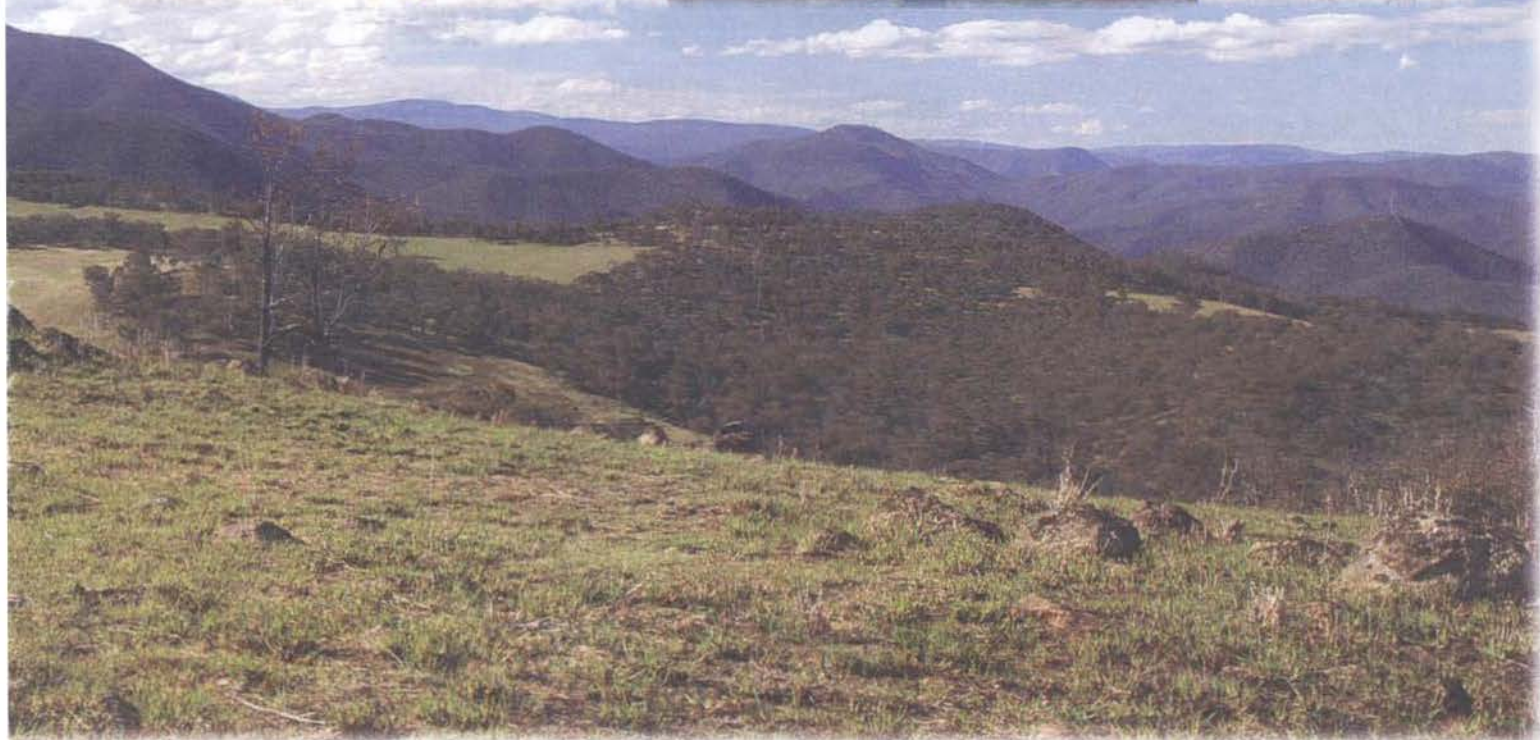


# John Kevin "Buff" Rogers

6 May 1934 - 21 October 2012



## Opening Music

### Welcoming of the People

Rev. Laurie Baker

### Opening Prayer of Thanksgiving for Life

#### Hymn

#### *The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
how I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear lamb of God  
left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
when his glory for ever I'll share.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
and exchange it some day for a crown.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

#### Scripture Sentences

Rev Laurie Baker

**Let us pray together** *Loving God, you alone are the source of life.  
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us,  
and fill us with compassion, one for another.  
In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.  
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Reflections on Buff's Life** presented by Chris Cooper, Colin Wadey,  
Paula Morgan and Tarryn Rogers.

