

The Australian



Bush Poets



Association

No 5 MAY 1995.

Australian Bush Poets Association

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Coming Events.

.....Fireside Festival.....

Longyard Hotel Tamworth

Friday 2nd — Sunday 3rd June.

Frid.. 7- 11 pm. Poets in the Pub

Sat...Breakfast...Workshop...Book

Launch.....State of Origin...

.....Galah Night.....

Sun....Breakfast...New Voices...Yarns

lies...Tall Tales andFarewell...

Surat Qld. August.

Toowoomba. September.

More news later on these events

.....Notice.....

Poetry Groups

and

Festival Organisers

Please advise your State Publicity Officer or the Secretary as early as possible of any pending functions or events on your local calendar.

Any News you may find elsewhere about Bush Poetry is good news — send it in.
.Submit Poems.

Glen Innes Folk Festival.

October..Long Weekend.

Ron's in the
Dog-house
business
076 301106

FOR SALE: Replica Plastic Horses. Good Luck Guaranteed. Contact Gary Fogarty.

***** PRESIDENTS REPORT. *****

Well 1995 has been a fantastic year for Bush Poetry, Tamworth was a great success with the competition and the attendance at the Long-yard for the poets breakfast, and then to top it off our entries in the procession of three floats. The procession was watched by a huge crowd of Country Music fans from all parts of Australia. I have had reports of club members returning home and recommending the Bush Poets be included in their future festivals.

The Swaggies Walk from Cairns to Brisbane opened up huge exposure for Bush Poetry as the media in all towns we performed in gave us great articles in their local papers. We were covered on the T.V. news, and personal interviews on radio, Some of the stations ran hourly ads for a week as well as the live interviews with the members.

I would like to personally thank Bob Magor and John Philipson for their part in this very hectic daily round- as each day was full on with media exposure and organizing the performances. We performed at up to three schools a day, audiences ranged from 16 children or the entire school at some venues two schools came together to pack the parade ground with a sea of of young Australian faces. The children were from 5 to 18 years, they and the teachers were thrilled with the Australian Heritage Theme of the show and invited us back anytime.

A name that kept coming up was Mark Giori who has done a wonderful job in promoting Bush Poetry. Charlee Marshall is another poet who has made a mark on the school children. They would proudly come up and say they knew Mark and Charlee. They are both to be congratulated for their efforts. In all we performed for some 12 thousand children in the various towns we visited on the tour.

We had to work very hard to get a crowd at some of the adult shows and though some were disappointing others were very rewarding.

People who had never heard Bush Poetry performed by todays poets were thrilled and likened it to the good old school days.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to;

BOB MAGOR..(HALF WOOL) , JOHN PHILIPSON..(ANGRY ANDERSON OF BUSH POETRY), MARK THOMPSON.. (FULL WOOL), RON SELBY.. (THE QUIET ACHIEVER), CHARLEE & BERYL MARSHALL, GEORGE & FRED COONEY (Cook and Bus Driver) ALEC BECKETT (Country Music Singer and ROY NEWMAN (Didgeridoo Player.

Congratulations to all the winners at WINTON, I personally feel proud of all and the over all succes of the Inaugral Australian Championships is being echoed throughout the country. Praises are being aired in all organisation, Festivals and entertainment venues.

The value of the Poets Breakfasts and competitions as a crowd attraction is growing in popularity so much so that I have been approached for advice on how to get poets together for Rodeo's, Car Races, Picnic Races, Horse Cutting Contests and festivals.

When I proposed a meeting be held to form our association last year, and gave as one of my undertakings as President to hold the Australian Championships, while I had full expectations of it's success I did not expect it would be so tremendous in popularity and the rumblings in the entertainment field by those who earn their living from it tell me that without A.B.P.A. the Waltzing Matilda Celebration would have had a lot of holes in the entertainment.

Between the Poets Breakfasts, Geoffrey Grahams excellent one man show on The Life Of Banjo and our numerous championship sessions we (as a club) carried the show and contributed greatly to the overall success of the celebrations.

I will, in the next newsletter, address the financial side of our involvement with The Waltzing Matilda Celebrations and the disappointment in our allotment of expences and charges.

Your President.

(signed) Blue Bostock.

** STRIVE FOR YOUR GOALS AND HELP OTHERS TO BE ACHIEVERS. **

BUSH POET'S BREAKFAST AND COMPETITION

Saturday 3rd February 1996

8.30 AM

at the Light Horse Cottage
29 Gibraltar St, Bungendore

Come and recite your favourite bush poetry
or just come along and listen, while enjoying
a country breakfast.

Prize money for adults and children's sections
provided by:

Light Horse Cottage
Bungendore Leather and
Royal Hotel Social Club.

Enquiries:

06238 1651

06238 1303



Queensland News.

Winton. Qld. 6 - 17th April. 1995

The **Inaugural Bush Poetry Championships** held in conjunction with the **Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations** in **Winton Qld**, from the 6th to the 17th of April, were no less than a resounding success.

After twelve days of non stop partying, Country Music, Billy Tea and Bush Poetry, Winton will never be the same again. Over fourteen thousand visitors passed through the tiny outback town, which boasts a population of only eleven hundred residents, as part of the Centenary Celebrations.

Some eighty eight Poets from all over Australia were in Winton to compete in the series of heats in six different Performance categories.

Carmel and **Jay Randle** of Preston, Qld. organised and conducted the competitions in their usual faultless style.

Heats were conducted over eight days of the Festival in Novice, Junior, Ladies, Original, Traditional, and in a special section of **A.B. (Banjo) Paterson** verse.

Semi-finalists were judged from the heats, and no less than thirty six challenges were set for the Finals which were held on the Good Friday night, in the big 'Clancys Marquee.' Seasoned performers helped soothe the nerves of many a novice as the atmosphere became tense in the final showdown, as competitors and audience alike awaited the final results. Judges, commenting later on the closeness and the quality of the Finals, could not but help noticing the distinct friendliness and convivial rivalry between the Bush Poets.

Results were...

Novice.

- 1st. Dale Leard, Longreach.
- 2nd. Jay Randle. Preston.
- 3rd. Kate Heslin. Winton.
- H.C. Geoff Grundy. Winton.
- H.C. Ian Tarlington. Gayndah.
- H.C. Jim O'Connor Longreach

Ladies.

- 1st Glenny Palmer. Cedarvale.
- 2nd Carmel Randle. Preston.
- 3rd. Dale Leard, Longreach and
Kate Heslin. Winton. equal
- H.C. Joy Major. Baralaba.
- H.C. Helen Avery. Longreach

Open Serious.

1st. Gary Fogarty Goondiwindi
 2nd. Ron Bates. Gattton.
 3rd. Frank Daniel. Canowindra
 H.C. Carmel Randle. Preston
 H.C. Mark Thompson. Bungendore
 H.C. Michael Darby. Cloncurry.

Open Humorous.

1st. Gary Fogarty Goondiwindi
 2nd Mark Thompson. Bungendore
 3rd Frank Daniel. Canowindra.
 H.C. John Rennick. Forbes.
 H.C. John Major. Baralaba.
 H.C. Michael Darby. Cloncurry.

A.B. Paterson.

1st. Gary Fogarty. Goondiwindi. 2nd. Mark Thompson. Bungendore.
 3rd. John Major. Baralaba. H.C. Ron Bates.
 H.C. Carmel Randle. Preston. H.C. Frank Daniel. Canowindra.

