

No 3 Vol. 4 MARCH 1997.

The Australian



Bush Poets

Association Inc.

Newsletter

**QANTAS --- WALTZING MATILDA
BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
WINTON**

APRIL 24th to 27th 1997.

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

ALL POSITIONS

VACANT

Awaiting the results of the
Annual General Meeting of
the ABPA Inc.

Jondaryan Woolshed Qld.
23.3.1997

**QANTAS
WALTZING
MATILDA
AUSTRALIAN
BUSH POETRY
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

WINTON

QUEENSLAND
24 - 27 APRIL

Enquiries
Cathy Cooper
076 571 544

Poets Evening - 2pm - 6 pm
BUNDANOON HOTEL NSW
First Sunday each Month
Enq. 048 836 005

Cabonne Country Day
and
MARTI'S CANOWINDRA
HOT-AIR

BALLOON FIESTA

APRIL 10 - 13

CANOWINDRA NSW

Over 40 Hot-air Balloons

including

KOOKABURRA

and the

DINOSAUR

Vintage Tractor Pulling
Competition

Yard Dog Trials

PAT DRUMMOND IN CONCERT

WHIP-CRACKING

BUSH POETS

(John Philipson - Milton Taylor -
Noel Cutler - Frank Daniel)

Air Displays - Parachutists

Fotis Fireworks Display to Music

The Biggest and Best in the Bush

Enquiries to Joe or Kerry

063 441 477 ah.

Fireside Festival

LONGYARD HOTEL

TAMWORTH NSW

May 31 - June 1 1997

Poets Brawls - Breakfasts - Workshops

The Best of the Bush

with

Jim Haynes

Presidents Letter

Dear members of the ABPA. It appears that most Bush Poets have encountered some busy times since the Tamworth Festival. The way things are going Winton and Longreach Festivals will be here and gone before we know it. Then back to the Fireside Festival again at the end of May.

As for myself I have'nt had a weekend off since the middle of January and have just returned from the International Yarn Spinning Challenge in Adelaide where I got pipped for the trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, by the formidable Kel Watkins, last years winner and author of 'Send Her Down Hughie'. A great event it was too.

After a series of heats with yarnspinners and story tellers, Reg Harris of Alice Springs, Geoff Goodfellow of Adelaide and Jeff Swain of Perth, Kel and I battled it out at the Royalty Theatre in Angas St. for the finals which consisted of one five minute bracket on 'What is a Yarn?' This was followed by a ten-minute round which consisted of a Ballad and a yarn or two yarns combined. The third and final round was based on a ten-minute 'yarn only' and a lot of fun was had by all.

Host for the evening was David Mulhallen, now retired from ABC Radio National in Adelaide. The compere was guest story teller and winner of the Edinburgh Story Telling Competition last year, Mr. David Campbell of Edinburgh.

David Campbell told a number of stories about the myths and legends of his country which I found very interesting, but far removed from the Bush Yarns as told in Australia. From Adelaide David flew on to Perth WA for two more engagements before returning home to Scotland.

It was an interesting change and a great pleasure to meet this man, dressed in tartaned kilt and all. (Far removed from the Campbells at Winton last year.) He was quite adept at stringing people along with his very genteel manner.

There was never any hint of Bull-dust and he had a wonderful

**VISIT THE ABPA Inc. HOME PAGE www.ix.net.au/~bushpoet/
Email: bushpoet@ix.net.au**

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knack of accompanying himself with the mouth organ plus some fine singing which enhanced his stories.

By the time most of you are reading this issue of the news-letter the Annual General Meeting will be over, and no doubt all are awaiting the results, which I will publish next month.

Next month I also hope to be able to bring some news from Glenny Palmer and Milton Taylor now returned from their visit to The Cowboy Poets Gathering in Elko, Nevada. I believe they had a wonderful time and were a big hit with their American counterparts.

More news late, regards,

Frank Daniel

Bundanoon Poets in the Pub

The Regular monthly get-together at the Bundanoon Hotel in Bundanoon on the Southern Highlands of New South Wales is going ahead in leaps and bounds.

As a result the programme has been changed from an evening event to an afternoon get-together starting at 2pm. Murray Hartin will be the guest poet on Sunday, May 4th. and there will be an open section for poets who wish to attend.

For further information on this venue you may contact the new co-ordinator, Mrs. Jennifer Compton on 048 844 368.

