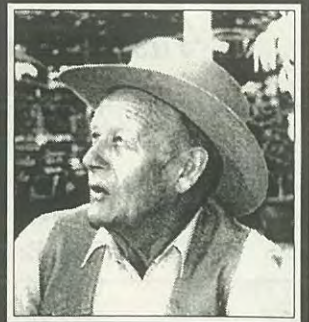


# The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No.7 Volume 4 July 1997



## VALE JOHN PHILIPSON

### *"OUR MOVEMENT'S LOST A MATE"*

#### The Passing of John Philipson

I first met him at Tamworth, just behind its gold guitar,  
Half old and grey, inclined to bite, and time had left its scar.  
He shook my hand, said little, and I put it down to age,  
'Till he saddled up the Longyard, and he lit its glittering stage.

As he waltzed us through the ballads that bedeck our honour roll,  
His inflections tracked their metre and his pausings stirred their soul.  
Puppeteer of mood — emotion, and I put that down to heart,  
For his background as a bushman bred his bush reciter's art.

I'll miss him when the talk is of the west and "Mongrel Grey",  
When the guttural works of Dennis fit the title of "The Play",  
While the smoky breath of Clancy floats across the Overflow,  
While the stars are everlasting that the Banjo'd come to know.

That "Spider from the Gwyder" and the bike of "Mulga Bill"  
Will remain in John's possession and I think they always will.  
And he took a rusty kero lamp and summoned up its genie,  
When he took the words of Lawson and he made them live in "Sweeney".

I suppose he's met Bruce Simpson's mate, a bloke called "Rusty Reagan",  
And saddled up his "Gold Star" and rounded up the pagan.  
He took the battle standard, just before it bit the dust,  
Vibrant keeper of the verses and he's placed them in our trust..

And who will sing "The Shearer's" songs 'bout things that gripe and ail us?  
'Bout "motor-bloody-chain saws" and the "curse'a backin' trailers"  
He left that "glittering stage" last night and as we watched him go,  
We couldn't know he held a booking for, an even bigger show.

Good-bye J.P., farewell old mate, see you down the track,  
Christ from Calvary heard your work, that's why he called you back.  
A town has lost an icon, an era's lost a great,  
A family's lost a father, and "Our Movement's lost a mate".

Robert Raftery ©



# *Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.*

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27 Ash Ave. Woodridge Qld 4114  
**Phone/fax.** 07 3209 3200

## **SURAT**

(QUEENSLAND)

In the path of Cobb & Co  
on the banks of the Balonne  
Presents

### **THE BATTERED BUGLE**

A COMPETITION

FOR PERFORMANCE BUSH VERSE

in conjunction with the

**COBB & CO FESTIVAL**

**16 - 17 AUGUST 1997**

Traditional and Original Bush Verse

Phone 076 265 103 Fax 076 265 516

Ask a friend to join  
The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.  
\$ 13.00 from now till the end of the year.  
\$ 25.00 for renewals.

## **BARDS OF BOWRA BUSH POETRY WORKSHOPS**

**Tutor: Mr. George New**

**Sundays 3rd and 17th August**

**Written Competition Junior and Senior**  
**Entries close 1st. Sept. 1997**

## **PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION**

**Sunday 5th. October 1997 10am**

**Traditional Poetry — Original Poetry**

**Judges: Warren Bishop - Jo Smyth - Brian Bell**

**Closing date for entries Sept. 20**

**SSAE To Mrs. Maureen Garner**

**2/8 Salamander Parade Nambucca Heads 2448**

**Ph/fax 065 685 369**

## **PALMA ROSA POETS**

A feast of Poetry at Palma Rosa, 9 Queens Road  
HAMILTON BRISBANE

### **\* THE GEOFFREY GRAHAM SHOW\***

See the multi-talented Geoffrey in a wonderful blend of  
comedy, pathos and pride in "Romantics and Liars"  
on Wednesday 30th. July 1997

### **\* THE FOGARTY FAMILY\***

Featuring the Inaugural Australian Bush Poetry Champion  
**GARY FOGARTY** - wife **TRACEY** - daughter **KELLY**

A very entertaining evening of Poetry and Song.

Wednesday 10th. September 1997

### **\* FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR\***

The unforgettable **BOBBY MILLER** and three times  
Aust. Junior Bush Poetry Champion, **CARMEL DUNN**  
Wenesday 3rd. December 1997

Shows start 7.30 pm. - \$ 15.00 includes supper - BYO drink

## **HERVEY BAY POETRY FESTIVAL**

AUGUST 16 — 1997

**— POSTPONED —**

## **1997 POETRY COMPETITION MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY AUSTRALIA**

**SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 1997**

Royal Mail Hotel

**HUNGERFORD QLD.**

Entry forms from

**Bob McPhee**

**8 Jahn Drive Glenore Grove Qld. 4342**

**(07) 5466 5269**



## Presidents Letter. . .

### Me Little Mate.

Ah, well! Sad times I am sure.  
I've lost me little mate.  
I'll bet he's charmed St. Peter though;  
Talked his way in through the gate.

I can just hear him now, talkin'.  
Pete' won't get a word in at all,  
Won't even know what's hit him  
Now that Philipson's come to call.

I can't describe the feelings  
That well up inside of me;  
We were planning on a party  
When the 'boy' turned seventy.

Long were the journeys we travelled,  
Many nights beneath the 'cross  
Tellin' yarns and stories —  
Now all of that is lost.

He was a legend to my thinking.  
A treasure trove on earth  
Full of wit and wondrous wisdom,  
Full of jokes and full of mirth.

No matter what one spoke of,  
He'd recall a better tale,  
Never to be beaten,  
Full the wind within his sail.

A rhyme for every occasion,  
A verse to fit the scene,  
Polished up exaggerations  
'Bout the places that he'd been.

He was a gentleman by nature  
And he loved his 'little drop',  
And he often 'took a wee walk'  
If you made a timely stop.

'I allus has wan at eleven.'  
He would quote us most profound.  
But, 'no time like the present'  
When we hit the next bush town.

We shared many a stage together,  
We enjoyed each others jokes,  
And we ribbed each other freely  
We were just two happy blokes.

Now I've lost me little cobber,  
I'm so sad to relate.  
We'll miss the little fulla —  
God bless ya, little mate!

---

### From the secretary . . .

Dear members,

Thank you for the many complimentary letters and friendly communications. A big welcome to all those new members. I hope you will get a lot of enjoyment from your participation in this association.

Many letters I receive are praising the format and content of the magazine. The credit for it's excellence is due to our President Frank Daniel.

The loss of John Philipson is a blow to our Association. He was a talented performer and a great ambassador for bush poetry. His friendly manner endeared him to even the newest members.

Sympathy is extended to his loving family in this time of sadness, and to his mates in the ABPA. It is hard to lose a friend.

Unfortunately the planned Bush Poetry section at the Hervey Bay Festival of the Whales has been postponed due to lack of support from the local council. Many would be poets live in this area and would have welcomed the opportunity to have Bush Poetry included in their festival.

Support had been offered by Bobby Miller and 'Blue' Bostock but with time too short the organizers have delayed action until next year. I wish Heather and her committee the best of luck.

Membership is steadily growing and we now have 281 on the list.

We still need good planting rains here at Allora on the 'Downs', the cold is with us and I hope you will be able to avoid winter ills.

Best wishes for now,

*Olive Shooter.*

### The 7th MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL

*for poets preachers and liars*  
**Saturday 18th October 1997**  
**7.00 - 12.00pm**

In various venues in the village  
**Sunday 19th October 1997**  
**9.00am — 5.00pm**

The Lilyponds Park Mapleton  
Enquiries: Jacqueline Bridle 075 5457760



## KELLY DIXON

### "The Penman of the Plains"

Kelly Dixon, known as *'The Penman of the Plains'* lives in Camooweal in Western Queensland where he breeds cattle for the live cattle export trade with Asia.

