

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 6 Volume 6

June 1999



RESULTS - 1999 AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS & YARRAWONGA - MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER 14th - 17th May, 1999

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

"Silver Brumby" Award for Performance Poetry

- LADIES CHAMPION:** 1st - JANINE HAIG, Eulo, Q.
2nd - Chris Webster, Bargara Q.
- MENS CHAMPION:** 1st - GUY McLEAN, Susan River, Q.
2nd - Terry Regan, Blaxland, NSW.

YARRAWONGA-MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER RECITAL SECTIONS

Ladies Original Verse:

- 1st - Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale Q.
2nd - Janine Haig, Eulo Q.
3rd - Dee White, Mulwala, NSW.
Equal 4th - Chris Webster, Bargara Q.
Equal 4th - Irene Jones, Albury NSW

Ladies Traditional Verse:

- 1st - Chris Webster, Bargara Q.
2nd - Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale Q.
3rd - Janine Haig, Eulo Q.
4th - Trisha Anderson, Brisbane Q.
5th - Joye Dempsey, Croydon Park NSW

Mens Original Verse:

- 1st - Neil McArthur, Ballarat Vic.
2nd - Terry Regan, Blaxland NSW.
3rd - Merv Webster, Bargara Q.
4th - Tammy Muir, Picola Vic.
5th - Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW

Mens Traditional Verse:

- 1st - Milton Taylor, Portland NSW
2nd - Guy McLean, Susan River Q.
3rd - Tim McLoughlin, Ellerstone NSW
4th - Terry Regan, Blaxland NSW
5th - Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW

Yarnspinning:

- 1st - Merv Webster, Bargara Q.
2nd - Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga Vic.

Judges Overall Highly Commended

Peter Worthington, Neilborough, Vic.

Judges Encouragement Awards:

- Ladies: Dee White, Mulwala NSW.
Jan Lewis, Cudgewa Vic.
Mens: Denis Carstairs, Stratford Vic.
Des Ginnane, Numurkah Vic.
Yarnspinning: Lance Parker, Hillston NSW.

Juniors Under 16 Years:

- 1st - Sunny Mutton, Winton Q.
2nd - Joel McArthur, Ballarat Vic.

BEST SINGER: John Memery, Beechworth Vic.

BEST INSTRUMENTAL: Bill Hay, Eight Mile Plains Q.

YARRAWONGA-MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER

"Dinkum Aussie Award" - Written Poetry Overall Awd Sec. 1 & 2

- LADIES CHAMPION:** 1st - JENNIFER HAIG, Eulo Q.
2nd - Janine Haig, Eulo Q.
- MENS CHAMPION:** 1st - NEIL HULM, Lavington NSW
2nd - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW

Section 1 Open: Ladies Serious Verse:

- 1st - Hope Galvin, Cootamundra NSW "A Trip Back to Flower Power"
2nd - Bette Olle, Kyabram Vic., "The Horses".
3rd - Anne Rooks, Tumbarumba NSW, "Just One More Time".
4th - Janine Haig, Eulo Q, "An Outdoor Man".
5th - Joye Dempsey, Croydon Park NSW, "Brother Love".

Section 2 Open - Ladies Humorous Verse:

- 1st - Jennifer Haig, Eulo Q, "The Goating Bug".
2nd - Coralie Welch, Bray Park Q, "Millinery".
3rd - Jan Lewis, Cudgewa, Vic., "Fathers Pets".
4th - Janine Haig, Eulo Q, "Speaking in Bush".
5th - Joye Dempsey, Croydon Park NSW, "Leave Me Ears Alone".

Section 1 Open - Mens Serious Verse:

- 1st - Merv Webster, Bargara Q "Sarah".
2nd - Neil Hulm, Lavington NSW, "Bradley Bullocks".
3rd - Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga Vic., "A Lonely Rider".
4th - Ron Selby, Drayton Q, "William Blake and the Brumby Mare".
5th - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW, "Accused".

Section 2 - Mens Humorous Verse:

- 1st - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW, "Cotter Pin, The Airborne Orator".
2nd - Neil Hulm, Lavington NSW, "My Ferret".
3rd - Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga Vic., "And That's the Rybuck Truth".
4th - Keith McKerry, Ainslie ACT, "My South Pacific Heaven".
5th - Neil Hulm Lavington NSW "Fun on Kiandra Diggings"

Section 3 - Ladies Encouragement Award:

- 1st - Janine Haig, Eulo Q, "Dear Becky".
2nd - Irene Jones, Albury NSW, "Fittin' In".
3rd - Liz Banting, Esk Q, - A Morning Vision".
4th - Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale Q, "The Bride of St. Claire".
5th - Norma Jeffries, Texas Q, "The Brumbies".

Section 4 - Junior Written Awards:

- Early Junior Primary:** 1st - Emma Solomans, 6 yrs.
Middle Primary: 1st - Bethany Gamble, 9 yrs. Highly Comm., Cameron Sanders, 8 yrs. and Bowen Purcell, 8 yrs.
Senior Primary: 1st - Dimi Kyriakou, 11 yrs., Highly Comm., Jarryd Cussen, 10yrs and Melanie Doyle, 11 yrs.,
Junior Secondary: 1st - Sallyann Vary, Highly Comm., Tim Cooper, Abbey Runnalls, Carley Knowles, Kristy Keenan.
Senior Secondary: 1st - Sam Duncan, Highly Comm., Cory Hicks, Jess O'Bryan, Simone Stephens.

Section 5 - Heritage Book of Verse

- 1st - Bob Magor, Myponga SA - "Donkey Derby"
2nd - Coralie Welch, Bray Park Q - "Down the Snowy and Other Verse"
3rd - Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "The Shearing Shed Speaks"
Equal 4th - Neil Hulm, Lavington NSW - "Aussie Bush Comedy"
Equal 4th - Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale Q - "Laughs, Larrikins & Lovely Ladies"

"AMAZING" MULWALA HAPPYNINGS - Neil Hulm P 3
Championship Poems on P 3, 4 & 11, Geoffrey Graham P 11
REPORT from Murray Muster President, Reg Phillips P 4

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**A.B.P.A. Membership - \$25 p. a. January to December
OR JULY to DECEMBER 1999 now \$13.00
PLEASE SEND ALL MONEY TO SECRETARY / TREASURER**



Presidents Report.

The main topic this month is the running of the Australian Bush Poetry C/ships held at Mulwala in Victoria last month.

The event was very ably conducted by the Snowy Mountain Bush Poetry Club and the Mulwala Services Club, Yarrowonga / mulwala Tourist Association and a swag of great sponsors.

I would like to personally congratulate all of the people involved in the running of the event. and to all the poets who drove many miles to participate.

Probably 8 out of 10 were members of A.B. P.A. and they all did our association proud.

Congratulations to all winners at Mulwala special mention to our current **Australian Champions**, Guy McLean & Jannine Haig who were both very deserving and popular winners.

The question of where the Championships will be held next year is well underway with our committee of nine members who will consider all proposals received by our secretary. All clubs & interested parties considering the Championships should have their proposals in by the end of June and will be informed ASAP.

Another issue that has again been raised by concerned members is the subject of copyright. We have a copy of the Information Sheet # 22 Performers' Copyright from the Australian Copyright Council and we will reprint it in its entirety in the next couple of newsletters.

But remember to read any deeds of assignment of copyright thoroughly and be very wary of just what rights you could be signing away! Queries can be made with the Arts Law Centre, Sydney, ph: 1800 221 457

or the Australian Copyright Council at
3/254 Chalmers St Redfern NSW 2106
ph: 612 9318 1788 or fax 612 9608 3536.

Hope to see you all at the Bundy Muster.

Ron Selby

Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

Our special good wishes go to two members who tied the knot on 26th May, 1999. They are Maureen Garner, Editor and Tom Stonham. Now Mr. & Mrs. Stonham. All the very best wishes to you both for a long, happy and healthy life together.

Please see my notice re constitution changes on P 8 this month.

Congratulations to those who competed and those who won prizes at the Australian Bush Poets Championships at Mulwala. It sounded like a great festival of poetry and we record our thanks to the organising committee. The poetry must have been a high standard, by the amount of new members we are getting who wrote to say how much they enjoyed it.

At this time we have 343 financial members. I note with regret that more than 100 of last year's members have not renewed their membership. Maybe it is just an oversight. If you know anyone who may feel they wish to join our Association, price details are in the notice mentioned above. They just need to write asking for membership and give their name, home and postal addresses and send the money to me. If you would like forms to give out to encourage membership, please contact me.

Thanks to the members who have offered to be on the committee to choose the venue for the Australian Bush Poets Championships 2000. Those wishing to submit expressions of interest please observe that I need them by the end of June.

The newsletter is being printed in Toowoomba now at a much reduced price. We still have the same Editor so please send any items for publication or publicity to the her at the usual address. Our thanks to Ron Selby who attends to the posting of the newsletters.

I wondered if maybe, we could fit in a General Meeting at Gympie in August as a lot of members go there. I might even be able to get there this time.

No more news here. Fond regards, *Olive Shooter, Secretary.*

BUSH POETS

© Bev Lamrock Canowindra NSW

Bush poets are rather strange creatures,
There's no disputing that!
They come in various sizes
From extremely thin to — that.
Sort of shape that I am!

Entertaining they are, and clever,
Pleasant to be with for sure;
They'll stand and recite things for hours
Which fill you with interest or - broaden
your outlook on life!

They're a pretty good bunch of Australians;
Clever as clever can be.
Honest? They never tell stories,
They **never** tell lies - they're like me.

p.s. In the last couple of months our current Aust. Ladies Champion, Jannine Haig, has been jokingly bombarded with the question, "Where is EULO!" and received all sorts of comic answers.

Janinne's answer to the question at Mulwala was: "It's where the 'Silver Brumby' is!"

But seriously, Eulo is a lovely little county town in the south west of QLD 64 K west of Cunnamulla and 285 K South of Charleville. And about 3.000 Ks away from MYPONGA.

Ron Selby.

"AMAZING" HAPPYNINGS AT MULWALA

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships, which were conducted as part of the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Murray Muster were held at the Mulwala Services Club, Mulwala, NSW, from 14th - 17th May. Hundreds of visitors crammed into the club's huge auditorium for three days and nights to listen to and watch the cream of Australia's Bush Poets perform their own poems and the traditional poems of Paterson, Lawson and Ogilvie etc.

Poets came from as far as Winton, Hervey Bay and Brisbane, Q, Sydney, Newcastle, Gippsland and many scattered areas of the inland.

The efforts made by the poets, from near and far, to be at Mulwala is highly appreciated. We the Committee of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc., received a tremendous amount of kind words and hand shakes, for which of course we are most grateful. However, the eight months work put into the preparations would have been completely worthless if the POETS had not make the effort to travel. It was certainly a wonderful "long weekend".

