

Plumaged Pillagers: The 1932 Australian Emu War



BunnyMUN IV

L.B. POLY - October 25, 2025

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Ida Esdale and I am one of your glorious Co-Chairs for the 1932 Emu War Crisis room at BunnyMUN IV here at Long Beach Poly High School! I am a sophomore in the PACE program here at Poly, and I am one of the social media directors for our Model UN club. I have been doing Model UN since eighth grade, when I attended BunnyMUN! I have a deep passion for MUN and fighting for what I believe in and helping others that need it. The UN itself is such a wonderful part of the world and I hope that it will be here for as long as people are on this Earth. As much as learning about the world around you is indefinitely important, so is learning diplomacy and respect for others and their ideas.

I am also in UNICEF at Poly and am on the Girls Golf Team! I enjoy crafting, photography and reading! I love poetry and short stories mainly, as well as any kinda haunting or romance book I can get my hands on. Some of my favorite pastimes are baking and watching Pride and Prejudice (2005 version, protest on that if you dare). I look forward to hearing all of your creative ideas and solutions at BunnyMUN IV! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Ida Esdale

Crisis: 1932 Emu War| Co-Head Chair

esdale.ida@gmail.com | 562-519-483

CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Hello Delegates!

My name is Siri Chang and I am one of your Co-Chairs for the 1932 Australian Emu War Crisis Room at BunnyMUN IV. I am a senior here at Poly and am part of the PACE program. I joined our Model UN program during my junior year and quickly became interested in it. Despite my more recent involvement in MUN, I am passionate about it. I've learned so much more about global issues that aren't always covered in the media and heard approaches to them from multiple different perspectives. I am excited that you are trying out MUN, which has provided me with many opportunities for public speaking and debate opportunities and helped me improve those skills.

Aside from MUN, at Poly, I am Co-President of the Math Team, President of Interact Club, a member of Female Leadership Academy, Khmer Club, Marching Band, and Lacrosse Team. My favorites of my many hobbies are reading, baking, crafting, and crocheting. The Australian Emu War is a fascinating topic and I can't wait to hear about your creative solutions to this problem. Even if MUN is unfamiliar to you, this crisis room will be an amazing experience. I hope you enjoy this room, and feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Siri Chang

Crisis: 1932 Australian Emu War | Co-Head Chair

sirylchang@gmail.com | 310-422-2409

P.S. Feel free to contact one of the chairs through the provided contact info for questions.

CO-CRISIS LEAD LETTER

Hello delegates!

My name is Don Tran. I have been charged with the honor to be one of your Crisis Leads and Directors for the fourth annual BunnyMUN! I'm currently in my junior year of high school in the Poly PACE program. I've been with MUN and going to conferences since my freshman year and I hope that this conference will be what inspires you to pursue MUN in the future, or even convince you to go to Poly and work with us here. MUN has been such an eye opening experience for me, from the culture, to the public speaking and research. I've gained communication skills, decorum, and have joined such a lovely community. I hope that this experience will benefit you too, or if not is at least a fun memory.

Outside of MUN, I help run several clubs as Co-Vice President of UNICEF, Strategy Lead in Robotics, and Historian for Jackrabbit Representatives. I am heavily involved with Poly's choral program, singing in both Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz I, sing with our theater program, and play varsity Boy's Golf. Outside of school in my free time I enjoy cooking, playing acoustic guitar, and reading. This room is objectively quite a silly subject but I look forward to your decorum and spirited debate on the topic. If you have any questions feel free to text or send me an email, and I'll see you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Don Nguyen Tran

Crisis: 1932 Australian Emu War | Crisis Lead

dont2987@gmail.com | 562-380-572

CO-CRISIS LEAD LETTER

Hello delegates!

I am Eamon Overman, one of your two Crisis Leads (the better one, I assure you) and am excited to see you have fun with the 1932 : Emu War crisis. I'm currently a Junior (11) in the Poly PACE pathway. I've been in Model United Nations for two years now and have been helping with crisis staffing for three. Model United Nations teams are great opportunities for practicing public speaking and debate. General assembly and crisis rooms also serve as a great place to learn how to understand (and in the case of crisis rooms, manipulate) other people's viewpoints to reach a goal. In addition the environment on the Model United Nations team at Poly is very inviting and welcoming.

