

The Australian



Bush Poets

Association

No 11 NOVEMBER 1995.

Australian Bush Poets Association

P.O. Box 77 Drayton North. Queensland 4350.

President: Merv. Bostock.....07 801 3082
Mobile.....018 772 613

Sec/Treas: Ron Selby.....076 301 106

Vice Pres: Bob Miller.....071 296 422

Vice Pres: Frank Daniel.....063 441 477

Publicity Officers:

Qld. Robert Raftery....Fax...07 202 2988....07 812 2788
A.h....Fax...07 271 247.....07 271 2478
Mobile.....018 981 525

N.S.W. Frank Daniel.....063 411 578
A.h....063 441 477 Fax.....063 411 582

Vic. Geoffrey Graham.....Ph/Fax.....054 691 312
S.A. Bob Magor.....Ph/Fax.....058

HELP!

A HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS AND PERFORMERS OF
RHYMED VERSE — Carmel Randle T.L.T.C.L.(Effect.Sp)

\$10 Post paid

'Splendacrest' MS 852 PRESTON Q 4352

'Bush Yarns and Poetry'

Frank Daniel
Truthful Publications
P.O. Box 16
Canowindra NSW
2804.

\$13.00 post paid

YUIN FOLK FESTIVAL COBARGO N.S.W.

23rd-25th February
— 1996.

More news to come
Poetry-Yarns-Music

'The Selection' by

'Blue the Shearer'

\$15.00 incl PPH.

P.O. Box 225
Wellington NSW 2820

The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition

Imperial Hotel
24-27 January
1996

Bush Poetry Competition

OASIS
HOTEL
TAMWORTH
JANUARY 1996
PHONE
067 663 391

The Territory Rouseabout

and other humorous verse

Bruce Simpson.
11 Bellview St
Caboolture Q. 4510
\$11.50 Post paid

We have had a very busy year in A.B.P.A. with more competitions and festivals all over the country, Tamworth, Winton, Toowoomba, Camden, Surat, Mapleton, Glen Innes, Corryong, Longreach, Bundaberg and maybe another dozen or so over a very widespread area. It would now be near impossible to attend all the events but there are many poets who seem to be at nearly every event. The support from all poets and members at these events is what keeps them going year after year.

A.B.P.A. is still growing and this year we have 176 members and they are still coming. The end of the financial year is almost upon us and membership fee's are due on the 1st of January 1996. Fee's for next year will be accepted from the 1st of December.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will again be held at Tamworth following the FRIDAY heats of the IMPERIAL HOTEL competition.

All positions on the committee will become vacant and a new committee elected. Postal votes and nominations will be accepted so if you feel you can contribute to the association then why not nominate yourself for a position on the committee. New blood can make a big difference!!

On the financial side, we are still viable and we even have money in the bank therefore the yearly fee's will remain at \$20.00 for 1996.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who have sent in items for the magazine, particularly Frank (Joe) Daniel and Carmel Randle who do a great deal to keep you the member informed of whats going on around the country

Remember! This magazine is for the members, thats ALL members, and we need your information on events and results of events, competitions ect If you hear of any events about Bush Poetry in your area then send me or Joe the information so we can let others interested in Bush Poetry know whats going on. There are many events in Coffee shops, local halls etc and many members in the surrounding area who would possibly support these events if they know they are on.

That reminds me about four members in another club. They were named SOMEBODY, EVERYBODY, ANYBODY and NOBODY. It seemed there was a job to do and EVERYBODY was sure SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done the job but NOBODY did it. SOMEBODY got angry about it because it was EVERYBODYS job. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it but NOBODY realised that EVERYBODY would'nt do it. The story ended when EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done!

Thanks again for the great support over the year and keep those news items. and poems, rolling in.

Ron Selby.

**** REPORT ON 'BUSH POETS' VICTORIA. **** by B. OLLE.

Kyabram, in Victoria formed a 'Bush Verse Group' in MAY 1995 and are going great guns. The President is Grahame (skew wiff) Watt, the Secretary/Treasurer is Betty Olle. Already they have 20 plus members and meet bi-monthly.

In September they conducted an 'Around the Campfire' night in conjunction with the Kyabram Apex Club. It was very successful, with a responsive audience of 150 people and compered by Tammy Muir and Grahame Watt. The Poetry section was won by Mick Coventry and the Yarn Spinning was won by Perce Larcombe. They also ran a Schools Bush Verse Competition and was won by Naomi Argus (primary) with a delightful poem titled 'Lonely Joe' and Marissa Jones (secondary) with her poem, titled 'A Bush Poem'.

The group promoted 'The Man From Iron Bark' show with Geoffrey Graham at Kyabram on October 24th. This show was acclaimed by all and certainly helps to promote 'Bush Verse' in the area.

The Kyabram and District Bush Verse Group have also joined ABPA as a member group as well as having individual members.

If any A.B.P.A. members are in the Kyabram area, why not drop in for a cup of 'Bush Verse'. Contact; Grahame Watt on (058) 522084 or Betty Olle on (058) 521993.