Champion Performer.

Reserve Champion.

Runner-up.

Champion Ladies Performer.

Reserve Champion.

Runner-up.

Champion A.B. Paterson performer.

Reserve Champion.

Runner-up.

Gary Fogarty.

Mark Thompson.

Ron Bates.

Glenny Palmer.

Carmel Randle.

Dale Leard & Karte Heslin.

Gary Fogarty.

Mark Thompson.

John Major.

The Judges for the Finals were, Kelly Dickson, of Camooweal, Bruce Simpson of Caboolture and Chris Jensen from the ABC in Longreach.

The Man From Ironbark.

One of the big features of the Winton Festival was undoubtedly the Man from Ironbark performance held daily at the Winton Club where **Geoffrey Graham**, from Bealba, Vic. starred in his own scripted show dealing with the life and writings of A.B. (Banjo) Paterson.

Both song and verse took the audience through a sensitive, sometimes humorous, and quite emotional range of the works of the great author. Audience participation, especially in the Barbershop routine, was well received and left them calling for more.

It was standing room only for every show and additional performances had to be scheduled for a further two nights to cater for those who were turned away, as well as for the locals who were too busy during the twelve days of the Festival to attend.

Well done Geoffrey. Thank you to Trish and Burt.

Winton. State of Origin.

Queensland News

One of the Highlights of the Winton Festival was without any doubt the Bush Poets State of Origin, where Queensland Captain, **John Major** valiantly led his team, in an unsuccessful bid to outdo the New South Wales team led by Captain **Frank Daniel**. This now makes it a two to nil score as the Cockroaches were outright victors in June last year in the clash with the Canetoads at the Longyard during the Fireside Festival in Tamworth.

Perhaps the sunshine state was in need of their old Captain, **Charlee Marshall**, who was busy keeping things in order at the National Folk Festival in Canberra.

An attempt at bribing the **Mullumbimby Bloke** to play for his side saw John lose points from the Referee, a Norwegian lady by the name of **Taura** (no Bull.)

The eventual scores were N.S.W.— 110.75. Qld. 109.50. Only a lady like Taura could come up with scores like this in Football-Poetry. Her summary of the whole game afterwards, in order to explain her reasoning, was by no means arguable.

'She was bloody right,' so the N.S.W. Captain agreed.

Jim Haynes. Perhaps the busiest man of the whole Festival would have to be the one and only Jim Haynes who brought his '**Best of the Bush**' show to Winton. His Troupeconsisted of **Mark Gliori** (Warwick), **Ray Essary** (Mullumbimby), **Marion Fitzgerald** (North Star), **Shirley Friend**(Brisbane) and **Bobby Miller** (Mungar).

They played to full houses for five Poets Breakfasts and to two evening concerts in 'Clancys Marquee.'

The second evening concert saw a pageant of stars as they led up to the introduction of 'Banjo' himself, as portrayed by Geoffrey Graham. Marion Fitzgerald invited 'Banjo' to 'waltz with her' in a recitation specially written for the occasion. Other Australian Characters were played by Gary Fogarty, Carmel Randle and Frank Daniel.

Along with Centenary Patron, **Slim Dusty** and **Ted Egan**, Jim also entertained the Prime Minister, **Mr. Paul Keating**, Queensland Premier, **Mr. Wayne Goss**, Queensland Governor, **Mrs. Leneen Ford** and local Politicians and dignitaries at the Official Dinner at the North Gregory Hotel.

(I wonder did he tell the yarn about the Politician and the Catfish.)

Queensland News

Clancys Marquee. A huge red, white and blue Marquee set up in the western end of the Main Street of Winton, was the venue for much of the action as far as Bush Poetry went.

As well as the Poetry Competition, a number of Poets breakfasts were held, along with the State of Origin, a bout of Tall Tale Telling and a Poets Brawl. The poets brawl is an event where poets are asked to complete a verse in less than one minute, on any healthy subject at all, with humour naturally being the stem of all arguments.

The Poets Brawl in Winton was won by Frank Daniel of Canowindra, N.S.W.

One feature of the Breakfasts at the Marquee was the inclusion of a **Rhyming Romp**, which was devised and set up by **Carmel Randle**.

In this section of the entertainment, the audience was asked to show their own talent and submit finishing lines to verses, limericks and/or make alterations to existing poems by some of our great authors.

This was conducted over two Poets Breakfasts and was very popular and enthusiastically received by the big crowds. A selection of the best four liners were asked to perform their own works which added more fun to the mornings.

The Spirit of Waltzing Matilda.

The ABC radio network conducted a written poetry competition to honor the work of 'Banjo' Paterson. This was organised through the **Peter Jeppeson** programme which is aired each morning from 11 am to Noon.

The Australian Bush Poets are very proud of the fact that one of their peers in **Mark Giori**, of Warwick Qld. was the overall winner with his poem 'Swaggie.' Congratulations to Marco for his fine effort.

The Junior section of this contest was won by twelve year old **Alissa Marrie**.

Apart from Banjo Paterson verse, it was quite obvious that the most popular writers during the Winton Celebrations were the likes of Bruce Simpson, Will Ogivie, Robert Raftery, and Col 'Blue the Shearer' Wilson.

Much of their verse was recited by Performers such as John Philipson, Gary Fogarty, Marion Fitzgerald and Trish Anderson. A fitting tribute to our great writers.

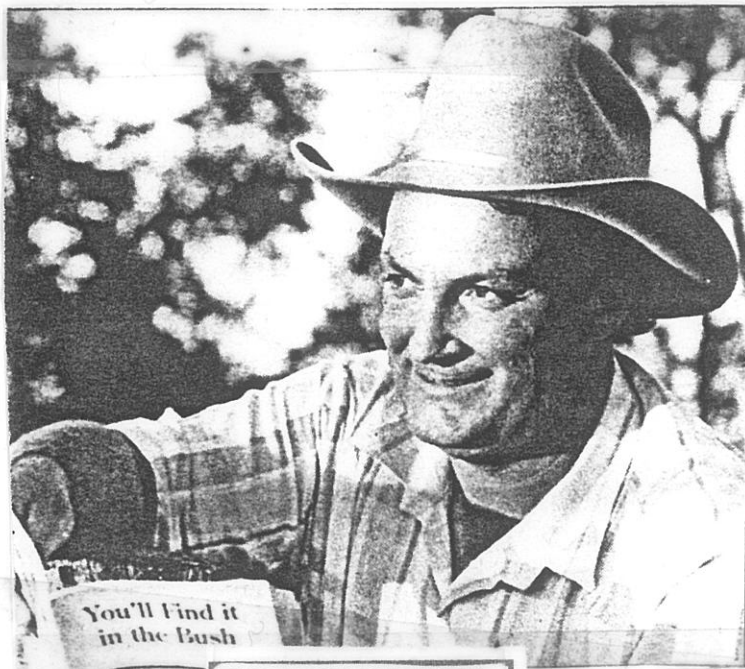
Gary Fogarty. Champion Poet.

Queensland Poet, Gary Fogarty would be without a doubt the most deserved winner of the Australian Bush Poetry Championships. A dedicated family man, a natural gentleman, a true Bushman, and a talented writer and reciter, Gary quickly gained the respect of his peers when he hit the Bush Poetry scene about eighteen months ago. During this time he has won on numerous occasions or placed well into the finals at many competitions throughout Queensland and N.S.W.

