



## **THE PEARL OF THEM ALL**

*(Written by Murray Hartin, Bush Poet to celebrate 35 years of the NFF and Family Farming)*

Australia is chock-full of champions  
And history will keep safe their names  
We share moments of proud men and women  
Who have climbed to the top of their game  
They provide us with great inspiration  
But if I may make a very big call  
If the aim is to recognise champions  
I think The Farmer's the Pearl of Them All

See the game that he plays never ends  
And the playing field's often quite rough  
You need wet stuff to fill up the rain gauge  
Talent and hope aren't enough  
Resilience plays a huge factor  
Without it the greatest may fall  
And our champion has got it in spades  
The Farmer, The Pearl of Them All

Plus a hide that's as thick as a rhino's  
You need it to last on the land  
While the Rain Gods can smile on you sweetly  
Control can still slip from your hands  
Too much is as bad as too little  
A flood rocks him right to the core  
But he mops up and gets on with the battle  
The Farmer, The Pearl of Them All

And sometimes there are knee-jerk reactions  
Made by those who are desperate for votes  
Or short-term gain may have swayed their decisions  
About coal, gas or livestock on boats  
While he tries to make sense of this madness  
That again puts his back to the wall  
Each day he heads out to the paddock  
The Farmer, The Pearl of Them All

He puts his faith in the hands of his brethren  
Who he trusts to put up a good fight  
And we know that a lot of those Captains  
Are spread 'round the room here tonight  
And he's sure they will show heaps of courage  
As they stride out to face the new ball  
And play a straight bat for their teammate  
The Farmer – The Pearl of Them All

So next time the talk turns to heroes  
The subject of much great debate  
And you discuss who befits such a title  
Spare a thought for our battling mate  
In the history of all things Australian  
He has well earned the right to walk tall  
So tonight raise your glass to our champion  
The Farmer – The Pearl of Them All

Murray Hartin  
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