

BEACH BUSH + BATTLEERS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF CARTER

A free exhibition until 20 February 2011
www.sl.nsw.gov.au



STATE LIBRARY®
NEW SOUTH WALES





FOREWORD

A writer who takes pictures

The State Library of New South Wales was one of the first institutions in Australia to collect photographs as documentary records. These days, libraries methodically collect photographs for their informational content, as they provide unsurpassed visual documentation of the people, places and events of the nation. Over time, these photographs will reflect the changing face of society and the all-encompassing influence of technology on our lives.

Today, the Library holds the premier collection of Australian photographs — containing over one million images, from the earliest daguerreotype in Australia to more recent digital imagery. The Library's collections encompass unique and fascinating material from both professional and amateur photographers and a never-ending array of camera subjects.

This latest photographic exhibition features 100 images from the State Library's collections by photographer Jeff Carter (1928–2010). The images selected by the curator Sandra Byron for *Beach, Bush + Battlers: Photographs by Jeff Carter*, were mostly taken by this down-to-earth cameraman during his travels across country Australia and along its coast in the 1950s and 60s.

Jeff Carter described himself in 2006, saying: 'I'm not really a photographer. I regard myself as a writer who takes pictures. Writers tell stories, so naturally my photos tell stories ...'

Nevertheless, his photographic stories of 'ordinary' Australians fascinate with their honesty and directness. With an archive of 50,000 negatives, taken over 50 years, Jeff Carter has captured the changing face of our nation.

ALAN DAVIES

Curator of Photographs
State Library of New South Wales

*'In 1946 I went on the road, hitch-hiking
with camera and typewriter.'*



Jeff Carter (1928–2010) was a remarkable storyteller. For over 60 years he travelled Australia, using photography to celebrate the lives of ‘ordinary’ people at work and play, thereby producing one of this country’s most historically significant photographic archives. The works in *Beach, Bush + Battlers* have been selected from Carter’s extraordinary collection of over 50,000 images of Australian life, spanning 1944–2010.



In 1946, at the age of 17, Carter adopted a nomadic lifestyle, travelling with a heavy typewriter and folding Kodak camera. He became passionate about producing ‘true’ documents, taking unposed photographs of the people who lived and toiled in rural and outback Australia, saying ‘... there seemed no reason for the harshness and poverty of their lives’.

From the mid 1950s he worked as a full-time photojournalist. His images, often accompanied by his own text, were published in the major local and international picture magazines of the day. Carter exposed and encouraged an appreciation of the difficulties faced every day by people living on the land, from charcoal burners, timber cutters, shearers and shooters, through to fishermen, fruit pickers, farmers and pastoralists. He also turned his attention to beach culture and city life, producing iconic images of this period in Australia’s history.

Carter wrote and illustrated 20 books on rural, coastal and outback life. He also produced *Wild Country*, a popular and widely acclaimed television series about Australia that was sold around the world.

In the early 1990s Carter began exhibiting his work for the first time, and its importance was quickly recognised by leading art galleries, museums and private collectors both in Australia and overseas.

In 1962, Carter — an ardent environmentalist — had settled with his family on a large property at Foxground in the Illawarra, which he had gazetted as a wildlife refuge and park. It was visited by over 25,000 people each year. Jeff Carter continued to live at Foxground when not travelling, until he passed away there on 25 October 2010, after a short illness.

SANDRA BYRON
Exhibition Curator

‘If I had my life to live over, I would do it all again, because I am that luckiest of persons, a man who loves his work and aspires to no other.’

Jeff Carter — Foxground 1999
photograph by Robert McFarlane, www.ozphotoreview.com



Roadside portrait, Cobb stock route, 1955



Driving sheep, Deniliquin stock route, c. 1954



Drinking water, Allundy Stations, c. 1959

Rabbita! Nyngan, 1958





The picnickers, Wanda, 1960



The driver's wife, Ursino Bore, 1950



"Cat's cradle", Foxground, 1968



The bullocky with campfire, Telegraph Point, 1954



The hop-picker, Ovens Valley, 1957

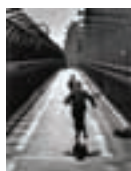
Exhibition item list

All works in this exhibition are by Jeff Carter (1928–2010) and are held in the collections of the State Library of NSW. The works were purchased from Jeff Carter Films Pty. Ltd. in May–July 2010. Descriptions of works in these captions are by Jeff Carter and provided by Sandra Byron.

