

No. 10. Vol.3. October 1996.

# The Australian



# Bush Poets Association Inc.



## Some DATES TO REMEMBER.

- Nov 1 2 3 maldon Folk Festival
- Nov 2 Jimboomba RSL QLD
- Nov 6 The Kiosk Brisbane QLD
- Nov 8 Art & Craft Across AUST. Cairns QLD
- Nov 14 - 17 Man from Snowy River Corryong Vic.
- Nov 16 Festival of the Valley Lithgow NSW

# *Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

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**New South Wales** Frank Daniel - 063 441 477

**South Australia.** Bob Magor - Ph/fax. - 085 582 036

**Victoria.** Geoffrey Graham - Ph/fax. 054 691 312

## **The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1997**

Organised by

### **The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group**

Sponsored by

**Seed & Grain Sales Tamworth**

And

**North Power**

### **\$300 Prizemoney plus Blackened Billy Trophy**

Fee - \$3.00 per entry. Limit of 2 entries per person.

send to - **The Blackened Billy Verse Competition**

**P.O. Box 1164 TAMWORTH NSW 2340**

Entries close November 30th. 1996

## **Interested in Bush Poetry?**

**If you live near Petrie  
Qld. you should join the**

**North Pine**

### **Bush Poets Group**

**Membership \$10.00.**

**Secretary**

**Wally Finch**

**145 Kluver St.**

**BALD HILLS Q. 4036**

**Ph. 07 3261 5604**

## **"The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club"**

### **'Bar Room Yarns & Recitals'**

### **TUMBARUMBA BOWLING CLUB**

**11AM - TUESDAY - DECEMBER 31 - 1996**

#### **1. The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Championship**

**Written - Original - Heritage.**

**1st: \$100 & Sash -2nd - Sash - Fee \$5-poem**

#### **2. Ladies Championships — Recitals.**

**1st: \$50.00 & Sash. Fee \$2.50- poem**

#### **3. Junior competition - 16 years and under**

**(Written) 1st. Sash Entry Free.**

#### **4. Bar Room Yarns and Recitals.**

**Every one gets a go!**

**Post to Neil Hulm. 361 Cheyenne Dr.**

**Lavington NSW 2641 Phone 060 253845.**

## **CAMP CREATIVE**

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**Blue Moutains Inc.**

**P.O. Box 230**

**Blackheath NSW 2785**

**Ph/fax 047 87 6957**



The passing of a friend.

It is with deep regret we report the passing of Mrs Gloria Bates, Wife of Ron Bates. Mrs Bates suffered for years with the unfortunate disease rheumatoid arthritis. She passed away at Toowoomba Base Hospital on 11th september and was buried at Townsville on 13th September. Mrs Bates always had a smile and friendly word whenever she attended poetry events with Ron and I'm sure she will be missed by a lot of poets.

~~~~~  
**JIM HAYNES ALBUM with ABC RECORDS.**

Quite a milestone in my career when I signed with ABC Records. The album is well underway. It'll be chockablock full of silly stuff -- 16 tracks including all the ones you've been waiting for, 'The Chook from Snowy River', 'When Cheryl went Feral' and a stirring version of 'I'll Have Chips!' With the backing of the ABC, I'm confident it will be successful. There are guest performances by Ted Egan, Beccy Cole, Greg Champion and Dobe Newton. AND you have a special chance to buy a copy before it hits the shops. (see form on back page.)

Some gig dates ;

NOV. 2 & 3 MARYBOROUGH & HERVEY BAY,  
 NOV. 6th (wed) THE KIOSK Brisbane ,  
 DEC. 7th at MANLY LEAGUES CLUB. NSW(sat)  
 DEC. 8th MARRICKVILLE RSL (sun)  
 and of course

TAMWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL in JANUARY 1997.

~~~~~  
**A.B.P.A. FEES for 1997. \$25.00**

DUE on 1st JANUARY 1997.

**ALL** members **MUST** be financial at the A.G.M.

Jd  
10/1

## **Bourke Mateship Festival - 1996. September 20 - 25.**

One hundred and four years ago Henry Lawson walked the streets of Bourke, Outback New South Wales.

The Mateship Festival was born in the centenary year of Henry Lawson's stay in Bourke, 1992.