### **Visual Presentation of Buff's Life**


**Address** Rev. Laurie Baker

**Prayers** *concluding with **The Lord's Prayer***  
Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever now. Amen

**The Farewell** *Let us entrust our brother John "Buff" to the mercy of God.*  
Holy and loving Father,  
by your mighty power you gave us life,  
and in your love you have given us new life  
in Christ Jesus.  
We entrust John to your merciful keeping:  
in the faith of Jesus Christ,  
who died and rose again to save us,  
and now lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. Amen

### **Blessing**

**Departing Music** *Amazing grace* Royal Scots Dragoon Guard



*From the time of his birth in 1934, Keith and Janet Rogers instilled in their son an appreciation of the environment around him. He grew up a carefree child who created his own fun - trapping rabbits for their skins to sell, breaking in poddy calves to pull a billy cart, and of course riding his pony. As a young man Buff worked on the family property and soon learnt to break-in and shoe his own horses, drive tractors, fence and general work on the property. Then there was the cattle work which involved taking cattle to the high country for the summer in the vicinity of the Cobberas on the Great Dividing Range, mustering in the autumn and taking the dry cattle to the winter runs in the valley of the Snowy River. Buff spent his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on the road with a mob of cattle going to Bairnsdale. About 1959 Buff selected a 1200 acre block of Crown land in Suggan Buggan which he fenced, gradually ringbarked and cleared as finances would permit.*

*Buff's pleasures were: good Hereford cattle, good horses (including a race horse or two with moderate success), good working dogs, the high country and a yarn with fellow bushmen/cattlemen. His dedication to breeding top class cattle showed at the annual sales in Bairnsdale with his stock regularly topping the sale and being sought by repeat buyers. Many a lifelong friendship came about from these sales.*

*Buff had a mischievous side. When N.S.W parks impounded some of his cattle that had strayed across the border he was told that he would only get them back after they saw him in court. Buff and his brother David mounted a recovery mission albeit under the cover of darkness. Cattle back over the border, problem solved!! Remember the rooster chase run held at the Wulgulmerang sports day? The RSPCA claimed the chase was stressful to the rooster and wanted it stopped but Buff was adamant it was going ahead. The media got involved and on the day a Channel 7 helicopter landing at Rockbank. The animal liberationist, RSPCA and police all turned up with threats of charges if the chase went ahead but still Buff stood his ground. The time of the chase arrived and fifty kids were ready. The RSPCA and police waited with pens and books ready with Buff poised at the float door. At the countdown Buff flung it open and out shot .... Billy King dressed up in a rooster suit!*

*Buff had an obsession with weeds. He spent thousands of dollars and hours over the years spraying both at Rockbank and Suggan Buggan and park boundaries meant nothing. He would often spray weeds in the park to try and stem the flow into his freehold.*

