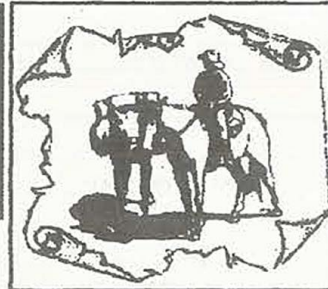


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 4 Volume 6

April 1999

THE MURRAY MUSTER © Reg Phillips, Albury, NSW Pres. Yarrawonga Mulwala Murray Muster inc. Aust. Bush Poetry C'ships

The Mighty Murray Muster is kicking off this year.

The championship we've all been waiting for.
It will be down here at Mulwala and Yarrawonga too,
Where you can wander round the beautiful foreshore.

There'll be buskers by the dozen, parades and dancers too,
And raft races across the silver lake.

In the evenings country music, to enjoy up at the club
And a Gala Night, so why not bring a mate.

The poetry of course will be mostly held in doors,
At the Mulwala Service Club venue.

So no matter what the weather, you can sit in easy comfort,
After treating yourself to their great menu.

There'll be poets come from far and wide to listen and compete,
From South Australia and from way out west.
They'll come from sunny Queensland and down in Melbourne too,
To bring their poems and mix it with the best.

They'll come in covered wagons, on horses and in cars,
And some might even paddle down the river.
Others will be hiking and trying to catch a ride,
Then some will probably come and stay for ever.

Now grab the phone and book a spot, somewhere to lay your head.
To ensure, that you have great accommodation.
Then sign in on the Friday night, to register your name,
And be ready for the best across the nation.

So come catch a "Silver Brumby", for the Champion Recital,
Or a "Dinkum Aussie" for the written word.
Or just sit back and enjoy it, for this is a Championship,
And you'll enjoy the finest poets ever heard.

THE AWARDS FOR AUSSIE CH'SHIPS

Our four major trophies are unique hand crafted Australian sculptures, created in cold cast bronze. The rich hues of the local river red gum mountings complement these magnificent pieces of art work making them a prized possession of any champion poet.

The **Mens Silver Brumby** trophy, to be awarded to the performance champion, is a striking Silver Grey Stallion, standing 10 inches high, with ears laid back and nostrils flared, pawing at the ground in a true wild Brumby stance.

The **Ladies Silver Brumby** trophy, to be awarded to the performance champion, is an exquisite Silver Grey Mare, 9.5 inches in height, standing calmly with ears pricked, her mane and tail wafting in the mountain breeze.

The trophies for both the **Mens and Ladies Dinkum Aussie Awards**, (written competition) are 9 inches in height and depict the typical "Aussie Drover", at the end of a hard day, sitting with his saddle by his side, talking to his dog. The attention to detail on these amazing pieces brings them to life in the warm glow of natural bronze tonings.

Other section trophies for 1st and 2nd place have been selected to complement the championship and provide a lasting reminder of our poets achievements in this competition.

Reg Phillips

YARRAWONGA - MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER READY TO GO !!

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships will be held at Mulwala Services Club from 14th - 18th May, 1999 during the Yarrawonga-Mulwala Murray Muster. A feast of opportunities for both competitors and admirers of Australian Bush Verse will be provided over these few days.

The **"Silver Brumby Award"** will be a feature of the performance competition and will be awarded to the Ladies and Mens Champion which will be determined by the aggregate score of both Original and Traditional Sections. In addition, these winners will also receive \$500.00 cash and a weeks holiday in a local resort for six people. Total value of these awards is \$3,000.

The **"Silver Brumby Award"** for runners up for both sections will be a room for 2 and golf for a weekend at the local Golf Club.

The **"Dinkum Aussie Award"** for the written competition for ladies and gents will be judged from section 1 & 2. In addition to the trophy as described opposite, winners will be awarded \$250 ea.

Provisional PROGRAM - Subject to change

Mulwala Services Club, Melbourne St., Mulwala

Friday 14th May -	6pm, Registration of Poets
Saturday 15th May -	7.30 - 9 am Poets Breakfast
	1.00 - 5 pm Performance Comp. - Juniors, Ladies & Mens Original
	7pm Gala Night - doors open 6.30pm
Sunday 16th May -	7.30 - 9 am Poets Breakfast
	10.00 - 12 noon Perf. Comp. - continue Mens Orig & Y'sp'ing
	1.00 - 5 pm Perf. Comp. - Ladies & Mens Traditional
	7 pm - Songsters & Yarnspinners
Monday 17th May	10.00- 12 Noon Continue Mens & Ladies Trad
	1.00 - 2 pm Hospital Ent'tment at 2 or 3 venues. Poets please volunteer if you have free time.
	3 pm - 5 pm Continue Mens & Ladies Traditional
	7 pm - Presentations and Windup

Please note: The above program is subject to change. Dependent on entries, particularly in Ladies and Mens Original and Traditional Sections, the competition performances may continue or presentation of awards may be held on Tuesday 18th May. Details P 13

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club, Yarrawonga Mulwala Tourist Association and the community in the area look forward with anticipation to seeing as many poets and visitors as possible to enjoy the Muster.

Neil Hulm, Co-ordinator.

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A.B.P.A. Membership - \$25 p. a.



Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

The month has fled by and by the time you read this Easter will have come and gone. I hope you had a relaxing time.

Vice President Bob Miller is home from hospital and we all hope for his better health and his return to the performance stage.

We have had queries for the use of our 'Logo' of the Drover, and we feel that nobody should use it except for the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. As we do not run or organise functions, its use may induce people to think that we are at least partly responsible for any programme containing its image.

Copyright. Have we a person amongst us who could explain details of copyright? We are often asked how poets can ensure the ownership of their original works.

Australian Bush Poetry Championships. ABPA Inc. enjoys the privilege to the name Australian Bush Poetry Championships. as you would notice we have called for expressions of interest for the holding of the Championships in the year 2000. It must be understood that we do not organise the contest, but let it out to a club or organisation one year at a time. The perpetual trophy of a bust of R.M. Williams is permanently held in the Waltzing Matilda Centre at Winton the names of the winners are displayed with it. Arrangements for sponsors and prizes are left entirely to the organising body as are the programme and running of the competition. Our committee reserves the right to approve the judges chosen and a list should be forwarded to me.

Members have made suggestions and I leave it to you to let me know how you feel about it.

- from **Keith McKenry:** The title ABPA Newsletter is certainly descriptive, but I think the Newsletter now has the stature and substance that needs a name.

- from **Colin Scott:** Isn't it time Bush Poetry was recognised as a part of the Tamworth Festival, and given a part in the final awards? I believe the popularity of Bush Poetry demands it and the ABPA would be the natural promoter.

President's Report

It is good to see the support for the many events that have been held lately around South-east Qld and Northern NSW by many dedicated members who travel great distances to perform and assist in the running of these events. I notice from the membership a great many new members in the Sydney area and while I would love to attend their events, for me the financial side of my existence, hobbles me in those I would like to support. I'm sure however, that they are being supported by the members in the area.

This month I will be going to Winton and then to Mulwala in May and they will stretch my budget to the limit but it is always great to put faces to the names on our members list and to meet new people.

Most members who contributed to the Annual would have received their copy by now and it seems that again I have made a few mistakes to some poems, (one of these years I will get it right!). I humbly apologise to any member I have erred against. I spend about four to five hours a night for about a month to get the Annual ready and invariably I make mistakes.

A possible solution to this predicament may be to start on the Annual a little earlier in the year and if a kind local member would volunteer to assist me in putting it together by proof reading the poems before they go to print, I would be most appreciative. This year I intend to type up a contributors poem and then post it back to same for adjustments. It is never too early to start the Annual, so if any member would like a poem in this year's book you could send it in at any time and we will endeavour to get it right!

Lately, I have been asked "What is the prize for so and so event?" When I answer that I'm not aware of the prize for the particular event they are asking about, I get the same answer, "You're the President, you should know!"

I would like to remind members, that we as an Association do not have anything to do with the various clubs etc. that put on these competitions. We do not have any say in just what they are offering as 'prizes'. I personally go to an event because I enjoy performing, I enjoy friendship and I would like to see all events become a great success. But, does it matter whether the 'prize' is a trip to Timbuktu or a new car or \$10.00 trophy?

When I attend a competition the only person I have to beat is me! If I feel I have done a poem justice and performed well then that is enough for me, but if I fail then it only makes me more determined to try to do better next time. To win or to be placed in an event should be reward enough.

With the great performances from many old and new members, especially people who are novices in one event, then, before you know it they are winning time and time again. It is great to see these people enjoying themselves and winning. It's great to be part of it.

When we started the Association in 1994 there were possibly 20 to 30 good poets around, however the number could now perhaps be 200, so to win with this amount of talent is just that much harder now.

Ron Selby, President

(Olive thinks that it should be remembered that it is a Country Music Festival, and poetry has been accepted as part of it to a fairly large degree now and we don't need to push our luck.)

Up until the end of March, we have just less than 300 financial members, so with a number of new members, there is still lots who have not renewed their membership.

One again I remind you of the Annual books of poems. Only \$3.00 plus postage \$1.10, and that amount will post 4 copies. Isn't it a co-incidence that we have 4 different books available. Please buy some, I need the house space.

Fond regards, dear poets and poets' friends.

Olive Shooter.

THE FINAL VICTORY

© Merv Webster, "The Goondiwindi Grey" Bagara Qld

With my foot locked in the stirrup, the young unbroken colt,
Released its mighty power, tearing muscle every jolt.
My head it spun as rails flashed by, he put up such a fight;
I'd ride this colt to a halt, 'til victory was in sight.

