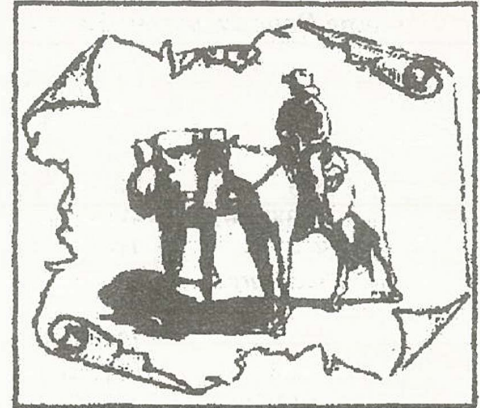


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

Monthly Newsletter: # 6:
June 2001



Poet. Description of a

To a poet nothing can be useless. Whatever is beautiful, and whatever is dreadful, must be familiar to his imagination; he must be conversant with all that is awfully vast or elegantly little. The plants of the garden, the animals of the wood, the minerals of the earth, the meteors of the sky, must all concur to store his mind with inexhaustible variety; for every idea is useful for the enforcement or decoration moral or religious truth; and he who knows most will have most power of diversifying his scene, and of gratifying his reader with remote allusions and unexpected instructions. *Rasselas - Dr. Samuel Johnson 1867*

Poetry. Immortality of

Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge: it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all science. Poetry is the first and last of all knowledge - it is as immortal as the heart of man. If the labours of men of science should ever create any material revolution, direct or indirect, in our condition, and in the impressions which we habitually receive, the poet will sleep then no more than a present, but he will be ready to follow the steps of the man of science, not only in those general indirect effects, but he will be at his side, carrying sensation into the midst of the objects of the science itself. *What is a Poet? - W. Wordsworth.*

Taken from the book called "WISE SAYINGS OF THE GREAT AND GOOD":

Printed in 1867 and sold for 3s 6d.

Lets Consider: How things have changed over the years. Where once sportsman played their chosen sport simply for the pleasure of competing, (winning or losing was irrelevant), today it is played for money. Whether this has made sport better or worse is an individuals perception, but like everything, change is inevitable in life. They had change 100 years ago, 200 years ago - so things are never going to stay the same. Change is inevitable.

Whether this is good or bad is not the reason for this article. The reason is to point out that change is going to occur as we head along life's roadway whether we want it or not. We may not like it in our own lives, and those who don't want it tend to, using today's language, drop out. That is the right that everyone has. Acceptance or non-acceptance.

Change is also inevitable in our monthly newsletter. Over the years it has been produced, there has been an immense amount of work put in by individuals to get it out to the members. This has always involved a lot of time and effort. I am referring here to the folding, addressing and sorting into respective postal codes so that we can save a dollar here and a dollar there. I believe that the time to get more professional in this area is well past. Like the sportsman of today I think it is time that we paid someone to do what has over the years, been a labour of love, if not necessity when the association started out. Today's printers have machinery for folding, machinery for stamping and addressing and machinery for putting the magazine into plastic bags so that if the mailman leaves it exposed to the elements, you still have a publication that you can read.

To do this and not erode away our bank balance, we need to be like the sportsman of today. We need sponsorship. The easiest way to have this, is to have - say the two back pages of the newsletter "sold" to someone or some company for advertsing their wares. We know we win with every publication - so that means that the "sponsor" is also a winner. If you know of any business or company who may be interested, then have them contact our President so that we can do a follow-up and look into making thing easier for those tireless, and might I add, non-complaining, worker/s who donate their time so that the rest of us can get the satisfaction that we do from our newsletter.

A thought for the month: Did you manage to get a new member for our Association this month?

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(as this is my private address please name subject **ABPA**)

DEADLINE DAY - 17th day of each month.

NOTICE: No part of this newsletter, either in part or in whole, may be reproduced, transmitted or utilised in any form or by any means, electronic, photographic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage system, without written permission from the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. *Ron Selby, Secretary.*

ABPA MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per annum, January -December for Single, Family or Club Membership.

Juniors \$10 per annum (students to year 12 education)

NEW members joining after July 1, \$13 through to the end of December. Those who have NOT been a member previously may join after October 1 and receive up to 15 months membership for a first years subscription of \$25. (see page 10 for a membership application form).

PLEASE SEND ALL MONEY TO THE TREASURER.



From The Editor:

How good is the Bush Poetry today compared with the so called "Masters" of yesteryear? Do we have the same quality of words in our Bush Poetry today? Are today's "Wordsmiths" capable of using words to the same affect as the old timers?

When you read the poem "*Early Morning Ride*" by *Ellis Campbell*, (this issue) and the winning poem in

the Chinchilla Bush Poetry Bush Verse Competition, "*Coming Home*" by the same poet, (published in last months issue), then you would have to agree - the talent is certainly out there.

We probably do not use some words today in conversation as they did in the distant past, but our poets today revive these words and use them to the greatest affect. We see this every time some one stands on a stage to recite poetry.

Performance poetry is a very effective visual entertainment media and we are getting more and more of them every week which is great. And there is no doubt, the quality here is very good and very very competitive. The crowds turn up, love what they see, and stay for the entire show. That is good for the poets and also good for the organisers. But I believe that over the last few months there has been some written poems which have won competitions around the country which will in time, be considered absolute classics. **Poets creating epics, not with actors and scenery, but with flamboyant words arranged in magnificently constructed lines built around graphic descriptions that enable the mind to conjure those very scenes in ones imagination.**

Librarians used to be called "*Keepers of the Books*". You people are "*Keepers of the Verse*" - Wordsmiths extraordinaire.

Have a good one - Bernie Bliss



G'day Everyone,

Correct me if I am wrong, but in April we had a committee meeting where all of the committee were present. I believe this is the first time we have been able

to overcome the tyranny of distance to make it possible but hopefully it is something that will repeat itself over and over.

Many issues were discussed and hopefully some sound decisions made.

High on the Agenda were the Australian Bush Poetry Championships. Some big lessons have been learned from this year not the least of which is to give successful tenders more time. So this year we will be calling for two sets of submissions - one for 2002 and one for 2003. After this year future submissions will be called for two years in advance.

Guideline books have been printed and are now available. This is more a "how to go about it" book than a book of rules. As such, we think it will be very helpful to those organising bush poetry events for the first time. It is available to members free and to non-members for \$1.50 to cover print and post costs.

The next project for our 'Guidelines' committee is to assemble some judging guidelines. Like last time such guidelines will be prepared from a base of member suggestions. So if you have any thoughts or suggestions please let us know. There are many issues to consider such as criteria what to judge, who should judge, how to go about judges' training etc.

Have a great month.

Keep on preserving our Kulcha.

Wally Finch
President.

The QANTAS – Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards and the Australian Bush Poetry Championships have joined together to form the

QANTAS-WALTZING MATILDA AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held in conjunction with Winton's Federation Celebrations on 30th June – 2nd July 2001 in Winton. Qld.
First Prize for the Open Male & Female winner – Return trip to America to represent Australia at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, January 2002!

Categories are as follows:

Category 1-Open Male

Category 2-Open Female

Category 3-Novice Male

Category 4-Novice Female

Category 5-Australian Yarnspinning Championships

Category 6-Federation Frolics

Category 7-Non-Competitive

Category 8-Junior 10 years & under

Category 9-Junior 11 – 18 years

Note: Nominations close June 1st, 2001. Nominations later than this date will be accepted, but these names may not appear in the Official Souvenir Program

All enquiries to:

The Organiser,

Qantas -Waltzing Matilda Australian Bush Poetry Championships,

P.O. Box 84,

HUGHENDEN. QLD. 4821.