The Station Resort - Jindabyne

BUSH POETS GATHERING

Bush poetry, yarn spinning, tall tales and true lies

Compered by *Frank Daniel* ABPA. Ka. Tt. SR.

(Kultural adviser to the Station Resort)

Saturday and Sunday 29 - 30 March 1997

POETS BREAKFAST - YARN SPINNING COMPETITION

[Cow-Pat Trophy for Best Yarn Spinner]

YARNS AND POETRY AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Enquiries: Accommodation in the Lodge - Camping - Group Bookings

Ph. Christiana Kern 1800 020 808

SEARCHING FOR ANOTHER 'BANJO'

'Banjo' Paterson's bush ballads are the inspiration behind yet another competition The Nugget's Crossing "Let's find another Banjo" Poetry Competition.

The idea came from Stuart Henderson, Qantas Club supervisor, bush walker and philosopher who feels that the tranquility of the mountains is the ideal place to inspire the poet within.

The competition is open to everyone. There are two categories - Under 18 years and over 18 years.

The usual conditions apply and more information can be obtained from The Nugget's Crossing "Let's find another Banjo Competition", c/- Snowy Times, Clock Tower Offices,

Nugget's Crossing, Jindabyne. NSW 2627

POETS GET-TOGETHER

1ST Sunday of the month

at

TRADERS RESTUARANT COOLUM QLD

for more info : Elizabeth Esprestor
ph; 074 491991.

THE NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

"THE OUTBACK MUSTER"

LONGREACH QLD. 2ND, 3RD, 4TH MAY, 1997

Friday 2nd May 7.00 pm Sunset and Stars

Bush Poetry at its best at the Stockman's Hall of Fame

Saturday, 3rd May at 8.00am Poet's Breakfast and Poet's Cup

Saturday, 3rd May at 5.00pm Performers in the Park

Sunday 4th May at 11.00am Social River Cruise and Lunch

Sunday, 4th May at 6.00pm Dinner, Verse and Song

Contemporary and Traditional Verse, Yarnspinning, Songs and Music

Enq. 076 581 718 Fax 076 583 198 P.O. Box 518 Longreach Qld. 4730

ENTRIES CLOSE 15TH APRIL 1997

TO THE EDITOR.

My wife and I have just returned from the Cobargo Folk Festival and poets breakfast competition. It was marvelous for me to meet Frank Daniel & 'Blue the Shearer' and experience the comradeship of poets from all over and our living legend Campbell the Swaggie.

The people who run these festivals get little praise, but these organisers and helpers behind the scenes are the salt of the earth to us. No venues would mean no performing poets, no ABPA, and more importantly no promotion of our traditional art and our poets and writers.

Our congratulations to all those unknowns at Cobargo and elsewhere for their efforts given free. Also to ABC radio regionals who seem to be getting behind us and giving us so much coverage and assistance.

My special thanks to Kate Carragon of ABC regional, BEGA. Her interview with Blue the Shearer has already been broadcast, likewise my own, as the lucky winner of the Cobargo Swaggie. Thanks also to the Tamworth Poetry and Reading Group for the lovely H.C. for the Blackened Billy and what great company to be competing with? Carmel Randle, Glenny Palmer, Ron Stevens, Bob Magor - I wonder which of us thought about blowing up the dunny first, -- it matters not. It's the promotion of Australian Traditional Verse.

Yours in appreciation,
Harry Bowers. Warragul Vic.

NEW TAPE.

HARRY BOWERS LIVE

(But only Just)

from: H BOWERS
40 Sutton St
WARRAGUL
VIC. 3820

\$10 plus \$2 postage.

THE COBB & CO BATTERED BUGLE **BUSH VERSE COMPETITION**

Also the opening of the Cobb & Co Changing Station, a complex of Library, Art Gallery, Aquarium & Museum on the site of the old Cobb & Co Store, which has been restored.

16th and 17th AUGUST 1997. More info later.

TO THE EDITOR.

Dear sir,

Please allow me to introduce myself as a presenter of the "The Folk Show", which is presented on Community Radio 2BBBfm in the Bellinger Valley, on the Mid North Coast of NSW. We are located approximately 30kms south of the City of Coffs Harbour and a similar distance north of the Nambucca Valley. I have maintained a lifetime interest in Bush Poetry and subsequently believe it to be a part of the Australian folk process. It gives me great pleasure to dedicate a large portion of my program to both Contemporary and Traditional Bush Verse.

