

# JENNY OLD

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## MEDIA KIT



- Author Bio
- Book Bio
- Book Excerpt
- Book Benefits
- Celebrity Testimonials
- Previous Books
- Media Activity
- Interview Questions
- Contact

# AUTHOR BIO

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Jenny was born and raised on a small farm in the Riverina in southern NSW, Australia. Following boarding school in Sydney, she commenced her nursing training at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne before embarking on a twelve-month adventure overseas with five close nursing friends at the age of 21.

On her return, she married and lived on a remote cattle station in north Queensland. Her life there was recounted in her best-selling biography published as *McAllister* by Ocean Reeve at inHouse Publishing in 2016, later re-published by Allen&Unwin as *Back of Beyond* in 2018, totalling sales of over 15,000 copies!

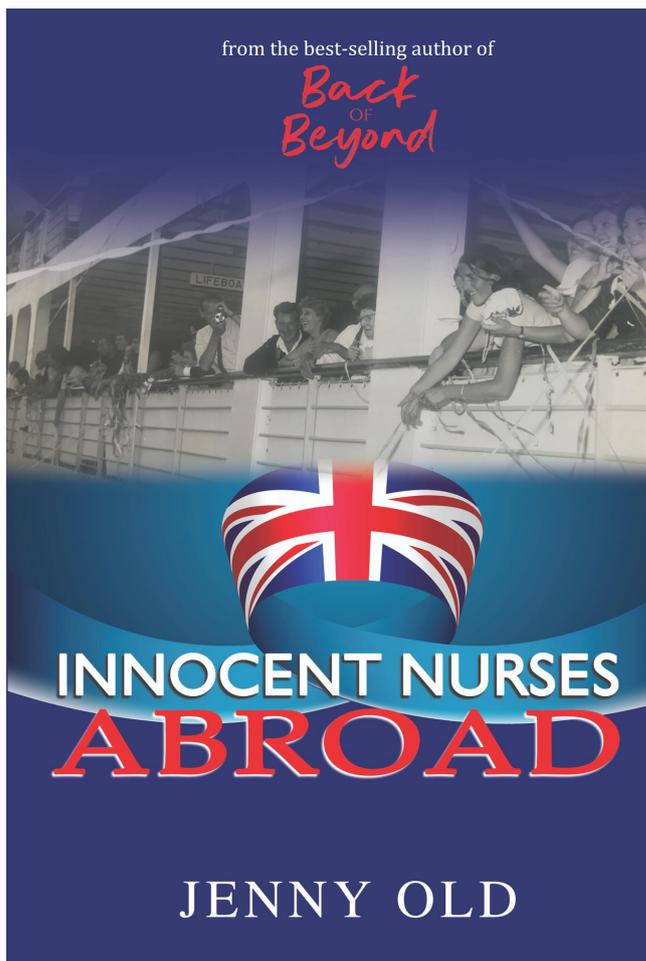
Jenny's newest book, *Innocent Nurses Abroad* is a prequel to her previous biography. Now the reader can understand where Jenny's indomitable spirit comes from as they follow her exciting but often threatening—and dangerous adventures in Europe and beyond, in 1968.



Jenny Old

# BOOK BIO

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ISBN: 978-1-922340-10-8

RRP: \$24.95

FORMAT: Paperback (152 x 228mm) (316pp)

GENRE: Autobiography

AVAILABLE: Ingram; Amazon

Jenny Old

From Jenny's childhood on a farm to boarding school in Sydney, to becoming a 'reluctant' nurse in Melbourne; meeting five close friends, then venturing forth into the unknown as innocent nurses abroad. Follow Jenny on her magnificent journey in 1968 around Europe and beyond, in a cranky old bus called Dennis.

