



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 1981

SIR RUSSELL DRYSDALE

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister)

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sir Russell Drysdale.

He was the first person to celebrate our vast Outback.

He found beauty even in a drought-stricken landscape.

Before Sir Russell, not many of us were aware of the Outback - its beauty and its character - from the drover's wife to the aboriginal stockman, and to those fellows who tell yarns in country pubs.

The sun-burnt colour that Drysdale found in our landscape is the colour of Australia.

He was a prince of Australian art.

On behalf of the Government I offer my deepest sympathy to Lady Drysdale and her family.