On 1.3.97 I will commence a new Community Radio Program, "Poets from the Bush" on radio Nambucca, 2NVR, at Bowraville, in the Nambucca Valley which is located midway between Kempsey and Coffs Harbour and broadcast's to our local area of 12,000 people and to the larger areas as mentioned.

"Poets from the Bush" will be dedicated to both traditional and contemporary bush verse and will advise both poets and listeners about current news of the bush poetry scene, both local and national and will contain recordings of our current contemporary and traditional poets. Should any readers or members of your association have any information or recorded material which they would consider to be of interest, for use within my program format, I would be only too happy to receive it by mail to the address shown.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your associatio continued success.

Best Regards,

Maureen Garner
Producer/Presenter

THE FOLK SHOW - 2BBBfm

2 Salamander Parade
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448.
Fax / Phone: (065) 685 269.

toowoomba
education
centre

Post Office
Darling Heights
Toowoomba Q 4350

tec

***"Stand still to watch the world go by -----
and it will."***

"THE BLACKENED BILLY COMPETITION - 1997"

JUDGES COMMENTS.

This year, 62 poems survived the attentions of the preliminary judging panel of four, to find their way to me for a final reading and adjudication.

My instructions from the Blackened Billy Committee were to select the three first place getters and, if the quality of the poems permitted, select a further nine for special honorable mention.

Last year the instructions were similar, and although it wasn't an easy task then, it was by no means as difficult as it has been this year.

The quality of the placegetters work was just as high, but this year there were so many more poems that had something special to offer.

The subjects were as varied as anybody could wish for. From "drift of poison sprays" to adventure semi epics ... to "unfaithful husbands" ... "character studies ...and so on. It was a sparkling variety of fascinating themes and narrative and sometimes humour. We had a kaleidoscope of different ideas - thoughts - opinions - ponderings and observations.

This year I was pleased to see that poets had become more adventurous in the use of rhythms and rhyming patterns, and that they were often using these devices to assist with the mood of their writings.

However, I did notice that some of the narrative poems started out true to the chosen rhyming pattern, meter and rhythm, but when the heat of the action occurred, the excitement of the moment caused the poet to slip in these matters a little. Now that was something that the Lawsons and Patersons of this world just didn't allow to happen, so I would suggest that we should look closely at that aspect of our writing for next year's work.

I eventually reduced the number of finalists to 26 and so was forced to eliminate a further 14 poems for the smallest reasons, and I must admit I almost felt that I was cheating the authors out of their just recognition.

My sincere congratulations to all the entrants in this year's Blackened Billy Competition. It was a superb effort all round.

To those who were unsuccessful this year, may I say that in very many cases you will never know just how close your work came to the top group.

Eric Scott.

SHE.

Back in those long gone and faraway years
When the black dirt was worked by the old pioneers
And her man was away for long week after week
She stayed behind in the house by the creek.

Where the hands that put food on the table
Were the hands that fed horses in the stable,
Where the hands that cooled the child's fevered brow
Were the hands that went out and steadied the plough.

Where hands that with love, sewed a new seat in britches
Struggled out in a storm and dug drainage ditches,
And the hands that pressed flour, some damper to bake,
Were the hands that despatched a threatening snake.

Where the hands that did rock a small wooden cradle
Were the hands that stirred jam with a big iron ladle,
And the hands that assembled a pink cotten dress
Were the hands that delivered a calf under stress.

Where the hands that with needle and cotten did mingle
Where the hands that constructed and nailed a new shingle,
And when she from the fever the child could not save,
Those hands would require to dig a small grave.

And when he returned from out on the track
Hers were the hands that would ease his sore back,
And his were the hands that fixed picket and gate
While hers were the hands that clung near to her mate.

But the time went so quickly, it really did fly,
And a tear trickled down as she said goodbye
To the man of her life, for who she would yearn,
And keep her hands busy until his return.

(C) JACK WICKHAM CROYDON VIC.

ASTRELBA PUBLISHING

136 Emu Street Longreach Q 4730 ph (076) 592363.

Astrelba Publishing is proud to announce the release of two new publications by Western Queensland bush poet, Mark Kleinschmidt.

Westering is a collection of 46 poems written by Mark since 1989. It is the essence of bush life in the west - philosophy, characters, heartbreak and humour, pathos and triumph and above all, reality. This eighty page book is "perfect bound" and printed on quality paper. Fine illustrations by talented artist, Sonia Spratt complement the wordcraft of the poet. Renowned bushman and poetry critic, R M Williams ended the foreword of *westering* with "I am proud indeed to lend a word of praise for his excellent book of verse."

