

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

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VALE JUDITH Hosier

Members of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. were shocked to hear of the untimely passing of Judith Hosier in Brisbane on 11th February.

Judith was born in 1937 in western Queensland and lived and loved the outback and its people to her fullest.

She was one of the nation's grandest ladies of the bush with a pioneering spirit and a determination to succeed.

The death of her young husband saw Judith carry on with her rural pursuits for a number of years before relocating to Brisbane with her two young daughters.

Judith was one of the first to make a move when the then proposed Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre was in its infancy. Judith became an Oral Historian for the HOF and for many years in her own time and at her own expense, toured the outback interviewing our dying race of outback characters, drovers, stockmen, descendants of former camel drivers, property managers and owners, ringers and musterers in an attempt to preserve just one more part of the Nation's history.

To date there are 276 Oral Histories recorded at the HOF, and Judith Hosier was responsible for no less than 240 of them.

In 1989 Judith became the 'Tour Manager' ushering a group of American Performers, Cowboy singers and poets who were here as guests of the Hall of Fame, from Melbourne to Longreach. The token Aussie performer on this tour was none other than Jim Haynes.

The resurgence of Australian music, song and verse as entertainment saw Judith enter yet another field, furthering the cause of our Aussie Bush Traditions as entertainment. Giving freely and unselfishly helping others, Judith started the Quartpot Gatherings in Brisbane and, with the assistance of her good friend Gabby Hamdad, a first hand attempt at encouraging aspiring bush entertainers was made.

In 1996 Judith was again instrumental in establishing the Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Awards to further the professionalism of our literary and performing traditions.

These Awards have become, in that short time, the verse equivalent of The Golden Guitar Awards - and will surely become Judith's lasting legacy to the continuation of that wonderful Australian Bush Heritage she loved so much.

It is a mark of the success of Judith's vision that the awards received over 70 entries last year with the quality and quantity of entries improving each year.

There were no falsehoods about Judith. She simply got stuck in and made the difference in areas where she believed in something.

She leaves a legacy in her public life of dignity and efficiency and, above all, a love of the Australian Bush Traditions. It is a legacy of high standards - high standards achieved and high standards expected.

Judith possessed an unflagging energy and in recent years her recurring bouts of Ross River Fever

left her frustrated as she felt she couldn't work at full speed to her own high standards. 'We're not doing it if we are not doing it properly' were her words. She was a perfectionist.

In typical outback fashion, and in a way Judith would have understood and appreciated, long time friend and great Australian, Ted Egan found these words ...

To Judith

*She stood so tall
and never missed a thing.
Always gracious, elegant,
she never failed to bring
both wisdom and compassion
to all she ever met,
and we will not forget
that Judith was a woman
we were privileged to know
as typically Australian
as Clancy of the Overflow.*

*She'd seen too much sadness
she never laughed enough.
But when she smiled
it mattered.
You knew she came from
stronger stuff
than most of us who knew her
this woman of the west
so farewell to you, our Judith
may you know eternal rest.*

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From Frank Daniel with excerpts from Jim Haynes eulogy for Judith, St. Augustines Church, Hamilton, Brisbane. 16th February, 1999

LEADING LADY

© Robert Raftery, Picture Writer, Brisbane Q

She grasped our battle standard when it lost its grip and fell.
She valued verse and built a life around its magic spell.
She earned her spurs and used them with a scrub surgeon's precision.
for she loved bush verse and rhymers who toed her line of vision.

With a passion birthed the Quartpot like the tent shows of the past,
A platform and a launch pad where names were called and cast.
Hand hewed our mighty movement with a method like no other,
I suppose it's why Bob Miller often simply called her "Mother".

Tough and taut and focused, a typhoon's "Tour de Force",
A love of flair and finery and the eras of the horse.
A lioness of the Longyard an "as of right" to claim,
The Patroness of many who sail its "Wall of Fame".

Phoenix-like she rose from ashes from our dead and dying craft.
The engine room that took the heat was bare and understaffed.
Now the faces that her faith had founded, flood and fleet my mind.
Precious forms that felt her chisel as she carved them "one of a kind".

Held court in times of tension where our ranks convulsed and split,
When egos clashed and tempers flashed and our needles failed to knit.
And then that crushing phone call, late at night .. her silken sled
was slipped ... "The Leading Lady" of bush poetry ... Jude Hosier was dead.

Will we raise a sandstone sentinal to mark her resting place?
Will we fund a frame at Tamworth to focus on her face?
For whichever way we see it, we have lost a fighting great.
Our movement in its Renaissance .. has lost another mate.

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Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

Well, we are giving you one final chance to pay your membership dues. Our newsletter is now going to be printed in Toowoomba to try to cut down on the costs. So we thought it would be better not to alter the list for this time, but this is it. Anyone not financial by the end of March will definitely not receive our next issue. If your address is changed, or if there is even a small error in name or address, please let us know as soon as possible.

It is pleasing to note that we are getting new members all the time and we welcome them to the fold. I thank you all for the lovely notes I get with the subscriptions. My mail always seems to have some little thing to gladden my day.

Maureen Garner does a wonderful job on the newsletter and I get a lot of the credit. Many members write to say how they enjoy it.

Note the call for expressions of interest to hold the Australian Bush Poetry Championships in the year 2000 on page 16 of this newsletter. Submissions need to be with me by 30th June.

A member, Stuart Marshall of 29 Dorey Street, North Rockhampton Q 4701, needs a couple of issues of the News to complete his set. He wants February and April, 1994. Help if you can please.

Congratulations to our young member, Carmel Dunn for taking out the big award at Stanthorpe.

Those who have poems in the Annual will receive a free copy and I will see to that soon. No other news,

Fond regards, *Olive Shooter.*

WANTED URGENTLY !!!

BUSH POETRY ABOUT ANZAC DAY FOR INCLUSION IN APRIL NEWSLETTER

ALSO POEMS ABOUT MOTHERS or MOTHERS DAY FOR APRIL NEWS

Please send to the Editor - address above. Ta.

President's Report



It is with deep sadness we note the passing of Judith Hosier last month. Judith was a fine lady and the backbone behind innumerable ventures to the benefit of the Australian culture. She was involved in the Stockmans Hall of Fame at Longreach. The backbone behind The Kiosk, in Brisbane, and along with many noted poets the main driving force behind the Poets Breakfast and the Fireside Festival at the Longyard Hotel, Tamworth. She was one of the main instigators who started the Wall of Fame at the Longyard and also the Golden Gumleaf Award that so many poets in the past have benefited from. Her foresight for the need of these awards is now history. The need to recognise the talents of past and many future poets, so that future generations will be aware of these talents, can be credited to the stamina, drive and dreams of Judith Hosier. May she always be remembered as the Mother of Bush Poetry

Again last month we had the question of 'Who Judges the Judges'. It is reasonable to understand the need for a uniform standard of judging right across the board in poetry competitions. But we are of the human race, with all our diverse feelings, conceptions, emotions and variable ideas, are as different as the poetry of to-day and the poetry of Paterson and Lawson's time. Who among us can qualify as being able to set down a set of rules to please every poet?

I, for one, as being both a competitor and a judge at various events, have asked the question many times. There have been many times when Joe Blow has won a section when I have thought that there had been two or three competitors who, in my opinion, far out-performed Joe Blow but didn't even reach the finals.

Does the content of a poem make a difference to the judge? For instance would a poem about, say, fishing or golf be even considered above a poem about shearing or bushrangers or drovers. As yesteryears poet wrote about their life and times, to-days poets are writing about to-day. The children of to-days events at times far outweigh some of the more seasoned performers and in a few years they may write about space travel or galactic drug house in the sky.

Personally I believe that the total entertainment value of a poem and a performance, far outweighs the subject or the content of the poem. I'm not for one minute disputing the fine renditions and performances of the past masters and such, but to-days poet and today's public are there to be entertained.

I doubt that one poet or one judge could deny the great entertainment value of the performance of Murray Hartin's 'Turbulence' at Tamworth where the audience almost brought the tent down with it's thunderous applause. Recently there have been some fantastic renditions of C.J. Dennis' work and superbly performed by two or three noted poets. Also a very heart rending performance of Paterson's 'Lost' by one of our outstanding young ladies. You could have heard the proverbial pin drop in the audience during her performance.

So it is not so much as 'Who Judges the Judges' but rather who can abide by the judges decision on who they have chosen as the final winners. Judges are chosen for their ability and their commitment to poetry and they are handling a very difficult job to the best of their ability.

Ron Selby, President

MUTTON BIRDS

© John Barclay, Narrabeen NSW

Winner - Local Subject Section

Inaugural City of Coffs Harbour

Australian Bush Poetry Written Competition

The wayfarers touched down late in the night,
Pursuant to flying for days;

The northern climate had been their delight,
Six months hunting their waterways.
A solit'ry lonely, arduous-flight
Across spacious oceans alone,
On silent wings gliding into this slight
Island they'd formerly known.

North's summer they played round the Philippines;
Or hunting Alaska's coast:

Fishing the sea near Siberian scenes,
Or beside their Japanese host;
Remaining away while cold wintertime
Enshrouded their southerly land,
Returning when only September's chime
Called them as though it was planned.

This home in the south is a tiny place,
An island adjacent to shore;
A comfortless, heath-covered, windswept face,
Water-ringed with not too much more.
Some lichened boulders beneath matted bush,
They abided with water's spray,
Until the next autumn's freshening push
Once more dispatched them on their way.

This small island home is their breeding ground,
Where thousands of birds mate each year;
Their long-distance flights round the globe have wound,
Of oceans they never show fear.
This world-wide traveller skims o'er the sea
Each year of its life; from its birth
In a burrow beneath a windswept tree,
It navigates half of the earth.

The shear-waters spend all their days in flight,
Out seeking their food from the sea,
And all then return when the dark of night
Once more makes it too hard to see.
For millennia they have made their home
In southern bright summery days,
Occupying this island we have known
As Muttonbird - now and always.

Some convicts escaping once landed here
Round two hundred years in the past;
The Bryants and their partisans appear
To have broken their trip - and their fast.
And the settlers later travelling north,
Tried catching these birds for their food.
But six months away has preserved henceforth
This bird - mutton tasting - and shrewd.

The next fifty years of the settlement
Many birds have come and have gone;
To their instincts they are obedient,
Residing six months in Nippon.
Their island refuge has lain undisturbed,
Their breeding grounds safe without doubt,
Their habits still keeping them unperturbed,
No butchery wiping them out.

Then after the Great War, their island home
Was created the northern head;
A breakwater built from shore through the foam,
Yet mutton birds still came and bred.
The youngsters were strengthened throughout the weeks,
Then sometimes were lost on their way;
But still they returned with their shining beaks
To nest, and to mate, and to lay.