To date he has written seventy songs for various country music artists including, Slim Dusy, Reg Poole, Rex Dallas, Brian Young, Lee Kernaghan, Col Finley, Robbie Gough and others.

Perhaps his best known is *'Leave Him In The Longyard'* recorded some years ago by Slim Dusty.

Currently Kelly is co-writing songs with the legendary Howie Brothers.

He writes a great amount of Bush Poetry and has won major competitions. He rarely performs his work, preferring to write for others, however he does 'perform on very special occasions'.

Kelly's favourite modern day poet is Bob Magor of Myponga, SA, winner of this year's Bronzed Swagman Award, and his idol is the late Will Ogilvie.

Recently Kelly Dixon was inducted into the South Australian Country Music Hall of Fame.

Kelly and his wife Marian have travelled extensively throughout Australia during the past few years and are always on the lookout for new faces, new poets, new stories.

They have taken in all of the major and many of the minor festivals assisting with organising and performing duties as adjudicators.

Kelly has two novels, *"From West of the Scrub"* and *"Behind the Wheel"* to his credit with a book of verse *"From A Drifters Pen"* with a follow up Cassette of twenty-one poems from that book.

All the poems are backed by the legendary Charley Boyter on acoustic guitar and were recorded by Tony Taunton at Lyrebird Studios in Nowra NSW.

All Kelly's poems are based on the legends and stories of our great outback, stories like *'Many Yesterdays Ago'* when his 'kingdom was a saddle, and the city way of life he didn't know' — and, *'Foolscap Tombstones'* — the 'old station records covered in red dust' — the plight of the 'pound a week battlers' found in the old station journals; the old ringers, drovers, fencers, camp-cooks and a bush-bred house-maid or two. Recommended — all good, clear, relaxed, easy listening.

## THE COMPETITION

© Sandra J. Queensborough Binns.  
Kincumber NSW

"One man's meat, another's poison"  
that's how the saying goes,  
but it seems that one man's poetry  
to another is not even prose!

Well, to have the judges' comments  
seemed like a good idea,  
but the comments so conflicted, that  
I wonder, where to from here?

My entry, it passed muster,  
when the first judge read it through,  
but the second didn't like it,  
he took a real dim view.

The first judge said "It's excellent,  
effective — fluent too!"  
but the other told me "Needs more work"  
... it's confusing, I tell you!

The first judge said "Original,  
good structure and appeal."  
The second thought the opposite  
— he's a critic with some zeal!

But I think I have the answer.  
I won't let it spoil my health,  
I'll go on like before,  
and write to please myself!

Microsoft  
Publisher

## KELLY DIXON

TWO NOVELS

**'FROM THE WEST of the SCRUB'**  
AND

**'BEHIND THE WHEEL'**

**\$23.00 each Postpaid.**

**A BOOK OF VERSE**

**'FROM A DRIFTERS PEN'**

**\$12.00 Postpaid.**

**AUDIO CASSETTE**

**21 POEMS**

**\$20.00 Postpaid.**

**P.O. Box 24**

**CAMOOWEAL Q. 4828**

**Ph/fax 077 482 153**





Those born under Leo,  
Are known for faithfulness,  
But whether that is true or not,  
Is anybody's guess.  
All the Leos that I know,  
Seem to know-it-all.  
They like a bit of argument.  
A verbal free-for-all.  
They're great attention seekers,  
And should I live so long,  
Imight just see ONE Leo  
Admit that he/she is wrong.

The inaugural Camooweal 'Droving Yesteryear' Festival has been set down for September 12th, 13th and 14th. 1997

Bush Poetry will include an Open Written section for verse never previously aired publicly. Entry is \$3.00 per poem and no entry forms are necessary — the usual conditions apply and entries should reach Camooweal no later than September 1st. with cheques made out to 'Droving Yesteryear'.

Performance poetry competitions will consist of an Open Traditional and Open Humorous, and Junior Traditional

Judges for the festival are highly regarded authors and poets, Kelly Dixon of Camooweal, Bruce Simpson of Caboolture and Ted Egan of Alice Springs.

Winners of each section will receive Eddie Hackman sculptures of significant value. Other prizes consist of four 'free-travel' bus passes for 2000 kms of travel on major coach lines. A grand time will be had by all in true blue bush flavour. See ad. p. 3.

© Kelly Dixon Camooweal Q.

Tonight I am finished, some say, with the road —  
Too old now to drive 'em — and too stiff to load —  
No more the doubles or triples I'll push  
To the towns in the West — or the mines in the bush!

No, never a load of wild steers in my care —  
Will be hauled to some station — or saleyards somewhere,  
Seldom again will I meet with old mates,  
On the old Putty Road — or on Larrimah Straights!

Yet tonight in my dreams I will hear the shrill whine —  
Of a thirteen speed box as I hug the white line,  
I will hear too, the song of the bogies and feel  
That breeze in my face — and the touch of the wheel —

The dust of the deserts — the mud and the snow —  
Never more I will battle — yet, sometimes you know —  
I shall wish I was out once again on the track,  
With a fifty tonne load on a cab-over Mack!

Or, a hundred and eight head of Territory steers,  
Four decks of Bush Bullocks, a tinful of gears,  
To the life on the road, take me back once again,  
Let me meet all those mates of the road now and then.

Ah! The Cummins is hummin' it's song in my ears,  
And haunted I am by the whine of the gears —  
I wish for a while they would leave me alone —  
These sounds, all these ghosts from a life I have known!

**Written Competition** The results of the written competition held at Charleville in April were omitted in the reports submitted. Credit should always be acknowledged wherever possible, especially in the often forgotten written sections.

First place went to Ron Stevens of Dubbo with "Of Men and Boys". Second to Ellis Campbell, Dubbo.

Highly commended. Col Bentley, Charleville. Ron Stevens, Dubbo (2), Carmel Randle, Preston. (3). Ellis Campbell, Dubbo. Dale Leard, Charleville. (2).

Local Poet. Dale Leard. Junior winner. Carmel Dunn.



A miser by name of O'Hare  
Had a glass eye that he used to wear.  
He had no flaming sight  
With it in left or right,  
And he wished he had bought the full pair!  
**Joe...**



## Profile....John Major.

John Major is a 'True Blue' Aussie Bush Poet cattle grazier and man of the land.

Born by the banks of the picturesque Dawson River, John grew up in the rural community of Central Queensland.

He married Joy Hansen in 1962 and settled with his wife on their property "Nonda", near Baralaba, west of Rockhampton, where they raised their four daughters.

John now juggles the management of "Nonda" with his numerous performances and guest speaking engagements. He can lift an audience to greater levels of awareness and appreciation of matters close to heart with his distinctive, appealing style as he reaches out and touches his listeners with a clever mastery of words, wit and wisdom.

Educated at Rockhampton Boys Grammar School, with a competitive streak John many records at athletics and swimming and also represented the school at rugby league, cricket and tennis. He was a rugby league referee for twenty-five years in conjunction with his role as a coach.

Finishing school in 1955 John took up share-farming, and followed with stints as a ring-barker, musterer, truck driver and bulldozer operator. He spent many years at the Moura Coal Mine.

His developed business acumen augmented his farming income with a ten year period as one of Queensland's most successful AMP agents.

Having received several poetry awards at venues such as the Tamworth Country Music Festival, The Gympie Muster, and the 1995 Waltzing Matilda Celebrations, John now regularly performs at festivals, business conventions, and private functions throughout Queensland and interstate.