***** COW PASTURES FESTIVAL. CAMDEN. N.S.W.
15th,16th 17th SEPT. 1995.

The innaugral event was intended to be a celebration of bush music and culture and it was exactly that!

If success can be measured by the satisfaction recieved by those attending and by those performing, then it was highly successful.

The rainy weather was a blow to the organisers as it was hoped to lure manÿ Sydneyites out for the weekend. Apart from the weather and 'Dirty Harry's Cafe'.....'twas a splendid weekend!

The final concert was an extravaganza of performers, including Ted Egan, Greg Champion, The Bushwackers, Colin Buchanan and many others.

The poets breakfasts were well attended, with some oldies like, Denis Kevans, (Australia's poet lorikeet) adding some real spice to the event. Dingo Dryden and John Philipson came down from the north; Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler and Mark Thompson from the south, Steve Horton from the deep south, and a swag of others including some great local contributors.

The one minute brawl was won by Mark Thompson and Dawnde Ramirez with the prize being the famous 'Cowpastures Cup'.

Bush bands abounded, Ted Egan performed at a Bush Tucker Lunch. Noel Cutler cracked his whips and Geoffrey Graham did his 'Man From Ironbark' and compered the Poets Breakfast. An allround great weekend!

Request Answered...

South Australian Poet **Bob Magor** didn't have to wait very long for a reply to his request in last month's newsletter about the contents of a lost poem.

Within a week of publication he received a reply from **Denis Kevins**, 'The Poet Lorrikeit' from the Blue Mountains of NSW who supplied the necessary information.

Denis just happened to know of a book of song and verse which contained the wanted poem. Bob passed this information on to the lady who initially requested the verse, who in turn found the book in the **Port Lincoln** (SA) Library and was then able to contact the actual author.

Just goes to show what a little beauty this newsletter is becoming. It shows well and truly that it is being read and used far afield.

We would like to see more news from other readers and poets, whether it be in the form of verse, requests for help, letters or just snippets of news about themselves, coming shows or past performances.

Glen Innes — Oct. 1995....

Our request for news about the Glen Innes festival was also forthcoming readily from **Graeme Johnson** of West Ryde in Sydney who just happened to be present at

the 'Glen' Festival.

The Australian Bush Music Festival was held once again this year in the picturesque Glen Innes Showgrounds on the **October Long Weekend**.

Held in conjunction with the New England Tent Pegging Championships and the Northern N.S.W. Whip Cracking Championships.

Attendance figures were up on last year's effort, with two thousand tickets sold for the Friday night Concert which starred Kaylene Bambrick, Holly Amber Whittaker and Gina Jeffries.

Spoken word performances were again very popular with the crowds. Individual Poets featured in their own sessions included the 'Road Floosie' **Shirley Friend**, **Mark Thompson**, **Graeme Johnson** and **Murray Hartin** who with their variety of styles really flew the flag for the Bush Poetry Movement.

The Poets' Brawl on Saturday was hosted by **Mark Thompson** of Bungendore and continued into a full blown poetry presentation by the assembled poets. The crowd just kept wanting more.

Sunday's Poet's Breakfast again packed the Marquee from 8am, running well over time until Mid-day. This was hosted by **Murray Hartin** of Tamworth and featured a wealth of talent from all over Australia including **Milton Taylor**, **Ron 'Boulia' Bates**, **Colin Newsome**, **Elizabeth Esprestar**

everyones favourite Swaggie, Campbell Irving, and 'Balmain' Bob Devers as well as the aforementioned poets.

A veritable smorgasbord of words.

As well as this, many fine musical performances were given by Brent Parlane, Sonia Bennet, Dave de Hugard, Seanachaidh, Mark Tempany, Denis O'keefe, Kym and Trish Freeman, Roger Llot and Penny Davies, Mal Clark, Val Butler and Anthony Russell.

The 'Spirit of Australia' is indeed alive and well being fostered by talent such as this.

ooooooOOOOoooooo

Cowpastures Bush Music Festival.

15 - 17th Sept, 1995.

The Inaugural Cowpastures Bush Music Festival was held in Camden, N.S.W. in mid-September.

Unfortunately, due to extremely inclement weather crowd numbers fell below expectations, however all events were patronised by a hardy throng of followers.

The Festival kicked off on Friday night with **Geoffrey Graham's 'Man From Ironbark'** Show and a Bush Dance hosted by **Ted Egan** and included the **Currency Lads**.

Poet's Breakfasts were held on both mornings of the weekend where the audiences were entertained by the likes of **Denis**

Kevins, Noel Cutler, Mark Thompson, Dingo Dryden, Graeme Johnson, Steve Horton, John Philipson and Trevor Langlands.

The Poet's brawl was won by **Mark Thompson** who received a great trophy for his efforts.

The **Banjo Paterson Poetry Challenge** was won by **Bill Dettmer** from Melbourne, second place went to 'The Rhymer from Ryde' **Graeme Johnson** and third place to **Jim Beck**.