They maintain the same nest year after year,
Their partners are faithful the same;
The sea water daily gives them its cheer
For their offsprings' swift growing frame.
These shear-waters now will continue to grow
As the seasons will wax and will wane,
Their solit'ry lives they will rarely show,
While at Coffs Harbour they remain.

HATS OFF TO HENRY

Henry Lawson Heritage Celebration

The Henry Lawson Society is holding its annual poetry competition at the "Ten Dollar Town" of Gulgong NSW. Yes, Gulgong, the town on our old ten dollar note, and we invite you to come along and help us celebrate the Henry Lawson Heritage Celebration held from 11th to 14th June, 1999.

As usual, the prestigious Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Poetry Award has been scheduled as a highlight of the weekend. Entries should be recorded on a cassette tape and be a poem about an **Australian Subject**, by the entrant or a poet of their choice. Performance time must not exceed 5 minutes and the tape, which must be recorded by the entrant, must be accompanied by a typed copy of the poem, using only one side of the paper and an entry fee of \$10.00. Entries will not be returned.

Ten finalists will be chosen and final judging will

take place on Sunday 6th June by live performance before judges at the Prince of Wales Opera House, Gulgong.

Entries close on 14th April, so don't be late. Just to get your attention, the organisers are offering a first prize of \$1,000 plus a Loaded Dog figurine, 2nd prize of \$400 and 3rd prize of \$200.

Throughout the weekend many other festival activities are planned and the town also offers a fine display of memorabilia at the Henry Lawson Centre. The purpose of this centre is to collect, preserve, research and exhibit those objects which will enable it to illustrate the literary works of Henry Lawson, his family, associated characters and places.

For further festival information and competition entry forms, please contact Chris Cook, PO 235, Gulgong, NSW 2852 or phone 02 6374 2049 or call M. Higgins 02 6374 1792. Hope to see you all there,

Bruce Lasham



NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL: A FEAST OF BUSH POETRY - Canberra at Easter 1st - 5th April, 1999

Once again, the National Folk Festival, will feature Bush Poetry as part of its Spoken Word Program. Featured poetry performers this year include *Blue the Shearer*, *Campbell the Swaggie*, *Joe the Poet* (Frank Daniel), *Kathie Job*, *Dick Warwick - American Cowboy Poet*, *Mark Feldman*, *Living Poets*, *Stand Up Poets*, *Edwina Blush*, *Thalia and Alan Musgrove*, *Bob Rummery*, *Roger Montgomery* and *Yuri the Storyteller*.

There will, as always, be a friendly Poets Breakfast every morning, where everyone - novice and professional alike - is welcome to take their turn. And for the best performance at the Poets Breakfasts there is the coveted Reciters Award, now in its sixteenth year.

The prestigious Reciters Award, crafted by Terry Gleeson in Australian Ironbark, is easily the longest standing award in the Australian Bush Poetry arena, having been awarded at the Festival every year since 1983. This year it will be judged by last year's winner, Mark Feldman of Queensland.

The festival also is host to the phenomenally popular annual World Poetry Debate. This year teams from Western Australia, our featured State, will debate against 'The Rest of the World' on the "Poetry is Better Than Sex". Moderated by Bernard Boland, the Debate is now easily the highlight of the whole Festival. For the past two years they have been queuing up for hours to get in, and the venue has been

bursting at the seams. So be early!

There also will be a range of poetry and story-telling concerts and workshops, including a rare performance of Blue the Shearer's play "Two Thousand Six Hundred Days". Those of you who witnessed Blue's double back flip with pike and chair at the Festival several years back will not want to miss this unique event!

And, of course, in the unlikely event you want a break from the poets and storytellers, there will be over a thousand singers, musicians and dancers, from Australia and around the world to entertain you.

Rather than pay, as at Tamworth, for each event separately, and have to drive around town from venue to venue, at the National Folk Festival everything happens on the one secure site (the Canberra Showgrounds) and once you pay to enter all events are free.

The Festival has some 14 venues running simultaneously, and all within walking distance. There is also a dedicated daytime Children's Festival, as well as on-site camping, child-minding and a host of delightful foods and craft stalls.

If you pre-book for the Festival before 26th March, you can save up to 20% on the price of your ticket. Adult season prices range from \$90.00, adult pre paid from \$25.00 per day. Season camping starts at \$25.00 per adult unpowered. Children under 5 years are admitted free.

For further information on prices, bookings and enquiries please phone the Festival Hotline on 02 6249 7722.

See you there, *Keith McKewy*

DIFFERENT ©Bill Kearns, Grafton NSW

I wander blind and helpless in this ever changing land,
Surrounded and confused by things that I don't understand.
The things that made sense yesterday are different and strange,
But if I were a woman I could make sense of the change.

I'd understand the higher things that only women can
And reason things in ways incomprehensible to man.
In baffling and confusing men I'd take sadistic joy
And if they start to work it out, I'd use another ploy.

I'd toddle off to Woolies store some purchase to arrange
and spend two hours for just one thing and never think it strange.
For I'd understand the need to look at everything they've got,
And know you just can't leave the place until you've seen the lot.

A wondrous world of colour will be opened up to me,
I'll know at once the ones that clash and which of them agree.
And I'll know why every colour must co-ordinate its place
Or else a cosmic convulsion will destroy the human race.

To buy a thing that's durable and strong, a man makes certain
And completely overlooks just how it tones in with the curtain.
For a man can't understand these things, he has no eyes to see
That every colour has its place, no problem there for me.

I'd realise my husband has the dress sense of a flea:
And the task of educating him entirely rests with me.
I'll watch him put a shirt on, then with innocence and flair
I'll calmly ask the question, "Is that what you are going to wear?"

But do I really want to know the way that women think?
And understand their mysteries that drive a man to drink.
Perhaps I would be better off in blind and helpless plight,
For if I understood their thoughts, I might find out they're right.

ZITA HOME FROM ELKO

The 1998 Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Zita Horton, has just returned from Elko, Nevada. Her trip to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering was her prize for winning the 1998 Championships, held in Winton last April. Zita would particularly like to thank the sponsors QANTAS and Vision Winton, and says about her trip -

"It was such a tremendous experience! I had the privilege of performing with some very experienced and well-known poets and singers, and in front of much bigger audiences than I've ever envisaged. The Elko Gathering attracts people from all over the United States, and the organisers, The Western Folklife Center, estimated over 9,000 visitors this time. I performed 6 times in various venues, as well as school presentations. One performance was sent live over the internet! The American audiences are very receptive to Australian Bush Poetry, and were very warm and friendly to me as a performer. They certainly remembered Australian poets who had gone there in the previous years, and there were many expressions of regret that the current Male Champion, Milton Taylor, was unable to attend. I would certainly encourage anyone considering going to the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships in Winton over the ANZAC Day long week-end. 'Go! you might spend next January in the snow at Elko!'"

Carmel Randle, multi-award winning Bush Poet, also attended the Elko Gathering. She had planned to go after hearing of Zita's win last April, and auditioned for several Cowboy Poetry Gatherings in the USA. She was accepted as a performer at Denver, Colorado, and at Lewiston, Idaho, as well as the Elko Gathering. Her performances were greeted with much acclaim and she has had many pressing invitations for her return next year.

Brisbane poet, Anita Hendry, was working at Lake Tahoe (5 hours drive away) and came over for the Gathering. She was able to perform at two of the open mike sessions.

WOODFORD ... Where to begin?? by Ian Mackay

I am staring at the blank page wondering just where to start ... to write some sort of report about this year's Woodford Folk Festival. the task shouldn't be that daunting ... dissect out and sketch out details of poetic events, add names of those poets in attendance ... sounds quite straight forward really. And yet... And yet...

Perhaps I'm hesitating because I feel myself totally unequal to the task of portraying something so wide and wonderful as Woodford is. The food and film festivals, the workshops, the music, the dance, the spectacle, the people.

The spoken word is well and truly embedded in the fabric of the festival and ranges broadly from seasoned performances from poets like Mark Both, Marco Gliori, Murray Hartin and Shirley Friend providing a host of first-time opportunities. For many, the most memorable bit of their festival was not the "big name" acts which graced the large stages but rather the fact that they found what it took to get up at a Poets Breakfast. We should never forget this. The styles of poetry are quite diverse ... we truly do get a little chance to view the world not only from a lot of different perspectives but also through a host of methods and styles.

As previously, many of the poets camped in the luxury of Poets Hill(ton), a comfortable camp set up by Jacqueline Bridle, the Spoken Word co-ordinator. From here they went their various ways ... to the breakfasts, the popular comedy sessions in the Guinness Bar with comedians like S. Sorrenson, Davishti, Arch Bishop and Alan Glover, and poets like Mark Feldman and Wally Finch, to the workshops, to MC or just to immerse themselves in the festival that enveloped them.

The North Pine Bush Poets came and performed well at the Sitting Duck Cafe. Arcadia Flynn (who emerged from her poetic chrysalis at Woodford just a few years back) launched her first book amid much hilarity. The Poets Brawl, which I jointly hosted for the past few years, was again popular with this year's winner being Cathoel Jorss presenting an impeccably timed piece that one minute brawlers dream of. The Dead Poets society honoured the works of a number of poets no longer with us. Shirley and I had our usual ball in the children's festival as the kids kept us entertained with their poetry (and jokes) and "virgin" poets at the breakfasts received a standing ovation.

The Festival is a melting pot of inspiration and opportunity. I see it as a time of re-creation in the true sense ... of reflecting, learning and growing. As someone who first found himself inexplicably in front of a microphone not all that many years ago, I find that the Woodford festival never fails to enrich both my life and my performance.

Bits & Pieces

Convenor of **Poetic Folk**, Arch Bishop, who conducts the friendliest poetry and folk group in Sydney's west has advised that for the time being, the group will meet every few months, on dates to be advised. The next get-together is scheduled for 29th May at Arch's place, 24 Finisterre Ave., Whalan NSW. Bring a plate, a poem, your instrument and your voice and join in the fun from 7.30pm. For further details ring "Arch" 02 9625 7245.

Live Poets' Society of Great Lakes / Manning Valley is a small group of poetry enthusiasts, interested in writing, reciting and appreciating poetry, who meet monthly in the warmth of private homes. Their next meetings are as follows: Monday 22nd March, 1999 at 7.30 pm at 15 Minnibah Crescent, Forster - poetry

theme - "Transport".

Monday, 19th April, 1999 at 7.30pm at 11 Water Street, Forster - poetry theme - "Rivers"

All visitors and other poetry followers are invited to attend. Enquiries Jackie 02 6555 3720 or John 02 6555 8122.

Well known Qld Bush Poet **Roy Briggs** aka "The Trackrider" will launch his new book 'The Trackrider Humorous Poems' during the Golden Bell Bush Poetry Awards at Laidley, Q 12-14th March. Roy has ably expressed his happy nature and wry sense of humour throughout the pages of his latest publication. The book includes many of the cattle country yarns which made him laugh and are now recorded in rhyme. The book is available \$15.50pp from PO Box 118, Esk Q. 4312.

