

## The Great Australian Dream.

20 million people spread across this sunburnt land  
Are wishing at this moment that they stood where you now stand.  
And that's no exaggeration. I say it 'cos it's true.  
I'd give my first born child if I could swap places with you.

For you are living what we call the great Australian dream:  
To represent your country, part of our Olympic team.  
Nervous but excited by what the future holds.  
Humbled by the honour, proud to wear the green and gold.

How you must be feeling I'm sure words cannot express  
The sense of satisfaction and the notion you've been blessed.  
But why it means so much. That's what I cannot comprehend.  
Though thinking of it now makes every hair stand on its end.

It's Keiran Perkins winning in Atlanta from lane 8  
A nation on its feet when Cathy turned into the straight.  
The water polo women and that final-second throw  
The legendary Dawn Fraser winning three times in a row.

It's doing things that no-one else has ever done before  
That single minded focus where you want for nothing more.  
The pioneer, Frank Schryver, who began the great tradition  
Of West Australian athletes on Olympic expeditions.

It's Percy Oliver setting sail to see what he could do.  
To Berlin on a boat with a real live Kangaroo.  
The great John Winter winning gold in 1948  
A hist'r'y making moment by an athlete from our State.

And Shirley Strickland, gracious in both vict'r'y and defeat.  
Up there with the greatest of all track and field's elite.  
Herb Elliot, the gentleman, winning gold in Rome  
The type of man all mothers wish their daughter would bring home.

It's Eric Pearce, the hockey great - another famous story.  
Just one of four close brothers who all chased Olympic glory.  
It's Lyn McClements, Neil Brooks and team mate, Peter Evans.  
The Hockeyroos and Rechelle Hawkes – a marriage made in heaven.

It's modern greats like Slater, with strength beyond her size  
A fierce determination you could see deep in her eyes.  
It's the speed of Ryan Bailey and the way he came of age  
A performance timed to perfection on world sport's greatest stage.

It's the thrill of knowing that you'll soon be walking in their shoes.  
A privilege awarded to the rare and chosen few.  
It's knowing that you've worked so hard for all that you've achieved.  
When those around you had their doubts you stood strong and believed.

It's all the pain and sacrifices made to get ahead.  
Reward for all the mornings that you dragged yourself from bed.  
A natural high that's so intense you'd swear you'd sprouted wings.  
It's the aura and the magic of those five Olympic rings.

It's yours to keep. It's something that no one can take away.  
"I am an Olympian" is what you now can say.  
Enjoy each special moment. The cheering and the crowds.  
Your time is here. Embrace it. We know you'll do us proud.