It was here, in the middle of drought, that the city-dweller, Lawson, discovered a strong kind of friendship in the bush that he had never seen before. It was a tough sort of kinship, born of shared hardships in the isolation of the bush. A mateship evident among the men and women who first settled the vast outback, where people pulled together to beat the elements and helped each other through tough times.

Through witnessing the the pioneering spirit of these people and how they worked together, Lawson was inspired to coin the term 'Mateship', which became synonymous with the Australian Bush — epitomising the Australian character.

The Mateship Festival is keeping the ideal of Mateship alive and well in Bourke, epitomising the spirit of the outback, the idea of getting in and 'having a go', especially in tough times. The Festival has celebrated this ideal each year since 1992, its main goal being to foster Mateship into everyday life in Bourke and beyond. Bourke is known as Mateship Country and it is hoped that it will continue to grow into that title.

The Mateship Festival started off on Friday 20th. September at the North Bourke Hotel, where locals and visitors joined in celebrating the great tradition of oral history with over three hundred in attendance for the Tall Tales, Bush Poetry, Bush Ballad singing and the Campfire Tea.

Celebrations continued on Saturday with a grand parade and the opening of the restored Wharf at the Port of Bourke by the Mayor, Wal Mitchell.

Period costume, a thrilling parachuting displays by the Red Berets and water sports on the Darling River were just part of the many attractions.

In the evening Robyn Burrows launched her new book, "Where the River Ends", a historic novel set mainly in Bourke during the era of the great shearers' strikes and the hey-day of the paddle steamers.

Saturday evening also saw the grace of ages past displayed once again as the Arts Council celebrated fifty years of operation in NSW with an Old Time Costume Ball.

In Central Park the newly completed Will Ogilvie monument was unveiled and explained by Tourist Officer Paul Roe, with entertainment from Country Music favourite, Reg Poole.

The Drover's Muster followed with a display of droving memorabilia adding to the colour as many an old friendship was re-kindled, many tales told and fond memories re-called.



**News from the West.** With excerpts from a letter to the ABPA President from Rusty Christensen.

On Friday, August 30th. the 'embryo' West Australian Bush Poets Association held a Bush Poetry and Yarn-spinning night at The Raffles Hotel on the Canning Highway, City of Melville.

Over seventy turned up to hear and be entertained by some excellent talent - there were 10 entrants in each section - the Poetry and the Yarn-spinning.

Rusty tells us 'that both contests were won by Jeff Swain, a very good Bush Poet, who, at his first attempt at yarnning took out both sections against some very good opposition. Such is his talent.

"We have had our first formal meeting," says Rusty, "and as suspected I have finished up as President."

Plans are being made for the new year already and news of proposed itineraries will be to hand as soon as possible. Could suit many of our travelling members to know of such venues when they are in W.A.

The new committee has a lot of work ahead and a lot of willing hands to help make it all work.

Rusty has been surprised by the amount of news gleaned from the ABPA newsletters, and the amount of Bush Poetry and Yarnspinning going on here in the East. (Sounds like we are worlds apart, doesn't it?)

"It appears,"he said "that things really look like they are taking off and that after the first night of competition in the land of 'sin, sorrow, sand and sore eyes' that the time was right for it to be introduced on an organised basis. Let's hope we can keep pushing the barrow before we are all engulfed by baseball caps and sloppy clothes and the expression 'GUYS' which I have banned."

Good on ya Rusty! Keep up the good work and keep us informed.

**World Champion Yarn-spinner.** News on the grapevine tells us that ABPA member Tammy Muir, from Picola Vic. was successful in taking out the World Championships in Yarn-Spinning in Darwin during August. Last report was that Tammy and family were on an extended 'walkabout' round Australia, and we haven't been able to catch up with him. . He should come home full of stories after this holiday. Let's hear from you old son!

**POETRY. *Just a few lines from a bush poet* by Dorothy**

**Smith.** This self-published collection of twenty witty, funny, sad and nostalgic poems is available direct from Dorothy at 3/186 Wilsons Rd, Whittington 3219 for \$5, plus a stamp for postage.





## A Town That Used To Be.

by Claude Morris. ©

(Watsonville - Birthplace of Claude Morris)

I have seen the sunlight waning, and the sun descend until  
A township stood in shadow, at the foot of Western Hill.  
Soon the lights would start to glimmer, with a warm and friendly glow  
From the hotels and the houses, in the town I used to know.  
But now those lights have vanished, and for ever passed away,  
With the passing of an era of the buggy and the dray.  
When a breeze at nightfall started, you could hear the steady beat  
Of the windmill turning slowly in the centre of the street.