Man From Snowy River Festival Report:

Banjo's Block Poet's Breakfasts and entertainment were considered the best ever with the friendliness of locals and visitors a delight. People loved the atmosphere and friendliness of Banjo's Block.

Judges, Whipstick Wortho (Peter Worthington) Graeme Johnson, Herb McCrum, Dale O'Connell, Sue Gleeson, and Lawrie Sheridan worked together well.

Whipstick was great value as performer, MC and Judge, (Workplace Assessor training came in handy for tricky decisions). We also worked Graeme Johnson hard as MC and his performance was well received at the Art Show opening.

The locals are still talking about the terrific Community Concert where several poets kept the entertainment coming. Special favourites were Noel Stallard and Carol Reffold.

Neil Hulm had a good crowd at the Bottom Pub where he ran a Silver Brumby Award Competition (won by Ken Connley). Whipstick's night at the CourtHouse Hotel was also well attended and provided good entertainment.

Brumby Bar voted great venue for the Poetry and Bush Music Competition, with Gillian and staff very obliging, the kitchen smoothly operating with good food. Judges, Whipstick Wortho, Graeme Johnson, Herb McCrum, Dale O'Connell, Sue Gleeson, and Lawrie Sheridan worked together well, and guest Judge Geoffrey Wright from the Weekly Times..New Judging sheets much better/quicker and borrowing a laptop made tallying easier. Our redesigning of the separate Jack Riley and Clancy's Choice Sections both created interest & worked well.

Weekend wristbands made things easier and so did Betty Walton's band of lady bowlers on the door at the competition, dispensing information and taking money.

Lots of people finding the Bush Poetry for the first time, being 'blown away' & excited about returning 2002.

Neil Meaney, ABC loved his stint as MC and will consider recording some or all of the competition next year.

Lots of potential to expand the Music side of things and campfire music at B/Block

Whipstick returning, Carol Reffold Sue Gleeson also keen., Written Comp winner Ellis Campbell to be Written Judge,

Upper Murray Regional Library will be running a Written Competition.

We have already had some sponsorship nibbles for next year, and program ideas - extra awards and novelty events, a Quilt backdrop and small replica as a fundraiser project-

Winners below:

Man from Snowy River Festival

AWARDS & SPONSORS POETRY & BUSH MUSIC WINNERS 2001

- 1 ORIGINAL POEM - G.J. & J.H. Hillier (\$200) - Don Anderson
- 2 TRADITIONAL - Upper Murray Business Inc (\$200 each) EQUAL - Don Anderson & Dennis Carstairs
- 3 SONG - Jackaleen's Thriftylink (\$200) - Dieter Raunjak
- 4 YARN - Corryong Bakehouse (\$200) - Bob Skelton
- 5 JUNIOR UNDER 17 Jan Lewis (\$50) - Todd Klein
- 6 JACK RILEY AWARD - Corryong Newsagents (\$300) - Jim Angel
Mt Mittamatite - Don Anderson
- 7 CLANCY'S CHOICE - & Colac Colac Caravan Parks (\$300) - Jim Angel & Brian Blakeman
- 8 BANJO'S MFSR - Edmund Barry Pty Ltd (\$200) - Bob Skelton
- 9 WRITTEN POEM - Towong Hill - Mitchell family (\$200) - Ellis Campbell
- 10 JUNIOR WRITTEN - 2The Pines Piano Studio (\$50) - Luke Netherwood
Youngest Performer Book - Alexandros Stefanos (2 and a half yrs.)

"On Ya Soapbox"

Dear Editor:

Is it not time for us to have a good look at where we, as an Association and Bush Poetry in general, are heading? One of the original aims of the ABPA was to keep alive the Masters of old and I'm pleased to see a couple of the old poems in the April magazine.

There is a tendency, these days, for the top performers to recite only their own work and ignore the old Masters. Also in the "early days" I remember some serious discussion taking place as to how Bush Poets could obtain more recognition and some financial rewards for their effort. A few have teamed up and seem to be doing well and I congratulate them.

But what about the rest of us?

Are you happy with the current situation?

Are we being exploited as "free entertainment" for various competitions and Festivals?

Should we demand that Festivals provide smaller prizes and some petrol money for participants?

With fuel at a \$1.00 a litre or more, how much would it cost you to travel to Winton?

One only joins any Association if there are benefits. As an Association (Union of Poets) we should be prepared to work together and not be at each other's throats chasing the "big" money.

A recent festival that I attended did not even adhere to it's own rule:

"that "original" performance works had to be unpublished."

I would like to hear from anyone who is concerned about these matters, either personally or through the magazine.

Long live Bush Poetry,

Regards

Max Jarrott

KILLARNEY Q 4373

Dear Editor:

In Defense of lower Case:

With reference to Alec Raymer's pronouncement on *Bush Poetry* requiring each line to begin with a capital letter, I disagree. He admits '... Many modern poets do not begin each line with a capital letter' but illogically insists *Bush Poetry* should be excluded from this practice. Why? Surely all poets wish their verse to be appreciated and understood both by present-day readers and audiences? When reciting, we do not thump heavily at the end of each line and then shout the following first word with artificial emphasis, though it might be unstressed in context.

Maureen Stonham has already pointed out the benefits of lower case, where appropriate. Today's writers of *Bush Verse* -- I will not attempt to define this genre! -- have progressed beyond archaic *poetic* language, such as *oft, ne'er, o'er, yonder, 'tis*, etc, have also moved from subjects of bullock teams and outback dunnies to modern activities and concerns, such as crop-dusting and the increase in outback suicide. Please, let no-one dictate that we should be hamstrung by an artificial -- even, pretentious -- fast-fading convention of compulsory capitals.

By all means Alec, use the format you prefer. Good luck with your poems! However, until Parliament passes a law against lower case, I will continue to use it. I appreciate there are a few judges who shudder at this practice but I am prepared to risk their prejudice. I rest my case.

Ron Stevens.

Dear Editor,

In reply to Ellis Campbell and Kev Barnes. Firstly Kev, although I am better known for my performances of other people's work, I also do write some of my own, so doesn't that make me a poet as well. It is true that performers of poetry seem to get more recognition than writers (and I'm not saying they should) but isn't it the same with music? Song writers rarely get a mention whereas the singer, or performer of the song, get most of the accolades. As with poetry, the music industry has separate awards for written work and performances as it should.

Unfortunately, most people pay little attention to the content of the words, and concentrate mainly on the performer, however, the truly great writers of poetry (which I certainly am not) will be remembered for many years, as the written word never dies. The rest, along with the performers, will in time fade away into the distance.

Tony Strauss

Tannum Sands, Qld.

p.s.-May I suggest that any poets (and lovers of such) who want to keep in touch on the net, please list your email address in this magazine.

Or maybe the web site could have a directory of members emails. Just a thought.

tonybushpoet@hotmail.com

Dear Bernie,

Just a note to say thank you for putting the ABPA Newsletter together - I hope you feel as though you are settling into the job now - I think you are.

I am enclosing a poem I wrote last year and which I have entered in a few competitions - finally winning first prize in the ladies section of the NSW Bush Poetry championships at Tumut held last month.