John's love for traditional poetry and yarnspinning becomes evident as audiences are kept enthralled by his wonderful repertoire of humorous and serious verse, unforgettable anecdotes and authentic tales that are uniquely Australian.

John was always interested in poetry and can remember saying pieces from a very early age. Tex Morton's recitals prompted him to learn a few of his and he progressed from there. Tex Morton's ever relaxed style is still the inspiration behind John's recitations, having developed his own easy going presentation.

He has cultivated his life long love of poetry and entertaining from reading, listening, absorbing, studying, sharing, emulating, and imitating — picking up material first hand from old drovers, performing Australian Bush Verse for twenty odd years, building a formidable repertoire of poetry for every occasion.

As well as being a highly accomplished patchwork and sewing tutor, wife Joy shares John's love of poetry and lately has been doing a very good job of reciting and combines poems like the 'Coat of Many Colours' with her patchwork talks.

Robert Raftery wrote 'The Great Reciter' and presented it to John on his 57th. birthday.

—oooo—

## AROUND THE TRAPS

Sydney poet, June Lal of Mt. Druitt has been kept busy of late reporting that she has been appearing at local clubs, as well as The Blacktown Festival with her Bush Poetry, and at the monthly Poetic Folk evening with Warren (Arch) Bishop at the Rooty Hill School of Arts.

June had a number of entries in the 'Poems of Henry Lawson's Times' competition at Grenfell NSW recently, winning the trophy for the best poems.

**Winton Q. . .** the new Waltzing Matilda Cultural Centre is coming along nicely and will be ready for opening by Easter 1998.

It should be a great experience for poets who can be amongst the inaugural performers at the centre.

**HELP HONOUR THE OLDEN-DAYS DROVERS  
THE INAUGURAL**

**"DROVING YESTERYEAR"  
CAMOOWEAL FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 12 - 13 - 14 1997**

**Bush Poetry - Country Music - Races - Rodeo**

**Greenhide Rope-making - Saddling**

**Blacksmithing - Arts and Crafts**

**CAMPFIRE CONCERTS**

**POETS BREAKFASTS**

**DROVER'S BREAKFAST**

**OPEN WRITTEN POETRY COMPETITION**

**DROVER'S HALL OF MEMORY**

**A CAMP-OUT AFFAIR**

**GOOD SHOWERS AND TOILETS AVAILABLE**

**More info. Ms. Aidan Day — 077 482 155**

**Kelly Dixon — Ph/Fax 077 482 153**



## MY MATE . . . . THE GREAT RECITER

© Robert Raftery

I met this bloke some years ago, we shared a love of verse,  
He mirror imaged Tracey, John Meillon and the Curse  
That bitter sweets the artist and drums that vague unrest  
That throbs through veins and arteries, to be the very best.

He hailed from Northern Queensland, a reciter of the ballad,  
And farmed a square of country there by dingo, crow and mallard,  
And the only good the Big Dry did, it freed him, turned him out,  
Might not have met if it had been wet and for that I thank the drought.

I heard him rate the literacy Great, I heard him sing their songs,  
I watched him work the Quartpot, and the back-'block sing-a-longs,  
Then centre stage at Tamworth with feel and intonation,  
The Longyard heard his gifted word, his skill and his love of nation.

For talent to perform the work is oft denied the scribe  
Who's job's to guide the metre and the penchant to describe,  
The writing lies in parchment folds like prim and cultured vines,  
The harvest comes in verbal drums that lift the lyrics lines.

And mates are spread so thinly on this dry and dangerous land,  
They rarely match the fingers on a worn and lonely hand,  
So 'more precious' that you find one when your life's beyond halfway,  
When the silver threads the Masthead and the black has fled the fray.

And when I'm battened down alone and rocking for that rhyme,  
And the tracks are wide and open but there;s nothing on the line,  
I hear it ring 'The Cattle King', a comfort to the writer,  
It's 'The Major' from Baralaba, my mate ....'The Great Reciter'..



Carolyn White

### SHORT STORY WINNER

Winner of the Henry Lawson Society of NSW (Gulgong) Teresa Lane 2000 word short story competition was Carolyn White of Rockhampton.

Among the poetry awards were many familiar names including Helen Avery, Glenny Palmer and Marco Gliori. (Poem 'Tough')

The awards were presented by Emmott O'Keefe, winner of the 1995 Bronze Swaggy Award.

### JOHN PHILIPSON — The Writer

"The Bleedin' Truth" by J.B. Philipson was printed in Tamworth's Northern Daily Leader in 1979.

This was when I first heard of John Philipson. He was working on the Brucellosis eradication scheme in the Tamworth PP Board at the time of writing, and I was working on the same scheme in the Warialda PP Board.

The poem became my 'theme poem' as I recited it from the rails of many a cattle yard at the end of a long dusty day.

John had really captured the humour and the frustrations of a 'bleeder' which was appreciated by the cockey and the 'bleeders' alike.

It was nine years later that I finally met

the man who wrote the poem. John introduced himself to me at the 1988 Tamworth Country Music Festival, in the car park of Kentucky Fried Chicken, where the Bush Poetry Competition was being held that year.

I asked if he was the J.B. Philipson who wrote "The Bleedin' Truth", and from that moment our friendship blossomed.

We found we had a lot in common, and I was proud to become one of his 'mates'.

Thank you John, for all the treasured memories . . . . . Fitz.

Ed. note "The Bleedin' Truth" by the late John Philipson can be found on page 9.

Thank you to Marion Fitzgerald of North Star NSW for this submission, most typical of John's humour.



### **"Ough! A fonetic fansy."**

**W.T. Goodge.**

The baker-man was kneading dough  
And whistling softly, sweet and lough.

Yet ever and anon he'd cough  
As though his head were coming ough!

"My word!" said he, "but this is rough;  
This flour is simply awful stough!"

He punched and thumped it through and through,  
As all good bakers always dough!

"I'd sooner drive," said he, "a plough  
Than be a baker, anyhow!"

Thus spake the baker kneading dough;  
But don't let on I told you sough!

### **CONGRATULATIONS N.O.P.A.**

Rostrum Queensland Regional Vice President, Lyn Woosley, speaks highly of the recent visit to Brisbane of the N.O.P.A. poets from Longreach and wishes to publicly acknowledge their efforts.

Lyn says the function 'was a smashing success' as she can only try to imagine the apprehension of these talented country folk, in not only trekking to the Big Smoke, but also their performing before members of a Public Speaking Organisation.

The poets entertained with a history of Australia through verse and song, and pure humour for an entire evening.

Their performance will long be spoken of throughout the Rostrum Organisation in Queensland, and their authenticity and Australian appeal is made of the substance city dwellers tend to forget.

The NOPA performance would make any Australian proud to belong to this Country that they so professionally represented. Australian Bush Poetry has a major role to play in Australia's future.

The NOPA troupe consisted of Helen Avery, Milton and Lovene Taylor, Danny Blunt, Quenton Scott, Jim O'Connor, Elaine Britten and Lindsay Winter. Rostrum hopes to make the Longreach to Brisbane trek an annual event.

ITS ON AGAIN.....The

### **CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL**

**4TH - 5TH - OCTOBER 1997**

AT THE

**COUNTRY MUSIC HALL  
NORTH PINE COUNTRY PARK  
PETRIE QLD.**

Performance Poetry Competitions

Juniors, Novice and Open Male and Female  
Original - Traditional - established Australian

Rhyming Bush Verse

POETS BREAKFAST - CAMP OVEN DINNER

**Entry forms.... SSAE to... The Organiser**

**Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival**

**Pine Rivers Shire Council**

**P.O. Box 5070 Strathpine Q. 4500**

### **ORACLES OF THE BUSH. . .**

Following the highly successful 1997 Tenterfield "Oracles of the Bush" event, the Tenterfield United Organisation is now in the process of finalising the performance programme for 1998.

