

The Australian



Bush Poets



Association

No 12 DECEMBER 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.....058 582 036

Bush Poetry Competition

OASIS
HOTEL
TAMWORTH
Country Music Week
JANUARY 1996

The
Tamworth
Bush Poetry
Competition
Imperial Hotel
24-27 January
1996

The Man from Ironbark

('Banjo's greatest hits)

The Book...\$15 Cassette...\$15 CD...\$20 Includes postage.

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Geoffrey Graham

P.O. BEALIBA VIC 3475

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Executive Committee of the Australian Bush Poets Association would like to extend to all members, subscribers, readers and Poets the very best of wishes for the festive season and wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

Keep up the good work everyone; 1996 is already showing promise as a bigger and better year.

YUIN FOLK FESTIVAL COBARGO N.S.W.

Poetry - Dance - Music
Workshops - Concerts
23 -25 February 1996.
Ph. 064 927 258

'Best of the Bush'

Breakfasts

Longyard Hotel
TAMWORTH

20 - 28 th. January 1996

—STATE of ORIGIN—

—POETS BRAWL—

Another successful year has flown by!

Our Association is to be congratulated for the success this year has brought!

The mark on the minds of all who have experienced for the first time a performance of 'Bush Poetry', and these were numerous, for the requests for poets came from everywhere and stretched our very limited resources of poets to the maximum.

The 'Art World' has woken up to the entertainment value of 'Bush Poets' With requests coming from organisations who never before had poetry on their agenda.

Reporters have had a ball with the interviews and photo's in the media, Launching of books, sales of books and tapes. We have been expected and given the well deserved attention due to our art. A great many individual poets have had the door of success opened for them through the information of A.B.P.A.

I realised the need for an association three years ago, to further the 'Bush' poetry and performers, however I never foresaw the mushroom of success that would follow. Even to where most of those who gave me some stiff opposition have joined and benefited under our umbrella. My primary objectives where, to gain equal status with the other arts, present equal opportunity to all poets and performers, refine the judging of contests to people who had bush knowledge and customs and verse criteria for our Rhyming Bush Poetry, then to hold a truly represented Australian Bush Poetry Championship contest.

Within two short years our membership covers ALL states of Australia, (also England and America!) and we are truly an Australian Association recognised throughout the 'Arts' world.

We can greatly expand on this, for within every family circle there is a poet wanting an opportunity to test their work.

Being nominated for Queenslander of the Year gave me great pride in our association for without Bush Poetry being a part of the Waltzing Matilda Celebrations, and the holding of the Australian Championship, I wouldn't of had the opportunity to travel throughout our fair land publicising the oncoming event. I share this honour with all!

I have had preliminary discussions with marketing distributors for the sale of our books and tapes, regular poems and articles in magazines and news papers with australia wide distribution.

We are eligible for a Government Grant application to update and to computerise our publications and magazine to lighten the load on our 'quiet achiever' Ron Selby.

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My intentions, if elected to another term, are;
To negotiate cheaper publishing deals for all authors.
To negotiate a substantial government grant.
The marketing of members books and tapes.
Expand Bush Poetry venues.
Seek sponsorship backing for individual poets.
Cuts on fuel and flights for users.
To hold the next Australian Championship with substantial sponsorship.
To seek sponsors to fund a team of poets to contest the American
Cowboy Poets Meet in Elko, Nevada, U.S.A. in 1997.

Those of you who will not be at Tamworth in January for the Election
and wish me to accept another term as President please send Ron Selby
confirmation of your wishes before the 19th January 1996!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

May Happiness be your companion in 96.

Thanking you kindly.

Merve (Blue) BOSTOCK.

***** A LETTER FROM BERYL, TO ALL POETS. *****

Just a few lines to let everyone know I am finally in my unit after
being thoroughly spoilt by my wonderful daughter and her husband for a
month at their home. Indeed I don't know how I would have coped but
for my marvellous family. Now the worst is over I am beginning to pick
up the peices. Nothing will ever be the same again without Charlee,
my beloved partner, but I am getting my life under control.

Now for some lovely news. If you are going to MALENY- WOODFORD FES-
TIVAL for NEW YEARS EVE, I will see you there! The Festival Committee
is making me their special guest and flying me down.

Charlee's books and tape are still available, although there is only
one 'I COULDN'T BOWL FOR LAUGHIN' and only a handful of 'BOWLIN' LAUGHIN'
AND DREAMIN' . Cost, posted. of these books are \$11.00 each.
'ONE LAST SHOT' and Charlee's tape 'AFTER ALL' are \$13.00 each, posted.
Address all orders to; Mrs B Marshall. 4/117 Walsh st MAREEBA Q 4880.

Regards. *Beryl Marshall*
Beryl Marshall

***** HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL... GRENFELL N.S.W. *****

The festival will be held on the JUNE long week-end 1966. The organizer
of the event would like to hear from any poets interested in a 'Bush
Poets' afternoon tea performance. Contact; Mrs MARTY BUCKNELL on
(063) 43 7156. or JUNE LAL on (02) 625 8577.....

Coming events for 1996.

The ABPA Newsletter is attempting to draw up a list of festivals, shows, concerts and venues for the new year.

Some of the coming Bush Poetry festivals and so on for 1996 are listed on this page, mainly through our own efforts.

If **your** festival or concert or competition is not on this list, we at the **ABPA** would like to hear from you with details.

DO NOT LEAVE IT TO THE LAST MINUTE.

Poets, competitors and audiences alike, would like to know well in advance of your coming event..

Where possible give at least four months notice, if you can't already advise now, for our compilation of dates and venues which will be published shortly in the newsletters.

The more you tell us the more we can tell others.