Loud cheers from my mate Johnny, were disrupted by a yell.
"We're at war!" the Super bellowed, though at first it didn't jell.
"Was this our ticket out of here?" the thought flashed through my mind.
"No more breaking horses, Johnny, we'll leave the bush behind.

With rudimentary training we were soon shipped off to France,
Where with ninety thousand Anzacs, we'd take a fighting stance:
Could the German push now under way be stopped there and then?
Yes, it was stopped alright, but it cost sixty thousand men.

We'd created a no mans land, sides fighting for no gain;
Corpses lay in unsightly graves across this scarred domain;
A machine gun nest stopped our advance preventing our way through.
"It has to be destroyed!" I screamed, "There's little else to do."

Johnny cried, "I'm with you mate! but this I'll truthfully tell,
Breaking horses wasn't so tough, compared to this place of hell!"
Men scaled the trench with a chilling cry, no mans land ahead;
They hadn't gone a rifles length, when four of our lads lay dead.

We balked at our first barrier an obstacle of wire,
Young Tim fell beside me, a bloodied victim of the fire;
His body sprawled across it, he became a stepping stone;
My heart felt sick seeing him there, left lying on his own.

Then one more lad was torn to pieces toppling in the mud,
The remains of his youthful face, shrouded with crimson blood;
Old Bill Murphy slumped and fell, I thought of his wife and kid,
He had only joined up to fight because all his brothers did.

Bullets tore into the ground spraying mud into our eyes,
Echos of voices filled the air, the sound of deathly cries;
Time it seemed had stood still, since we scrambled beyond the wall,
In truth it'd only been moments, when I heard Johnny's call.

"Keep going mate it's just we two, the others are all dead,
That murdering gun isn't far away, maybe just ahead!"
With Johnny one step forward, I viewed the sickening hurt;
Blood stained flesh flying from the back of Johnny's khaki shirt.

The shattered body sprawled to the ground, in a writhing state,
His final words as life expired, "Tell 'em I died game, mate;"
I reeled from the burning pain as my shoulder took a hit,
My strength was draining quickly and my teeth I had to grit.

I'd forged too far in this battle and lost a darn good friend;
Failure was not an option, I would ride it to the end;
Through dim eyes I saw the barrel, of that menacing gun,
And with my last remaining strength, for it I made a run.

The gunner was quiet for an instant, sensing all were dead,
Then as he resumed his fire, notions rallied through my head:
I've got to do it for Johnny, and all the other lads,
For their many wives and children, and for their Mums and Dads.

A seething pain tore through my chest, while I tossed the grenade,
I felt the muscles tear from bone, too numb to feel afraid;
My head it spun, the rails flashed by, we'd put up such a fight,
That gun had come to a halt, the victory now in sight.

So many lads lay at rest now, beneath those foreign shores,
They went to fight what they thought was a war to end all wars;
Will you value their sacrifice, and hear their plaintive cries?
Pursue PEACE, not war, for there, the final victory lies.

from Merv Webster's book "In Days Gone By"

A TALE FROM THE WARS

© Sandra J. Queensborough Binns, Kincumber NSW

They married in wartime, the future uncertain
and a daughter was born in the spring;
no plans for tomorrow, just lived day to day,
for they feared what tomorrow might bring.

Came his orders, he left his wife and his child,
and sailed off to Italy's shore,
his heart filled with dread, and heavy with pain,
away to the fighting, the war.

On the day of his leaving, they stood on the dock
and a chill swept over her heart.
As they said their good-byes, she clung to him close,
cried "Be safe for us, while we're apart."

But the words that he spoke as he left her that day
seemed fateful and strange to her ears ~
"If I die, then our child will know it is so."
It did nothing to ward off her fears.

Two years had passed since he left for the war,
each night a routine had been set;
bath time and prayer time - "God, keep daddy safe!"
~ give his photo a kiss before bed.

But the fifteenth of Janu'ry dawned in their home,
the year, nineteen forty five,
and the world would stop for a mother and child
as evening closed in on their lives.

She lifted the child to the photograph,
the night of that fateful day,
and said to her "Come kiss your Daddy goodnight."
But the child turned her face away.

"Come, sweetheart" she said, "now be a good girl.
Don't turn your face away."
But no matter how much she admonished the child,
"No more Daddy!" was all she would say.

"No more Daddy!" she cried, again and again,
as she clung to her mother, fast;
and that very same time in the trenches of war,
a young signalman breathed his last.

OLD SOLDIER

© 1999 Tom Stonham, Nambucca Heads NSW

Dim jungle dawn, a crouching run,
hot on my hip, an Owen gun ...
Cold, clammy sweat as I was torn
from brash boyhood ... and woke, reborn.

For nineteen years I never knew
what Freedom costs but now I do ...
You know, or not, it can't be told -
New-born at dawn and now I'm old.

The ignorance of youth was lost.
Life's line of no-return was crossed.
Delusion's dead, I've shed its husk ...
OLD SOLDIER IN THE GRIM, RED DUSK.

THE SPIRIT LIVES ON © John Bird, Lismore NSW

I remember well, my first Anzac Parade, though I was just a lad.
One hand tethered to mother's dress, in the other a waving flag.
Later I quizzed my parents, "What are they marching for?"
They replied, "To honour the soldiers who died in the 14 - 18 war.

Some men marched straight, (some not at all), some
swayed in their gait, some carried their pall.
Big men and small men, short men and tall. Marching
along to Matilda's old call.

Marching and sighing, smiling and crying, thinking
of mates, the crippled, the blind.

Thinking of battles, some still hear its rattles, some
praying for comrades they left behind.

I asked myself years later, the question that worries me still,
Was it by the hand of man, or by God Almighty's will?
But whether 'tis yea, or whether 'tis nay, our lads sailed o'er the sea.
'twas there our fathers littered the sand on the shores of Gallipoli.

Now the men still march, hair turning to grey, some men
in chairs wheeled on the way.

Stout men and staid men, old men and frayed; feebly
they march to the band as they play.

Shuffling and trying, some near to dying; old men
of Suvla who used to be young.

Thinking of trenches, the mud and the stench; thinking
of times when death's song was sung.

The notes of the "Last Post" has faded, each of them hearing its sound,
Silent too are the battle fields; with crosses in line on the ground.

The band will still play "Matilda" and people will march to its beat.
Crowd clapping along, in time with its song and sounds of marching feet.

And mourners will mourn, (the band will play on), marchers
will march though Anzacs have gone.

And new ones and true ones, young ones and strong keep
step to Matilda as they march along.

And bells will still ring: (the praises are set), in time to
the swing for Anzac lives yet.

So in each heart's abode, all remember the ode,
"Lest we forget." Yes, lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY

© Flo Hart, Mt. Tyson Qld.

A special awe surrounds us,
The eternal flame burns bright,
The drums begin their throbbing
As dawn pushes back the night.

We're here to honour heroes,
Not to glorify the war;
Our thoughts wing to those brave men
Sleeping on foreign shore.

The marchers' ranks are thinning
As the Reaper takes his toll;
Their voices weak and trembling
When they answer to the roll.

So strong though is their spirit
Like it was in days of yore,
When overseas they ventured
to protect our youthful shore.

Let's show appreciation -
Clap and cheer as they pass by;
Pray God the flag they fought for
Will forever fly on high.

As the Last Post echoes
Through the early morning air,
Let us salute them proudly
And thank God that they were there!

ANZAC

© Lesleyann Malcolm, Moonee NSW

The poppy-ed fields of flanders
At Gallipoli a cross
The jungles trees of P.N.G.
And the shadow of the cross.

An upturned face, all innocence
A child asks "What's a coup?"
And when is Daddy coming home?"
In the way that children do.

"Your Daddy went to fight a war
To keep Australia free
Your Daddy's listed 'Missing'
By the Army, and by me."

But children grown can't understand
The selfish hot emotion
The anger, greed, or pride that sets
The dogs of war in motion.

Another generation goes
To war's black thunderdome
And children still ask "Yes, but when
Is Daddy coming home?"

'WARBIRD' - The Ballad of the Red Baron

© Tom Stonham, Nambucca Heads NSW

**Warbird! Warbird!, Blood-red, born to hunt,
but the Warbird flew 'cross a Kangaroo
one day ... on the Western Front !**

Red, green, pink, purple airplanes, rev engines .. hear 'em roar!
Grim faces, glinting goggles, guns, black crosses .. birds of war!
The German Flying Circus, fierce eagles spurn the mud,
Red Baron, von Richthofen, flies a triplane red as blood!

No French, no British aircraft escaped his ice-blue eyes,
he'd shot down eighty, turning, twisting, burning from the skies,
top-gun, crack combat pilot .. proud, handsome, nobly born ..
The 21st of April, 1918, Sunday morn.

His swarm of gaudy Fokkers, bright rainbows in the sun,
meet drab-brown Sopwith Camels, Royal Air Force, gun to gun ..
A savage, snarling dogfight .. five thousand feet below
a million muddy soldiers shade their eyes to see the show.

Like tiger sharks, ferocious, with fangs of fiery hail,
a Camel dives and dodges but the Baron's on its tail,
Across the blood-drenched trenches, his duty almost done,
the Ace of Aces chases Vict'ry No. 81.



Australians shoot from shell-holes as German troops advance,
barbed-wire, bullets, bayonets, ... raw war in Northern France,
the Camel fled the Fokker, both low as kiddie's kites ..
the Diggers squeezed their triggers as the Fokker filled their sights.