The committee is seeking expressions of interest from bush poets and bush culture performers for this unique event.

Spokesperson for the T.U.O. committee, Patti Ainsworth has acknowledged the assistance of the ABPA and the Newsletter in contributing towards the success of the 'Oracles' weekend.

(P.O. Box 372 Tenterfield NSW 2372)

### **Poetry Venue in Bathurst**

As of the 6th July, Bathurst Poet Linda Pearce will be organising a Poets' Blackboard at Zieglers in Keppel St.

These will be held on the 1st Sunday of each month from 2pm to 5pm. Linda is encouraging everyone to get up and have a go, and as M.C. she will fill in any gaps with her own poems. It is hoped that lots of poets will respond and that this will become a great new venue for poetry in the Central West. Phone Linda on 063 664 074

**COWRA PEACE POETRY COMPETITION. . .** The Australian Chapter of the World Peace Bell Association will hold a written Peace Poetry Competition in conjunction with World Peace Day in September. It will be divided into three sections: Primary School, Secondary School and Open.

The winning poems will be read at Cowra on World Peace Day, September 16th.

SSAE to Jan Munday 12 Kendal St. Cowra. 2794. (063 411 217) Tell her Joe sent ya!



## GOOD-BYE JOHN

© Mark Thompson 4.7.97

Well; good-bye now John Philipson;  
 We will miss you mate, round here,  
 With your ready wit and repartee  
 You were always full of cheer.  
 You were so proud to be Australian  
 And wave our country's flag,  
 And through all the things you accomplished  
 You were never the one to brag.  
 You wrote and recited bush poems;  
 You helped keep our culture alive,  
 And you've left us a wonderful legacy  
 That down through the years will survive.  
 You will live long in the memories  
 Of the many friends that you made,  
 Whilst reciting poems round a campfire,  
 Or 'neath a tree seeking noon-time shade.  
 You enjoyed the odd drop of good whisky;  
 So now with my glass held up high,  
 I wish you God's speed on your journey,  
 To your new home up there in the sky.  
 Yes, all down here will sure miss you,  
 But when God calls, you have to go,  
 And I'll bet that by now you're in Heaven  
 Putting on a Bush Poetry Show.

— NEW BOOK —

## 'WESTERING'

Western Queensland Bush Verse

— New Cassette —

## 'The Ringer's Note'

by

MARK KLEINSCHMIDT

1997 Australian Champion Bush Poet

Book \$13.00 posted. Cassette \$15.00 posted

From Astrelba Publishing

136 Emu St. LONGREACH Q. 4730

## THE BLEEDIN' TRUTH

J.B Philipson.

(or "Ode to the brucellosis eradication staff at the  
 Tamworth Pastures Protection Board).

Our job these days is bleeding cows the way the  
 experts taught us.  
 To see how many animals carry 'Brucella  
 Abortus'  
 They give us cars and working clothes and  
 rainproof gear,  
 But usually we finish work, in time to have a beer.  
 You see some funny cattle-yards whilst travelling  
 'round the bush,  
 There's some would hold an elephant and some  
 you daren't push.  
 Some yards are made from piping and some from  
 rotten sticks,  
 And some, the lazy b...s are too bloody tired to fix.  
 Some races boast a headbail that's a pure delight to  
 use,  
 But some of them, fair dinkum, would drive a  
 Minister to booze.  
 There's races made of railway line, and races made  
 of tin,  
 And some it's quite impossible to get the cattle in.  
 Some build there races much too wide, and some  
 too bloody narrow,  
 And gates may range from six-inch logs to worn  
 out diamond harrows.  
 The cattle too! They vary from beautiful fat stud  
 cows  
 To skinny stunted cross-breeds, only fit to feed to  
 sows.  
 Some fellows have 'exotic breeds' like Brahman  
 and 'first crosses',  
 And when you get them yarded, they snort like  
 'wild bush hosses'.  
 They'll kick you from the front or rear when e'er  
 you try to bleed 'em,  
 And Peter, Al and Neville say "I wouldn't bloody  
 feed 'em".  
 Day after day, we plug away, the pattern seldom  
 changes,  
 We work from south of Werris Creek to the mighty  
 Moonbi Ranges.  
 Come rain or hail or winter gale, in heatwaves and  
 in dust,  
 It's bloody marvellous where we work to earn an  
 honest crust..



## JOHN BUIK PHILIPSON

**1 August 1927 - 3 July 1997**

The Australian Bush Poet's Association is mourning the loss of Tamworth-based bush poet John Philipson who died in Sydney on Thursday July 3rd. after suffering a heart attack at the home of his brother, Ross.

John had recently returned home to Tamworth following radiation treatment for cancer at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

A thanksgiving service for the life of John Philipson was conducted at the Tamworth Uniting Church on Monday July 7th. officiated by Reverend Karyn Burcell.

Eulogy's were read by Graeme Philipson, John's son, and Frank Daniel, who included a tribute from Robert Raftery. (This month's cover)

John Philipson was a foundation member of the Australina Bush Poets Association and worked tirelessly in the four years since the groups inception to put poetry, and Tamworth, on the Australian poetry map.

John was a tough old bugger who earned a nationwide reputation for his prolific performances and emotive deliveries.

J.P. only wrote spasmodically, being a bit lazy in this area as he claimed, but performed to perfection and toured constantly Australia-wide.



He was the unofficial 'Lord Mayor' of Tamworth and was widely known as 'The Angry Anderson' of bush poetry for obvious reasons when the hat was removed.

John was born on August 1st. 1927 at Leeton, in the Riverina district of NSW; always claiming that it was a great day, being born on the same day as all the other Thoroughbreds in the country.

He worked on his father's farm until he married Ellen Ward in 1953. He worked on a number of Riverina Stations before taking up a salesmans job with a chemical firm.'

In 1960 the Philipsons moved to Tamworth where John continued on as a sales rep. before taking a position with the NSW Department of Agriculture as a stock inspector until his retirement nine or ten ago.

John was never without a story to tell or a kind word for his peers. He had a yarn for every occasion or a verse that would exemplify the situation. He was widely accepted as a gentleman and a man full of humour and wit.

He had a large repertoire of poems which saw him at competitions and festivals as far afield as Cloncurry, Winton, Hughendon and Longreach in Queensland's far north, to many areas throughout NSW and Victoria.

He is survived by his wife Ellen, son Graeme and daughters Wendy and Kay.

Family, friends and poet-mates gathered at the Longyard Hotels 'Goonoo Goonoo' Room for what can only be described as a true-blue get-together, John Philipson style after the funeral.



In the words of 'The Picture Writer', Robert Raftery;

**"Our Movement's Lost a Mate"**



## THE LAST DROVER

© Graeme McIntosh Woodend Vic.

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 days when he was young and 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 other's trust.  
They had crossed the vast expanses of this rugged country wide  
and had met all nature's challenges and took them in their stride.

Herding cattle from the centre to the railhead in the East  
was a taxing task at any time, 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, the horse it reigned supreme  
but an invasion was about to start by rubber tyred machines.

His droving days are over now his knowledge is not needed  
the pace of time has left its toll, its challenge went unheeded.  
He turns his face into the sun to 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 drover's 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 days when he was king and 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.

## PERFORMANCE POETRY CLONCURRY

An early report from Cloncurry —  
the results of the performance poetry competitions in June.

Open Modern Poetry.

Milton Taylor, Portland.

Traditional Poetry. Milton Taylor.

Original Poetry.

Terry Regan, Blaxland.

One minute brawl. Milton Taylor.