Outside of Model United Nations I'm the president of the Poly robotics team and a member of the cross country team. I also enjoy more crafty hobbies like woodworking and blacksmithing. I hope you enjoy the Emu War room. I've definitely had a lot of fun writing and planning for it and I look forward to seeing how you all play it. Good Luck!

Sincerely,

Eamon Overman

Crisis: 1932 Australian Emu War | Crisis Lead

eamonoverman@gmail.com | 562-277-3984

VICE CHAIR LETTER

Hello delegates!

My name is Abigail Hall, and I am your vice chair for the 1932 Emu War Crisis Committee and the Director General of Poly's MUN club. I'm currently a junior, and since eighth grade I've always fostered a love for Model United Nations and the amazing experiences it offers. For me, Model UN offers an opportunity to gain insight into the complex forces that shape the world we live in. I believe learning about the issues present in different nations can help you develop knowledge of and empathy for people across the globe, and I hope BunnyMUN IV helps you find some of this insight and joy as well.

At Poly, I play on the Girls' Varsity Golf Team, and am also co-president of the Moot Court Club and Jackrabbits Act Now Club. Outside school, I love to make art and read (particularly fantasy and sci-fi). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email. I look forward to meeting all of you, and hope I can help you to have a fun and enlightening experience at BunnyMUN!

Sincerely,

Abigail Hall

Crisis: 1932 Australian Emu War | Vice Chair

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HOW TO MUN

So, you're probably wondering: How do I prepare for debate? Well, here are some starting points to begin your character research!

1. Read through this background guide
 - a. Find your character in Character Descriptions (**pg. 17**) and read the description
2. Look for information on your character online. You can use the “tool” button to research within a certain time frame
 - a. Wikipedia is a good place to *start* research but please try to find other sources
3. Look at the Questions to Consider (**pg. 30**) and try to answer them (do some research on the internet!)
4. Do more research on the internet for:
 - a. previous character actions
 - b. more background information
 - c. possible solutions

During the committee, all delegates will present an “opening statement.” This is a short introductory speech and will only last about 30 seconds to 1 minute—nothing too bad! You can practice and time your speech using a timer.

These opening statements are written beforehand. They don't have to be memorized, either. You can print or write your speech, then read off the paper.

Your opening statement should include:

1. Your character's name and title
2. Your character's perspective on the crisis
3. Possible solutions that align with your character's perspective
 - a. This is what you will discuss in the main part of the committee! Including this in your opening statement is a great way to let other delegates know where you stand.

TOPIC SYNOPSIS

The year is 1932, and Australia has declared war on the emus—yes, you heard that right, the large, flightless birds—as it turns out, national symbols can also cause national crises. Because of the ongoing and debilitating droughts across the country, these birds are rolling out in the tens of thousands across the Outback in search of food. Unfortunately, the only thing the emus have found to eat is the farmland of the already struggling soldier-settlers, and they are making short work of the limited crops available. These 6-foot tall dinosaur descendants can easily jump over farm fences, trampling crops and creating gaps that other pests can exploit in their wake. Such destruction will only make worse the economic troubles of what international murmurs call a “great depression.” Clearly, Australia is under an advanced avian attack—so who better to handle this crisis than the Australian armed forces? Under the order of Defense Minister George Pearce, three soldiers will be dispatched to tackle the avian trampers. These brave men, armed only with two Lewis automatic machine guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition, will have the job of eliminating approximately 20,000 large birds.

Of course, some are naturally skeptical of the soldiers’ ability to succeed, and in the necessity of killing swaths of the country’s most iconic bird. Regardless, the emus’ rampage must be halted, and delegates will have to work together to save Australia’s farms and prevent further economic collapse.