Auf Wiedersehen, Red Baron, Valhalla's doors swing wide,
young soldiers, sailors, airmen killed in battle, there abide ..
No hates, no States, no Nations .. no Flags beyond the grave -
where Manfred von Richthofen lives forever with the brave.

CHARLES MOIR - K.I.A. BELGIUM, 1918

© Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW

Reply to the government, as they request.

It's hard for a Mother to do,
for I miss my son who was recently killed.
My baby was just twenty-two.

Reply to the Government. What do they want?

Some words to engrave on a plaque.

But a million words won't replace my child,
or brighten a spirit this dark.

Reply to the Government. Two letters now,
with forms I'm supposed to complete.

He was buried so quickly. This bustle and rush
seems uncaringly indiscreet.

All these letters that want me to give them words
to atone for my baby's death
make me cry, just to think of the circumstance
of his final, dying breath.

My words are required to complete their files.
Don't they realise my son has died?

Words can never replace even one soldier's life,
or the tears that one Mother has cried.

It took courage for me to receive his effects,
sent back from a far-off fight,
and remove, forever, reminders. My son
was just doing what he felt right.

Postcards, uniforms, letters from friends,
his girlfriend's likeness and locks,
clothes that were waiting for his return,
shirts, trousers and socks.

But his last letter home I will always keep,
and that telegram, oh, so grim
(and a letter that said he had lost two mates,
but it never could happen to him).

So hard, holding back all theaters that I feel,
for I can't say a real goodbye.

As I think of his body, so far from home,
greater grief has no Mother than I.

As his spilt blood's cleansed by my flowing tears;
as I grieve for his love and kiss,

I'll give him their words; the best I can do -
'greater love hath no man than this'.

A SOLDIER'S LETTER

© Milton Taylor, Portland NSW

Today I got a letter from a shearing mate of mine
He wrote to ask me how I was and said that he was fine,
He was just back from Vietnam, and at last was home to stay,
Then he asked about the shearing, here's what he had to say.

"I'd like to take a trip out west, to work in the sheds a while,
And meet the blokes I knew of old, who'd greet me with a smile,
A mob of sheep come drifting in across the rolling plain,
Is a thing I knew I'd see once more, back in the sheds again.

I'd like to do another shed, with the bustle and the noise,
And share a joke at smoko, or argue with the boys.
And crack a bottle after tea and sing an old refrain,
I can hear them singing now, as though I was back in the sheds again.

ON WATCH © Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW

My forenoon ends as it began:
eternity of sky and waves
that stretch conception; swells that span
from past to present, rise from graves
of ships and crews in hallowed sleep
where sacrifice and blazing hell
lie blanketed, unfathomed, deep.
What epic tales these waves might tell.

The foam now swirling on the sand
perhaps was formed when *Sydney* met
with *Kormoran* whose captain planned
a waiting course - disguise to let
our cruiser close to near point-blank
before the raider's rain of shell.
In mortal pain, the *Sydney* sank.
Precisely where, the waves might tell.

An empty Carley float remained;
far less than *Perth* in Sunda Strait.
Survivors of her crew, detained
in Nippon's prisons, nursed their hate
with stoic pride in shipmates' strength.
While *Canberra* rescued personnel
watched Savo's waters swamp her length,
their thoughts ran deep, as waves might tell.

The *Parramatta*, *Waterhen*
and *Yarra*, *Nestor*, *Armidale*
all sunk with their immortal men;
and *Voyager* no more set sail;
nor *Vampire* and *Geelong* made smoke.
Wide oceans tolled each sunken bell
while steady still, the hearts-of-oak
expected waves would proudly tell.

The ships lie wreathed with distant hopes
that drift through messdecks, magazines
and cling to bulkheads, gyroscopes
or wardroom tables, radar screens.
Warm phrases - 'when we're next in port'
and 'trust the baby's doing well' -
might stretch across a cutter's thwart
or gunwale. Only waves can tell.

The waves that after fifty years
can link a salt-bleached tally-band
with women aged by wartime fears.
The wives and mothers, girls who'd stand
on beaches such as this and wait
for *those in peril* on the swell -
H.M.A.S. ... diverted, late
or lost in action. Waves could tell.

The breakers pound this beach like fists
of seamen on a shell-warped hatch.
Grim wakes of war emerge as twists
and turns in undertow that catch
the lookouts' breath from darkened wings
of bridges; cast a panic spell
of luminous imaginings.
Manoeuvres that the waves could tell.

Enough! Relief is on the way.
Granchildren, tired of surf, return
to flop beside me, wet from play,
with much of life and death to learn.
Yet free, in part because of those
on watch who served and lived, or fell
to sink in depths where courage glows,
so letting waves and poets tell.

THE MEN OF ANZAC © Keith Ireland, North Rockhampton Qld.

Who are these men of Anzac whom we honour once a year?
The old men with their medals who always raise a cheer.
Each year their number lessens but the spirit does not wane.
For just one day a year, they can feel their youth again.

They were rough and tough Australians who had battled drought and flood.
They were miners, clerks and lawyers with this country in their blood.
They were teachers, grocers, carpenters who answered their country's call.
It didn't matter what their job. They were there with boots and all.

In their issued khaki uniforms, they were sent across the sea
On board a crowded troopship, to the place, Gallipoli.
They fought in stinking trenches, in dry or sodden loam.
They suffered and they perished, consoled by thoughts of home.

Who were these men of Anzac, though just a few survive.
They're heroes whom we honour on April twenty-five.
We wave our flags and give a cheer, salute them with applause.
Like all our veteran soldiers, this country was their cause.

Australia, in it's infancy, not long since its creation:
The fighting Anzac spirit, proved that we'd become a nation.
They well deserve their honoured day, their legendary name.
May their spirit live forever in our History's Hall of Fame.

I'd been shearing for a year or so, perhaps a little more,
When I had to drop my handpiece and toddle off to war,
The army works you like a horse, in heatwave, mud and rain,
T'would seem a holiday for me, back in the sheds again.

But what's the use of wishing, it does no flamin good
To talk about the things I'd do, that's even if I could.
For I lost my legs in battle, and deep down, I feel a pain,
When I realise, I can never go, back in the sheds again.

PINNED DOWN

© John Harris, Kalang NSW

Our girls thought the uniform grand
So I signed up at the recruiter's drum
Marched away to an Army band
Left a smiling Dad and a weeping Mum.
They came from the cities and the country
They took the best that they could find
Said that we should fight the Kaiser
Join your mates, don't stay behind.
We left the peace and quiet Down Under
To face a foe on a distant shore
Came to a land where battle thunders
Rifles rattle and cannons roar.
Push your way across the open
Step on bodies, step in mud
Fix your bayonets, hit their trenches,
Draw their fire, then draw their blood.
Move on up the whole trench system,
Don't stop now, they're on the run,
Forget your mates caught on barbed wire!
Move on up, they need your gun!

Take no notice of the carnage
Slaughter's something we all dread,
We can keep the new troops coming,
So just ignore the number dead.
We didn't have our own Commanders,
Because we are under British Rule,
An Aussie Army, yet they demand that
We have to suffer England's fools.
Brave men walk the fields in silence,
With only a cross to show they're here,
They didn't want to die with violence,
But STRONG men fight and hide their fears.
MY mates have left, but I didn't go
To see my family, to even see the Boss,
there's NO place that I can go to,
I'm PINNED DOWN by a big white cross.

COURAGE

© J. D. McDougall, Cooroy Qld.

Who were these young men
Who departed this day,
To fight for our freedom
In lands far away.
These men full of courage
These men full of cheer,
Who walked up that gangplank
And left loved ones so dear.
They fought in the desert
With bayonet and gun,
They fought in the trenches
'Til the battle was done.
On white sandy beaches
In jungles of green
They showed bravery and courage
That this world had not seen.

With hearts filled with courage
And dismissing their fear,
They fought for their loved ones
And this land they held dear.
They fought for their country
And you would hear the world say,
That these men from Australia
Just won't go away.
Some never returned
To this land they held dear,
They paid the ultimate price
So we would not live in fear.
So who were these men
Well you don't have to ask
They were the men who were called
And completed their task.
So let us pause and remember
Our father, your son,
Who fought for our freedom
Who battled and won.

OUR SON

© Dorothea Quinn, Murgon Qld.

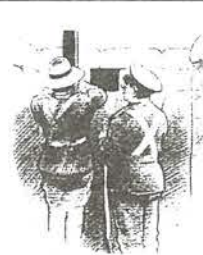
In memory of Glen Gullett Davis, killed in action - Libya 21st March, 1941 - aged 21 yrs Glen and his brother Owen, who died of wounds, Buna, New Guinea, lived on Queensland's Darlings Downs and were related to Arthur Hoey Davis (Steel Rudd).

A happy, carefree laughing lad;
Everyone good - nobody bad -
Such was his philosophy,
As he once said to me
He found some good in everyone,
And life to him was full of fun.
Fond of books, work and play
"I find life good" he was won't to say.
How happy he was with us at home,
Never thinking the day would come,
When gathered the ominous clouds of war,
And he was puzzled as ne're before.

Surely each man's share of life
Could be spent without bitter strife,
Surely no man could hate so much -
He must do something if there was such,
With careless grin and "Goodbye, 'til
we've won"
Out of our lives went our dear son.
What did he leave us in memory?
His laugh, his love, his philosophy,
A small tree, placed with a loving hand,
To honour a boy in a distant land.
Sleep well - sleep well, our gallant son
Who loved life so - your duty's done.