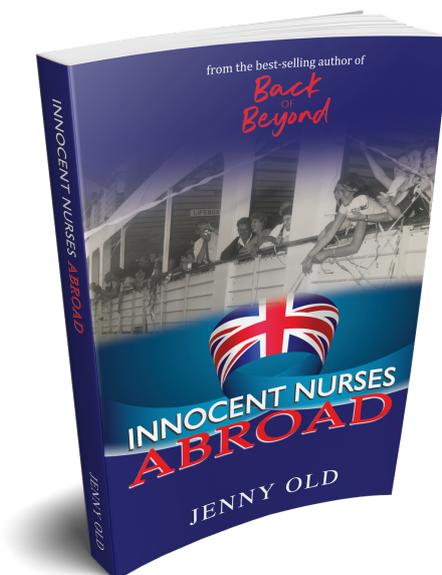
Imagine crossing the Sahara Desert, being held up by soldiers in East Berlin before the Wall fell, dodging riots in France, Spain, Britain, with the spreading unrest across Europe as it began to prosper.

This is a story of deep friendship, adventure, good fun, including—of course—the inevitable love story!

# TARGET AUDIENCE

This book can be enjoyed by readers of all ages, but is targeted towards those who fit the following demographics, or those who are:

- Nurses, and those that work as carers for others (both old and new).
- Interested in travelling abroad.
- Wondering how Europe has changed over the last five decades.
- Interested in romance.
- Are school attendees, or are a younger person who wants to learn about travelling in a time that won't ever be repeated.
- Interested in, and enjoy reading autobiographies.
- Nearing, or are in retirement wanting to begin travelling.
- Inclined to love a good-humoured, Australian story.



Jenny Old

# BOOK EXCERPT

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Little did we know, our fun was about to begin!

Howard, who was our navigator for the day, followed the map we had been given, directing us to Hitler's bunker. We drove into an open area between two large wire gates, which were open. It was rather surprising that there was nobody around.



All of a sudden, two motorcycles with armed soldiers arrived, waving us to the side of the road. Howard willingly obliged. Maybe there was a visiting dignitary coming by. This will be interesting. I wonder who it is?

The mood on the bus moved from curiosity to apprehension. Dennis and his anxious occupants were surrounded by four military jeeps filled with menacing soldiers armed with machine guns. Six of them leapt out of the vehicles, with their ugly guns directed at us. The guards on top of the wall trained their guns on us as well. It was very obvious we were the point of interest, but why...

Jenny Old

# BOOK EXCERPT

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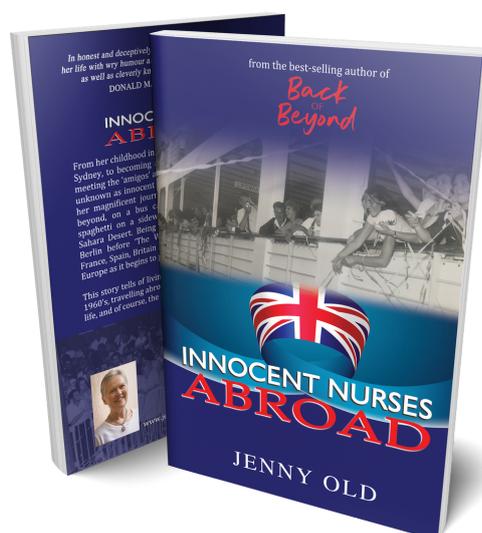
# CONTINUED

There was an angry conversation in German, which nobody could understand. But we realised it wasn't good news by the tone, which was far from welcoming.

It was obvious by the hand signals that our three bewildered men were to be taken somewhere, who knows where?

It was with sinking hearts we watched the jeep disappear at high speed, leaving us damsels in distress in the care of machine gun-wielding, grim East German soldiers, not having any idea what we had done to warrant such aggressive reaction from our host country.

We sat quietly in our seats, stunned and disbelieving, Dinny held her camera up to take a photo, only to have it snatched from her hand and smashed on the ground by one of the soldiers...



Jenny Old

# BOOK BENEFIT

*In honest and deceptively simple prose, Jenny Old writes about her life with wry humour and sympathetic understanding of people, as well as cleverly knowing how to make us turn a page.*

DONALD MACDONALD actor/author.