**\$1000.00 LYNNE DARBY  
MEMORIAL AWARD.**

Winner. Milton Taylor.

Best female performer.

Liz Ward, Mount Perry.

Best local performer. Salli-Ann  
Windus-Vary. Cloncurry.

Most improved Performer.

Merv Webster. Barga.

Team making biggest contribution.  
Dubbo. Ellis Campbell, Ron  
Stevens, Neil Carroll and Malcolm  
Tink.

Junior Section. 1st. Carmel Dunn,  
Warwick. 2nd. Sally-Ann Windus-  
Vary, Cloncurry.

Best Youngster. 1st. Sarah Jane  
Driver, Warwick. 2nd. Sally-Ann  
Windus-Vary, Cloncurry. 3rd.  
(equal) Melissa Lennon, Cloncurry  
and Ashley Smith of Cloncurry.

Best Local Youngster. Melissa  
Lennon, Cloncurry.



**NEW RELEASE from ABC.** A new album of bush poetry  
entitled 'SILLY BUGGERS' will be launched at the Annual Gympie  
Muster in August. Artists appearing are Jim Haynes, Ray Essary,  
Shanley Del and Frank Daniel.

**DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION:** 15th day of month of issue.  
Send copy to P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804 or Fax. (063) 441 962

Want an audience of 12,000 listeners? Send recorded work to Maureen Garner Producer/Director  
**The Folk Show — 2BBB FM.** 2 Salamander Parade NAMBUCCA HEADS 2448 — (065) 685 869

Thank you to the following contributors to this month's Newsletter: Graeme McIntosh — June Lal  
Sandra J. Queensborough Binns — Kelly Dixon — Patti Ainsworth — Joe — Liz Ward — Trish Anderson  
Maureen Garner — Robert Raftery — Keith McKenry — Noel Cutler — Ellis Campbell — Fay Sloman  
Mark Thompson — Harry Bowers — Olive Shooter — Blue the Shearer — Marion Fitzgerald — Ian Mackay  
John Coutts — Liz Bastian (Arts out West) — Joye Dempsey — Ray Mitchell — W.T. Goodge — Robert Swales  
Henry E. Horne — Carolyn White



## POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- July 31. Closing Date. **Australian Rhyming Verse Written Competition.** Traditional verse to 50 lines. \$3.00 per entry or 3 for \$7.00 to — Art and Craft Across Australia.  
Att. Carol Coates. 450 Varley St. Yorkey's Knob. Qld. 4878 Phone/fax 070 557 307
- August 3 & 17 **Back to Bowra Aust. Bush Poetry Workshops** — Open and Junior Written Competition  
Enq. SSAE - Mrs. M. Garner. 2/8 Salamander Parade Nambucca Heads 2448 065 685 269
- Aug 8-16 Noel Cutler's **Meet "The Cheese and Kisses" Mate** will be touring Victoria. See notice on page 17. Phone Noel Cutler for further information. (03) 5727 3426 Don't miss it.
- August 15. Closing Date. **Nimbin Agricultural and Industrial Society Inc.** Poetry Competition. Bush Verse or Bush Theme of no more than 28 lines. \$3.00 per entry to Nimbin A & I Society Inc. P.O. Box 165 Nimbin NSW 2480. Phillip Utting. 066 89 1174
- August 16. Inaugural **Hervey Bay Poetry Festival** — In conjunction with the Hervey Bay City Council Whale Festival. Junior - **iginal Verse competitions.**  
Enquiries: SSAE to Heather — **POSTPONED** — 4655. Ph. 071 242 629
- August 16 - 17 **The Cobb & Co. Battered Bugle Bush Verse Competition. Surat Qld.**  
In conjunction with the opening of the Cobb & Co Change Station. For Performance Poetry. 16 - 17 August. Entry is free. Poets accommodation details — Ph. 076 265 164  
Other information send SSAE to The President. P.O. Box 45 SURAT Q. 4417. 076 265 103
- August 16 - 17 **Trundle Bush Tucker Weekend** — Trundle NSW. Bush Music — Bush Games — Bush Tucker. Poets Breakfast. Enq. John Wright 068 921 120 David Lyons 068 921 239
- August 17 **Bar-room Yarns and Recitals. Tarcutta RSL** 11am. Ph. 069 287 109. Snowy Mtns Poets.
- Aug. 26 **Gympie Muster — Amamoor Park Gympie Qld. Bookings ph.**
- Sept. 1 **Bush Poetry - ABC Album Launch — Competitions - Country Music**
- Sept. 10 **The Palma Rosa.** 9 Queens Rd. Hamilton Q. 7.30pm. The Fogarty Family from Milmerrin. Gary Fogarty (Inaugural Australian Champion), wife Tracey and daughter Kelly.  
Enquiries: Trisha Anderson. Ph..07 3268 3624. Bookings: Palma Rosa 07 3262 3769
- September 13 - 14. **Sydney's First Big City Muster.** Part of the Annual NSW Writers' Centre's, Spring Writing Festival — Further information to come next issue. Ph. Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- September Inaugural **'Droving Yesteryear' Festival Camooweal. Qld.** See ad. page 3.  
Written Bush Poetry Competition — work previously un-aired publicly. \$3.00 per entry. Closes Sept 1st. No entry forms. Send to Kelly Dixon P.O. Box 24 Camooweal Q. 4828
- Sept. 14 **Poets in the Pub - Performance Bush Poetry Competition - Ramshead Hotel Millmerrin**  
Junior - Novice - Open - Male and Female — Entries close Sept 1st. —  
SSAE to Kevin Barnes P.O. Box 64 Millmerrin Q. 4357 Ph. 076 954 209
- Sept. 20 **Bar-room Yarns and Recitals Commercial Hotel Junee NSW** 11am Ph. 069 241 023
- October 4 - 5 **North Pine Bush Poets Group — Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival**  
Country Music Hall North Pine Country Park Dayboro Rd. Petrie Qld.  
Enquiries to Patti Coutts (07) 3886 1552 Louise Dean (07) 3260 5506
- October 24 -26 **Bendigo Festival. Breakfast with the Poets.**  
Enquiries to Peter Worthington - Ph. 03 5436 1556
- Dec. 3. **The Palma Rosa.** 9 Queens Rd. Hamilton Q. 7.30pm. Final performance of the year. Bobby Miller will bring the house down as usual with his brilliance and diversity. Sanity will prevail with the Australian Bush Poetry Junior Champion ('95, '96, '97) Carmel Dunn.  
Enquiries: Trisha Anderson. Ph..07 3268 3624 — Bookings: Palma Rosa 07 3262 3769
- Regular monthly events.** If you happen to be passing through these areas, tell 'em Joe sent ya!
- 1st. Sunday **Poets Get-together**— Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum Qld. (074) 491 991  
**Bundanoon Hotel** Bundanoon NSW Jennifer Compton (048) 836 005  
**Palm Beach-Currumbin Bowls Club.** 9am. Poets Brekkie. Ph. Lorraine 07 5590 9395  
**Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q.** Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 1st. Monday **Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby (076) 301 106
- 2nd. Sunday **'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Sydney** — Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd. Sunday **Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q.** Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 3rd. Friday **Poetic Folk** — **Rooty Hill School Of Arts.** Sydney — Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245
- 2nd. Friday **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm. Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.
- 3rd. Thursday **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Phone David Meyers 06 286 1891



## HIGH UPON THE HEARTLANDS

© Robert Swales

I see the winding mountain road  
I see the hill's blue hue,  
I see the sky's reflection  
of our favourite valley view,  
I see the smoke from chimneys drift  
licking softly trees serene,  
I see the cattle bedding down  
in this rural patchwork dream.