LEGION OF THE LOST

© George New

Only a Mother can know the heartache
Of losing a child she bore,
She alone knows the terrible pain,
When her child is with her no more.

A Mother sits alone tonight
Steeped in deep remorse,
She stares into space through reddened eyes
And curses fate's cruel course.

A half empty bottle decorates the table,
Her hand holds a whiskey glass,
She hopes that if she can drink enough
The pain in her heart will pass.

But alcohol cannot erase from her mind
The feelings of guilt and regret
And though many bottles have come and gone
Still, she can't forget.

She looks at her daughters photograph
And fights back the rising tears,
As she tries to picture her baby now,
And tries to hide her fears.

She thinks of the miles of disappointments
On blistered swollen feet,
Showing that tattered old photograph
To everyone she'd meet.

On her many unfruitful trips to the city
Had there paths ever crossed?
As she searches the sea of faces
Of the legion of the lost.

Many times she thought she'd seen her,
But she couldn't be sure.
She couldn't catch up to her in the crowd,
Her feet too tired and sore.

She won't let herself consider the thought,
(Though it rises now and then)
That her little girl's young smiling face
She'll never see again.

So once again the tears start flowing
Down aging wrinkled cheeks
And once again she raises the glass
For the solace she desperately seeks.

How many times has she answered the door?
Heard the telephone ringing,
Held her breath in anticipation
Of the news they might be bringing.

But only more disappointments
Come with each passing day,
It seems that pain and heartache
Will never go away.

So before you take that drastic step
And join the legion of the lost,
Just remember a Mother's heartache
And pause to count the cost.

AUSTRALIA DAY .. 1998

© Ian Mackay, Kenilworth Q

I see the grey of your clean, pressed suit,
the grey face .. the grey words that dart.

I see the tie tight around your neck
Lest your head meet up with your heart.

And I wonder of your experiences of life
What wisdoms you hold in your head;
That put you there .. as my leader
And me .. the one being led.

Have you run your grey hands through leaf-mould,
Have you sat beneath waterfall?
Have you watched a Glasshouse dawning,
Have you heard a frogmouth call?

Have you watched the blue of soldier crabs
Disappear with just a twist?
Have your eyes made swirling inland seas
With the early mornings mist?

Have you touched this land ... this Australia,
Have you heard it speak to you?
Have you felt its presence in your heart,
Like a friend both strong and true.

This age old land of dreaming,
A thousand centuries of singing the land;
Of sacred stories and sacred places,
Will you ever understand?

That you can't put it down in dollars and cents,
You can't rationalise .. year after year;
You think of things as either black or white,
But you need your grey matter here.

This land of ancient dreaming
That we've come to share so late:
It's time that we walked it together,
And it's time that we got that straight.

"You can't change the past" .. I hear some say
It's hist'ry .. it's there forever,"
But we sure can change the future,
Australia .. let's walk it together.

MILLMERRAN B.P. ROUNDUP

The Millmerran Bush Poets Group will this year run the Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up on Fathers Day Weekend, Sat. 4th & Sun. 5th September in aid of the Qld. Cancer Fund. We are calling for product from members to be used for raffles etc., during the event. Anyone wishing to donate can send same to the above address.

We intend starting at noon Sat. 4th in the Millmerran Lions Club Park with a Sausage Sizzle, followed by the Junior Competition, some Country Music and the Novice competition. At 7.30 Saturday evening there will be a Bush Poets Concert in the Cultural Centre, featuring Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty, Shirley Friend and Noel Stallard. Tickets are now on sale \$10.00 per adult, \$5.00 per child under 12 yrs., or \$25 for a Family Ticket. A supper of 'billy tea' and damper (dampers cooked by that master of the Camp Ovens, Ned Winter) will be available and the bar will also be open.

At 9am Sunday 5th (Farver's Day), "Arch" Bishop and "The Legend" will host a Poets Breakfast at the Ram's Head Hotel followed by the Open Female, Open Male, Duo, Yarn Spinning and Poets Brawl.

Trophies and a cash prizes for the Over All Champion will be presented by the Shire Mayor, Cr. George Ezzy. I'm sure all those who competed last year will return and I hope to see many more poets this year.

Comper for the competition is Sydney's Warren 'Arch' Bishop who is sometimes known as "Cardinal Sin, (by the way, he doesn't know about this yet, so if you see him, don't tell him, I want it to be a SURPRISE!).

Entries close on 27th August. Forms and Concert Tickets are available by sending SSAE to the above address. Accommodation is available in Millmerran, but I suggest you book EARLY at the Rams Head Hotel on 07 4695 1488 or the Millmerran Motel on 07 4695 1411 or the Millmerran Caravan Park which has overnight vans, cabins, powered sites and camping sites, on 07 4695 1572. We hope to see you all in Millmerran in September and remember .. "Bush Poetry's Fine in '99" See you there, "The Legend"

ABPA ANNUAL FEES NOW DUE !!!!

PERFORMER PROFILE Yuri the Storyteller

In the familiar, ageless glow of candlelight, Russian-born Master Storyteller Yuri captivates his audiences by creating word-images that bind the listener to the magic of the classic folktale. Yuri, the archetypal village storyteller is renowned throughout the Australian Folk World. He was recently recorded by the National Library in Canberra so that his revered art form be preserved in the National Archive. He is an acclaimed veteran and his appearances have included World Expo 1988, National Folk festivals and Public broadcasts.

Yuri, currently can be seen appearing as part of "Seanchas" (shann ik as), a Story Theatre of golden songs, storytelling and bewitching dances which weave a theatre of imagination which harks back to traditional village forms and legends. Evocative and inspirational, using a mixture of song, verse, story and dance to achieve a unified theatrical experience. The name "Seanchas" tells of the people but it does little to prepare you for the impact - the magic of the stories, the power of the songs or the elegance of the dance.

Amongst Yuri's Stories can be heard "The Green Lady of Newton Castle", a traditional story from Scotland which is a haunting and pensive tale that captures all and whose meaning cannot be translated in prosaic words.

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

This festival will be held over one week, commencing on Sunday August 8th to Sunday August 15th and will include Bush Poetry and a Primary age children's written competition (traditional and humorous). Also "Drama On The Tweed" will introduce a new theatre company presenting senior school pupils, actors and poets.

The festival which will have a traditional country theme and include performances from top country artists will have buskers, stand up poets and two poets breakfasts scheduled for 14th & 15th August. We'll keep you posted and remember "There'll be all you need - Country on the Tweed."

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL Jamberoo NSW - 17th to 21st March, 1999

As in previous years, Illawarra Folk Festival will offer bush poetry groupies a wide variety of events to enjoy.

Feature poets this year will be Blue the Shearer, Frank Daniel, Arch Bishop, Graeme Johnson, Linda Pearce, Vivienne Sawyer, Mary Duroux, Dick Warwick (USA), Pamela Drysdale and Denis Kevans. Events include Poets Breakfasts, Morning Tea, Brawl, Cowboy Poetry and the Lure of the Limerick which will be hosted by Blue the Shearer.



SOUTH AUSSIE BUSH POETS REPORT

Well G'day from South Oz,

Bush Poetry in these parts is beginning to really wake up and this year, 1999 will be the first South Australian Bush Poets Championships which will be held in conjunction with The Riverland Country Music Festival and South Australia's Country Music Championships, to be held 4th - 14th June at Barmera.

The program is a full one for Bush Poets with Poets Breakfasts, Campfires, a special Poets Corner on the street and shows along with the competition itself.

S.A.'s Bob Magor, Tom Penna, Jeff Cook, Gaynor Bowden, Mary Meehan and yours truly will be there performing, compering and judging as well as doing spots with the country music folk.

Despite the competition being for the South Aussies, we welcome people from all states to come along and join in our bush bash. Bring ya poems too, for there will be plenty of opportunities to have a go and we'll be all to pleased to hear ya.

Barmera is already booked out, if you haven't got a tent. Loxton, 20 kms away, has plenty of accommodation still. For programs, call the festival office on 08 8588 1030.

Here are brief details of the events we plan for the Barmera Festival. All events are in Barmera unless stated.

- * 3 Poets Breakfasts (Berri Resort)
- * 2 Poets shows (Cobby and Barmera)
- * All week Poets Corner, Street Bush Poetry, walkups
- * Bush Poets on the truck - Saturday
- * Bush Poetry Championships written & performance
- * Winners show with Country Music Winners
- * Bonfire Night - Bush Poets walkup (Cobby Park)
- * Bush Poetry - Gospel Style (Loxton)
- * Possible Winery Breakfast (Location TBA)

A final program will be available soon but in the interim, please make all bush poetry enquiries to Peter Chapman - phone / fax 08 8557 7151.

Gaynor Bowden & I did an Australia Day show at the "Ard Yaka Shed", Molly Foul Restaurant at Berri. It was a laid-back time with plenty of fun and games. We also were doing some ground work for the Bush Poetry Championships and have lined up some promos on the local telly and radio.

S.A. Bush Poets have just been part of a Multicultural Festival (we were giving the Aussie flavour). However, it was a privilege to be asked to start the Official launch of the festival with a rendition of my poem "Multicultural Me". In the middle of performances from cultures across the world, SA Bush Poets were received and appreciated muchly.

S.A. Bush Poets were one year old in February, '99 and we've had an incredible '98 with many festival appearances and new bush poets achieving well deserved recognition, winning competitions, published in the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse, reciting on S.A. Country ABC and that's just the short list.

Finally, an official CONGRATS from SA Bush Poets and Peter and Heather to Maureen Garner for her engagement. We love mushy stuff, good on ya, Maureen.

All the best, *Peter Chapman*

NEWS FROM THE MURRAY

A great day of Bush Poetry was held on Sunday 14th February at the Mulwala Services Club, (based on the NSW side of the Murray River) where the Australian Bush Poetry Championships will be held on 14-18th May, 1999.

I can't speak highly enough about this club, and the assistance that they are giving to Bush Poetry!

All poets were invited to a great "help yourself" smorgasbord luncheon - starting at 12 o'clock, with the show getting underway at 1pm.

The Poets that performed - excelled themselves so well, that I believe they all should get a mention!

First up was Don Anderson with a couple of Bobby Miller's poems then a number of rousing tunes on the bagpipes - just to let the club members know that the show had started.

We also had Noel Cutler, Jim Angel, Trevor Hargreaves, Betty Olle, Beth Bashford, Bev Williams, Molly Sparks, Dennis Attwood and of course myself.

Every poet performed a couple of times each, with all doing such a great job that the Club officials couldn't pick between them. Instead of the four prizes that they had donated, 1st - 4th and most improved, they decided it would be unfair to pick such a fine line between.