The subject matter is true, based on a desire my husband (who suffers from dementia) had to be a jockey again - the poem tells the story. He doesn't think as clearly now, but when he rides that horse he always likes to put his riding gear on to do so. Thought your readers might be interested to read the story.

Thank you again for all the interesting information the newsletter gives.

Yours sincerely

Joyce Alchin.

(the poem is re-printed below. Thank you for your permission to also re-print this letter Joyce.)

The Jockey:

'I'd like to ride the track again', I heard him quietly say;
"I was a jockey once you know - seems only yesterday
When Matabeelie was my mount, to me a special mare,
She'd do what I would ask her, and often we were there
First flying past the winning post, my hands upon the rein
And standing in the saddle, yes, I see it all so plain;
Remembering the old bush tracks, the challenge, dust and sweat -
Were very different then, but still I've no regret.

I need my colours from back then, they must be blue and white
With trousers and a cap, both blue, and just make it right
A brand new pair of riding boots that come up to the knee -
How smart I'll look in all this gear, and none more proud than me.
I wouldn't ride the city tracks - that seems a bit too tough -
But go to Young and Coolmon, and if that's not enough
I'll try at Cootamundra and perhaps up Tumut way,
Then take the horses further west to Hilston and to Hay.

So clear my visions seem to me, I feel the tension too,
Excitement as my horse comes home with just an inch or two
Between me and the horse behind - I hear the laboured breath
As though a battle has been fought right to the very death.
And then the crowd, they barrack hard; of course they've placed a bet,
I have to go and ride again, my life of old reclaim -
I'll count on you to give me help to get back in the game.'

We soon collected all the gear, that wasn't hard to do,
But how to organize the rest, to help this dream come true?
The stock horse that he sometimes rides had somehow in his mind
Become a champion thoroughbred, and Gem and he combined
Would try Broadmeadow for a start, see how they pulled up there
Before a venture further on - we knew we didn't dare
Tell him his thinking was all wrong, that he would have to stay
At home wrapped up in cotton wool, for he had had his day.

We threw him on the gelding bay - he sits a horse so well -
And took him to the camp-draft ring, was easy there to tell
He'd slipped back many many years, a blend of then and here
With brand new bridle, jockey's pad and all his riding gear.
He rode around and round that ring, his horse and he as one:
A walk a trot, a canter too, till energy was gone.
It didn't seem to matter that his Gem was not the horse
That had a racing pedigree, the track a real racecourse.

He surely found a dream fulfilled, we saw a man content
For he had married life just then with times that he had spent
As but a boy, a passion, burning deep within his heart
Reality and dreams confused, yet we had played a part
Of satisfying this old man, near ninety years of age
Who'd added to a lifetime walk, another special page.
And as he dwells in memory lane it's certain he'll still find
A number of great horses there, all of the racing kind.

© Joyce Alchin 2001

NSW Bush Poetry Championships - TUMUT (Results)

Ladies Performance:

Original * 1st - Kathy Edwards. 2nd - Carol Reffold.
3rd - Gabby Calquhoun. 4th - Hope Galvan.

Traditional * 1st - Carol Reffold. 2nd - Betty Walton.
3rd - Gabby Calquhoun. 4th - Hope Galvan. 5th - Kristy Offner.

NSW Performance Championship * 1st - Carol Reffold.
2nd - Betty Walton. 3rd - Gabby Calquhoun. 4th - Hope Galvan

Mens' Performance:

Original * 1st - Lance Parker. 2nd - Ted Webber. 3rd -
Dennis Carstairs. 4th - Bob Skelton. 5th - Rod Williams.

Traditional * 1st Rob Williams. 2nd - Dennis Carstairs.
3rd - Graeme Johnson. 4th - Jim Weatherston. 5th - Bill Lasham.

NSW Performance Championship * 1st - Rod Williams.
2nd - Dennis Carstairs. 3rd - Ted Webber. 4th - Lance Parker. 5th - Graeme Johnson.

Other Performances:

Yarn-spinning * 1st - Bob Skelton. 2nd - Lance Parker.
3rd - Rod Williams. 4th - Ellis Campbell. 5th - Betty Walton.

Best Country Singer * 1st - John Memery. 2nd - Rod Williams. 3rd - Lance Parker.

All Rounder Champs * 1st - Carol Reffold. 2nd - Kathy Edwards. 3rd - Hope Galvan. 4th - Gabby Calquhoun. 1st - Ellis Campbell. 2nd - Ted Webber. 3rd - Bob Skelton. 4th - Lance Parker. 5th - Rod Williams.

Written Championships:

Men's Serious * 1st - Ellis Campbell 'The Gambling Man.'

2nd - Rod Williams 'Gordon, Lawson & Me.'

Men's Humorous * 1st - Ken Dean. 2nd - Ron Stevens.

Ladies serious * 1st - Joyce Alchin. 2nd - Hope Galvan.
Ladies Humorous * 1st - Veronica Weal. 2nd - Barbara Snell.

Book * 1st - Rod Williams. 2nd - Bob Magor.

Men's Championship * (Poem section 1 & 2). 1st - Ellis Campbell. 2nd - Rod Williams.

Ladies Championship * (Poem section 3 & 4) 1st -
Veronica Weal. 2nd - Maxine Ireland.

EARLY MORNING RIDE

I awake with drowsy yawning to the tang of dewy dawning
and invigorating rapture that is scent of morning air.
I anticipate the pleasure of some hours spent at leisure
riding far across the paddocks on my stock-horse Quarter Fare.

Hear our eager horses stamping - on their bridle-bits they're champing
as the saddle-cloths are straightened and the girths are pulled up tight.
Then they step out briskly snorting, cross the dry creek - both cavorting
and begin the morning's canter through a scene of pure delight.

Westward rolling wooded ranges, stark display that never changes
till the distant skyline's smudges merge with morning's drifting cloud.
To the eastwards far horizon rugged bluffs to feast your eyes on
rise amidst the blue of distance with their lofty peaks unbowed.

Far to northward grey plains shimmer where a wool-shed's roof-top's glimmer
catches early sun caressing corrugated iron's dome.
Nature's beauty undemanding, kangaroos like statues standing
blend with grasses dried and endless, and the cheerless greyish loam.

Quarter Fare, my chestnut gelding, with the morning's sunshine melding -
striding briskly now beneath me as we climb the grassy slope.
On the patient sorrel filly rides my city cousin Millie
with a concentrated effort and a prayer that she might cope.

Water springs from nature's fountain - where we verge toward the mountain
and its sparkling sheen of blueness trickles through the filtered sand.
High above are cliffs protruding, with their black rocks starkly brooding,
where the stunted vegetation in defiance makes its stand.

On the cliff-top's jugged ledges, near precipitated edges,
like a statue clothed in blackness stands a massive Wallaroo.
Silhouetted shadows fleeting where dark gorges masks are meeting
with the filtered sunbeams peeping to an iridescent view.

Callous crows insistent cawing and majestic eagle soaring
come reminding me that harshness plays a part in nature's plan.
Fading speck above - suspended - sea of nothingness transcended
motionless against a distant sky the eagle's fierce eyes scan.

Ironbark, gum, belar and wattle - stringy-bark and grey box mottle
frowning mountain's stony edges, strung in rank profusion's blend.
Sally-bush and blue-bell swaying - somewhere near a lone fox baying
stoic world of untouched beauty only bushmen comprehend.

Cockatoos rise swerving - screeching - from a dead tree's branches bleaching;
while their chatter echoes shrilly and formation swamps the sun.
Pink galahs in lesser number, strutting earth of burnt-brown umber,
nonchalantly flit - indignant - our unwelcome presence shun.

