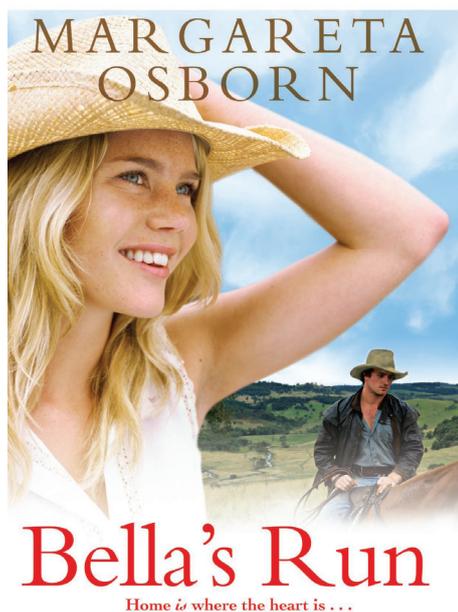


MARGARETA OSBORN

Bella's Run

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As a fifth generation farmer from East Gippsland in Victoria, I draw my inspiration from the land and life which I love. My great-great grandfather selected our property in the Macalister Valley in 1862 which, I feel, gives our family an inherent sense of place. My children will be the sixth generation to have lived here, giving them "grass roots" - something many people in modern times can't find or miss. For this reason, my books take their stories from the heart and soul of the bush I love and endeavour to convey a sense of coming home.



Having lived and worked on a broad-acre cattle station in the north to dairy cropping and grazing properties in south-eastern Australia, I write from the heart about life on the land and its wonderful and resilient people. Our family also travels when we can, packing the four-wheel drive and swags and heading off into remote areas to experience all kinds of life which provides further inspiration. At home my husband works off-farm, I run our own small beef operation and help my father on one of the family properties while bringing up three gorgeous children and caring for a menagerie of farm animals.

Holding a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management, with years of experience in landcare and agricultural extension, in 1997 - its inaugural year - I was recipient of a Victorian Rural Women's Leadership Bursary. Aimed at ensuring more country women participated in leadership and decision making in their rural communities, the bursary

enabled me to study leadership skills and community facilitation.

All my life I have been a voracious reader. In the drought of the early eighties my job was to water all the trees on the family property using a tractor, trailer and Furphy tank. I devoured the whole Billabong book series sitting in the shade of the tractor wheel while the hose dutifully did its job. None of the trees died whilst a dream was born in a 12 year old mind. One day I was going to write rural novels about the land which I loved, just like Mary Grant Bruce.

A few decades on and much writing for newspapers and rural journals later, I finally sat down and wrote Bella's Run. Drawing inspiration from our times spent working and travelling in the remote Queensland outback, western New South Wales and the majestic mountains of our home, Bella's Run is seeped with my love for country life and working the land. Writing rural fiction, for me, was the perfect and only choice. Through my books I want others to experience the incredible life which we country people are privileged to love and live.



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