Subsequently, every performing poet received a Club type showbag each. I believe, each being valued around the \$70 mark. It contained amongst other things, a jumper or shirt with the Mulwala Services Club emblem, and with a bit of swapping around we all got a perfect size each!

"Wear 'em proudly poets". You all did a great job and earned 'em fair an' square!

Now, fer those wot never made it,

Ya missed a bonza day,

But I'm sure we'll flamin' catch ya

At the Championships; here - in May

Stay nice an' live
forever,

Johanny

Johanson

THE CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL

I've been dying to say this. "Boy, did I get my hands on some big melons in Chinchilla this year."

Chinchilla played host to the biannual Melon Festival on 19th, 20th and 21st February this year and it was once again a huge success. Gary Fogarty, Shirley Friend and myself were Guest Poets, and boy did they keep us busy.

Fogarty compered the "Battle of the Bush Bands" at the RSL on Friday night while busting (entertaining) the crowds with some filthy (good) poetry, and had to throw back several bras thrown by Chinchilla Poet Groupies, while yours truly compered the "Tropicana Ball" attended by over 400 people who witnessed the unveiling of the giant melon. Dennis Dickman won 1st and 2nd prizes with melons in excess of 83 kilos, several kilos short of the record. Two very big nights were had by all. Those Chinchilla farmers luv a drink.

Poets Breakfasts were held in main street on Saturday and at the Museum on Sunday, where Shirley Friend was almost interned. As well, we three poets entertained at the Family Concert swamped by over 2000 spectators in the school grounds.

And guess who won the written competition .. surprise, surprise, Ellis Campbell took out the major award of the 1. Best Bush Poem and 2. The Best "Melon" Poem. Congrats to all.

See you all at chinchilla in 2001 when they surely must begin testing these giant melons for artificial growth hormones. Fairdinkum .. they'd derail the "Westlander" if you could hire a crane to lift them back onto the track!

Marco Gliori

A LETTER OF THANKS

Camooeal, Q. 27.02.99

Dear Editor,

Marian and I would very much like to thank you, and your magazine for all the great publicity we received for our Tamworth stint with our Cattle Camp Kitchen and associated shows, which included enthusiastic performances by 15 bush poets and 37 singers and musos.

Regrettably, the little legend, Bobby Miller was not well enough to perform, but I did put him on stage to be introduced to a very receptive crowd. We had the use of what was claimed to be the best sound system in Tamworth, plus two top sound men, provided by courtesy of the Toyota Aust. Corp., and this alone was quite a plus for our movement. At least audiences were able to hear every word or instrument.

The article you published in the magazine prior to Tamworth certainly let many people know about our plans for the event we staged, and we both thank you sincerely for that. I am afraid I did have too much to do in the end, and a couple of mistakes were made, and one or two poets and singers were not able to be included in the shows. This was simply because I or one of my helpers made an error and the names were lost in the system. For that I am really sorry, because I understand how upsetting such a thing can be to a performer.

Some good news for the bush poetry movement can

now be made public. Leading publishing house Pan-MacMillan Aust. have plans well advanced for publishing an anthology of Australian and contemporary bush verse, which will include the work of some thirty poets, a lot of whom are members of your Association. Bruce Simpson, Bob Magor, Colin Munro of ABC Radio and myself have been involved with this exciting project for some twelve months or so now and we are in possession of written evidence of the plan to proceed very soon. A meeting between all named is to be held in Sydney, March 25 next, when we actually sign the publishing contract with MacMillan. It is hoped to release the book, titled "Bush Poets of the Millennium" on Australia Day 2000.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria has been very much the mover and shaker behind this deal, which can only do great things for the bush poetry section of our national culture.

We all must mourn the loss of a stalwart, in the late Judith Hosier, whom we shall miss greatly for a long time, and at the same time, be grateful to have emerge another ally, Jamie Aitkin, the General Manager of the RASV, and an ardent supporter of our style of poetry, and the man behind the deal with MacMillan.

Lastly, anyone who hasn't seen Ken Hood perform should try to. He is in my opinion, really someone special, and a thoroughly nice man as well.

Kind regards, *Kelly and Marian Dixon.*

GARAGE SALE ADDICT © Trevor Shaw, Thangool Q. 2nd Prize, 1999 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

In her little Morris Minor that has served her well for years,
Granny drove around the suburbs, quite oblivious to fears
That she might be getting shaky now her reflexes had aged;
That she might be .. well .. a danger, once the gear shift was engaged:

Though some had tried to mention she was getting on a bit,
Granny held her ground steadfastly - she was having none of it.
"I've never had a parking fine, and accidents, I've had none.
I've never blown into a bag nor seen a radar gun."

So, stoically independent, Gran continued driving round
On weekends, seeking garage sales, in every part of town.
She often brought home bargains, (very few she ever used)
And her reasons for the purchase often left us all confused.

On a balmy weekday evening while our Gran was taking sup
She read *Council Bulk Rubbish Collection Time, Coming up*.
It was in the "Central Telegraph", quite clear for all to see.
They'd be cleaning up her neighbourhood: Friday, by half-past three:

'Twas early Friday morning when Gran took to the road,
There was free stuff on the footpaths .. she'd come back with a load.
What some had scorned as rubbish she would surely find some use -
For none had eye for treasure like our Granny on the loose.

Up and down the side streets she had made that Morris slave.
Then, at the foot of Suicide Hill, espied a Microwave!
Gleaming, shining, near brand new. She gave the horn a toot
Such was her glee, and in a flash, she'd stored it in the boot.

She'd filled the back seat up with junk; the front was filled with clothes:
She found a pair of rubber boots that were truly on the nose.
A dozen, sad, old potted plants looked as though they'd not be saved.
Some broken bricks with which a garden footpath had been paved.

'Twas nearly noon that Friday when she finally got back home
To make a cup of tea - she'd enjoyed her little roam.
Quite contented with her findings, she prepared a simple lunch
When a car drove up her driveway - she heard the gravel crunch.

She peeked out through the louvers, what she saw quite made her gasp:

A burly boy in blue with a mobile in his grasp.
She quickly dived onto a couch. The policeman reached the door.
She tried to drown the doorbell chime with an exaggerated snore.

But the officer was insistent, so she weakly called, "Who's there?"

Released the latch. Pretended she was blinded by the glare
From the rays of sun descending, as the policeman ushered in.
"So you've been around collecting, Gran?" he challenged with a grin.

"I haven't stolen anything," she stammered in defence.
"Just rubbish. Not worth anything - in terms of pounds or pence.
It's not like I'm a burglar - or a rogue collecting loot."
I know that, Gran ... but listen ... could I look into your boot?"

The Microwave! She'd forgotten she had ever put it there.
A thousand guilty thoughts she had. Her mind was in despair.
I - I found it on the footpath. There was no-one round about.
I - I thought it was a bit of junk that someone had thrown put."

"Just calm down, Gran," the policeman soothed, as he opened up the lid.

He chuckled as he recognised the unit she had hid.
"No wonder your driving record's clean." He gave the case a tap.
"Do you see what you've collected here? It's our blooming radar trap!"

Mundi Mundi Plains

I'll forget you, Mundi Mundi
All this light will fade away
When the spirit's eye is closing
Then the colours of this day

Will be blended into nothing
In a muddled, melded whole
And the essence of your being
Will be washed out of my soul

I'll forget you, Mundi Mundi
When my guardians close the door
When the damping mist is on my soul
And my heart dies. Not before.

© Lesleyann

Malcolm

Moonee NSW

TOWERS POETRY UPDATE

Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th April, 1999

All planning for the Inaugural Australian Bush Poets feature at Charters Towers is coming together nicely.

Sections for both written and performance bush poetry have been finalised with more than \$1,000 in prize money up for grabs over the 12 competition categories.

Helen Avery of Longreach and Milton Taylor from Portland NSW have been engaged to assist in facilitating workshops, performances and bush poets breakfasts.

Commencing at noon on Tuesday 27th April, with an informal discussion workshop, the serious part will take place at the same time on Wednesday 28th. Both Milton and Helen should be well up to the task of outlining their knowledge to those taking registration.

Tuesday evening is open to a performance session, with venue for same and workshops most likely to be at St. Patricks Hotel.

Wednesday morning at 7 am will bring to life the old Stock Exchange building with a bush poets breakfast, and Thursday morning is reserved for a Big Bonza Bush Poets Breakfast at the showgrounds. Both these events should prove popular - with a number of bush poets keeping the public amply entertained.

The bush poets competition evening has been reserved for Wednesday at the RSL Club, with all ages being catered for. There are 7 competition sections with entry for juniors set at \$ 2.00 and adults \$5. A junior time limit of 4 minutes applies and senior limit of 7 minutes.

Nominations for the written competition, which has three sections, closes on Friday 16th April, with the performance section closing at 5 pm on Tuesday 27th April.

Enquiries can be directed to Arthur on 07 4847 2409 or Julie 07 4847 1328 or write to the Secretary, PO Box 797, Charters Towers, Q 4820.

Arthur Rehow

POETS AND MATES

1999 is well and truly off to a flying start. Our February Poets and Mates was a great success thanks to the combined talents of Mark Feldman and Vince McLoughlin who gave us a great representation of traditional and modern bush poetry which was superbly seasoned with their own original work. By the time this Newsletter is delivered, Michael Darby and Carol Stratford will have graced our stage and given audiences another taste of quality Australiana only seen in bush poetry.

In April the Clown Prince and Princess of the Blackall Range will be coming down to our humble coastal lowlands to attack our funny bones. It's the kind of humour only Jacquie Bridle and Ian McKay can deliver. BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! We are very excited that two times Winton winner, Milton Taylor will be there as well! Milton is not only a good mate but certainly one of the finest poets Australia has ever produced. Don't miss this one at 7.30pm, Friday 9th April, 1999.

Our daytime program "A Poets Cuppa" for April is on at 9.30am, Wednesday 7th April. We would love to see you there. Both 'Poets and Mates' and "A Poets Cuppa" are both held at the Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur. Q 4503. For further info please ring Wally or Mary on 07 3886 0747. *Wally 'The Bear' Finch*



G'day from Geoffrey Graham

February already, and still getting over Tamworth. I presume every one had a ball at Tamworth. Over 100 hours of Bush Poetry this year, and some people are expecting the bubble to burst, but personally I don't think it will. I believe Bush Poetry is here to stay.

My new one hour shows went very well, and my style well suited to the smaller venue. The shorter shows meant I worked a bit less overall than in previous years. However, due to heavy bookings, an extra performance was held and with a lot of breakfast spots, some at 6.30am, I still had plenty to do.

