

Song From the Heart - Background ...

Basically my first novel – *When Hope is Strong* (Pan Macmillan 1995) – ‘grew like topsy’ and eventually became two, split at an obvious break in the story line. This second book, *Song from the Heart*, was published by Pan Macmillan in 1997.

One of the three main characters in the first novel – Kitty – became the main character in the second. The storyline takes her from the day following her forced marriage to her dead sister’s husband, Ted, through the joys of motherhood and love, and eventual loss and grief. In true family saga style, Kitty’s sons become a focus also as the book progresses, taking the family into a new century and the horrors of WWI.

It is, in one sense, a love story, and, as Michael Jacobson wrote in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, "one as multi-faceted as love itself. Burrows shows us love in many of its manifestations and moods, including maternal, romantic and passionate, and love for home and country."

The novel is also an exploration of the times, of an Australia striding into a new century, and the changing role of women in, what had previously been, a male-dominated society. It is set in the Gold Coast hinterland, in a fictitious town called Boolai. People often ask me if Boolai ever existed. I tell them it is a composite of many of the little villages that grew up, over a hundred years ago, along the "old coach road" that linked Brisbane and the Tweed.

Song from the Heart was my first foray into an overseas location. I took my WWI soldier characters into Egypt and Palestine, as part of the renowned Light Horse Brigade, with the finale of this part of the novel culminating in the charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba.

I enjoyed writing *Song from the Heart*. Likewise, I hope you enjoy reading it.

Cheers...

Robyn Lee Burrows

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This book is now out of print, but you may be lucky enough to pick one up on e-Bay.