I am deeply indebted to the twenty five most thoughtful and helpful people, who either spoke directly or over the phone offering help. This offer consisted of selling raffle tickets, picking up empty beer glasses, looking after door tickets or doing anything that needed doing. Amongst the ready volunteers were Glenny and Alan Palmer, Don Anderson, Jim Angel, Maureen Garner and Tom Stonham, Jack Woodbridge, Maurie Foun, Ron Selby, Bob and Jill Winnett, Merv Webster, Milton Taylor, Bob Skelton, Tim McLoughlin and the list goes on. By lunch time Saturday, the list had grown to over fifty. Although I did appreciate and accept all offers, many of the volunteers were not given any work to do, especially as we were travelling along quite well "with the clock" during the competition. It was these people who helped eliminate any doubt, for I knew they would help immediately if asked.

Karen from the Mulwala Services Club was certainly a great help, making herself available at all times and in particular for her impromptu tour of the locale for our judges and visiting officials.

A special thank you goes to the Management of the Services Club for the availability of the beautiful auditorium and other rooms for our use and also for caring for the judges during their stay.

Thank you again to Karen and staff for the decorations on and around the stage. I feel that this setting could not have been made more attractive, even for such a prestigious competition of this nature.

The 'Gala', 'Songsters, Poets and Yarnspinners' and Presentation nights were great events. I do apologise to the poets regarding door charges which kept us out of the "red". Thanks to all.

To Sue Gleeson and Reg Phillips, you were great. There were times during the lead up period that I felt you would toss the work back at me. Thankfully, you didn't.

To the wonderful organisation called the A.B.P.A. Inc. Without the present and past board members we could not hold an official and so entertaining a Championship.

To the many sponsors who gave so generously - thank you all.

Congratulations to both winners and losers. On second thoughts, there weren't any losers. I feel that everyone who came through the auditorium doors left as a winner.

Thank you to the ladies and children who put in a lot of work preparing to help out during the Gala Night. Three cheers to those who entertained at the hospital, and last, but by no means least, thanks to the poets who braved the inclement weather and participated in the wonderful parade on Saturday morning.

Noel Cutler, displaying his expert whip cracking headed up the procession followed by Johnny Johanson who, in his trusty orange 'ute' gave a free ride to rear passengers, Milton Taylor and Don Anderson playing his bag pipes. They were followed by a dozen or more poets atop a truck, who were led by 'Whipstick' Wortho reciting Banjo's, "The Man from Iron Bark".

Thanks to Hec Griffiths who travelled up from Echuca to open the Gala Night with our song "Yarrowonga & Mulwala".

Poets, I thank you. Your performances on stage and off were absolutely marvellous. Who am I to be proud of you all? But I am !!

Neil Hulm, Poetry Co-Ordinator, Yarrowonga/Mulwala Murray Muster

MULWALA '99

© Maurie Foun, Mooroolbark, Vic.

It's a long way back from Mulwala,
When you leave in the dead of night
But the happy faces left behind
Was a truly wonderful sight.

I'd been to the Poet's Muster
Where many were put to the test,
And a Queenslander called Guy McLean
Triumphed over the rest.

A horseman come from northern parts
Who showed us all his style,
Blew us away with "Turbulence"
And his captivating style.

Kindly greeting from the heart
We shared, both one and all,
As the sprit of our unity
Rose within the hall.

I'm proud to have been at Mulwala,
Thrilled to have met my peers,
Glad to have laughed as the winners performed
And felt for the poets in tears.

And I won't forget that man called Bill
Whose 80th Birthday was due
And the sweet, sweet notes his harmonica made
And his jokes which were right on cue.

For to have been among Australia's best
And hear the appreciative crowd
Is a joy I will cherish all my life
Bush Poets, we've done ourselves proud.

LIES, LARKS AND LARRIKINS ! © Bill "Lobo" Lasham, North Rocks NSW

Sue and I arrived from Sydney,
There was business here to do,
We had words for Yarrowonga,
And a heap for Mulwala too!

We left Sydney just on midnight,
And arrived at half past eight.
Mulwala District Service Club,
Was where we had a date!

We were all performance poets,
From all corners of Australia,
We were there to win the Championship,
And we had no thoughts of failure!

There were Veterans there of many Comps.,
And Championships they'd won.
The first Wordsmith strode on the stage,
And the battle had begun !!

We reeled from savage punches,
That the opposition threw,
But we parried, fought back harder,
That's what we're trained to do!

We traded hot words blow for blow,
We'd scream, we'd cry, we'd rage.
We thought we had the upper hand,
Then McLean took to the stage.

But we weren't scared of that young kid,
We thought we had him beat,
Who'd think you'd win a Championship,
Astride an airplane seat !!

We were shattered, on the floor,
Of this Aussie Champion's bout,
And the Judges, slowly shook their heads,
And counted us all out !!

So Guy, we doff our hats to you,
You had the words, and gear.
We look forward to another bout,
In the next forthcoming year !!

Now the Championship is over,
There's no need to scream and shout,
We're comrades in Bush Poetry,
of that there is no doubt!

To the people that we met there,
Those from north, south, east and west,
Thanks for making us feel welcome,
We both think you're all the best!

ATTENTION POETS !!

The Editor has received a great poem, "The Mulwala Poetry Championships". Alas, the work was faxed and some of the text, including the authors name and contact number did not arrive. Please contact the editor if you can help. Thanks, M.S.

DID YOU KNOW That Half Yearly
Memberships of ABPA are now
available June - Dec. '99 for \$13.00
Tell a friend (or two) !!!!!

THE GUY FROM SUSAN RIVER

© Neil McArthur, Ballarat, Vic. 1999

There was mirth at Yarrawonga as the word was passed about,
That Australia's best Bush Poets had come to fight it out;
The prize for Champ was up for grabs; a good chance given all,
When The Guy from Susan River came waltzing in the hall.

Horror struck the hearts and souls of every Poet there,
This Guy had won near every Comp. and left the cupboard bare;
He'd just come down from Winton, where he'd really cleaned them up,
He'd won every decent trophy, (except the Melbourne Cup).

The Poets did not sleep that night, some sat and soaked their liver,
How could we compete against this Guy from Susan River?
But the next day when we fronted, convinced he'd knock us off,
We noticed (much to our delight) the mongrel has a cough!

The heats began, our spirits rose, the standard, it was high,
We'd beat the verbal tripe out of this bloke we knew as 'Guy';
Our voices screamed at fever pitch, we wanted those awards,
Some pulled 'Poet's Hamstrings', (also known as vocal chords).

Then The Guy from Susan River set his feet upon the stage,
Us poor old buggers down the back, we really felt our age;
As he flew into a mighty poem and never missed a beat,
There were screams of abject terror as we knew he'd won the Heat.

And we knew he had a knock-out punch, tucked tightly up his sleeve,
Murray Hartin's 'Turbulence', we all sat down to grieve;
How could we top this mongrel? Our poetic Nemesis,
But then I had a great idea, let's get him on thegrog.

But that Guy from Susan River knew his limit - when to cease,
While all us other poets got as drunk as jet-lagged geese;
On the morning of the finals, we'd changed our strategy,
And The Guy from Susan River would have woken up to see

A horse's hoof beside his bed, attached, a note which said,
"We've got your horse called Nugget, mate, held hostage in a shed!
So stuff up Hartin's 'Turbulence', make the poem a failure,
Or else we're gonna eat your horse!" signed anonymously, Milton Taylor.

Well, the finals came, the finals went, we warbled one by one,
McLoughlin, Thompson and 'The Grey' fair made their presence stun!
There was Regan, Hay and Williams and so many firing well,
Our salvo's shot, the moment came, our heads began to swell

Because the trophy and the title could belong to anyone,
'Till The Guy from Susan River, stepped on stage to have his run;
Those words of Murray Hartin, left his mouth without a slip,
He wound himself in 'Turbulence' and really let it rip!

The audience, they screamed and cheered, like at a Football Cup,
We hadn't scared the bugger off, we'd only stirred him up!
Our hopes then faded quickly into schooners drained of beer,
As we all heard the announcement, "Guy McLean is Champ this year!"

But we all stood there humbly, as the plaudits took their course,
We shed a tear and then we wished we HAD his bloody horse!
Thus trophy-laden, home he went, and left us poor old tryers
Who shouted out "Good-bloody-bye!", and tried to slash his tyres.

Now up near Maryborough, where the poets rhyme with ease,
The Guy from Susan River's set to fly out overseas;
On that flight he won at Winton, and we wish him well, I say,
(Though the bugger doesn't know we've had his ticket marked 'One Way'!)

POETS & MATES

In July the lovely Trisha Anderson will grace our stage with her well known combination of glamour and talent. She is a justifiably respected multi award winning performer and is the organiser of the prestigious Palma Rosa Poets at Hamilton, Brisbane. We know you'll enjoy the superb combination of wit and pathos she bring to her poetry.

From Mapleton we have the Hairy Nosed Wombats who are one of the most entertaining bush bans you'll have the pleasure of

REPORT from 'MURRAY MUSTER' PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

Well, the Australian Bush Poetry Championships are over for 1999 and I am still on a high. I have never experienced such enthusiasm, warmth and mateship in a competition of any kind. I must admit that I was a little nervous at meeting the big names in Bush Poetry, but was relieved to find they were ordinary people with extraordinary talents and a common love for bush poetry and good company.

The competition was very close, with the audience experiencing the high emotion of laughter and tears created by each performer. With the quality of the performances being so high, the judges must be congratulated on carrying out a very difficult task in a professional manner. The judges were: - Estelle Randall, Maureen Garner, Blue Bostock, Neil Hulm and Bob Skelton with Sue Gleeson doing an excellent job as adjudicator.

I would like to congratulate the winners of all awards. Results can be found on page one of the newsletter.

The Poets Breakfasts were a big hit with good crowds each morning and the poets queuing up to perform. Sue Gleeson did a great job of compering the last Breakfast in my absence.

It was a great weekend with many highlights some of which were, the father of Bush Poetry Bill Hay who played the mouth organ, recited poetry and told yarns till the cows came home. On receiving his prize for the Best Instrumental we presented him with a birthday card, signed by everyone and sang Happy Birthday for his up coming 80th.

Milton Taylor and friends who enacted the poem "The Generation Gap" (21 Today) with Sunny Mutton doing a fine job as Granny, really brought the house down, and Guy McLean's rendition of "Turbulence" on receiving his trophy had everyone falling out of their seats with laughter. There were so many unforgettable moments, you just had to be there.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the people who helped make the Championship the success that it was. The comperes who added a professional touch to the proceedings were Glenny Palmer, Milton Taylor, Merv Webster, Tim McLoughlin, Geoffrey Graham and Noel Cutler. To the guest artist who helped fill the gaps and added variety to the Gala Night, Songsters, Poets and Yarnspinnners Event and Presentation Evening and the people who offered help on the spot where and when it was needed, a very special thank you.

Yours sincerely, **Reg Phillips,**

President, Yarrawonga/Mulwala Murray Muster
& Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club.

STOP PRESS from SNOWY MOUNTAINS CLUB

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 30th April at the Siesta Motel Lavington where a new committee was elected. Neil Hulm, our Secretary Treasurer since the formation of the Club announced that he wished to step down from the position. Neil is a founding member of the club and has done an enormous amount of work in promoting, organising and running Bush Poetry Get Togethers and Competitions in our area.