BACKGROUND

Know Your Enemy: The Australian Emu

Emus are considered the unofficial national bird of Australia, and are the largest living bird. They can be found in a variety of different environments on the continent, such as eucalyptus forests, woodlands, heath lands, desert shrub lands, and sand plains. Like the ostriches they are related to, emus are completely flightless, with vestigial wings less than 8 inches long. These birds can be as tall as humans, averaging at 1.75 meters (4.9–6.2 ft). Males weigh around 110 to 121 lbs, whereas females weigh around 122 to 132 lbs. Emus can reach speeds up to 50kph (31.1 mph) with a running stride of 3 meters, often walking up to 25km (16mi) per day for food. They can also go for weeks without eating, having adapted to the occasionally sparse Australian landscape.

Emus are omnivores, eating both plants and animals, such as insects. In cases where food becomes particularly scarce, these birds turn into crop pests and will pillage farms, damaging agricultural yields and fences keeping out other pests. However, emus also play an important role in their ecosystems as seed dispersers. The birds' waste contains seeds from the plants they eat, and it acts as a fertilizer. As the



birds leave waste during their daily treks, the seeds are distributed over a wide area, carrying them away from the mother plant and leaving them in areas that previously did not have any of that plant.

The emu is also culturally significant to Australia, with the Aboriginals believing them to be totemic (relating to or resembling a totem) animals in creation stories and The Dreaming, representing a connection between land and sky through the Emu constellation. The birds were also related to important dates in their calendars; for example, the Emu constellation being in the sky would mark when it was time to collect emu eggs or hunt them. Additionally, emus are also used for their meat, eggs, and bones, and emu oil is highly prized for skin and healthcare. When Australia was settled by Europeans, the birds became of the same symbolic status as kangaroos, particularly for their inability to move backward, which is meant to represent the continent's innovative and forward-thinking spirit. Given their cultural significance, emus are often seen on other national symbols, such as Australia's coat of arms, the 50 cent coin, and in Aboriginal art.

Farming and Settlement in Western Australia

Much of Western Australia consists of dry savanna, grasslands, and shrublands. As a result, the area is of largely limited agricultural potential, and



was of little interest to farm. However, that changed after World War I, when Australia sent 330,000 troops to fight overseas. Following the war, Australia saw an influx of veterans who needed to be reintegrated into civilian life, so in 1916 the government started the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act, which made veterans eligible to apply for land to gain a source of income. The main crop grown in that region was wheat, earning it the nickname the “Wheat Belt.” The land the Australian government offered,



however, extended past what is known as the Brockman Line, the predetermined limit of reliable rainfall for sustainable wheat production. This raised concerns about the viability of long-term agriculture in the area. As a result, in early 1932, when an intense drought overtook Australia, wheat farming became nearly impossible. A combination of factors, including the Western Australian economy being already overly dependent on wheat and wool exports, the fact that successful agricultural production in the area could be arduous even for experienced farmers, and the inexperience of the soldier-settlers as farmers resulted in crop devastation.

Compounding these struggles was the Great Depression, which began in 1929, when the United States' Wall Street crashed. Hoping the global economic situation would improve the following year, Prime Minister James Scullin of the Labor Party encouraged farmers to grow more wheat. He proposed the Wheat Marketing Bill to the Australian Senate to ensure that farmers would have a minimum price for their wheat crop that year. Yet when a sharp decline in world trade caused the price of commodities, including wheat, to plummet in June of 1930 from \$23 (AUD) to \$8 (AUD), the Senate rejected his bill and farmers faced serious financial losses. In 1931, after Scullin finally passed a relief bill for the farmers, his successor Joseph Lyon of the United Australia Party cancelled it, and wheat farmers lost confidence in the government's ability to help them after facing a second year of hardship.

This string of losses and disappointments fuelled a Western Australia Secession movement, as the region's inhabitants felt that Canberra was neglecting them. Although secession had been discussed in WA politics in the past, it had never made much progress. Starting in 1930, however, and gaining more traction as the years of economic suffering went on, increasing numbers of Western Australians desired secession from the Australian Commonwealth and a return to being a self-governing colony of the British Empire. Despite these efforts, a referendum on secession has still

not occurred, and faced with such intense economic hardship, a quarter of the original soldier settlers had abandoned their land by 1932.