I see the cottage we call home  
blend into this perfect place,  
I see you through the windows light  
with 'that frown' upon your face,  
your glasses falling from your nose  
to join your far off stare,  
as I seek you now in spirit  
and lightly kiss your hair.

I push for space on city streets  
whispering, "I'll be home soon",  
to talk and share the day's events  
and hold you warm beneath a winter moon.  
Further, I see us growing old with grace  
but with no sign of rust,  
and I see a smile cross your face  
as I farewell the hazy, dity dust.

*'High Upon the Heartland'* was sent to Mrs. Shooter by Robert Swales of Maleny Q. — just to let us know that he was still alive, and with a note describing his work as 'Bush Poetry - Maleny Style'.

## WORLD YARN SPINNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The original Yarn Spinning Championship was run in Alice Springs in 1964 and was won by 'Tall-Tale Tex Tyrell', who defeated 'Walkie Talkie Lloyd Nelson' from Tennant Creek.

The next championship was held in Darwin in 1964 where 'Tex' was defeated by Frank Hardy, author of *Power Without Glory*.

In 1991 the championships were revived and were held in the Greenroom at the Hotel Darwin with Mike Hayes winning the title.

Kevin Norton won the event in 1992 and 1994 in Darwin. The 1994 competitors included His Right Worshipful, George Brown, 'Cowboy' Bill

## THE LIARS

Henry E. Horne

Ten boys sat in a ring and played  
At telling lies —  
An Outback pastime — with a strayed  
Young dog for prize.

The Parson they informed, who strolled  
To see their fun,  
'The pup was for the cove who told  
The biggest one.'

The good old man looked upon that ring  
Of boys and sighed.  
'I'm sorry to hear such a thing  
As this,' he cried.

'I never dared to tell a lie,  
Nor ever knew  
Such sinful sport, my lads, when I  
Was young like you.'

Ten faces fell, but not from shame,  
But sheer defeat;  
Ten little liars dropped the game,  
For they were beat.

Ten boys arose — a sullen band —  
Quite broken up;  
And Jim, the judge, said; 'Billy, hand  
The bloke the pup.'

Garrison, The Honourable Mick Palmer MLA, Justice Sally Thomas, 'The Coonawarra Kid' Peter Steele, Mr. Waldo Bailey, Ms. Sue Bradley, Ms. Natalie Sprite, Mr. Neil Domaille, Mr. Tom Pauling QC, Leut. Radz Radcliffe and Mrs. Jackie Hargreaves.

1996 saw the contest held for the first time at the Berrimah Town & Country Hotel where Kevin Norton, Mike Hayes, Richard McGoffin, Des Crowe, and Waldo Bailey were defeated by ABPA member from Picola, Vic. Mr. Tammy Muir.

The Berrimah Hotel will again be holding the World Yarn Spinning Championships for the second year on Friday 1st. August and Sunday 3rd August 1997.

Tammy Muir will be defending his 1996 title and Frank Daniel has been listed among those invited to attend. The contest will be held over the two days as part of a full weekend of activities followed by the Darwin Cup on the Monday. With 10,000 American Sailors in town, look out Darwin!



## IN LAWSONS' DAYS

© June Lal Mt. Druitt

As I sit here in the evening  
And dream of bygone ways,  
In my mind I see a picture  
Of Henry Lawson's days.

Of days of splendid sunsets,  
The fields where cattle graze,  
Oh, how I wish that I had lived  
In Henry Lawson's days.

The Shearers working in the sheds,  
The Miner's search for gold,  
Pioneers, they toiled so hard,  
In those days of old.

Oh, would that I could see again,  
The stations out from Bourke,  
The drovers and their trusty dogs,  
Together how they work.

The women in the homesteads,  
Getting meals for hungry men,  
The sound of stock-whips cracking,  
How I wish that I'd lived then.

But now there's buildings all around  
No more the stock can graze,  
But in my dreams I see again,  
Our land in Lawson's days.

## LIFE © Ray Mitchell

When the flower starts to lose it's lilt  
the sap is drying up  
And the stem begins to wither and wilt  
slowly, losing its urge to sup  
Have no need of fear or anguish,  
anxieties despair,  
Into each others arms just languish  
undependings, tender love and care  
For life is so much like the mountains  
bathed in brilliant morning sun  
The higher that we climb them  
so the clearer things become!

Beneath this stone Sam Bodin lies;  
No one laughs and no one cries.  
Where he's gone, and how he fares,  
No one knows, and no one cares.  
Epitaph — Williamstown Vic. Cemetary.

## PETRIE QLD. CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL

The North Pine Country Park is again the venue for the 1997 Annual Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival and bush poetry competitions.

This festival is organised by the North Pine Bush Poets Group in association with the Pine Rivers Shire Council.

It will be a festival of performed Australian Bush Poetry and will include both competitive and non-competitive elements from Junior to Novice and Open Ladies and Mens Serious and Humorous heats and finals.

Situated just north of the City of Brisbane on 80 timbered acres on the banks of the Pine River, on the Dayboro road west of Petrie, the Pine Rivers Country Park is being developed as a living piece of History.

Already there are many old, beautifully restored and functional buildings, including a Blacksmiths Shop, a Hotel (Licensed), a Scouting Museum, a Country Music Hall with indoor and outdoor stages, Dad & Daves Billy Tea and Damper, Art Galleries and Craft Shops to name only a few. It is the site of a very popular regular 'Sunday Markets' which draws thousands of visitors to Petrie.

Basic camping facilities will be available on site (no electricity) from Friday 3rd. October to 5th October.

A Poets Breakfast on the Sunday Morning will be hosted by none other than the 'Larrikin' himself — Bobby Miller commencing at 8am.

On the Saturday evening at the Country Music Hall a Camp Oven Dinner will be conducted incorporating the "Camp Oven Clean-up" which is a type of Poet's Brawl.

This festival is the first of three week-ends of celebrating Australian Bush Poetry in South East Queensland. The Toowoomba Country Music Festival at Clifton on the following week-end, followed up a week later with the Mapleton Yarn Festival.

## INTERLUDES BIG CITY MUSTER

Interludes is a writers group that nurtures all genres of poetry and storytelling with the intent of encouraging writers to develop the use of their own voice and a passion for performance.

Initiated by Sydney writer Joye Dempsey, Interludes meets at 2pm. on the second Sunday of each month at the Ashfield Centre's Community facilities.

Irina Dunn, executive Director of the NSW Writers' Centre asked Joye if she would like to stage a poetry concert similar to her book launch concert held at the Centre in 1995.

Joye feels that there are perceived negative aspersions in some circles concerning bush poetry and its reception by



## AT THE SIGN OF THE RAVENOUS GOANNA

© Keith McKenry Ainslie ACT

At the sign of the Ravenous Goanna  
I went to have a feed:  
The thought was so exquisite  
I was trembling at the knees.

They have Lamingtons in Batter,  
And Licorice All-sorts pie,  
And Lambs Fry served in Cold-Custard  
That you just have to try.

Vegemite, and Lipton's Tea  
Dished up with Rabbit Stew,  
And Two Fruits, lovely Two Fruits,  
To thrill you through and through.

Tomato Sauce and chocolate Frogs,  
And Saunders Malt Extract  
(Just pity all the poor lost souls  
Who've never tasted that!)

Dim Sims, Chooks and Chiko Rolls,  
And good old Boiled Galah;  
Floaters and Vick's Vapor Rub  
For old men with Catarrh.

Polly Waffles, Prickly Pear,  
Johnny Cakes and Billy Tea;  
Stewed Prune and Baked Bean Jaffles  
- Oh, Australian food for me!

There's Scotty's Wild Stuff Stew, of course,  
And Oysters from the Rocks,  
And Wine, the nectar of the Grape,  
Served from a cardboard box.