On moonlight nights the curlews come, and scamper to and fro  
Upon the street, as children did, in nights of long ago.  
And when the curlews whistle, the fancy comes to me,  
That I listen to the dirges for a town that used to be.

The hitching rails have disappeared, as though they never were.  
And seldom does the saddle-horse know touch of rein or spur.  
The hills and creeks have given up the wealth they held in store,  
To eager hands, that mostly now, are stilled for evermore.

The tracks the pack teams left behind, grow fainter year by year,  
And mining scars on Western Hill, in time will disappear,  
To fade like those that made them - soon forgotten, soon unknown,  
Like the tracks they too created - washed away and overgrown.  
And now I watch the sunset bid good-bye to Western Hill,  
And in the coming darkness, in my fancy I can see  
The friendly glow of lamplight - where a township used to be.

**Queanbeyn Bush Poets.** Locating the sounds of the Queanbeyan (NSW) Bush Poets should soon be an easy task. You will only have to look for Poets Lane, newly named by the Queanbeyan City Council following input from the local community. Poets Lane is located between the Tourist Hotel and Franz Photographics in Monaro St. where the Poets have been meeting on a regular basis during the past eighteen months.

Submit your Festival and Competition details to the ABPA Secretary Ron Selby,  
or Frank Daniel as early as possible for inclusion in the Poets Calendar.

## JUST FLO !

A variety of verse from Flo Hart of Mt Tyson Qld  
A great Christmas present for that special person.

Only \$10.00 (including postage) from:

Flo Hart. Hillside MT TYSON 4356 QLD (076) 937169.

~~~~~

## STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART.

and

## CLOSER TO THE HEART.

by BUSH POET BRIAN GALE.

at \$8 each (\$10 posted) or \$18 both (inc. postage.)  
from ; B. GALE 25 Georgette dve.

MARGARET RIVER W.A. 6285.

~~~~~

## ROUND THE CAMPFIRE BUSH POETRY NIGHT.

What a night ! On thursday 12th September the  
Kyabram Apex Club held their annual Round the Campfire  
Bush Poetry night with members of the Kyabram and  
District Bush Verse Group performing.

The night was well attended with poets from  
Warragul -- Harry Bowers, Upper Edi -- Bob Healy and  
Yarrawonga -- Johnny Johanson. Around 70 people attended  
the night and a great round of poetry and tall stories were  
told. Winners for the night were Mick Coventry for poetry  
and Bob Healy for tall stories.

A school comp. was run in conjunction with the  
night and the winners being;

Primary School Section : Rachael Moore -- St Augustines P.S.  
Secondary School Sect. : Carmel Dunn -- Warwick QLD.

The judges were members of the Kyabram and  
District Bush Verse Group and entries were of a very high  
standard, all 119 of them. Choosing the winners was a  
difficult job and congratulations to all the poets for great  
imagination and well constructed verse.

Thanks to the Apex Club and the teachers in the  
various schools for their assistance.

Denis Attwood. K.D.B.V.G.

Sec / Treasurer. KYABRAM VIC.



**YOUR MATE.** by Carmel Dunn Warwick QLD.

When you're mustering in the mountains,  
Or droving on the plains;  
Your horse is your best companion  
From his hooves to silky mane.

Have you ever stopped just long enough  
To study his slender form ?  
He is breathing hard and soaked with sweat;  
He stands there, tired and worn.

He would risk his life for you my friend  
You are his best mate.  
He loves you more than anyone,  
In this world, nation or state.

And when it is your turn for night watch,  
A comrade is a must,  
And if the cattle start to run,  
In your horse you place full trust.

And if you've ever lost your horse,  
You'll know the heartache and pain.  
Like a farmer trying to raise a crop,  
In a season without rain.

So, if you've got a good horse,  
One you call 'your mate',  
Learn to appreciate him,  
Before it's all too late.

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**ROSEWOOD HERITAGE FESTIVAL.**

(between IPSWICH and GATTON QLD.)

Rosewood showgrounds Saturday 23 November.