Gary won three major titles at the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations, taking out the Humorous and the Serious sections as well as the A.B.(Banjo) Paterson Award.

During the past two years Gary has worked as a Rural Family Support Worker, based in Goondiwindi. Following the Easter break he took up a new position in Millmerrin as a Community Support Worker, which expands his client base enabling him to help the whole community and not just the rural people.

Congratulations Gary, from the Bush Poets.



.Gary Fogarty.

Features of Winton Celebration.

Most notable at Winton was the number of new faces coaxed to the Poetry scene. Of the eighty two competing Poets, fifty were new to the ABPA, not being seen previously at any of our venues.

Some were obviously very experienced perfectionist performers from another genre. Some were expressing at last their life long love of Poetry.

All exhibited the talent and dedication that we know has kept the art form in Australia alive for the past two hundred years.

We will have to work harder and place more emphasis on encouraging younger performers to our junior section before next year.

Another major feature of Winton was the unstinting co-operation between the Bush Poets. The organisation of these inaugural Championships was a venture into unknown depths and uncharted seas.

While much preparation could be and was done in advance to deal with the expected features, navigating successfully through unexpected hazards was only achieved with the cheerful co-operation of so many of the stalwarts of the bush poetry movement.

People like Frank Daniel, Bob Miller, Marion Fitzgerald, Jim Haynes, Gary Fogarty, Ray Essary, John Philipson, Mark Gliori, John Major, Carmel Randle and Ron Bates — who gave of their talents so freely to compete and or entertain.

The constant 'behind the scenes work' of Jay Randle Carmel Randle, Tora Tarlinton and Alan Palmer coupled with spontaneous assistance from others too numerous to mention made a world of difference to our steerage through the uncharted seas.

Perhaps the biggest feature of Winton will be the spin-off generated by the new awareness of Bush Poetry as an entertainment art form.

So many travellers had their first taste of Bush Poetry in Winton and came back time and time again to the different sessions.

They've now moved on to spread the word!

Judging a competition at Championship levels is never easy. Sixteen different judges officiated over the seven days of thirty two competitions, with three Judges officiating at each event.

The results in each were a consensus of three opinions — really the only way to go!

To these sixteen worthy ladies and gentlemen, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Winton. (Cont'd)

The numbers contesting the various sections of the Winton Championships were as follows.

Thirty four in the Open Serious section, Twenty nine in the Open Humerous, Seventeen in the Ladies section, Fourty four in the Novice, and two in the Junior section.

Twenty six were from the ABPA.

A.B.P.A. member, **Noel Cutler** of Milawa Vic. had a busy time at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Having to make a decision as to whether to make the long journey to Winton for the Centenary or head for Sydney to contest the Australian Whip Cracking Titles, Noel opted for the Easter Show.

Noel was successful in taking out the **National Title**. Congratulations from the Bush Poets, Noel.

Also keeping the tradition alive, Noel has been busy setting up a tour of Victoria and Tasmania for Bush Poets in the South.

Members of Noels Troupe are: **Geoffrey Graham**, who entertained to full houses with his 'Man From Ironbark' show at Winton. **Bob Magor** from Myponga in South Australia, **Frank Daniel** of Canowindra, N.S.W.

The Victorian tour will kick off at **Bealba** on the 6th. of June, followed by **Charlton** - 7th. **Bendigo** - 8th. Shepparton - 9th. **Milawa** - 10th. and **Albury** on the 11th. From Albury they will travel to Tasmania where they have a further Six venues to cover, before returning to home soil on the 18th.

Whispers in the wind have it that big things are in order for the **Toowoomba Festival of Flowers** during the last week of **September**. Some new venues have been chosen for this year and a lot of changes have been made from last years programme.

More news will be to hand about this Festival next month.

The Australian Bush Music Festival Inc. Glen Innes has announced that it will be going full strength on the **October Long Weekend**, which means it will be piggy-backing with the Toowoomba Festival this year. Poets travelling about should be able to take advantage of both Festivals. Glen Innes again will be catering for the growing band of spoken-word fans with a large entourage of Poets and Raconteurs who continually delight the large audiences they draw, particularly at the Poets Breakfasts.

National Folk Festival.

The National Folk Festival held in Canberra over Easter brought Poets from almost every State in Australia to the National Capital. Poets and Poetry abounded, with a big emphasis on Bush Poetry, the 'spoken-word' has certainly taken some big steps forward over the last few years.

Each day saw at least four different shows featuring Poetry, from the Poets Breakfasts in the mornings, to late night shows in the 'Attic,' the 'Wine Bar' etc.

Among those presenting shows were Col (Blue the Shearer) Wilson, Keith McHenry, Leigh Brown, Jan Lewis, Geoff Page, Robin Davidson, Jackie Bridle and the Stand-up Poets (David Hallett, S. Sorenson and David Heilpern.)

The Poets Breakfasts were very popular and it was very difficult to give everyone a turn on stage. Some of the newcomers showed great talent both, as writers and as performers.

The variety of Poetry was enormous, with excellent Bush Poetry at one end of the spectrum through to the most free-falling, obscure intellectual gymnastics at the other, with every shade between. While we may not enjoy every style, we must concede that they all have a legitimate place, especially at a Folk Festival.

The only sour note attached to the spoken-word at the Festival was one particular afternoon session which failed to be as advertised. Many parents took their children to this show, but beat a hasty retreat during the first performers spot when they discovered that the favorite letter with which to start a word was 'F,' and the Poets topics included masterbation etc. If this show had been appropriately named, children would not have been taken along.

It was a shame, particularly as this fellow was to be followed by one of the countrys best Bush Poets whom the children never got to see.

On a brighter note, Charlee Marshall was here, there, and everywhere, accompanied by his good wife Beryl and a young

National Festival (Cont'd)

Lady whom Charlee introduced variously as 'Theresa,' 'Melissa,' 'Esmerelda' and 'Samantha.'

Another National regular, and past Reciters Award winner, was **Col Newsome** of Glen Innes, seventy eight years and still going strong.

The winner of the Reciters Award at this years Poets Dinner was **Simon Campbell** from Queensland, making his first visit to the National. This precedent was set last year when it was won by **Leigh Brown** of Yass N.S.W.

Over all, it was a great Festival, and the spoken word really held its' own against all comers.

Mudgee Festival. The Mudgee Country Music Festival Committee is giving consideration to having a Bush Poets Breakfast incorporated in their Programme next year in January.