Emus Become a Threat

The combination of inexperienced veteran farmers and falling crop prices made Western Australia particularly vulnerable to further economic disruption. This came in the form of hordes of emus trampling large amounts of crops in the region, particularly in the Campion district. The birds were on the hunt for food, and crops guarded by easily scalable fences were the perfect target. Emus trampled over the crops in their search for food, and their rampages created holes in the fences which were then exploited by other pests, such as rabbits. Crop destruction by emus was nothing new in Australia; in 1922, the species' status was changed from "protected" to "vermin" in response to the havoc they wreaked on wheat farms. A decade later, however, Western Australia saw a drought that impelled an unusually large migration of emus in search of food. By the latter half of 1932, as Western Australia's agriculture was beset by an emu horde 20,000 strong, the public was crying out to the government for help.



Although the emus' classification as vermin enabled farmers to shoot the birds without consequence, the massive migration quickly became too much to handle. Many of the farmers felt that the government was neglecting their struggles. Thus, in the hopes of appeasing the veterans and the simmering secessionist movement, Minister of Defense George Pearce authorized military action against the emus. In order to eliminate the birds, three soldiers would be dispatched to Western Australia at the expense of the state government, carrying Royal Australian Military equipment,

and accommodated by local farmers. Amidst the army's preparations for combat against the emus was a proposal that the troops return with 100 emu skins, with the hopes of making hats for the officers out of them. As of November 1932, Major G.P.W. Meredith, Sergeant. S. McMurray, and Gunner J. O'Halloran are on their way to the Campion District. Traveling with the three soldiers are two Lewis automatic machine guns, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, a cinematographer to capture the government's action, and orders to eliminate the emu threat.



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This committee will begin on **November 1st, 1932**. As delegates, you will receive various crisis updates throughout committee, where our dais or crisis staff will deliver new information pertinent to the events of committee. Time jumps may occur. **Since this committee begins on November 1st, 1932, we understand that critical events within several character's lives may not yet have occurred, and some information has not yet been revealed to the public. Nonetheless, please abide by your character's original historical timeline. Also, this committee is set in an alternate timeline, and any character actions may diverge from the historical timeline.** We recommend making a basic timeline for your character that you can refer to during debate.

At BunnyMUN, we use a digital directive system, so you will submit your directives via a Google Form and get responses from Crisis Staff in a digital crisis notebook (a Google Doc). This decreases response time, allowing delegates to submit far more directives—at previous conferences we've averaged a response time of less than ten minutes. Committee directives should be written on a Google Doc and shared with the Chair, who will send them to the Crisis Staff.

In addition, on the day of the conference, you will be given a folder with a portfolio power. These portfolio powers are secret—only you will know what your portfolio power is—and include two major things: plots and powers. Plots are secret objectives a delegate is trying to accomplish or secret information that only one delegate or a group of delegates would be privy to. For instance, an example of a plot is how in our past “Red Scare” room, multiple delegates were Communists and plotted with each other to overthrow the United States. Powers are special actions that



delegates can take. These can range from the ability to “OBJECT!” to another delegate’s speech, to a secret task force of spies and analysts that a delegate can command to gather intelligence on their adversaries, to the ability to call a general strike and cripple key infrastructure.

Please be advised that at BunnyMUN IV we have a policy of not killing your fellow delegates. Therefore, please do not submit directives attempting to assassinate one another. We also will not entertain directives that involve genocide or nuclear weapons. Thank you so much for signing up and we look forward to meeting you on the 25th!

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Margaret Morse Nice

Margaret Morse Nice is an American ornithologist and ethnologist. Having studied at Mount Holyoke University, Nice is a pioneer for ornithology and other women in the field. She began birdwatching at 13 and was encouraged to keep many pets, becoming a lifelong animal lover. As an ornithologist, she is well known for her extensive study of Ohio Song sparrows, and was the first to coin the term pecking order in chicken hierarchies. Although Nice's work has largely concerned American birds, as an advocate for the respect and conservation of all avians, she finds the Australian Emu War appalling, and is ready to collaborate with other ornithologists to put an end to this madness.

