Paterson is named after Andrew Barton ‘Banjo’ Paterson OBE, Australian bush poet, journalist, author, lawyer, army major and farmer. He was born in Orange, New South Wales in 1864. He is best known for his many ballads and poems, mostly with a romantic view of Australian bush life. Works include Waltzing Matilda, The Man from Snowy River, Clancy of the Overflow, The Man from Ironbark, and We’re All Australians Now. Banjo grew up on farms and experienced floods, droughts, loss of the family farm as well as bullock teams and Cobb and Co coaches. Paterson was a good student and sportsman. Much of his writing was inspired by his fondness of horses, witnessing firsthand drovers, polo matches and picnic races. From age 21 he wrote under the pseudonym ‘Banjo’ which was the name of a favourite horse. He admired hard work and a national spirit. He practiced law in Sydney and spent time as a correspondent and editor for various leading newspapers. At age 39 Paterson married Alice Walker and they had two children, Grace and Hugh. He supported the national effort during World War 1: he drove ambulances in France; and was a horse vet on voyages to Africa, China and Egypt. He joined the army at age 51 and served in France and Egypt, including being wounded and reported missing, and rising to the rank of major. After the war, he took up farming and continued to publish verse, short stories and essays, and write for magazines. In his lifetime, Paterson was second only to Rudyard Kipling in popularity among living poets writing in English. He died aged 76. Banjo’s image appears on the Australian $10 note along with an illustration inspired by ‘The Man from Snowy River’ and the text of his poem.

1 Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banjo_Paterson