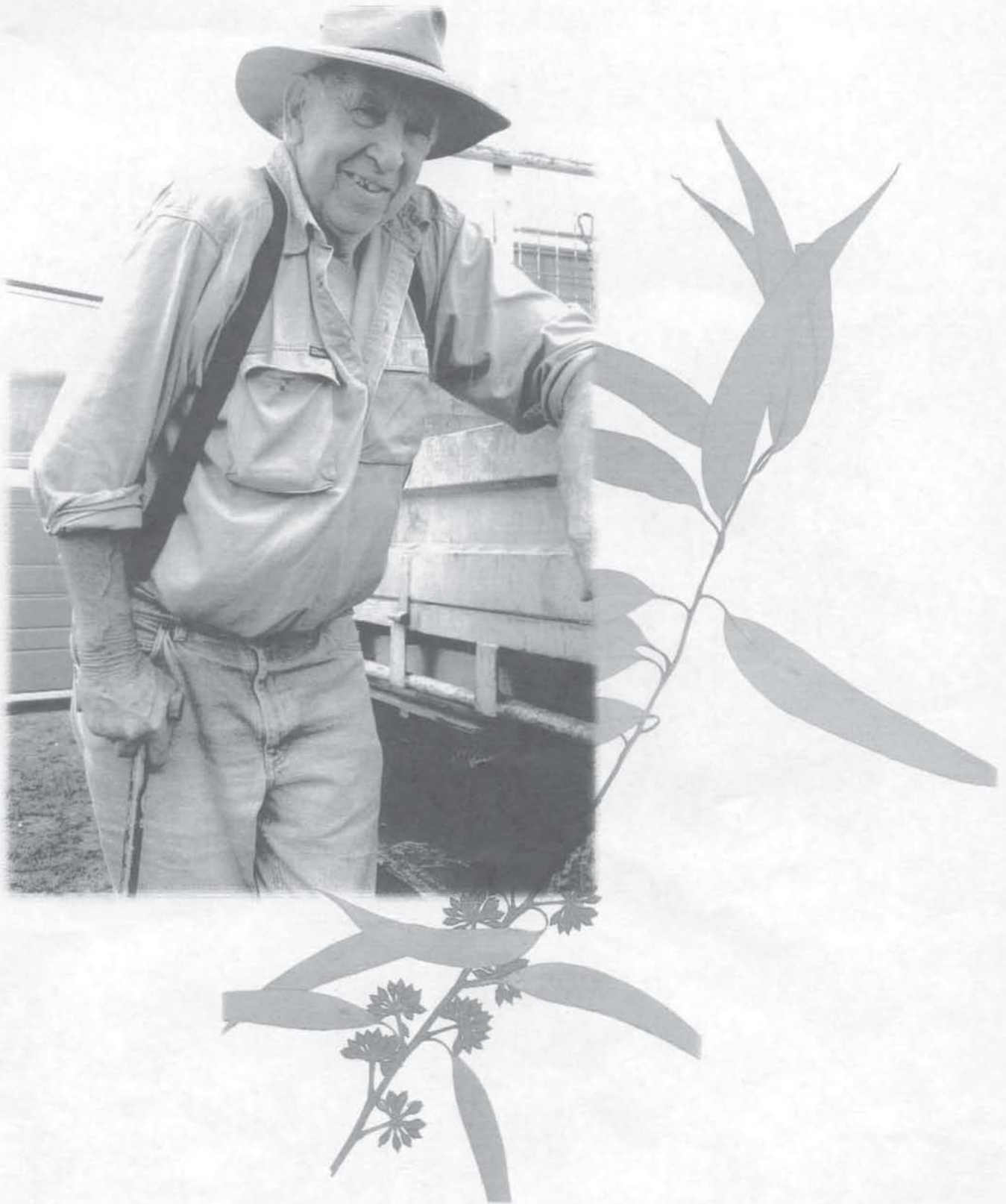
*Buff's ideals were simple. If things worked in the old days, there was no need to change it. "No need for swinging fenders, the old stock saddle was good enough for everyone in the past". "Sun glasses are useless, just put a hat on", and "a waste of money having an air conditioner in the car up here for the three hot days a year", were comments we would hear from time to time. A classic comment was that wide tyres were only for larrikins and show-offs. Well, the tables turned when the Nissan turned up at Rockbank with a set of wide wheels and tyres - many a jibe from the "larrikins" followed.*

*Buff became a member of the MCAV and remained a staunch and active member. In 2010 he was inducted in to the Stockman's Hall of Fame and earlier this year he was awarded life membership of the MCAV in appreciation for his unwavering support.*

*The last fifteen years handed Buff a series of hard knocks from which he never really recovered. The 1997-98 drought brought about a decision to reduce his cow herd to a bare fraction of what it was. To see the man's face as he watched his life's work leave in the back of a stock truck is a sight you never forget. Then in 2003 fires decimated the district after numerous warnings from Buff and other local bushmen - his saddest days during this bleak time were when all the grazing leases and his huts along with all his freehold properties were burnt and then bringing cattle back home knowing it would be for the last time. And finally - the loss of the high country grazing runs in 2005. Buff's life revolved around the runs; his father Keith, brother David and Buff would spend the summer months taking cattle up and mustering the mountains and high country plains. This was all lost after a list of broken political promises and with the stroke of a pen. The past few years saw Buff's health deteriorate, although he never admitted to the extent. "Just a bit ordinary" was the most he would say.*

*The life may have ended, but the legend will live on.*





*The Moon and Rogers families thank you for being here today and for the love and support that has been offered to them at this sad time.*

*Friends and members of the MCAV are invited to form a guard of honour .*

*Please join them for light refreshments at the Bairnsdale Sporting and Convention Centre (formerly the Italian Club), 117 Great Alpine Road, Lucknow once the service at the Bairnsdale Cemetery has concluded.*