"ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR"

Have you heard Australia's national anthem lately? When you know a bit about the composer of Advance Australia Fair, hearing it can leave you with far more than a sense of national pride – it can act as a reminder of a great life lesson.

Peter Dodds McCormick was born in Scotland in 1834 and sailed for Sydney in 1855. While working on renovations to a church, he impressed the minister with his 'on-the-job' singing and was asked to join the choir.

From this small beginning, Peter went on to become a choir-master, leading choirs of up to 20,000 voices in worship. He wrote "Advance Australia Fair" on a bus and, in a letter to a friend, commented that it must have been inspired because both the words and music came to him so easily.

McCormick was a well-respected member of the Christian community and an elder in his church from 1880. He helped establish a mission work on the outskirts of Sydney, and taught religious instruction in public schools until his death in 1916 at the age of 83. Although "Advance Australia Fair" came to be recognized as something of an Australian national song in McCormick's lifetime, it was not formally proclaimed as such until 1984.

Isn't it great to know that our National Anthem was written by a Christian? Are you wondering where the life lesson is?

McCormick let his joy in the Lord show in his work place. His singing on the job was the very small beginnings of a much bigger job God had for Peter to do, a job which has left its mark long after his death. Expressing our faith at work, at sporting or family events or even in the supermarket is part of our job as 'Salt and Light.' Is that a little hum I hear??