This should suit a lot of Poets and poetry buffs in transit from the south to the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

~~~~~TTT

**The Bush Christening.** On Easter Sunday, hundreds of people gathered at the **Combo Waterhole** some 160 Kays north of Winton, on the Diamantina River where **Jim Haynes** and other Bush Poets entertained an audience seated on the shade of Coolibah Trees.

Following a brief church service, twelve children from the local area and as far away as Longreach, were baptised by **Father Bill**, in an authentic **Bush Christening**.

Many stayed for a picnic and some swam in the muddy waters of the Billabong as the afternoon shadows lengthened.

Maybe some were sitting in the same spot where Sarah Riley, Christina McPherson and Banjo picnicked with friends one hundred years before.

Transportation methods were certainly nothing like the horse and buggy days of 1895, with no less than nine aeroplanes landing in the open paddock nearby, and a multitude of campervans, mobile homes and late model sedans as well as the old favourite of the bushmen the Land Cruiser.

Let's look at...

# JOE BLOGG'S ADJUDICATION SHEET.

(Please turn to the CENTRE of this Newsletter where you will find a photocopy of one of Joe Blogg's recent Adjudication Sheets from the Inaugural Championships in Winton.

IF the printer has managed to photocopy it WITHOUT REDUCING ITS SIZE, each of the lines will measure 13.3 centimetres, or 133 millimetres, or 5 and three-eighths inches...depending on which ruler you use!)

You are looking at a GRAPH...that is, a VISUAL REPRESENTATION of a series of values. Representation of facts and figures GRAPHICALLY, that is, in GRAPH FORM, is universally accepted nowadays as the most readily understood method of presentation.

This Adjudication Sheet is a LINE GRAPH. Values allocated for each of the eight CRITERIA (i.e. standards to be judged) being assessed are indicated by the Adjudicator placing an agreed mark or symbol (in this case, a small tick) ANYWHERE along the CONTINUUM (i.e. the continuous extent or whole line).

IF WE MEASURE IN MILLIMETRES and avoid measurements smaller than one millimetre, there are ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE PLACES WHERE AN ADJUDICATOR CAN PLACE HIS ASSESSMENT.

You may say, if you wish, that EACH CRITERIA IS MARKED OUT OF 133! ... or, working in CENTIMETRES, that EACH CRITERIA IS MARKED OUT OF 13.3! ....or, working in INCHES, that EACH CRITERIA IS MARKED OUT OF FIVE and THREE-EIGHTHS!

Now, it doesn't matter which of those figures you use, AS LONG AS EVERYONE IS MARKED OUT OF THE SAME NUMBER!

The old-fashioned tradition is to mark everything out of ten. In the days when the population was much smaller, and competitive Events not so competitive, TEN was an easy, uniform number. (You have 6 or 7 Competitors to sort out...one ends up on 9, one on 8, two on 7, one on 6, one on 5, and one on 4. ALREADY YOU HAVE A PROBLEM...a tie for 3rd! So, you resort to HALF-MARKS. Now you have TWENTY possible places where an Adjudicator can select his assessment!)

Consider.... if you need twenty "stops" between 0 and 10 to successfully separate 7 Competitors, how many do you need to separate 82 (with up to 44 in one Event)? Even using 13.3 centimetres or 133 millimetres, we STILL had one unsplittable tie!

Please take another look at Joe Blogg's Adjudication Sheet. Elsewhere in the Newsletter, you will find a reprint of the INFORMATION FOR JUDGES sheet handed to each Adjudicator each time they sat down to assess a session. (A Sample Assessment Sheet and full explanation of it was also handed to EACH ADJUDICATOR IN ADVANCE OF THE COMPETITION so they could clarify any concerns before the Heats began.)

Please take a moment to read the ASSESSMENT SHEET IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INFORMATION SHEET. Note the double weighting given to RAPPORT (i.e. harmonious or sympathetic relationship)...

- a. Is for the PERCEIVED AUDIENCE REACTION (in the opinion of that Judge)

(CONTINUED OVER)

b. Is for the JUDGE'S OWN REACTION to the Performance.  
RAPPORT is double-weighted as that is the most important feature of Performance.

So, what happened to Joe Blogg's Assessment Sheet next?

A Scribe took it, and FOUND THE AVERAGE MARK OF THE EIGHT SYMBOLS ALLOCATED BY THAT JUDGE. In this case, working in Centimetres, the AVERAGE MARK WOULD BE...

9.1 centimetres....(or 91 millimetres)

(Note that "9.1" equates with "Highly Recommended Work tending towards Excellence") The Scribe marked this value on the BOTTOM LINE (which is DARKER than the rest!) He/She then took THE OTHER TWO SHEETS FROM THE OTHER TWO JUDGES, totalled them up in the same fashion, then AVERAGED THE THREE and transferred the AVERAGE OF THE THREE to a final sheet which then showed quite clearly the COMPARATIVE TOTAL VALUE OF EACH COMPETITOR. (Perhaps you could leave this as a TOTAL of the 3 and you would have a final MARK OUT OF 40! It makes no difference!)

I would like to draw your attention to TWO matters here...

1. Occasionally, an Adjudicator CHOSE NOT TO MARK A COMPETITOR ON A PARTICULAR ASPECT OF HIS/HER WORK. eg. If they felt they were distracted during your PREAMBLE, they might choose not to allocate a tick on the PREAMBLE LINE. When this happened, the Scribe CHECKED WITH THE ADJUDICATOR CONCERNED, then totalled, and DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF LINES THAT WERE ASSESSED. Your AVERAGE mark was, therefore, equitable.

2. The adjudication was the AVERAGE OF THREE OPINIONS. Often one Adjudicator particularly liked one person's Performance, but that same performance did not catch the attention of the other two Adjudicators to the same extent. Therefore, no matter how brilliant the one Adjudicator found that performance, unless the other two agreed, its AVERAGE assessment naturally enough was not "Brilliant"! At least, three Adjudicators is a much fairer way of determining Champions than being reliant on the "One Man's Opinion On One Day" model!

This Format for assessing the Performing Arts is NOT NEW! Some twenty years ago now, Speech & Drama, Theatre, and Music became assessable High School Subjects in Queensland, counting towards University Entrance. With literally thousands of Year 12 students competing each year for fewer than a hundred Tertiary Places -- and the vast majority of them studying these subjects because they are particularly talented in the field -- a practical, fair, and equitable way of assessment was sought, and this model developed. In Schools, a FIFTH (lower) Level of Achievement is often used, and NO MARKS ARE ISSUED!

Let me address a couple of statements made to me at and since Winton...

1. See CONDITIONS OF ENTRY sheet --- which all Competitors signed that they had read, and agreed to abide by. Condition 14 reads...

14. Judges' decisions on Heats and Finals are sacrosanct.  
No further discussion will be entered into.

2. "The Competitor's name should be on the judging sheet".

(CONTINUED OVER)

SAMPLE:- JOE BLOOGES

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS' ASSOCIATION**  
**INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**WALTZING MATILDA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**  
**WINTON, QLD. 1995**

**ASSESSMENT SHEET FOR HEATS**

**CATEGORY 6 .. A.B. PATERSON BUSH POETRY**

**HEAT NO.** 7      **DAY** mon      **DATE** 31/4/95

**COMPETITOR NO.** 48

**TITLE OF POEM** BRUMBY'S RUN

Please place a small tick (✓) on EACH LINE at the point which indicates your assessment of that criteria for the performance you have just witnessed. (The ticks can be ANYWHERE along the line.)

**CRITERIA**

|                                              |                                         |                          |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Excellent Work<br>Very Highly<br>Recommended | Very Good Work<br>Highly<br>Recommended | Good Work<br>Recommended | Some Problems<br>Here<br>Try Again |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|

**PREAMBLE**

CHOICE OF POEM

✓

START OF THE POEM

