



# The Indian Summer

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AUSTRALIAN ANGLO-INDIAN STORIES COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
BERNADETTE EARLE

**The**  
**Indian Summer**

**Australian Anglo-Indian stories compiled  
and edited by**

**Bernadette Earle**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

# Dedication

In memory of our forebears.

For our children and grandchildren and for my children and  
grandchildren,  
Cassandra, Emily, Sally, Russell, Anita, Thomas and Samuel.

*Cover photo:*

*Bernadette Earle's mother, third from left, on an elephant in Mokameh, 1918.*

*The Indian Summer*

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# **Short Story Contributions from:**

**Colleen Campbell - My Beloved India**

**Clayton Roberts - Origins of the Anglo-Indians**

**Eric Stracey - 1 Anglo-Indian Indian**

**2 My Best Case**

**Colleen Campbell - The Lancers**

**Clayton Roberts - Flames of Honour**

**Cynthia Deatker - Life Stories: An Oral History**

**Colleen Campbell - Ayah**

**Derek R. Howe - Of Servants, Babus and Festivals**

**John Willoughby Edwards - Life and Travels In the  
Nizam's Dominions**

**Stan Blackford - The Boiler Inspector's Son**

**Colleen Campbell - The Toy Train**

**Stan Blackford - Going to School by Toy Train**

**Colleen Campbell - Journey**

**Daphne Gawke - Flashbacks**

**Colleen Campbell - The Himalayas**

**Bernadette Inez Earle - The Wireless**

**Norma Gibbs - Once Upon a Time**

**Yvonne Turner - Waiting for the Second Bus**

**Muriel Mildred Rodrigues\_- Childhood Memories**  
**Marie Hastings - Our Lives in India**  
**Colleen Campbell - The ‘Fishing Fleet’**  
**Anita Wallace - Growing Up ‘Jhaldi’ 1939–1948**  
**Barbara H. Phillips - From Humble Beginnings**  
**Joy Rodrigues - The Fortune Teller**  
**Esther Mary Lyons - Unwanted!**  
**Stan Blackford - The Major’s Panther**  
**Norma Gibbs - Life In a Cow Market**  
**Colleen Campbell - Leaving**  
**Bernadette Inez Earle - Leaving: 1969**  
**Carolyn-Mae Pringle - Change**  
**Russell Dawson - My Mum’s Story**  
**Colleen Campbell -**  
**Calcutta Revisited**  
**Enid Edwards and Monica Anthony Memories from**  
**a Nursing Home**  
**Dr Gloria Jean Moore - Anglo-Indians**

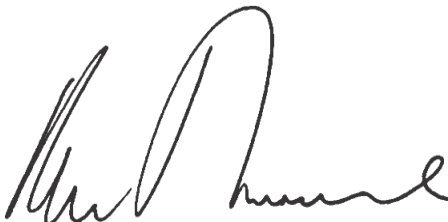
# Foreword

I am very pleased to provide some thoughts on *The Indian Summer*, especially as I find it a book enjoyed on a number of levels. There is, of course, a fascinating historical perspective that *The Indian Summer* provides and it does so through the lifestyles and experiences of Anglo-Indians during a significant period of Indian history. It also commands a touching human element, evident through a rich collection of stories, anecdotes and poems offered by Anglo-Indians who have migrated to Australia.

For these reasons alone, *The Indian Summer* is a most worthwhile, interesting and educative book.

In addition, however, I would like to highlight another of its qualities which I find particularly gratifying. *The Indian Summer* is a cultural experience and one generously shared by Bernadette Earle and each of the book's contributors. To me, this represents the willingness on the part of migrant Australians to share their cultural backgrounds and traditions – a valuable feature of our development as a cohesive multicultural society.

As we enter a new millennium, cultural understanding will continue to be a vital element in our success as a nation. In this way, *The Indian Summer* provides a symbolic gesture for Australia's future in talking about India and its past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Ruddock', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

**The Hon Philip Ruddock MP**  
**Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs**

# Introduction

*The Indian Summer* is a compilation of stories, poems and history. The authors share their lives and experiences in India during the first half of the twentieth century, during and after the demise of the British Raj, which led to Partition and the formation of India and Pakistan in 1947.

Anglo-Indians are descendants of early settlers, English and European adventurers, military men and traders. Their environment led to a unique lifestyle, which moulded their character, a merging of East and West. Their love of the country survives today in their desire to pass on to the next generation the stories of their lives.

This book will, I hope, explain a bit about your heritage, Sally. When at the tender age of eleven, just the other day, you opened your large hazel eyes and exclaimed over a curry lunch, 'Grandma, you don't look Indian!' Her comment convinced me that this anthology is long overdue.

Bernadette Granger Earle

India – land of my past  
From 'Ev'rest' to 'Cape'- a land of contrast.

Hot summer skies, cool monsoon rains,  
Clear mountain streams turn turbid;  
In the plains.

Your pine-scented hills, your white sandy shores,  
Will live in my memory  
For ever more.

*M.Y. Husband*

