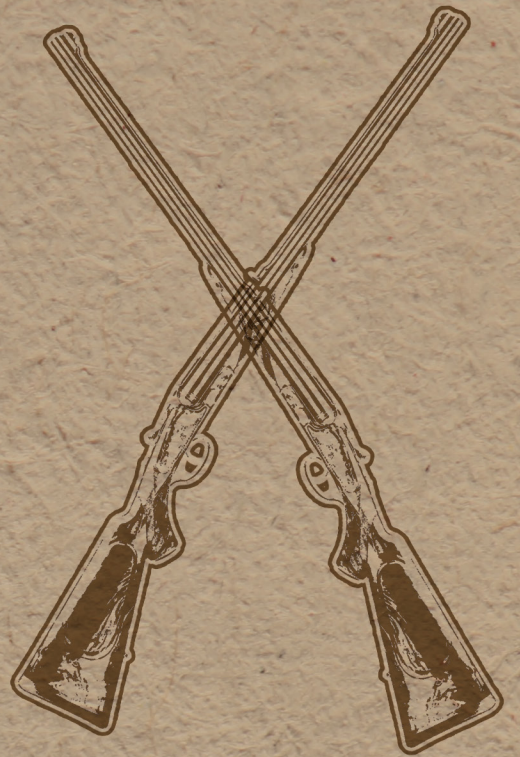


# DEPARTMENT ANNIHILATION OF ROUGUE EMUS



CHAIR: SERENE TARABISHI



# CODE OF CONDUCT

Our goal at CINCYMUNC III is to cultivate an educational environment that aligns with our mission. It is essential for all participants, including delegates, head delegates, faculty, delegation leaders, guests, secretariat, staff, and board members, to maintain professionalism in their speech, actions, and appearance throughout the conference. The following guidelines are provided to establish clear expectations.

If any disrespectful behaviors arise during committee sessions, attendees are encouraged to address the issue directly with each other or involve their faculty advisor or head delegate. In instances of repeated undiplomatic behavior can be brought to the attention of organizers by faculty advisors or head delegates through Information Services. Larger concerns, such as issues related to sexual harassment or discrimination, should be referred to conference organizers. Cases involving sexual violence must be reported to conference organizers at a minimum.

Organizers can be contacted either through volunteer staff in committee or directly through Information Services.

CINCYMUNC III retains the right to exclude violators from further participation and/or impose restrictions on future registration for any participant or school that fails to uphold their responsibility to the conference's expectations.

## GENERAL CONDUCT POLICIES

Delegates are required to adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies applicable to the venue hosting CINCYMUNC III throughout the entirety of the conference.

Delegates are expected to maintain a noise level that is not disruptive while inside the conference venue.

Harassment or disruption of other participants is strictly prohibited.

Conference identification (delegate name tags) must be visibly worn at all times during the conference.

The use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapes, is prohibited within the conference venue.

The use or possession of illegal substances, including marijuana products or paraphernalia, is strictly forbidden for all delegates.

Consumption or possession of alcohol in public spaces, including those within the conference venue, is strictly prohibited, regardless of the delegate's age. Alcohol consumption or possession among underage delegates is strictly prohibited in all situations.

Delegates are expected to be punctual and present at all committee sessions. In the event of anticipated lateness or absence, delegates are required to inform their chair and/or crisis manager in advance.

Delegates are expected to demonstrate respect for all ethnic and national cultures, as well as religious affiliations. Additionally, they must adhere to any committee-specific content expectations outlined in their Background Guide.

Delegates will act in accordance with federal laws and regulations at all times and comply with the local laws and regulations of the city where CINCYMUNC III is hosted.

Delegates are obligated to follow the instructions of CINCYMUNC III staff members, venue staff and security, as well as law enforcement personnel, and respect their roles in enforcing the policies outlined in this Code of Conduct.

#### **ZERO-TOLERANCE DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

CINCYMUNC III maintains a strict zero tolerance policy towards any form of sexual misconduct, encompassing sexual harassment and assault. Additionally, the conference enforces a zero tolerance policy against harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This policy extends to inappropriate :

Content in notes exchanged or documents produced during committee sessions, Conversations occurring throughout the CINCYMUNC III event, and

Behavior at the designated venue or during any conference-sponsored activities.