Kyneton Festival held recently, saw Bush Poetry for the first time, and though not huge numbers, which is understandable, it will be a regular feature in the future. Beside the seasoned blokes like Neil McArthur, Eddie Scott and Wortho, we had a pile of newcomers including Janet, all the way from South Australia. The Jumbuck Award was won by Leonie Dettman from Moonee Ponds.

Festivals coming up include Swan Hill Red Gum Festival; The John O'Brien Festival at Narrandera, Corryong and Yarrowonga, so we have a bit happening down South.

Unfortunately, my year has been severely tempered by the loss of two family members, one of whom was buried the same day Judith Hosier passed away.

A hard time to keep smiling.

Geoffrey Graham, Eaglehawk V. 03 5446 3739.

Translucent Beauty

© 1999 Glenn G. Muller, Toowoomba Q.

The colour of a tranquil blue ocean
Possessing power, like a strong love potion,
Each Aquamarine has a story to tell,
How translucent beauty will serve you well.

With special meaning to those March born
A jewell of quality, proudly worn
By ladies of standing and others who,
Wear it proud for all to view

And this dazzling birthstone for you might,
As it gathers the moon's whistful light,
Radiate a beauty not by chance -
For this gem shows courage and elegance.

Aquamarine is the birthstone for those born in March

ATTENTION - Brisbane South Side Poets

Zita Horton writes: "If there are any Bush Poets who live on the south side of Brisbane who would be interested in getting together, please contact me on 07 3849 5755 or write to me at 66 O'Grady Street, Upper Mount Gravatt, Q. 4122.

WANTED: Bush Poetry about Anzac Day and Mothers Day for April Newsletter.

Please send to the Editor A.S.A.P. Thanks, Ed.



O'MARA'S HIGH COUNTRY POETS COMPETITION

The organisers are happy to report a very successful first O'Mara's High Country Poets. A great deal of good comment was received from locals and visitors and it appears that the contest will run next year, bigger and better.

The turn out of poets was excellent and most of the credit for that must go to your excellent newsletter.

Craig Gasgoine of Singleton won the Novice and as this was Craig's first contest, I reckon we can look forward to seeing him again in the future.

Guy McLean of Susan River, Q, brought the house down with his rendition of Murray Hartin's "Turbulence" to win the Open Traditional and he also caused an amazing audience reaction in the Open Original when he proposed to Mellissa, his girl friend, while on stage, in verse. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Four talented juniors took the stage with eventual honors going to Jennifer Haig of Eulo, in a speak off with Stuart Nivison.

The Big One, the \$1,000 Open Original, was hotly contested by 24 poets with a very popular victory going to Carmel Dunn.

O'Mara's Hotel was extremely lucky to have two such talented comperes as Marco Gliori and Ray Essery at their first event, to assist Jack Drake make short work of the

big field and put 62 performers through their paces in 7 hours, with only a half hour break. The audience hung on every word.

Bruce Simpson and his team of Boulia Bates, Graham Murchie, Marco Gliori, Ron Selby and Maureen Garner handled the judging with skill and speed.

Bob Dellar, the "Publican who never smiles", has still got a grin on his face and is busily planning improvements for next year, which will include at least one hundred extra seats, Bar-B-Q and bar at the back, extra toilets and a much bigger and more accessible Marketing Area.

Thanks to the helpers and the poets for a great night and it is hoped to see everyone again next year.

The full competition results are as follows:

Novice:	1st \$100	Craig Gasgoine, Singleton NSW
	2nd \$ 50	Tim Sherf, Tenterfield NSW
	3rd \$ 25	Tess Rowley, Brisbane Q
Open	1st \$200	Guy McLean, Susan River Q
Traditional:	2nd \$100	Carmel Dunn, Warwick Q
	3rd \$ 50	Wally Finch, Kallangur, Q
Junior:	1st \$100	Jennifer Haig, Eulo, Q
	2nd \$ 50	Stuart Nivison, Cleveland, Q
	3rd \$ 25	Juliette Davis, Ballandean, Q
Open	1st \$1,000	Carmel Dunn, Warwick, Q
Original:	2nd \$200	Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW
	3rd \$100	Peter Blundell, Stanthorpe

Stellamary Matheson & Jack Drake

THANKS from the HIGH COUNTRY POETS

Dear Madam Editor,

The Organisers of the first High Country Poets Competition, and the Proprietors of O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe, would like to thank all the members and friends of the Australian Bush Poets Association, who gave their support to this inaugural event. There are obviously improvements that can be made on the first time around, but on the whole, we received very encouraging comments and were thrilled to see so many ABPA members and friends there.

It will be on again next year, probably with the addition of a Poet's Breakfast next morning, and possibly with another section or two.

We would particularly like to thank Maureen Garner for the publicity we received through the circulation of the Newsletter. Hope to see you all again next year. Yours faithfully,

Jack Drake, Co-ordinator



NORTH BY NORTH WEST POETRY & FOLK CLUB

Our first night back in the hall in February was great, with excellent floor spots from Running Amok, the talented Alex Cronin from Pastance, Sonia Bennett and poet Graeme Johnson, in fine form (Chainsaw Massacre", "The Generation Gap"). Other poets included Estelle Borrey and Robert and Lois Lennard. Ken Cooper dedicated a song to a friend of ours, Maureen, who had just passed away.

Our featured performers, The Roaring Forties, roared in with rousing chorus songs, setting the pace for an enjoyable evening.

On Saturday, March 13th at 2pm, we are having another come-all-ye afternoon at the Cornucopia Cafe in the grounds of the old Gladesville Hospital. Enter from Punt Rd, and follow the signs. Spend a pleasant afternoon with coffee, cake and friends as we entertain ourselves with poetry and song. Entry is free.

On Thursday April 1st at 7.30pm, come and play with our poets at our Spoken Word Night, run by Graeme Johnson. If you would like to do a 10 minute spot, ring Graeme on 02 9874 7653 or Jenny on 02 9887 1856 or mob 015 227 479. Musicians and other poets are also welcome on the night.

See you there, *Jenny Carter*

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

© Ron. A. Monro, Kincumber NSW

From the mists in mountain valleys
To the sparkle on the sea,
The Great Outdoors is waiting,
And calls to you and me.

Come see the stark Red Centre,
Where the light on Uluru
Works it's special sunset magic
As the landscape fades from view.

Listen to that coach whip,
Deep down in the gully shade;
While high in the sunlit treetops,
There's a bellbird serenade.

Revel in the lushness
Of Tasman's verdant isle,
Where Past and Present mingle,
And bid you stay awhile.

Bring your skis to the mountains,
When the slopes are white with snow,
Or roam the Summer High Plains,
Where the alpine wildflowers grow.

Explore a dim rain forest,
Where ancient life forms stand;
Antarctic Beech and Cycads
From old Gwandanaland.

Dive 'neath tropic waters
To scenes beyond belief,
In the glorious coral gardens
Of the fabulous Barrier Reef.

The Great Outdoors enraptures
With views pristine and grand;
All the beauty and the splendour
Of this great wide timeless land.

WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

The 1998/99 Woodford Folk Festival was an absolute pearler - torrential rain included! Aside from the initial heat, then the rain and mud, the talented Jacquie Bridle as always had assembled a fine line up of entertainers for the Spoken Word.

Marco Gliori made a welcome return to the Woodford, bringing Murray Hartin with him. Returning also was Mark 'haul up the anchor' Both (sorry Bothy), having made a miraculous recovery after this terrible accident last year, much to our relief.

Shirley Friend was unbeatable as always, helping the Guinness Comedy House to flow, with Marco, Dave Hallett, S. Sorrensen, Alan Glover, Davishti and a wealth of talent from other festival performers & debutants.

The Poets Breakfasts were very well attended and poets of all persuasions presented their work. It was marvellous to see the number of first timers who hopped up for a go. Wally 'The Bear' Finch (with the poetry of C.J. Dennis, himself and others) made a Woodford debut along with his wife, Mary, who with many others, made her first appearance on stage. Michael Darby and Carol Stratford also snuck in amongst the bards.

Also gracing the Festival for the first time (and hopefully the first of many) was the incorrigible 'Arch' Bishop, who joined the Bards from the Bush Concert with Marco Gliori, Dave Hallett and Mark Feldman. Coincidentally, the percentage of Yowie sightings increased around the camp shortly after 'Arch's' arrival.

Graham Fredericksen and North Pine Bush Poets joined the fray, as did Christine Strelan, Linda Pearce, and other fine poets and storytellers and yarn spinners.

In 'Our Land Our People', Mark Both invited special guests Maureen Watson and Herb Wharton to join the bush poets and celebrate life in Australia.

The Dead Poets society went over well again this year, with Mark Both presenting the works of past poets as performed by various festival bards. Unlike the previous festival, where rumours of his passing did abound, Campbell the Swaggie turned up alive and well. The fine bush band, 'The Hairy Nosed Wombats', assisted to make this a special event.

Returning to the festival this year was Arcadia and hubby Duncan. Arcadia launched her book 'From the Heart of My Bottom', and the laughter abounded as many bush poets assisted by performing her work at the launch.

Ian McKay ran another successful Infamous One Minute Poets Brawl and congratulations to Cathoel Jorss who took out the event this year.

Shirley Friend and S. Sorrensen did a fine job as part of the teams in the Great Debate, 'Australia is Boring', particularly considering that S only joined at the last minute due to an absense.

So much more could be said about this fantastic event, but I'll wrap it up by saying thanks to the organisers, particularly Jacquie Bridle, the festival workers and volunteers, and most of all the audiences and supporters who keep the Spoken Word alive and well and make us all proud to be a part of it. *Mark Feldman*

have given some extra words of advice, guidance and encouragement, particularly Jacquie Bridle, Ian Mackay, Bluey Bostock, Wally Finch, Keith McKenry, Shirley Friend, Mark Both and 'Arch' Bishop, amongst many others - including Pauline and Doug (mine and Jacquie's personal fan club!). I have always felt a very helpful and friendly atmosphere to be existing amongst the ranks of my fellow performers, a very great credit to you all. Please accept my poem (above) as a tribute to our wonderful profession.

SHOULD THE POETS PEN NO MORE

© March 1999 Mark Feldman, Woodford Q

What would ever happen should the poets cease to write,
If our profession fell away, and inspiration turned to night?
No more prophetic entity; no more the minstrel cries,
Vocation to a bush bard's life no longer then applies.

All works of verse disintegrate; anthologies deceased,
The voice of outback troubadours no more to be released.
The children shall not know our past, our culture keep alive,
Abandoned be this way-of life on which we humbly thrive.

Shall stories of the bush be only found on video?
No more to poets breakfasts shall our storytellers go.
Shall news be only light-beams, broadcast electric waves?
To television and computers, they shall all be held as slaves.

How shall this generation know, and will they ever hear,
The sentiments and heritage of Australia, held so dear.
Should traditions born of bush life be forever cast aside,
Shall our sons and daughters falter from a lack of national pride?