For those who like to hear the words, we present original bush verse of Western Queensland by Mark Kleinschmidt on the 60 minute audio tape, *The Ringer's Note*. This cassette contains 23 poems recited by the poet with a little help from four of his friends. High quality ferric-oxide tape has been used for this recording which was mastered with the latest digital technology.

Copies of *Westering* and *The Ringers Note* may be purchased from ASTRELBA PUBLISHING at the above address.

Westering..... \$12.00 each

The Ringer's Note..... \$14.00 each

Postage..... \$1.00 per article.

Cheque or money order made payable to Astrelba Publishing.
Please do not send cash.

NOW AVAILABLE

The Co-operative Book of ...

Verse for Aussie Children

A collection of Performance Poetry for Primary and Secondary School-aged Australians from the pens of eight Bush Poets....

Sharon Anderson, Graham Dean, Wally Finch, Zita Horton

R. J. (Bob) Miller, Betty Olle, Carmel Randle, and Greg Young

Arranged and Edited by: *Carmel Randle* Illustrations by *Louise K. Dean*

Available from any of the Contributors. Price \$8.00



BUSH POETS GATHERING

Join the Snowy Mountains Bush Poets in the
bracing air and starlit skies of the mountains.
Bush poetry, yarn spinning, tall tales and true lies.

Compered by: *Frank Daniel* ABPA
Kultural Adviser to The Station Resort

SATURDAY, 29 March 1997
SUNDAY, 30 March 1997

9:00am	Bush Poets Breakfast
Midday	Yarn Spinning Competition Station Cowpat Trophy for Best Yarn
5:00pm	Poetry & Yarns around the Campfire

Accommodation and camping available on site.
Book a bed in the "Poet's Lodge" or get a
group together and book a room.

Phone Christiana Kern on (064) 562-895 for
accommodation rates and other minor details.

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS
ASSOCIATION INC.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
To be held at

JONDARYAN WOOLSHED

JONDARYAN QUEENSLAND

(About 50 klm from Toowoomba)

23RD MARCH 1997.

**NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE WILL
BE TAKEN FROM THE FLOOR**

ALL MEMBERS MUST BE FINANCIAL

SNOWY MOUNTAINS COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE STATION RESORT, JINDABYNE

SATURDAY, 29 March 1997
SUNDAY, 30 March 1997

**TOP
COUNTRY
ARTISTS**



- ★Walk Up Talent Quest
- ★Market Stalls
- ★Bush Dance
- ★Live Horse Races
- ★Various Equestrian Events
- ★Poet's Breakfasts
- ★Yarn Spinning
- ★Whip Cracking/Hay Stacking
- ★Buskers/Competition/Prizes
- ★Cow Pat Lotto
- ★Shearing & Sheep Dog Demonstrations
- ★Camping on Site available
plus combined Accommodation
& Festival Packages

ENQUIRIES:
Telephone 1 800 020 808

THE **Station**
RESORT • JINDABYNE

DEAR MEMBER,

Due to the requirements of the Consumer Affairs, Brisbane, the A.G.M. could not be held at Tamworth, as in the past, because our financial year did not end until the 28th of January. The A.G.M. must then be held within 3 months of that date. The SPECIAL GENERAL meeting held at Toowoomba on 23rd November was to rescind that date (28th Jan.) and put our financial year as ending on 31st December. This motion has now been passed and our A.G.M. will in future be held in January. Therefore in keeping with the requirements of the Consumer Affairs, our AGM has been set down at Jondaryan Country Music Festival to coincide with their poetry competition.

All positions on the committee will be vacated and a new committee elected from the members attending the meeting. ANY financial member can stand for a position on the committee as long as they are nominated and seconded by other financial members. This is YOUR association and it must have members on the committee to survive. Have you considered standing for a position? Think about it!

Nominations so far are;

PRESIDENT

Frank Daniel.

Bluey Bostock.

VICE PRESIDENT.

Bob Miller.

SECRETARY

Ron Selby.

TREASURER

Glenn Muller.

If you are unable to attend the meeting you may send in your proxy vote care of the secretary, or any other member who will be attending the meeting, to vote on your behalf.

REMEMBER you must be a financial member of the ABPA to stand or vote on the committee. The ABPA has been a great boon to the members and we hope that it will continue as a united body of Australians with the one aim of keeping the spoken word alive through poetry.