Fractured fence of wire netting spoils a perfect bush land setting,
where from grass-lands to the mountain native animals commute.
Well-worn tracks to shelters leading through the undergrowth preceding
rocky havens strewn through gorges and refuges absolute.

Skirting past the hanging boulders, now with foam upon their shoulders,
panting horses prick their ears and head for home with lengthened stride.
And I hope tomorrow morning, shortly after day-light's dawning,
darling cousin Millie Marchant will request another ride.

Ellis Campbell ©

The winning poem from the Man from Snowy River Festival written section:

To All Members:

Please note that I have bought the "Deadline"
date forward by a couple of days. This is so I
can get the copy to the printers on the 20th.
Now this should not be a problem, just get
your contributions to me a day or so earlier.
Simple as that.

BUT - if you wait until the 14 - 15th to send it
to me - then it may get in - it may not.

**Please note - I will not , "remove" someone
else's article just to fit someone in who is late
in sending in their contribution - even if they
are a regular contributor.**

"IT WILL BE FIRST IN FIRST SERVED".

So if you are - or you want to be a regular
contributor, get your copy to me early in the
month.

All articles can be emailed to me at
bbliss@hotmail.net.au or posted to **P O Box
5208 MANLY Q 4179.**

Emailed contributions, I would prefer it to be
in 'Publisher' not 'Word', but if **Word** is all
you have, then you are more than welcome to
send it in that format.

For those who would like their newsletter sent
to them via email, you will need to have
'**Publisher 2000**' to be able to open it. (*forgot
to mention that in the last issue*).

Regards: Editor.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in the hope that you can help me to find
the words to the poem "Grandma's Will".

A friend recited lines from somewhere in the poem,
but that was all she could help with. I do not have
the name of who wrote the poem and have lost the
few lines I had - so I am not getting very far.

If any member could give me/send me/ sell me a
copy of the words to "Grandma's Will" I would be
very appreciative.

Yours sincerely
Bruce Reineker
11 Apsley Street
CASINO NSW 2470

Regular Monthly Events

If you are passin' by - call in and say gidday.....

Queensland:

- 1st Mon Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Margaret Street, TOOWOOMBA. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106 - (cancelled).
1st Thurs Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel, MAPLETON 8.30 - 11.00pm Poetry & Music Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
1st Sat Poets & Musicians @ Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
1st Sun & 3rd Sun North Pine Bush Poets. North Pine Country Markets, 9.00am @ Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Dampier. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
2nd Thurs & 4th Thurs Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall. GYMPIE. 7.00pm. Phil Morrison, 07 5486 1171
2nd Sat Bundeburg Poets Society Inc. Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631
Every Wed Writers in Townsville. 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Drive, THURINGOWA. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
Every Wed Matilda Country Caravan Park, WINTON, evenings 'Pinki & her Pee Wee Poets.
1st & 3rd Wed Kilcoy Unplugged, 7.00pm. Kilcoy Gardens Restaurant. Gold Coin Entry. Graham 07 5497 1045
1st Friday every month. 7.00pm. "The Point of View Café" Main Road Wellington Point. Rob 0419 786 269

New South Wales:

- 1st Tues Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. 7.00pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
1st Thurs North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30pm Cornucopia Café. (Grounds Old Gladesville Hospital - off Punt Rd-follow signs). Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
1st Sun Poet's in the Making. 12 - 4.00pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula St, Casula. David Price 02 9825 0402
2nd Mon Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba. Parakeet Café @ 7.00pm. Katoomba St, Katoomba. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
2nd Tues Hunter Bush Poets. 7.00pm, Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
2nd Wed Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets, 7.00pm, April, June, August, October. Murray 02 6657 2139
2nd Thurs Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp. 8.00pm, unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067
2nd Fri The Monaro Leisure Club, 7.00pm, Vale St Cooma. Bush Poetry & Country Music. Elaine 02 6454 3128
2nd Sat Poets in the Club. Urunga Golf Club, 1 - 4.00pm, 12 May, 14 July, 13 Oct. Maureen 02 6568 5269
2nd Sun "Interludes" Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield. Joyce Dempsey 02 9797 7575
3rd Thurs Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers. 7.30pm, "The Hideaway" Davison Ln, Picton. Liz 02 4677 2044. Vince 02 4684 1704
3rd Fri Junee Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317
4th Tues Poet's in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. John Walker 02 6555 8122
4th Wed Inverell Wednesday Writers, 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
4th Thurs Queanbeyan Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891
2nd last Mon The Mid-Coast Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389 for details of venue each month
Last Tues Spaghetti Poetry Group. Gee Wong Restaurant, 197 Mann St Gosford. Dinner @ 6.30pm. Poetry @ 7.30pm. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
Last Thurs Writers on the River, 7.00pm, Caddies Coffee Shop, 2 - 3 Castlereagh St Penrith. Brian Bell 02 4739 2219
Last Fri Kangaroo Valley Folk Music Club. Bush Poets welcome. Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
Last Sat Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4.00pm. J Bray 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Park 2264
Every 2nd Fri-Pheasants Hut Folk Club. Bundeena. Yuri 02 9527 0955 or 0419 412 093
Monthly Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers. Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
Every 2 months on 2nd Sat Cornucopia Café, Poets & Folkies Get together. Old Gladesville Hospital Grounds, Punt Rd. Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690 or Graeme 02 9874 7653
Every 3 months-Poetic Folk, 24 Finisterre Ave Whalan 2770. "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

Victoria

- 1st Mon Kyabram & District Bush Verse Gr, every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30pm. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
6 weekly, Thurs Gippsland Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

South Australia

- 3rd Wed South Australian Bush Poets. 7.30pm, Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga. Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788
Last Tues Whyalla Writers Group. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

Western Australia

- 1st Fri WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30pm, Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Rusty Christensen 08 9364 4491

The Cedar Getters.

Cool crystal water's falling, a wonga pigeon's calling,
To his bashful mate, deep beyond the spur.
Forest floors lie matted, debris, madly scattered,
Adorns the bower where lyre-birds confer.
The air hangs dank and reeking, buttressed shafts rise seeking
The sunlight's smile, as eastern breezes play,
Bronze kissed leaves nod gleaming, red cedars, proudly scheming
Now mark their place in bush-land's vast display!

Dappled columns rising, (the forest floor despising.)
A hundred feet before they shoot a limb,
Bark sculpted rough and scaly, white blossoms flowers gaily.
Combining in a sacred forest hymn,
Five hundred years in growing, the constant seasons' flowing,
Have moulded these proud trees to daunting size,
Their heartwood's scarlet treasure, grants riches without measure
To those who dare to seize the forest's prize.

Through humid scrub they're tramping, by laughing creeks they're
camping,
Hard bushmen in a search for blood red gold,
Bearded faces battered, work clothes worn and tattered,
Their crude hits line the clearings dark and cold.
Harsh files on saw teeth droning, sharp axe blades yield to honing
A quart-pot simmers slowly on the fire,
An old pipe's gently glowing, the rich red rum's a' flowing
Through dreams, that only cedar can inspire.

Blush kissed mists of morning on mountain slopes are spawning
The tracks that guide the axe-men on their way,
Tall ancient trees they're marking, polished axe blades sparking
As they're hurled again, deep into the fray.
In blood red flesh they're biting, at each stroke sound's inciting
Stunned silence, as a forest holds it's breath -
The virgin bush despairing meets man and axe uncaring,
An encounter that always ends in death.

