

# LAST WORDS

## SIMONE PATERSON

Gallery 139, 139A Beaumont St Hamilton, NSW, Australia.  
During the Newcastle Writers Festival 2017. 5 Apr - 22 Apr, 2017.

**Edward "Ned" Kelly**  
December (maybe), 1854 - 11 November, 1880.  
Australian bushranger of Irish descent.

Kelly was born in Victoria, Australia the third of eight children in a household of meager means. Kelly was first convicted of stealing horses and imprisoned for three years. He fled to the bush in 1878 after being indicted for the attempted murder of a police officer at the Kelly family's home. After he, his brother Dan, and two associates fatally shot three policemen, the Government of Victoria proclaimed them outlaws.

Kelly and his gang went on to commit robbery and murder. A final confrontation with the Victorian Police came at Glenrowan on 28 June 1880. The Kelly gang dressed in homemade suits of metal armour were all killed, except for Ned, who was severely wounded by police fire and captured. Kelly was tried, convicted and sentenced to death by hanging, which was carried out at the Old Melbourne Gaol. Legend has it that the Australian bushranger uttered the now-famous phrase from the gallows,

"Such is life".



**Karl Marx**

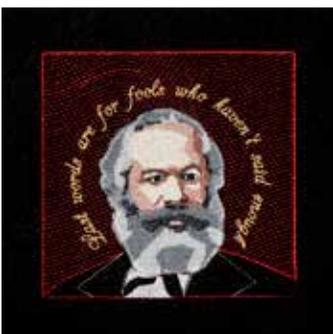
5 May, 1818 - 14 March, 1883.

German-born scientist, philosopher, economist, sociologist, journalist, and revolutionary socialist.

Although born in Germany in his adult life Marx became stateless and spent much time in London, England. It is here, working in collaboration with German thinker Friedrich Engels, he published various works, the most well-known being the 1848 pamphlet *The Communist Manifesto*. On his headstone is engraved the final line of *The Communist Manifesto*, "WORKERS OF ALL LANDS UNITE".

Marx died of pleurisy in London, his last spoken words were to his housekeeper ...

"Go on get out! Last words are for fools who haven't said enough".

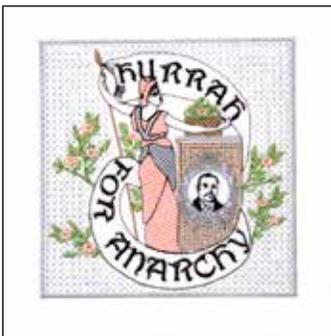


**George Engel**

15 April, 1836 -11 November, 1887.

Labor union activist executed after the Haymarket Riot, in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Born in Kassel, Electorate of Hesse, German Confederation Engel emigrated to the United States, where he was eventually the owner of a Toy Shop. The Haymarket Square riot of May 4, 1886, began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour day and in reaction to the killing of several workers the previous day by the police. It ended after someone threw a bomb. At least eight people died as a result of the violence that day. Engel was not present at the riot he was at home playing cards. Nevertheless, he was arrested the next day and charged with conspiracy in the bombings and sentenced to hanging. His last words shouted before his execution "Hurrah for anarchy! This is the happiest moment of my life".



**Martha M. Place**

18 September, 1849 - 20 March, 1899.

Convicted American murder and the first woman to die in the electric chair.

Born in Readington Township, New Jersey, USA, Martha Place was struck in the head by a sleigh at age 23. Her brother claimed that she never fully recovered and that the accident had left her mentally unstable. Martha married widower William Place in 1893. He had a daughter named Ida from a previous marriage. Martha was to help raise his daughter, although it was later rumored that Martha was jealous of Ida. William called the police at least once after his wife threatened to kill Ida.

Martha threw sulfuric acid at her seventeen-year-old stepdaughter Ida during a quarrel, then smothered her with a pillow. William came home to find his wife wielding an axe, with which she struck him twice in the head but failed to kill him.

Martha Place was found guilty of the murder of her stepdaughter Ida and sentenced to death. Her husband was a key witness against her. She was the first woman to be executed in the electric chair by the state of New York, Her last words were,

"God help me".