The new committee was elected with the help of Don Anderson taking the chair for the election of the President. I was re-elected President along with Vice Presidents Don Anderson and Jack Woodbridge. Sue Gleeson was elected Secretary Treasurer and Neil Hulm is our Magazine Editor.

With our new committee we look forward to another great year of Bush Poetry.

Reg Phillips, President - Snowy Mts. Bush Poetry Group.

listening to. The band put the fun back into bush music where it belongs and they do it so convincingly you'll doubt it ever left. Heritage should be fun and they guarantee it! If your feet ain't tappin' and there's no smile on your face during their performance, then you must be deaf. See you there, at 7.30pm, Friday 9th July at Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Q. A light supper will be served and the all inclusive cost is a low \$10. Please book to help with catering. Ph 07 3886 0747 **Wally 'The Bear' Finch**

A PIG TALE © Veronica Weal, Mt. Isa Q

*Winner - 1999 Festival of Australian Bush Poetry
Written Competition - Category 3 - Over 18 Years
Charters Towers - Queensland*

I had broken-in a gelding which was on the flighty side
And I saddled him one morning for a quiet relaxing ride,
I was pleased with his behaviour, he was sensible and calm
As we skirted round the saleyard, and passed old Fossey's farm.

Fred Fossey owned a piggery, his porkers were renowned,
And he grew some watermelons which were known for miles around,
The fruit was sweet and juicy, and his patrons none the wiser
That the melons grew so luscious on his porcine fertiliser.

Those melons were a magnet for the local ankle-biters,
And Fossey lost a fortune to the sneaky little blighters,
They made their way by pony, or by bike or two flat feet,
Wriggled under Fossey's fences and secured their tasty treat.

Old Fossey kept a look-out, with his shotgun by his side,
And was even known to fire it, but the shots were always wide,
And though they knew for certain Fossey made quite sure he missed,
The excitement was a challenge that the kids could not resist.

As I rode, my horse got restless at a sound I could not hear,
Then I caught the drum of hoofbeats coming quickly from the rear,
I turned around to face them, and could not believe my eyes,
The sights and sounds to follow were a scene to mesmerize.

For I heard a noise far louder than those hoofbeats on the ground,
And my senses were assaulted by a dreadful squealing sound,
Then a chestnut horse came bolting round the bend and into sight,
And it carried two young riders, hanging on with all their might.

The horse had won some races, for I recognised his blaze,
He'd been living in retirement since his long-gone racing days,
I guessed that he'd been 'borrowed' by the lads upon his back,
For he wore a home-made bridle, and his saddle was a sack.

Up front sat little Joey, hanging on to reins of rope,
And his guidance of the bolter owed a lot to faith and hope,
For the horse had spat the dummy, plus his bit of rusty brown
Which was pressing on his windpipe, but he wasn't slowing down.

And just as if young Joey didn't have enough to do
He was holding on to one of Fossey's watermelons too,
But his brother up behind him looked a cert to come to harm,
He had a squirming piglet firmly clamped beneath his arm.

Wide-eyed, the horse kept racing, he had never moved so well,
For that little pig was squealing like a dozen fiends from hell,
The boys would have to stay there till the horse's strength was spent,
But undaunted, Joey shouted, "Don't tell Fossey where we went!"

As the racehorse thundered past me, I was very nearly thrown
As my maddened horse exploded with some squealing of his own,
I'd no sooner got him settled than he gave a sideways leap,
There was Fossey right behind me, in an old ex-army jeep.

His face was turning scarlet, and his rage was plain to see,
"You seen two little bastards on a horse?" he yelled at me,
And I thought of all the pranks that as a kid I'd loved to play,
So I shook my head and answered, "No, they didn't come this way".

"They stole me best young piglet!" shouted Fossey from his car,
"And I swear this time I'll kill 'em, if I find out who they are!"
He gunned the jeep and vanished in a show of stones and dust,
And again my mongrel gelding started bucking fit to bust.

When at last the brute was calmer, and was ready to obey,
I was cursing kids - and horses - as I went upon my way,
Then at length I saw a racehorse, which was tethered to a tree,
And the tempting smell of roasting pork came wafting out to me.

The boys were busy feasting on the victim they had slain,
But the bliss upon their faces showed it hadn't died in vain,
And they thanked me for my silence, said they knew I wouldn't talk,
Then they told me I was "bonzer", and they offered me some pork.

In spite of the aroma, I declined, and then I left,
Though first I gave a sermon on the deadly sin of theft,
But for all the good it did, I might as well have held my tongue,
The boys took no more notice than I did when I was young.

It was years ago this happened, in a past left far behind
Till a wedding invitation brought the story to my mind,
The wedding guests had gathered from around the countryside,
With Fossey's youngest daughter as the pretty, blushing bride.

And the wedding feast was lavish, Fossey let the purse-strings go,
And he stood there beaming proudly, with his missus all aglow,
They had married off five daughters while the money dwindled fast,
So tonight they celebrated, knowing this one was the last.

And afterwards the bridegroom turned to me and gave a smile,
"I must admit that Fossey's done this while affair with style,
But the meal was not as tasty - though I'd never tell him so -
As that feed of pork and watermelon all those years ago!"

BUSH POETRY IN THE 'TOWERS', Qld.

The inaugural festival of Australian Bush Poetry held from 27th to 29th April in the north Queensland region centered around Charters Towers proved a worthwhile exercise.

Although not a large event by some standards, the organisers now have a solid base of support to work on for the Year 2000.

Workshops, performances, competitions and bush breakfasts attracted encouraging interest from 'locals' plus a number of visitors.

Entries in the written poetry sections came from around the state as well as NSW.

Veronica Weal of Mt. Isa took off the Open Section with a poem titled "A Pig Tale", with local entrant, Hannah Grinstead's entry "Working Dog" successful in the Under 18 group.

Although Veronica won the novice section at the Waltzing Matilda Championships in Winton the previous weekend, time did not permit her to be in the Towers for the events of 27-29th April.

A very enthusiastic group took advantage of the Workshop held by Helen Avery and Milton Taylor. We hope the knowledge gained will see some worthwhile efforts surface next year.

The RSL Club proved a suitable venue for the performance competition supported by a larger audience than envisaged who were treated to some outstanding efforts, winning entrants duly rewarded with appropriate trophies and cash prizes.

Although the 'overflow' expected from the Winton Championships did not eventuate - maybe with earlier 'NEWS' next time may be more rewarding. Milton Taylor from Portland, NSW and Helen Avery of Longreach were engaged for the 3 day program - and their particular skills in performance impressed all who took in the various sessions, particularly the schools who were afforded visits during their busy schedule in the Towers.

They were able to 'meet' by radio with a class at the school of Distance education, with some of the students offering a 'sample' of their own writings in response.

Millchester State School and Columba Catholic college students, totalling more than 150, were also privileged to enjoy a variety of Australian Bush Poetry performances with 'gusto' - a style that puts life into a performance. Next year, hopefully more schools will be able to be involved in view of enhancing the popularity of Bush Poetry.

All up - everyone who participated in one way or another, including the two Bush Poets Breakfasts, voted the Festival of Australian Bush Poetry a huge success, and will eagerly await for next year to be bigger and better.

Therefore, while the Gold City Country Music Club hosted the 1999 program, they are hoping a separate Gold City Bush Poets group will undertake more responsibility and make it all happen again! Competition Results are on page 6.

from Arthur Rekow

DREAMTIME LULLABY

© Ken Dean, Marrangaroo, NSW

Winner - Open Section of 1999 Eulo Development Association
Mothers Day Written Poetry Competition

When the night has softly fallen and the stars are on display,
Spread like chains of tinsel thrown by angels in their play,
When the breeze is gently sighing to a moon now on the rise,
Caressing tree capped ridges transfixed on burnished skies,
You can sense a transformation, feel the pulsing, joyous sigh,
As the bush, in love is singing her Dreamtime lullaby.

Swift shadows rich in mystery pause to kiss the mountain ash,
Pure balms of golden treasure unveil the wattle's cache,
Sweet streams of honeyed riches flood the cooling evening air,
The incense of her giving rises up as silent prayer,
You can sense a celebration, mark the ancient, mystic cry,
As the bush, in love is crooning her Dreamtime lullaby.

She is innocent and trusting, yet the darkness seeks to hide
The pain that she has suffered, the scars that now reside
Of fires, axe and chainsaws that transformed her lovely face,
To tear away her hardwoods planting 'pinus' in their place,
You can sense the desolation, hear the pain-filled questing, why?
As the bush, in pain is chanting her Dreamtime lullaby.

Let me glimpse anew her beauty, breathe the magic of her soul,
Embrace her standing proudly restored and fully whole,
Giving shelter to her children, protecting soil and streams,
Pouring life into a nation that has somehow lost its dreams,
Let me hear the proclamation sounding natures proud reply,
When the bush again is singing her Dreamtime lullaby.

RESULTS - 1999 CHARTERS TOWERS Festival of Australian Bush Poetry

Written Poetry Competition

Category 1 Under 14: 1st - Hannah Grinstead, Charters Towers, "Working Dog", 2nd - Corrine Whitman, Townsville, "The Burdekin - Tough Life".

Category 3 Over 18: 1st - Veronica Weal, Mt. Isa, "A Pig Tale", 2nd - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, "Angus", 3rd - Ben Callcott, Townsville, "Rush".

Performance Section

Category 4 Under 14: 1st - Corrine Whitman, Townsville, 2nd - Jackie Dulhunty, Charters Towers, 3rd - Hannah Grinstead, Charters Towers.

Category 6 Over 18: 1st - Nora Vinson, Charters Towers.

Category 7 Under 18 Traditional/Modern: 1st - Lucy Dungavel, Charters Towers, 2nd - Sally Ann Vary, Charters Towers, 3rd - Corinne Whitman, Townsville.

Category 8 Under 18 Original: 1st - Corrine Whitman, Townsville.

Category 9 Over 18 Traditional/Modern: 1st - Tom Mauloni, Innisfail, 2nd - Dent Dungavell, Charters Towers, 3rd - Jack Alford - Charters Towers.

Category 10 Over 18 Original: 1st - Mavis Appleyard - Warren, NSW, 2nd - Ken Mellow, Sellhiem, Charters Towers, 3rd - Larry Dalhunty, Charters Towers.

Category 11 Humorous Under 18: 1st - Corrine Whitman, Townsville, 2nd - Sally Anne Vary, Charters Towers.

Category 12 Humour Over 18: 1st - Norah Vinson, Charters Towers, 2nd - Larry Dalhunty - Charters Towers, 3rd - Tom Mauloni, Innisfail.

ERRATA - Waltzing Matilda Championships

- Performed Bush Poetry Section Male:** Runner Up should read Bob Magor, Myponga S.A. (not Ken Dean as published).
- Little Swaggie Awards.** 3rd placed poem written by Jennifer Haig should be "Diamonds in the Dust" (not "Heart" as published.) *Editors apologies to Bob & Jennifer !!! M.S.*

EULO DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION MOTHERS DAY WRITTEN POETRY COMPETITION

I would like to thank everyone who entered the inaugural Eulo Written Poetry Competition. With the wonderful response this will now be an on-going competition, and next year I should be able to convince the committee to increase the prize money which will (hopefully) attract even more entries. We received 36 entries in the School Section and 16 entries in the Open Section.