Delegates who encounter any discrimination or experience sexual misconduct are encouraged to promptly report the incident to a member of the CINCYMUNC II Secretariat or through an anonymous reporting form, which will be provided during the conference. All reported cases will be immediately investigated by the Executives and may result in disqualification from awards and/or removal from the conference.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Delegates should not use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tiktok, or any other kind of social media during committee sessions. Outside of committee sessions, delegates should practice appropriate behavior on these sites and apps. Inappropriate posts or bullying via social media related to CINCYMUNC III will not be tolerated.

#### **DRESS CODE POLICY**

CINCYMUNC III requests that delegates wear standard Western Business Attire while the committee is in session. Western Business Attire includes appropriate dress shirts and pants worn with jackets and ties, appropriate dress blouses worn with skirts or slacks, and business formal dresses.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS POLICY**

Participants should be aware that if they are found in violation of any of the above policies, the

Executives may impose these or any other sanctions at their sole and final discretion:

Notification of the participant's head delegate and/or faculty advisor

Suspension from the remainder of committee sessions

Disqualification of the delegate or delegation from individual and/or delegation awards

Other actions deemed fit by the Executives, including notification of and/or security, law enforcement or other relevant authorities.

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the outback! I'm delighted to be your chair for this fun, feathery committee! My name is Serene Tarabishi, I am a fourth year double major in Arabic Language and Culture and Law & Society, with a minor in French and a certificate in Middle Eastern Studies. I have been an active member of the university's Model UN Club since the beginning of my sophomore year and currently serve as Treasurer. Prior to university, I participated in MUN throughout high school, and I can certainly testify to just how different high school MUN can be from college MUN. Outside of my role in UC MUN, I work as an Appellate Clerical Intern at the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in downtown Cincinnati, and I am a Cincinnatus Scholar, a Portman Fellow within the School for Public and International Affairs, and a student researcher focusing on political violence and extremism. In my free time, I like to bake, draw, paint, go on side-quests, and play with my cat.

All that to say, this committee's subject matter is not directly related to my academic pursuits, but it is certainly related to my constant preoccupation with learning about random historical events and binge-watching a few specific YouTube channels. The Great Emu War is definitely one of the more meme-worthy events that have taken place across the bounds of history, and I hope you all enjoy exploring the topic and bringing life to your characters.

As your chair, I'm looking for you all to be as creative as possible in responding to increasingly outrageous crisis updates, while incorporating them into your front room. While your speeches and interactions with other delegates during committee are expected to be civil and conscientious, I do highly encourage you all to bring the full force of your personalities forward and be expressive and entertaining. That said, I also want you to keep the original objective in mind—eliminating the emu issue. As much as I am excited to see how much chaos you can cook up throughout the span of the conference, I also want to see you work with other delegates to find real solutions to the questions brought up by the background guide and the topics addressed in it. (No matter how unserious they may be.)

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the committee logistics. (especially if this is your first ever MUN committee, or specialized committee) I am happy to answer your questions.

Your overworked and yet, excited chair,  
Serene Tarabishi – tarabise@mail.uc.edu

# COMMITTEE LOGISTICS

Welcome to The Department for the Annihilation of Rogue Emus (D.A.R.E.), a Specialized Committee that promises to keep you on your toes, mate. For those of you who have not previously participated in a Specialized Committee, please do not worry, I will do my best to answer any questions you may have and set expectations as clearly as possible.

Specialized Committees are essentially a happy medium between a Crisis Committee and a General Assembly—more fast-paced than a GA (thank goodness) and a little less strenuous than a Crisis, as (typically) there are no crisis notes. There are, however, often creative logistical twists in committee procedure. See page 11. In this particular Committee, delegates will be expected to react quickly and thoughtfully to periodic crisis updates that drive the committee forward. Updates (in the form of skits and presentation slides) will provide some background and relevant topics for delegates to focus on during debate and steer the committee in accordance with the actions (via directives) of delegates.

So, basically, do your best to familiarize yourself with the content in this Background Guide (outside research is also welcome), and expect to arrive at the conference ready to debate the topics discussed below. You do NOT need to prepare a crisis arc.

