

## PRESS RELEASE

# Academy Award Star Hayley Mills Endorses New Novel by Relatively Unknown Aussie Author

World-renowned and much loved British actress, Hayley Mills, has touched her magic-wand to a hilarious new book, stating: ‘You’ll fall in love with every single character.’

It is highly unusual for the work of a comparatively obscure and reclusive Australian author to be lauded by a major Hollywood star, but that is precisely what has happened to Queensland writer Tony Matthews and his captivating new novel, *Café Puccini*.

Reviewed on Amazon as ‘The most entertaining book I have read in a long time’, *Café Puccini* is a rich, diverse and colourful novel of life in a small Australian country town during the late 1950s, but it is vastly different from most other books of this genre because it utilises many true and almost unbelievable stories which the author has researched during his years as a writer, radio broadcaster and historian. The book has been described in the Australian press as, ‘... a hugely funny, feel-good story of exceptional strength and power.’



### *Synopsis*

When Cactus Bob, who had once miraculously survived a crocodile death-roll, begins receiving colour-coded messages on his factory-reject, 1950s, black-and-white television, he has to decide if they have somehow been placed there by the wily old Chinese trader who had sold him the useless TV, or if they really are super-urgent warnings from outer-space.

What happens next is a fabulously funny story you will remember forever.

‘I wanted to make this a non-violent, humorous and feel-good story, so it was important for me to be able to create characters to whom readers could relate,’ Tony explains. ‘There are characters from a wide range of backgrounds including an irascible café proprietor who has managed somehow to mislay his wife for thirteen years; a former circus strongman who is ninety-nine years of age and who actually eats dynamite; a wealthy businessman whose great-grandfather, a Zulu warrior, had fought the British Redcoats at Rorke’s Drift, and a Scottish boat-builder named Jimmy who is constructing a monument to the stars. There’s even a larger-than-life Mombasa belly-dancer who is also a white witch.’

*Café Puccini* is a captivating journey into the heart of country Australia and creates a kind of time-capsule of a period when life was fun, simple and full of charm. The only thing to expect from this pulsating novel is the unexpected.

As Hollywood legend Hayley Mills has generously indicated, there is basically no end to the colourful characters in this book. They are wild, funny, irritating, committed, warm-hearted, bemused, devoted, bizarre and just plain stubborn, but drawing them all together in one town, during this particular period, breathes life into a time and place many of us would probably like to visit. 'If time-travel were possible,' Tony speculates, '*Café Puccini* is almost certainly where everyone would go for lunch and a laugh.' And as one five-star reviewer has added: 'I didn't really want it to end as I became so attached to the town and all its residents.'

#### *About the author*

Tony Matthews is a highly reclusive Welsh-Australian novelist and historian. Arriving in Australia from the U.K. during the early 1970s, he hitch-hiked across the country with just \$24 in his pocket and with little real understanding of the immensity of the continent. When he reached the edge of the Nullarbor, for example, which was then just a dirt ribbon of track stretching into a waterless infinity, he was the proud possessor of a spare shirt, half a bottle of tepid coca-cola, and a well-thumbed volume of Dylan Thomas poems. The rest, as they say, is history.



*Café Puccini* has been published by Big Sky Publishing and is available from book-stores and online retailers.

Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Caf%C3%A9-Puccini-madcap-crazy-comet-ebook/dp/B0DKQ2DQHR>

Video trailer

<https://vimeo.com/1021555929>

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