Ron Selby

Sec / Treas.

TENTERFIELD 'ORACLES OF THE BUSH'

18th - 20th APRIL 1997

Australia owes a lot to its early poets. Their works weave such vivid images of the land and its people that they have made the sun bronzed stockman, the magnificent landscapes, and the unique Australian humour easily identifiable throughout the world. Wherever they are read or recited, the works of this special group of Australians continue to stir our patriotism, pride and humour.

The object of this event is to celebrate the wonderful heritage of the Australian Bush and to encourage the up and coming Banjos of today by giving them a platform and a home to develop their talents.

The proceeds of this event will go towards a library of Australian literature and song in an existing historical building in Tenterfield.

We expect this event to grow. In 5 years time (2001) on the Centenary of Federation of Australia, Tenterfield (the Birthplace of Our Nation) will be the focus of a very significant celebration for Australia. What better place could there be for an Australian library of Australian Bush Literature ?

Patti Ainsworth
Oracles Committee
ph (067) 361082 b/h.
(067) 361118. a/h

GOOD NEWS !

All Charlee Marshall's books and tapes are now available. 'I Couldn't Bowl for Laughin', and 'Bowlin' and Laughin', were all sold out but Beryl has lashed out and printed another 100 copies of each, alas, though to print only 100 of each is a lot more expensive so they will be sold at an increased price. The cost of the books and tapes can be obtained by calling Beryl Marshall on (070) 923930 or write to:

Mrs B. Marshall.....Unit 4, Cleveland Place,
117 Walsh St
MAREEBA QLD 4880.

DON'T MISS OUT.....ORDER NOW !

"A husband means a married man.

A wife means ---- what she says ! "

THE LAST DROVER.

His droving days are over now he's earned his day of rest seated on the front verandah as the sun sets in the West his wrinkled face and silver hair a product of his age he dreams of the days when he was young & the saddle was his stage.

His loyal horse and faithful dog now buried in the dust for many years they shared the task and earned each others trust. They had crossed the vast expanses of this rugged country wide and had met all natures challenges and took them in their stride.

Herding cattle from the centre to the railhead in the East was a taxing task at anytime, a test for man and beast. Then when the drive was over it was time to celebrate and watch the dust of many weeks go flushing down the grate.

But with each visit back to town he noticed many changes and couldn't wait to mount his horse and ride beyond the ranges. The Western plains were his domain and the horse it reigned supreme but an invasion was about to start by rubber tyred machine.

His droving days are over now his knowledge is not needed the pace of time has left it's toll, it's challenge went unheeded. He turns his face into the sun at a now familiar din, it's not the sound of thunder but the road trains rolling in.

The cattle now are stacked two high not spread across the plain and the drovers now a driver with three carriages in train. In air conditioned comfort and a speed that's hard to grasp they measure drives in hours now, not weeks as in the past.

But as the trucks go rolling by to disturb his hazy thoughts he remembers the days when he was king & the servant was his horse and while diesel fumes may foul the air one memory remains the bellow of the thirsty beasts and the dust is still the same.

Graeme McIntosh WOODEND VIC.

THE BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY INC.

PRESIDENT;	Liz Ward	ph 071 563178.
VICE PRESIDENT:	Ross Keppel	ph 071 512933.
SECRETARY:	Merv Webster	ph 071 591868.
TREASURER:	Carrol Reffold	ph 071 262999.

At long last we have been able to reorganize up here and after calling for persons interested in forming an organisation for poets, we have formed The Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. We meet every third Saturday at 2.30 PM at the Arts Centre on the cnr of Barolin and Quay streets Bundaberg. The Poets Society is open to all forms of Poetry but we will be hosting the 1997 Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster and Concert which will be held over the 4th, 5th & 6th July at Across The Waves Sports Club....Bundaberg.

THE BUSH LANTERN AWARD.

Written competition for Australian Bush Verse in conjunction with The Bundy Mob's Bush Poetry Muster.

Entry forms available from; The Secretary, The Bush Lantern Award, 8 Hawaii Court, BAGARA QLD 4670.

Closing date; 31st MAY 1997.

THE BUNDY MOB'S BUSH POETS MUSTER & CONCERT.

4th, 5th and 6th of JULY 1997.

Performance poetry Competition - Juniors 12 - 17 yrs,
Novice Traditional & Original, Open Traditional & Original,
Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup.