We also ask organisers of these events to encourage more members to join the ranks of the ABPA. So, please give us a plug at your next outing.

Copies of membership forms are available from the Secretary.

Some of the events coming up early in the new year are listed as follows;

Woodford-Maleny 27th Dec-1st Jan....Poetry, yarnspinning music etc, **074 760600**

Nariel Creek Vic.New Years Eve Festival. 060 771 241

Tamworth Country Music Festival. January 20-28th.1996

The Tamworth Poetry Competition. Imperial Hotel. 24 - 27 January 1996

The Oasis Hotel Poetry Competition Tamworth 24 -27 January 1996.

Lakes Entrance Vic. 26th January 051 553 055

Bungendore NSW February
Charlton Vic. Folk Festival. Feb.
Cobargo Folk Festival. 23 - 25 February 1996. Ph.

Illawarra Folk Festival
Jamberoo 15 - 17 March 1996

Info P.O. Box 498 Corrimal 2518
Harden - Murrumburrah 29th Feb- 3rd March 1996 063 86 3713

Port Fairy (Vic) Folk Festival
March 8th-11th. 1996

P.O. Box 36 Port Fairy 3284

Bundaberg Q March.

Canowindra March 1996

National Folk Festival Canberra
Easter 1996.

Waltzing Matilda Festival. Bush
Poetry Awards.26-28th April.96
Winton Qld.

Longreach National Outback
Performing Arts. (N.O.P.A.)
30th Apr - 2nd. May 96.

Fireside Festival. June.96.

Surat Q. Aug 96

Gympie Muster. Aug 96

Toowoomba. September.

Allora Q. September

Nobby Q. September

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Glen Innes October
Mapleton Yarn Festival October
Corryong Vic October
Jondaryan. November

.....

The Longyard 1995. The Longyard Hotel will again host the 'Best of the Bush' Breakfasts from Saturday 20th January at 8am.

Hosted by **Jim Haynes**, and Produced by **June Mary Smythe**, these concerts will feature some of Australia's leading Bush Poets as guests of the Longyard.

Breakfasts will be held on the first Saturday and Sunday mornings of the Country Music Festival, and again on the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Longyard will also stage a **Bush Poetry State of Origin** between **Queensland** and **New South Wales**. Queensland will be led by their Captain, **Bobby Miller** (the defector from the south) with **Mark Gliori, John Major, Gary Fogarty** and **Shirley Friend** (former English player).

The Mexicans will consist of **John Philipson** (Angry Anderson), **Murray Hartin, Ray Essary** and **Gary Lowe** led by **Frank Daniel**.

A **Poets Brawl** will be conducted for the first time at the Country Music Festival as well.

The State of Origin and the Brawl will be held on the Tuesday and the Wednesday mornings at 11am.

Longyard concerts will finish in time for patrons and poets to get to

the Imperial Hotel Competition and to the new competition at the Oasis Hotel.

—————o—————
Following the success of last years inaugural effort, we advise visitors to Tamworth not to miss out on the fabulous 'Poets, Preachers and Liars' at the **Heritage Theatre**. starring **Mark Gliori, Bobby Miller, Murray Hartin** and **Shirley Friend** with accomplished Australian singer-songwriter-poet **Denis "Dingo" Dryden**

You may catch their three concerts on Wednesday 24th. Friday 26th. and Saturday 27th. commencing at 7.30pm.

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#### • More upbeat

This lighthearted little poem, *Laugh It Off*, was found in the book *Backbone* given to the Observer by amateur historian Bob Dansie.

"Are you worsted in a fight? Laugh it off.

Are you cheated of your right? Laugh it off.

Don't make tragedy of trifles,

Don't shoot butterflies with rifles — Laugh it off.

Does your work get into kinks? Laugh it off.

Are you near all sorts of brinks? Laugh it off.

If it's sanity you're after,  
There's no recipe like laughter — Laugh it off."

\*\*\* BOOK REVIEW: 'THE BUILDER & OTHER RATBAGS' by Greg Young.

There is little doubt that 'Bush' poetry is gaining popularity at an almost exponential rate. This may seem just a trifle peculiar as no two people (bush poets included) are able to reach any sort of an agreement as to exactly what 'Bush Poetry' is.

There would, however, be a fair consensus that it is down to earth verse, generally rhymed, about largely everyday situations. Bush Poets, it has been said, can see humour (and thus a poem) in situations most wouldn't even think about.

One Sunshine Coast poet would appear to be riding the very crest of the wave. For Greg Young of Coolumb, 1995 is his year of success.

Two of his poems were short-listed in this year's national Henry Lawson Poetry Awards, and one, 'The Builder', was declared the winner. As if to highlight that his talents extend equally to both serious and comic verse, the other poem (on the January Bushfire of 94) then took out the Serious section at this year's Mapleton Yarn Festival.

Greg is a long-standing member of the Mapleton Poets and his rather dry sense of humour has enlivened many a poet's breakfast at Mapleton and Maleny Festivals.

Being short-listed in the Lawson Awards at Gulgong wasn't exactly a new experience for Greg. Last year, his poem 'Grannie's Shopping List' also made the top ten where it was described by one of the judges, a professor Warwick Franks, as 'a rather cynical poem from Queensland about the judges of poetry competitions.... much in the vein of Charlee Marshall.' There've been 'Highly Commendeds' here and there but Greg is a bit reticent about listing them; instead his energy has gone to a long overdue project... publishing his first book of verse.

'The Builder & Other Ratbags' will undoubtedly continue his winning run. In it Greg has a go at just about everyone in our society. "If you can't relate to the characters in this book," he says, "You've never been outside your front door".