✓

BODY OF THE POEM

✓

CONCLUSION

✓

AUDIBILITY

✓

AUDIENCE RAPPORT a.

✓

b.

✓

9.1

←SCRIBE MARKS THIS WINE.

**PLEASE TEAR THIS OUT AND HAND IT TO THE SCRIBE. THANKS.**

Why? The Judges are there to assess the Performance they hear that day, not how well-known that person is, or what they might have heard of that person elsewhere! (After all, they might have heard something BAD!) Ideally, NO NAMES SHOULD BE USED AT ALL!.... Only NUMBERS!

3. "I don't think that the Comperes should introduce Competitors by saying what Awards they have won, and what Honours they have received (example...Wall of Fame at the Longyard). The poor Competitors who HAVEN'T yet had these triumphs don't get the build-up!"

Fair Comment! Sometime in the future, we'll need a definite Policy on these matters for our Championships!

4. "Two Judges told me that mine was the best...." Unprofessional conduct? Or a slip in memory by an Adjudicator when the Assessment Sheets did not manage to verify the statement?

5. "He was only .3 behind me. Surely he was next!" He was .3 on a scale of 1 to 13.3. He was 3 marks on more-realistic scale of 1 to 133, and, with the very high standard of Competitors at the Championships, there were often 3 or 4 within ".3 on a 1 - 13.3 scale"!

6. "I had the best poem. The Judges said so!" Obviously, on balance, someone else compensated for their weaker poem by doing a much better Performance!

7. "I spoke to all the Judges about my performance...." PLEASE read "Conditions of Entry, Rule 14"! People who approach Judges after the Competition make it hard for Competition Organisers to find suitable Adjudicators! If, as is the custom in Eisteddfaux, the (ONE) Adjudicator stands at the end of each Competition and gives the Competitors a GENERAL OUTLINE of the problems observed in that competition, some broad hints may be gleaned, but the place to LEARN is BEFORE you come to the Competition! Seek the help of a knowledgeable, honest friend or willing fellow-poet! Find a Speech Teacher! Realise that perfection in Performance is an elusive goal!

You may be the BEST PERFORMANCE POET in your AREA....but Australia is a big place, with many areas!

8. "That Poem was not ALL Traditional or not ALL Original either! It was a combination of both!" The requirements at Winton were "ORIGINAL OR TRADITIONAL" in ONE CLASS. This is the first time that that format has been set....as the result of a MOTION AT THE A.G.M. of the A.B.P.A.. The Adjudicators had no ruling to disqualify such a performance. It wasn't covered in "Conditions of Entry". Ostensibly, it fitted the requirements of the Category. Perhaps this is another point where we need a definite Policy set for the future!

I hope this clarifies the questions you would have liked to ask about the Assessment Sheets. Yes, they WERE the same for Heats, Semi-Finals, and Finals! No, they are NOT Copyright! Feel free to use or adapt the system for YOUR next Competition! Perhaps you could print YOUR sheet with the millimetres already marked along the lines?

*Camel.*

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS' ASSOCIATION  
INAUGURAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
WALTZING MATILDA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS  
WINTON, QLD. 1995**

***Information for Judges***

ATTACHED, PLEASE FIND.....

A COPY OF THE "CONDITIONS OF ENTRY". Please re-read these.

A "DUMMY" ASSESSMENT SHEET AS A SAMPLE for your guidance.

AN ASSESSMENT SHEET FOR EACH COMPETITOR.

Some spare Doodle paper.

***We would ask our Judges to please work independently.***

**What are we looking for?**      *Entertainment!*  
                                         *Good clean honest Bush Poetry!*

Please don't let the technicalities of Poetry stand in the way of the ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF BUSH PERFORMANCE -- which grew in response to the need for entertainment among drovers and settlers in isolated situations.

While the rules are "as stated", it is not the intention to let the rules over-run the performance in importance. For example, stated time limit is seven minutes for Open and Ladies, five minutes for Novice and Junior. If a competitor is over time, but nearly finished, don't "bell" him/her off! Just take the length into account when marking. (*This can be done in the "Choice of Poem" mark.*) With a very long boring performance, **use the bell.**

*A general guide to the content of the various criteria would be:*

**PREAMBLE** .. Any spoken introduction to the Poem  
**CHOICE OF POEM** .. Its suitability for performance, the occasion, the Category. Is it Australian Bush? Non-offensive? Within the time limits?

**START OF THE POEM** .. A bright opening style? Grabs our attention immediately?

**BODY OF THE POEM** .. Is the interest sustained throughout? Content follows logically? Etc...

**CONCLUSION** .. Ending satisfactorily delivered? Punchline effective?

**AUDIBILITY** .. Could you clearly hear and understand this performance?

**AUDIENCE RAPPORT** ..      a) Did the audience enjoy this?  
                                         b) Did you enjoy this?

*The Scribe will be totalling your decisions, and will advise you of the end result before handing it on to the Compere.*

**HAPPY LISTENING!**

WINTON  
14.4.95

To  
ALL A.B.P.A. Members  
particularly EXEC. OFFICERS

Thank you for giving me the chance to sit in judgement on your very talented selves and others during your great Festival. It is hoped my endeavours were appreciated, and that I did not treat people unfairly or harshly. You gave a good deal of pleasure to a lot of people and you all should be proud of your performances.

One aspect of the whole show offends my sense of justice and good public image. I refer to the practice of any judge being empaneled by any SINGLE member of the apparent administrative staff, and then such a member to Perform before that appointed judge. I consider judges should be appointed by persons of Executive STATUS, and that only people of some long experience with the subject under judgement should be recognised as capable of being judges.

Persons lacking "hands-on" experience as WRITERS and/or performers do not please me as fellow judges. Judges should be asked for a COMMENT on his scoring sheet.

Competitors should remember that they are appearing as entertainers, NOT EGO TRIPPERS, and the paying audience are, I think, entitled to a WIDER display of each contestants repertoire.

It is not encouraging to hear, as I did, members of the audience commenting on the repetition of some poems. Perhaps it could be remembered by everyone, whilst I understand we ALL like to do ONE or TWO poems we do WELL, such poems can become 'MECHANICAL and TECHNICAL' if used too frequently. Audience comments bears this out.

I would also like to see you give some thought to ballotting of MULTIPLE CHOICES nominated by entrants. Surely some way could be found to avoid future disappointment for audiences and some judges. The foregoing is not intended to destroy, rather to improve and strengthen our image.

Lastly, I am forced to travel early AM 15/4/95 to Townsville for medical reasons, hence my inability to personally appear before you. However, I am handing this letter to your very capable and poorly acknowledged PRESIDENT. Hopefully he will bring this before you all.

Next time you are involved in any formal functions such as the dinner MR BOSTOCK was NOT invited to, please do not allow such an unpardonable wrong to be repeated.

BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL.

(Signed) Kelly Dixon  
CAMOOWEAL

(Secretary's Note: I received this letter from Bluey Bostock on Tuesday 9 May)



IN REPLY TO Mr. KELLY DIXON'S LETTER.....

NOTE: At the General Meeting of A.B.P.A. held in Tamworth, June 1994, a Sub-Committee of Ron Selby, Mark Gliori, and the President, Mr. Bostock (ex-officio) was formed to organise the Inaugural A.B.P.A. Championships in Winton at the Centenary Celebrations for Waltzing Matilda. Later in the year, Mark withdrew because of travelling commitments, and I was co-opted to take his place.