*Splendid they passed
The great surrender made
Into the light
That nevermore shall fade*



THEIR ONLY SON

© Maxine Ireland, Murwillumbah NSW

He went off to war; their only son.
He was handsome and tall; just six foot one.
His sisters were eight; though one had passed on.
And they wept, and they prayed; when he had gone.

He answered the call-to-arms; and he,
Had his twenty first birthday, out at sea.
He marched with his mates, with heads held high.
Those brave young men, who were destined to die.

He was there in answer to his country's appeals.
When he fell and was buried in Flanders Fields.
While a family grieves; a nation mourns
The sad waste of young lives; taken in wars.

While a father's heart breaks; a mother will yearn,
For the son that she knows, will never return.
Another child? at age forty three?
Please give me a son; is the mother's plea.

But who dared to question, the Maker's design,
When the much yearned-for son; was daughter nine
My faith is in providence; prove me wrong if you can.
For twenty years later, World War Two began.

And recruiting was on in earnest again
Can you imagine the anguish and pain
Those folk would have known; had that child been a son
And he too had gone at age twenty one.

WOOLSHED BAAAARDS

The historic Jondaryan Woolshed with its slab walls, exposed roof trusses, galvanised roof and true to life sheep odours was the venue for this years Bush Poets Breakfast and competition at the McGrath Toyota Jondaryan Country Music Rush.

I have from time to time had to compete with various opposition while trying to perform bush poetry, but as Wally Finch launched into his verse before the breakfast crowd consuming cackleberries, snags, toast and tea, he was confronted by a mob of sheep racing at full speed across the stage area with three sheep dogs in hot pursuit. Make that four. One latecomer stood there confused for a second or two as to which way the varmints went.

As last years overall champion I offered my services as compere for the day and the two hour poets breakfast gave all poets a chance to warm up before the competition kicked off. Well known and respected poets in their own rights, Bill Glasson and Gary Fogarty, along with A.B.C. personality Chris Jensen sat in the judges seats and came up with the following results.

JNR Novice Bush Verse M/F 16 & Under: 1st - Stuart Nivison
Junior Orig. Bush Verse M/F 16 & Under: 1st Jennifer Haig, Eulo Q, 2nd - Shannon Fogarty, Toowoomba Q.

Junior Traditional M/F 16 & Under: 1st Jennifer Haig, Eulo Q, 2nd Stuart Nivison, Bris Q.

Traditional Bush Verse Male 17 & Over: 1st Wally Finch, Bris. Q, 2nd Ron Liekefett, Bris. Q, 3rd Ted Thompson, Warwick Q

Original Bush Verse Male 17 & Over: 1st Wally Finch, Bris. Q, 2nd Ron Selby, Toowoomba Q, 3rd John Bird, Lismore NSW

Traditional Bush Verse Female 17 & Over: 1st Marion Fitzgerald, North Star NSW, 2nd Chris Webster, Bagara Q, 3rd Trisha Anderson Bris., Q

Original Bush Verse Female 17 & Over: 1st Wally Finch, Bris. Q, 2nd Ron Selby, Toowoomba Q, 3rd John Bird, Lismore NSW

Poets One Minute Cutout: 1st Wally Finch, Bris. Q, 2nd Ron Liekefett, Bris., Q, 3rd Chris Webster, Bagara Q.

Senior Silver Comb Poetry Writing Competition:

1st Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW - A Bit of Land
2nd Ron Stevens, Wellington NSW - Marooned & Blue
3rd Flo Hart, Mt Tyson Q - In Vain She Waits.

Junior Silver Comb Poetry Writing Competition

Primary: 1st & 2nd Amanda Martin, Childers Q, Michelle Baartz, Jondaryan Q.

High School: 1st, 2nd & 3rd - Jennifer Haig, Fairholm College, Toowoomba, Q

It was encouraging to see newcomers, Mary Finch, Rosanne Vaschina and John Pamphling up taking part along with a few old faces, Kev Barnes, Bill McClure, Bill Hay, Carol Stratford and Barry Offer to name a few. Good to see Marion Fitzgerald on deck and well again. Why not check your calendar for next year and join the Woolshed Baaaards.

Merv Webster, The Goondiwindi Grey

BRISBANE VALLEY FESTIVAL NEWS

Organisers of the Inaugural Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Festival, Liz Banting and Roy Briggs have reported that plans are now well under way for the festival and report 21 sponsors were eager and willing to give their generous support. The main trophy, 'The Brisbane Valley Bush Deer Annual Award', now purchased will be awarded to the overall winner.

Enquiries received indicate a strong showing is expected in all sections, particularly from junior entrants. Any funds left over will be donated towards the most needy local charity. See P14

A TRIBUTE TO JUDITH HOSIER

A couple of years ago I was flicking through a country music magazine and found an advertisement for a Bush Laureate Competition. We had recently published our first book and I rang a lady by the name of Judith Hosier for more information. I liked the lady straight away and we had a good old chat and she encouraged me to enter. I was flabbergasted when she wrote to say that the book had reached the finals.

The following year I entered our second book and a CD, to be notified again by Judith that they were finalists. This year I went and 'checked out' Tamworth and while sitting in a back row at the Longyard Hotel, I became fascinated by a lady with a kind face who seemed to be running the show. I heard someone call her Judith and introduced myself. In an instant we became good mates. She was genuinely excited that I'd made the finals again and made me feel very welcomed.

Over the next couple of days I ran into her and it was as if we'd known each other for years. I was able to do something for her at a function, which wasn't a big deal, but she offered an old fashioned hug and a peck on the cheek as thanks.

The headline in last month's newsletter took me aback. Judith's loss was obviously felt by a lot of people. I feel robbed for not knowing her longer. True givers are a commodity and Judith was one of these. I can only summarize my feelings by saying, Damn it!

I knew you for such a short time
Just a fraction of the life you had.
They called you the mother of rhyme
For the time we shared I'm ever so glad.

Tom Penna
Victor Harbour SA

MARK THIS ONE ON YOUR CALENDAR !

Bundaberg Bush Poets are gearing up for 5th Bundy Muster to be held at Across the Waves Sports Club, Miller St., Bundaberg on 2nd - 4th July.

Each year the Bundy Muster has provided an excellent venue for poets and a feast of poetry for Bundaberg.

The Bundy Mob was first to introduce the Duo Performance. This proved extremely popular last year and we have seen the Duo performance become an enjoyable part of the programme at other venues. It requires the talents of two performers of any age, sex or poetical persuasion and allows scope for some very entertaining work. Grab a mate - be in it this year. The Bundy Muster also provides competitive opportunities for both Juniors under 12, and 12-17, and adult performers in Traditional, Modern and Original sections, with sections for Open and Novice poets.

Don't forget the "Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup"

There are good prizes and trophies to be won.

There is also a **written section** where writers may compete for the Bush Lantern, a trophy to be treasured. More than two hundred entries were received last year and our judges stand ready to deal with what ever comes in this year.

Just for fun, you won't beat our Friday night 'Free for All' where everybody gets a go. Professional poets and a well known Country Music artist will provide quality entertainment at our Saturday night concert. We look forward to the pleasure of your company in July.

Liz Ward



A LETTER FROM TAMWORTH

Dear Editor,

I would like to make a contribution to the debate competition and the judges who make the decisions. I am a member of the small team that runs the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition during the January Country Music Festival. One of my tasks is to put together panels of judges over the four days of the event.

Our committee is aware that the prestige and indeed the future life of our event is hugely dependent on the judges getting it right. So the question is who make good poetry judges. On the principle that you don't need to be a carpenter to appreciate a comfortable chair or a wool grower a Zenga suit, I don't believe you need to be a poet to appreciate poetry and the magic of our written and spoken language. Our panel of judges are hopefully such people. Some are members of our Poetry Reading Group, but not all the members are judges. The judges are people, reasonably well educated, who love to read and talk and have a lively imagination. In other words, something close to across-section of our community.

I happen to believe that the huge success of the bush poets over the last ten years is that they indeed appeal to such people; that the poets have tapped into the broadstream of the Australian ethos.

When I observe the locals who are a small section of the approximately 2,000 people who attend our program over the four days, they are all there, the butcher, the baker, the accountant, the housewife, not just enjoying, but empathising with what is the very essence of bush poetry: the Australian experience and feelings about the human experience in all its different aspects.

I believe that judging should be by a panel so that each judge only contributes to the final score and a wider range of our human experience is brought to bear.

I am not saying poets should not be judges, but I wonder what would have happened in another time if a competition including A.B. Paterson had been judged by Mr. H. Lawson.

Yours sincerely, *Cliff Hathway.*

KYABRAM KAPERS by ~~WENN WOFF~~ Watt
The Kyabram & Dist. Bush Poets have certainly been active of late.

On Saturday 27th February, a flock of poets descended on Shepparton for a "Bush Market" and a Poetry and Yarns Competition. It was held in a mall outdoors in trying conditions. The good news was the prize money totaling \$600 was given by the fruit canning company, SPC.

First place went to Peter "Whipstick" Worthington from Bendigo, second - "Skew Wiff" Watt and third was Tammy Muir (The Picola Kid). This was the first promotion by a Shepparton group and the organisers were impressed by the support, promising better things next year.

