

[www.starrs.com.au](http://www.starrs.com.au)

Ph: (02) 9519 3573 Fax: (02) 9519 2011

E: [pstarrs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pstarrs@optusnet.com.au)



## Starrs Productions Australians at War – WWII

### *'Fightin' For It'*

Or

**How Norm, Jean, Muriel and Ron beat back Tojo and saved Australia**

*'For each day a worker has off there's been someone out on the street fightin' for it!'*

Exclaimed Gran on many an occasion - so it made sense that Muriel, a lifelong member of the communist party - *'until bloody Stalin invaded Yugoslavia that is'* - would work six-ten hour factory shifts a week to defeat the Japanese. It made sense that her sister, Jean, would join the RAAF. It made sense that, late one evening in a dingy hall, Muriel would meet and fall in love with Ron, who, after the trade union meeting, fell to his knees and serenaded her in a rich baritone voice singing - 'Old Man River' – hadn't she, after all, entertained the Yankee and the Aussie troops in a four girl ukulele troupe strumming and singing the 'new craze' - Hawaiian ukulele songs - famous in the aftermath of Pearl Harbour.

It made sense that Jean and Muriel would both marry men who fought to defeat fascism, Norm in Singapore, later imprisoned at Changi and Ron – *'Tufty'* as he was called by his brothers' in arms - in the landing at Borneo.

It made sense for Ron to spend two years, 1945-1947, in Hiroshima, cleaning up the mess made by the *'Yanks'*. It also made sense that Norm would harbor a lifelong hatred of the Japanese whilst *'Tufty'* would fall in love with the Japanese people and culture.

It made sense that, on her deathbed, Muriel's grandson, Brett, would serenade her with the songs of WWI & II and then listen quietly as she recounted her journey from the pre-war slums of Liverpool to the post war promise of an egalitarian free world in Australia – by way of WWII.



**Brett narrates, sings and plays Gran's Ukulele**

**Suitability: 7 – 12. Duration: 55 MINS + Question Time**

**Cost Per Student: \$6.60 (\$6 + 60 cents GST)**

**Minimum: \$660 (\$600 + \$60 GST) Minimum 100 students**