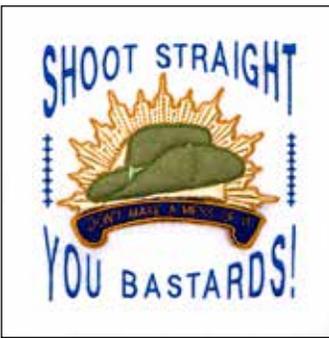
**Harry "Breaker" Harbord Morant**  
9 December, 1864 - 27 February, 1902.  
Anglo-Australian horseman, bush poet, and military officer.

Born Edwin Henry Murrant Bridgwater in Somerset, England, Murrant emigrated to Australia in 1883 and adopted the name Harry Harbord Morant. His talent for breaking horses soon earned him the name "The Breaker".

While serving with the Bushveldt Carbineers during the Second Anglo-Boer War, Lieutenant Morant was arrested and court-martialed for war crimes, one of the first such prosecutions in British military history. According to military prosecutors, Lt. Morant retaliated for the death in combat of his commanding officer with a series of revenge killings against both Boer POWs and many civilian residents of the Northern Transvaal.

Lt. Morant was found guilty and sentenced to death.  
While facing the firing squad Morant shouted,

"Shoot straight, you bastards! Don't make a mess of it!"



**Amelia Mary Earhart**

24 July, 1897- disappeared 2 July, 1937.

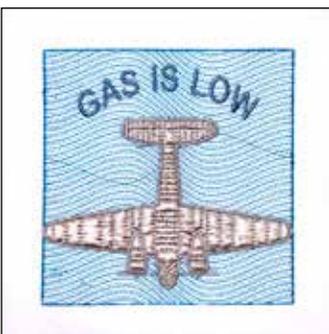
American aviation pioneer and author. Also a member of the National Woman's Party and an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Amelia was born in Atchison, Kansas. Her first flying lessons began on January 3, 1921, at Kinner Field, near Long Beach. Her teacher Anita "Neta" Snook was a pioneer female aviator who used a surplus Curtiss JN-4 "Canuck" for training. On May 15, 1923, Earhart became the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license (#6017) by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI).

Earhart received many aviation honors including, Woman's world altitude record: 14,000 ft (1922), First woman to fly the Atlantic Ocean (1928), First person to cross the USA in an autogyro (1932), First woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross (1932).

In 1935, Earhart became a visiting faculty member at Purdue University as an advisor to aeronautical engineering and a career counselor to women students. During an attempt to make a circumnavigational flight of the globe in 1937 in a Purdue-funded Lockheed Model 10 Electra, Earhart disappeared over the central Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. One of her last radio transmissions was to the Itasca, the "picket ship" supporting

Earhart's world flight attempt was,  
"We must be on you, but cannot see you, but gas is running low."

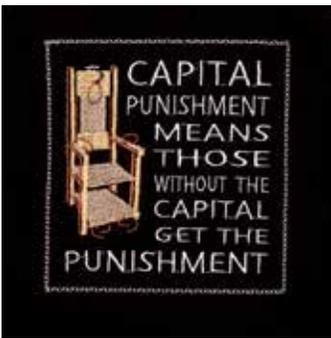


**John Arthur Spenkelink**  
29 March, 1949 - 25 May, 1979.  
A convicted American murderer.

Born in Le Mars, Iowa and executed under controversial circumstances in Florida. Spenkelink was the first convict to be executed in the the state of Florida after capital punishment was reinstated in 1976.

Spenkelink shot and killed a fellow small-time criminal named Joseph Szymankiewicz in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1973. He claimed that he acted in self-defense; He spent his final days writing these last words on various pieces of mail,

“Capital punishment means those without the capital get the punishment.”



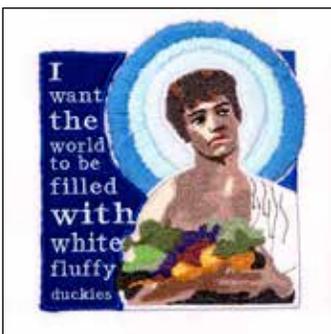
**Michael Derek Elworthy Jarman**  
31 January, 1942 - 19 February, 1994.

English film director, stage designer, diarist, artist, gardener author and activist.

Jarman was born in Northwood, Middlesex, England. A graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London (UCL), he had a studio at Butler's Wharf, London, in the 1970s. Jarman spent many years making experimental super 8 mm films. His film *Caravaggio*, released in 1986, attracted a wide audience and is still, barring the cult hit *Jubilee*, probably Jarman's most widely known work. Jarman was unapologetically gay and an activist for gay rights. He died of an AIDS-related illness in London, aged 52.