Remember us in Eulo next year! Anyone who doesn't know where Eulo is ... check it on the map! Come and visit us ... you might never leave!

See you 'round the ridges, **Janine Haig.**

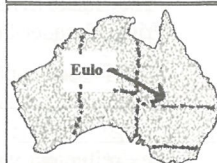
Junior, Junior Section: 1st - Danette O'Connell "Riding Through the Bush", 2nd - Natalie Campbell, "My Shoe".

Junior Section: 1st - Jessica O'Connell - "Mustering", 2nd - Olivia Taylor - "Aborigines", V.H.C. - Georgina Haig, "Down By The Billabong" & Phillip Tuite. "The Paroo River".

Secondary Section: 1st - Jennifer Haig, "The Goating Bug", 2nd - Jennifer Haig, "Diamonds In The Dust".

Open Section: 1st - Ken Dean - "Dreamtime Lullaby", 2nd - Ellis Campbell, "Memory's Track"

Janine & Jennifer



BRAIDWOOD HERITAGE FESTIVAL 17th April '99

The National trust listed town of Braidwood NSW (90 kms Sth east of Canberra) once again held their annual Heritage Day on Saturday 17th April.

The historic sandstone buildings and shop facades of the main street were the perfect setting for the Grand Parade through the town where many members of the local community dressed in period costume to enter the full spirit of the day.

Entertainment was held in Ryrie Park and consisted of mainly local performers ranging from Belly-dancers to Country and Western singers.

Shirlee Jennings, Braidwood's "Pam Ayres" got the poetry off to a start with a bright and bubbly set of original material.

Compere of the Twilight Concert, Graeme Johnson from Sydney, entertained the crowds with renditions of the classics such as 'Clancy of the Overflow' & "Bush Christening" along with some slightly more modern pieces like 'Voices in my Head' by Murray Hartin.

Peter Gillespie (President) and Jim MacQuarrie (Secretary) of the Majors Creek Festival committee performed musical brackets as did local Richard Steele.

Festival co-ordinator Jan Francis commented that the evening concert was an inaugural show and upwards of 100 hardy locals braved frigid outdoor conditions to support the event.

Your Festival Scribe, **S. McGarrett**

ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL 23rd-26th April 1999

The spoken word content of the St Albans Folk Festival continued to grow in 1999 under the direction of Poetry Co-ordinator 'Arch' Bishop. 'Arch', accompanied by featured poets Ron Brown and Terry Regan (along with Ray Halliday) ran 3 Poets Breakfasts as well as a 'Poets in Concert' concert on Saturday afternoon, all held at the 'Fickle Wombat' Restaurant.

Ron Brown also conducted a "Poetry Writing For Kids" workshop to get the youngsters off on the right 'rhyming' foot.

'Arch', Ron and Terry all had featured performing spots to showcase their versatile skills.

Graeme Johnson hosted the Friday night "Come Ye All" session at the 'Barn' and held his own on the poetry front along with Rhyming Simon amongst a horde of musos and other entertainers.

Saturday afternoon "Poets in concert" concert featured energetic, traditional, comedic and thoughtful performances in a round robin situation from invited guest, Graeme Johnson, Ron Brown, 'Arch' Bishop, Terry Regan, Graeme Hume and comedian Peter Willey.

Poets performing at the Breakfasts included, Rhyming Simon, Jenny Carter, Richard Mills, Terry Gleeson, Ron Warner, Max Quirrell, John Dengate, Jane Faulkner, Gina Langley, Laurie Lipping, Chris Robertson, Don Bannister, Yuri the Storyteller, Tangi Adams as well as all of the above mentioned artists.

Your festival scribe, **Jack Cornstalk**

(I met this outstanding young woman in the far north of South Australia)

MOTHERHOOD © Carmel Randle, Preston Q. 7.11.98

Winner, 1999 Bronze Swagman Award

Ah, yes! That one's my baby! She's as pretty as can be!
 Shiny curls and big brown eyes aglow!
 Her little cheeks are burnished black like old mahogany ...
 Her smile - it's just the sweetest thing I know!

I like to call her Lisa — for a white girl who's a friend
 I met down at the University —
 She also has her Tribal Name. You may not comprehend.
 But that's important, too, to folk like me!

Sometimes I dream of Lisa wearing frilly Party Frocks,
 A bright red ribbon on her shiny curls,
 Her shoes all polished, lace around her pretty snow-white socks,
 Blending in with other little girls,

But she is black! I know too well the pressures she will bear
 'Cause I've been there! I've lived that dream right through ...
 Education ... Its rewards ... but all this I must share —
 For in our Tribe, what's mine belongs to you!

You could say I'm a lucky one — a tert'ary education ...
 A chance to travel well beyond our Land ...
 But, tied within the Sacred Rites of my initiation
 I'm here — and married — just as nature planned.

Our Tribal Living's not the same as once it used to be....
 No longer do we track the desert wide
 Just searching for our tucker — yam from earth and grub from tree —
 Walking where the Elders might decide....

We travel in the comfort of our air-conditioned cars;
 There's solar-filtered water, septic, too!
 Microwaves and television; even V.C.R's —
 I'm living very much the same as you!

But some things haven't changed! We women still must bear the brunt
 Of nurturing our children as they grow.
 The men no longer have the need for 'walk-about' or 'hunt',
 For food is bought with money! And they know

That Stores will sell a side of beef, and roo-tails come deep frozen!
 There's pre-cooked meals and hamburgers there, too,
 For heating in a microwave; while Tapes and C.D's chosen
 Make better music than the Didg'ridoo!

Our men-folk lack the challenge! What they DO have left is TIME
 To drink, and argue — and, too often, fight!
 And when the VB God takes hold, no reason, sense, or rhyme
 Dictates the terror women know at night!

The Nulla-nulla no more strikes a hunter's chosen prey,
 But lashes wildly in a grog-crazed hand
 About the head of anyone who may be in the way —
 Or a hapless wife who won't meet drunk demand!

And yet, I've brought a small girl child into our changing world....
 If only I could know, 'Where lies her path?'
 Will she wander through her lifetime tight in Tribal bosom curled?
 Will she bear the brunt of black — or white — man's wrath?

But no! We must have faith in what the future years will hold,
 And work for what our instinct says is right —
 So I cuddle close my baby, and MY Dreamtime Tale is told ...
 A whisper in her tiny ear each night ...

"Be brave, my little darling! Face the future with a grin!
 Help your brothers, be they white or black!
 Don't blame the present for the past! There's but one way to win....
 Go forward — ever FORWARD! Don't look BACK!"

I suppose you know who is the squarest cowboy in the World ...
 Oblong Cassidy © Hipshot, 1999

BRISBANE VALLEY BUSH POET'S FEST.

Festival co-ordinators, Roy Briggs and Liz Banting write that the preparations for the festival are going well and already a lot of interest has been shown.

Junior events will be held in the Lycium Hall, Esk from at 9 am on Saturday 24th and entry is free. Juniors must be under 16 and proof of age must be provided for those approaching that age. Presentation for Juniors will be held at the Hall near or around lunch time or as soon as possible after the event as many locals will be unable to attend the final presentations on Sunday on the Caravan Park Lawns.

Novice events will be held in the Beer Garden of the Esk Club Hotel on Friday 23rd starting at approx. 6.4pm and their final will be finished at the Grand Hotel on Saturday 24th from 6.30pm. Entry is \$5.00 and novices who have won a first place in a previous novice event will not be eligible. Yarnspinning will be held after each Novice event at both venues. Entry fee \$5.00

All open events will be held at the Lyceum Hall on Saturday 24th and the finish and finals will be held at the Caravan Park lawns on Sunday 25th. Entry is \$5.00

The Mayor of Esk, Mrs. Jean Bray will present the trophies to all open winners. The Executive Officer of the Esk Shire, Danny Mullins will hand out the Junior and Novice Trophies.

The Bush Poets Breakfasts will be held at the Caravan Park Barbecue and supplied by the Esk Lions Club on Saturday and Sunday, 6.30 to 8.30 am. Cost is \$5.00 with bottomless T & C \$1.00. The Lions club will also handle the snadwich lunches at the hall on Saturday.

Novice and Junior events will be judged by the Australian Bush Poets Association President Ron Selby and his chosen helpers. Judges for open events will be Bruce Simpson, Bill Glasson and Roy Briggs with Ron "Boulia" Bates acting a MC. Peter and Rosemary Baguley from Brisbane will act as official scorers for the weekend. The local country singer Lisa Jackwitz will provide entertainment between events.

Caravan Park facilities and camping are available, as well as motels and hotel accommodation. We have no shortage of accommodation, restaurants and eating houses in Esk as well as beautiful surroundings to view. Every venue is in walking distance of the Caravan Park or any other point in town. We are a beautiful compact town with gift and artifacts shops available for people to browse.

from Roy Briggs and Liz Banting

**REPORT - GATTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL
 BUSH POETRY COMPETITION**

The competition was extremely successful and attracted poets from Bundaberg to Sydney. Newcomer, Ted Webber from Sydney took out the grand champion Perpetual Trophy.

A great weekend was the general view of the poets who attended and the Gatton Heritage Festival Committee wish to thank all. Results are as follows:-

Traditional or Original (Pub Theme): 1st - Denleigh Stenzal, 2nd - Liz Ward, 3rd - Bill MacClure.

Duo Poetry: 1st - Liz Ward & Denleigh Stenzal, 2nd - Lee Miller & Bill MacClure, 3rd - Stuart Nivison & Liz Ward.

Novice Traditional: 1st - Ted Webber, 2nd - Bill MacClure, 3rd - Rod Hutchins.

Intermediate Traditional: 1st - Denleigh Stenzal, 2nd - Bill MacClure, 3rd - Ted Webber.

Junior Traditional: 1st - Stuart Nivison.

Open Yarn Spinning: 1st - Ted Webber, 2nd - Denleigh Stenzal, 3rd - Bill MacClure.

Poets Breakfast Traditional (Horse Theme): 1st - Liz Ward, 2nd - Ted Webber, 3rd - Denleigh Stenzal.

Humorous Traditional: 1st - Liz Ward, 2nd - Ted Webber, 3rd - Lee Miller.

Finalists Perpetual Trophy: 1st - Ted Webber, 2nd - Liz Ward, 3rd - Lee Miller.

COBB & CO BATTERED BUGLE FESTIVAL 1999

Preparations are well under way for our 6th Annual Festival which this year celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the last run of Cobb & Co, from Surat to Yuleba on 14th August, 1924. As well, the town will be celebrating 125 years of the Surat State School and it is 150 years since the name Surat appeared in correspondence.

Surat was the name of the first Land Commissioner's House. Commissioner Durbin was appointed to the Maranoa District in 1849. His house stood on the banks of the beautiful Balonne and the area became known as Surat.

We have a combined celebration this year, extending from 12th - 15th August. Festival Australia have given us a grant to conduct our street parade and fire art. The parade will be held in the evening with the theme, "Festival of Light".

The performance poetry comp. for the Battered Bugle will be held on Saturday (Original) and Sunday (Traditional). Entry is free and nominations can be made when you reach Surat.

