title <i>The Drover's Girl</i> refers to <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1
1	Essay	1.20	Written 1998 by Wendy Hank Year 11 Mercedes College. The untitled work focuses on the autobiography of Gordon Matthews.	1
2	Books			
2	<i>The Drover's Boy</i> by Ted Egan, illustrated by Robert Ingpen/ First Published 1997/Thomas C Lothian Pty Ltd/ISBN 0850918405	2.1	Hard back picture book 28.5 x 21.5 cm, contains lyric and score for the song <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1
2	<i>The Shearers Songbook</i> , compiled by Ted Egan/ First Published 1984/Greenhouse Publications /ISBN 0909104751	2.2	Paperback book 27.7 X 20.8 cm, Contains lyrics and score for 15 bush ballads, along with explanations of the origins/background to the songs.	1

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Series No	Series name	Folder	Description	Box No.
2	<i>The Aboriginals Songbook</i> , compiled by Ted Egan/First Published 1987/Greenhouse Publications /ISBN 0864360797	2.3	Paperback book 27.7 X 20.8 cm, Contains lyrics and score for 13 bush ballads, along with explanations of the origins/background to the songs.	1
2	<i>The Overlanders Songbook</i> , compiled by Ted Egan/Text by Peter Forrest/First Published 1984/Greenhouse Publications /ISBN 0909104743	2.4	Paperback book 27.7 X 20.8 cm, Binding error – book incomplete, pages 49 - 64 missing, contains lyrics and score for bush ballads including <i>The Drover's Boy</i> , along with explanations of the origins/background to the songs.	1
3	Recordings			
3	CD <i>The Drover's Boy- A Celebration of Australian Women</i>		14 songs (including <i>The Drover's Boy</i>) sung by Ted Egan and Nerys Evans	1
3	Cassette Tape <i>The Drover's Boy- A Celebration of Australian Women</i>		14 songs (including <i>The Drover's Boy</i>) sung by Ted Egan and Nerys Evans	1
4	Photographs and Negatives			1
4	Photographs by Dale Neill, Photographer		12 photographs of prints of the artwork used in the book (cover and pages 26 & 27 not included)	1
4	Negatives by Dale Neill		4 negative sleeves each containing 10 5.5 X 7 cm negatives. Sleeve labelling indicates that negatives relate to <i>The Drover's Boy</i> and <i>The Rabbits</i> by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan	1
5	Photographs by Dale Neill, Photographer		15 photographs of prints of the artwork used in <i>The Rabbits</i> by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan and one photograph that cannot be attributed to either this book or <i>The Drover's Boy</i>	1

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