Reported in the 2004 film, *Life As Art: Derrick Jarman*, his last words were,

“I want the world to be filled with white fluffy duckies.”



**Timothy Francis Leary**

22 October, 1920 – 31 May, 1996.

American psychologist and writer known for advocating the exploration of the therapeutic potential of psychedelic drugs under controlled conditions.

Leary was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, the only child in an Irish Catholic household. He served in World War II and earned the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. His work in academic psychology expanded on the research of Harry Stack Sullivan and Karen Horney regarding the importance of interpersonal forces in mental health, focusing on how understanding interpersonal processes might facilitate diagnosing disorders and identifying human personality patterns.

Leary believed that LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide) showed potential for therapeutic use in psychiatry. He used LSD himself and developed a philosophy of mind expansion and personal truth through LSD. He popularized catchphrases that promoted his philosophy, such as "turn on, tune in, drop out", "set and setting", and "think for yourself and question authority". President Richard Nixon once described Leary as "the most dangerous man in America".



In January 1995, Leary was diagnosed with inoperable prostate cancer. His death was videotaped for posterity at his request, capturing his final words. According to his son Zachary, during his final moments, he clenched his fist and said, "Why?, Why not?"

**Herbert Buckingham Khaury**

12 April, 1932 - 30 November, 1996.

Known as **Tiny Tim**, American musician, music historian and ukulele player.

Tiny Tim was born in Manhattan, New York City, and displayed musical talent at a very young age. At the age of six, he began teaching himself guitar. At eleven years of age Khaury began learning to play the violin, and later picked up the mandolin, and what would be considered his signature instrument, the ukulele. By his pre-teen years, he developed a passion for records, specifically those from the 1900s through the 1930s. He began spending most of his free time at the New York Public Library, reading about the history of the phonograph industry and its first recording artists.

As a performer he found his fame on the Rowan and Martin's *Laugh-In*, an American television comedy-variety show. In his third performance on *Laugh-In*, Tiny Tim entered blowing kisses, preceded by an elaborate procession of the cast and, after a short interview, he sang "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" which became his best remembered hit sung in a high falsetto/vibrato voice. Tiny Tim suffered a heart attack while playing "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" at a Gala Benefit. His wife asked him if he was okay and he said,



"No, I'm not!"

**Dr Thancoupie Gloria Fletcher James (Thanakupi), AO.**

1937 - 23 April, 2011.

Australian ceramic artist, educator, linguist and elder of the Thaynakwith people.

Thancoupie was born near Napranum, Weipa on the western coast of Cape York Peninsula, Far North Queensland, Australia. Thanakupi, or wattle flower, was her away, or birth ritual name. She was later given the name Gloria James at her baptism and had a twin sister who died young.

She was the last fluent speaker of the Thaynakwith language. Thancoupie grew up in the small Napranum community and attended the mission school before studying art and ceramics at East Sydney Technical College. Thancoupie together with the Tiwi potter Eddy Puruntatamerri, were founders of Australia's Indigenous ceramic art movement.

Her life's work was recording the language and stories of the Thaynakwith people and telling her community's stories through clay, tile and other ceramic arts. She founded the Weipa Festival, a celebration of indigenous art and performance from all over Australia held at Weipa. She received many awards including in 2003 The Order of Australia (AO)



The following words are not her final but rather a motivation for the entire project.

“We must honour our old people who went before, make headstones or memorials to tell the future who we were, who were Thaynakwith people, we have a culture and it is from this place. And there are songs and legends – so children can be proud of who they are.”

**Prince Rogers Nelson**

7 June, 1958 - 21 April, 2016.

American singer-songwriter, actor, multi-instrumentalist, philanthropist, dancer and record producer.

Prince was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and developed an interest in music as a young child. He signed a recording contract with Warner Bros. at the age of 18, and released his debut album For You in 1978. His music integrates a wide variety of styles, including funk, rock, R&B, new wave, soul, psychedelia, and pop. He sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time. He won seven Grammy Awards, an American Music Award, a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award for the film Purple Rain. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, his first year of eligibility. Rolling Stone ranked Prince at number 27 on its list of 100 Greatest Artists while Billboard rates him at 18.



He was a musical innovator who was known for his eclectic work, flamboyant stage presence, extravagant dress and makeup, and wide vocal range. Prince was one of the many celebrities who engaged with his fans via Twitter the following is one of his last tweets before he passed away

“I am #transformed”