Many would feel hard-pressed to find the humour in a visit to the dentist... or even everyday greetings, yet Greg manages to. Political correctness exacts its toll on Santa Claus. Unbelievable events befall a friend, hospitalised after miraculously surviving a fall from some scaffolding. Sirens, chauvinists, feminists, dud lovers.. they're all to be found in its pages. With excellent illustrations by Chase Young, it's a great book to read... and to read from.

Never one to lower his sights, Greg approached launching his book with characteristic enthusiasm & managed to entice Mr Tom Burns the Deputy Premier to do the deed at the launch on 16th Dec. at Buderim.

Reviewed by Ian Mackay. KENILWORTH.

\*\*\* THE OLYMPIC DREAM. by Greg Young.

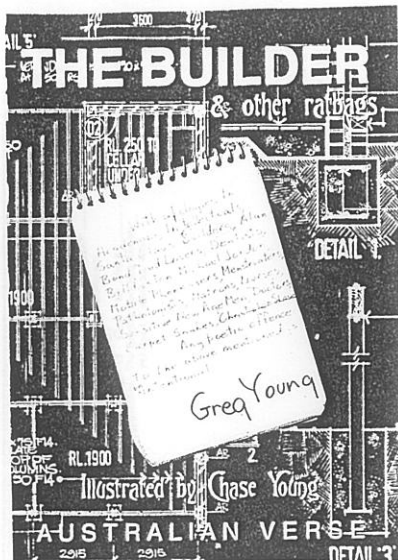
I'm awaiting the start  
with a high rating heart  
-nervous with anticipation.  
But I feel more composed  
when the starting gun goes  
and all race for pride and nation.

At first there's no takers  
-no first lap makers.  
The Olympic Ten K's looking slow,  
till Kenyans get cracking  
with tempos not lacking.  
Can they keep up the pace? We don't know.

I follow the packs  
ensuing attacks,  
attempting to close up the race,  
with some now effacing,  
from much faster racing  
-unsure that I'll handle the pace.

The pressure is on  
-eight K has now gone,  
and some of the field has been lapped.  
As the front running few  
individually pursue  
the medals- my energy is sapped.

In those final metres  
the leaders defeat us,  
as the strain has annihilated me.  
Though I'll do it again  
at Atlanta's Games when  
once again, I'll be watching T.V.!!!



'THE BUILDER & OTHER RATBAGS'  
a book of verse by Greg Young.

available from;  
Greg Young  
55 Lumeah Drive  
MT. COOLUM QLD. 4573.

\$12.00 including postage.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL"  
from  
Greg, Pia & Chase Young.

**SUPPORT A.B.P.A. -**

**- COME to A.G.M.**

\*\*\*\* BUSH POETS AT BLACKHEATH N.S.W. \*\*\*\*

Any poets interested in forming a poets group at Blackheath, In the fabulous Blue Mountains, are invited to attend our first get-together on Friday 23rd FEBUARY 1996 at the GARDINERS INN opposite the Railway Station, Blackheath, at 7.30pm. For more information contact;

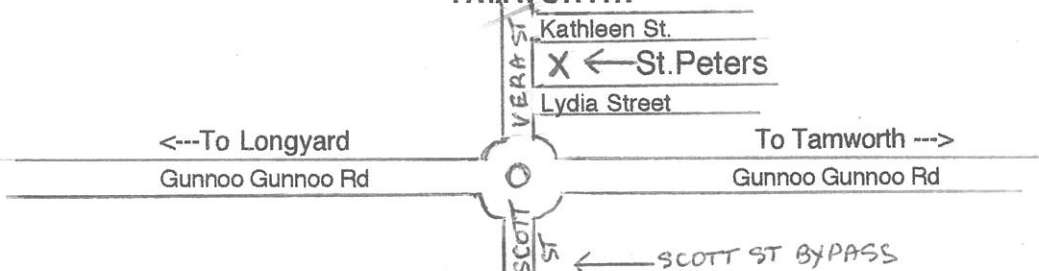
JUNE LAL - (02) 625 8577.

All Welcome!

Notice is hereby given of the  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the  
**AUST. BUSH POETS' ASSOCIATION**  
to be held on  
**FRIDAY, 26th January, 1996**  
**at 2 pm.**

This important Meeting will be held at...

**St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall,  
cnr. Vera & Kathleen Street,  
TAMWORTH.**



**Business:** Election of Office Bearers

Adoption of Constitution

**PLEASE BRING THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION  
COPY ENCLOSED,**

**and read the following information.**

As ABPA does not yet have an Official Constitution, its Meetings have to be run under 'Standing Orders' -- that is, the standard Rules that ensure continuity of procedure during the Meetings of an assembly.

CONTRARY TO A STATEMENT IN LAST MONTH'S MAGAZINE, there is NO provision for postal votes, or postal nominations. (The Editor apologises for this error. No Postal Nominations were received.) The enclosed Proposed Constitution -- based on the 'Model' supplied by the Justice Department -- does not allow for them either. See "7. MANAGEMENT".

Under 'Standing Orders', Members cannot nominate themselves for positions! Should a Member wish to volunteer his/her services, he/she should arrange for someone else to nominate him/her, and another Member to 'second' the nomination. Should a Member wish to nominate another Member for a position, he/she should check in advance that that person is willing to accept nomination! A Member can only nominate or 'second' one person for one position, as this indicates who he wishes to vote for!

Nominations will be taken from financial Members present on the day and voted on by those financial Members present.