**POETS WANTED**

Contact Ron selby on (076) 301106. night time.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

We are a couple in our early 60's and started following Bush Poetry at the Waltzing Matilda Festival in Winton. We have since been to Gympie, Tamworth & the Fireside Festival and back to Gympie in August and we cannot help but notice the smutty jokes that are creeping into compering and some verse.

The thing that upset us most was, after listening to Carmel Randle and Mark Thompson perform with excellence, the judges could award the competition to ??? we can't remember his name and we wouldn't want to remember his poems. When he performed on main stage and Mark Giori gave us three of his 'Night to Remember' jokes, we felt ashamed to be followers of Bush Poetry. We and our group of friends will not return to Gympie.

Please don't get us wrong we do have a sense of humour we enjoy Shirley Friend and The Cross-eyed-Bull etc, it is, we feel, the unnecessary 'filth' coming into the 'Jokes' and some poetry from our friends.

G. & P. DAVIS. GOONELLABAH. NSW.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Gooday, I'm enclosing a copy of a poem and it's rejection slip. This may be of interest to fellow dumpity dumpity dumpity dumpers.

regards. G. Young. Mt Coolum QLD.

### A broad side at Broadsheets.

And so the poetry editor  
With subjective eye - scans submissions  
- like the 'bush poetry' predator  
he is - culling with his decisions  
every exoteric piece of verse  
- keeping alive an elitist view  
obscure, esoteric and adverse.  
When will he print 'bush poetry' too?

The Weekend Australian  
**Review**

The Books Editor regrets that he is unable to make use of the enclosed, but thanks you for submitting it. *He's doesn't much like bush poetry because it goes dumpity dumpity dumpity dump*  
The Weekend Australian "Review" *all the time*



## PALMA ROSA POETS.

QLD.

The Palma Rosa Poets were priveleged to host a very special guest - actor and director Mr John Derum who performed the C. J. Dennis masterpiece 'The Glugs of Gosh' on October 4th & 5th. Whilst it was written almost 80 years ago, the storyline 'still holds' - a comment on Australia as valid today as it was then. His one man show was brilliant.

John also conducted a Performance Workshop at Palma Rosa one evening which was very well attended. We all learnt heaps with lots of 'constructive criticism' from all involved, a very worthwhile exercise.

The next Palma Rosa Poetry evening was on 16th October with three of Australias best Bush Poets, John Phililson, Ray Essery and Bill Hay combined with entertaining poetry, we were treated with music, jokes and wonderful yarns, (all true of course!) because 'Poets never lie!' The evening was compered by Trish Anderson.

We envisage having a Poetry Evening every 2 months or so. Please keep in touch for further information or send your name and address to; Trisha Anderson

113 Manson Road HENDRA Brisbane 4011 QLD  
ph (07) 32683624.

Trisha Anderson HENDRA QLD.

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## FESTIVAL OF OPALS.

This years Cunnamulla - Eulo Festival of Opals in September saw the running of the 4th annual Macfie Clan Society of Australia's Poetry Competition.

A total of 117 entries were entered from nearly every state. 1d leader of the Clan Macfie.

G. Johnson, West Ryde NSW was first; P. Sherman, Gordon Park QLD 2nd, E.E. Skeahan, Upper Mt Gravatt QLD was 3rd.

The Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize for Bush Verse was won by K. Dixon, Camooweal QLD with W. McCaskell, White Cliffs NSW 2nd and H. Veal, Parkes NSW 3rd.

Award winning poet Gary Fogarty from Millmerran Q. performed at the Art and Craft evening at the shire hall. He also recited 'Trapped' the winning entry in the Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize.

## GREETINGS FROM VICTORIA.

Once again I haven't spent much of my time in my home state in the last month, dividing the time between Queensland, N.S.W. and South Australia.

The Queensland highlights for me were the Gympie Muster and the Jondaryan Woolshed. The Woolshed hosts a brilliant array of heritage machinery, horse vehicles and of course many shearing events. An amazing group of mainly volunteers spend a heck of a lot of time making the venue run smoothly.

The Gympie Muster was everything they said it would be and a whole lot more. The amount of talent was inspiring. Plenty of Bush Poetry as the last newsletter pointed out. I did The Man from Ironbark show in town including to one group of over 600 schoolies! Then at the Muster Theatre venue four shows of The Man from Ironbark over two days. It is always with a bit of trepidation that I perform at a new festival, or new to me anyway, but I was pleased to see the response to the works of Banjo as strong as ever. Gratifying to see kids from the two mile school performing heaps of Banjo too, especially as kids from this little school had seen my show in Gympie a few months earlier.