Arthur Augustus Allen

Arthur Augustus Allen is a pioneer in American ornithology and prominent conservationist. Born in Buffalo, New York, Allen initially studied at Cornell University as a zoologist and went on to found its ornithology laboratory. As an ornithologist, he traveled in Colombia for four years, and is known to have conducted one of the first field recording experiments of bird calls, along with popularizing the practice of "banding" birds to collect data on them. Allen's extensive career as a scientist has also made him a strong believer in the conservation of the natural world; Canberra's declaration of war against Australia's endemic emus is thus a serious affront to his belief in the peaceful coexistence of humanity with other species. On behalf of Australia's birds, Allen is joining the front of scientists against the Emu War.



Dominic Serventy

Dominic Serventy is a famous Australian ornithologist and conservationist. His accomplishments include being State Secretary of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, and a founding member of the Western Australia's Naturalists Club. In 1931, he graduated from the University of Western Australia with first class honors in zoology, and as of 1932, Serventy has received a scholarship to Cambridge University. The Emu War, however, has led him to return to Australia. The study and protection of birds is a lifelong passion of Serventy, and so to him, Canberra's operation is an embarrassing atrocity. Along with his longtime colleague, Hubert Whittell and other like-minded ornithologists, Serventy is determined to end this slaughter and save Australia's emus.

Hubert Whittell

Hubert Whittell is a prominent Australian ornithologist and vehement opponent of the government's Emu War. After serving as a major in World War I, Whittell settled on a farm in Western Australia and turned his lifelong love of birdwatching into a career. Having been accustomed to meticulous, hands-on work in the army, Whittell is a skilled field worker, and his passion for studying birds has turned into a great skill for taxidermy and an extensive collection of samples and specimens. Given this attachment to Australia's avians, Whittell, like other members of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union, is strongly against the military's war on emus.

Sergeant S. McMurray

Sergeant S. McMurray is one of the three initial men from the Royal Australian Artillery called on by the Defence Minister to address emu crop destruction in Western Australia. Although Sgt. McMurray did not serve in WWI, he believes himself to be an ideal candidate for this wildlife containment operation, as he is one of the continent's

few non-fatigued or incapacitated soldiers. As a soldier in the “war” against the emus, Sgt. McMurray’s honor and job are on the line as this conflict catches the public’s eye; as a result, he is willing to do everything he can to ensure the success of his mission.

Major Gwynydd Purves Wynne-Aubrey Meredith (Major G.P.W. Meredith)

Major G.P. W. Meredith is the head of Canberra’s war on the emus. He believes that it is the duty of the Royal Australian’s military to protect Australia from threats and insecurity, which the birds have now become. As a veteran himself, he also sympathizes with the soldier settlers who are struggling after the war. Meredith began his career as a lieutenant in the Royal Australian artillery in 1910. He shortly served in the Australian imperial force during WW1 in England, and then attended the royal artillery college in Woolwich. Upon returning to Australia, Meredith was appointed inspector of armaments on the munitions supply board. Later, he was promoted to the rank of major and appointed to command the Western Region’s artillery. As of now, Meredith has been dispatched as head of the mission to eliminate the emu threat.

Sir James Mitchell

James Mitchell is an Australian politician and the Premier of Western Australia. He was elected to this position in 1919 and 1930. He is currently a member of the Country Party. As Premier, Mitchell is opportunistic and believes that access to power will help him best serve the Australian people. Born to a family of farmers and gaining additional farming experience in the Avon Valley, Mitchell is a loud proponent of agricultural expansion, specifically through government support; he had been a supporter of assisted migration and the settlement of Western Australia by veterans as well. He also became Minister of Agriculture during his political career in 1909. Given this background, Mitchell is a strong advocate for military action against emu crop destruction.

