

JIM HAYNES OAM, M.A., M.Litt.



The son of British migrants, Jim attended Sydney Boys' High School and Sydney Teachers' College. He taught in schools and universities in NSW and Britain, has two masters' degrees in literature (from New England University and the University of Wales) and is the author of 26 books.

Jim formed the *Bandy Bill & Co Bush Band* in 1978 and the band recorded several albums in the 1980s and became popular on ABC Radio's *Australia All Over*. A professional entertainer since 1988, Jim recorded for EMI, Festival, Sony and ABC Music and had many songs in the Country Charts, including a number one with 'Since Cheryl Went Feral' and a national hit with 'Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga'. He won the Comedy Song of The Year award four times, toured his own show for many years and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Country Music Association in 2014.

As the originator of morning shows at the Tamworth Festival, Jim hosted his own variety shows there for 27 years and celebrated 32 years at the festival. He still performs as an entertainer and speaker, has presented the *Spoken Word* section of the Port Fairy Festival for over 20 years and presents Australiana programs on *Macquarie Radio Network* and *ABC Radio*.

Jim was awarded the *Order of Australia Medal* in 2016, 'for service to the performing arts as an entertainer, author, broadcaster and historian'.

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