Accommodation for poets is available free at Newington. Phone 07 4626 5164. All non-local competing poets are offered a small

remuneration to help cover costs of travelling.

Friday night, Bob Miller and his cohorts will be presenting a night of laughter at the Shire Hall. Merv Webster is compering the poetry competition as well as conducting a workshop with the Surat school children and we hope to have a junior performance section again.

All poets are welcome to bush at any time during the four days and especially during our Saturday night's entertainment.

A Poets Breakfast will be held at Rosehill (A Cobb & Co Change Station) on Saturday morning prior to the coach's departure for Surat.

Our theme is "Light" and we would like poets to consider this when choosing or writing their poems. As well, poets are welcome to choose any of the anniversaries as their theme.

All are welcome to come and spend a few days in our district and join in the fun.

For further info or programs please contact Jan Ritchie, ph 07 4626 5103, fax 07 4626 5516, email: villacoola@bigpond.com. or write to the Secretary, PO Box 45, Surat Q. 4417.

Jan Ritchie

CAN YOU HELP: Ursula Sherriff of 9 Marlynda Avenue, Cranbrook, Townsville Q 4814, (phone 07 4773 2009 or email: sherriff@ultranet.au) is looking for the words and author of the poem "Australian Sunrise". Please reply direct if you can help.

*"The morning star pales slowly, the Cross hung low to the sea,
And down the shadowy reaches the tide came swirling free."*

GYMPIE MUSTER 1999

Kick up yer heels and head on up to Gympie for 6 mornings of "Poets in the Big Top" from Tuesday 24th to Sunday 29th August and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

Poets appearing will include Milton Taylor, Guy McLean, Glenly Palmer, Bobby Miller, Bob Magor, Shirley Friend, Ray Essery, Janine and Jennifer Haig, John and Joy Major, Frank Daniel, Col Hadwell and Carmel Dunn. These poet will perform at some or all of the Breakfasts, in what looks like a full and entertaining program.

A Poets Brawl on the Friday Night, 27th in the theatre and you could win a free pass to next years Muster plus a heap of souvenir products.

On Friday and Saturday afternoon there will be heats for the Poetry Awards, both sections each day. Finals will be on Sunday with good CASH PRIZES. Section 1 - Open Traditional (any other person's poem) and Section 2 - Open Original (your own poem).

Please send your entries to PO Box 999 Warwick, Q 4370 or you can try your luck on the day.

On Saturday night in the theatre there will be the launch of "The Naked Poets album". All the crew will be there including singer/songwriter Pat Drummond. It should be an informal hoot!

If you come to Gympie, why not check in a little early and look for the Poets Camp, pull up a site, and then it's your shout !! Ticket enquiries ph. 07 5482 2099.

See ya there,

Marco Gtioni

FROM YULEBA TO SURAT

© Bob Miller, Mungar Q

The jingle of the swingle bar floats on the morning breeze
the creaking of the harness as the heaving horses wheeze.
The rattle of the mailcoach drifting o'er the saltbush flat
we're riding down with Cobb & Co, from Yuleba to Surat.

Past endless ironbark ridges, we lurch and roll along
the kangaroos watch mutely while the magpies sing their song.
Then silence settles swiftly as we rumble on our way
through tall and swaying rye grass, we bid the world G'day.

A banker out from Brisbane with a bowler hat and cane
is sitting near the farmers he scans the sky for rain.

The Reverend Father Riley tries to play the diplomat
he knows the journey's difficult, from Yuleba to Surat.

The showgirl softly sleeping dreams of happy days ahead
the youngster bored and restless, looks a fraction underfed.
Our aching bodies wishing, just to step on solid ground
the ceaseless crunch of gravel, seems a never ending sound.

We try for conversation, midst the dusty, noisy heat
but hours spent monotonously glued upon the seat
just stop the words from flowing till we cross the five mile flat
and the driver's voice comes drifting down, "One hour to Surat".

Excitement shows on faces and the eager eyes that shine
the youngsters voice is chirpy, now he's lost that endless whine.

The canter of the horses seems much faster than before
and the lift in our deportment, is a thing you can't ignore.

We know the trek is ending, after days upon the road
we trust ourselves to providence, until we can unload.
From Brisbane to the westward, our troubles we combat
then journey on with Cobb and Co, from Yuleba to Surat.

NOTICE to MEMBERS CONSTITUTION CHANGES

MEMBERSHIP Rule 4.

- (1) (a). Ordinary. To include single, family or club membership.
- (1) (b). Junior. For students up to and incl. Year 12 of education, at a determined reduced subscription with no voting rights.
- (2) (a). The number of ordinary members shall be unlimited.
- (b). The annual subscription payable by all members will be due at the beginning of the Association Financial Year. (January 01).
- (c). **New members only** may join at any time after July 1 for a determined half-yearly subscription. New members joining after October 1 will receive up to 15 months membership for the first year's subscription to take their membership through to the end of the following year. For members renewing, the annual subscription applies.
- (d). Each ordinary and junior member shall receive a posted copy of the monthly newsletter of the Association.
- (e). Each ordinary membership will be entitled to one vote at general meetings of the Association.

Above are the changes to the Constitution passed at the January, 1999 Annual Meeting. I urge members to keep a copy of these membership rules. There will be no variation from these rules.

** Membership fee is \$25 pa. Single, family or club member.

** Junior membership is \$10 pa. Students up to year 12 of education.

** **New** members joining after July 1 is \$13 to end of Dec.

** Those who have **NOT** been a member previously, may join after October 01 and receive up to 15 months membership for their first year's subscription. Financial year Jan. to Dec. inclusive

Olive Shooter, Secretary, A.B.P.A. Inc.

REPORT - WARWICK BUSH WEEK (Q)

The Rodeo Capital of Australia is Warwick and it has a wonderful warm atmosphere with which to welcome visitors. Bush Week this year welcomed the Poets in an action packed program that saw Bards flock to Warwick in their tens. Thank God it's the audience we need to be in their hundreds and we are happy to report that they were indeed!

Friday morning saw me hosting a Business Breakfast at the RSL, where I was joined by Shirley Friend, Bob Miller and Ray Essery. The Rotary Club have already approached me to sponsor that morning next year.

We returned to the same venue that night for the Poets Brawl, won by Wally Finch who is still out shopping for a Porno-gram (you had to be there). The crowd was massive, with hundreds gathering for a record RSL Jackpot draw of \$6,500, and guess what ... they got some poems into the bargain. We may start at 8.30pm next year, for a snappy Brawl, allowing the Poets to mix a little more at their first gathering.

Saturday's competition was full of fine performances and some dreadful jokes from Essery. Tom and Maureen Dunn operated a smooth program at the Town Hall, with lots of help from volunteers and food provided by the Cancer Foundation.

Saturday was the Country Comedy Night at the Warwick Golf Club, with performances by the crew from the Business Breakfast, and music by Random Selection, who played for the dancing crowd into the wee hours. The venue was lovely and well supported.

Sunday morning welcomed another healthy crowd at 8 am for the traditional 'walk-up' Poets Breakfast in Queens Park by the Condamine River. A very relaxed and informal way to bid our farewells to a weekend that we want to continue to improve and make as attractive as possible to visiting poets and guests.

Any suggestions would be most welcome. Please post to PO Box 999, Warwick Q 4370.

Marco Glicori

RESULTS

Junior: 1st - Stuart Nivison

Novice Traditional:

- 1st - Bill MacClure
- 2nd - Rodney Crome
- 3rd - Mary Finch

Novice Original:

- 1st - Kev Barnes
- 2nd - Phyllis McDuff
- Equal 3rd - Mick Fleming
- Equal 3rd - Barbara Erlandson

Open Traditional:

- 1st - Wally Finch
- 2nd - Marion Fitzgerald
- 3rd - Max Strom

Open Modern:

- 1st - Marion Fitzgerald
- 2nd - Wally Finch
- 3rd - Ron Selby

Open Original:

- 1st - Marion Fitzgerald
- 2nd - Wally Finch
- 3rd - Carmel Dunn

The 'Legend' came to Warwick,
It really was a "Hoot"!
He won a competition
and they gave him the 'Boot'!

He says that maybe next year,
though I'm sure he's quite insane,
He's gunna win the 'Open'
So he's headin' back again !!

Thanks to all the organisers, because I know what it takes to organise such an event. Kev. J. Barnes 'The Legend'.

'DINNER and VERSE' with N.O.P.A.

The annual National Outback Performance Arts Festival was held on Queensland's Labour Day Weekend in May at Longreach. Although it was limited to one performance, the result was very successful. NOPA provided the entertainment for the Dinner and Verse Night., held at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame cottage in conjunction with the Drovers Reunion.

Hosted by Milton Taylor, the night commenced with a stirring performance by the Gladstone State School concert band, whose versatility and enthusiasm kept the crowd enthralled. "Crossfire", a talented bush band then displayed their wares to an enthusiastic reception.

Local NOPA members, Jim O'Conner and Quenten Scott recited and Jodi Johnson sang unaccompanied. A feature was the appearance of four Longreach children who won medals in the Waltzing Matilda Poetry Festival. Anna Brook, Cameron Klienschmidt, Jody Kremar and Jacquitta Arnold performed with aplomb, enough to suggest that the future of Bush Poetry is in very good hands.

The evening was assured of success by the input by visiting poets, Trish Anderson, Campbell the Swaggie, Billy Hay, Ken Dean, Randal Chandler, Wally Finch and Bob Magor. NOPA wishes to thank our visitors for displaying their talents for us.

The feedback from the night has been most positive, Bush Poetry once again being the winner.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year - in Longreach - in May.

Cathy Costigan. Secretary.

POETS SHARE A DAY WITH CAPTAIN COOK

The glorious Queensland sun shone down on sparkling blue waters as a white longboat and it's occupants rowed toward the glistening white sands of Bustard Bay. Sailors lifted the officers, Capt. James Cook, Joseph Banks and a Mr. Solander from the boat to dry land as the local inhabitants watched on. The day was May 23rd, 1999.

No, Chris and I weren't on the rum, just sharing in the reenactment of the landing of James Cook at the 'Town of 1770 Festival'. What a great day. Chris and I were asked to be part of the days activities by performing our show 'Laughter and Tears from the Bush' on the night of Saturday 22nd, in the pleasant outdoor patio area of The Food and Liquor Restaurant and then compered and judged a bush poetry competition on Sunday morning, 23rd.

It was really great to see the locals as the majority of entrants, including juniors and men and women. The category was Original work and a variety of talent came forward. The winners, almost all from Agnus Waters, were as follows:-

10 Yrs. and Under: 1st - Ella Bryant, 2nd - Onyx Schultz-Hill

Over 10 Yrs: 1st - Kimberley Kenyon, 2nd - Pieta Mackin, Gladstone

Open Original: 1st - Jan Gray, 2nd - Scott Bankier

The quality of the verse was quite good and a credit to the little community. The day was packed with such a variety of entertainment and Chris and I took the time to relax following our trips to Winton and Mulwala. It is great to see Bush Poetry becoming a part of so many Festivals. Congratulations to the organisers. *Chris & 'The Grey'.*

SOUTH COAST BREAKY

Poet extraordinaire Frank Daniel once again led a small but talented bunch of Bush Poets through their paces for the enthusiastic crowd at the Sth Coast Country Music Jamboree Poets Breakfast on Sunday 18th April. Having covered both the Canowindra and South Coast festivals on the same weekend, Frank was more than a little weary but carried on like a seasoned trouper to give it all his best.