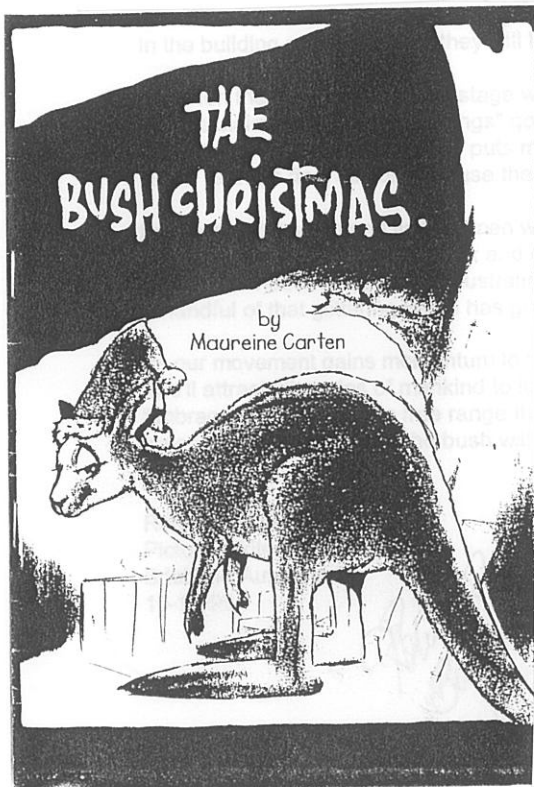
Poets who know Bill Hay will be saddened to hear that his beloved Win passed away on Saturday 16th December, following a long illness.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Bill, through this difficult time.

REMINDER:

YOUR ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP FEE  
for the  
A.B.P.A

is  
NOW DUE!



INTRODUCTION

Well it's finally here and I hope you enjoy it. I was inspired to write this poem after seeing a Christmas card that had an owl and a possum gazing up at a star and I thought to myself, I wonder what the animals are doing for Christmas and I heard one of them say they were having a party, believe it or not.

I would like to thank the bush poets who inspired and encouraged me as I had only just started reciting at Tamworth Festival 1995, and my friends who believed in me, thank you so much. Lee and Ron, thanks for adopting me and convincing me to do the "Ozone Poem" with a clear conscience, Crystal and Bussy, my little angels at the top of the Christmas Tree, and also Kelly, thanks for your willingness to share a cappuccino between breaks.

Lyn, thanks for coming to the rescue and for being my one true fan, promotions person, back-up banjo player, bus driver and friend. Also thanks Bill and James Moulton for the art, the animals and I love you and last but not least, God from whom all blessings flow.

From my heart to your's, have a great Christmas.

Maureine Carten

### "Visions"

My old plaited whip & saddle  
with boots & spurs hang on the wall.  
reminding me of younger days  
when we'd hear the muster call.

The Sun creeps over the mountain  
bringing forth another day.  
smouldering embers of the campfire  
that will slowly fade away.

Tears slide gently down my cheek  
to drip like water from a tank.  
occasionally I'll see a vision  
escaping from my memory bank.

Of phantom ponies in morning mist  
that feed & play in fields of clover.  
& on their backs spurs a flashing  
I see ghost riders of the drover.

The morning light grows stronger  
& stars are fading in the sky.  
like ghost ponies & the riders  
& me, I'm left alone to cry.

T.G. Page.  
Harrington.

### THE MURDERED SWAGMAN'S GHOST and Other Verses

Gary Harding  
239 Lake St. Cairns 4870  
Hardback Edition with Colour Plates

\$12 Postage paid

### BUSH POETRY ON CASSETTE

"*Bush Voices*", a cassette of past & present N.O.P.A. performers is now available at ABC Shops and Centres.



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
A.B.C. RADIO

### THE CHRONICLE

## Beating around the bush



with  
John Morris



## Bush projects win grants

BRISBANE: One of Australia's most famous bush poets would be honoured as part of a State Government tribute to the history of out-back Queensland, Minister for Rural Communities Terry Mackenroth said yesterday.

The Henry Lawson House and Library would be one of four new rural tourism projects funded as part of a \$535,000 package for central western Queensland.

He said \$45,000 would be allocated to Barcaldine Shire Council for establishment of the house at the Australian Heritage Workers Centre.

"The centre has been named in tribute to one of our most celebrated

bush bards and will house a unique collection of Australian short stories, poetry and other literary works," Mr Mackenroth said.

Other funding allocations included Blackall Shire Council, which would receive \$200,000 for restoration of the historical wool scour at Blackall, and \$150,000 would help complete the Qantas Founders Outback Museum at Longreach.

Winton Shire Council had been allocated \$150,000 to help build a cultural centre and museum to mark the birth place of Banjo Paterson's ballad, *Waltzing Matilda*.

Mr Mackenroth said the new projects would be funded under the Rural Living Infrastructure Program.



*The stockmen  
They will curse  
their way,  
They dash along  
And the stockmen*

*By constant  
our grub,  
And supply us  
To muster up  
And the stockmen*



# Skydoctor

Five Original Bush Poems Included

This is a book based on the adventures and experiences of a flying doctor in the 1950s.

312 pages with many black & white photos, maps, memorabilia and colour plates.

Dr Len Dawson was born in Tamworth, NSW and educated at Armidale and Sydney Boys High School before graduating in Medicine at the University of Sydney. After a posting at M.R.D. Hospital, Taree NSW he became the flying doctor for Charleville base, Queensland in early 1954, reluctantly relinquishing the position in 1957. He became a member of the R.A.N.Z.P. in 1972.

His subsequent experience has included public and private practice in general medicine, intellectual impairment and psychiatry at a number of surgeries, hospitals and clinics around suburban Sydney.