Free for all Friday night and Bush Poets Concert Saturday Night. Entry Forms available from; The Secretary, The Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster, 8 Hawaii Court BAGARA QLD 4670.

Closing date; 20th JUNE 1997.

PURE POETRY.

1st MONDAY of the month
at

AROMA'S RESTUARANT & COFFEE SHOP

Margaret St TOOWOOMBA

for more info; Ron Selby 076 301106.

NORTH PINE BUSH POETS.

In February 1996, six like-minded people decided to put together a group to perform Bush Poetry on a regular basis, choosing Dad & Dave's Billy Tea and Damper at the North Pine Country Park as the preferred venue.

Now celebrating its first anniversary, the North Pine Bush Poets Group, has come a long way. We now have 20 financial members and we still hold our regular 'Poets Gathering' on the first and third Sunday of every month, (starting around 9am, North Pine Country Park, Dayboro Rd Petrie QLD Info John & Patti Coutts (07) 38861552. Everyone is welcome!

The Pine Rivers Shire Council, on hearing of our group, came up with the wonderful idea that we should hold a Bush Poetry Festival, and with the help of a lot of people within Bush Poetry circles, and the Council, our 1996 Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival was a resounding success. This year the festival is scheduled for the weekend of the 4th and 5th October. Keep the weekend free and come along for an enjoyable time!

On Australia day this year, the North Pine Bush Poets Group achieved its proudest moment to date: we were presented with a Cultural Award from the Pine Rivers Council. The gold medallion stands proudly on display.

We would like to thank all of those who supported us during the last twelve months, especially the Australian Bush Poets Association, of which many of us are members, and we look forward to a long and successful relationship with all involved in Bush Poetry.

DATE CLAIMER.

THE NORTH PINE BUSH POETS GROUP

will hold its

CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

on

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October 1997

at

Pioneer Village Country Music Hall
North Pine Country Park
Dayboro Rd Petrie. QLD.

For inquiries phone: Patti Coutts (07) 3886 1552.
Louise Dean (07) 3260 5506.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I read with saddened interest the President's report,
As he wrote of strife and turmoil and lack of full support.

He wrote of ones less happy with egos bent or bruised,
Who only saw the downside felt unhappy or abused.

And the airing of their grievance was often wrongly laid,
Somehow it made them happy, human nature I'm afraid.

Still they have the right to question, though we feel a little irk,
And we hope it makes us stronger, that's democracy at work.

Sometimes we gave you credit, sometimes you copped it rough
But the politics of poets is fairly heady stuff.

For poets can be critical and declare it open season,
Turn mole hills into mountains, lots of rhyme but little reason.

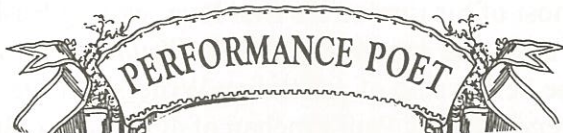
You'll find there's few among us who want to hold the reins,
I do not have the qualities, the desire or the brains.

So thank you Mr Daniel for a sturdy job well done,
Sure, you copped the brown stuff but we hope you had
some fun.

You can walk among us poets, your head held high & straight,
You've steered the ship courageously
And enhanced the old word...."mate".

(c) RHUBARD. '97

MARK GLIORI



ALL ENQUIRIES : P.O. BOX 999, WARWICK, QLD.4370
OR TELEPHONE : (07C 61 4024)

Profile. — Ellis Campbell.

Ellis Campbell. Aged 70 years. Married, with three adult children. Ellis Campbell went to school at Tallawang, midway between Gulgong and Dunedoo in NSW. He walked three miles each way cross country with his brother and sister until the school closed down when he was 13 years old. At this ripe old age Ellis went sleeper-cutting with his father.

Ellis became a shearer at 17 years and continued in this trade for a further 33 years, working in four states of Australia. In the off-seasons he went back to timber cutting, fencing, rabbit-trapping, farm work and horse breaking. Ellis owned a couple of small side-line farms as well and retired from shearing at 50 years of age to become a gardener at the Dubbo Base Hospital where he remained until retirement fifteen years later.

A great love of Bush Verse was instilled in Ellis by his Father and Grand-father as they recited the works of Paterson, Lawson and Ogilvie; neither of them wrote poetry.

Ellis fooled around with a bit of verse for many years, not taking it too seriously, believing his lack of education a major drawback in writing anything worthwhile. He often wrote of amusing incidents in the shearing sheds to amuse his mates — and then threw it away.