As part of the 'Back to Ky' week, our Ky Bushies conducted a great night at the Ky club on Wednesday 3rd March. We had over 200 people at a "Triers and Bloody Good Liars" night where the locals told yarns of Ky's past and the bush poets performed. We had great support from "Skew Wiff" and Les Parkinson who were joint comperes. Performing were Des Ginnane, Betty Olle, Herb McCrum, Peter Worthington, Trevor Hargreaves, Bev Williams, Jim Jeffries and John Johanson. Des Ginnane's performance of Bob Magor's "Who Gives the Bride Away" brought the house down.

Also as part of the Ky celebrations, Mick Coventry and 'Skew Wiff' joined the Ky Historical society who unearthed a local poet who was a prolific writer in the 1920-30 period, Robert Edward Whyte. His work was performed on the night.

BUSH VERSE at BLUE MTS. FESTIVAL

What's this I hear. *A Poets Brunch*. Yes, that's right. Sunday the 28th at the 4th Annual Blue Mountains Folk Festival 1999 saw poets and audience alike sleeping in till the much more civilised time of 11.30 A.M. for the start of the Poets Brunch hosted by Graeme Johnson.

Hangovers and 'Big Nights' comfortably behind them the more receptive audience was treated to a feast of poetry from Bush Poets and 'Free Versers' alike.

Graeme commenced the day with his own entertaining set and was joined by his special guests, Garry Lowe and Joye Dempsey whose diversity and professionalism stood them in good stead with the crowd.

Blue Mountains resident "Poet Lorrikeit" Denis Kevans (host of the Saturday Breakfast) once again had the crowds enthralled with his emotive style of presentation and was joined by fellow Mountains residents, Dennis Rice, Ray Halliday, Brian Bell and newcomers Andrew Langley, John Tognolini and Marty. Regular Festival participants "Rhymin' Simon", Terry Gleeson, Kevin Campbell, Milton Taylor and Vivienne Sawyer (amongst others) also kept the crowd on their toes.

Could this late start for a poetic event be a harbinger of good tidings for the future? Let's hope the word starts spreading so we can all be a bit more relaxed at future Festivals.

Your Festival scribe and roving reporter, *H. Hubertson*

WANT A RIDE TO WINTON ???

Any news is better late than never! A special coach tour has been arranged which will incorporate the Winton Bush Poetry Championship as part of an educational tour of Western Queensland. Departing from Toowoomba on Monday 19th April, the tour, arranged by Travel and Tourism students of the Academy of the Darling Downs, will take in attractions along the way and offer camping accommodation together with most meals and entry into several attractions and events which have been scheduled.

In addition to the visit to Winton, the tour will include a visit to a melon farm at Chinchilla, Miles Historical Museum, Romaville Winery, Tambo Teddies, The Black Stump at Blackall, Aust Workers Heritage Museum at Barcaldine, School of Distance Education, Pastoral College, Stockmans Hall of Fame and Founders Museum Billabong River Cruise and Dinner at Longreach and, as they say, much more. The trip represents excellent value at \$390 per adults and \$270 per child.

Sounds like a good idea, if you want to take the stress and strain out of a long drive. Be quick, only a few seats remain. Want to know more? Ask Jay Randle. You can reach her on 07 4638 5255 or 07 4630 9458.

NEW CONCEPT FOR CAMP OVEN COMP

Budding entertainers may be interested to note that a new time limit of ten minutes in the humorous section of the North Pine Bush Poetry Groups Camp Oven Festival (21st & 22nd August) will allow them to have more time to show what they can do. The segment must include one poem or more than one poem, and may include all or any of the following - yarns, stories, jokes and patter. The aim is simply to entertain.

The Junior, Novice, Serious and Original categories have retained the same time limits as last year, but another change is that there will be no finals held in any category.

The winners of the Duo and Yarns categories will be decided by audience applause. More information and entry forms can be obtained from Carol Stratford, PO Box 6015, Woodridge East, Qld 4114

Anita Reid

MOTHERS

© Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW

*A Mother has serenity
that's rarely understood.
She'll love you just as much
when you are bad
as when you're good.*

*A Mother has a nature that
eclipses second sight.
She'll love you just as much
when you are wrong,
as when you're right.*

*A Mother has a heart of gold,
a source of love that's pure.
She'll keep on loving,
even as
The thank-you's become fewer.*

OUR MUM

© Ray Brown, Bradbury NSW

*All natures gifts are heaven sent,
Our yesterday, tomorrows are only lent
Her boundless beauty for all to see
An elegant rose; the tallest tree;
A chirping sparrow; an eagle up high;
Cascading waters; a clear blue sky
A gentle God created these
Then bowed his head as he was pleased.*

*When time was right, and only then
Draughted from his golden pen
A specific person to play a part,
To walk this earth to touch our hearts
No malicious thought or evil played,
A forgiving heart - do not betray;
One who cares not for gain
Her love she gave to ease our pain.
A special lady dear friend to be
Will always remain 'Our Mum to me'.*

C.L.M. John Masfield, 1878 - 1967

*In the dark womb where I began
My mother's life made me a man.
Through all the months of human birth
Her beauty fed my common earth.
I cannot see, nor breathe, nor stir,
But through the death of some of her.*

*Down in the darkness of the grave
She cannot see the life she gave.
For all her love, she cannot tell
Whether I used it ill or well,
Nor knock at dusty doors to find
Her beauty dusty in the mind.*

*If the grave's gates could be undone,
She would not know her little son,
I am so grown. If we should meet
She would pass by me in the street,
Unless my soul's face let her see
My sense of what she did for me.*

*What have I done to keep in mind
My debt to her and womankind?
What woman's happier life repays
Her for those months of wretched days?
For all my mouthless body leeches
Ere Birth's releasing hell was reached?*

*What have I done, or tried, or said
In thanks to that dear woman dead?
Men triumph over women still,
Men trample woman's rights at will,
And man's lust roves the world untamed.
O grave, keep shut lest I be shamed.*

MOTHER © Flo Hart, Mt. Tyson Q.

*Mother, you were always there, confidant and friend!
Only you, my childhood toys and shattered dreams could mend.
Tender hands, though work worn, wiped away my tears,
Heaped on me such happiness, dispelled all my fears,
Even now, though you have gone, to dwell in Heaven above,
Reaching out to comfort me, I feel your healing love.*

Dear Maureen,

I learnt this poem years ago
and often used to quote it
when we were young, and cares
were miles away.

It's been 'round for a hundred
years

Lord only knows who wrote it
But I think it's worth a run on
Mothers Day!

Neil Carroll, Dubbo NSW

THAT'S MY BOY

Who changes him when he is
wet? — His Mother!
Who walks on the floor when
he's upset? - His Mother!
Who staggers out at early morn,
to make his bottle nice and
warm,
and comfort him in summer
storm? - His Mother!
Who rushes in each time he
cries - His Mother!
Who keeps him healthy, clean
and dry? - His Mother!
Who soothes the knee he skins
at play,
and fees him many times a day,
and what's the very first word
he'll say?
Dad - Dad- Dad !!!

MOTHER Author Unknown

M is for the million things she
gave me
O is only that she's growing old
T is for the tears she shed to
save me
H is for her heart of purest gold.
E is for her eyes with
love-light shining,
R is for the right she'll always be..
Put them all together,
They spell MOTHER
The word that means the world
to me.

Wollondilly 'Writers in the Pub' on the Move

Wollondilly FAW 'Writers in the Pub' have changed their venue to the George Hotel, Old Pacific Highway, Picton NSW and now meet every third Thursday of each month, starting at 7.30pm. Genial host Vince Morrison (02 4684 1704), the Irish bloke with grey hair, (his description not mine) will welcome all visitors.

We are a small but active group and apart from our regular meetings at the pub, we will be running short story and poetry competitions. The competition prizes will be presented over a 'Writers Weekend' we have planned for October. On that weekend, we will be running workshops on various aspects of writing including poetry inspiration. We also plan an informal gathering where we can get together and meet fellow writers, plus a Poets Breakfast.

So all you poets and writers in the Southern Highlands and any travellers passing through, come and meet us at the 'George', strut your stuff and enjoy a fun evening.

Ted Webber.

HAVE VAN, WILL TRAVEL

June and I are going on the 'wallaby' and joining the 'Grey Nomads'. Starting off from Camden mid April, we are travelling north via Tamworth, Inverell, Tenterfield, Toowoomba, across the coast and up to Cairns, to arrive early June. Then on to Cape York via 4WD, then back to Townsville, hang a right and off to Darwin. Back down to Katherine, hang another right, and Broom, here we come. Then down the coast to Perth, Margaret River, Albany, then on to SA. Up to Wilpena, down to Port Fairy, across to VIC, then north to home.

We expect this to take 12 to 18 months, if health and money hold out. We will try to hit as many poetry events along the way as we can, and will even try to create some of our own. We would like to hear from any poets, particularly in far north Queensland and Northern Territory. Our mobile is 0414 4844 831 and our email is juncted@yahoo.com

Ted Webber

New Members

Dave Bartlett - Mollymook NSW
Margie Parton - Peachester Q

Nancy Cabalt - Russell Island Q
Sue Wilton - Baerami Creek NSW
Pamela Fox - Beaudesert, Q

MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY COMP RESULTS

John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize - Celtic Australian Theme

1st - Wallace McKittrick, SA - "The Maria Mystery - the Shoe"
 2nd - Liz Ward, Mt. Perry Q - "The Purple and the Gold"
 3rd - Ruby Ramm, Maroota, NSW - "Voice of Australia"
 Trophy for best Irish-Australian theme, won by Sandra Conway, Murrumbidgee, Vic with "The Stouch"

Adjudicator: Dr. Cath Filmer-Davies, Brisbane Q

Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize - for Bush Verse

1st - Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "It Might Be Best"
 2nd - Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "The Gumnut Dance"
 Eq 3rd - Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "In the City"
 - Kelly Dixon, Camooweal, Q. - "This Restless Bed"

Highly Commended

Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW - "Cotter Pin, the Airbourne Operator"
 Hope Galvin, Cootamundra, NSW - "Dancing White Angels"
 Graeme Johnson, West Ryde NSW - "Tall Timber, Ships & Sea"
 Kingsley Tregoe, Timboon, Vic. - "Living"

Adjudicator: Bruce Simpson, Caboolture, Q.