It is customary for some Indigenous communities not to mention names or reproduce images associated with the recently deceased. Members of these communities are respectfully advised that a number of people mentioned in writing or depicted in images in the following pages could have passed away.



Self portrait with Mary Young, 1954
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 8



Joie de vivre, Sydney, 1963
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 75



Narrabeen, 1965
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 92



The card game, Brighton, Victoria, c. 1944
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 1



Bondi (2), 1965
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 88



Palm Beach kiosk, 1965
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 93



The log rollers, Sydney, 1959
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 59



Bondi, 1965
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 87



Surf Champ, Palm Beach, 1966
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 95



Ultimo, 1959
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 61



Bondi, c. 1950
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 2



Flintlock man, Lithgow, 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 22



Chippendale, 1959
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 63



The three graces, Bondi, 1965
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 86



The flintlock maker, Lithgow, 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 23



Chippendale, 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 62



The card game, Manly, 1964
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 84



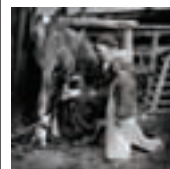
Bonny & Clyde, Ardglen, New South Wales, 1957
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 43



Glebe, 1963
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 77



Spear-fishing, Curl Curl, c. 1952
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 4



Master and apprentice (2), Ardglen, 1957
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 37



Our gang, East Sydney, c. 1960
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 56



Dee Why, 1965
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 89



Tree fellers, Herons Creek, 1954
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 13



East Sydney, 1961
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 72



Long Reef, 1963
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 78



Forest workers, Wauchope, 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 30



The bullocky, Telegraph Point, 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 27



The bullocky with campfire, Telegraph Point, 1954

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 14



Broad-axe men, Telegraph Point, NSW, 1955

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 28



Re-fuelling stop, Telegraph Point, 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 29



Whaling — point blank kill, Byron Bay, 1961

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 69



Whaling, Byron Bay, 1961

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 70



Birth of the bikini, Gold Coast, c. 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 18



John Paterson, Gold Coast (1), 1954

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 10



John Paterson, Gold Coast (2), 1954

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 11



Jimmy Sharman's boxers, Rockhampton, c. 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 26



Sorlie's couple, Broken Hill, 1959

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 54



Rabbito!, Nyngan, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 48



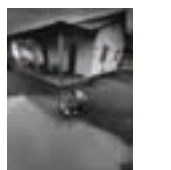
Master and apprentice, Nyngan, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 47



Sporting shooters, Romani Station, 1959

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 58



"Horseplay", Wanaaring, New South Wales, 1996

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 100



Drinking mates, Allundy Station, c. 1959

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 53



Yarning mode, Kooridina Station, 1996

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 99



The drover's wife, Urisino Bore, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 52



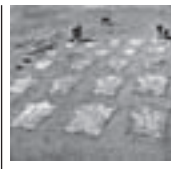
Rube Stephenson, Urisino Bore, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 50



Skinner by trade and name, Urisino Bore, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 51



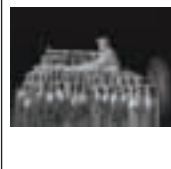
Pegging out, Urisino Bore, 1958

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 49



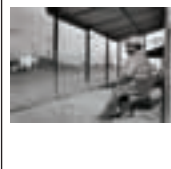
Birdsville, 1962

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 73



Night work, Cannana Bore, 1962

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 74



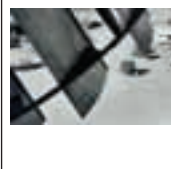
Marree, 1964

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 91



Morning break, Marree, 1964

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 90



Wild dog barrier fence, Smithville, 1963

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 79



Cinching up, Wild dog barrier fence, South Australia, 1963

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 80



"Snowy" Gash — drover, near Ivanhoe, 1955

Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 19



On the road, near Ivanhoe, 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 20



While the billy boils, near Ivanhoe, 1955

Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 21



Filling canteens, Starvation Bore, 1963
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 82



Curtain call, Yerranderie, c. 1953
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 7



Cattle sale, Wangaratta, 1956
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 36