At 54 years of age, Ellis finally decided to try some written competitions and met with some immediate success, but awards were fairly scarce in 1981.

In 1993 his consistent love of Bush Verse, perseverance and his learnings from other writers, particularly Ron Stevens, Quendy Young and the late Charlee Marshall, began to pay off.

Since then Ellis has won 74 awards, including 18 firsts and 10 seconds. Wins include The Blackened Billy, and many others throughout the eastern states.

Ellis has also won a number of Short Story writing, Song Writing, Yarn Telling, Performance Poetry and Limerick writing competitions. He devotes most of his time to his first love, writing Bush Verse.

Ellis was admitted to the degree of *Writing Fellow* by the NSW Branch of The Fellowship of Australian Writers in 1995.

He was interviewed by Paul Linehan of 4QR Radio, Brisbane and was asked to recite one of his poems live on air.

A successful author, Ellis has published two books 'Snakes Alive & Other Verse, and Nostalgia At The Boundary Gate, selling over three thousand copies. He has a third book coming out at the end of March, containing 44 poems, which includes 24 winners and 11 runners-up, 7 thirds and two Awards Of Excellence. This new book will be available at \$12.00 postage paid from;

Ellis Campbell — 1 Lawson St. Dubbo NSW 2830

Rainy Night

© Ellis Campbell

The stars resign from inky night and all is deathly still,
Before the thunder's rumbling crash beyond the craggy hill.
The lightning's gleam illuminates a vast expanse of cloud
Where darting, chainlike patterns prance and wind gusts bellow loud.

A moment's stillness follows then, before the lashing rain —
Like hail it pounds upon the roof and creaking window pane.
The forest's lofty pines are swayed and bowing to the squall —
And ghostly louvre rattles whine along the darkened hall.

The shrieking gale abates a bit, and swerves to change its course —
A fierce, relentless marching drum that thuds without remorse.
The falling rain on parching earth fills every crack and stream;
And gushes foaming to the creek, pursued by lightning's gleam.

Beneath the blankets, safe and warm, I hear the falling rain —
It whispers in the water spout and gurgles down the drain.
It bounces off the chimney bricks and flows along the path —
It makes a leak and oozes in to stain the white-washed hearth.

All through a ceaseless, windstrewn night the surging torrent raged
But dawn's first flush of daylight saw the fierce deluge assuaged.
The valley's dense with drifting fog — the demon's passion's spent —
A beaming sunshine steams the earth and wrung-out clouds relent.

(Winner of Network Competition — 1995)

CANCELATION OF COMPETITION.

The Charleville Bush Balladeers wish to advise that due to problems associated with the recent flood they have had to cancel the performance section of their competition due to be held on the weekend of April 19 & 20.

The written section will proceed as planned.

The club sincerely regrets any inconvenience caused and intends to hold several Bush Poetry events over that same weekend so that any poets passing through on their way to Winton or wanting to stop over in Charleville will have plenty to keep them occupied.

The proposed program is:

FRIDAY APRIL 18 7.00pm **Billy Tea & Damper** at the Cobb & Co Caravan Park.

SATURDAY APRIL 19 Noon: **Bush Poetry in the Park**
New parklands off Cunnamulla Rd.

7.00pm **Cattle Camp Hotel B.B.Q**
Any person can nominate and those who do can recite, play, sing, dance, spin yarns etc

SUNDAY. APRIL 20 7.00am **Breakfast at Historic House.**
One Minute Poem Comp. on a subject given out on previous night.

All of the above will be informal and designed to give the locals something to smile about while giving our visitors a taste of good old fashioned western hospitality.

Our caterers would appreciate some idea of how many will be attending over the weekend, so, if possible, please drop us a line to say if you will be here.

CONTACT: **Col or Glenis Bentley**
P.O. Box 147
CHARLEVILLE QLD 4470.
Ph: (076) 541293.

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"Not all men are crazy.....Some are bachelors!"

CLAYPAN BOOGIE COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL -- BLACKALL OLD

It was a hot and humid weekend in Blackall for the annual Claypan Boogie Country Music Festival held on 28th Feb. and 1st & 2nd March. Unfortunately, heavy rainfalls around the district in the previous week kept a lot of spectators and some competitors away. The really good news is that western Queensland is experiencing its best wet season for 20 years.

The Bush Poetry which was held on Sunday morning proved a popular event with Charleville's own Dr Chester Wilson, taking out the three first places.