Rich claret chips are flying, as the cruel axe they're plying
To rhythms of a mystic sacrifice,
Hard knotted muscles straining, as blow on blows are raining,
The scarlet scarf displays it's fierce device.
The constant flowing action, a passive proud reaction,
Rings fire and sweat from aching, throbbing backs.
Strong arms and legs are burning, as hearts and lungs are yearning,
For the stroke that will end those mad attacks.

Mid-year Sale:

Special Offer to Members:

\$10.00 - (including postage) gets you 4 copies of back issues
of the Annual. We have stocks of the 3rd - 4th - 5th & 6th
issues, so why not snap up a bargain.

Offer closes 30.09.01

Contact the Treasurer.....

The forests mammoth's swaying, as gravity 's betraying
Its massive power, it's haughty regal might,
As axe and wedge are straining, well aimed strokes are raining,
A bush-mans skill has won another fight,
Twisted screams contorted, his majesty distorted,
A cedar prince falls slowly from his throne.
Helpless bush lies shattered, scrub and vines are scattered,
A lofty forest lord is overthrown.

Sharp cross-cut saws are biting, blushed kissed timber smiting,
Huge cedars reduced to slavish size.
Strong iron chains are hauling, the bullock teams are bawling,
Green-hide thongs the laboured flanks chastised,
With constant endless toiling, a valley's soul despoiling,
They fight through mud and ever-steeper grades,
The forest's pride's eroded, as weeping loads are goaded
To saw-pits and their waiting steel blades.

With maul and wedge their riving, muscled arms are driving
As shining saw teeth sing along their line,
The under-dog is stroking, in russet dust he's choking -
Red cedar yields to man and his design.
Perfumed dust is ceding, it's rich aroma's speeding
Their dancing strokes in timbers proud ballet,
Figured flitches falling, the ruby heartwood's calling
Five hundred years of colour to display

A long hard day has ended, the laughing creek has blended
Her gentle song, to evening's fading light.
A campfire, warm and gleaming, charms weary minds to dreaming
Of distant loved ones, far beyond the night.
Of cedar proudly glowing, it's lustrous beauty showing
Elegance, and figured patterns bold.
This vision ever speaking still drives their endless seeking,
The cedar getter's search for blood red gold.

© Ken Dean 2001 - winner of the written section (over 18 years old) of the
Charters Towers Festival of Australia Competition - 2001.

A Little Bird Told Me !

Is that a rumour that is going around the circuit. I think I
heard that someone who recently won a substantial amount
of cash in a poetry competition went out and got married?

Is that true ??????????

Australian Bush Poets Association,

is calling for expressions of interest, in writing, from
clubs or groups for the organising and hold of the

2002 Australian Bush Poetry Championships.

Separate expressions of interest are also call for the

2003 Australian Bush Poetry Championships.

*Please apply before 31st July 2001 to
The Secretary, ABPA Inc
P O Box 77
Drayton North Qld 4350*

5th December 1999

The Editor
ABPA
FAX: 07 3849 5844

Dear Jennifer,

I hope that another edition of the magazine will be issued before the festival in Tamworth in January, because every item related to both our competitions was listed incorrectly in your "Tamworth 2000 Happenings".

The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition at the Imperial Hotel begins each day (i.e. Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th, and Friday 28th) at 9.30a.m. (not 11.30).

On Saturday 29th the Presentation of the Blackened Billy Awards is made BEFORE the Finals of the Bush Poetry Competition at 11.15a.m.. The Finals begin at 11.30a.m.

I hope that these errors can be amended before the next edition of the magazine.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Morris,
Secretary.

5th December 1999

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Jan Morris,
Secretary.

Where's the limit?

People whose opinion I respect have said that our association has reached its peak. Perhaps it has. Our membership grew to around 500 at the close of last year and, if the average rate of applications coming in continues, then we will finish at a bit below last year's peak. That is good and tends to prove the forecast. But should we rest on our laurels and meekly accept that? Or should we push ourselves a bit? Should we really be asking, "Has it reached its peak?" Should we use that question as an inbuilt challenging foundation stone to build on?

I know we have come along way from our beginnings, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our founding members for their foresight, hard work, and tenacity in building what we now take for granted. To me the best way to pay our debt of gratitude is to continue building on what they started. Of course we've grown - and grown well. But there are many non-members among established poets whose membership we would value. Why aren't they members? Have we ever asked them to join? Are they ex-members who have found us lacking? Have they resigned in protest on some important issue?

We need to find the answers to these and other questions. I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, the best way to find these answers is to ask. Surely, at first anyway, it's as simple as that - ask. Just ask for their membership. Advise them of the benefits of membership and what they can contribute to our art form by joining. Ask - "what's the problem?" And **listen to the answer** if there is one. Perhaps we can solve it. Perhaps we can't. But if we know what it is we can at least try.

I know I'm a dreamer. I think most of us are. I like to look at things the way they can be and challenge myself with the question "Why not?" Of course, we dreamers can get carried away and before we know it we're guilty of the syndrome known as "pie in the sky". We can easily build grand schemes without any practical foundations.

But, then again, look at all the impossible things dreamers have given the world. We live in a world even Jules Verne would never have dreamed of. I believe all achievements great and small are born in dreams. To me **dreams are the genesis of goals and goals are the milestones of achievements**. So permit me to present my dreams for this committee.

To exceed a membership of 600 members by 31st December 2001

Is that too high for us to achieve? I don't think so. I'm sure we can comfortably exceed it without trying all that hard. Who knows how much we can exceed it by if we all work at it. Have you noticed that every Newsletter has an application form? Feel free to copy it and give it to a mate or anyone who shows an interest in what we do. If you want a bundle of application forms, just ask. We'll be happy to send them. If everyone recruited just one member next month we'd exceed our goal. Is that too simplistic? Yes, of course it is, but you know something; it's not, if we're determined to make it work. So my challenge to you is

BE A MATE - RECRUIT A MATE

So to answer the question I started with, "Where's the limit?" I haven't got a clue! I refuse to set one.

Wally (The Bear) Finch.

The Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival - by Marie Hensley

The weekend was a great success despite the rain that came along on Saturday.

The Yarnspinning on Friday night was a very enjoyable evening of entertainment with Arch Bishop as MC. Arch was assisted by a merry band of visiting poets as well as our famous poet guest for the weekend - Milton Taylor. Everyone that came enjoyed the relaxed casual atmosphere of the Royal Hotel beer garden/ gazebo where people could sit around and listen to the poets do what they do best and enjoy a steak sandwich from the Lions Club BBQ.

The workshops went ahead with twelve people participating at the Dunedoo Bowling Club with the first workshop being on writing poetry and the afternoon workshop on performance. The people attending the workshops said they gained a lot from them and Milton Taylor said that he was very pleased with the results and exclaimed that we have some talented poets in our midst.

The Great Dunny Classic Bush Poetry Festival was exceptional as we had many impressive competitors for the competition. The standard was very high this year making everyone work hard for their prize money. The Mid-North Coast was represented this year with three outstanding poets who came along to show us what they are made of. **Phillip Maiden** was a very popular performer coming away with the prestigious '**Great Dunny Classic**' Trophy for overall best performance. Other awards on the night went to **Ellis Campbell, Reid Begg, Ron Stevens, Ted Webber** and one of the most deserving of all - **Don Trindall** - who writes all his own poetry about his life experiences being a drover and stockman. A real hero and a true gentleman.