Peck's Fish Paste and Passion Fruit;  
Teddy Bears and Robur Tea;  
Pavlova, Chips and Choo-Choo Bars  
- The Height of Luxury!

Yabbies, Jaffas, Saveloys,  
Damper, Crays, Nardoo;  
Jumbuck Pate for the pseudes,  
Butter Menthols for the 'flu.

There's a dish for every taste and mood,  
And they sing Australian songs,  
So come to the Ravenous Goanna, friends,  
And bring *your* friends along!

## CLONCURRY BUSH FESTIVAL -

### Results Written competition

Place-getters in the written competition held in Cloncurry over the June long-week-end are as follows.

First. Ellis Campbell of Dubbo with "The Riding of the Tearaway".

Equal second. Morva Power, Mt. Isa, and Alex Raymer of Trinity Beach.

Highly Commended. Geoff Allen, Balgowlah. Kelly Dixon, Camooweal. Patricia Blunt, Longreach. John Russell, Roma.

Local Poet. Shirley Powley, Cloncurry.

Junior winner. Gerlinda Williamson, Cloncurry.

Second. Carmel Dunn, Warwick.

Highly Commended. Emma Gonzales.

Local Junior. Vicky Ebborn.

Youngsters award. First. Fiona Bishop, Mt. Isa.

Second. Jennifer Brake. Mt. Isa.

Local youngster. Ares Constantinides.

With space at a premium this month, as many of these winning poems as possible, and when obtainable, will be published in coming issues.

Congratulations to those very busy writers and to the judges for their fine effort in supporting them.

\*\*\*\*\*

city dwellers and has decided to stage a Bush Poets Breakfast as part of the prestigious NSW Writer's Festival. The Festival attracts both national and international authors and performers of all genres and will be an ideal showcase for traditional Australian Poetry.

Local and interstate travellers to the Bush Breakfast will be able to participate in the many events programmed at the Centre over the Spring Writing Festival weekend, including the traditional Saturday night writers party. Interludes will be

hosting a special Bush Poetry afternoon on Sunday 14th. at their Ashfield Civic Centre venue.

Presenters will include such wonderful traditional performers as John Derum, Denis Kevans, Frank Daniel and Adrian Bryden. Les Murray has promised to 'drop in'.

Prizes will be given for yarn telling, traditional and original verse performance, with a section for children. A special prize will be awarded for 'Inspirational Poetry' in memory of Jonathon Beck who died of cancer in November 1996.



## ALAN SCOTT (1930 - 1995) AND KEITH MCKENRY TRAVELLING THROUGH THE STORM

In 1955 Australians heard on the wireless the first Australian Folk 'hit' — *The Drover's Dream*, sung by a youthful Alan Scott on a *Wattle* 78rpm recording. That recording introduced a generation of Australians to a heritage of traditional bush songs few knew existed. For the next forty years, despite the appearance of innumerable 'bush bands', no finer, more knowledgeable or more respected singer was to emerge from the Australian Folk scene.

Alan Scott's love of Australian bush song was kindled in his native Queensland.

He moved to Sydney in 1954 and was welcomed into the small circle of folk song enthusiasts which included Australia's most eminent folk song collector John Meredith.

Meredith and Alan became life-long friends, were members of the Australian Folklore Society, Alan becoming Chairman within a year.

Alan became a founding committee member of the Sydney Bush Music Club, and joined John's performing ensemble, the original *Bushwackers* band.

At weekends he performed with the Bushwackers, often travelling to country towns where the band would make the acquaintance of local traditional singers and musicians.

He assisted John Meredith with some of his earliest field recording, and in 1955 started collecting songs himself.

As the years passed Alan became an acknowledged authority on Australian folklore, and a highly respected organiser. He represented NSW on the Australian Folk Trust, and undertook collecting work for the National Library of Australia, where now his field recordings are housed. Such was his status as a traditional singer that he represents Australian Bush Song on an international UNESCO song compilation. In the early 1990's the National Library recorded him extensively for its permanent oral history collection, his album *Battler's Ballads* being the first to emanate from the Library's new recording studio.

Alan passed away peacefully on his beloved bush block on the NSW Southern Highlands in 1995 at the age of 65 years.

A second Album *Travelling Through the Storm* represents a major extension to the Australian folk catalogue, with 24 tracks of song and verse.

The National Library has done the nation a great service in recording this selection of songs, poems and music.

**KEITH MCKENRY** is a folklorist and poet, and has been reciting bush verse since the 1960's. He has presented workshops and papers on a wide range of folklore subjects, and performed in concert at folk festivals across Australia.

In concert Keith interweaves his original verse with bush poetry, producing an amalgam of history, humour and social comment which doesn't fit readily into any familiar stereotype.

He appears with Alan Scott on the Album *Battler's Ballad*, and has published two books of verse, *The Spirit of the People* and *McKenry's Curse and Other Verse*.

Keith was a member of the Commonwealth Committee of Inquiry into Folklife in Australia, and co-author of its Report, *Folklife, Our Living Heritage*.

At the international level, he chaired UNESCO's Special Committee of Technical and Legal Experts on the Safeguarding of Folklore. He designed Australia's largest oral history project. His doctorate is in wilderness management.

Keith's first book of modern Australian recitations, *The Spirit of the People*, was published in 1983. He has released one album, a joint effort with his friend Alan Scott, entitled *Battlers Ballad: Songs and Recitations of Australian Bush Life*.

Copies of these Album as well as Keith's book *McKenry's Curse and other Verse* can be obtained from Fanged Wombat Productions. (See p. 17)



ALAN SCOTT

KEITH MCKENRY



## MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL

President of the Mapleton Yarn Festival, Mr. Ian Mackay says that planning for this years festival is now well underway. Now in its seventh year, the festival was one of the first to showcase the recent resurgence of the spoken word and has become popular with performers and audience alike for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

It was at Mapleton that the first "What Cheeses Me Off" began and that event still captures the light-hearted nature of the competitions that characterise the event.

It is held on Saturday night and Sunday (October 18 and 19) in beautiful Mapleton on the range overlooking the Sunshine Coast, a little over an hour's drive north of Brisbane.

There are numerous opportunities for performing poets and yarn spinners and no pre-registration is necessary.

There's the Ernie Setterfield Club Challenge in which two members from participating poetry clubs will compete. As well as "What Cheeses Me Off", there will be the Yarn Spinning Contest, the Busking Competition, a Poet's Breakfast, the special Saturday Night concert and lots more.

As a special feature, there'll also be workshop opportunities for performing poets to further improve their skills and share experiences and ideas.

For further information contact Jacqueline Bridle, Post Office Mapleton 4560 or 07 54 457 760.

### Battlers Ballads

and

### Travelling Through the Storm

with

Alan Scott and Keith McKenry

CD. \$25.00 pp

Cassette \$18.00 pp

plus

McKenry's Curse and Other Verse

by

Keith McKenry

\$15.00 pp.

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5 Bonney St. Ainslie ACT 2602

PH. 062 247 9656

Noel Cutler

PRESENTS

## Meet "The Cheese and Kisses" Mate

A BALLADRAMA

featuring

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY AND YARNS

2 hours of drama and mayhem in the Aussie kitchen

where Mum's the BOSS!

STARRING

Bobby Miller

Glenny Palmer

Milton Taylor

Noel Cutler



Victorian Tour only

MOOROOPNA: Friday 8th August

WHITFIELD: Saturday 9th August

MALDON: Friday 15th August

MILAWA: Saturday 16th August

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT: Noel Cutler (03) 5727 3426

Take one down-trodden, hen-pecked husband (who likes his beer), (played by Bobby Miller): an unexpected visit by a mate (Milton Taylor), thrown out by his wife: another mate stopping over on his way through town (Noel Cutler); and a long suffering "cheese and kisses" (Glenny Palmer) who puts up with all this lot; and you have the scenario for mayhem, drama and hilarity in the Aussie kitchen.