The dreamer, Starvation Bore, 1963
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 81



The tinker, Narrandera, 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 24



This droving life, near Albury, c. 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 15



Tobacco Road, Ovens Valley, 1956
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 35



The tinker and his daughter, Narrandera, 1955
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 25



Duck shooters, Doodal Swamp near The Rock, c. 1952
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 5



Loading the kiln, Ovens Valley, 1956
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 34



Dave Rolton with crayfish, Murray River, 1956
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 32



The bridge at Gundagai, c. 1953
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 6



The hop-picker, Ovens Valley, 1957
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 41



The day's catch, Murray River, 1956
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 33



The whip maker, Tumut, 1957
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 42



Drovers asleep, Little Topar, NSW, 1956
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 31



Campfire cabaret, Murray River, 1957
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 39



Eucalyptus oil distillers, Batlow, 1955
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 16



Roadside portrait, Cobb stock route, 1955
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 17



Simple cuisine, Corowa, 1957
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 38



Snowy Mountains Authority tunnel, 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 64



Campfire yarns, near Hay, c. 1954
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 12



"Cat's cradle", Foxground, 1968
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 98



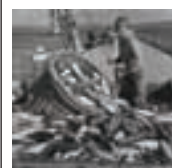
Shark fishing, Eden, 1958
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 45



Droving sheep, Deniliquin stock route, c. 1954
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 9



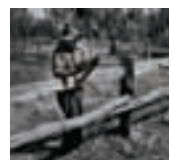
Charcoal burner, Fitzroy Falls, c. 1957
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 40



Harvest time, Eden, 1958
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 44



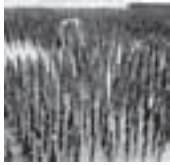
"Newchum" migrants, Leeton, 1958
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 46



Yarning, Barmah, 1952
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 3



Snapper for two, Ulladulla, 1959
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 60



The oyster farmer, Hawkesbury River, c. 1959
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 57



Xmas camping, Currarong, NSW, 1961
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 71



Surfboat, South Coast, 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 65



Seven Mile Beach, c. 1965
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 94



Picnic hazards, Seven Mile Beach, 1967
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 97



Cronulla, 1961
Silver gelatin photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 55



Sand skiing, Cronulla, 1963
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 76



The picnickers, Wanda, 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 68



March past, Wanda 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 67



Beach racers, Wanda, 1960
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 66



Wanda, 1963
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 83



Surfers at Wanda, c. 1964
Digital (inkjet) photographic print
PXD 1070/no. 85



Tobacco Road, Owens Valley, 1956



Events

GALLERY WALKS

**Thursday 27 January
and Wednesday 9 February**

12.30 pm, \$15, bookings essential

Join curator Sandra Byron on a tour of the exhibition. Meet in the Macquarie Street foyer 10 minutes before the tour.

THE LIFE & LEGACY OF JEFF CARTER

Friday 18 February

Dixson Room, 5.30 for 6 pm

\$20, \$15 (Members and concessions)

light refreshments will be served

Hear photography critic Robert McFarlane and curator Sandra Byron talk about the life and legacy of one of Australia's most respected documentary photographers.

On sale

JEFF CARTER: RETROSPECTIVE

When he went on the road with camera, typewriter and notebook, fresh out of high school in 1946, Jeff Carter faithfully and sympathetically recorded the lives of rural and coastal folk in every corner of Australia. As a result, his photos have an intimacy and honesty that reflects an admiration for the battlers he knew so well.

Buy your copy online or at the Library Shop.

Price \$49.95

A free exhibition at the State Library of NSW
4 January to 20 February 2011

Exhibition opening hours:
9 am to 8 pm Monday to Thursday
9 am to 5 pm Friday
10 am to 5 pm weekends
Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone (02) 9273 1414
www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Curator: Sandra Byron
Exhibition project manager: Avryl Whitnall
Exhibition designer: Martin Wale
Graphic designer: Rosie Handley
Editor: Theresa Willsteed

Printed by Rostone Print on Mega Recycled
P&D-3464-12/2010

COVER IMAGE: BONDI, C. 1950, JEFF CARTER

BELOW: "SNOWY" GASH — DROVER, NEAR IVANHOE, 1955, JEFF CARTER



The State Library of NSW
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