Our Mid-December 1994 Sub-Committee Meeting carried the motion that any person involved in running the Championships would still be able to compete. The same meeting was given 8 names of people already asked by Mr. Bostock to judge. A further 2 persons notified the Sub-Committee that they had been asked by Mr. Bostock, and were therefore enquiring what accommodation and transport arrangements had been made for them.

At a get-together of the Sub-Committee Members at Eumundi on Wednesday, 22nd March, Mr. Bostock advised that 5 of the original 8 judges were no longer coming. At this time, he added Mr. Kelly Dixon to the list of his invited judges, and agreed that NO arrangements had been made for Judges' accommodation. HE ALSO RESIGNED, verbally, as of Thursday 23rd March, and insisted that he would not change his mind. His stated complaint was that we "had stabbed him in the back by agreeing to work with the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Committee and use their Marquee for the Championships."

The onerous task of completing the organisation of the Championships therefore fell on the remaining members of the Sub-Committee, Ron Selby and myself. On contacting the six remaining judges, I found that only 2 intended being in Winton for the whole time. I then sought, and obtained the services of a variety of experienced, available-at-such-short-notice people to enable us to have the nominated decision of the Sub-Committee to have "three Adjudicators at all times" carried out.

Realising that we were liable for accommodation expenses of people officiating for us -- and that none of this had been considered because Mr. Bostock's stated plan was that we could all bunk down together in an A.B.P.A. Marquee - we naturally asked people we already knew were going to be there, or who lived nearby. We used 16 different Judges over the period, and needed that number!

Some of the most talented, able people do not flaunt their skills, experience, and abilities. Their sphere of expertise is often purposely concealed from all but their very closest associates. A lot of delving was done, and phone calls made, in those final two weeks to boost our Adjudicator level! We ended up with a suitably-wide variety of applicable expertise.

It is history now that Mr. Bostock arrived in Winton declaring that he hadn't resigned.

It will be a matter for the A.B.P.A. to formulate a policy regarding the eligibility of Organising Sub-Committee Members to compete in future Championships. Perhaps Mr. Bostock, Ron Selby, and I should not have competed! In future, perhaps, A.B.P.A could PAY an Organiser and his/her travelling and accommodation expenses. Such a person would, then, not reasonably expect to compete!

I find the final paragraph mystifying. I know of no formal function or dinner that Mr. Bostock was or wasn't invited to! If the A.B.P.A. ran -- or was invited as an Organisation to -- any Dinner, it's news to me! N.O.P.A. ran a Dinner at LONGREACH to which EVERYONE was invited at a cost of \$20.00. Mr. Bostock was heard complaining that he hadn't been invited but this was AFTER the date on Kelly Dixon's letter!

Regards.....

*Carol*

## THOSE WHO SHARED THE STAGE

Unpredictable and fickle, the winds of fame have found,  
And if only for a second, swept my feet up off the ground.  
As I clutch my show of victory, and my spirits start to soar.  
I find platitudes and compliments are hard things to ignore.

But damnation to an ego that can fan the fires within,  
And leave you vainly searching for the man you should have been.  
For when the harsh light of reality shines on blinded eyes,  
You can find your stature waning somewhere Southward of the skies.

For the stage that your now ruling was shared with those who know,  
That every bumbling spruiker was so precious to the show.  
That a mystic badge of victory is pinned on every chest,  
More lasting than the honours of those who judged you best.

And those that came before you, when the track was just a dream,  
And blazed so you might follow, should they not taste the cream?  
And those in turn who follow you, a seed that must be sown,  
For theirs will be the limelight when your best days have flown.

So I clutch my prize with honour and hope to prove its worth.  
With my ego tightly hobbled and my feet back on the earth.  
And I'm thankful for the moment that my words are all the rage,  
But I count myself no better than all those who shared the stage.

*Gary Foy*

## Thank You Winton.

The Plains like a burnished ocean lie as far as the eye can see,  
and meet the western sky on the rim, at the edge of eternity.  
The trees turn their tortured hands to the heavens imploring the  
rains to fall,  
the grass in dormant grief holds strong, in an endless golden wall.  
The heart of the west beats bravely to defy the parching sun;  
the heart in the land and the breast of man will fight 'til the  
sweet rains come.

Yet out went the invitation, the call from the heart of the west:  
you opened your arms to greet us, in the thousands to witness  
your test.

We from the towns and the cities, from our sanctuary mild and  
green,  
we from the shaded gardens, of oblivion serene.

And now with our eyes forced open, we salute you, hearts of the  
west;  
we bow in humble gratitude to the courage of your quest;  
your quest of dedication, to see Australia thrive,  
we say farewell with a broader vision, of the dream you keep  
alive.

Glenny Palmer.

Inaugural Australian Champion Ladies Bush Poet.

### Golden Pen Society

The Commercial Hotel Gympie 4th Sunday of the mth. from 11.30am.  
For a family bar-b-que with poetry & music.

This group also gathers on the 2nd & 4th thursdays of the month.  
Phone Eileen Diefenbach on 821489.

Reply to Mr. Kelly Dixon. (Letter to ABPA. 14.4.95)

Dear Kelly,

In reference to your comments, I would like to point out that Judges approached by the Committee President, Mr. 'Bluey' Bostock, and as advised at the meeting in December 1994, were not all available to appear at Winton. I was not present at this meeting, but I believe some eight (8) persons had been approached to adjudicate.

At a Sub-committee meeting in Eumundi (22.3.95) Mr. Bostock advised that five of the proposed judges would not be available.

Mr. Bostock then added your name to the list of proposed Judges: were you aware of this? If so, then you were empanelled by a single member of the administrative staff, Mr. Bostock, who was also a Performer/Competitor. Mr. Bostock was of executive status at that time. Is this not so?

As for your experienced Judges. I found, in assisting Carmel Randle, who was co-opted by the executive when it was discovered that Mr. Bostock had not gained sufficient progress with the Events Corporation, that it was almost an impossibility to achieve Judges of the calibre required with such short notice, with no funds to pay them or their accommodation. Especially in Winton.

With regard to Judges Comments, I would venture to say that the criteria set out for the Judges to use was so designed that all Competitors were judged along the same guidelines, thus making the scoresheet, used properly, the Judges comments.

Condition 14 of the entry forms stated that 'The Judges decision on Heats and Finals are sacrosanct. No further discussion would be entered into.'

One or more of our Judges, however, saw fit to disclose his 'COMMENTS' to some of the Competitors.

My opinion of the Winton episode is, that Poets who appeared at the Breakfasts, and the Concerts in the Theatre Royal and in Clancys Marquee, were no doubt Performers. Poets who appeared at the Breakfasts, the Poets Brawl and the State of Origin in the Marquee were also Performers, and I agree that they should perform to entertain their paying audience.

However, Poets who entered in the Competitions were notably Competitors, whose main objective was to compete successfully against each other. They are not Professionals and are not all expected to have such a wide range of expertise.