With special sound and lighting effects engineered by Ian Enders, this evening of uniquely Australian entertainment is presented for the enjoyment of all Australians with a love of bush poetry and fair play.

## AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY

A collection of Australian Bush Verse

PRESENTED BY

JOHN MAJOR

Traditional and Contemporary Bush Verse  
in cassette form

\$15.00 pp.

John Major P.O. Box 58 Baralaba Qld. 4702



## THE HAND OF A MAN

VALE — JOHN PHILIPSON

His was the first hand offered to this new chum on the scene;  
The friendly hand that led me to the places he had been.  
In the presence of a lady, that hand would raise his hat;  
Then raise itself supportingly for underdogs at bat.

That same hand turned to woodcraft and produced with dext'rous flare  
Some pretty handy products proudly sold at any fair.  
The hand that strained up fences bore the scars of youthful pluck:  
Yet always seemed extended to a bloke down on his luck.

I'm only one of many who will miss the manly grip  
Of a comrade who's departed on his last eternal trip.  
And though he seldom went to church, to me it isn't odd:  
That he would leave his mortal mates — to lend a hand to God!

Noel Cutler Wangaratta Vic.. 8/7/97

## BUNDABERG UNEQUALLED

According to Liz Ward, President of the Bundaberg Bush Poets Group, 'the unqualified success of this years Bundy Muster can be summed up in one word . . . co-operation'.

A dedicated committee of Bundaberg poets gave generously of their time and their talent to achieve a smoothly running event.

Professional poets and amateurs, nervous novices and juniors worked together in such an atmosphere of support and friendship that everyone was a winner.

The death of our comrade John Philipson cast a shadow over the proceedings, but knowing John as well as they did, his cheerfulness, his wit and wisdom, all felt that he would want the show to go on, continuing to bring bush poetry to the public.

Friday night saw a pitched battle between two teams, the Queenslanders and the New South Welshmen. This was narrowly won by those south of the border, though it appeared that the said border was altered at will!

There was a strong rumour that the Judge had his arm twisted a little, but this was never proven.

Saturday nights concert was a feast of top entertainment, well attended and keenly appreciated.

Throughout the week-end the lovely voice of Tracy Fogarty added to the enjoyment of the guests.

New faces are always welcome at Bundaberg and this year, one Guy McLean made an appearance for the first time.

This young man has a deep appreciation of the bush and its traditions and the ability to go far in this field.

Competitions were fiercely contended, with the Juniors coming to the fore as always.

The Junior Section 12 - 17 yrs was won by Carmel Dunn. 2nd. Cecilia Marrington and 3rd. Frances Marrington.

Novice Traditional. 1st. Guy McLean. 2nd. Wally Finch. 3rd. Maxine Ireland.

Novice Original. 1st. Carolyn White. 2nd. Guy McLean. 3rd. Lee Miller.

Open Traditional. 1st. Laree Chapman. 2nd. Mark Thompson. 3rd. Trish Anderson.

Open Original. 1st. Mark Thompson. 2nd. Laree Chapman. 3rd. Ron Selby.

Dark and Stormy Cup. 1st. Carmel Dunn. 2nd Guy McLean. 3rd. Merv. Webster.

Camp Fire Yarn. 1st. Merv. Webster. 2nd. Gary Fogarty. 3rd. Bobby Miller.

What Cheeses Me Off. 1st. Louise Dean. 2nd. Guy McLean. 3rd. John Major.

Written Poetry Competition, The Bush Lantern Award was won by Merv Webster followed by Noel Piggot with Bob Magor third.

The overall champion of the festival was Guy McLean. Encouragement awards went to Junior, Luke Pickering, and to Ross Harling in the Novice section and to Marg. McArdle in the open class.

## BILLY HAY OVERSEAS

The 'Father of Bush Poetry' Billy Hay of Brisbane has been travelling throughout the United States of America and Canada of late.

Latest news is that he is having a great time and living up to his duties as an 'Ambassador' for the Australian Stockmen's Hall of Fame, Longreach.

So far Billy has visited Wyoming, Montana, and Dakota before taking a long hop up to the Calgary Stampede in Canada where he is enjoying true western hospitality with friends of John and Joye Major.

One thing we can be assured is that the 'old fulla' will be giving Australia and the Bush Poets a great plug, and the Yanks a good ear-bahing.



## PROFILE... HARRY BOWERS...

The one question Harry Bowers is always asked is "Why didn't he start writing until he was eighty years old?"

Well the fact is that Harry always wrote some kind of poetry. Without going into too many sad details, he lost his mother when he was twelve years old. He did not receive much of an education, and his vocabulary was very limited.

At fifteen years his dad lost their farm in a battle with the mortgagees. Then came his interest in girls, having a good time, the depression, marriage, a family and the obligations of a family.

He took a course on Matric English and Poetry with Stotts Correspondence College on becoming a pensioner.

At one time Harry sent two poems, "*The Red Steer*" and "*Dad's Outside Loo*" to a Melbourne University quarterly '*Meanjin*', with a self-addressed envelope for assessment.

Eventually a reply came forth — "*Rhyming Poetry has been dead for twenty years. 'Dad's Outside Loo' was rhyming doggerel. 'The Red Steer' was worth re-writing in 'free verse'.*"

With so much encouragement at hand, Harry gave up writing and took up reading.

For the next ten years Harry's prime source of relaxation was fishing. He was later widowed and remarried four years later. Kathy, his wife was interested in poetry so, on the advice of a friend from Western Australia, Harry sent his two original poems to a Perth radio station.

He received the '*Poem of the Year*' award with the '*Red Steer*' and First Prize with '*Dad's Outside Loo*'.

An entrance form to a rhyming competition in WA '*Galloping On*' saw him submit the same poems again and he took out third place with his entries.

Harry then took up writing and performing and has continued to do so since.

Harry Bowers is a humorous writer and sees a lot of life from the funny side. He and Kathy would love to hear from interested persons wishing to purchase his cassette —

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## N.O.P.A. POETS AT PALMA ROSA TWILIGHT PERFORMANCE

On Saturday, June 22nd, a capacity house of approximately 80 filled the Art Gallery of the Historic Palma Rosa Mansion in Hamilton, Brisbane to hear recitations from the National Outback Performing Arts Poets from Longreach.

The NOPA party had performed the previous evening for the Brisbane "Rostrum Club's" sixtieth anniversary dinner, where they recited under the Story Bridge against the inspiring backdrop of the city's lights.

The Twilight performance at Palma Rosa was superbly co-ordinated by Trisha Anderson and was compered by Milton Taylor, the 1996 Men's Waltzing Matilda Champion Bush Poet.

Milton was supported by the 1997 Australian Ladies Champion Bush Poet Helen Avery of 'Nogo' Longreach, and the Novice Champion, Danny Blunt, with Quentin Scott, Elaine Britten and Lindsay Winter. A fine group indeed.

An enthralled audience saw the group perform many original works which were coupled with a mix of poetry from today's contemporary writers and the bards of yesteryear.

Lindsay Winter entertained throughout the evening with her beautiful unaccompanied renditions of traditional and modern folk songs which blended so well with bush poetry. Following intermission the Longreach performers held the audience captive with a very moving history of Australia in bush verse — from the Dreamtime to Today.

Profits from these poetry evenings go towards the restoration of this beautiful old home, standing majestically above the Brisbane River. It is owned by the English Speaking Union of which Trisha Anderson is a hard working Council Member.



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