Many positive ideas have been brought forward concerning next year's Bush Poetry Weekend. We discussed ways to establish it as a Festival that will go from strength to strength and become a major event for the town and district. Next year we will be including a Written Section so everyone has an opportunity to compete. We will be looking for more sponsorship - sponsors for the Workshops, The Great Dunny Classic and the Yarnspinning.

A wonderfully successful weekend of Bush Poetry and Yarnspinning and next year's festival is already looking to be bigger, bolder and better than this year's.

The weekend will now be held on the last weekend in March - 29th - 31st 2002. So everyone needs to keep that weekend free so they don't miss the **2002 Bush Poetry Festival at Dunedoo**.

Golden City Bush Poets - Charters Towers: 2001

Festival of Australia Bush Poetry competition Results.

Written - Under 14 * 1st - Rebecca Blackman. 2nd - Rebecca Blackman. 3rd - Hayley Miller.

Written 14 to under 18 * 1st - Even Schnalle. 2nd - Cody Harrod. 3rd (equal) - Corinne Whitman & Cody Harrod

Written 18 years & over * 1st - Ken Dean. 2nd - Milton Taylor. 3rd - Tom Oliver.

Performance own choice 14 - 18 years old * 1st - Corinne Whitman.

Performance own choice 18 years & over * Tom Mauloni. 2nd - Ken Knuth. 3rd - Melanie Hall.

Performance Original under 14 years * Hayley Miller

Performance Original 14 - 18 years old * 1st - Corinne Whitman.

Performance Original 18 years & over * 1st - Ken Knuth. 2nd - Tom Oliver. 3rd - Jock Allingham.

Performance Humorous under 18 years * Corinne Whitman.

Performance Humorous 18 years & over * 1st - Melanie Hall. 2nd - Tom Oliver. 3rd - Ken Knuth.

Bush Poets At The EKKA

The Australian Bush Poets have again been invited to perform at the EKKA.

The Brisbane Royal Show and Exhibition, (alias "The EKKA"), is held each year in August.

The Bush Poets have been performing for the past three years in the wool pavilion to enthusiastic audiences. We have been invited again this year and I am asking for any interested Poets to please contact me. Once I receive the days and times, I shall work out a roster - we will probably have 15 minute segments 5 or 6 times daily.

When are you available?? Thursday 9th August - Saturday 18th August.

**Please contact:
Trisha Anderson
113 Manson Road,
Hendra Qld 4011
or Fax 07 3268 3624**

Join the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc was formed at a meeting in January 1994 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The purposes of the Association are to: * Foster the publication of a newsletter on a monthly basis to keep members informed of coming events and past results. * Promote bush poetry as an art form in the entertainment field, both in the spoken form and as published verse. * Encourage competitions, both written and spoken.

Please complete the form below and send with payment to the ABPA Secretary.

Membership Application Form: I wish to become a member of the ABPA Inc. Please use block letters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Signature: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ Cheque/Cash/other _____

Membership fee \$25.00 Single, family or club member. Juniors \$10.00 (Students to year 12). New members joining after July 01, \$13.00 to end of December. Those who have not been a member previously, may join after October 01 and receive up to 15 months membership for the first years subscription of \$25.00 Financial year is January to December.

The Product Shelf:

Product Shelf Advertisements: \$5.00 for Two Monthly Newsletter Spots:

How good a bargain is that?

'Straight to the Heart' & 'Closer to the Heart'

Two books of poetry from Brian Gale.
Self published by Margaret River Printers.
\$10 each or 2 for \$18, postage paid.

Brian also has three tapes which include almost his
entire work over 15 years.

\$10 each or set of three for \$25, postage paid.

Contact Brian Gale - 25 Georgette Drive
Margaret River. WA 6285

Finalist - Australian Bush Laureate Album of the Year 2001

"Australian Bush Poetry"

with Trish Anderson.

Cassette - \$15.00 - Postage - \$2.50

Contact Trish Anderson - 113 Manson Road -
Hendra - Brisbane Q
Telephone/fax 07 3268 3624

N.S.W Bush Poetry Championships. April 2001 Book of Bush Verse. (First Place).

Travel the Red Road

by Roderick Williams.

Book \$15 + \$1.20 postage.

Compilation Cassette - 'Rod and Jessie' 40 minutes
of variety \$15 + \$2 postage.

Book & Cassette - \$30 including postage.

**Roderick Williams,
40 Templeton Lane.**

Oxley Island N.S.W 2430.

Telephone/fax 02 6553 2565

"Beyond the Gate"

Poems from a women's heart.

Jan Lewis CD - \$25.00 posted anywhere in
Australia.

email address: poetfarm@corryong.albury.

"Palma Rosa Poets Live"

Double CD.

Featuring 15 Poets and Singer/Songwriter Mark Tempny.

Cost is \$30.00 - per double CD plus \$3.50 postage. A total
of \$33.50.

Featured artists include; Trisha Anderson, Carmel
Dunn, Graham Fredriksen, Wally Finch, Bill Hay,
Anita Hendrie, George Lovejoy, Bobby Miller, Stuart
Nivison, Glenny Palmer, Robert Raftery, Anita Reed,
Noel Stallard, Ron Selby, Milton Taylor and Mark
Tempny.

Available through the English Speaking Union - 9 Queens
Road - Hamilton - Brisbane Q 4007 or P O Box 1 -
Lutwyche Q 4030.

The money raised from the sale of this great double CD
goes towards the ongoing upkeep and restoration of the
beautiful "Palma Rosa", headquarters of the English
Speaking Union, at Hamilton in Brisbane.

Oil up your thinkin' parts & getcha pen
workin!

**North Pine Bush Poet's Camp Oven Award
2001 for written Verse.**

Must be Bush Verse and a maximum length of 120 lines.

Open Competition - 1st -, Trophy & \$300: 2nd - \$150:
3rd - \$75:

Junior Competition-(13-16 years old), 1st - \$50: (9-12
years old), 1st - \$25: (8 years & under), 1st - \$10:

Entry fee \$5.00 or three for \$10.00: Juniors free:

Entries close 15th July 2001

For enquiries or entry forms:

Contact the coordinator:

Mary Hodgson,

Diamond Valley Road, Mooloolah Qld 4553.

Telephone 07 5494 7260

The Curse of the Guinness.

St Patrick visited me
in a dream one night
He warned "Give up the Guinness Paddy"
Well I woke with a terrible fright

I got such a scare
And when I did awake
I ran as fast as I could
Down past Donegal Lake

Now I traveled for weeks
And dodged every bar
Then I met with this bloke
Called Michael O'Mara

Michael told the same story
He too had been warned by St Pat
"Give up the Guinness Michael
That's a good lad"

Now we've been wandering
For days on end
And if we put Guinness to our lips
We might well be dead

So we dodged every pub
From Limerick to Killarney
But if we don't get a Guinness
We'll go flamin' balmy

Well we prayed that St Patrick
Be looking elsewhere
And wouldn't see us
Sitting on a pub chair

It worked, so we thought
Our prayers were heard then
And as our glasses were filled
Was the curse of the Guinness put to an end?