## INNOCENT NURSES ABROAD

From her childhood in Deniliquin to boarding school in Sydney, to becoming a reluctant nurse in Melbourne; meeting the 'amigos' and then venturing forth into the unknown as innocent nurses abroad. Follow Jenny on her magnificent journey around 1960's Europe and beyond, on a bus called Dennis. Imagine cooking spaghetti on a sidewalk in Cannes or crossing the Sahara Desert. Being questioned by soldiers in East Berlin before 'The Wall' fell. Dodging the riots in France, Spain, Britain and the spreading unrest across Europe as it begins to prosper and expand.

This story tells of living and working in London in the 1960's, travelling abroad, lasting friendships, the social life, and of course, the love affair. How will it end?



[www.jennyold.com](http://www.jennyold.com)



This is a story of deep friendships, and mutual support through the good, and the bad times—a journey that all ages can enjoy.

The book explores the concept of making do with very little money, how fun can still be had, with nothing more than conversation, and how hard work goes a long way to achieving your goals.

Not only a romping tale of adventure, romance and international travel, this is a story that reminds all generations, and perhaps teaches those a bit younger, that the history of nursing and travelling abroad in the mid 20th Century will never be repeated.

## Jenny Old

# TESTIMONIALS

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What fun! An engaging, coming-of-age narrative with themes of friendship and love ... and some light-hearted Aussie quirky ways, thrown into a true story that celebrates life.  
*Award-winning author, Marisa Parker*

It's hard to imagine that Jenny Old's second book "Innocent Nurses Abroad" can be as captivating as her first book "Back of Beyond" but it certainly is. It's a book that will capture the hearts of baby boomers as we embark on a crazy romp through the wonderful '60s. It's a hilarious tale of young nurse Jenny's life and her crazy friends embarking on their "big adventure" to discover the world. What happens along the way will have you splitting your sides with laughter. Of course, the "infamous Rick" appears in the book together with other fascinating characters. I couldn't put the book down & remember thinking "Young people today must read this book", if only life now could be as much fun! Jenny writes from the heart and the reader will be with her all the way on this delightful adventure. An absolute "must" for all nurses!

*Kerry Fountain*



It's 1968 and a bunch of happy-go-lucky Australian nurses travel to London for a 12-month working holiday. If you also experienced this rite of passage, you're sure to enjoy Jenny's trip down memory lane. From the 5-week sea voyage on the Fairstar, the European camping adventure in 'Dennis', a jalopy of a bus that had many blow-outs and breakdowns, to living in swinging London, their experiences will make you laugh out loud. When Jenny catches the eye of a braw Scotsman, she goes on a whirlwind tour and is introduced to clan, whisky and Highland flings. But true love for this lass is a bushie living in a shed in Normanton. Rick Old was establishing McAlister, the cattle station setting for Jenny's first memoir, Back of Beyond. So, put on your Beatles LP, get out your 'sticky' photo albums, the postcards or aerogrammes your mum kept, and revel in reminiscing and reading.