Oh, torture, pain and anguish .. thrust away the bleeding pen,
Thus to it is borne the curse to never write again.
Like a living, breathing palinode, are we prepared to bear the cost,
Of all quatrains recanted? Rhyme and verse completely lost?

No more iambic prosody shall rise upon the page,
Nor even shall an ode be, to the passing of this age.
All couplets to be consigned to the fires burning hearth,
No more the canto's rhythm to the page be given birth.

Half mast the loyal stanza, hang up the epic wreath,
Lo hear, the final envoi, with the epitath beneath.
But for seldom discerned voices of the arcangels from above,
Who shall tell the children of this land we dearly love?

Thus hear a plea to the creator, this wish of ours to give,
That never in a land as this, shall we be forced to live.
May a thousand generations yet be still to hear the cries,
Of poetic bushmen sprouting forth with laughter, tears and lies.

May the audience of listeners be struck with heart-felt awe,
Of the profound, emotive wordsmiths, keeping healthy our folklore,
And may their souls cry out for joy in this triumphant age,
... Their minds taken on a journey by the lines upon the page.

May they feel a sense of wonder, and a captivating grace,
When the enveloping verses give their warm and sweet embrace.
May their spirits all be captured by this mighty Southern Land,
When the poet humbly reaches out to shake their trembling hand.

May all Australian bushies, men and women of the west,
Still feel the awesome welling up of pride within their breast,
All Bush Bards, swear your allegiance, keep our heritage held high,
And may the flag of our bush poetry fly forever in the sky ...

A LETTER FROM WOODFORD

G'day Maureen,

I would like to extend my thanks to yourself, Ron, Olive, Bobby and Elizabeth for a magnificent job well done, along with all my fellow bush poets from around the country, especially they who

Yours in poetry, *Mark Feldman*.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - YARRAWONGA - MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER

Friday 14th - Tuesday 18th May, 1999 - Mulwala & District Services Club (MDSC)

CALLING ALL POETS, STORYTELLERS, YARN SPINNERS, WRITERS, ENTERTAINERS, BUSKERS, STALL HOLDERS AND PEOPLE WILLING TO HAVE WONDERFULLY MEMORABLE AND ESPECIALLY FUN EXPERIENCES

The communities of Yarrawonga and Mulwala are certainly in full gear, preparing for the prestigious Australian Bush Poetry Championships and the festival of the Murray Muster.

Entries are rolling in for the Poetry Championships, and the request for application forms and information regarding accommodation are most encouraging.

It is just tremendous to see how many 'known' celebrities of the Bush Poetry circles are offering their assistance and total support for this huge event, staged in our neck of the woods for the first time.

Our local poets, new comer and Tamworth Champion, Trevor Hargreaves and the legendary Johnny Johanson have been inundated with requests for preview performances from our community groups, and the town is certainly stimulated and excited and totally supportive of the coming of the championships.

Don't forget to book your accommodation as early as possible. We can assist with motels, hotels, S/C units, caravan parks, luxury villas, houses or help you find some of our magnificent bush beach camp spots not far out of town.

Our 'oasis' awaits your arrival and your days will soon be filled with unforgettable experiences as you allow culture, music, dance, theatre and creativity to enrich and fill your lives. Fun and good fellowship, catching up with mates, coppers, friends and families. These are some of the best aspects of the event.

If you can be with us on the Friday night at registration, which will also be possible at the Breakfast Session on Saturday morning, you can be guests of the Mulwala and Dist. Services Club as they present young country music bands and entertainers.

Saturday at 11 am, you'll be in for another treat. Don't be late for the major street parade, as we feature some amazing farming equipment, machinery, floats, singers and dancers, vintage cars, decorated bikes, marching bands playing Australian themes, bullock drays, costumes,

by Barbara MacDermid
Yarrawonga - Mulwala
Tourist Information Centre

tractors, and of course the parade of all our poets as a special feature throughout.

The parade will move to Kennedy Park, not far from the main street activities, where the Berrigan Bush Drivers (an exciting and really talented ten piece Bush Band) will keep the crowd on their 'heel and toes'.

Line dancers will be pleased there is also an opportunity for all to 'strut their stuff'.

Lots of handcrafts, local fresh produce and food stalls will be there to tempt others of you. If you are interested in setting up a stall, there is still time to call us.

Saturday evening you can enjoy the Gala Concert night where a selection of Australia's best bush poets and entertainers can be seen. If you would like to expose your own talents please let us know. We would love to see you in the club auditorium.

The MDSC will be putting on the talents of many young country bands and performers. A 1 am finish will be the earliest you could bear to leave, so catch up on all your beauty sleep in the next months, prior to the festival and championships.

Sunday morning, after the Poets Breakfast sessions, a marvellous exhibition can be seen on the Yarrawonga foreshore. We will be honoured to have the Australian Whip Cracking Champion, Noel Cutler, and the whip cracking club displaying their skills. I believe the Junior Champ is part of the club. What a thrill for us all. If you have a skill in this area, make sure you show us what you can achieve, or maybe just try it out for fun.

Throughout the festival, professional performers will offer live show experiences. Our own local group can also be seen. More on venues and performance times later.

Geoffrey Graham will present his show, "The Man from Ironbark", the Allegro Theatre Group will present "Farewell Brisbane Ladies" and our four live theatre characters who perform "Cheese and Kisses" and

other shows will be a must to see.

The Championship sections are spread over the weekend and a definite program of sections will be made available, if possible for publication in your April Newsletter. Depending on the number of entries received, the finals of the Championship may be moved to Monday night. This will allow those who may need to return to work to be able to do so.

This is a special festival which cannot be missed! Prizes and prize money, whilst not just the 'focal' point of the Championships, will amaze you, and will make your participation worthwhile.

Rewarding cash prizes, and other major prizes as well as memorable trophies will be presented to overall champions and to other event winners.

Events of this nature would not be possible if it were not for the generous support of our sponsors, some of whom are: Mulwala and Dist. Services club, Capri Country Club, Moira Tourism, Yarrawonga Arts Council, Leeton Rice Growers, Lakeside Caravan Park, Corowa Shire, J. Richards, Central Motor Inn, CWA of Yarrawonga, Carters Pest Control, Historical Society and T & P King. We sincerely thank them for their generosity and support.

All diaries and 'Little Black Books' surely must be featuring 14th - 18th May at the Muster as a 'must'.

But rest assured, once you are here in our towns, you will extend your stay. You will "Linger Longer"!

You really need to fit in a cruise on our unique Lake Mulwala, a walk through our bush lands and forests, an early morning bird watching safari in our more remote river inlets, a hit of golf or a game of bowls, a visit to the pioneer or clock museum, a temptation 'fix' through our shops, a tasting at the famous wineries and at the delicious food outlets, a flutter on the machines, a ski or parasailing thrill, camel rides, horse rides along the Murray River forest and flats, a reeling in of a Murray Cod or a Yellowbelly or just a relax in the beautiful sunshine with your family or mates.

"Linger Longer on the Murray"



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- Mar 10 Closing Date. **Jondaryan Woolshed Performance Competition** Ph 07 4635 6429 P16
- Mar 12 **Poets & Mates**. Kallangur Community Centre 7.30pm feat Michael Darby & Carol Stratford P4 & P17
- Mar 13 **Poets & Folkies Get Together**. Cornucopia Cafe, Old Gladesville Hospital Grounds, Punt Rd. Ring Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479 P10 & P15
- Mar 12-14 **Golden Bell Perf. Poetry Award**, Laidley, Q. Ph Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269 or bh 5466 5407 P16
- Mar 17-21 **John O'Brien Bush Festival**. Narrandera, NSW. Ph 1800 672392 P 16
- Mar 17-21 **Illawarra Folk Festival**. Jamberoo NSW Poets Breakfasts, Concerts, Ph 02 4233 1073 Fax 02 4232 3848 P17
- Mar 20-21 **Jondaryan Woolshed**. Jondaryan, Q. Written and Performance Bush Poetry Comp. P16
- March 22 **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley**. 7.30pm 15 Minnibah Cres, Forster NSW
Ph Jackie 02 6555 3720 or John 02 6555 8122 P 5
- March 31 Closing Date. **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards & Junior Bush Poetry Awards**. P 16
- April 1 **North by Northwest Poetry Spoken Word Night**. North Ryde, NSW Ph Graeme 02 9874 7653 P 10 & 15
- April 1-5 **National Folk Festival**. Canberra Showground. Daily P. Breakfasts, Camping avail. 02 6249 7722 P 4 & 17
- April 4 **Nambucca Heads Bowling Club, NSW**. Poets Brecky open mike \$5.00 incl hot meal Ph 02 6568 5269 P16
- April 7 **A Poets Cuppa**. 9.30am Kallangur Community Centre, Q. Ring Wally or Mary 07 3886 0747 P 9 & 17
- April 9 **Poets & Mates**. 7.30pm Kallangur Community Centre, Q. featuring Jacquie Bridle, Ian McKay & Milton Taylor. Ring Wally or Mary 07 3886 0747 P 9 & 17
- April 9-11 **Man from the Snowy River Bush Festival** Corryong, Vic Ph Jan 02 6076 1179 or Neil 02 6025 3845 P 16
- April 14 **Palma Rosa Poets**. Hamilton Q. Featuring Glenn Palmer & Milton Taylor P16
- April 14 Closing Date for taped entries. **Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Award** P 3 & 17
- April 15-18 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Legendary Tales**. Tenterfield NSW Performance and Written Competition. Ph Patti Ainsworth 02 6736 1082 or fax 02 6736 3388 P 16
- April 16 Closing Date. **Charters Towers Written Comp.** Ring Arthur 07 4787 2409 or Julie 07 4787 1328. P 9 & 16
- April 16-18 **Martis Canowindra Hot Air Balloon Fiesta**. Poets Breakfasts. Ring "Jo the Poet" 02 6344 1477 P17
- April 18 **Poets Breakfast**. Mt. Kembla NSW Ph Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4337 7176 P 16
- April 19 **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley**. 7.30pm 11 Water Street, Forster NSW
Ph Jackie 02 6555 3720 or John 02 6555 8122 P 5
- April 23-26 **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships**. Details P 16
- April 23-26 **St Albans Folk Festival**. St Albans NSW Poets Breakfasts & concerts Ring 02 9528 2193 P 17
- April 24 Closing date. **Eulo Bush Poetry Written Competition**. Details P 15
- April 27-29 **Charters Towers Bush Poetry Events**. Comp., Workshops Breakfasts. Ph Julie 07 4787 1328 P9 & 16
- April 30 Closing Date. **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp.** Biloela Q. Details P 15
- May 1-2 **Gatton Heritage Festival**. Gatton, Qld. Performance Comp. Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 6269
- May 6 **North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club**. 7.30 featuring Pastance. Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479 P10 & P15
- May 14-18 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships**. Mulwala Services Club, NSW Details P 16
- May 18 Closing Date. **Warwick Bushweek Perf. Comp.** Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P. 15
- May 22 **Bush Poetry** 6-9pm Norman Lindsay Gallery, Springwood NSW Enq. Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884 P16
- May 29 **Poetric Folk**. 7.30pm 24 Finesterrre Ave. Whalen. Poetry/folk music, bring a plate ph Arch 02 9625 7245 P5
- May 21-23 **Warwick Bushweek**. Warwick Q. Perf. Comp & concerts Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P. 15
- May 31 Closing Date. **Bush Lantern Award**. Details - Ross Keppel, 2 Anderson St., Bundaberg Q 4760 P17
- Jun 5-8 **Aust. Folk Festival**. Kiama Showground NSW. Breakfasts & concerts. Ph Bev Murray 02 4236 0701 P17
- Jun 4-14 **SA Bush Poetry C'ships**. Barmera SA. Comps, breakfasts etc. Ring Peter 08 8557 7151 P7 & 17
- Jun 11-14 **Hentry Lawson Heritage Cele'btn**, Gulgong NSW Leonard Teale Perf. Awd Chris 02 6374 2049 P3
- June 13 **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp. Awards**. Biloela Showground, Q. Details P15
- July 2-4 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poetry Muster**. Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg, Q. Contact the Secretary, PO Box 248, Childers Q. 4660. P 17
- July 18 Closing date. **Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival**. Details P 15
- July 23-25 **Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival**. Perf. Comp, breakfasts, yarnspinning, walkups ring Roy Briggs 07 5424 1584 P 15
- Aug 5-7 **Bards of the Outback**. Hungerford, Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
- Aug 7 **National Poetry Competition**. Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Performance Competition P. 17
- Aug 8-15 **Country on the Tweed**. Inclues Poetry and other entertainment. Contact Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Hts. NSW 2486 Ph 07 5590 9395 P 6 & 17
- Aug 14-15 **Surat & Dist Battered Bugle**. Surat Q. Performance Competition. Jan Ritchie, PO Box 45 Surat Q 4417 or Phone 07 4626 5103 P17
- Aug 21-22 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival**. North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552
- Sept 4-6 **Milmeran Bush Poets Muster**. Qld Concert, BP Performance Comp, Brawl, Yarnspinning, Ring "the Legend" 07 4695 4209 P 6 & 17
- Sept 13 **Poets Breakfast**, in conj. with CM Fest. Kempsey NSW at Netherby House featuring Ray Essery and Russell Churcher. Walk up poets welcome. Ring Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