Cos' on our way home
a cemetery we passed
And sitting on a headstone was St Patrick
With a full Guinness glass

He caught us so unawares
We made up this yarn
We said "We thought just one Guinness
Would do us no harm"

He knew we were lying
And we sobered up quick
When he yelled
"Your doomed to hell, to stoke fires with Nick"

Well sure we have the weakness
And must pay for our sin
But if we go to hell
Will we ever drink Guinness again

Cos' down there with Nick
They're burning bog peat
And you've got to drink the Guinness
To keep out the heat

And the dream that I dreamt
Michael and me both went to hell
But to our pleasant surprise - down there sipping the Guinness
Was St Patrick as well.

© Paddy O'Brien 2001

(The winning poem at Stanthorpe with an Irish theme)

Do you have a book to sell?

Are you about to publish and want to "spread" the word?

Then you need to place a couple of advert's in your newsletter.

Just \$5.00 for two months adverts is good value. If you've got something and you want to sell it - ya gotta tell the buyers.

Send your advert & money to the "Treasurer" and she will forward it to the editor.

Clan Tartan

"McClement & Son" said the sign on the door,
Not neon, 'cause neon would cost so much more
McClement & Son, and 'twas tartan they sold;
"A cloth for your clan in the pattern of old".

For years, the McClements were proud of their trade,
They claimed they match any pattern or shade.
They sold lots of cloth and their profits were great,
But I heard of a deal once that wasn't quite straight.

A Yank came to see them, cashed up to the hilt.
His family was Dunlop. He wanted a kilt
For each brother and cousin back home in the States
(and one or two spare, to impress all his mates).

Young McClement saw Dunlop was not in his book,
But if he missed this sale, then his Dad would go crook,
So he sold him a cloth he assured was his kin,
D as Dunlop walked out, old McClement walked in.

Saying "Hey! That was MacIntyre cloth that you sold,
But wasn't that Dunlop here spending his gold?"
The youngster said "Dad" as he opened two beers,
"those Dunlop's have been MacIntyres for years".

© Brian Bell

Bush Poetry Event - Woodford

The Woodford Lions Club will present a 1 - 1½ poetry event in Woodford on the third Sunday of each month commencing in May - 2001. This will coincide with the local markets. The aim is to promote and encourage both local and visiting talent in the field of Bush Poetry, as well as to bring further interest in the town of Woodford and its artistic and historical features.

The venue is **Shop # 1 - 95 Archer St, Woodford** - situated halfway between **Clews News-agency** and **Woodford Pharmacy** (so if the news makes you crook, grab some medicine and join the Poets for an even better cure - laughter!). Also in the same row of shops is **Jalla's Café** - where you will get some really good service for tea/coffee/cold drinks and U-beaut tucker.

The "**Lairs, Larrikins and Liar's Lunchtime Laughs & Laments**" (what a gob-full) will kick off at 10.30 am and conclude approximately 12.00 noon). Mark Feldman will host the event and will be joined by locals Pat Markey & Lance Reason, to present guest poets and encourage amateurs, veterans and young and old alike to participate in keeping this Aussie tradition alive and well.

For further information, please contact Mark Feldman on Phone/ Fax 07 5496 1157 or mobile 0407 625408

The Professional Wanderer

When you've knocked about the country - been away from home for years;
When the past, by distance softened, nearly fills your eyes with tears -
You are haunted oft, wherever or however you may roam,
By a fancy that you ought to go and see the folks at home.
You forget the family quarrels - little things that used to jar -
And now you think how they'll worry - how they wonder where you are;
You will think you serve them badly, and your own part you'll condemn,
And it strikes you that you'll surely be a novelty to them.
For your voice has somewhat altered, and your face has somewhat changed -
And your views on men and matters over wider fields have ranged.
Then it's time to save your money, or to watch it (how it goes!);
Then it's time to get a "Gladstone" and a decent suit of clothes,
Then it's time to practice daily with a hair-brush and a comb,
'Till you drop in unexpected on the folks and friends at home.

Henry Lawson

Yep - I've done it again.

For those members who read & criticise - each month we make a point of putting in few mistakes.

So - once again there are several hidden mistakes.

They could be spelling or grammar - but they are there - somewhere.. I think ?

Customhouse Bush Poetry Competition Goondiwindi

Saturday June 2nd - 2001

Trophy's awarded in all sections. Male & Female Open - Original - Novice - Junior & the fabulous Poet's Brawl.

Entry forms can get arranged by contacting:

John Pitt
83a Winton Street
Goondiwindi Q 4390

or telephone/fax 07 4671 1912

Millmerran Bush Poets Group.

The 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Group Round-up will take place on 31st August, 1st & 2nd September - 2001. The Yallabee Retirement Village, Millmerran will benefit from the proceeds.

The round-up will commence on Friday 31st at 7.00 pm a Bar B Q and Yarn-spinning competition at Blandy's Tavern, Millmerran. The cost of the nights entertainment is \$5.00 per head. This includes a steak burger. Entry into the competition is \$5.00 and there is a trophy plus \$100.00 for the winner. This part of the round-up is open to all-comers. You only have to be able to spin a good yarn.

Saturday 1st in the Millmerran Cultural Centre starting at 9.00 am. We will run the Novice & Intermediate categories in both Traditional & Original bush verse. The Duo competition will be followed by the Open Female heats & a lunch break, (sausage sizzle & drinks available). After the heats in the Original, Traditional & Humorous bush verse, the Open Male heats will commence.

Saturday at 7.00 pm at Blandy's Tavern, the Open Male heats will be completed and we will hold a State Of Origin show. . There is a \$5.00 entry fee for this for non-performers. There is no charge for the events being held in the Cultural Centre. On Sunday at 9.00 am at Blandy's Tavern we will hold the Poet's Breakfast which will be our normal hot meal for a cost of only \$5.00 per head. The Open Female and Male finals will follow. Last but not least will be the Poet's Brawl. The Round-up culminating with the trophy presentations. There will be cash prizes, trophies and certificates in the Open categories, Yarn-spinning and Over-All Champion. (who will be selected from the Open Competition).

Major sponsors this year include; **Blandy's Tavern, Millmerran Shire Council & Stan & Kate Gorton.** Feature Poets this year include Mark Feldman, Wally Finch, Gary Fogarty & Kev Barnes. There will not be a Junior performance competition this year but a written competition will be run instead. It will carry certificates and cash prizes for the three place-getters. Please book accommodation early. The Millmerran Hotel is booked out and there is no B & B. It has closed. The Millmerran Caravan Park has powered and un-powered sites, o'night vans & cabins. Call Dawn or Kev on 07 4695 1572. The Ram's Head Hotel, now under new management, has been cleaned up, doors fixed but again has only limited single & twin rooms. Call Ken or Margaret on 07 4695 1488. The Millmerran Village Caravan Park has SC cabins, o'night vans, powered & un-powered sites. Call Phill or Bernadette on 07 4695 1332. Blandy's is next to the Millmerran Village Caravan Park. Any enquiries call Kev Barnes on 07 4695 4209. See you at the Round-up.

What's goin' on 'round the traps!

New South East Brisbane Venue

On the first Friday of every month you can join in the poetry group at "The Point of View Café" at the point of - yes - Wellington Point. It is situated on Main Road Wellington Point and starts at 7.00pm.. If you need more information - call Rob Spence on 0419 786 269

Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Fest.

Fri. 30th June - Mon. 2nd July - 2001:

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Championships, Christina McPherson Novice Awards, Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships, Novelty Poetry Events & Concerts. This event is the highlight of the Queensland Bush Poetry Calendar and Winton puts on a great welcome for all comers. For more information contact: The Organiser: P O Box 84, Hughenden Qld 4821 :

Poetry in the Park

9th June - 10 am, Grenfell Memorial Park.

