Douglas Stewart- Biographical details

Born : 6 May, 1913 in Taranaki, New Zealand

Died: 14 February, 1985 (aged 71) Sydney

* Douglas Stewart was a major 20th Century Australian poet, essayist, short story writer and literary editor. He published 13 collections of poetry, 5 verse plays, many short stories and critical essays.
* Arguably, his greatest contribution to Australian literature came from his 20 years as literary editor of *The Bulletin* magazine an [Australian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) weekly [magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine) that was published in Sydney from 1880- 2008. It was influential in [Australian culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_culture) and politics. He was also publishing editor with Angus and Robertson, an iconic Australian bookseller, book publisher and book printer. Stewart is also known for his lifetime support of Australian writers.
* Stewart was born to an Australian-born lawyer father and was the 2nd of five children. He wrote about his childhood in an autobiography, describing it as an idyllic time. His schooling was in New Zealand. He wrote his first poem at age 14 and his love of poetry developed rapidly. He read widely from Shakespeare and the Romantic poets and this inspired his own writing. He went to University in Wellington, NZ and began a Law degree but switched to a course in writing and journalism.
* He loved the countryside and roamed its valleys, rivers and mountains, often camping out and fishing. This appreciation of the wonders of nature lasted his lifetime and is reflected in his poetic works.
* From 1932-38 he travelled the countryside with a merry-go-round operator, worked on various newspapers and on board a steamer around NZ. He made his way to England and mixed with literary types but found it difficult to make a living as a writer.
* He moved to Australia in 1938, aged 27 and worked for *The Bulletin* magazine.
* He married the painter, Margaret Coen in 1945 and they had a daughter, Meg. They lived in St Ives, NSW in the Northern Suburbs when it was still rural countryside. He enjoyed its closeness to the natural bushland of Ku-Ring-Gai Chase.
* The couple counted several contemporary artists and composers among their friendship group including Norman Lindsay, Kenneth Slessor, David Campbell, Rosemary Dobson and others.
* He was recipient of many awards including the Britannica Australia Award for Literature, an OBE in 1960 (Order of British Empire) and an AO in 1979 (Order of Australia) for his services to Literature.
* Stewart died in 1985 and was buried at Frenchs Forest Cemetery.