*"This is a story of the Channel Country in Queensland's Outback. It details with feeling the lives of real people in real places who bravely battled against the odds in an unforgiving but starkly beautiful land."*

*Dr Dawson tells of high adventure and changing fortunes, of excitement and the mundane, living an often thrill-a-minute lifestyle while going about his daily rounds."* - Former bush pilot and Trans Australia Airlines Captain, Jim Murtha

ISBN 0646 - 25307 - 7

RRP \$33.00 add \$4.00 pack & post if applicable

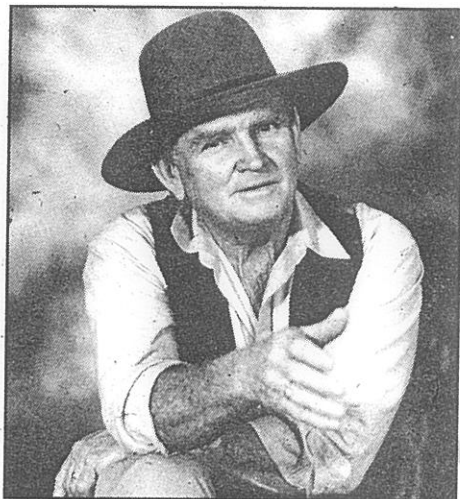
To: Len Dawson  
P O Box 113  
WINGHAM NSW 2429

Please forward ..... copies of Skydoctor for which I enclose a cheque/money order for \$ .....

Name .....  
Address .....  
Post Code .....

Australian

# Bush Poetry



**PRESENTED BY  
JOHN MAJOR**

**A COLLECTION OF  
AUSTRALIAN  
BUSH VERSE  
PRESENTED BY  
JOHN MAJOR**

RECORDED BY DAILY PLANET STUDIOS  
ROCKHAMPTON SUMMER 1995  
ENGINEERED AND PRODUCED BY  
BRAD HOOPER AND PETER DALEY

MY MANY THANKS TO THE WRITERS  
WHO SO WILLINGLY LENT THEIR  
WORKS.  
SPECIAL THANKS TO JOY FOR HER  
HELP AND PERSISTENCE.

JOHN MAJOR  
"NONDA"  
BARALABA. Q. 4702  
PH: 079 - 98 1137

**\$15.00 INCLUDING POSTAGE!**

Anon

START OF A DROVER'S DAY.

I'm sittin' here as the dawn breaks across a drought-scarred land,  
A billy boilin' in the coals, eggs spittin' in the pan,  
And I'm feelin' sore and weary of weeks spent on the track,  
Pushin' a mob of loony cattle from stations way outback.  
Jack's laughin' high above me and the magpies carol sweet,  
And there's a lazy, scaly bluetongue scuffling round my feet.  
An acrid smell of gidgee is tainting the morning air,  
And dusty breezes taunt me as they ruffle through my hair.  
The cattle moan for water and the creeks are runnin' dry,  
There's a hundred miles to market o'er land that's tinder dry.

The horses snicker softly from a stand of desert oak,  
My old pal Mac, the brumby, and the roan that's just half-broke,  
As they strain against the hobbles, chains tinkle high and clear,  
And I can hear the music that is pleasant to my ear.  
I sit back on my haunches and I draw deep on a smoke  
As Jack and his companions share an early morning joke.  
The sun is just appearing o'er the ranges' jagged head,  
Its fiery face is burning and it stains the ridges red.  
There's a hellish day before me drivin' cattle to the bore,  
But these precious morning minutes prepare me for the chore.

I sip the scalding coffee and eat greasy eggs on toast,  
And dream of spending money at a hotel on the coast,  
Where I'll soak the tortured body in a sparkling resort spa,  
And wash the desert dust out with cool drinks from the bar.  
I'll meet a lovely lady who'll agree to be my wife,  
And forever turn my back on this droving way of life.  
Then thoughts are rudely shattered by the screech of grey galahs,  
As they rise above the treetops of drought-stricken belahs.  
I make another coffee from the billy, gulp it down,  
Time to get these bullocks movin' on their long trek to town.

V.P. READ.    ©    5/10/1995.

1st PRIZE.    ROMANTIC BUSH POETRY.    ERNIE SETTERFIELD POETRY COMPETITION.

\*\*\*\* EDITOR REPORT. DEC, 1995. \*\*\*\*

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and  
Thankyou to all members contributions for our  
magazine over 1995. It is your comments and  
accolades that keep the magazine both informative  
and interesting. Apologies to the members who  
sent in poems and have not been included in the  
magazine (I now have quite a few) I shall try to  
include more poems in the future.

A LETTER TO SANTA.

Please Farva Crismas,  
I want ta orda' some fings,  
Now don'tcha fergit-  
An' make sure that ya brings!

A new motor car-  
A yot an' a 'ouse,  
Wif millyuns a dolla's,  
Plus lotsa fings grouse.

A beaut motor bike,  
Wif petrol in it,  
A Melbin'Cup winna,  
Wif bridle an' bit.

A farm, wif grouse cattle,  
Grown choox an' a pig,  
A fifty poun' diamon',  
All sparkly an' big.

A great Crismas stockin',  
All fulla' beaut stuff,  
While a 'undred poun' puddin',  
Jist won't be a nuff.

A reel big fat turkey,  
Sum ham an' a duck,  
Great heaps a cool drinks,  
Loaded up, on a truck.

Orr yeah, Farva Crismas,  
If ya 'ave any more room,  
Could ya bring fer me Muvva',  
A buckit an' broom.

Now! don't fergit Dad,  
'Cos, he works very 'ard,  
A nice pick an' a shovel,  
Fer out in tha yard.

Then, fer our dear teacha',  
Tha book, Markee De Sades-  
An' please Farva Crismas,  
Could ya dose 'im, wif Aids!

"Orr yeah," fer rotten tough freddy,  
Wot beats up, on our clarss,  
A flamin' good hidin',  
Wif a kick in the arze!