As I mentioned before, you will be expected to collaborate with fellow delegates throughout the conference to submit directives, which are concise suggestions as to ways in which the committee can respond to the problems that arise in updates. I will go ahead and attach an image of an example directive with the components outlined below. Joint Personal Directives will also be permitted and encouraged in this committee, which will allow delegates to collaborate on secret directives, which will be incorporated into the updates at the Chair's discretion to mix things up.

I am looking to see creative new ideas, bold and fun speeches, and engaged delegates. If you have any questions on the logistics of the committee, please don't hesitate to reach out via email prior to the conference.

## BACKGROUND

The year is 1932—the Australian economy has collapsed, unemployment has reached a peak of 32 percent, and Australia has yet another crisis on its hands. Reeling from the aftershocks of the Great War and the onset of the Great Depression, the country really did not need another pressing issue to deal with. Unfortunately, however, Mother Nature had some other ideas.

Emus, a species native to Australia, which are usually just a nuisance for farmers, have begun appearing in unprecedented numbers, demolishing crops all around Australia. Emus are the second largest bird in the world, with an average height of 5.7 feet tall and an average weight of 110-130 pounds. They are incredibly intelligent, and possess extraordinarily sharp beaks and talons, all packaged together in one weird, dinosaur-like body. Emus typically perform regular migrations within inland Australia to locate sources of food and water. However, a severe drought in 1932 caused a strain on the already dry and dusty landscape of the outback, leading emus to venture farther into farmland than they ever had before. Reports put the total number of invading emus around 20,000, primarily gathering in the wheat-belt of Southwestern Australia, in the districts of Campion and Chandler.

The location of the emu attacks is especially relevant because most of the farmers in Campion and Chandler were veterans of the Great War. These veterans were part of a federal program that provided subsidized farmland to soldiers returning home in need of jobs and a fresh start. Given that many of these soldiers had no previous experience in agriculture and the soil quality was extremely poor, they were already struggling with managing their farms, and the emu flocks posed a whole new, hellish problem. Falling grain prices due to the Great Depression exacerbated the financial hardships of these farmers in 1932, which, in turn, detrimentally impacted the economy of Western Australia and the Commonwealth as a whole. By 1932, more than 60,000 men, women, and children were dependent on the *susso*, a state-based sustenance payment that enabled families to buy only the bare minimum of food.

With their livelihoods on the line, farmers and community members demanded immediate government intervention. Farmers were technically allowed to use their own weapons to shoot emus that entered their property lines, however it quickly became apparent that typical handguns would not cut it against the feathery marauders. As previously stated, emus are incredibly intelligent birds, and when they gather to eat, one emu is always tasked with guard duty, alerting their fellows to SCATTER at the sight of any potential danger. Emus can reach top speeds of up to 31 miles per hour when at a full sprint. So, picture, if you will, a flock of 300 emus, each over 5 feet tall, 120 pounds, sprinting at full speed in all directions at any hint of danger. Impossible to herd with trucks, difficult to hit with guns, fighting these birds off was certainly not a task for the faint of heart.

## GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY RESPONSE

Faced with increasing pressure from farmers and local councils, the Australian government decided to take action. The Minister of Defence at the time, Sir George Pearce, authorized a

military operation to assist the farmers in combating the emu invasion. Soldiers from the Royal Australian Artillery were dispatched to the affected areas, led by Major G.P.W. Meredith, armed with two Lewis machine guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. The mission was intended to be swift and decisive—a demonstration of Canberra’s ability to protect its citizens and their livelihoods.

However, what followed was anything but successful. As stated before, early attempts to herd and ambush them failed spectacularly, with flocks scattering before machine guns could even take aim. The tough, leathery skin of the emus also provided the birds with some protection from the bullets, deflecting glancing shots and preventing imprecise shots from actually being effective. The campaign quickly became the subject of public ridicule, both domestically and abroad, as journalists gleefully reported that “Australia has lost a war against birds.” Not all press is good press, it seems.

#### Public Reaction and Political Fallout

The so-called “Emu War” became a public relations disaster for the government. Newspapers mocked the military’s involvement, while opposition politicians questioned the use of national defense resources on a wildlife issue. Ammunition was not cheap or in abundant supply at the time, and concerns regarding the sustainability and efficacy of this tactic were widespread.

