

## Ash Long: Newspapers

# Our Motto

■ A brief motto has appeared weekly in the *Melbourne Observer* newspaper:

**“For the cause that  
lacks assistance,  
‘Gainst the wrongs that  
need resistance**

**For the future in the distance,  
And the good that we can do”**

The motto has appeared atop Editor **Ash Long’s** weekly column, *Long Shots*, since 2002 in the *Melbourne Observer*.

Before that, **Long** adopted the motto in *The Yea Chronicle* and other group newspapers that he published from 1984 and 1993.

The motto had appeared in earlier years of the *Yea* paper, which started published as *The Yea Telegraph* in 1885.

Another newspaper to carry the motto in the past includes *The Canberra Times*.

The motto is the work of **George Linnaeus Banks** (1821-1881), who has been listed as a “**British miscellaneous writer**”.

He was the son of a seedsman familiar with the plant nomenclature of *Linnaeus*.

Born on March 2, 1821, **Banks** had brief experience in other trades, before becoming a contributor to various newspapers at age 17.

He became a playwright, being the author of two plays, a couple of burlesques and several lyrics.

Between 1848 and 1864 he edited in succession a variety of newspapers including the *Birmingham Mercury* and the *Dublin Daily Express*, and published several volumes of miscellaneous prose and verse.

**George Banks’s** plays included *The Slave King*, written for the black actor **Ira Aldridge**, and *The Swiss Father*; his popular songs included *The Minstrel King*, *Warwickshire Will*, and *Dandy Jim of Caroline* based on a negro melody; and his poetry included *Daisies in the Grass* (1865).

Some of his more popular lines were frequently used by platform and pulpit orators, notably his lyrical *What I Live For*:

**George Banks** died on May 3, 1881, at age 60, of cancer and pneumonia in **Dalston, Hackney**, close to **London**, and is buried nearby at **Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke**

### Long Shots



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### with Ash Long, Editor

**“For the cause that lacks assistance,  
‘Gainst the wrongs that need resistance  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that we can do”**

● **The ‘dincus’ that has appeared in the *Melbourne Observer* and *Yea Chronicle* newspapers**

**Newington** with his wife - the author **Isabella Banks**.

He was described as having “strong **Methodist** affiliations, but an unfortunate weakness for drink”.

His wife, formerly **Isabella Varley Banks** (1821-1897), was also a writer, publishing her first poem of *A Dying Girl To Her Mother* in the *Manchester Guardian* at the age of 16.

Her first book, *God’s Providence House*, appeared in 1865. Her work also included *The Manchester Man*, performed as a play in 2000.



● **George Linnaeus Banks**

### What I Live For

I live for those who love me,  
Whose hearts are kind and true,  
For the heaven that smiles above me,  
And awaits my spirit, too;  
For all human ties that bind me,  
For the task my God assigned me,  
For the bright hopes left behind me,  
And the good that I can do.  
I live to learn their story,  
Who suffered for my sake;  
To emulate their glory,  
And follow in their wake;  
Bards, patriots, martyrs, sages,  
The noble of all ages,  
Whose deeds crown History’s pages,  
And Time’s great volume make.  
I live to hail that season,  
By gifted minds foretold,  
When man shall live by reason,  
And not alone by gold;  
When man to man united,  
And every wrong thing righted,  
The whole world shall be lighted  
As Eden was of old.  
I live for those who love me,  
For those who know me true;  
For the heaven that smiles above me,  
And awaits my spirit, too;  
For the cause that needs assistance,  
For the wrongs that need resistance,  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that I can do.