James Dunn

James Dunn is a senator for New South Wales and member of the Australian Labor Party (ALP). As a politician, Dunn is notorious for his fiery, impassioned debate. Dunn is a former member of the Australian Navy and served in World War I in New Guinea, France, and the Middle East, after which he became an engine driver in New Zealand, where he first encountered the La Prost movement and entered politics. Though Dunn's military experience lends him respect and sympathy for veterans, following his discharge he was more concerned with the continent's political deals regarding labor unions at the time. Dunn is not opposed to lethal action to address emu crop destruction, but feels that the proposed "Emu War" is a flashy waste of resources.

W.H. "Billy" Hughes

W.H. "Billy" Hughes is the 7th Prime Minister of Australia. As an active politician for 37 years, Hughes served as PM during the Great War. He is also notorious, however, for his confrontational personality; Hughes' participation in debates at the Treaty of Versailles, where he attempted to cling on to Australia's outer territories, made him a controversial figure. Despite that, his military experience has made him popular with veterans, earning him the nickname, "the Little Digger," for the trenches WWI soldiers dug. Hughes supports the Emu War, being a fervent believer in Australian pride and strength - which he believes the emus are trampling on.

George Pearce

George Pearce is the current Australian Minister of Defence. Having served during World War 1, Pearce's primary job is the implementation of defence tactics and the management of the Australian Defense Organization. He is also a former senator for Western Australia. It was Pearce's decision to employ the three artillery men to



Western Australia as a response to the emu crisis, in part to protect the continent's agricultural economy, and also as a display of government support for impoverished and discontented Western Australian farmers. Pearce believes that military-level force is the only effective solution against the havoc emus are currently wreaking on Australian crops.

W.R. Carpenter

W.R. Carpenter is an Australian-Canadian pearl trader and merchant, with influence all over the South Pacific and Oceania. Having worked for and managed multiple businesses, he formed WR Carpenter and Co in 1914, establishing plantations, stores, shipping services, and trading stations across the Southwest Pacific. Carpenter tends to go wherever the money leads, and is thus willing to take enormous risks for profits. During WWI, he helped use coconut copra to manufacture munitions and rations. Aside from his trading empire, Carpenter also operates a number of hotels, power plants, and cold storage facilities. For him, the Emu War is yet another opportunity to grow his wealth.

James Francis Guthrie

Senator James Francis Guthrie is an Australian Senator and former “wool man”. Francis began as a clerk for Dalgety & Co., a major Australian pastoral-agricultural company. After working a number of jobs, in the wool industry and for Dalgety (including being a travelling wool expert), Guthrie became head valuer for the company. In 1920, Guthrie took his seat as a Senator of the National Party, later joining the United Australia Party. With an insubordinate and unpredictable personality, he is often absent during parliament meetings. Guthrie is not a fervent supporter of open slaughter of the country's emus, but he does see Australia's agricultural industry as highly valuable and in urgent need of protection to enable further expansion.



Gregory Macalister Matthews

An Australian ornithologist, Matthews collected bird eggs at a young age, and eventually became an orchardist. He moved to England in 1902, believing he was seeking his destiny. When Matthews returned to Australia to continue ornithology, however, his colleagues labelled him as an extremist. Matthews is a notorious proponent of subspecies, often proclaiming that two of the same bird were entirely different. In fact, this was so prevalent that he believed that instead of 800 bird species in Australia, there were 1500. In 1914, he went on a world tour meeting ornithologists and studying bird skins, publishing a series called *Birds of Australia*. Having loved birds all his life, he's outraged by the government's slaughter of the emus, but also hopes to also use this situation to gain better standing among his peers.

Joseph Lyons

Joseph Lyons is the 10th Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia. He has participated in politics his whole life, and is not unfamiliar with the compromises and risk-taking inherent to the profession. Lyons became premier of Tasmania in 1879, assuming the position after entering politics as the president of Tasmania's Australian Labor Party branch and serving in various other roles. During his career in state politics, Lyons was a notable critic of those with large landholding interests. About a year before being elected to prime minister in 1932, Lyons left the ALP and founded the United Australia Party, consisting of ALP dissidents and Nationalists. Although he believes that Australia's agricultural industry must be defended, Lyons also believes that ameliorating the effects of the Great Depression should be a priority. According to Lyons, the Emu War is a waste of government resources and a crude solution to the far more complex issue of struggling farmers and the continent's economy as a whole.