Farmers, however, remained furious, feeling abandoned and vulnerable after the military’s embarrassing withdrawal in December 1932. While the data was difficult to verify, the campaign claimed to have successfully neutralized around 3,500 emus, which is still only a small fraction of the total number of birds sighted. Some farmers demanded renewed intervention, while others began taking matters into their own hands, forming local hunting parties or calling for bounty systems to reduce emu populations.

### **BROADER IMPLICATIONS**

Beyond the immediate agricultural crisis, the Emu War raised uncomfortable questions about Australia’s relationship with its environment and its people. The government’s heavy-handed but ineffective approach highlighted tensions between Canberra and local state authorities and between humanity and the natural world. Between 1930 and 1933, a group of Western Australians led a campaign to advocate for the secession of “Westralia” from the Commonwealth, culminating in a 1933 referendum of the matter that received support from 66% of Westralians. Unfortunately for campaign organizers, however, the British Parliament would ultimately reject the requisite petition for secession from the Commonwealth, and the Australian government itself was firmly against the movement, leading it to fizzle out in the following years.

Nonetheless, in the current year of 1932, tensions are still high, and anything is possible for the future of Westralia. This committee’s response to the Emu War and the demands of farmers in Westralia, however, could play a huge part in the relationship between federal and local government, especially between farmers, former soldiers, and politicians.



# THE CURRENT SITUATION

Local appeals for assistance have reached the federal level. Civil authorities are split—some urge immediate, forceful action to protect crops and restore order, while others warn that deploying military assets against wildlife risks public ridicule, inflaming tensions rather than calming them down.

There is also a profound moral dilemma. The prospect of slaughtering thousands of native animals raises questions about proportionality, the stewardship of the natural world, and the image of the state. Is mass culling defensible as a last resort to safeguard food security and veterans' livelihoods, or would it be a shameful overreach, an act that sacrifices the nation's moral standing for short-term expediency? The government has convened an advisory board of officials to evaluate all options: containment, non-lethal deterrence, compensation schemes, or a limited military operation. The board must also balance legality, logistics, public opinion, and ethics, all under intense pressure.

## **HOWEVER, AN ADDITIONAL, COVERT COMPLICATION HAS EMERGED.**

Intelligence from field operatives suggests that not all who sit around the advisory table are entirely human. Reports initially dismissed as hysteria now claim that several individuals within the council may in fact be emus: highly intelligent specimens exhibiting uncanny mimicry and strategic awareness. Whether these creatures infiltrated through impersonation, mutation, or some darker form of subterfuge remains unclear. Their objectives are equally uncertain: some whisper they seek vengeance for the slaughter of their kind; others believe they aim to negotiate terms of coexistence from within. Regardless, such revelations cast doubt upon every decision and every voice within the chamber. Delegates are advised to proceed with caution—the enemy may already be among you.

The nation watches. Farmers, veterans, and the flocks themselves await the board's counsel. The decision you reach will shape not only the coming harvest, but the moral character of the Commonwealth.

## **SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

Parliamentary procedure will be mostly standard, with periodic crisis updates, directive cycles, and front room debate. However, as stated, some of you are not who you say you are... which results in a round of Mafia at the end of each committee session.

Each delegate will receive a "power card", which states their genuine identity and one power that you have been given to be used in the committee. This power can only be used ONCE over the course of the committee sessions. These powers are given to benefit your side of the committee: working toward the war effort or secretly plotting with your team of emus. As previously stated, several of you are who you say you are, Australians, and several of you are emus attempting to win this war. One of you will play the role of the Joker, meaning you are a completely neutral party. Knowing that this role exists, delegates must vote wisely and effectively during Mafia. Voting out

the Joker would mean losing a vote that would benefit your own side and trigger a timed crisis. If you are an emu, keep your identity secret from every other delegate. Additionally, when using a power card, keep in mind that you may not want this information to be public, as it can give away your identity. Direct showing of the power card to other delegates is not permitted, especially if you are members of the same delegation. Please do not ruin the game for us all.

Mafia rounds should be motioned for at the end of each session, including time for For and Against speeches. When the round begins, delegates will lower their heads, and the chair will ask if a power card is being used at that time. If your power card is for front-room use, raise it for it to take effect. The chair will come around with a tapping system each round as a way of communicating with delegates who want to use their card. When indicated, the committee will vote, and one delegate will be “voted out” of the committee. **THIS DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR COMMITTEE POSITION.** The only effect this has on the committee is which side will win the war. If the Australians have a majority at the end of the sessions, the Australians win. If the emus have the majority at the end of the sessions, the emus win.