When it comes to Bush Poetry the folk in South Aust. are about as hospitable as they come, and I'll be back over there again for sure.

Doing a few shows in eastern Victoria, next week, then off to the Griffith area.

Congrats to Trish and the Palma Rosa mob and the Charleville Poets..... its spreading Folks!.

Keep smiling, Geoffrey Graham.

(The Bealiba Bulladeer).

## NEW BOOK.

# 'BEHIND THE WHEEL'

by KELLY DIXON

Stories of Australian Truckies.

Will be launched at TAMWORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL.



## OH ! TO ROCK & ROLL.

I learnt how to line dance before I could crawl,  
I learnt how to get drunk and I know how to fall.  
But the problem thats broken me soul,  
Is Bobby Miller, --- when he starts to Rock & Roll.

I learnt how to swim --- through necessity.  
I learnt how to fight --- thats just the way it had to be !  
I learnt how to shiver --- out in the cold,  
But I break out in a sweat  
When Miller starts to Rock & Roll.

I learnt how to love when I was young and free,  
And I learnt how to cry when my woman left me.  
I learnt how to smoke dope when I was on the dole.  
But I just can't cope when  
Bobby Miller starts to Rock & Roll.

Well, I learnt how to be as cunning as a mongrel dog  
And as slippery as a snake --- crawling up a log .  
But when I'm boxed in like a goldfish in a bowl,  
I break out in a grin like Bobby Miller ----  
When he starts to Rock & Roll.

Well I've packed me swag and  
heading back to the scrub agen,  
And I'm going to learn the things  
I should have before I was ten.  
But one thing for sure and certain,  
Before I get old -----  
I'm going to perform like **Bobby Miller** ---  
When he starts to **Rock & Roll** .....  
The Mullimbimby Bloke.

# JACARANDA DAY

## 9TH NOVEMBER 1996

### Bush Poet Competition with a Sausage Sizzle Breakfast and a Farm Machinery Field Day

The Rosalie Shire Historical Society is again inviting everyone to come along and enjoy themselves at the annual Jacaranda Day in the picturesque town of Goombungee. (*QUEENSLAND NEAR TOWWOOMBA*)

The day will start at 8.30 am with a Bush Poet Competition and Sausage Sizzle Breakfast to be in the Historical Museum grounds

Listed below are the various sections.

1. Open Section – Written and recited by the poet.
2. Best Poem with Local Content (Need not be written and recited by the same person)
3. Best Local Talent – Recital of any Poem.
4. Best Poem Written and Recited by a High School Student.
5. Best Recital of any Poem by a High School Student.
6. Best Poem Written and Recited by a Primary School Student.
7. Best Recital of any Poem by a Primary School Student.
8. Tallest Bush Yarn.



Prize: \$100

Prize: \$ 10

Prize: \$ 10

Prize: \$ 10

Prize: \$ 5

Prize: \$ 10

Prize: \$ 5

Prize: \$ 10

Entry forms can be obtained at the Rosalie Shire Officer, telephone (076) 965 311 or at any of it's libraries.

After consuming a yummy breakfast and listening to various talents recite poetry pieces you can head out to a Farm Machinery Field Day Display commencing at 11 am at Ken and Grace McPhail's property



This will be worth taking time out for as there will be various displays ranging from *working farm dogs, rope making, horse and cart rides, heavy horses, stationery engines, vintage farm machinery working in the fields, commentary on the machinery, a BBQ and a Tea and Damper stall*

\*\*\*Enquiries can be made after hours to Kirstine Egan, telephone (076) 965 128 \*\*\*



## Poets Calendar. Events and Competitions.

### **"Golden Gumleaf - Bush Laureate Awards" Closing date. Nov. 3rd.**

For Product released from Nov. 1 1995 - Nov. 1 1996. Presented in Tamworth in January 1997. Send three copies of product with entry fee of \$10 to - Golden Gumleaf Enterprises 112 Crescent Road Hamilton Q. 4007