Gunner J. O'Halloran

Gunner J. O'Halloran is one of the three Royal Australian Military soldiers deployed in the government's emu war. O'Halloran served in the first World War from 1914–1918, and is a member of the Royal Australian Artillery, his unit being the 2nd Australian Field Artillery Battery. Having risked his life as a soldier to protect Australia in World War I, O'Halloran strongly supports the continued use of military force to eliminate the emu threat, and hopes that his role in this “wildlife containment operation” will benefit a strained continent in the midst of the Great Depression.

Richard John Anketell

Richard John Anketell is a prominent Australian engineer, most notable for his part in constructing the rabbit-proof fence. He began his career in the Engineering Branch of the Victorian Railways, from then on working for a number of companies and projects before eventually becoming responsible for the construction of a 3,000+ mile long fence to protect Western Australia's agriculture from pests. Given his long career of using engineering to safeguard the continent's farming industry, Anketell believes his skills will be of much use in addressing the emu horde – perhaps by constructing a solution more sustainable than the all-out killing of the emus.

Herbert Hays

Herbert Hays is an Australian politician and fervent advocate for Western Australia's farmers. He was first elected to the Tasmanian House of Assembly in 1911 as a liberal league candidate, and is currently a senator in the United Australia Party. Hays feels a strong kinship with the struggling soldier-settlers, and has used his influence as a politician to serve their interests, enabling farming in new districts through developing rail infrastructure, loosening regulations on the settlement of the Crownlands, cutting taxes on property owners, and supporting relief for farmers. As a self-proclaimed



warrior for Australia's farmers, Hays is in full support of decisive and lethal action against the emus.

Albert Earnest Green

Albert Green is a politician representing the Kalgoorlie district in South Western Australia. In his youth, Green traveled around the U.S. and Central America, although he eventually came to the region of Kalgoorlie in search of gold. Despite his initial reasoning, Green soon turned his sights to politics and established a branch of the Australian Natives ' Association (ANA) entering public service and joining the Labor party. During this time, he also co-founded the Amalgamated Workers Association and led other labourist associations. Green first became a representative in Australia's legislative assembly in 1911. Aside from that, he has also promoted a capable Australian Air force while serving as Defense Minister from 1929 to 1931 and as the current postmaster general. Because of his intense sense of nationalism, fierce support for the settlement of the Outback, and a strong belief that the growth of the economy should coincide with increased egalitarianism, Green believes that the Emu War is an outrageous waste of precious government resources.

Robert Clyde Packer

Robert Clyde Packer is a prolific Australian media mogul and journalist. Born in Tasmania in 1879, Packer did reporting in a number of cities and jobs before joining the *Sunday Times* in 1908. With an energetic and robust personality, Packer rose to editor and grew the paper's circulation to over 100,000 people. When World War I sparked, Packer unsuccessfully attempted to join the Imperial Force, but returned to journalism, becoming editor of the *Sunday Sun* in 1916. In 1918 however, he embarked on one of his most notable ventures: *Smith's Weekly*, a witty, irreverent, and sensational periodical with audacious illustrations and an inclination toward Digger ideology.



Given the immensely public nature of Canberra's "war" and Packer's talent for inflaming ballyhoo to sell papers, this Emu War appears to be an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Thomas Turner II

Thomas Turner II is the owner of the Birmingham Small Arms Company, a prominent British manufacturer of firearms. The company is most notable for supplying the Imperial Force with Lewis automatic machine guns, the most advanced guns of the time. Given that Lewis guns are so effective at killing, they also happen to be the Royal Australian Military's weapon of choice in dispelling the emu horde. Turner inherited his company from his father, who reaped enormous profits from the Great War, and he intends to take advantage of the Emu War to sell BSA arms in the same way.