Also performing at the Festival were the **Eureka Band**, the **Mungandi Aboriginal Troupe**, and **Wongawilli**.

Ted Egan held a lunchtime crowd enthralled as he accompanied himself on his trusty 'Fosterphone'.

The big Saturday night Concert rocked along under the big Marquee with the **Bushwackers**, **Colin Buchanan** and **Beccy Cole** teaming up with **Greg Champion**.

—oo—oo—

Corryong — 14 - 22 Oct.1995

The Man from Snowy River Centenary Celebrations were held over nine days during perfectly lovely weather until rain set in on the final weekend hindering some of the outdoor events, as well as bringing about the cancellation of the Rodeo and the Picnic Races.

The Man From Snowy River competition was challenged by over fifty of the countries most

talented horsemen. Some of whom were previously employed as stuntmen in the now famous movie.

Nineteen Poets gathered at Corryong for the celebrations only to find a lack of liaison between the organisers and the venues leaving a lot of responsibility fall on the shoulders of visiting hard working poets. Poets travelling the greatest distance were Carmel Randle and John Philipson with a lot of new voices coming from the southern state.

Ed Scott of Maldon won the amateur poetry section followed by David Walker from Forbes.

The Tall Tales contest sponsored by the Corryong Hotel was won by Frank Daniel who also claimed the trophy for the 'Man from Snowy River' Ballad recital as well, with Campbell Irving runner-up.

Second best tale-teller was Tom Grant of Cowra NSW; thus making the Catholics the two best liars in the camp.

Jan Lewis of FM Radio, 3RUM (Radio with spirit) was the best new voice from the ladies.

Noel Cutler of Milawa gave a number of exciting whip-cracking demonstrations and ran a whip-cracking workshop for the many interested onlookers.

'The Man from Ironbark' show performed daily by Geoffery Graham was again a magnificent success receiving great applause and further encores resulting in two

extra performances being held during the celebrations. **Trish** and **Burt DeLeuca** are still assisting with the organisation and promotion this show, which is due to cover a large section of Victoria in the following weeks.

Trish and Burt will surely go to Heaven for their fine efforts in helping (and putting up with) Geoffery.

+++++

Bush Poets Concert Canowindra.

Accolades have been pouring in for the six Bush Poets who took Canowindra in the Central West of NSW by storm on Saturday 14th. October.

The Auditorium of the local RSL Club was packed by more than three hundred poetry fanatics, sceptics, husbands who were dragged along, and many who just came out of curiosity

People came from as far as West Wyalong, Bathurst, Canberra, Parkes, Manildra and Orange following the big lead up to the night which was promoted widely via a number of district newspapers and the five surrounding district's radio stations.

'Blue the Shearer' hosted the evening which was also promoted as a book launch for 'Bush Yarns and Poetry' by local Story Teller and Poet, Frank 'Joe' Daniel. The new book has hit the local market with a resounding boom and sales have more than

doubled all expectations in the first few weeks.

Marion Fitzgerald travelled down from Moree to join the crew and was quite a favourite with the appreciative audience as she led them a merry chase in her 'Teddy' at the 'Croppa Creek B and S Ball', then brought the house down with her antics as she portrayed the cat who fertilized a thousand acres; followed up by a side-splitting recitation about her her 'Tittless Cow'. A laugh a minute from Marion who was in top form.

Carmel Randle acquitted herself well with verse from the late **Charlee Marshall** and **W.T. Goodge** well as her own wide range of talented observations such as her 'Woman of the West'.

John Philipson as usual, was on top of the world and could not be faulted in his performance covering the works of 'Blue the Shearer', **Charlee Marshall** and **Bruce Simpson** to mention a few, and topped it all off with a little 'Hissin' in the Pit'.

Milton Taylor will never be forgotten for his performance of the great **Neil McArthur** poem 'Mulligan's Missus.'

Some of the local males however were not overly impressed as the idea of a thrashing stick, as used by Mulligans Missus, gave a few wives a bit of an idea.

Milton is a terrific crowd pleaser

and will long be remembered in Canowindra.

Ironically enough, this town already has a local drinker named Mulligan and a missus who could near fit the McArthur description.

Ya can't pick 'em, Milton!

*****0000*****

Old fashioned hospitality.

Joe Daniel had a letter from **Jim Wellsmore** of Port Douglas Nth. Queensland the other day.

Jim and his wife flew their Cessna 156 out to Winton for the Centenary Celebrations in April this year and camped at the airport for the duration.

They are still talking about the great event and the great people that they met. 'It was just as though Australia was celebrating a birthday' wrote **Jim**. So many country folk to remind us that Australia is alive and well.'

In a post-script to his letter, **Jim** reported that they landed at a small town for fuel and rang the local bloke for service. His reply was that he couldn't take a credit card as he did not have the facilities to do so.

'Could you leave a cheque?' he asked of **Jim**.

'Yes!' was **Jim's** reply.