**23rd Maldon Folk Festival Nov. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1996. A Celebration of World Music**  
Sponsored by Festivals Australia. Concerts - Dance - Poetry - Yarns - Bush Ball - 300 performers - 20 Outdoor/indoor venues. Enq. Lynda 054 751 167 Bill 752 166

### **Jimboomba RSL Presents a Good Old Fashioned Country Bash -**

**Saturday - 2nd. Nov. Jimboomba Hall. Mt. Lindsay H'way Beaudesert. Qld.**

Poetry - Dancing - Camping - Billy Tea - Damper - Pumpkin soup. Ph. 07 5543 2606

### **Art and Craft Across Australia Performance Competition**

**Cairns Convention Centre 8-10th. November.** Enq. Carol Coates. 070 558 338

**The Kiosk - New Farm Park. Brisbane. Wed. Nov. 6th. Jim Haynes.**

**"Festival of the Valley" - Poets in the Park - Lithgow NSW - Nov. 16. 8am.**

Performance Poetry - Open - Novice - Junior. Entries close Nov.

Enq. Heather Younger P.O. Box 119 Wallerawang NSW 2845 Phone. 063 523 636

**The Second "Man from Snowy River Bush Festival" Corryong Vic. Nov. 14/17**

In the high country at the top end of the Murray. Enq. Sandra Beirs 060 762 120

Non Competitive Bush Poetry over three days Enq. **Jan Lewis 060 371 357**

**"Tumbarumba Heritage Week" - Sat. Nov. 16 - 9am**

Procession, Poetry Recitals - Poets Breakfast. Followed by.....

**"Gundagai" Nov. 10th. 9 am. at the Dog on the Tuckerbox. Poet's Breakfast -**  
whip cracking - dog high jump - bush bands - dancing - fun for all.

Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club. Ph.060 253 845

**"The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1997"** Entries Close Nov. 30th. 1996

Written Competition for Bush Verse Limit 2 entries per person. Send \$3.00 with each entry to The Blackened Billy Verse Competition —

Tamworth Poetry Reading Group P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth. NSW. 2340

**Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club "Annual Get-together" -**

Tumbarumba Bowling Club. Dec. 31. 11.00 am. Written Poetry Competition.

Closes Dec. 9th. Entry Fee - Open - \$5 /poem. Juniors - Free. Ph. 060 205232

Post to Secretary - Neil Hulm 31 Cheyenne Dr. Lavington 2641.

**"The Bronze Swagman Award" - Worldwide Competition for Bush Verse - 1997.**

Australia's Unique Award for Traditional Bush Verse. Written Competition.

Entries close January 31st. 1997. First prize: Bronze Statuette of the Swagman designed and sculptured by Daphne Mayo. Value \$2,500.

Enq. The Secretary, **Winton Tourist Promotion Association, Phone 076 57 1502.**

**Imperial Hotel Bush Poetry Competition — Tamworth 23 - 25 January 1997**

**Oasis Hotel Bush Poetry Tamworth January 1997**

**Profile — John Philipson.** Award winning Bush Poet John Philipson says his art is all about presentation, timing and sense of humour. A formidable competitor and entertainer, John has performed Australia wide with his vast range of poems, yarns and jokes.

John was born in Yanco in the Riverina district of NSW and worked on his father's farm until he married. He then worked on a number of large Southern Riverina grazing properties before taking a position as a Chemical Salesman. He carried this line of work on for eighteen years, maintaining the same job when he moved to Tamworth NSW thirty five years ago.

John then assumed the position of Noxious Weeds inspector for two years and spent his last nine years of employment as a Stock Inspector for the Department of Agriculture.

He claims that up until ten years ago he thought he was the only bloke in the country reciting bush poems, that he was the only one in this small niche of the entertainment business.

John said he "writes a bit" now and then, but prefers to stand before a crowd with a poem he knows will get a lot of laughs. He says that many Bush Poets are both writers and reciters, and that he is 'lucky that many of them like him reciting their poems'.

John has specialised in reciting and has a repertoire of over seventy five poems. He attributes bush poetry's popularity to the easy entertainment gained from listening to someone who loves what they do.

Hannafords Coaches in Tamworth have seen the advantage of having someone with his wide knowledge and love of Australia as a tour guide, and this has given John the opportunity to see more of his country over the past few years.