A committee spokesperson said that "The committee are looking at changing the date of next year's Claypan Boogie to a weekend in April."

1997 CLAYPAN BOOGIE RESULTS

<u>TRADITIONAL:</u>	1st	Chester Wilson	CHARLEVILLE.
	2nd	Damien Jones	BLACKALL.
<u>ORIGINAL:</u>	1st	Chester Wilson	CHARLEVILLE.
	2nd	Damien Jones	BLACKALL.
equal	2nd	Don Pender	REDLAND BAY.
	3rd	Nathan McCosker	ROCKHAMPTON.
<u>HUMOROUS:</u>	1st	Chester Wilson	CHARLEVILLE.
	2nd	Damien Jones	BLACKALL.
	3rd	Don Pender	REDLAND BAY.

'BUSH VERSE FROM A WANDERERS PEN'

by DON PENDER.

22 great poems from a Dinki Di Aussie who say's
"After knocking around the bush for near 60 years
I thought it time to put pen to paper and to recall
some of the things I have seen or what I have
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90% of these verses are true."

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From: D. PENDER
11 / 13 Mudlo St
REDLAND BAY QLD 4165.

POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- March 27 - 31 1997 **The National Folk Festival Canberra** Easter in Canberra
Enquiries — Ph. 06 249 7755
- March 29 - 30 — **Bush Poets Gathering** — *Station Resort Jindabyne NSW*
Snowy Mountains Country Music Festival — including Poets Breakfasts
Camp fire yarns and Tall Tales — Enq. 1800 020 808
- April 4. "Bar Room Yarns and Recitals" - Kinross Pub - Thurgoona NSW. 8.00pm
Filming for 'Our Country' Television
Book early — Neil Hulm 060 253 845 — Kate Green 060 238 173
- April 18 - 20 **Tenterfield** — **Oracles of the Bush**
- April 19 - 20 **Charleville Q.** — **REGRETTABLY — CANCELLED** —
- April 24 - 27. **Winton Qld.** Competitive Performance Poetry -
'Junior Bush Poetry Festival' Years 1 - 12 Individuals and Groups
'QANTAS -Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships'
Entries close March 24. - Organiser P.O. Box 7714 Toowoomba Qld. 4350
- May 2 - 3 - 4 **National Outback Performing Arts & Outback Muster**
Longreach Q. **NOPA Awards** Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame.
Enq. Sec. 075 581 718 Fax 076 583 198 P.O.Box 518 Longreach Q 4730
- May 30 - June 1 **FIRESIDE FESTIVAL** — Longyard Hotel Tamworth.
Friday 6pm. Poets in the Pub — Saturday Poets Breakfasts — Brawls -
Yarns and Tall-tales plus Galah Awards Night - Wall of Renown Inductees
- May 31 Closing date — Open Short Story and Open Poetry Competition
Maryborough Golden Wattle Festival Literary Competition 1997
Enquiries to N. Fields PO Box 221 Maryborough Vic 3465
- June 5th - 9th. **Cloncurry Bush Festival & Mary Kathleen Reunion**
Country Music Talent Quest. Written & Performance Poetry Competition,
Line Dancing and the Muldoon Linehaul Triathlon — please send SSAE
to Cloncurry Telecentre, P.O. Box 455 Cloncurry Q. 4824
Convenor: Michael Darby. Ph. 077 422 366 Fax 077 422 199
- June 6 - 9 **Australian Folk Festival** — **Kiama NSW** A celebration of
Australian folk music, songs, dance, poetry, yarnspinning and heritage with
concerts Poets Breakfasts, Dancers, Masked Ball and workshops.
Enquiries re Bookings etc. Bev (042 360 701 Fx 042 571 787
- Juen 6 - 9 Merriwa Festival of the Fleece. More news later
- June 6 - 9 **Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc. Gulgong NSW**
Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award for Recorded Poem —
Short Story and Verse writing competitions. Close 11.4. 1997
Enq. P.O. Box 235 Gulgong NSW 2852 063 74 2049 — 063 74 1668
- June 2 - 10 **The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Inc. (NSW)**
Entries close 2/4/97 - Verse, Short Story, Song writing. Ph. 063 431548
Street Busking June 7th. Enq. 063 431 003
- June 13 **Rockhampton** — **Central Queensland Bush Poetry Championships**
Performance poetry only — Enq. Kath Ireland
409 Peterson Ave. Rockhampton Qld. 4701