'Well then, there's a key in the power box — you can help yourself and leave the cheque.'

'Is that old fashioned hospitality or what?' asks **Jim**.

—— 0000 ——

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am 85 years old and not likely to worry you again, but as you are about to adopt a constitution, I feel Gary Harding and Kevin Rowley have a pertinent point. Please do not classify us into one little corner of the sky.

Victorian so-called modern poets would be delighted! They have infiltrated our education system and told our students straight out- 'No Bush Poetry-- No Rhyme!! Those gifted with the ability to hear the music and the rhyme of life will never develop their art. We are not only the 'arse end' of the continent, we are the 'arse end' of all heritage art down here.

Gary was a bit over the top about free verse, there is room for those who hear the rhyme and music and those who see the pictures woven by the words.

Most traditional writers can write free verse. I do not write it well but I have enclosed a sample; you can print it, burn it, or whatever.....

HARRY BOWERS. WARRAGUL VIC.

TO PAGE 11

THE ERNIE SETTERFIELD POETRY COMP. 1995, results.

serious.

- 1st. 'January Fires' Greg Young. MT COOLUM, Q
- 2nd. 'You can Bank On It!' Glenny Palmer.
CEDARVALE QLD.

ROMANTIC.

- 1st. 'Start of a Drover's Day' V.P. Read,
BICTON W.A.
- 2nd, 'A Secret Place' Jessica Booth.
BUDERIM. QLD

HUMOROUS.

- 1st. 'Rob's Reluctant Rooster' Glenny Palmer.
CEDARVALE QLD.
- 2nd. 'To The Bastard Who Said Motherhood Was Fun'
Karen Shute. GYMPIE QLD.

JUNIOR.

- 1st. 'Whales' Monica Sayer. 10yr KULUIN.

SPECIAL AWARD.

'Thankyou, Henry'
Milton Taylor. PORTLAND N.S.W.

COMPETITIONS

The following competitions were announced in the November issue of QWC newsletter. Here are some highlights. Note: ssae is short for stamped self-addressed envelope.

Making Friends: fundraising competition wanting short stories or poetry which emphasise relationships. Details from: Johanna Ridge (08)2522582. Entry forms available with ssae from:

PO Box 422, Elizabeth, SA 5112. Deadline January 31, 1996.

National Open Poetry Competition: open to everyone and details (including closing date) tel:(074)490415 or Road to Reality, PO Box 742, Tewantin Q 4565.

Tim Collins Poetry Prize for unpublished poems up to 60 lines invited. First prize is \$500. More information send a ssae to: 15 Birch Street, Attadale, WA 6156. Deadline is December 31st.

Republic Prize deadline December 31st. Prize of \$10,000 to writer of fiction, poetry, biography, memoir or history published in 1995 which expresses the aims of the Republic. Enquiries to: GPO Box 5150, Sydney NSW 2001. This award initiated by Tom Keneally.

The Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival Literary Competition for 1996 is receiving entries now. Fours sections: short story (adult), short story (by children under 13), poetry and bush verse, are offered. Closing date for entries is 31 January 1996. For details and entry forms and conditions tel:(054)468240 after hours.

Bards encourage to enter national poetry competition

Many regard poetry as the expression of the soul, others, as the voice of experience. Whatever the inspiration, the writing of poetry is alive and thriving throughout our community.

Sadly, though, most of our gifted and budding poets hide their talents behind the closed doors of their offices, bedrooms and classrooms, bringing their treasured works out to only a select few.

With this depth of hidden talent firmly in its sights, Road to Reality has organised its first National Open Poetry Competition and is searching the country for the

bards of tomorrow.

Open to all of all degrees the competition edges the variety of age differences, regionalism and Although the financial incentives for the finalists, to create a collection of Australian verse in the and exciting b

Inquiries by phoning the (074) 49 0415 or to: Road to Reality, PO Box 742, Tewantin

RUPBS PUB



**NOBBY,
QLD. 4360**

"Home of Dad & Dave"

Sat. 23rd Dec. — Top entertainer — Mike Collis

Sun. 24th Dec. Gary Fogarty & Co. 12-2.30 p.m.

Bush Poet luncheon — Rib fillet buffet \$9.00

Karaoke — Mr Gold Coast 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

NEW YEARS EVE

Ridgy Didge Bush Band — 8 p.m. till late

Nobby Heritage Stores

Choose a Christmas Gift that's special this year from the large range of local arts, crafts & collectables

**Phone 96 3211
Fax 96 3105**



ged al tition

oday and to-

ages and people
s of experience,
tion acknowl-
rious categories
rential, profes-
subject matter.
ere will be a fi-
tive awarded to
t is intended to
ction of Austr-
ne form of a new
book.

an be made by
rganisers on
5 or by writing
Reality, PO Box
Qld 4565.