Compering is another of his sought after skills and together with the competitions and shows, John has compered and performed as far afield as Cloncurry, Winton and Hughendon in North Queensland, South-east Queensland, most of NSW and toured Victoria in June with fellow poets, Noel Cutler, John Major and Gary Fogarty; not forgetting his numerous trips with Hannafords — recently returning from a complete round Australia tour via Coach and the Indian Pacific.

He has been successful in competitions as well, noting that his most memorable are the Inaugural Bush Poetry Competition at Fireside Festival, Tamworth, 1987; the Inaugural Competition at the Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba, 1993 and the Open Male Humorous section at the Bundy Muster this year at Bundaberg Qld.

John admits that the Territory is one of his favourite places, as his poem this month reveals.

## **The Territory**

**© John Philipson Tamworth.**

For country that is scenic and extremely photogenic  
Before you go "jetsetting", see Australia's "Living Heart".  
Don't go spending lots of pelf 'til you educate yourself  
And improve your local knowledge, let the Centre be your start.



'Stead of fishing on the Barwon, take a Coach and go to Darwin  
And see the place where history was made.  
Back in nineteen forty two, like a bolt from out the blue  
The little brown men made their first air-raid.

They, who died without a quiver, rest now at Adelaide River  
Our gratitude to them should never die.  
To them we owe our way of life; they saw us through that awful strife  
Had there been no "them" there'd be no "you and I".

Then come south on Highway Stuart, be assured you'll never rue it  
For that's the country everyone should see.  
Stop at every pub and inn, have a 'Bundy', beer or gin,  
You'll be surprised how friendly folks can be.

Come down to Mataranka where the warm spring makes one hanker  
To take a 'skinny dip' when it's quite late.  
But if you take the chance, then, have more than just a glance  
For the chances are that you will have a mate.

See the wondrous gorge at Katherine, the like of which you've never seen.  
Stay the night, then take the boat trip with the guide.  
You'll see gorges one and two and you'll ne'er forget the view  
Of the overhanging cliffs where Jedda died.

One thing you'll find quite funny are the signs nailed on the 'dunny'  
When you have a comfort stop at Elliot pub.  
Where the beer is always cold and nice souvenirs sold  
And you'll be glad you didn't stop out in the scrub.

Have a beer at Tennant Creek, but at 'Alice' stay a week  
Where the Panorama Guth is quite amazing.  
And you never will repent the cheapest dollar ever spent  
For the Mural here will really keep you gazing.

And when you travel to the 'Rock' you will surely get a shock  
For its colours and its size will quite astound you.  
And if you make it to the crest then sign the book and take a rest  
While you gaze out at the scenery that surrounds you.

You are sure to love 'The Alice' like our monarch loves her palace  
For the lifestyle there is so relaxed and free.  
For that way of life I hunger and if only I were younger  
The Territory life would be the life for me!

## **In the Steps of the Poets — Henry, Will and ‘The Breaker’.**

For the first time ever a Bush Poets Literary Trek was held in conjunction with the 1996 Bourke Mateship Festival, tracing the steps of Australian Literary Legends who spent time in the Bourke area.

Originally the ‘Mateship Festival’ began to commemorate the centenary of Henry Lawson’s visit to Bourke. This year poetry enthusiasts were given the chance to follow in the steps of Henry to Hungerford, visiting the places he did, the properties on which he worked, and then to the properties where Will Ogilvie and Harry ‘The Breaker’ Morant worked.

The programme started with the Bourke Symposium on the Monday, where five fascinating new books were launched, focusing on Bourke, introduced by a combination of talks, interviews and workshops.

The books are based on: The unpublished letters of Will Ogilvie which are part of John Meredith’s new book; the authentic story of Henry Lawson’s days in Bourke by the late Alan Barton; a novel set in Bourke by Robyn Burrows; “Over My Tracks” by Evelyn Crawford; and a local history of Weilmoringle by Merri Gill.

Over an evening meal at the Old Royal Hotel, participants in the Trek were entertained with selected Bourke poems and stories by Geoff Bullock.

Chris Mears and Merri-May Gill rendered a number of fitting songs for the occasion and John Philipson and Frank Daniel added to the tempo of the evening.

The Trek set off on Tuesday morning in six four-wheel drive vehicles and twenty three enthusiasts from as far away as London U.K., the NSW towns of Bombala, Penrith, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Tamworth, Canowindra, Bourke and Tilpa, one from Dalby in Queensland and another from Melbourne Vic.