Their contributions were equally entertaining, but as I point out they were Competitors and had the right to perform their best works for their own benefit.

Letter (Cont'd)

Unfortunately, at Winton, some of our audience was made up of patrons who were in attendance for the full twelve days, some who were present for the first half, and then those who were present only for the second half.

Noticeably, many of the Judges were full time audience as well, bearing in mind, that without the ABPA, there was little else entertainment-wise in Winton, as many Poetry fan will testify.

It is not uncommon in Competitions for Poets to recite the same Poem in the Heats as well as the Finals, making them both 'MECHANICAL and TECHNICAL,' in their strive for correctness. The audience would only be too aware of such practices.

Your balloting of multiple choices is worth noting for the future.

I cannot answer as to why Mr. Bostock was not invited to any formal function in Winton. Be advised that none of the ABPA members were invited to any formal function, Executive or otherwise.

Perhaps you could direct such question to the Queensland Events Corporation.

I went to Winton to be a part of the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations, and this fact never once left my mind. I went there to Compete and to Entertain, and I did so to the best of my ability. I went to Winton to enjoy myself and I certainly did. It is a pity that some people lost all sense of purpose, but this happens.

Thank you for your services.

Regards,

Frank Daniel.

Vice President, ABPA. 14.5.95.

## MY TRIBUTE.

Here's my tribute to Bush Poets  
And to Aussie Balladeers  
Who entertained at Winton  
For 'Matilda's 100 years'.

Their verses were quite varied  
Some sad, some full of mirth  
Some proud and patriotic  
And others...down to earth!

I found some very moving  
And some, they stretched the truth  
For sure, they're all fair dinkum  
And Aussies...through and through.

I could feel their pride and passion  
Their love for this great place  
I often saw it mirrored...  
In each listening, upturned face.

I sat enthralled for hours  
Emotions running high  
And knew, these Poets of the Bush  
Wouldn't let our 'Spirit' die.

We heard the words of Banjo  
They stir the heart strings still  
And...if you're a true blue Aussie  
They never cease to thrill.

Of droving days and hardship  
War times and memories  
To prose and verse we listened  
With laughter and with tears.

I joined the celebrations  
Where Banjo wrote his song  
Where the 'Spirit' of Matilda lives  
Down by a Billabong.

So I give a heart felt Tribute  
To those who 'cite the word  
In the cities and the country  
May their message soon be heard.

May our children and their children  
Know and honour Aussie worth  
Protect and love and cherish  
This treasure here on Earth.

Save her heritage and hist'ry  
And her 'Spirit' will not die  
Let's always "BE AUSTRALIAN"  
And hold our heads up high.

Bev. Teys.

## The **Ernie Setterfield** **Poetry Awards**

Closing Date 30th September'95

\$50.00  
prize money for  
'The Poet Of The Year'

Entry Fee \$2.00

per poem

All profits go towards  
the running of the  
**Mapleton Yarn Festival**  
21st, & 22nd, Oct. '95

Gifts for runners up  
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The Mapleton Poets  
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The Mapleton Yarn  
Festival

Open to all age groups,  
Send in your favourite,  
original poem.

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toowoomba  
education  
centre

Post Office  
Darling Heights  
Toowoomba  
Q 4350



\*\*\*\*\* MY MATE.

Douglas Cameron.  
MOUNT ISA.

I've been a mile or two down  
lifes road

Seen friends come and go, some  
helped with life's heavy load.  
But in the world of ever changing  
times,

It's nice to have a mate who'll  
help with some of life's little grimes.

You don't have many real mates  
in one's life,

As most seem to back away when you  
get into strife.

But there is no-one like my mate,  
which sticks to me through thick and thin,  
I know I have a mate who has stood by me  
even when I feel like life should be in a bin.  
It took me time to realize that this mate  
was always there,

No matter if a bloke was up or down, rich or poor,  
no matter what the time, and doesn't look down.

My wife. A mother, who keeps life sweet,  
But most of all.....MY MATE!.

## Society names

**NEW YORK:** It's no secret: High-society folks tend to give their kids names like Biff, Buffy and Bam Bam.

Hard evidence of this disturbing practice was gathered by a writer from The Philadelphia Inquirer's society column: A sample: Barkie, Bunky, Cackie, Choppy, Diny, Dodo, Floss, Frolic, Gee, Metsie, Minky, Peppi, Perky, Pooh, Sibby, Siggie, Throphy, Weezie, Wigie, Winky, Wistie and Woosie.

### The Chronicle

Your good morning daily

## TOOWOOMBA

We have not long returned from the celebrations at Winton and I am still celebrating. My first experience with such an entertaining 'bunch' of Bush Poets and such a dedicated lot of it. I have written 'My Tribute' (enclosed) and hope you enjoy it. I would love to know more about "Bush Poets of Australia". Would you kindly send me any information you may have about the group.

For a magnificent job at Winton I say ..well done! and please keep up the good work.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Bev. Tey.

# Archery asthma tonic for Tiny

(Should be)  
Approx. 3  
yrs  
↓

**TAMWORTH** – Nine months ago diminutive Tiny Hall was fed up with suffering from asthma.

To help overcome the condition she made the unusual step of taking up archery.

Her decision has led her to not only better health, but also has landed her an international gold medal in the sport with an outstanding win at the Bowhunters World Championships.

"A lot of people said I wouldn't be able to do it (archery)," Tiny said yesterday. "It's good for asthma and I haven't had an asthma attack since taking it up.

"Before that I'd be in hospital three or four times a year.

"Now I reckon my shoes will wear out before I do."

Tiny says bow hunting competition involved a lot of hill climbing, walking and "clean, fresh air" which she attributed her new found health to.

Held near Glenbawn Dam recently, the championships involved the world's best archers in four days of competition during which they shot silhouettes, three dimensional targets and animal targets in bushland.

Tiny took out the veteran ladies' freestyle in what she says was a surprise decision.

"I wasn't even worried about winning," she said. "As



Veteran ladies bowhunters world champion Tiny Hall took up the sport to relieve her asthma.

a matter of fact I got a shock when they read my name out.

"I was sitting down and everyone said 'Tiny you've won the gold get up there'."

During the competition she was also called on to help a German opponent who fell on the track and broke his leg. Tiny and two other archers

helped get the injured man to safety and medical attention.

A member of the New England Archery Club and Tamworth Field Archers, Tiny is now hoping to compete in the World Masters to be held in America in 1998 and defend her world title the next time the bowhunter championships roll around.

## Ranter Rhymers & Ravers

3rd Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm. at Traders Cafe: Coolum.  
For an evening of food, wine and open entertainment.  
Ph Barry Betts 074 466303



SALUTE TO THE BUSH POETS OF THE MATILDA FESTIVAL

---

They assembled out at Winton on the Western River Shore,  
Wordsmiths by the dozen, versifiers by the score,  
To eulogise Matilda now a hundred years of age,  
They came and wrote one more historic page.

We arrived in town on Tuesday, so missed out on early treats,  
Like a poetry contest, which kept patrons in their seats,  
The very best in all the west, as we have heard the story,  
Is Mark from out at Warwick, who covered himself with glory.

There was Jim from Weelabarabak who introduced Dipso Dan,  
An inveterate imbiber, and a sometime betting man,  