BOB MILLER

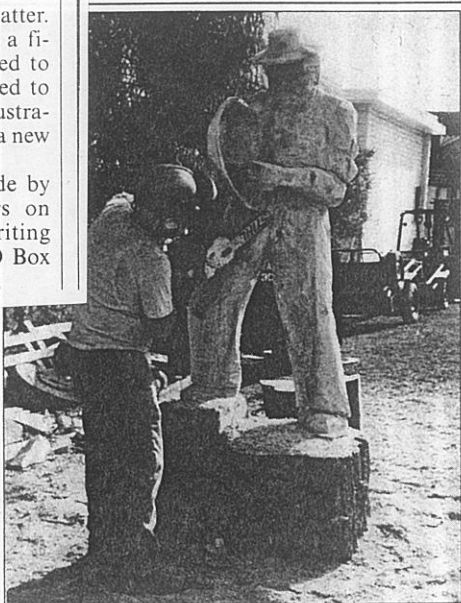
'The Larrikin'

Australian Bush Poet & Entertainer

2 Pilerwa Road
Mungar Qld 4650



071-296 422
018-798 896



HAVE CHAINSAW-WILL TRAVEL!!

Available for shows, festivals & field days.

*See raw logs transformed before your
eyes, into valuable artefacts, specialising
in Australiana & wildlife.*

*Great "Gee Whiz" attraction showing
the amazing versatility of the chainsaw!!*

KEVIN GILDERS:

4 Erawan Avenue, North Clayton, VIC. 3168.

Ph: (03) 9561 4604

• Whisky fruit cake

Last week, we put a request out for a GREAT, not mediocre, but GREAT fruit cake recipe.

And we got a beautie from one of our older readers. Here it is word for word!

First you'll need a cup of butter, a cup of sugar, four large eggs, a cup of dried fruit, a teaspoon of baking powder, a teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts and a bottle of whisky.

Sample the whisky to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Sample the whisky again to be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one spoon-
tea of sugar and beat again. Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another cup. Turn off mixer. Break two legs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drawscraper. Sample the whisky again to check for tonsistency. Next sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one babblespoon of brown sugar or whatever colour you can find. Wix mel. Grase the oven. Turn the cake pan to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out the window, check the whisky again and bo to ged.

DEMONSTRATIONS/EXHIBITIONS

EULOGY TO CHARLEE MARSHALL

By Harry Bowers

Charlee has burst the bonds of classification.
He was a wandering minstrel
who wrote the words and sang the songs,
he saw the green fields and the parched earth
and the wild flowers of the desert after rain.
He was a traveller of the highways and the byways
but seldom lingered in the lonely places;
for he loved the sounds of laughter
and the company of mates - and he had many.
He was the teacher and the pupil,
the writer and the reader,
the player and the commentator.
He lived everywhere all over
but we loved him best in Suburbia.

We have heard the hum of his lawn mower
on Sunday mornings.
We have stopped at his gate after Mass
and smelt the roses.
Down the back we have glimpsed the pinking
of tomatoes ripening on the vine.
He has come up the path to say G' Day
and told us of his travels.
We have walked away laughing, feeling good
and a little prouder of our heritage.
Let him be as he was - is, and will remain
unshackled by classifications.
Just give him an adjective worthy of the noun
for his work was worthy of the adjective.
Australian poet "Charlee Marshall"
A dear friend of ours - I never met him.

**BUSH
POETRY
COMPETITION**

**OASIS
HOTEL
TAMWORTH
JANUARY 1996**

8

THE BUNDY MOB 1995 POETRY AWARDS. SEPTEMBER 1995. RESULTS.

Winner; Ellis Campbell. DUBBO. 'An Old Man Sitting in The Sun.'

Highly Commended; Burt Everett. 'The House'

Shirley Heale. 'City Doc Goes Bush'

The Bundy Mob would like to thank all poets for the very high standard of entries, mostly unknown poets. And in honour of Charlee Marshall the Annual Written Competition will now be 'The Charlee Marshall Memorial Trophy, conducted by the Bundy Mob.

The Bundy Mob's next written competition will coincide with the Bundy Mob's Poetry Muster on 7th, 8th and 9th MARCH 1996. Entry forms are available from the co-ordinator, P.O. Box 2495 BUNDABERG QLD 4670.

Entries will close 2nd FEBRUARY 1996. (please send SSAE.)

THE MOUNT ISA WRITERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL COMP. 1995 RESULTS.

1st. Peter Hanbury. ALSTONVILLE. NSW. 'Dairy Farm Blues.'

H.C. Gary Harding. CAIRNS. QLD. 'Letter From an Australian Dad.'

H.C. Ron Stevens. DUBBO. NSW. 'Bloody- Minded.'

LOCAL. (N/W QLD)

1st Veronica Weal. MT ISA. 'A Waltz Without Matilda.'

C. John McCarthy. MY ISA. 'The Miner's Song.'

There were 75 entries in all, and the judge was impressed with the high standard of writing. Mount Isa Writers' Association Inc. would like to thank all who entered the competition.