He was joined on stage by fellow poets Jan Lewis, Bill Lasham, Lorraine McCrimmon, Pat White, Graeme Johnson, John Barclay, Ray Halliday and Steve Caskey who ran through a spirited volume of assorted poetry.

Good to see Bush Poetry making more of these types of inroads into Country music circles, after all, it's all Australian storytelling of a sort, isn't it? Your Festival Scribe,

"The Bootscoter"

G'DAY from KYABRAM

The Kyabram Bush Poets hosted a BBQ night at Betty and Geoff Olle's home on Fri. 23rd April to meet Kelly and Marion Dixon.

It was a great turn, with Geoff Olle, Bob Drysdale our official meat chefs. Our guests, welcomed by President Mick Coventry in a warm and friendly atmosphere, and a few good yarns and poems followed.

CAMOOWEAL CAME TO KY

© Grahame Watt, Kyabram Vic.

It was such a friendly evening,
to sit and share a meal,

A smoking fire to warm us,
- and this bloke from Camooweal
Kelly Dixon is the outback man,

His dues have all been paid,
A wide brimmed hat, a cheeky smile,
He calls a spade a spade.

We swapped some lines of poetry,
Some yarns of horse and men,
We can hardly wait till next time,
When we do it all again.

MY MURRURUNDI MATES

© April 1999 Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW

Way down at the foot of Mt. Helen, by the Pages River pools -
stand a little house of learning, Murr-ur-un-di Primary School.
And the children who attend here, are rugging up for a thrill -
against the coming winter months and the frosty morning's chill.

They're a pretty bonza lot of kids and live life with each day -
and when I see those friends of mine they always say g'day.
There amongst this bunch of children, you may not really know it -
but in this little school, there is a budding bunch of poets.

They write of frogs in gardens and magic wishing wells -
of wedgetail eagles flying high and of chiming bullock-bells.
The write about their special horse and dingoes in the wild -
about the dancing stars at night and the new born baby child.

They write about our giant trees and the shady groves below -
they write about their secrets that they want no one to know.
They write about the helping hand they give to an old man -
they write about their special world that no one understands.

They write about the ones they love and to their special friend -
about an orange western sun setting on a river bend,
They write a poem to their mum and send it in a letter -
they write of joy and love and hope and a world that could be better.

So now my budding poets I've a special wish for you -
go out in this tough old world, but grow up straight and true.
And I hope you all reach greatness in your hearts and in your minds -
and that happiness and peace, on this earth you'll always find.

HAVE VAN, WILL TRAVEL from Ted & June Webber

Since last month, June and I have travelled from Tenterfield NSW
to Gatton, Caloundra, Bundaberg, Yeppoon, Townsville and are now at
Kurramine Beach, Q.

The poetry at Gatton Heritage Festival was certainly a new
experience. Very well organised, and a credit to the local committee
and the poets who put it all together. I am now able to put faces to the
names of Liz Ward, Bob McPhee, Roy Briggs and Bill Glasson.
Starting with a pub theme on the Friday night at Gatton View Hotel,
followed by traditional and heritage themes on Saturday afternoon at
the Heritage Village Park, on to yarn spinning at the RSL that night,
then a Poets Breakfast with a humorous and horse theme on Sunday
morning. The new thing for me, was the theme requirement. This
pushed me out of my comfort zone of well-rehearsed pieces and I
initially thought I would have to pull out. However, Liz Ward came to
the rescue and helped me get my act together.

Dredging back through my brain box of past work and calling on
Banjo, I was able to fill all sections except for the pub, so the night
before I scribbled out a piece called "The Mallee Scrub Pub", based on
a tall tale I'd heart years ago. Unfortunately, I was not confident
enough to recite so had to read the poem. In the horse theme, I used
David Meyers' "Jacko's Ride" after much frantic rehearsing. I rang
Dave to tell him after being placed third in that section. At the end of
all the events I was awarded the overall perpetual trophy. This was a
great thrill, but I know that on the day the wind blew my way and
others only needed an ounce more luck.

Travelling on, it seemed that our schedule and the regular local
poets' meetings were not in sync, so we missed out until Townsville.
There we met the "Writers in Townsville Society". This is a
particularly active group who meet every Wednesday and made us feel
most welcome. Their interest ranges over all types of poetry and
writing. On the night, each person who presents work is given a time
allocation and then the group gives first impression feed back.

We will be travelling north to Cape York but will be back in Cairns
on 17th June, then start back to Townsville then out west through
Charters Towers to NT.

We would really like to meet and hear from any poets or groups
along the way. We did have some trouble with our phone messages but
things seem OK now. Feel free to call us on 0414 844 831.

FAITH, HOPE and "JESSIE" at MURRURUNDI NSW

ABPA member Roderick Williams of Murrurundi NSW tells
of his efforts to encourage his young friends, the local primary school
children to write bush poetry. He describes his time with these
children, and in particular one little girl called Jessie in a poem. They
are his "Murrurundi Mates". Rod believes, as many of us do, that there
is reason to have faith and hope in the fact that, given encouragement,
the younger generation will carry on the Australian tradition of writing
rhyming verse. *Rod writes -*

About a month ago I was at the Murrurundi Primary School
(invited by the Headmaster, Ian Ralston) and my young friends and I
decided that we would write a poem during the holidays. We all met
up at 1pm on Thursday, 29th April at the Heritage Cottage in
Remembrance Park in Murrurundi.

Third to sixth grade were represented. They came with two
teachers, their lunches and a lot of joy and enthusiasm. I gave them a
rundown on how I built the Wishing Well in the grounds and Carmel
Hughes and Gwen Alchin showed them through the cottage where they
had heaps of fun in the gardens, the ghost boots in the dunny, the
kennels and the dog that never has to be fed.

We all went out behind the cottage (away from the traffic
noise) and settled ourselves down on the grass and each got up in turn
(brushing the green ants off us and rubbing the bites) and recited our
poems. A lot of the children, accompanied their poems with some very
lovely drawings. Some were a bit scrunched up as they had been
carried around for a week or more due to the fact that the original
gathering had to be postponed as I had to go to hospital unexpectedly.

I was extremely impressed with their keenness and work. We
all had a beaut afternoon and even though the ants ripped into us, no
one wanted to shift. The rain came just as we finished, which was
perfect.

I will be going to the school each month to do some more
work with the kids and their poems will be printed in a book. I will
keep the Association informed and hope to follow up with some of
"My Mates" poems. *Rod Williams, Murrurundi NSW*

JESSIE

© April 1999 Roderick Williams,
Murrurundi NSW

Today I walked to Dooley's store
in Mayne Street Murrurundi
and found a drill and dyna-bolts
that I had need to buy.

I went up to the check-out queue
beside me I did see -
a charming little blonde haired girl
there looking up at me.

I knew that it was Jessie
standing still as she could be -
I said hullo to her
and she said hullo to me.
She had a load of groceries
and some cordial and coke -
and her little shopping trolley
and her twenty dollar note.

We stood there waiting side by side
not moving from our place -
and she gave a tiny smile
as I watched her thoughtful face.
She said, "I tried to write a poem
and it was very hard -
but I found two poems in a book
and wrote them on a card."

"Are you going to copy them",
I rather grimly said -

"Oh no, I won't, I'll read them
so I've got them in my head.
And maybe I can learn from them
and write one for myself -
and put it with some other poems
up there upon my shelf."

I smiled and said, "Just do your best"
and she moved her little feet -
I bought my goods, waved her
goodbye
and stepped out on the street.
I thought about her as I walked
and a lump came in my throat -
with her little shopping trolley
and her twenty dollar note.

BRONZE SPUR CLOSES 30.6.99

This popular written competition
for bush verse is calling for
entries which feature the theme of
rural Australia, it's people,
animals, way of life and values.
Maximum of 100 lines and 4
entries. Entry is \$3.00 per poem.
Write to The Secretary, Drovers
Camp Written Poetry Contest, PO
Box 4, Camooweal Q 4828.

**HALF YEAR ABPA MEMBERSHIP
FROM JULY 1ST ONLY \$13.**

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED - Sat. 7th - Sun. 15th August, 1999

Plans are now at fever pitch for this inaugural Festival as sponsors come on board to fund the competitions for poets, Battle of the Country Music Clubs and Songwriting. These indoor events will be held at the Tweed Heads Civic Centre in Wharf Street have now been generously funded. Linedancing competitions will be held at the South Tweed Bowls Club on August 7th. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 8th August is our **Family Fun Day** with **Stand Up Poets**, music and markets. The week to follow includes the launch of the **Tweed Theatre Co Inc.** running nightly performances. From Sat 14th we will run our Country Music Clubs Comp. and in the evening A Grand Country Concert with guest poetry performers and comperes including Shirley Friend.

Our poetry competitions, to be held on 14th & 15th August at the Poets Brekies offer **\$2,500** in prizes and trophies.

PERFORMANCE POETRY: Both sections \$5 entry, close on 4th August with limited entries. Under 50 lines. Sponsored by Tweed Heads Bowls Club.

1. *17 yrs & Over:* 2 Prizes: Male and Female. \$500 ea. plus Perpetual Trophy.

Two Poems, aggregated score: 1 Traditional Country Theme and 1 Original Any Topic.

2. *Humorous Any Age, Male or Female:* 1 Prize: \$500 plus Perpetual Trophy.

POETRY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS: Written and Original, 12 years and under.

Two poems, aggregate score. Traditional (country theme) and Humorous. Closing Date 12th July. One prize for winners school, \$1,000 sponsored by Target Stores Ltd.

Please send a SSAE for all entry forms to The Convenor, Country on the Tweed, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Heights, NSW 2486 or phone 07 5590 9395.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor, I'm an old bush poet who's been scrawling lines for years,
And I've been reading A.B.P.A. because it has no peers.
It's packed full of bush poetry and gives us all the news,
I think it's super value for what we pay in dues.

Now someone writes a letter "Change your title" dared to say,
"Although it is descriptive, I don't want A.B.P.A."

So, Don, what shall we call it? The Wombat Valley News?
The Boomerang? The Cockatoo? Australian Kangaroos?

The Lalor's Rag? The Southern Cross? Or the Anzac Gazette?
I could go on for a hundred years and no apt title get.
AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY - descriptive !! Not a doubt!
It lets its readers know straight off just what it's all about.

So do not change the title, it's simple but true blue,
And that's how we Aussies like it, detractors would be few.
It now has all the substance that a newsletter should own,
It's truly got the stature, and proudly stands alone.

Every month this old bush poet stands waiting at the gate,
And curses with abandon when the postman should be late.
I'm waiting for the paper that really makes my day,
And want no other title but the good old A.B.P.A.

© Valerie Read
BICTON, W. A.

ABPA FINALS © Jan Lewis, Cudgewa Vic.