- - - - If you happen to be passing through these areas, tell 'em Joe sent ya!

- 1st. Monday** **Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106
Tuggerah Lakes Poetry Group. 7 pm Beachcomber Hotel, Main Rd Toukley,
 Ph Laurie Nicholson 02 4390 8595
Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group, Meet every second month at Kyabram Fauna Park
 at 7.30 pm - next meeting 5th April Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde
 Ph Graeme Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479
Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton, Q. 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music.
 Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st Friday** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group Q.** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend"
 Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- 1st. Sunday** **Poets Get-together.** Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolumb Qld. (074) 491 991
North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts. North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
Gold Coast Poets, 10 am Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Q. All welcome, audience participation
 Recite or sing a song. Graham Brunkhorst, 07 5579 4816
Poets in the Making, 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula
 Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba, NSW
 Everyone welcome. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel,** Anderson Dr., Tarro NSW. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St. Sth T'worth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067
Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- 2nd. Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.
 Mrs. Elaine Schofield "Green Hills" Jerangle, 2630 Ph 02 6454 3128
Poets & Mates 7.30 pm Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur Q
 Contact Wally Finch ph 07 3886 0747
- 2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.30 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.
- 2nd Sunday** **'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield - Joye Dempsey** 02 9797 7575
Wollondilly Regional FAW. 1.30pm Community Rooms, Menangle Street, Picton. Phone
 Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilotto 02 4631 1419
- 3rd Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08-8370-2460
- 3rd Friday** **Junee Bush Poetry Group.** 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82,
 Junee, 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 3rd. Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02-6642 2772
- 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
Queanbeyan Bush Poets: Poets Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286-1891
- 2nd Last** **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley.** Meet at 7.30pm in private home - Ring
 Jackie 02 6555 3720 or Reid 02 6554 9788 for details of venue each month. See poets calendar
- Monday**
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Tourist Cafe, Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30
 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Thurs.** **Writers on the River, Caddies Coffee Shop,** 2-3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith, NSW. Everyone
 welcome, come and recite, read or just listen to the poets. Ph. Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- Last Sat.** **Aust Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div.** Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 -
 4pm. Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Pk. NSW 2264
- EVERY 3 MTHS - Poetic Folk** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770. Ring "Arch" Bishop (02) 9625 7245
 Check Poets Calendar for next meeting.

ATTENTION

*Group or Club Organisers Your events belong here.
 Send your details to the Editor*



MISSING IN ACTION - or is he !
If anyone sees Campbell the Swaggie,
please pass this message on. Please ring
Cairns Show Secretarty - 07 4051 6699

CHARLEE MARSHALL BUSH POETRY WRITTEN COMPETITION

Entry Free - Closes 30th April, 1999

OPEN - GOLDEN COCKATOO AWARD - 1st \$100

UNDER 16 - SILVER BUDGIE AWARD - 1st \$50

Entry forms and enquiries The Co-ordinator

Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Comp.

PO Box, 754, BILOELA, Qld, 4715

Ph 07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137



Awards will be presented and winning entries
read on Sunday morning 13th June, during
Biloela Country Music Festival, Biloela Showground Q.

WARWICK BUSH WEEK 21st -23rd May '99

POETS IN THE PUB - 7.30 pm Fri 21st May at Warwick
RSL. Poet's Brawl to follow. Win \$150 plus the Inaugural
"Bushie's Boot" Trophy (while enjoying a pig on the spit and
music to follow) - free entry.

COUNTRY CLUB COMEDY NIGHT 7.30 pm Sat. 22nd
May at Warwick Golf Club featuring Marco Ghori, Shirley
Friend, Bob Miller and Ray Essery. Music from Random
Selection Cost \$10. Light meals available -book 07 4661 5905.

POETS BREAKFAST (all welcome) - 9am Sun 23rd May in
Queens Park by the river - free entry.

PERFORMANCE COMP. - Total Prize money \$950

9am Saturday, 22nd May, Warwick Town Hall.

Categories: Junior, Novice (original and trad), Open (original,
modern, traditional (ie 50yrs old). Entries close 18th May '99.
Forms from The Secretary, Bushweek Poetry Competition,
PO Box 737, Warwick, Q 4370.

Accommodation Enquiries - 07 4661 5046

INAUGURAL BRISBANE VALLEY BUSH POETS ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Esk Caravan Park, Esk Q.

Fri. 23th - Sun. 25th July, 1999

Yarnspinning - Poets Breakfasts - Walk up Poetry and
Yarnspinning - Spectators free

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

Friday 6pm - Junior and Novice Categories

Saturday - Open Original, Traditional & Humorous

All must have bush flavour.

OVERALL POINTS WINNER receives

Brisbane Valley Bush Deer Annual Award

Entry Fee \$5.00 - Jnrs Free. - Closing 18th July, 1999

Details from organisers - Roy Briggs or Liz Banting

PO Box 118, Esk Q. 4212 - Ph/fax 02 5424 1584 mob 1419 785 317

BUSH POETRY WRITTEN COMPETITION

Eulo Development Group

2 Junior Sections - Entry Free - 1st \$20.00, 2nd \$10.00.

Primary, to 12 years - Poem up to 40 lines

High School, to 18 years - Poem up to 60 lines

Open Section - Entry \$5.00 - 1st \$50.00, 2nd \$25.00

Poem up to 100 lines

Closing date for all sections - 24th April, 1999

Entry forms and details available from the Co-ordinator,

Eulo Development Group Bush Poetry Competition

Janine Haig, "Moama", Cunamulla Q 4490

Phone 07 4655 4862 or Fax 07 4655 4901

email - janinehaig@bigpond.com

Winners announced on Sunday 8th May at Eulo Mothers-Day

Fair and will be published in ABPA June Newsletter

NORTH BY NORTHWEST POETRY & FOLK CLUB EVENTS

MARCH 13: 2pm Poets and Folkies Come-All-Ye at the
Cornucopia Cafe, Old Gladesville Hospital, Punt Rd. entrance
APRIL 1: 7.30pm SPOKEN WORD NIGHT. Uniting Church
Hall, North Ryde. 10 min sets available - ph 02 9874 7653

MAY 6: 7.30 featuring PASTANCE. Uniting Church Hall,

Enq all events - Jenny 02 9887 1856 or mob 015 227 479

THE PRODUCT SHELF

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\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER SPOTS !!



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12+ Post Free

PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY

THE NEW LOOK 1998

Bronze Swagman Book of Verse

is now available \$12.50 pp

from The Secretary,

Vision Winton Inc.

PO Box 44, Winton, Qld. 4735



"A RURAL ♀ & HER MATES"

"A RURAL ♀ MOVES ON"

Two books by JAN LEWIS, Rural Poet
which portray rural life in Rhyming Verse

A description of village life on the
Murray River in Victoria.

\$10.00 pp per book

Jan Lewis, "Lowanna Park", CUDGEWA Vic. 3705

"300 FUNNY LITTLE POEMS"

Book - only \$12.00 pp

This book offers many a rhyme to which you
everyone will relate - short and sweet humour about
today.

"CITY OF GREEN - GREEN BAN SONGS & BEYOND" - CD only \$25.00 pp

Poetry and songs from the pen of

Denis Kevans and friends

featuring Milton Taylor, reciting Denis' poem "Hey
Banjo, Have You Heard Mate?"

Milton won the Traditional Section - Queensland
Show Comp. 1998 reciting this brilliant poem.

from D. Kevans,

63 Valley Rd., Wentworth Falls 2782

Ph 02 4757 3119 - Make cheques out to Vinegar Hill Bush Band



GOLDEN BELL POETRY AWARD

Performance Poetry Recitals & Yarnspinning

Conducted by the

Queensland Clydesdale & Draft Horse Society
in conjunction with National Heavy Horse Field Days
Laidly Showground - 12th -14th March, 1999
More Info from 'Bob McPhee' ah 07 5466 5269

JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

17th-21st March, 1999 - Narrandera, NSW

JOHN O'BRIEN POETRY & PROSE COMP.

Section 1 - Awards for Verse:

Classes for Traditional, Contemporary, Humorous

Section 2 - Awards for Prose

Open Class 1 - Short Story to 3,000 words

Entries Close 29th January, 1999 - Entry Fee \$1.00

Entries must be typewritten and on entry coupon

Enquiries to PO Box 89, Narrandera, NSW 2700
or Phone 1800 672392

MAN from the SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

SNOWY MOUNTAINS

Corryong, Vic.