POETRY COMPETITION

\$32,000
prize money
to be won

The International Society of Poets

Dept. 9511

PO Box 7513

Gold Coast Mail Centre

Bundall, QLD 4217

World's Largest Poetry
Organization

*** THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER. CORRYONG. OCTOBER 14 - 22. ***

It has been a big year for 'Banjo Paterson' nostalgia. first the Waltzing Matilda Centenary at Winton in Queensland, and more recently it was Victoria's turn with 'The Man From Snowy River Centenary' The media coverage was astronomical close to the centenary though sometimes a little controzersial with the pendants debating the 'person' from Snowy River. It's always difficult with first time festivals but all turned out well in the end, except for the weather which turned bad on the last w/end.

Corryong is such a delightful setting for a festival and the locals got behind it with quite a push. The Bush Poets were there of course, not in great numbers but with quality.

The Northern contingent comprised, Carmel Randle, John Philipson, Mark Thompson, Frank Daniel & Campbell. Victoria was ably represented by Noel Cutler, Jan Lewis and Geoffrey Graham, as well as the Kyabram Push in force with Skewwiff Kelly, Mick Coventry, Tammy Muir plus Bob Healy and a few others. Each bush poet was well worked with Poets Breakfasts and lots of night-time activities, yarn spinning, amateur night etc.

Several new faces there as well... good to see.

The Yarn Spinning was won by Frank Daniel, second was Tom Grant. The reciting of The Man From Snowy River was won by Frank with Campbell 2nd.

Noel Cutler was there in a duel role of poetry and whipcracking. This bloke simply gets better and better at this amazing craft. Geoffrey Graham's one man show, 'The Man From Ironbark' continued to lay them in the aisles. Geoffrey did 8 shows at Corryong, then two extra ones for the people who were turned away. Geoffrey was also roped into reciting 'The Man From Snowy River' at the opening of the Centenary and also at the re-enactment of the event.

The central possie Bush Poets was 'The Poets Corner' which was great, when the weather was good. Perhaps a suitable 'Wet Weather' alternative may be a good idea for the future???

Overall, a great festival, only saddened by the death of Graham Middleton one of the organisers. Graham was the man who swam the Murray River, a few years ago, and a terrific bloke to boot!!

Geoffrey Graham
as A.B. 'Banjo' Paterson in

THE MAN FROM IRONBARK

Blackened Billy Verse Competition.

Poets who wish to enter a written competition, are reminded of the prestigious **Blackened Billy Verse Competition**, conducted by the **Tamworth Poetry Reading Group**. This competition accepts written works not previously published. First prize is \$100 plus the unique "Blackened Billy", a ceramic creation by the well known artist, **Fred Hillier**.

An entry fee of \$3 for each poem must be included with the official entry form, which may be obtained from

**Maureen Quickenden,
The**

**Blackened Billy Competition,
P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340.**

Please send a stamped self addressed envelope for your entry form.

Tamworth '96.

Good news for Bush Poets. **North Power**, the new electricity distributor for Northern N.S.W., has become the major sponsor to the **Tamworth Poetry Reading Group's** popular **Bush Poetry Competition** held at the **Imperial Hotel**, Tamworth during the **Tamworth Country Music Festival** in January 1996.

North Power's generosity in supporting bush culture makes it possible to give a cash prizes to all

finalists and additional prizes to the six placegetters in the sections of the competition.

Also the Imperial Hotel will continue to present the much sought after trophy and medallions thus making a distribution of some \$2000 in money and trophies.

The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition is recognised as the top contest of its kind in Australia, attracting contestants from all over the country. Yet you don't have to be a 'top gun' to enter. In fact, most of the top performers of bush poetry started out as beginners in this competition.

In 1996, there will be a **'Beginner's Corner'** for anyone who feels he or she is not ready to face the judges.

The competition will be held over four days from the **24th to 27th of January 1996**, with heats on the Wednesday to Friday and finals on the Saturday.

There are two sections: **Original and Traditional**, and three people are chosen from each section to participate in the Finals.

There is no entry fee. Entry forms are available from

Jan Morris

**Tamworth Bush Poetry
Competition,**

P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

This year wraps up an exhausting, amazing and hectic year for me. The IRONBARK show was put to-gether specifically for the Waltzing Matilda Centenary. From those humble beginnings it simply took off. People demanded I take the show on the tour and it was as early as July that it was back on the road heading to Northern N.S.W. and Queensland.

Bert and Trish Deluca have been with me nearly every show doing a terrific job with lighting and support in a million ways and it has been a mighty learning experience for us all. Thinking on your feet and improvising is the name of the game.

Winton and Corryong were fitting places in which to perform due to the relevance of 'Banjo.s' work in both places. The response here was truly incredible. This is what makes it easier to continue to do the performances, knowing so many Australians do think highly of the 'Banjo'.

After Corryong we did a short Victorian tour. This included a show at Kyabram, organised by the staunch bush poets there. Many thanks for the great hospitality of Mick and Graham, Betty, Tammy and their fellow larricans.