First stop was the remains of the historic ‘Toorale’ shearing shed where the Billy was boiled for morning tea and sandwiches. It was here at ‘Toorale’ that Henry Lawson wrote ‘The Boss’s Boots’, and ‘The Shearers’ which were read in superb fashion by Geoff Bullock.

The sadly neglected ‘Toorale’ Homestead left an empty feeling in many hearts as this great corrugated iron monument to the days gone by still held a distinct charm and atmosphere synonymous with the early settlers. The dusty, cobwebbed piano in the corner of the stately twelve square Ball Room still raised a note that floated eerily through the tall ceilings.

The Trek followed the Wanaaring Road to the site of the former Gumbalie Hotel and then to The Warrego Hotel at Fords Bridge for lunch.

At Kerribee Station, the ruins of the old homestead and the cemetery proved very interesting. This was the home of Baldy Davis, known as Baldy Thompson in Lawsons stories.

Lake Eliza, in contrast to Lawson’s visit during the drought years, had a full level of water. Many little items of interest can still be found in what remains of the Inn, the Blacksmiths shop and other dwellings.

The Royal Mail Hotel at Hungerford on the Paroo River came to life, much in the style of the old traditions with good tucker, billy tea, damper, and camp-oven stews interspersed with song and verse. Our ABPA President, Frank Daniel took out the



title of World Champion Dingo Thrower. (John Philipson was the Judge). This title is not an annual thing, just holds until someone else can beat all comers on any particular day.

Midnight saw most of the trekkers in their bunks and bedrolls for the first shift of the Mosquitoes. The Mozzies lasted 'til 3 a.m. when the snorers and a number of Ventriiloquial Roosters took over. Hungerford has more roosters than hens and no KFC.

On the Wednesday Brindingabba Station Homestead (circa. 1892) was the first port of call and then cross-country to Midnights Grave. Then overland to 'Sharoon' where the hut once occupied by Will Ogilvie still stands, believed to be where he wrote 'Fair Girls and Grey Horses'.

A letter written by Will Ogilie in his ninetieth year to the current owner of this station was read revealing some of Ogilvie's fond memories of his time on the property. Harry Morant also served time on this station.

At Barrington, mine hostess of the Tattersalls Hotel, Mary Crawley served up a great feast in true outback manner. It was here that the beautifully written records of the Barrington Jockey Club revealed that as of the 30th of July 1892, one Will Ogilvie was still in arrears for membership to the sum of one guinea. (\$2.10c.)

The return trip to Bourke saw mostly 'Breaker' Morant country, such as Ellerslie Station; thence on to the Lednapper Creek for the most outstanding display of colourful wild flowers ever to be seen before returning to Bourke.

There was a song or a poem for every occasion and the Trek was a big hit with all concerned. A must for all at the next Mateship Festival at Bourke. .FD

**WANTED:  
GOOD WOMAN**

**Must Be Able To  
Clean, Cook, Sew,  
Dig Worms And  
Clean Fish.**

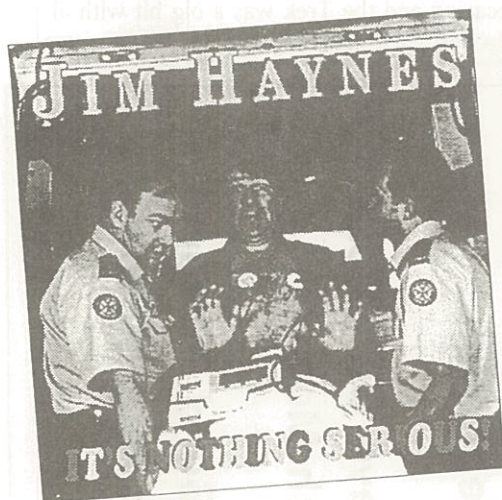
**Must Have Own Boat  
With Motor.  
Please Send Picture  
Of Boat And Motor.**

NEW RELEASE... It is really exciting to have the new album released through ABC. Please don't forget to ask your local radio station to play it once it is released in October. Whether they be commercial, ABC or FM Stations it really helps. I know many of you prefer to mailorder and we have tried to offer special deals in the past to show our appreciation for your support.

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# *Jim Haynes*

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