10th June, Poetry & Damper around the Campfire at Grenfell Henry Lawson Park from 9.30 am.

10th June - Poetry Evening at the Exchange Hotel from 7.30 pm. Free event - open to all participate (not a competition).

Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc:

Presents the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster on July 6th - 8th, 2001.

Competitions: Opens, Intermediates, Novices, Juniors and under 12's. N.B: Intermediate Category: Anyone who has not been placed 1st - 2nd or 3rd in any open competition or 1st in any intermediate competition. Closing date for performance competition entries is June 22nd, but late entries will be accepted on the week-end.

Entry forms available from:

Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc.,

P O Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670.

Enquiries: John & Sandy on 07 4151 4631

Australian Bush Poetry Championships

The QANTAS - WALTZING
MATILDA BUSH POETRY
CHAMPIONSHIPS being held in
WINTON will now also be the

"Australian Bush Poetry Championships"

Friday June 30th - Monday 2nd July 2001.
Please contact: The Organiser - P O Box 84
Hughenden Qld 4821: (Please send a S.A.S.E.)
or telephone 07 4741 5041:

North Pine Bush Poet's Camp Oven Award 2001 for written Verse.

Must be Bush Verse and a maximum length of 120 lines.
Open Competition - 1st Prize, Trophy & \$300: 2nd prize \$150: 3rd Prize \$75:

Junior Competition - (13 - 16 years old), 1st Prize \$50: (9 - 12 years old), 1st Prize \$25: (8 years & under), 1st Prize \$10: Entry fee \$5.00 or three for \$10.00: Juniors free: Entries close 15th July 2001.

Enquiries/ entry forms:

Contact the coordinator Mary Hodgson, 74
Diamond Valley Road, Mooloolah Qld 4553.
Telephone 07 5494 7260

Billy Mateer Award for Bush Poets.

The inaugural 'Billy Mateer' Award for bush verse will be held by the Brisbane Valley Historical Society. There are 3 sections & 3 prizes in each section. Senior 1st - \$100.00 * Secondary Students 1st - \$50.00 * Primary Students 1st - \$25.00:

Entries, which close on 30th June 2001 are available from;

The Secretary - Brisbane Valley Historical Society Inc
P O Box 92
Toogoolawah Q 4313

BRONZE SPUR AWARDS. CAMOOWEAL

The annual Festival staged by The Drovers Camp Association Inc will be held on 13th, 14th & 15th JULY 2001
For the Bronze Spur Award in both performance and written works

For more information contact :-

Mr Kelly Dixon
P.O. Box 24
CAMOOWEAL
QLD 4828

POETS BRUNCH & AUSSIE HUMOUR SHOW

PLUS Blackboard Concert

in conj. with Kempsey Country Music Festival
8.30 am - 12 midday, Sunday 9th September 2001
Moon River Motel, Pacific Hwy, Kempsey NSW

Feature Poet - Frank Daniel

Open Mike Session at Blackboard Concert
Admission \$11.00 - Bookings Preferred
Ring Gwen 02 6562 2937

DORRIGO MOUNTAIN TOP BUSH POETS ROUND UP

in conj. with Dorrigo Spring Festival
1 pm - 4 pm, Saturday 27th October 2001
Local and Visiting Poets Welcome

Feature Poet - To be Announced

Admission Gold Coin - Ring Murray 02 6657 2139

September 28th. Closing date of inaugural
'Gippsland Bush Poets' Australian verse written
competition.

To be run as part of the
'Gippsland Writers Festival'

'Gippsland Bush Poets' will be running a
Australian verse written competition as part of the
'Gippsland Writers Festival' To be held over the
weekend of October 27th & 28th Entries close Sep.
28th.

Sections are:

Open

Secondary students

Primary students

Weekend will include Poets Breakfast, a Poetry
workshop and Poets in the Pub on Sunday
afternoon. **Guest Poet - Neil McArthur**

For more information ring Dennis Carstairs
(03) 5145 6128 - email carstairs@i-o.net.au

Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival *August 17 - 18 & 19*

@ North Pine Country Park - Brisbane Qld.

Novice performers on the Friday night.

Youth & Open performances in Serious, Humorous and
Original on the Saturday & Sunday.

**Huge concert on Saturday Night featuring Marco Gliori,
Carmel Randall, Neil McArthur & Milton Taylor.**

*Applications from The Secretary P O Box 131 ARANA
HILLS QLD 4054*

Results of EULO

Held on Mothers Day Week-End

Open Written: 1st - Ellis Campbell.
2nd - Joyce Alchin.

Yarn-spinning: 1st - Barry Lake.

Open Serious/Modern Serious: 1st - Liz Ward.
2nd - Ron Selby.

**Open Traditional/
Modern Humorous:** 1st - Lee Miller
2nd - Ron Selby

Open Original Serious: 1st - Ron Selby.
2nd - Liz Ward.

Open Original Humorous: 1st - Allan Palmer.
2nd - Liz Ward

Dangerous Dan Award:

Primary Section: Jessica O'Connell.

Secondary Section: Nicholas Carn.

Encouragement award: Cathy Thompson.

Overall Dangerous Dan Award: Lee Miller.

Golden Nag-Dag Award: (biggest nagger). Doug Haig.

SOAPBOX

The Fellowship of Australian Writers Qld Inc

Article writing competition.

Closing date is September 30th - 2001

*Climb on your soapbox and write an article on any
theme to a maximum of 2000 words*

For an entry form, contact the editor.

Fellowship of Australian Writers Qld Inc.

Young Adult Poetry Competition.

*Entrants must be between 16 & 25 years old. Closing
date is 30th September.*

For an entry form - contact the Editor

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc
P O Box 5208
Manly Q 4179 March 2001
Print Post PP 242018/0013

Surface
mail



I have had a few letters from members asking "*why haven't we seen the results of such & such competitions*"
It's all very simple folks - if no one sends me the results - it is very hard to publish them - and it is impossible for me to telephone for them as there is at least one competition on every weekend. So that means one thing organisers, arrange for someone to send the results to the newsletter. (emailing them is the best way).

And - just as important - as we are limited to only 16 pages in each newsletter (until we can find a generous sponsor) I would ask that the articles about competitions be limited to a few comments and the results. There is no way that we can include a full page of comments about a particular competition weekend. I am sure that members who did not attend would like to know how it went, but the results are more important, and sometimes we do not have the room for much else.

Poets Calendar of Events and Competitions:

- June 2nd - Goondiwindi Custom House Champs - contact John 07 4671 1912
- June 9th - Poetry in the Park - Grenfell Memorial Park
- June 10th Poetry & Damper around the Campfire at Grenfell Henry Lawson Park
- 30th June - closing date for the Billy Mateer Award for Bush Poets.
- 6th July Bundy Muster. Performance & written. Tel - Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy/John 07 4151 4631
- 15th July - closing date for North Pines Camp Oven Competition. Telephone Mary 07 5494 7260
- 9th August - Bush Poets at the EKKA. Trisha Anderson telephone/fax 07 3268 3624
- 17th - 19th August - Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival - North Pine Country Park - BRISBANE
- 31st August - Millmerran Bush Poets Round-up - Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209
- 9th September - Blackboard Concert - Moon River Motel Pacific Highway - Kempsey NSW
- 28th September - Closing date of ' Gippsland Bush Poets' Australian Verse written competition.
- 27th October - Dorrigo Mountain Top Round-up - Contact Murray 02 66657 2139