It has been an important milestone for me, performing a one man show. The 'Banjo' has been at the back of my mind for some time, Winton was the catalyst that brought the idea out of my mind and onto paper, then onto the stage. The book with the best of Banjo, the cassette and C.D. were to follow. I might add this would have been much more difficult without the support of the Bush Poets. It has been most heartening for me that so many people have been so supportive... in particular Ted Egan, Robert Raftery, Dingo, Marco, Bob, Gary, Noel, Ron, Glennie and a host of others. I thank you all.

Through all performances I relied heavily on other people to help promote the show and take lots of gambles on the way. Trish Anderson and Billy Hay were among those risktakers.

My plans for 1996 will lean heavily on 'The Man From Ironbark' with forays into Queensland again, N.S.W. and of course Victoria.

If any person has any possible venues, towns festivals or fundraising groups that may be interested in 'The Man From Ironbark' show I would be most grateful to hear from you. Over the next few weeks we'll be working out an itinerary, while taking a breather at home. Actually I'm grounded anyway! as an addition to the Graham household is expected any day!!!

Keep Smiling.

Geoffrey Graham.

P.S. I have been away so long, Rose reckons she can deliver this baby on her own!

BREAKFAST IN CORRYONG.

*For the last three days of the Corryong Celebrations it rained!
The Poets' Breakfast on Sunday morning was held under appalling conditions, ankle deep in mud, but was enthusiastically supported nevertheless by hardy folk in Drizabones, Akubras, and boots!*

As is the custom, the M.C., Frank Daniel, called "Does any one else have a poem they'd like to say?"

"Oh, Yeah!".....from Drizabone/Akubra/Boot-clad Jeff Swain of Ardross, West Australia! "Just a little one I scribbled while floating around in my tent last night!"

"Great! Let's hear it!"

So he drew his well-over-six foot not-too-lean frame to its full size, and said..

Here we are in Corryong, home of That Famous Ride,
Where the Man from Snowy River rode down that mountain side.
We're here to commemorate one hundred years of Banjo's Book,
So, seeing I was across this side, I thought I'd take a look.

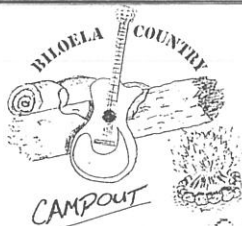
I hail from West Australia where the hills are ---sort of, FLAT!
But when it comes to riding horses --- well, I'm just too bloody FAT!
'Sides, too long in the saddle and me haemorrhoids give me curry,
And the horse that's got ME on his back would be working too hard
to hurry!

And as for chasing brumbies where the wild hop scrub grows dense,
It plays havoc on me hay fever -- so I just sit here on the fence.
So I'll wander around Corryong getting cold and getting wet,
And the rain --- she keeps on falling, and she surely ain't stopped yet!

And the water's getting higher, and I'll take a bath in blood
There's never been such rain before, not since Noah and his flood.
And the Man from Snowy River here in Nineteen Ninety-five
Better brush up on his swimming if he wants to stay alive!

And if he wants to go the distance and have his praises sung,
He'd better fit his horse out with a bloody Aqualung!

© Jeff Swain, 2 Strickland Rd.,
ARDROSS WA 6153



BILOELA
COUNTRY CAMPOUT

7 - 9 JUNE 1996 Biloeila
Showgrounds



Valley FM

2 PARK STREET
BILOEILA QLD 4715
Tel: (079) 924499
Fax: (079) 924335

For the second time I had the pleasure of organising the International Hour at the Mapleton Yarn Festival. Well! What a surprise that turned out to be for those who turned up at the Pizza-hut Marquee on Saturday night.

An Englishman, named Tim, and a Tahitian, named Alfredo, both playing the guitar upside down and back to front! In other words, they were playing a normal right handed guitar with the left hand with the strings, of course upside down. I had the privilege to bring them together and they played at my place with Tim using one of my guitar's. So I took them to the Mapleton Yarn Festival and the International Hour- and it is truly International! There they played and I had the pleasure of joining them on stage. Mark Gillett joined us with his Piccolo in some International Folksongs. This get-together will not happen again as Tim is on his return trip to England via Australia and Alfredo is staying here.

We also had the Filipino Australian Sunshine Coast Association represented by their wonderful dancers.

On the Sunday this artistic bunch of people were joined by even more talented people and the Bellydancers were a delight to watch with some young critics (6 years) making their views known, loud and clear. The Jenica School of Bellydancing is the best exercise class that any-one can have and I renewed my determination to go every week to enjoy this sensuous exercise.

The Mapleton Yarn Festival was a Hurrican or Cyclone of talent and so much fun, I had aching jaws and limbs from laughing at the Poems and Tall Storys told by some of the best Yarnspinners in the country.

The Humbarimbas from Crystal Waters were a musical delight and fun to watch and to dance to. The Poetry Competition was again of a very high standard. Congratulations to the winners.