And though he'll drink the town dry, it seem he's getting thinner,  
For he often misses out on lunch, and sometimes even dinner.

And the Larrikin did vocalise the words which made him famous,  
He proved to all and sundry, that he's no ignoramus,  
And Shirley from Pomona, at least that's where she now is,  
With phrases choice, and pommy voice, exhibited her prowess.

Ray with his Mullumbimby tales set every ear a'ringing,  
But nobody could tolerate his bloody awful singing,  
And Carmel out of Preston, in dulcet tones so clear,  
Not only quoth her poetry, but called for another beer.

When it came to being champions, young Glenney scooped one pool,  
With pentameter and rhyming she really played it cool,  
From the border Gunsynd Garry simply carried off the day,  
But please don't ever call him, the Goondiwindi Gay.

While Marion's mighty moggy may have fertilised the soil,  
Boosted Moree's manufacture of wheat and other spoil,  
Mark T beneath that facial fungus finds the inspiration,  
To create the sort of word pictures that galvanise a nation.

The younger generation while providing poets few,  
Was ably represented by Carmel number two,  
And behind the scenes was rushing, with a bit of spruiking too,  
A vigorous sort of fellow whom we got to know as Blue.

Mike came from up at 'Curry, Ron from Boulia way,  
John from Forbes and there were others toiling day by day,  
To formulate their ideas and entertain the crowd,  
They didn't ever hesitate to think their thoughts out loud.

Up at Combo Waterhole where the Jolly Swagman drounded,  
Frank from Canowindra emceed, and the Chance of Buckley pounded,  
Then Father dipped the infants with Diamantina water,  
And folk dispersed homeward with new baptised son and daughter.

Back in Winton in the evening, it was plain the crowd was leaving,  
After ten whole days communing with the Bard,  
So we slowly rolled our swags, repacked the tucker bags,  
And ambled out beyond the cattle yard.

Regards,



Curumbin Waters Qld 4223

\*\*\*THERE'S ALWAYS A FASTER GUN.\*\*\*

No matter how good you think you may be  
There's always another who's faster you see,  
As you wander through life thinking how good you are  
There's a faster gun some where that's better by far.

It's easy to be number one for awhile  
But there's always another to cramp your style,  
So whether you're shearing or falling and such  
Remember there's someone who can do just as much.

Just remember your guns as you swagger out there  
With your eyes cast down and your nose in the air,  
Too proud to speak to those that you knew  
Don't forget that they were once a gun too.

Working in places where you won't be seen dead  
As you wander along where others have led,  
Those were the times when a man was a mate  
Now give it your best before it's too late.

Be ready with a smile and a helping hand too  
For these are the things that see a man through,  
Don't brag, boast or skite of the things you have done  
'Cos just round the corner is some faster gun.

..... Brian Gale. W.A.

\*\*\* THE POWER OF DECEPTION. \*\*\*

Tonight as I slumber my bedroom could number  
No one else there to share in the fun.  
'cause my woman shot through, I believe she's with you.  
But no matter- my passions all done.

So don't you be confused if not verbally abused,  
and physically violated too,  
'cause you've been my savior. I owe you a favour.  
I'm so glad she went home with you.

She will surely impress when done up and undressed  
But wait till passions get startin'.  
When you give her a kiss, you'll taste halitosis.  
Squeeze too hard- the woman starts fartin'.

Soup makes her slurp, food makes her burp,  
making love air expels metronomic.  
Has a loud raucous laugh, Dabs Fem Fresh, won't bath,  
and when angry her voice is subsonic.

So when you discover you don't really love her,  
and you want to correct your decision,  
don't return her to me, as I'm glad to be free  
since you answered those prayers I'd been wishin'.

He believed 'fibs' I said, and the riot act was read  
to her, before affections had started.  
He called her disgusting, unworthy of lusting.  
Stunned by his behavior, she departed.

So then right on cue, in walked you guess who.  
Said she loved me, hugged me, and cried.  
Yet I understood, more than she ever would,  
the night she came home, 'cause I lied.

..... Greg Young. Mt Coolum. Q

\*\*\*\*\* COMPETITIONS. \*\*\*\*\*

MOUNT ISA ANNUAL LITERARY COMPETITION

Closing date; 31st JULY. entry fee \$4.00 (\$2.00 Junior)

Information; P.O.Box 2781 MOUNT ISA QLD 4825.

5TH REGIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL. 10th,11th,12th JUNE.

Information; Dr Nigel Krowth. School of Creative Arts.

P.O.Box 50 GOLD COAST QLD. 4217. ph (075)948642.

RANGE WRITERS POETRY GROUP. Entry fee \$3.00 Closing date 30th JUNE

Send S.A.E. for entry to; Competition Secretary.

13 Marshall st TOOWOOMBA. 4350.

COPPERTALES. Closing date; 31st JUNE.

Information; Brian Mosgrove, Dept. Humanities

c/o U.S.Q. DARLING HEIGHTS. 4350. ph (076)312244.

THE ERNIE SETTERFIELD POETRY AWARDS. Closing date; 30th SEPT.

Entry fee; \$2.00. Information; The Mapleton Poets

C/o MAPLETON P.O. MAPLETON Q. 4560.

THE 1995 DIAMOND SHEARS HENRY LAWSON POETRY COMPETITION.

Closing date; Saturday 1st JULY.. Entry fee \$4.00

Information: Secretary. Diamond Shears Committee.

P.O. Box 447 LONGREACH QLD 4730.

(note) When enquiring for information for these and other competitions  
a SELF STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE would probably be appreciated.

ADVANCE NOTICE!

"POETS AT THE CARNIVAL" will be held this year  
27th - 30th September, TOOWOOMBA  
to coincide with TOOWOOMBA CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS.

For more information, contact...  
CARMEL RANDLE, "Splendacrest" M.S. 852 PRESTON 4352

Mapleton Poets

1st Saturday of the month at The Mapleton Hall; 10am - Midday.

A place for poets and musicians to share their work.

Light refreshments available. Ph. Jacqueline Bridle 457238.

# THE 1995 DIAMOND SHEARS HENRY LAWSON POETRY COMPETITION

FOR TRADITIONAL VERSE WITH A RURAL OR OUTBACK THEME

*RURAL OR OUTBACK THEME*

Sponsored by the Australian Workers' Union and the Diamond Shears Committee under the auspices of the Henry Lawson Memorial and Literary Society of Melbourne

FIRST PRIZE: TROPHY AND \$200.

SECOND PRIZE: TROPHY AND \$50.

THIRD PRIZE: TROPHY.

1. Entries are to be original, unpublished, written in English, typed if possible, and be the work of the competitor, submitted in competitor's correct name.
2. Each entry must be written on a separate sheet of paper.
3. Name of entrants must not be shown on entry.
4. Entry fee \$5.00 per poem, four entries only per competitor.
5. Entrants to keep copies of poems entered as entries will not be returned.
6. Entries are limited to 1200 words each.
7. Judges decision will be final and no correspondence shall be entered into.
8. Permission to be granted for all entries to the Diamond Shears committee to publish, record, broadcast, telecast or videotape for T.V. purposes.
9. The Diamond Shears committee in its absolute discretion, reserves the right to reject any entry without being required to show cause.
10. The winner and placegetters will be notified as soon as the Judges' decision is final and announced at the Diamond Shears Ball at Longreach on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> 1994. Results shall be widely publicised.
11. Entries close SAT July 1st, 1994 with the Secretary.
12. Enclose entry/entries with form and entry fee in cash, cheque or money order in suitable envelope and post.

Name of Competitor: Mr/Mrs/Ms .....

Address .....

.....

..... Post Code .....

Phone .....

Title of Poem 1 .....

Title of Poem 2 .....

Title of Poem 3 .....

Title of Poem 4 .....

I declare that the enclosed is my own original work and has not been previously published or used in any other media. I agree to the conditions of entry and accept the Judges decision as final.

(Date) .....

Signed .....

Post to: Secretary  
Diamond Shears Committee  
P.O. Box 447  
LONGREACH QLD 4730.