Good luck, mate.

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

What is the role of the federal government in this debacle?

Would this crisis be better managed by local officials, potentially in collaboration with veterans?

How can the needs and concerns of the people be heard and met by officials?

How are the combined effects of the Great Depression and the emu attacks impacting the lives of West Australian farmers and the Australian economy as a whole?

Is the attacking of emus through the use of deadly force necessary, appropriate, or inhumane?

What are the different ethical priorities at play in this conflict, and how does that affect the potential solutions this committee will be coming up with?

# CHARACTER DOSSIER

## **JOSEPH LYONS (PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA)**

Prime Minister Lyons leads a fragile government still grappling with the Great Depression. The “Emu War” is a nuisance he never wanted—what began as a rural complaint has spiraled into a national embarrassment. Pragmatic and politically cautious, Lyons must decide whether to double down on the government’s actions or quietly distance himself from the debacle. His priority is to maintain public confidence and coalition unity while ensuring Australia’s image abroad is not tarnished by the absurdity of an army losing to birds.

## **SIR GEORGE PEARCE (MINISTER OF DEFENSE)**

A seasoned senator and one of Australia’s most experienced political figures, Sir George Pearce prides himself on maintaining balance between rural populism and federal authority. He controls the purse strings for all military actions and can fast-track or delay deployments through bureaucratic finesse. His cautious demeanor hides an ambitious streak: he’s rumored to be considering higher office if he can turn this “emu campaign” into a national unifying symbol. However, as reports of failure and ridicule spread, Pearce finds himself under fire for turning the army into a national joke. Determined to defend both his ministry and the government’s credibility, he must walk a fine line between practical problem-solving and political self-preservation.

## **MAJOR GWYNYDD PURVES WYNNE-AUBREY MEREDITH (ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY COMMANDER)**

Major Meredith is a career soldier forged by the Great War, with an unshakable belief in the discipline and structure of military order. His loyalties lie not with politicians but with his men and the preservation of the military’s honor. Known for his precise field reports and pragmatic approach to resource allocation, he has the unique ability to authorize limited deployments, test weaponry, and request additional manpower. Yet, whispers suggest that he is skeptical of politicians meddling in “proper military affairs,” and some wonder whether his growing autonomy might make him more dangerous than the emus themselves.

## **SERGEANT S. MURRAY (COMMANDING SOLDIER)**

Respected among both soldiers and farmers, Sergeant Murray is a man forged by war and worn down by the land. His letters from the trenches of the Great War once earned him modest fame, endearing him to the public as the voice of the common soldier. Now, leading men once more—this time against flocks instead of foes—he carries the weight of both loyalty and disillusionment. Murray’s unique ties to rural veterans and local militias make him a potential bridge between the government and the farmers, but beneath his disciplined exterior lies exhaustion from the war and increasing cynicism towards politicians who seem to treat soldiers as expendable resources, as opposed to men. Under pressure, that mix of duty, trauma, and independence could make him either a hero or a liability.

### **GUNNER J. O'HALLORAN (COMMANDING SOLDIER)**

A man of few words and steady aim, Gunner O'Halloran embodies the quiet professionalism of Australia's working soldiers. Known for his technical mastery of the Lewis gun and field maintenance, he is indispensable to any continued military operation. Yet behind his precision lies bitterness: once a farmer himself, O'Halloran lost his property to the same drought and emu incursions now ravaging his comrades' livelihoods. He fights not for orders, but for vengeance against the forces—both natural and political—that ruined his life. To his superiors, he is a dependable technician; to those who listen closely, a simmering powder keg of resentment toward politicians who debate solutions from comfort while he wages war in dust and hunger.

### **JAMES MITCHELL (PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA)**

Mitchell stands as the embattled face of Western Australia's suffering farmers. A skilled orator with deep connections to rural councils, he commands massive regional loyalty but is seen as a separatist by Canberra elites. His influence over supply chains, local militias, and the press allows him to frame the emu war as a question of Western dignity versus federal neglect.