*Avril Priem*

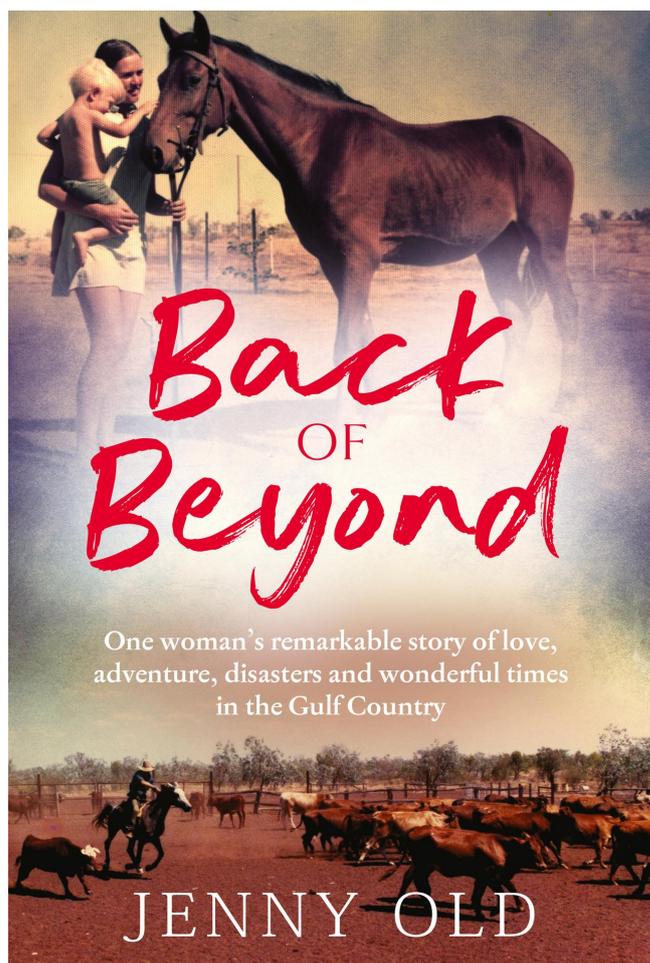


## Jenny Old

# PREVIOUS BOOKS

## Back of Beyond

(Originally published as McAllister)



ISBN: 9781925497021 (McAllister)

9781760632090 (Back of Beyond)

RRP: \$32.99

FORMAT: Paperback (134 x 216mm) (400pp)

GENRE: Autobiography

AVAILABLE: Ingram; Amazon

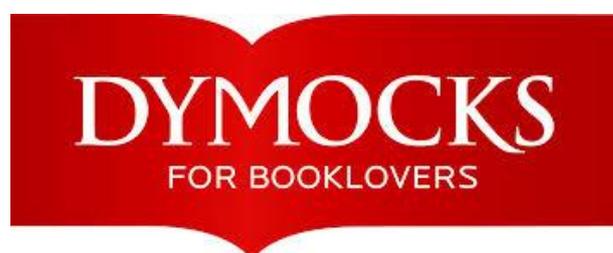
Jenny Old

When 22-year-old Jenny Old followed her heart to the vastness of the Gulf of Carpentaria, she had no idea of the primitive conditions she'd find herself in. Often her only contact with the outside world was through her two-way radio. Stretched to the limits, she achieved more than she ever thought herself capable of. With every setback and in the toughest of times when the odds seemed insurmountable, she learnt to dust herself off, find a smile and just keep on going.

For eighteen years Jenny and Rick battled flood, drought, cyclones and personal hardship. Yet their world was as big as the landscape in which they lived, filled as it was with generosity, wonderful characters and the joy of life. At McAllister they established an oasis for their family and friends.

Jenny's motto is: life throws many curve balls at us, but it's how we deal with them that counts. This is the extraordinary story of a woman of the bush, her indomitable spirit.

# MEDIA ACTIVITY



Jenny Old

# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jenny Old, and what is your background?
2. Tell us about your books.
3. Do you have a message in your book for your readers? What is it?
4. What keeps you inspired?
5. When and why did you start writing?
6. What inspired you to write your first and second book?
7. Do you have a specific writing style?
8. Do you have any advice for other writers?
9. Are your books true autobiographies of life?
10. Where can your book be bought?
11. What is next for Jenny Old?
12. How can people get in touch with you?

Jenny Old

# CONTACT

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Jenny is a confident and amusing public speaker, and especially enjoys being a guest speaker at fund raising events. Her experience includes, Cancer Fund Raising, Royal Flying Doctors, View Clubs, Probus, Rotary, Homeless Youth of the Gold Coast.

She enjoyed extensive touring doing Author Talks at many libraries throughout NSW, Qld and Victoria.

More information can be found at the following:



[www.facebook.com/jennyold1](http://www.facebook.com/jennyold1)



[old\\_jenny](https://www.instagram.com/old_jenny)



[linkedin.com/in/jenny-old-20177843](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenny-old-20177843)



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