Now, all tha small children,  
Lotsa fings free,  
Give 'em, wot ever,  
But, don'tcha miss me.

You'se 'ave a grouse Crismas,  
Ya Missus an' elves,  
Why, good luck ter ya all-  
An' look afta' ya selves.

Now all of tha people,  
I wish 'em all joy,  
I luv ya, Saint Niklus!  
Frum tha worlds bestest boy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have a happy Crismas  
\_every\_body.\_

Johnny Johanson.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\* THE MAN FROM IRONBARK meets THE ROSE OF BEALIBA \*

A brand new item from the inimitable Geoffrey Graham. The script was nñne months in the making staring Adam Archie Graham weighing in at a healthy 9 pound on 7/12/95 and co-staring the beanbag beauty Sarah-1 and Benjamin -3. The producer of the show, Rose Graham, say's that Geoffreys 'Treadin' of the Boards' may now change to 'TREADIN' OF THE NAPPIES'

Stay tuned for; THE MAN FROM IRONBARK meets  
The ROSE OF BEALIBA.....NUMBER 4.5,6,7,3.9.10..

# JIM HAYNES

MEDIA RELEASE DEC '95



SINGABOUT AUSTRALIA  
P.O. BOX 183  
KINGSFORD NSW 2032  
PH:(02) 663 4791  
FAX:(02) 663 4791

## WARNER/CHAPPELL MUSIC SIGNS JIM HAYNES

Songwriter, singer and humourist Jim Haynes has been signed by Warner/Chappell Music in a Songwriting/Publishing deal which will see Jim spending more time writing both for himself and other artists.

"It's a great boost to the side of my career I'm most obsessive about," said Jim. "John Bromell and the people at Warner/Chappell have shown great confidence in me and the deal will enable me to spend more time at home writing and in the studio doing demos, although I'll still find time to tour and perform in 1996."

### **"Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga"**

The signing comes just as Jim's latest release, "Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga" is taking off around Australia. Co-written and produced by Greg Champion the song is sung by Jim, Greg and Ted Egan, who are now calling themselves 'The Three Terrors'!

"Response to the song has been terrific," said Jim, "And the City of Wagga Wagga gave the three of us a Civic Reception." Massive Records have released the song on a four track CD with a song from each artist to complement the title track.

### **Big Year Ahead**

With all this happening there are obviously big plans for Jim in 1996, including more recording ( "Back to being Funny!" says Jim ) and a busy time in Tamworth followed by a hectic festival circuit.

Jim will again host the "Best of the Bush" Breakfasts at the Longyard during The Country Music Festival and the lineup will include ten of the best Bush Poetry Performers in Australia. He will also perform in his own shows and with the other two "Terrors", Greg Champion and Ted Egan. Jim will also compere the TSA Awards Night at the Workers Club and a major concert at the Town Hall.

"1995 has been a big year," said Jim, "And '96 looks like being even bigger!"

For more information, or interviews re: "Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga" please contact 'Singabout Australia' at the above address.

**A.G.M. JANUARY, 26th 2pm. Be there!**

GIG GUIDE Jim Haynes  
TAMWORTH FESTIVAL  
January 1996

Merry Christmas and  
Happy Holidays



The Longyard

|           |                                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|
| Sat 20th  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
| Sun 21st  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
|           | 5pm 'Welcome Muster'                   |
| Mon 22nd  | 11am 'The Poets' Brawl'                |
|           | 8pm 'A Night in the Shearing Shed'     |
| Tues 23rd | 11am 'The Bush Poetry State of Origin' |
| Wed 24th  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
|           | 1pm Concert with Greg Champion         |
| Thur 25th | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
| Fri 26th  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
|           | 11.30am Australia Day Lunch Concert    |
|           | 7.30pm 'Singer/Songwriters Concert'    |
| Sat 27th  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
|           | 12 noon 'Greg Champion & Friends'      |
| Sun 28th  | 8-10am 'Bush Poetry Breakfast'         |
|           | 12 Noon 'Songwriters Farewell Concert' |

Workers Club

Wed 24th 8pm TSA Awards Concert - compere.

Town Hall

Fri 26th 2pm Rosemary Rae & Friends

**WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL**  
**Thursday 28th December**  
**to**  
**Monday 1st January, 1996.**

**The Festival that has to be experienced  
to be believed!**

### **'The Man From Ironbark'**

Geoffrey Graham will be taking the **The Man from Ironbark** to **Tamworth** in January.

This highly praised show deals with the life and works of **Banjo Paterson**. Devised by Geoffrey, the 'Man' first appeared at **Winton** for the **Waltzing Matilda Centenary** in April 1995.

It was an instant success and requests for further performances saw a follow up tour of Queensland, Northern New South Wales and Victoria.

Visitors to Tamworth will be able to catch Geoffrey as 'Banjo', nearly every day of the the Country Music Festival.

The **Bush Balladeers** will feature in a show called the **Spirit of the Bush**. This group, which needs no introduction, consists of **Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler, Bob Magor** and **Frank Daniel**, will also be sharing the **Heritage Theatre** with three concerts to be held on the Sunday, 21st. Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 24th of January at 7.30 pm.

Earlier this year this foursome toured Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia with their polished performances of Poetry, Yarns, Whip-cracking and Song.

Enquiries to **Geoffrey Graham**  
**054 691 312**

When in Tamworth look for **Denis 'Dingo' Dryden** on the programme. Denis is a singer and performer of note, having represented Australia at the big Expo in Spain a few years ago.

The **Oasis** competitions start from 9am on the mornings of 24th, 25th, and 26th of January with the Finals held on Saturday 27th.