Mapleton and the surrounding area were all very delighted that the Yarn Festival brought them rain again this year. For the Festival it was not so good, as people are generally hard to get out of their loungerooms and away from the television. But with the rain the crowds were dissappointing. For those who made the effort to come it was worth every cent of the \$5.00 entry. We enjoyed non-stop entertainment in two big tents and food and the Lillypond, You can't beat it! So perhaps next year we will see some more folks there, even if it rains again.

Sharp shooters snare six gold medals

By VINNIE TODD

TAMWORTH — Aptly-named Tiny Hall can hardly see over the dash of her four-wheel drive, but she can sure shoot an arrow.

The veteran sharp shooter, who contests the 60 plus age division, arrived home from the Melbourne Australian Masters this week with an impressive three gold medals.

Tiny gained her gold in the field, indoor and target events.

But that wasn't all the petite archer gained. She also collected gold in the World Postal Mail Match which is a competition run through the local Tamworth Archery Club and controlled by a central point in Sweden.

"Scores are sent to Sweden at the end of each month, and I won the gold in the ladies vets," Tiny said.

Tiny was presented with her ~~three~~ medals in Dubbo while she was contesting the Talbragar Masters down there last week.

Clubmate Bob Maunder, who also travelled down for the competition, and excelled with three gold medals, took Tiny's medals with him.

At Dubbo, Maunder won gold in the men's freestyle unlimited, indoor (and overall top score) and field, and set possibly a new record in his age division. His wife Margaret won silver in the ladies bare bow and Tiny won silver



On target in Melbourne — triple gold medal-winning archers Bob Maunder and Tiny Hall.

in her three events.

All had to endure the "very windy, cold and blustery conditions."

But while Tiny was in Melbourne, she didn't restrict her stay to the Masters.

"I also visited the Bacchus Marsh Club (where she gained a runner-up), the Lilydale Archery Club and

competed in a shoot at the Sherbrooke Archery Club." But in contrast to many clubs throughout Tiny's travels, the Victorians are "something different."

"They all get behind their competitions and all patronise each other's," she said.

Maunder is currently training for the Liverpool

Black Snake Challenge next weekend where he will contest the 24 unmarked and 24 marked targets over two days of competition.

And Tiny, who arrived home in time for today's Police Citizens' Youth Club band recital at Cross Park, is having a rest until the Manning Christmas Shoot at Taree in December.

EXCITING ADVANCE INFORMATION!
about the
WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS
Winton, 26-28th April, 1996.

Put these dates in your 1996 Calendar NOW!

In conjunction with the well-known "Bronze Swagman Award" for written Bush Poetry -- which is being brought forward to April next year -- the Winton Tourist Promotion Association has organised the exciting new **WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS**.

These will be held in the following Categories...

1. Open Male Performer....Professional or Open Amateur.
2. Open Female Performer.... Professional or Open Amateur.
3. Novice Male Performer ☐ Not previously Won or been Placed in a Competition for
4. Novice Female Performer ☐ Performed Poetry.
5. Junior Male or Female enrolled at a Secondary School.
6. Junior Male or Female enrolled at a Primary School.

Prizes being offered include.....

A **Daphne Mayo Bronze Swagman** to the Winner of each Category.

Return Air Travel to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada USA and \$500 Accommodation Allowance for the Winners of BOTH CATEGORIES 1 and 2.

A **Travel Allowance** for the Winners of Categories 3 and 4 to attend the next **A.B.P.A. Championships**.

A **Cash Prize to the School** nominating the Winners of Categories 5 and 6.

As, naturally, a Representative of an Australian Festival at an Overseas Venue would need to display a varied repertoire, this Competition specifies the following....

For Categories 1, 2, 3, & 4....

HEATS.... Perform a Poem from a **BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOK OF VERSE**.

SEMI-FINALS.... Perform a Poem by **A.B.PATERSON**

FINALS....OWN CHOICE of material

Competitors in Categories 1 & 2 may NOT read their Poems.

Competitors in Categories 3 & 4 MAY read their Poems, but naturally this will disadvantage them slightly in the Adjudication process.

For Categories 5 & 6....

HEATS.... Perform a Poem from a **BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOK OF VERSE**.

FINALS....Perform a Poem by any **TRADITIONAL** or **ESTABLISHED** Australian Bush Poet.

Competitors in Categories 5 & 6 MAY read their Poems, but naturally this will disadvantage them slightly in the Adjudication process.

BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOKS OF VERSE have been published each Year since 1972 by the Winton Tourist Promotion Association. They are available from that Association at PO Box 44, WINTON 4735. Specify what year you want...or ask for a random selection! The usual cost is \$9.50 per book. The special offer is for 10 at \$7 each.

Updates on this exciting Event will appear regularly in the A.B.P.A. Magazine, but if you want your name and address on the Mailing List for Updates and Entry Forms, send a S.S.A.E to...

Waltzing Matilda Poetry Awards,
PO Box 7714,

TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE Q 4352

P.S. Closing Date for Bronze Swagman WRITE IN AWARDS is **29 th February, 1996**.