Roy Lancaster Curthoys

Roy Lancaster Curthoys is an Australian journalist and editor of the Melbourne newspaper *The Argus*. Curthoys started working as a journalist in 1910 at the *Daily News*. After working at a number of papers, he settled at the Argus in 1920. Having committed his whole life to disseminating truth to the public, Curthoys is exhausted with the exaggerated, sensationalized, headlines so often employed by publishers to sell papers - and those are the exact tactics that seem to be sprouting out of the government's wildlife containment operation, despite the removal of the emus seeming to be a reasonable approach. As a result, Curthoys is determined to use his platform to cut through the noise and get facts to the Australian people, regardless of the powerful interests that would rather he not.

Hugh Leslie

Hugh Leslie is an Australian newspaper editor and beloved politician. Born in South Africa, Leslie served in the South African armed forces from 1916 to 1919. After that, he became a railway clerk and newspaper journalist before emigrating to Victoria, Australia, in 1923. Leslie moved to Western Australia in 1927 and eventually became editor of the *North-Eastern Wheatbelt Tribune* in 1931. As a resident of Western Australia, Leslie sees the plight of its farmers, and believes that the Emu War is a necessary step by the Australian government in protecting the country's vulnerable agriculture and citizens.

Josiah Francis

Josiah Francis is an Australian politician of the United Australia Party and WWI veteran. Born in 1890, Francis first began work as a clerk in the Queensland Department of Justice in 1908. In 1916, he was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Australian Imperial Force fighting in England. There, Francis was injured in combat, but returned to fight until September of 1919. As a veteran, he is committed to advocating for other former service members, having presided over sub-branches of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia. In 1922, Francis was elected to the Australian House of Representatives for Moreton. Being heavily involved in administration and civic life, he is currently the Assistant-Minister of Defense and is in charge of war service homes for veterans. As an advocate for them, Francis believes that the Emu War is a necessary step in supporting soldier-settlers, who have already suffered so much.

Sir John Smith Teasdale

Sir John Smith Teasdale is an Australian wheat farmer and administrator. Born in England in 1881, Teasdale first worked as a grain merchant. Later, in 1911, he emigrated



to Western Australia with his brothers in Belka and Totadgin of the Bruce Rock district. Teasdale built up relationships with local farmers after the 1914 crop was destroyed and they looked to improve their yields. In 1916, he became an executive member of the Farmers and Settlers' Association of Western Australia, and helped found the Wheat Pool of Western Australia co-operative in 1922. He is currently the President of the Primary Producers' Association of Western Australia. Teasdale sees emu crop destruction as a serious threat to Australia's agriculture and farmers, but feels that the military's action against them is a crude response to the complex problem of Western Australia's struggling farmers.

John Latham

Sir John Greig Latham is an Australian politician, former judge, and diplomat. Born in Melbourne in 1877, Latham officially began his law practice when he was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1904. Latham's style as a lawyer was characterized by meticulous logic and preparation, and an honorable streak. In 1925, he joined the National Party, but later transferred to the United Australia Party. He is currently the attorney general, and minister for external affairs and industry. Latham has also participated in international affairs as a delegate to the League of Nations in 1926. As an ardent believer in the essential nature of careful logic and facts in public service, Latham acknowledges the severity of emu crop destruction in Western Australia. He is skeptical of the military's fast and brutal approach to killing all the emus, however, and hopes to use his influence within the government to work towards an effective and focused solution that will protect the Australian people.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can the threat of emu crop destruction be addressed humanely and effectively?
2. How will delegates mitigate the ecological consequences of significantly reducing emu populations?
3. How can the Australian government address the possibility of national humiliation should the operation go poorly?
4. Where can additional support for the war effort be procured?
5. What actions can be taken to help Australia's agricultural industry recover from damage by the emus?
6. How can soldier-settlers be better supported in light of their farming struggles?
7. Should this problem be solved by the Australian military, or is it better left to scientists, farmers, and/or other branches of the government?

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