Judges Comments and winning entries for Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize will be published next month.

LATE ARRIVAL IN JONDARYAN

© Trisha Anderson, Brisbane Q

We headed for Jondaryan,
 Billy, the rig, and me.
 We planned to be here yesterday
 To meet everyone for tea!

But, we called in at Lake Clarendon
 To 'Boulia' Bate's abode
 Just halfway to Toowoomba,
 Along the Dalby Road.

We thought he would be working,
 (He's a busy chap you know)
 But no! - he had his house full -
 The Brian Young Road Show!

There was Brian and his happy group,
 All winners in their field -
 The singers and guitarists -
 What more could Tamworth yield!

We spent some happy hours
 Reliving all their wins,
 By then it was too late to leave
 So we poured ourselves some gins!

We all left for the concert
 In cars and trucks and utes
 We had a super evening
 In the tent hill pub - it's beaut!

A late night back at Boulia's
 And Bill and I left early -
 I've hardly had an ounce of sleep,
 And Billy's looking surly!

We headed off - the day was cool
 We got here to Jondaryan
 We've seen so many dear, dear friends
 Especially my mate Marion!

So now - we're in the Woolshed
 With poets, mates and friends
 Another lovely day we'll have -
 Another weekend ends.

MILLMERRAN ROUNDUP

It's now another month closer to the Bush Poets Roundup, and entries are starting to come in. Accommodation may be short, as the time draws closer, so if you need help finding some, call me 07 4695 4209.

The Sausage Sizzle is all organised for Sat 4th at noon, in the Millmerran Lions park with all arrangements for this in hand. Compere, judges, trophies etc all have been arranged except for junior and novice events.

Our concert, "The Laughter Lives On", featuring Gary Fogarty, Bob Miller, Shirley Friend and Noel Stallard is not to be missed at 7.30, Sat 4th in the Cultural Centre, and thanks to our sponsors, is almost ready to go. We need to sell some tickets - avail from "The Legend", and don't forget SSAE, ta. \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$25 family.

At 9am Sunday 5th (Favas Day), "Arch" Bishop and "The Legend" will host a Poets Breakfast (\$3.00) in the Beer Garden of the Ram's Head Hotel, followed by our Open Male and Female Competition, including duo, yarnspinning and brawl. Entry forms are available by sending a SSAE to "The Legend", PO Box 64 Millmerran Q, 4357 but first check with your poetry group to see if they have entry forms. Entries close on 27th August, late entries only if time allows. Trophies and cash prizes for Over All Champ will be presented at the end of comp.

Remember, 'Poetry's fine in '99' at Millmerran. *The Legend.*

GATTON HERITAGE ASSN PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION

in conjunction with Gatton Heritage Festival 30.4.99 - 2.5.99

Entry in poetry and yarnspinning is free and form must be completed by 30th April, 4pm.

1. Fri. 30 April, 7.30 pm. Gatton View Hotel.
 - Open Trad or Original sec.**, - pub/hotel related theme.
 2. Sat. 1 May, 12.15 pm. **Gatton Heritage Duo sec.** - any subject, props allowed. \$200 1st, trophies runners up. Top 3 go into final followed by
 3. **Novice Traditional** - Open Theme
 4. **Intermediate Traditional** - Heritage Theme
 5. **Junior - 15 yrs & under.** Traditional bush verse sec.
 6. **Open Yarnspinning** - evening at Gatton RSL any subject. followed by final of Duo Competition.
 7. **Poets Breakfast** Sun 2nd. 8.30am. - Horse theme.
 8. Gatton Heritage Village. **Humorous Trad. or Orig. Bush Verse.** Top 3 to finals.
 9. **Finals of events 7 & 8. Gatton Heritage Perpetual Trophy.** Perpetual trophy remains on display at Historical Village, Winner and runners up decided on highest combined scores of heats of events 7 & 8.
- Entries will be accepted by phone, however form must be signed prior to competition. Enq. to Megan Bourne, PO Box 52, Gatton Q 4343 or Ph 07 5462 3116 a/hours.

GOLDEN BELL POETRY COMP. RESULTS

The 1999 Golden Bell Poetry Recital Competition held at Laidley 12-14th March in conjunction with the National Heavy Horse Field Days, was very successful according to the competition convenor, Mr. Bob McPhee. The event was well supported by Qld and NSW bush poets, with the standard very high in all sections, and much enjoyed by all.

Poets Keg Competition: 1st, Ron Selby, Drayton Q., 2nd, John Bird, Lismore NSW, 3rd, Liz Ward, Mt. Perry Q

Novice: 1st, Lee Miller, Bundaberg Q, 2nd, Bill MacClure, Tin Can Bay Q, 3rd, Steward Nivison, Cleveland Q.

Intermediate: 1st - Ron Liekfett, Lawnton Q, 2nd - Denleigh Stenzil, Borallon Q, 3rd - Lee Miller, Bundaberg Q.

Stan Coster Memorial Duo: 1st - Denleigh Stenzil & Liz Ward, 2nd - Guy McLean & Stuart Nivison, 3rd - Michael Darby & Carol Stratford.

Junior Event: Winner - Stuart Nivison

Yarnspinning: 1st - Ken Read, Charleville, 2nd - Liz Ward, Mt. Perry Q, 3rd - Trisha Anderson, Brisbane Q

Open Traditional/Original - Horse Theme: 1st - Guy McLean, Susan River Q, 2nd - Wally Finch, Kallangur Q, 3rd - Denleigh Stenzil - Borallon Q.

Open Traditional/Original, Humorous: Eq 1st - Wally Finch and Trisha Anderson, 3rd - Ron Liekfett, Lawnton Q.

ALL ROUND WINNER Golden Bell Awd perp. trop.

Winner: Wally Finch **Runner Up:** Trisha Anderson

Judges were: Bruce Simpson, Bill Glasson, Roy Briggs, Bob McPhee. Compere was Ron "Boulia" Bates.

The Golden Bell committee are looking at forming a Golden Bell Poets and Musicians Club, to further promote bush poetry and bush music, both written and performance in the Lockyer Valley.

Bob McPhee

BRILLIANT FIRE © Glen G. Muller, Toowoomba Q.

Sheer majesty stikes awe in those,	The sovereign, of all precious stone,
Who in it let their trust repose,	Lets blue-white brilliant fire be shown,
April's Gem, your right by birth	When cut and polished to its best
An embryo spawned, deep in the earth	Can stand alone, or add some zest,
From crushing pressure heat severe,	To other gem stones proud and bold,
A beautiful diamond bright and clear.	As light and innocence, does unfold.