Entry is free and forms are available from 074 665120 (Ron Bates) and 067 663 391 (Oasis).

### **Nariel Creek New Years Eve Festival.** Dec 30th - January 2nd

This festival is held in 'The Man from Snowy River' Country just below the Murray River not far from Corryong, 436km north east of Melbourne. Non stop entertainment, with dancing, folk music and bush poetry.

Phone 060 771241

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
To the Bush Poetry  
Fellowship.  
from  
Milton & Loveen  
TAYLOR.

SEASONS GREETINGS  
to all poets, wives  
husbands & families  
from  
Ron and Joy SELBY.

**Larger Than Lakes .....** is a celebration of lines, laughs and larrikins. Held on Australia Day (26th January) at Lakes Entrance Victoria, this event aims to promote Australia Day by celebrating Australian verse, yarns, jokes and short stories.

A competition will be held with \$100 first prize in the verse and yarn section with \$500 for the best overall performance.

'The Great East Gippsland Flying Flathead Award' plus \$50 in cash will go to the best joke teller as well.

The venue for this festival is the Belle Vue Motor Inn. For details phone 051 553 055.

The stage is set for a brand new format in the **Tamworth Poetry Reading Group's** popular Bush Poetry Competition at the **Imperial Hotel**.

In January the rookies will be catered for in the reciting stakes where they will be able to recite in the **'Beginners Corner'**, and not have to face up to the judges against more seasoned performers.

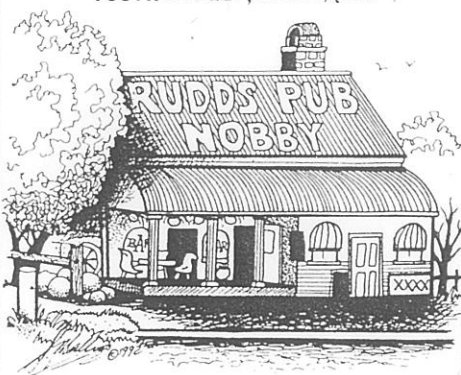
Noth Power is sponsoring the competition with \$2000 in prizemoney and trophies available.

The competition will be held in heats from the 24th, with the Finals on the 27th of January.

Entries to P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340.

# RUDD'S PUB

TOOTH STREET, NOBBY, QLD.



**PHONE (076) 963211**

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER,  
GARY FOGARTY & Co 12-2.30pm  
Any poets interested in performing at this venue, be there a little early or contact Gary Fogarty.  
Or Come Along and Listen and enjoy the hospitality.

# THE HOME OF DAD AND DAVE

## • Caring people

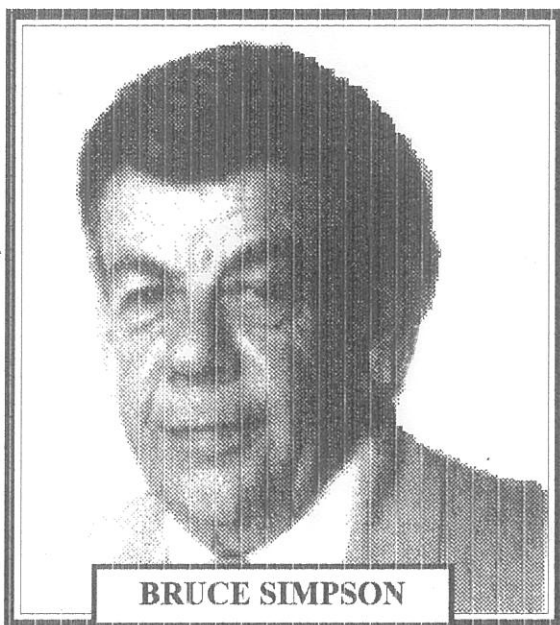
People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

## Profile..Bruce Simpson..

Bruce Simpson spent most of his life in the North West.

Starting a long apprenticeship as a very young man, Bruce worked in the Gulf Country, including Lorraine Station on the Leichardt River. Mainly working on the stock-camps and mustering, he learnt his trade well.

Bruce later went as a Drover in the Northern Territory working with the likes of 'Looking Glass' Joe Dowling, 'Spider' Hollands and Sam Fuller, before going out with his own plant.



His droving days saw him bring cattle in along the great **Murranji Track**. The Murranji was the main droving track from the East of the Kimberleys, stretching across the Northern Territory to Newcastle Waters and the Barkley Tablelands. From here the cattle were brought into Queensland via Camooweal and driven to the fattening areas in the channel country along the Georgina River. Many were taken to the railhead at Dajarra, which, in the 1940's and 1950's was the biggest cattle trucking centre in the world.

For a number of years after his droving exploits, Bruce conducted a Saddlery business in the town of Winton.

In 1964 he married Heather, a lass from Edinburgh, Scotland. He and his wife have two children, Fiona and Ranald, and the family now lives at Caboolture in South-East Queensland.

The Territory Rouseabout is his first publication of his works and contains the humorous side of Bruce Simpson.

His verse has appeared in many magazines and newspapers, including the 'Sydney Bulletin', 'Hoofs and Horns', and the 'North Queensland Register'. Many have also been included in books of collected verse and other anthologies.

In 1972, Bruce won the **Inaugural Bronze Swagman Award**, a



world-wide competition for Bush Verse, conducted by the Winton Tourist Promotion Association

His winning poem was **'Gold Star'** — a highly acclaimed poem by many poets and compared equally to A.B. (Banjo) Paterson's 'Man from Snowy River'

Bruce Simpson is the only poet to win the Bronze Swagman Award twice in its twenty three year history. His second win was in 1975 with **'Vale Rusty Regan'**. In 1991 he came second with **'Fullers Thoroughbrace'**.