"It's so stressful" sobbed Jan, "I don't think that I can
get up there and do it again!"

The emotion was high and I'm not sure that I
shouldn't nick off to save me the strain."
Called Janine from the loo, "Are you bawlin' too?
We all need to get on the improve!"

"Mm, it's stressful alright" agreed Chris, in the light
of the mirror where she watched every move.

"Yet, it's tricky" said Trish and gave her hair one last swish.

"C'mon, now's the 'Traditional' round."

"It feels more stressful for me," sighed local girl Dee. "Remember,
I have to live in this town."

Glenny, 'Granny of Verse' plunged her hand in her purse
gave out tissues and shooed us through the door.

She soothed (oozing charm), "Girls! Please be calm!
Just imagine 'em all in the raw!"

Thanks for the friendship and encouragement from everyone !!



HEY BILL © 1999 Glenny Palmer

Written to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Bill Hay

He's seen so many sunsets
bless the land he loves, out west,
and he cast his shadow proudly in their wake
he's a big man walking softly
standing tall among the best
and there's not a hair upon his head that's fake.

He was born out west in Prairie
helped his father work the pub
and he also learned to drive the old steam trains,
and he joined the pack horse drovers
pushing cattle through the scrub
where he slept most every night out on the plains.

As a lad outback in Winton
in the town's North Gregory Pub
there the hand of Banjo Paterson he shook
and with pride he still describes it
'round the campfires in the scrub
where the stories that he tells would fill a book.

He's true and he is honest
but if yarns are in demand
then the truth he stretches by a mile or more
like the time he only had a
little pocket knife on hand
to kill a charging mad artesian boar.

He'll tell you of the gidyea
of the Min Min Light he'll speak,
of the time he had to shear hydraulic rams
and he'll say he has to leave you
one day next Tuesday week
but he'll strip your pantry first, of home-made jams.

He has an eye for beauty
pretty sheilas stir the soil
carving out a path to reach his motor home
and he'll tell you how one made the
water on his knee joint boil,
how he needs a new gate opener, to roam.

And even now, at eighty
he still roams the country wide,
spreading humour and a happiness to all,
he's an icon and a treasure
keeping friendship at his side,
always there to pick you up, if you should fall.

Bush poets all have claimed him
proudly as their patriarch
he's the father of bush poetry, we say,
and we all admire and love him
each one better for the mark
that he makes upon our lives, our Billy Hay.

Welcome to New Members

Ken & Jeanette Dean,
Marrangaroo NSW
Mick Fleming, Nanago Q
Margaret Glendenning,
Everton Upper Vic.
Vonnie Hughes, Chinchilla Q.
Pat Hunder, South Yarra Vic
Doug Hutcheson, Redland Bay Q
Inverell Wednesday Writers, NSW
Cherrill Kousal, Fadden ACT
Margy McArdle, Gladstone Q.
Lorraine McCrimmon, Bungendore

Jeannie Martin, Knockrow, NSW
Tom Mauloni, Innisfail Q.
Bob & Rose Pinchbeck, Cobram Vic.
Jim Pfitzner, Yarrawonga Vic.
Marilyn Roberts, Oxley Q
David Soul, Brunswick Heads NSW
Kay Stehn, Bayonet Head WA
N & J Stone, Woolbrook NSW
Mr. & Mrs. Murray Suckling,
Dorrigo NSW
Ed Walker, Narre Warren Vic
Wendy Yelland, Corryong NSW

*We trust that you will all enjoy
your ABPA Membership*



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

June 18	Closing Date. Range Writers of Toowoomba Written Poetry Competition. Details P14
June 30	Palma Rosa Poets. 7pm for 7.30pm. Ray Essery, Marion Fitzgerald & Mark Tempamy. P 12 & 14
June 30	Closing Date. Bronze Spur Award written comp. Sec., The Drovers Camp, PO Box 4, Camooweal Q. P 10 & 14
July 1	North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30 featuring Denis Kevans. Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653 P14
July 1	Closing Date. Wollondilly Regional FAW Literary Competition. For details see Page 14
July 2-4	Bundy Mob's Bush Poetry Muster. Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg, Q. P 14
July 2-4	Mt. Isa Writers Bush Festival. Performance Comp, Naked Poets Show and Breakfasts. P 14
July 4	Poets Breakfast. Redcliffs Pub Vic. (Near Midura) Open Mike. Enquires to Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739 P13
July 8	Closing Date. Junior Written Comp. Details P 14
July 9	Poets & Mates. Kallangur Comm. Centre. 7.30pm Trisha Anderson & Hairy Nosed Wombats. Ph 07 3886 0747 P4 & 14
July 10	Poets & Folkies Get Together at Cornucopia Cafe, 2pm, Old Gladesville Hosp Grnds, Punt Rd. Enq Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
July 12	Closing Date. Country on the Tweed Junior written competition. Details P 11 & 14
July 14	Bush & Brisbane Poets. 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q - feat Trish Anderson & George Lovejoy P14
July 16-18	Bush Poetry Performance Comp. Cloncurry Q. Details P14
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 RoyBriggs 07 5424 1584 P 7 & 14
July 24	Closing Date. Hastings Regional FAW Literary Competition. For details see P 14
July 25	Bush Poetry Soiree by the River. 1.30 - 4pm. Netherby House, Kempsey NSW. Maureen 02 6568 5269 P14
July 30	Closing date. Camp Oven Festival Performance Competition. Details P 14
July 31	Closing date. Camp Oven Award Written Competition. Details P 14
Aug 1	North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30 featuring "The Creel". Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
Aug 4	Closing Date. Country on the Tweed Performance competition. Details P 11 & 14
Aug 7	National Poetry Competition. Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Performance Competition P. 14
Aug 8	Poets Breakfast. Boyne Island, Q. Presentation of Jnr W. Comp. Awards and Guest, Gary Fogarty P14
Aug 7-15	Country on the Tweed. Poets Brekkies, Perf. Comp, Jnr Written comp. Details P 11 & 15
Aug 12-15	Surat Battered Bugle. Q. Perf. Comp., Concert & Breaky. Ph. Jan Ritchie, PO 45 Surat Q 4417, 07 4626 5103 P8 & 15
Aug 21-22	Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival. North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552 P 15
Aug 24-29	Gympie Muster. Gympie Q. Perf. Comp., Poets Brekkies, Naked Poets Show. Ticket Enq 07 5482 2099 P8 & 15
Sept 4-5	Milmeran Bush Poets Round-Up. Qld. Concert, BP Perf Comp, Brawl, Y'sning, Ph "The Legend" 07 4695 4209 P 15
Sept 2-4	Bards of the Outback. Enngonia, Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
Sept 12	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 P 15
Sept 25-26	Trundle Bush Tucker Day Trundle NSW. Breaky & Performance. Ph. Frank Daniel ah 02 6344 1477 P15
Oct 1	Entries Close. Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition. Details P15
Oct 17	Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition. Details P15
Jan '00 6th	Bush Poetry Perf. & Written Comp. Brunswick Heads Fest of the Fish & Chips. Contact Judiann Schults, PO Box 41 Brunswick Heads NSW 2483. Ph/fax 02 6685 1599 Email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au.
Feb '00 12-13	High Country Poets. Stanthorpe Q. Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069
Mar '00 6-8	Redgum Festival. Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585.

NORTH BY NORTH WEST POETRY AND FOLK CLUB

Well, the saying goes "Break a Leg!", and I took it literally. But with the help of Graeme Johnson and others, our last two folk nights have gone ahead. Graeme ran a Spoken Word Night in April, which generated enough enthusiasm to warrant a repeat soon. In May, with me incapacitated, Graeme again did most of the work, my only contribution being a poem I wrote in hospital called "My Brush With The Germs" or "A Fractured Fairy Tale". I'm hoping I won't always need a major catastrophe for inspiration!

Musically, spots came from Chris Fraser, Lol Osborne and others. Poets included Pip Griffin, Brian Bell, Adrian Armitage and performance 'virgin' Carol Wertheim, with an excellent rendition of 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle' - come again Carol!

The featured artist was Mike Martin, a

versatile entertainer with a mine of information on Australian folklore. The highlight for me was when he demonstrated the correct method of shearing a sheep - using Graeme Johnson as a sheep!

The Cornucopia Cafe in May highlighted the talents of poets Tony Dale, Jane Faulkner and Rhymin' Simon, and musicians Lol Osborne, Bill Beckrik and Tony Colechin. Thank you Tony and Geoff Craig for providing this cosy venue regularly free of charge! The next one will be on Saturday 10th July at 2pm. Details in Poets Calendar.

On July 1st, we feature the Blue Mountains "Poet Lorikeet", Denis Kevans. Denis' larrikin poems and songs celebrate working class culture and the need for preserving the environment. Don't miss this night!

On August 5th, multi-talented group "The Creel" will be featured. Details in poets calendar.

See you there, *Jenny Carter.*

STOP PRESS for PALMA ROSA POETS

Trisha Anderson, organiser of extraordinary of Palma Rosa Poets has just advised that the fabulous singer, **Mark Tempamy** will join **Ray Essery**, "**The Mullumbimby Bloke**" and **Marion Fitzgerald** for a night of bush poetry and music on Wednesday, 30th June, at 7.30 pm. This talented and awarded trio are definitely in the "not to be missed" category so why not take the opportunity to see some wonderful Australian entertainment in this beautiful heritage-listed home. Bookings would be appreciated. Phone Trisha on 07 3268 3624 - More details P 13.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

- 1st. Monday** **Don 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** **Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. (except January)** 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy stantonn 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 0412 222 690
- 1st Saturday** **Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton, Q. 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music. Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st. Sunday** **Poets & Musicians at Eumundi Markets (Q)** in courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Ph. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 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 Brisbane 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 Com. Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave, Kallangur Q Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- 2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.00 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.
- Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.**
- 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** **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 Mon.** **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
- 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 WED.** **Writers in Townsville.** 7.30 pm, Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa Dr., Thuringowa Q 4817. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
- 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 Grounds, Punt Rd. Enq Jenny - 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653. Check Poets Calendar for dates.

G'day from Geoffrey Graham

Greetings,

What a week we had at Yarrawonga. Things really happening in the southern parts of our land. Isn't it funny how things can get started, just an idea at first and look what happens ... a week of remarkable success. This happened due to several ingredients, the idea mooted by Johnny Johanson, picked up by Barb MacDermid, forming of a committee to spread the work-load, the venue, Snowy Poets, judges, sponsors, audience and poets who poured in from all over the place. My congratulations to all concerned, to all performers and to the winners of all the competitions ... and to the Northerners who travelled quite a distance ... now you know how it feels.

I had a particularly good week, spending

eight days altogether, doing several school shows, heaps of workshops, and scored a sellout crowd for my "Man From Ironbark" show at the Ski Club in Mulwala. Still managed to do a bit of compering and caught a lot of the performing of new and 'older' poets strutting their stuff.

The locals were most supportive and went to a lot of trouble dressing up their shop windows and experiencing and supporting ... a blast of 'Bush Poetry'.