The Diamond is the birthstone for those born in April



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- April 14 **Palma Rosa Poets.** Hamilton Q Featuring Glennie Palmer & Milton Taylor P13
- April 14 Closing Date for taped entries. **Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Award P14**
- 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 13
- April 16 Closing Date. **Charters Towers Written Comp.** Ring Arthur 07 4787 2409 or Julie 07 4787 1328. P 13
- April 16-18 **Martis Canowindra Hot Air Balloon Fiesta.** Poets Breakfasts. Ring "Jo the Poet" 02 6344 1477 P13
- April 18 **Poets Breakfast.** Mt. Kembla NSW Ph Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4337 7176 P 13
- 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
- April 21 **Laughter & Tears from the Bush Show.** Blackwater (Q) Country Club. Contact Elaine 07 4982 5275. P13
- April 22 **Laughter & Tears from the Bush Show.** Homestead C. Pk, Barcaldine Q. Ph 07 4651 1308 P13
- April 23-26 **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships.** Details P 13
- April 23-26 **St Albans Folk Festival.** St Albans NSW Poets Breakfasts & concerts Ring 02 9528 2193 P 13
- April 24 Closing date. **Eulo Bush Poetry Written Competition.** Details P 13
- April 27-29 **Charters Towers Bush Poetry Events.** Comp., Workshops Breakfasts. Ph Julie 07 4787 1328 P13
- April 28 **Laughter & Tears from the Bush Show.** Homestead C. Pk, Barcaldine Q. Ph 07 4651 1308 P13
- April 30 Closing Date. **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp.** Biloela Q. Details P 13
- Ap 30-May 2 **Gatton Heritage Festival.** Gatton, Qld. Performance Comp. Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269 P10
- May 6 **North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 featuring Mike Martin. Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- May 8 **Poets & Folkies Get Together.** 2 pm Cornucopia Cafe, Old Gladesville Hosp Grnds, Punt Rd. Enq Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- May 12 **Bush and City Poets.** 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt Gravatt Q. Guests Anita Hendrie & Alan Nolan. See P13
- May 14 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur Comm. Centre. 7.30 pm Carmel Dunn & Jennifer Haig. 07 3886 0747 P13 & 15
- May 14-18 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships.** Mulwala Services Club, NSW Details P 13
- May 18 Closing Date. **Warwick Bushweek Perf. Comp.** Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P. 14
- May 22 **Bush Poetry 6-9pm** Norman Lindsay Gallery, Springwood NSW Enq. Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884 P14
- May 22-23 **Town of 1770 Fest.** Poets in Pk, Perf. Comp. Orig. Snrs. & Jnrs. Ph 07 4974 9263 P13
- May 29 **Poetric Folk.** 7.30pm 24 Finesterre Ave. Whalen Poetry/folk music, bring a plate ph Arch 02 9625 7245 P14
- May 21 Closing date. **Injune IN JUNE Weekend Written competition.** See page 14
- May 21-23 **Warwick Bushweek.** Warwick Q. Perf. Comp & concerts Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P. 14
- May 27-30 **Casino Beef Week.** NSW Poets Breakfasts, Perf. Comp., New Voices. Enq. Ray Essery 02 6684 3817 P14
- May 31 Closing Date. **Bush Lantern Award.** Details - Ross Keppel, 2 Anderson St., Bundaberg Q 4760 P14
- June 3 **North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 featuring "Pastance". Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- June 5-6 **Injune IN JUNE Weekend.** Performance & Written Comps. See Page 14.
- June 5-8 **Aust. Folk Festival.** Kiama Showground NSW. Breakfasts & concerts. Ph Bev Murray 02 4236 0701 P14
- June 4-14 **SA Bush Poetry C'ships.** Barmera SA. Comps, breakfasts etc. Ring Peter 08 8557 7151 P14
- June 11 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur Comm. Centre. 7.30 pm Glennie Palmer & Mark Tempany. 07 3886 0747 P13
- June 11-14 **Hentry Lawson Heritage Cele'b'tn.** Gulgong NSW Leonard Teale Perf. Awd Chris 02 6374 2049 P14
- June 13 **Poets Breakfast.** Beaudesert, Q. from 7am Contact Nancy Moss, 07 5541 2444. P14
- June 13 **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp. Awards.** Biloela Showground, Q. Details P13
- 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 14
- July 18 Closing date. **Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival.** Details P 14
- July 23-25 **Brisbane Valley BP Annual Festival.** Perf. Comp, breakies, yarns, walkups Roy Briggs 07 5424 1584 P 14
- July 25 **Bush Poetry Soiree by the River.** 1.30 - 4pm. Netherby House, Kempsey NSW. Featuring "Arch" Bishop. Open mike session, all welcome. Enquiries Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269 or "Arch" 02 9625 7245. P14
- 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. 15
- Aug 8-15 **Country on the Tweed.** Includes Poetry and other entertainment. Contact Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Hts. NSW 2486 Ph 07 5590 9395 P15
- Aug 14-15 **Surat Battered Bugle.** Surat Q. Perf. Competition. Jan Ritchie, PO 45 Surat Q 4417, 07 4626 5103 P15
- Aug 21-22 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552 P15
- Sept 4-5 **Milmerran Bush Poets Muster.** Qld Concert, BP Performance Comp, Brawl, Yarnspinning, Ring "the Legend" 07 4695 4209 P 15
- 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 P15
- Jan '00 6th **Bush Poetry Perf. & Written Comp.** Brunswick Heads Fest of the Fish & Chips. Contact Judiann Schults

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

- 1st. Monday** **Bob Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Margaret St., Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106
Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group. Meet every second month at Kyabram Fauna Park at 7.30 pm Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
- 1st Tuesday** **Tuggerah Lakes Poetry Group. (except January)** 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy stanton 02 4388 5972
- 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. 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
Gold Coast Poets, 10 am Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Q. All welcome, audience participation
 Recite or sing a song. Graham Brunckhorst, 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 Wed'day** **Bush and City Poets.** 7.30 pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q. Phone Anita Reed 07 3343 7392
- 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
- 3rd Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- 3rd Thursday** **Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers in the Pub** 7.30pm George Hotel, Old Pacific Hwy, Picton.
 Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilotos 02 4631 1419
- 3rd Friday** **June Bush Poetry Group.** 7.30pm, June Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, June, 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
Monday Jackie 02 6555 3720 or Reid 02 6554 9788 for details of venue each month. See poets calendar
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Gee Kwong Restaurant, 197 Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30,
 Poetry at 7.30 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Wed.** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group Q.** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend"
 Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- Last Thurs.** **Writers on the River,** 7pm Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh St, Penrith, NSW. Everyone
 welcome, come and recite, read or just listen to the poets. Ph. Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- Last Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- 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.
- EVERY 2 MTHS on 2nd Saturday. Cornucopia Cafe.** Poets & Folkies Get Together. Old Gladesville Hosp Grnds, Punt
 Rd. Enq Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653. Check Poets Calendar for dates.

G'day from Geoffrey Graham

It seems Victoria is hotting up so to speak when it comes to Festivals. Following behind Kyneton was Yackandandah, Port Fairy and Swan Hill. The Red Gum Festival at Swan Hill had its first taste of Bush Poetry, all of which was received very well. It's a big job getting festivals happening in smaller country towns, but the organisers did a terrific job.

Likewise the John O'Brien Festival at Narrandera was popular. This Festival manages to combine photography, art and performances. The big Hooley attracted over 500 people; a huge Irish celebration. Julie Briggs, the organiser, outdid herself this year and I can see this one getting bigger and better year after year.

The Snowy Mountain Poets organised several sessions and opportunities for the many poets to strut their stuff. I was kept busy with school shows, compering, the parade, 'spots' and running the best Poets Breakfast we've ever had at Narrandera. A full house and a great mix of talents with Noel Cutler, Noel Stallard, Ray Halliday, Jim Angel, Johnny Johanson, Dennis Attwood and Brian Bell. The two Noels also plied their talents at the Hooley and throughout the festival.

April sees the Man from Snowy River Festival, followed by the poetry extravaganza at Yarrowonga/Mulwala Murray Muster in May.

My heartfelt thanks to those who sent their sympathy following the deaths in my family. Keep smiling, *Geoffrey Graham*

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

PALMA ROSA POETS

7.30 pm Wed. 14th April, 1999
\$15.00 - Bookings essential. BYO
Featuring performance poets
GLENNY PALMER AND MILTON TAYLOR
Phone 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 33769

TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH LOOMING LEGENDS POETRY COMPETITION

15th - 18th April, 1999
WRITTEN & PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS
Poets Brawl & Breakfasts, Workshops, Childrens
Concert - Musical Performance of "Reedy River"
Poets Concert with Bob Magor, Glenny Palmer, John
Major, Jenny Cargill and Milton Taylor
Call Patti Ainsworth Ph 02 6736 1082 Fax 02 6736 3388

MARTIS HOT AIR BALLOON FIESTA

16th - 18th April, 1999 - Canowindra NSW
POET'S BREAKFASTS 8-10am Sat. 17th & Sun. 18th
Ring Joe the Poet Ph 02 6344 1477 ah or Fax 02 6344 1962

POETS BREAKFAST - MT. KEMBLA NSW

Compered by FRANK DANIEL in conjunction with
Country Music Jamboree & Talent Quest
8 am Sun., 18th April, 1999 - Kemplla H'ghts Hall & Park
Harry Graham Drive, Mt. Kemplla NSW
Enquiries Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176

"LAUGHTER and TEARS from the BUSH" SHOW

Wed. April 21st - BLACKWATER COUNTRY CLUB. Q.
Featuring
CHRIS, 'THE GREY' & 'THE CUNNAMULLA FELLA'
Contact Elaine on 07 4982 5275

"LAUGHTER and TEARS from the BUSH" SHOW

Thurs. April 22nd & Wed. 28th -
HOMESTEAD CARAVAN PARK, BARCADDINE, Q.
Featuring
CHRIS, 'THE GREY' & 'THE CUNNAMULLA FELLA'
Enquiries 07 4651 1308

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

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", Cunnamulla 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

GATTON HERITAGE FEST. 30/4 - 2/5/99

Details Page 10

CHARLEE MARSHALL BUSH POETRY

WRITTEN COMP Entry Free - Closes 30th April, 1999
OPEN - GOLDEN COCKATOO AWARD - 1st \$100
UNDER 16 - SILVER BUDGIE AWARD - 1st \$50
Enq., The Co-ordinator Box, 754, BILOELA, Qld, 4715 Ph
07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137

Awards will be made and winning entries read on Sun.
morn 13th June, at Biloela Country Music Festival.

WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWDS

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 AWDS

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
The Organiser, Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards,
PO Box 7714, Toowoomba MC, Q. 4352.