9th - 11th April, 1999

For information please ring

Jan Lewis 02 6076 1179 or

Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845

BUSH POETRY CLUB



PALMA ROSA POETS

7.30 pm Wed. 14th April, 1999

Featuring performance poets

GLENNY PALMER AND

MILTON TAYLOR

\$15.00 - Bookings essential. BYO
Phone 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 33769



POETS BREAKFAST

Compered by FRANK DANIEL

in conjunction with

Country Music Jamboree & Talent Quest

8 am - Sunday 18th April, 1999

Kembla Heights Community Hall & Park

Harry Graham Drive, Mt. Kembla NSW

Enquiries Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176

WANTED!!

BUSH POETS at CHARTERS TOWERS

For a MIDWEEK ADVENTURE

Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th April, 1999

Poets Breakfasts - Workshops - Competitions

Enq. - Julie 07 4787 1328 or Arthur 07 4787 2409

or The Sec. PO Box 797, Charters Towers Q. 4820

WANTED

The AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

is calling for expressions of interest, in writing,
from clubs for the holding of the

Year 2000 AUST. CHAMPION BUSH POET AWARDS

PLEASE REPLY BEFORE 30.6.99 to

THE SECRETARY, A.B.P.A, OLIVE SHOOTER

M.S. 765, ALLORA. QLD. 4362



JONDARYAN WOOLSHED WRITTEN & PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Sunday 21st March, 1999

Performance Sections - Junior, Male & Female

Original And Traditional

Closing on 10th March, 1999

Written Sections - Junior High & Primary

& Senior - All close on 1st March, 1999

Entry Details Jondaryan Woolshed Country Music Rush

PO Box 7038, Toowoomba Mail C. Q. 4352

TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH LEGENDARY TALES

15th - 18th April, 1999

WRITTEN &
PERFORMANCE COMPS.

Details from Patti Ainsworth

Phone 02 6736 1082 or

Fax 02 6736 3388



BUSH POETS BREAKFAST HOLIDAY COAST HOEDOWN

Nambucca Heads Bowling Club

Featuring 'THE MULLUMBIMBY BLOKE'

RAY ESSERY

8.00 am on Easter Sunday, 4th April, 1999

Open Mike Session - All welcome to participate

Entry \$5.00 includes a great hot breakfast

Enquiries Maureen Garner - Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269

WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS

Winton, Outback Queensland 23 - 26th April, 1999 including

Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships

Category 1 - Open Male Perf. Category 2 - Open Female Perf.

The Christina Macpherson Novice Awards

Category 3 - Novice Male Perf. Category 4 - Novice Female Perf.

Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships

Junior - 20 years to under 50 years, Senior - 50 years to under 70
years, Masters - 70 Years and over

Outback Oscars - Group entertainment item

For Team 2 - 5 poets. May be Novice, Open, Junior, Male, Female

Non-Competitive Performance Poetry

For other visiting Poets as well as Competitors, but entry to
these sessions MUST be booked in advance, too.

WALTZING MATILDA JUNIOR

BUSH POETRY AWARDS

Encourage your local junior poets with

The "Little Swaggie" Awards for written poetry

JUNIOR PERFORMED FESTIVAL - Thur. 22nd April.

Competition for every School Year 1-12 and Group Speaking too!

CLOVER NOLAN AWARDS for Junior Champions

Nominations for ALL sections above close MARCH 31st 1999.

further information from

The Organiser, Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards,

PO Box 7714, Toowoomba MC, Q. 4352.

BUSH POETRY in Springwood, NSW

6 - 9pm Sat. 22nd May, 1999 - Norman Lindsay Gallery

Denis Kevans, "Arch" Bishop, Brian Bell, Terry Regan

& Sonia Bennett. Enq. to Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884



POETS & MATES

Kallangur Community Centre, 1490 Anzac Ave., Kallangur Q

7.30pm Friday 12th March 1999 - \$10 incl. supper

featuring MICHAEL DARBY & CAROL STRATFORD

7.30pm Friday, 9th April, 1999 - \$10 incl. supper

featuring JACQUIE BRIDLE, IAN McKAY AND MILTON TAYLOR

Please book to assist with catering - Ph 07 3896 0747

A POETS CUPPA - 9.30 am Wed. 7th April, 1999 - \$5 inc. Morning Tea.



MARTIS CANOWINDRA HOT AIR BALLOON FIESTA

16th - 18th April, 1999

POET'S BREAKFASTS

8-10am Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th

Ring Joe the Poet

Ph 02 6344 1477 ah or Fax 02 6344 1962

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Thurs. 1st - Mon. 5th April, 1999 - Canberra Showground

Poets Breakfasts Every Day - Reciter of the Year Awd.

World Poetry Debate - Storytelling

Season or Daily Tickets Available - Pre-book & save 20%

Enq - Festival Hotline - 026249 7722

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL Jamberoo NSW

Wed. 17th - Sun. 21st March, 1999

NSW Premier Folk Festival

Concerts- Workshops- Poets Breakfasts

Enquiries to 02 4233 1073 Fax 02 4232 3848

ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL

St Albans NSW - Fri. 23rd - Mon. 26th April, 1999

24th & 25th - Open Mike Poet Breakfasts

CHILDRENS POETRY WORKSHOP

Featured Poets - Ron Brown & Terry Regan

\$35 Weekend Ticket - \$20 Day Ticket Kids and Camping Free

More information from John or Betty 02 9528 2193

LEONARD TEALE MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE POETRY AWARD

In conj. with Henry Lawson Heritage Celebration

11th - 14th June, 1999 - Gulgong NSW

Entry on tape - \$10.00 - closes 14th April, 1999

Final and Awards Presentation - Sun. 6th June, 1999

Enq. Chris Cook 02 6374 2049 or M. Higgins 02 6374 1792

BUNDY MOB'S 1999 BUSH POETRY MUSTER

2nd - 5th July, 1999 - Across the Waves Sports Club

Miller Street, Bundaberg, Q.

PERFORMANCE COMP. - Juniors, Novice Open

Traditional and Original Sections

DUO PERFORMANCE - DARK & STORMY 1 MIN. CUP

FRIDAY NIGHT FREE-FOR-ALL and SATURDAY CONCERT

Further Information from the Secretary,

PO 248, Childers, Qld. 4660

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. presents

1999 BUSH LANTERN AWARDS

Limit 100 lines - Entry Fee: \$3.00 - Max 3

Closing Date 31st May, 1999

Details and entry forms from

Ross Keppel, Co-ordinator, Bush Lantern Awards

2 Anderson Street, Bundaberg Q 4670

SURAT BATTERED BUGLE

6th Annual Bush Verse Competition

14th 15th August, 1999 in conjunction with

Cobb & Co Festival of Lights (12th - 15th August, 1999)

ORIGINAL & TRADITIONAL

PERFORMANCE POETRY

Contact Jan Ritchie,

PO Box 45, Surat Q 4417

or Phone 07 4626 5103



AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarrowonga (Vic) - Mulwala (NSW)

MURRAY MUSTER

Conducted by the SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB

14th - 18th May, 1999

MULWALA SERVICES CLUB, Mulwala NSW

ENTRY FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

***** STOP PRESS *****

EXTRA SECTION ADDED TO WRITTEN COMP

Please note Junior Entrants sections are

Under 12 years & Under 16 years !!!!

Any person or persons wishing to perform their own functions throughout the Championships please contact Yarrowonga -

Mulwala Tourism FREE CALL 1800 062 260

or 03 5744 1989 Fax 5744 3149

or contact Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641

Phone 02 6025 3845 or Fax 02 6025 3847

ACCOMMODATION ENQ to the ABOVE FREE NUMBER



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

4th - 14th June, 1999 - Barmera SA

in conjunction with Riverland Country Music Festival

Provisional Bush Poetry Events

* 3 Poets Breakfasts (Berri Resort)

* 2 Poets shows (Cobby and Barmera)

* All week Poets Corner, Street Bush Poetry, walkups

* Bush Poets on the truck - Saturday

* Bush Poetry Championships written & performance

* Winners show with Country Music Winners

* Bonfire Night - Bush Poets walkup (Cobby Park)

* Bush Poetry - Gospel Style (Lexton)

* Possible Winery Breakfast (Location TBA)

All bush poetry enquiries to Peter Chapman - phone / fax 08 8557 7151.

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Royal Queensland Show

Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane

Saturday 7th August, 1999

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

"Original" & "Traditional or Established Work" Sections

Entry Forms and conditions from

National Poetry Competition, Royal Queensland Show,

Exhibition Grounds, Gregory terrace, Fortitude Valley 4006

More information next month

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

8th - 15th August, 1999 - Tweed Heads NSW

Childrens Competition - Poets Breckys

Standup Poets - Music - Drama

Further Info from Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Kiama Showground - 5th - 8th June, 1999

Bush Poets Breckys and Concerts

For more information ring Bev Murray 02 4236 0701

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

2/8 Salamander Pde., Nambucca Heads NSW 2448 Ph/Fax 02-6568 5269

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March, 1999

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MAIL**

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Thank You to Our Contributors

Liz Banting	Bill Keams
Kevin Barnes	Bruce Lasham
John Barclay	Barbara MacDermid
Arch Bishop	Ian Mackay
Roy Briggs	Keith McKenry
Jenny Carter	Lesleyann Malcolm
Peter Chapman	Stellamary Matheson
Frank Daniel	Ron A. Munro
Kelly Dixon	Glen G. Muller
Jack Drake	George New
Teal Egan	Jackie O'Neill
Mark Feldman	Robert Raftery
Wally Finch	Arthur Rekow
Marco Gliori	Lorraine Richards
Geoffrey Graham	Yuri the Storyteller
Jamir-Haig	Ron Selby
Jim Haxton	Trevor Shaw
Zita Horton	Olive Shooter
Johnny Johanson	

New Members

Bondaberg Poets Society Inc. Q
Adam Easter, Gayndah Q
Cay Fletcher, Blue Haven NSW
Russell Gallatley, Munro Vic.
Craig Gascoigne, Singleton NSW
Eric Gorr, East Malvern Vic.
Lionel D. Hart, Emerald Q.
Betty James, Kearns NSW
Marion Mitchell, Gunnedah NSW

Patricia Nevin, Bateau Bay NSW
BE & JD Perren, Murrumbidgee NSW
Marion Rogers, Draper Q.
Colin Scott, Macarthur Vic.
Molly Sparks, Kyabram Vic.
Colleen Wright, Lake Cathie NSW

*Welcome to the
Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*



SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 31.12.98 !
PLEASE RENEW WITH THE SECRETARY ASAP -
Due to financial constraints we will be unable to
send any further newsletters to unfinancial Members.