Well known Tamworth Bush Poet and reciter, **John Philipson**, regards Bruce Simpson as the greatest living Australian Bush Poet, and rates **'Gold Star'** the best poem by far.

John always chooses some of Bruce's work for inclusion in his performances, often including verses such as **'Murrnaji Mick'**, **'Gold Star'**, **'Vale Rusty Regan'** and the **'Lament from the Scrub'**.

At the next **Maleny Folk Festival at Woodford (Q)** over the New Year festive season, Bruce Simpson will be honoured by his peers. John Philipson has been asked by Bruce to be his mouthpiece and recite his works at this gathering.

Other Poets to have received this honour include **Claude Morris**, **Keith Garvie** and **Charlee Marshall**.

Ten year old **Paddy Ryan** of Duri, near Tamworth, had a win in the Junior section of the competitions when he recited **'Bumby George in the City'**, one of the most humorous poems from Bruce's book, at the Fireside Festival at the Longyard this year.

**'The Territory Rouseabout'**, illustrated by Vane Lindsay, may be purchased for the sum of \$11.50 post paid from

**Bruce Simpson, 11 Bellview St. Caboolture. Qld. 4510.**

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\*\*\* PENRITH POETS BY THE RIVER. by JUNE LAL. \*\*\*

We were fortunate to have Jim Haynes as our guest during the evening of the 30th September. As usual Jim entertained all in his very special way. Amid the talented poets on the evening, local 'Bush Poet' Mr Kevin Campbell recited his version of 'The Cross-eyed Bull'

A great evening was had by all who attended. For information on upcoming events at this venue please contact; CARL LEDDY- (047) 212087 or JUNE LAL - (02) 625 8577.

**The Packhorse Drover****Bruce Simpson**

Oh! The droving life is a life that's free  
On the unfenced routes of the back country,  
And a packhorse plant is the place to be  
When they're bringing the store mobs over,  
Oh! life is happy with not a care,  
With the bush smells strong on the balmy air,  
Though a whiff of the cook would curl your hair  
In the camp of a packhorse drover.

Now the drover's bed is a couch to please  
On the stony ground mid the Bogan fleas,  
Or in mud that is up to a horse's knees  
When wintry rains drift over.  
But life is happy and life is sweet,  
Though there's never enough for a man to eat  
And losing weight is a simple feat  
In the camp of a packhorse drover.

The sky is grey with a hint of rain  
While the wind blows chill o'er the Rankine plain,  
And a ringer swears that he'll drove again  
When the ceiling of hell frosts over.  
But life is happy and life is good  
'Round a cow dung fire when there is no wood,  
When the damper tastes like it never should  
In the camp of a packhorse drover.

We watch the mob and we sing the blues,  
And we'd sell our soul for a nip of booze  
As the hours drag by on their leaden shoes  
And the Southern Cross turns over.  
It's a rugged life but we never whine  
For the mateship found in the bush is fine  
Though the boss of course is a hungry swine  
And a typical packhorse drover.

## *In Recognition of Qld Poets Toowoomba 1995*

No wonder the Southerners shook in their shoes  
Terrified, paralysed, poor shell-shocked Blues.  
They gazed at the talent and uttered a scream  
As they witnessed the Queensland poetry team.  
Bill Hay was one prop, Mark Gliori the other.  
Out-recite those two? Big trouble brother!  
The hooker between them in classical fashion  
Churning out verses, top wordsmith Bill Glasson.  
Second row pairing Betty Houston, Liz Ward,  
Bette Shiels on the interchange, Good bloody Lord!  
Our captain was Carmel, locking the scrum  
The Blues, now in panic, regretted they'd come  
As our forwards rolled onward shaking the ground,  
Hurling forth adjectives, scattering nouns.  
The half back, loquaciously calling the play  
Bob Miller, unbeatable bard on his day.  
Nifty five eight, red headed charmer  
With words by the million, sweet Glenny Palmer,  
One centre was Fogarty, wagging the finger  
Poetry's answer to Big Mal Meninga.  
His partner at centre, rhymes ringing, songs sung  
(A dirge for the roaches) Bravo! It's Greg Young.  
Marg Compagnoni playing one wing  
With rhythm and meter she makes the game ring.  
Ron Selby on other wing letting 'em know  
Verses of quality continue to flow.  
And how could those poor Walers possibly win?  
Our fullback - non other - Dorothea Quinn.  
And back on the interchange Anderson - Trish  
With Raftery, Jarrott, how the Blues wish  
That they had a team with such depth to spare  
Pity the coots as they weep in despair,  
Faultless reciting with never a clanger  
Lyrical versions of Lewis and Langer  
Poetry's Renouf, Willy Carne, Wendall Sailor.  
I'm glad I'm your ball boy.

Regards,  
Milton Taylor

# **WALTZING MATILDA FESTIVAL AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY**

## **WRITE-IN COMPETITION**

### ***"Little Swaggies Award 1996"***

## **PRIMARY and SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### **CONDITIONS:**

1. **SUBJECT:** Verse in Australian form, must have an Australian bush theme; **RHYME** and **RHYTHM** should be attempted.
2. Entrants are advised to **KEEP A COPY** of his/her verses, as entries received cannot be returned.
3. **LENGTH:**  
Primary School Students 4-20 lines  
Secondary School Students 8-40 lines
4. Entries should be written legibly or typed on one side of paper **ONLY**.
5. Judges decision will be final and binding.
6. Entries close 31 March 1996.
7. Competition judged and winners announced at The Waltzing Matilda Festival in Winton Qld, 26-28 April 1996.
8. Entry form available from...

**The Organiser - "Little Swaggies Award 1996"**  
**P.O. Box 7714**  
**Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352**