BUSH POETRY at CHARTERS TOWERS

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

BUSH AND CITY POETS

Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q. - 7.30pm Wed 12th May
Featuring Anita Hendry and Alan Nolan + Open session
Entry \$6.50 - incl. Glass of wine and something to eat.
Phone Anita Reed - 07 3343 7392

POETS & MATES

Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave. Kallangur Q
7.30 Fri. 14th May - CARMEL DUNN & JENNIFER HAIG
7.30pm Fri. 11th June GLENNY PALMER & MARK TEMPANY
\$10 incl. supper. Please book to assist with catering - 07 3886 0747

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CH'SHIPS

Yarrawonga (Vic) - Mulwala (NSW) MURRAY MUSTER
Conducted by the SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB
14th - 18th May, 1999
MULWALA SERVICES CLUB, Mulwala NSW
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

TOWN OF 1770 FEST. Sat 22 & Sun 23rd May, '99

at Agnes Waters, Q (Just north of Bundy on the Coast)
Sat Night : Poets in the Park with Chris, 'The Grey' & the
'Cunnamulla Fella'
Sun. Perf. Bush Poetry Comp. Original Senior & Junior.
Ph Ann Lightfoot, PO Box 253 Agnes Waters Q 4677, 07 4974 9263

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

WARWICK BUSH WEEK 21st -23rd May '99

TALL TALES SPEECH CONTEST - 7.30pm Mon 17th May at Warwick RSL - Enjoy some Aussie Wit - laughs guaranteed!
BUSINESS BREAKFAST - 7am at Warwick RSL with Marco Giori & Bobby Miller, Queensland's best! Breakfast just \$12.00
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 (a pig on the spit and music to follow) - 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.
COUNTRY CLUB COMEDY NIGHT 7.30 pm Sat. 22nd May at Warwick Golf Club featuring Marco Giori, Shirley Friend, Bob Miller and Ray Essery. Music from Random Selection Cost \$10. Light meals available - book 07 4661 5905.
POETS BREAKFAST (all welcome) - 8am Sun 23rd May in Queens Park by the river - free entry.
 Info & Forms: The Secretary, Bushweek Poetry Competition, PO Box 737, Warwick, Q 4370. Accom. Enquiries - 07 4661 5046

BUSH POETRY IN SPRINGWOOD

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

CASINO BEEF WEEK

Thurs 27th - Sun. 30th May, 1999 - Cecil Hotel
 Bush Poets Breakfast Every Morning at 8am
 9am Sun. 30th - Main Performance Competition
 Sunday 30th - Bundy Rum New Voices Competition
 Compere Ray Essery - Guest Poets - Murray Hartin, Glenny Palmer and Bobby Miller
 Enquiries Ray Essery Ph 02 6684 3817

POETIC FOLK 24 Finesterre Rd., Whalan NSW
 7.30pm Friday 29th May, 1999 - Everyone Welcome
 Come along and share your poetry and music
 Bring a Plate - Phone "Arch" 02 9626 7245

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. presents

1999 BUSH LANTERN AWARDS

Limit 100 lines - Entry Fee: \$3.00 - Max 3
 Closing Date 31st May, 1999 Details & entry forms from
 Ross Keppel, Co-ordinator, Bush Lantern Awards
 2 Anderson Street, Bundaberg Q 4670

COME TO INJUNE (Q) IN JUNE! WEEKEND

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June, 1999
 Sat. 5th June - Bush Poetry Festival & Market Day
PERFORMANCE POETRY COMP. - JNR & OPEN
 Humorous Category - Prize incl Injune Goon Award
 Traditional Category - Prize includes wooden trophy
WRITTEN POETRY COMP. - CLOSES 21st May, 1999
 Theme is Queensland - Best entries displayed on Qld Day
 at Injune Madcap Olympics - Entry \$5.00
 Theme for Junior Written Comp is Qld with focus on environment

SAT. EVENING - SOCIAL POETRY & YARNS

Sunday - INJUNE MADCAP OLYMPICS
 Poetic War Cry (Team of 4), dummy-spitting comp, thong fling,
 cow-dung toss and team tug-o-war.
 Enq. & entry form from Gay Torney, PO Box 29, Injune, Q 4454
 or Phone 07 4626 1188 bh / 07 4626 1061 ah
 Events are being held to raise funds for the Injune Hospital
 Auxilliary, Qld Ambulance Service and Injune Blue Nursing Serv.

S. A. BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

4th - 14th June, 1999 - Barmera SA
 in conj with Riverland CM 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 (Loxton)
- * Possible Winery Breakfast (Location TBA)

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

AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Kiama Showground - 5th - 8th June, 1999

Bush Poets Breckys and Concerts

For more information ring Bev Murray 02 4236 0701

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

BUSH POETS BREAKFAST - Beaudesert Q

from 7 am, Sunday 13th June, 1999
 Westerman Park Beaudesert (next to Arts & Info Centre)
 Contact Nancy Moss, Country & Horse Festival
 Committee or Phone 07 5541 2444

BUNDY MOB'S 1999 BUSH POETRY MUSTER

2nd - 5th July, 1999 - Across the Waves Sports Club
 Miller Street, Bundaberg, Q.
PERF. COMP. - Juniors, Novice Open Traditional & Original Secs.
DUO PERFORMANCE - DARK & STORMY 1 MIN. CUP
FRIDAY NIGHT FREE-FOR-ALL and SATURDAY CONCERT
 Enq to The Secretary, PO 248, Childers, Qld. 4660

INAUGURAL BRISBANE VALLEY BUSH POETS ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Esk Caravan Park, Esk Q. Fri. 23th - Sun. 25th July, 1999
BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION
 Yarnspinning, Poets Breakfasts, Walk up Poetry,
 Spectators free

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
 Contact the organiser

Entry Fee \$5.00 - Jnrs Free. - Closing 18th July, 1999
 Roy Briggs or Liz Banting PO Box 118, Esk Q. 4212 -
 Ph/fax 07 5424 1584 mob 1419 785 317

BUSH POETRY SOIREE - Kempsey NSW

Sunday, 25th July 1999 1.30 - 4pm
 Historic Netherby House on the Banks of the Macleay
 River - Little Rudder Street, Kempsey NSW
FEATURE ARTIST - WARREN ARCH BISHOP
 COME AND ENJOY OR SHARE YOUR POETRY
 Entry \$5.00 (includes Devonshire Tea)
 Enq. Maureen 02 6568 5269 or "Arch" 02 9625 7245

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Saturday 7th August, 1999 - Royal Queensland Show
Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

"Original" & "Traditional or Established Work" Sections
Entry Forms and conditions from

National Poetry Competition, Royal Queensland Show,
Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terr., Fortitude Valley 4006
More information later

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

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 PERF. POETRY

Enq. Jan Ritchie, PO Box 45, Surat Q 4417 or Phone 07 4626 5103

NORTH PINE BUSH POETS CAMP OVEN FEST.

Sat 21st & Sun. 22nd August, 1999

WRITTEN COMPETITION Closes 31st July, 1999

1st Prize - \$150 plus trophy

Junior (17 and under) Encouragement Award + \$50

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION - Junior, Novice,

Original, Serious, Humorous, Duo and Yarns

For Entry Forms write to Carol Stratford

PO Box 6015, Woodridge East, Qld 4114

MILLMERRAN BUSH POETRY ROUNDUP (Qld)

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September 1999

Concert featuring Bob Miller, Gary Fogarty, Shirley

Friend, Noel Stallard - Entry \$10.00

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION: Junior, Novice and

Open Sections, Poets Brawl and Yarnspinning

Proceeds to Aid Qld Cancer Fund

Enquiries and Entry Forms form "The Legend", Kev Barnes.

PO Box 64 Millmerran Q 4357 or Ph 07 4695 4209

BUSH POETS BREAKFAST - KEMPSEY NSW

in conjunction with Kempsey Country Music Festival

9 am - 11.30 am, Sunday, 12th September, 1999

at Historic Netherby House on the banks of the Macleay River

FEATURING RAY ESSERY AND RUSSELL CHURCHER

Everyone welcome to participate Entry \$10 incl. Hot Breakfast

Enquiries Maureen Garner - 02 6568 5269

POETS AND MATES from Wally 'The Bear' Finch

They say on the Dead Sea Scrolls there is an item complaining about young people. So when we hear someone complaining about them we can clearly say "nothing new". Perhaps praising young people also has an element of 'nothing new' as well. Who cares! We're going to praise them anyway. All too often we hear and say that our traditions are being lost, etc.. etc.

Come to our May 14 show of Poets and Mates at 7.30 and see if you say anything like that on the way home. We proudly announce our guest performers will both be young people - Carmel Dunn and Jennifer Haig. Both these young ladies are accomplished poets and performers capable of giving us adults a real challenge. Seeing young folk with such talent and mature attitudes is reassuring. It's nice to know the future of our traditions and culture can be so confidently placed in their hands. Details of venue etc. Page 13.

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WANTED

The AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

is calling for expressions of interest, in writing,
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ATTENTION PERFORMERS/EVENT ORGANISERS

If you know of a competition, written or performance,
event or festival which contains a Bush Poetry event
please advise The Editor. Remember the early bird

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

April, 1999

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Thank You to Our Contributors

Trisha Anderson	Graeme Johnson
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Neil Carroll	Olive Shooter
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Geoffrey Graham	Tom Stonham
John Harris	Milton Taylor
Flo Hart	Liz Ward
Cliff Hathway	Grahame Watt
Keith Ireland	Ted Webber
Maxine Ireland	Merv Webster Jnr

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR



Our magazine is now being printed in Toowoomba, however copy should still be sent to me. As you will have noticed, this edition of the newsletter now contains 16 pages, two less than last month and has been printed on A3 paper, folded and stapled. We have found that our Association can make substantial savings (about 30%) by presenting it to you in this way. Further, because of the lesser number of pages, you will notice that I have introduced a new format for advertisement of events, thus saving a little more space. Regrettably, in order to save valuable space, I will not be able to use as many graphics as we have previously. As economic reasons are always a pressing matter for us, we trust that you will be accepting of this new format.

I would also appeal to you all to send your info a lot earlier in the month. It is not easy to accommodate late copy, nor is it fair to those who have taken the time to submit their work early, often several months prior, to be displaced because someone isn't organised. Late copy will, in future be accepted on "first come, first served" basis, so if you know you need space, please advise me as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank those members who continue to submit reports, results etc. on a regular or casual basis. You are "top stuff". I, and your fellow members sincerely thank you.

Marueen Garner, Editor