### **SIR EARLE PAGE (DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER / COUNTRY PARTY LEADER)**

Sir Earle Page, the influential leader of the Country Party and Deputy Prime Minister, sees the emu crisis as emblematic of rural neglect by urban elites. Fiercely protective of farmers and regional interests, he pressures the government to provide direct relief, subsidies, and protection for struggling agricultural families. While his loyalty to the coalition is real, his patience is not infinite—he will not hesitate to use the crisis to strengthen the Country Party's influence if the United Australia Party falters.

### **JAMES MITCHELL (PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA)**

As the embattled Premier of Western Australia, James Mitchell faces immense pressure to defend the livelihoods of wheat farmers devastated by both drought and emus. His government is cash-strapped and politically vulnerable, relying heavily on federal support to maintain stability. Mitchell supports strong intervention, even if it means inviting national forces into his state's affairs, but tensions between state and federal authority are simmering. To his constituents, his ability to secure help will determine whether he remains a hero—or a scapegoat.

### **SIR HENRY GULLETT (MINISTER FOR TRADE AND CUSTOMS)**

Sir Henry Gullett is a polished politician and skilled economist whose main concern is protecting Australia's trade interests. He worries that international headlines mocking the Emu War will harm the country's agricultural reputation and weaken export confidence. Gullett favors a quiet resolution and strict message control—he would rather the world forget the "war" ever happened. Balancing diplomacy, commerce, and national pride, he works behind the scenes to contain the political and economic fallout.



### **EDITH COWAN (FORMER MP AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ADVOCATE)**

A trailblazer as Australia's first woman elected to parliament, Edith Cowan remains an influential voice for social justice and rural families even after leaving office. Deeply concerned with the human cost of the crisis, she draws attention to the suffering of women and children on struggling farms. Cowan advocates for practical relief—food, education, and medical support—rather than endless militarization. Her sharp wit and moral authority make her a formidable force in public debate, often embarrassing ministers who dismiss her concerns.

### **PROFESSOR THOMAS GRIFFITH TAYLOR (GEOGRAPHER, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY)**

An outspoken academic and environmental thinker, Professor Taylor has long warned that Australia's arid climate and unsustainable farming practices would lead to crises exactly like this one. Considered controversial for his time, Taylor criticizes both the government's land policies and the militarized approach to dealing with wildlife. He urges a scientific understanding of emu migration and land use patterns, arguing that only ecological reform—not gunfire—can solve the problem. His ideas are dismissed by many as impractical, yet they may hold the key to long-term stability.

### **DAISY BATES (JOURNALIST AND ANTHROPOLOGIST)**

A well-known writer and observer of Australia's interior, Daisy Bates brings a unique perspective shaped by decades of living among Indigenous communities. Her reporting combines human drama, natural history, and social critique. While she sympathizes with farmers, she also warns that colonial interference in natural ecosystems has triggered this imbalance. Bates's articles wield significant influence over public perception, and she may either inflame the government's embarrassment or rally national sympathy—depending on how she is treated.

### **SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON (EXPLORER AND SCIENTIST)**

National hero and Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson lends scientific gravitas to the debate. A proponent of research-driven policy, he advocates for data collection, mapping of emu migration routes, and investment in biological sciences. Though not a politician, his status makes him a respected voice among both officials and the public. Mawson believes the Emu War represents not just a local nuisance but a warning about humanity's ignorance of its environment—and an opportunity to advance Australia's scientific independence.

### **FLORENCE CAMPBELL (AUSTRALIAN WHEAT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE)**

Florence Campbell is a sharp-minded trade organizer and the de facto voice of the wheat industry. She deals not in sentiment but in numbers—yields, prices, and export contracts. To her, every destroyed crop means national economic loss. Though sympathetic to the farmers, she prioritizes stability in grain markets and the survival of the agricultural sector as a whole. Campbell pushes for subsidies, compensation, and stronger coordination between industry and government, often clashing with idealists and environmentalists who lack her pragmatism.

### **WILLIAM “BILLY” HARROW (ORNITHOLOGIST AND CONSERVATION ADVOCATE)**

An eccentric but passionate bird expert affiliated with the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, Billy Harrow views the emus not as enemies but as misunderstood survivors. Outraged by the government’s use of military force, he insists that the birds’ behavior is a predictable response to drought and poor land planning. Harrow’s idealism often puts him at odds with farmers and officials, but his knowledge of emu behavior could prove invaluable—if the committee is willing to listen to the one man arguing for the birds.

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