If any poets happen to be in the Redcliffs, Vic. area (near Mildura), be sure to check out the Redcliffs Folk Festival on 3rd and 4th July. I will be compering a Breakfast at the Redcliffs pub on Sunday July 4th, from 9 to 11am and we will have an open mike. Please call and let me know if you can come. Keep smiling, *Geoffrey Graham*, Eaglehawk Vic. Ph 03 5446 3739.

SPARE TIME © "Skew Wiff"

Have you wondered what us fellers do in the outback, all alone?

well! some of us talk to horses when we're bored right to the bone

At times we plait some leather, making whips or fancy reins, Sometimes we play mouth organ to pacify our brains.

At other times we sit and dream, about a girl or two we knew or scratch the dust with a forkie stick, when there's nothing else to do.

I've seen some fellers go a bit mad, but that's not the way of me, You see! I go completely crazy and start *writing poetry*.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

**ATTENTION MEMBERS ... POETS ... PERFORMERS AND
EVENT ORGANISERS - If you know "What's On"
please advise The Editor**

RANGE WRITERS OF TOOWOOMBA POETRY COMP.

Entries Close 18th June, 1999

Poems to 40 lines on any subject

1st \$150, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50 - Entry \$4.00 Limit 3

Details Mrs. A. E. Long, 7 Orchid St., Toowoomba Q 4350

PALMA ROSA POETS

9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Brisbane Q. 4007

7.30 pm Wednesday, 30th June, 1999

Feat. Ray Essery, Marion Fitzgerald & Mark Tempany

\$15.00 per head - incl. Supper - BYO

Ring ESU 07 3262 3769 or Trisha 07 3268 3624

BRONZE SPUR AWD WRITTEN BUSH VERSE COMP.

Closes 30th June, 1999 - Entry Fee \$3.00

Maximum 100 lines and 4 entries pp

Australian Rural Theme - Write to The Secretary

Drover's Camp Written Poetry Contest, PO Box 4, Camooweal Q 4828

NORTH BY NORTH WEST FOLK CLUB

Present Denis Kevans - 7.30 pm 1st July, 1999

Blue Mountains "Poet Lorikeet",

Uniting Church, North Ryde. Ring Jenny 02 9887 1856 or Mob 0412
222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653

WOLLONDILLY REGIONAL FAW LITERARY COMP '99

OPEN: Short Story Awd, Feature Article for

Non-fiction Awd and Rhyming Poetry Award

REGIONAL: Short Story Awd & Rhyming Poetry Awd

Entries close 1st July, 1999 - Entry fee \$3.00

Winners announced on Sunday 3rd October at Wollondilly

FAW Literary Weekend in Picton NSW.

for conditions please send business size SSAE to

Comp co-ord. Any & Mary Renella, PO Box 47, Bargo, NSW
2574 or phone 02 4684 2806 or ph Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044

MT. ISA WRITERS ASSN. BUSH FESTIVAL

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th July, 1999

Friday 2nd & Sat 3rd - Naked Poets evening show

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th 8 am - Poets Breakfasts

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION - Junior U 12, 12- 17 yrs

Novice and Open Traditional and Original Sections

Jnr Entry \$2 - 5 min. limit, Open Entry \$4 - 7 min. limit

Entries Close 1st July, 1999 - Forms available from

Mt. Isa Writers Assn, PO Box 2781, Mt. Isa Q 4825 or

Fay Sloman, 4 Holt Cr., Mt. Isa Q 4825 or Ph. 07 4743 5201

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

JUNIOR BUSH POETRY WRITTEN COMPETITION

Open to school students from pre-school to Year 12

THEME: "Ranges to the Reef" - Great Prizes

Entries Close 8th July, 1999

POETS BREAKY & Presentation Guest Poet: GARY FOGARTY

Sun. 8th August at Bray Park, Boyne Isl. Q

Entries & Enq. Margy Mac, 18 Emporer St., Gladstone Q 4680

Ph 07 4979 0909 or Mob 0413 978 748

POETS & MATES

Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave., Kallangur Q

7.30pm Friday 9th July, 1999

featuring TRISHA ANDERSON

and THE HAIRY NOSED WOMBATS BUSH BAND

\$10.00 incl Supper. Please book for catering

Phone Wally Finch - 07 3886 0747

BUSH AND BRISBANE POETS at Club Sangria,

Mt. Gravatt Q., 1407 Logan Rd. Opp. Photo Continental

7.30pm Wednesday 14th July, 1999

feat Trish Anderson & George Lovejoy

Entry \$6.50 - incl. glass of wine and something to eat

Phone Anita Reed - 07 3343 7392

383 Nursery Road, Holland Park, Q. 4121

BUSH POETRY AT CLONCURRY 16-18th July

Performance Competitions - Junior & Open -

Traditional & Original, Poets in the Pub, Yarnspinning,

Poets Breakfasts

Cloncurry Shire Council Written Competition for

Poem about Cloncurry

Send SSAE to Nancy Butt, PO Box 79, Cloncurry Q 4824

HASTINGS REGIONAL FAW LITERARY COMP '99

SECTIONS: Short Story, Mini Story, Article, Poetry

Traditional, Poetry Contemporary, Poetry Australian Bush.

Entries close 24th July, 1999 - Entry Fee \$3.00

Details from the Competition Secretary,

Joan Packham, 13 Magnolia Pl., Port Macquarie NSW 2444

or Phone 02 6582 2472

INAUGURAL BRISBANE VALLEY BUSH POETS FEST.

Esk Caravan Park, Esk Q. Fri. 23th - Sun. 25th July, 1999

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

Yarnspinning, Poets Breakfasts, Walk up Poetry,

Spectators free - All entries must have bush flavour.

Entry fee for all events except Juniors \$5.00

Friday 6pm - Novice Categories

Saturday - Junior Events (Free Entry)

Open Original, Traditional & Humorous

OVERALL POINTS WINNER

receives Brisbane Valley Bush Deer Annual Award

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

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

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

7th - 15th August, 1999 - Tweed Heads Civic Centre (NSW)
Open Perf. & Junior Written Competitions - Poets Breckys
Standup Poets - Music - Drama - \$2,500 in Trophies & Cash
Junior competition entries close on 12th July, 1999
Performance competition entries close 4th August, 1999
Further Info from Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE EDITOR WHAT'S ON !! 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
Entry free and nominations can be made on arrival at Surat
Performance Concert & Poets Breakfast
Free Accomodation at "Newington" for poets
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, 10 minute Humorous, Duo and Yarns
For Entry Forms write to Carol Stratford
PO Box 6105, Woodridge East, Qld 4114

*** PLEASE NOTE CORRECT BOX NUMBER ***

GYMPIE MUSTER 1999

Tuesday 24th - Sunday 29th August.

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION 27th & 28th

Traditional & Original Sections - Ent. Box 999, Warwick Q 4370
or on the day - Good Cash Prizes

POETS BREAKFASTS EVERY DAY - POETS BRAWL Fri. 27th

NAKED POETS ALBUM LAUNCH and PERFORMANCE

Ticket Enquiries Phone 07 5482 2099

MILLMERRAN BUSH POETRY ROUND-UP (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

TRUNDLE BUSH TUCKER DAY

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th September, 1999

Join the Bush Poets for Tons of Fun

Compere - Frank Daniel Ph. Ah 02 6344 1477

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMP. & BREAKFAST

in conj. with CALLIOPE COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, 17th October, 1999 - Port Curtis Historical Village
on the banks of the Calliope River, Bruce Highway, West of Gladstone Q
JUVENILE, JUNIOR AND OPEN SECTIONS

Entries Close 1st October, 1999 and no late entries will be accepted

Enq. Margy Mac, 18 Emporer St., Gladstone Q 4680

Ph 07 4979 0909 or Mob 0413 978 748

THE PRODUCT SHELF

PRODUCT SHELF ADVERTISEMENTS



\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER SPOTS !!



ABPA ANNUAL BOOKS OF VERSE

1995, 1996, 1997 - 1998 NOW AVAILABLE

Members Price - \$3.00ea

Post - \$1.10 for up to 4 Books, 12+ Post Free

PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY

Bronze Swagman Book of Verse

is now available \$12.50 pp from The Secretary
Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44, Winton, Qld. 4735



"VOICES WEST"

An anthology of Longreach Based Bush Poets

Winner 1999 Heritage Section - Golden Gum Leaf Awards

Available for \$15.00pp from The Secretary,

NOPA, PO Box 518, Longreach, Qld. 4730

A Book of '300 FUNNY LITTLE POEMS' \$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

LAUGHTER & TEARS FROM THE BUSH

by Merv Webster

'The Goodndiwindi Grey'

A Book of Bush Verse incl.

* The Curing of Young Fred McAlpine

* I'll Not forget That Day Old Mate

* Sarah plus

* Let's Keep alive the Drover's Day

* Sweet Madeline

* The Ballad of the Blowfly

* Waltzing Matilda - An Allegory

Yarns & Many More

CHRIS & THE GREY

present

A Cassette of Bush Verse incl.

* Basher Brogan's Pride

* For I've His Blood in Me

* An Ethereal Encounter

* Reminiscing With Henry

* Crazy Kate * Racing Widows

* The Wife's Revenge

* The Tragedy of Emma's Dream

* Bush Justice * Bitter Sweets

* The Curing of Young Fred McAlpine

* To Have Loved a Friend

* Piccanniny Dawn * Women of the West

Book - \$12 pp, Cassette - \$17 pp, Both \$22 pp avail. from
Chris & Merv Webster, 8 Hawaii Court, Bargara Q. 4670

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

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

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Thank You to Our Contributors

Liz Banting	Margy McArdle
Megan Bourne	Neil McArthur
Roy Briggs	Bob Miller
Jenny Carter	Glenny Palmer
Cathy Costigan	Reg Phillips
Ken Dean	Carmel Randle
Kelly Dixon	Valerie Read
Maureen Dunn	Arthur Rekow
Wally Finch	Lorraine Richards
Maurie Foun	Jan Ritchie
Marco Gliori	Ron Selby
Geoffrey Graham	Olive Shooter
Janine Haig	Fay Sloman
Neil Hulm	Grahame Watt
Graeme Johnson	Veronica Weal
Bev Lamrock	Ted Webber
Bill Lasham	Merv Webster
Jan Lewis	Roderick Williams

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members, What a wonderful success the Australian Championships were! For many of us who attended, audience and performers alike, it was the first time we had experienced performance poetry at competition level, and championship standard at that! What better way to introduce and encourage our craft into an area of Australia where it has rarely been seen before. We all now have a perfect opportunity to build on the impact that the Muster has made in the south, and the result will be that Bush Poetry will be the **big winner**.

Tom & I sincerely thank those of you who have conveyed your best wishes. He has penned a few lines in response to the many good wishes which we have received which truly express our feeling for you all. Please keep those great reports coming and we we'll see you around the traps

Maureen Stonham, Editor

'WEDDING PRESENCE' © Tom Stonham

The day that we married we were warmly aware of the presence of many friends not truly there. Australian Bush Poets all around our wide land were with us in spirit as we stood hand-in-hand.

Facsimiles, 'phone-calls and a cascade of cards sent by wickedly witty, wise, well-wishing bards.

Warm waves of affection, (knowing whom they were from), sweet, sincere Wedding Presents ...

Thanks ... Maureen and Tom.