

A.B.P.A.

**Australian Bush
Poets Association**

Volume 20 No. 4
August/September 2014

**Celebrating 20 Years
Of The A.B.P.A.**



*Past President & Editor, Frank Daniel
holds up the very first copy of the ABPA Magazine.*

BINALONG ARTS GROUP INC. PRESENTS

BINALONG BUSH POETRY PRIZE



Hosting the 2014 NSW Bush Poetry Championships

The program is designed for maximum enjoyment and to include poets at all ages and stages.

The festival opens on Friday 12 September at 7pm, and kicks off with novice and intermediate poetry competitions, and 'walk-ups'—for non-competitive poets and yarn-spinners.

The Saturday and Sunday programs include: Binalong Bush Poetry Prize competitions, which are weighted toward humour.

The program also includes, non-competitive activities such as music, time to relax and an opportunity to explore the township of Binalong.

Saturday night will feature our '*Celebrate Australia Concert*'.

The event has four competitive sections

- Written
- Open Performance: Classical, Modern, Original
- Intermediate and Novice Performance
- Junior Written and Performance

OVER \$5,500 IN PRIZE MONEY

Entry forms available at:

www.abpa.org.au or www.binalongartsgroup.org.au

E: robynsykespoet@gmail.com or P: 02 6227 4377

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES FRI 1 AUGUST, 2014.

POST TO: THE COMPETITION CO-ORDINATOR,

PO BOX 100 BINALONG NSW 2584.

(No late entries will be accepted)

12-14 SEPTEMBER

AUDIENCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 1 JUNE AT:

www.trybooking.com/EPKU

EDITORIAL



G'day and welcome to the August/September Edition of the ABPA Magazine. I have been sunning it up in Charters Towers for the Winter, far from the icicle laden pines of Victoria, NSW and Southern Queensland. It's a great time to entertain the travellers in Caravan Parks and take the 'word' out there to them. It's not a bad lifestyle and the Bush Poetry on offer around the country at this time of year is quite remarkable with the likes of Mel & Susie at Winton, Bob Pacey at Yepoon, and the likes of Graeme Rogers, Garry Lowe and many others at various Northern locations. A great time also to write in the peacefulness of the Great North, an immediate chance to test the new material on our Gypsying Guinea Pigs!

Elsewhere around Australia, our Competition Poets have been walking the stages of Bundaberg, and other Musters around the land, the results of which can be found in this magazine. And a big congratulations to the Bundaberg Poets for their professional and durable approach to their Muster (which next year will be marking it's 20th Anniversary) and the way they handled the Qld. Championships for 2014

It is also time to start getting organised for some big upcoming Festivals such as the Gympie National Music Muster, The Woodford Folk Festival, The Mildura Country Music Festival and before we know it - Tamworth! It is great to see Bush Poetry as an integral part of perhaps the four largest crowd pulling Music Festivals in Australia!

On the downside of things, it is sad to see so few of our members participating in both our Website Forums and submissions to this magazine. I would love to be publishing some of our members quality poetry, but for some reason the well dries up regularly and I am left struggling to fill the Magazine with quality content. Whether it has to do with self publishing of personal material, or rules of various Competitions, I know not, but it would be wonderful to have our readers exposed to more of the quality writings of our modern day Bush Poets. It would be sad to see an Association that has been so successful in reviving Bush Poetry in Australia in so many different ways and venues over the years suddenly start to wane from the lack of it's very essence - Bush Poetry!

The Forums on our website offer ways to participate in Writing Exercises (Thanks to Maureen Clifford), a chance to have our poetry critiqued, published, shared etc. and chances to chat, share yarns, publish Audio, find results, etc. etc. and yet so few people participate. Despite pushing the value and the enjoyment of our forums in all previous editions, the numbers of those participating has only been seen to dwindle.

So to all our ABPA members, I just ask - Please don't let the hard work of so many over 20 years fall to the hands of so few for the future. Lets get the fun back into our craft and lets Resurrect the Art of Sharing so all can enjoy the quality of Bush Poetry being produced today.

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is September 30th

Letter to the Editor

Bush Poetry Events in Tamworth

Dear Neil,

Bush poetry devotees can enjoy bush poetry from morning to night at Tamworth CMF, but how does a newcomer know how to join the fun?

The ABPA AGM in January suggested that an easy "Where to find bush poetry" sheet should be prepared and distributed, especially to the Tourist Information Centre. President Hal has asked me to compile such a sheet, but to do that I need your help.

First, let me make it clear this sheet is NOT in competition with the official gig guide. It is important that individual poets and event organisers continue to submit details of their performances to the official Country Music Festival program. It remains the responsibility of individuals and event organisers to do so.

Rather, this sheet is complementary to the official guide. It is to HIGHLIGHT the bush poetry information already in the official guide. It is to help newcomers identify the bush poetry listings among all the other events in the official guide.

I envisage the ABPA's Bush Poetry Events in Tamworth as a single A4 sheet listing venues and times, eg The Longyard, Sam Smyth's Bowling Club Poetry, The Rhymer's Roundup, The Golden Damper, St Edward's Hall. Please note that while there won't be space to list the individual poets performing at all these events, I do want to include events with just a few performers. I'm also hoping to have a map on the back with transport details.

So event organisers, please help me help tomorrow's bush poetry devotees. As well as sending your details to the official gig guide, would you please send them to me at robynsykespoet@gmail.com. You can also contact me through www.robynsykes.com. I would like to finalise the sheet by October so we can start spreading the word.

Yours in poetry,
Robyn Sykes

President's Report



Welcome to you all and especially to those new members who have joined us. We hope that you will each have a long and enjoyable association as part of the ABPA

Sadly, we must begin by joining in sympathy with the family and friends of one of our wonderful pioneering poets, Carmel Randle. A vale to Carmel is on page 6 of this magazine. Carmel was a true inspiration to us all and she will be dearly missed..

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

There are many ways in which the ABPA is going about introducing members to other members through both the Magazine and the Website. Since June, the Website has introduced a new feature poet each month and has also included a monthly 'thank you' to some of our wonderful co-ordinators who put so much time and energy into holding ABPA Championships and Bush Poetry Competitions. These events are run purely on a voluntary basis and these hard working members demonstrate the philosophy that they do not ask what the ABPA can do for them but what they can do for the ABPA.

ABPA COMPETITION PACKAGE

Competitions may not be for everyone but they are the heart of the Bush Poetry scene for many.

In response to members' requests, a complete 'ABPA Competition Package' is now available on the Website. This package has evolved from extensive work by previous ABPA Committees led by Frank Daniel and Noel Stallard, from input from many judges and members over many years, from upgrading by Graeme Johnson, Glenny Palmer and Greg North and from further extensive work by the current ABPA Committee and in particular by Greg, Graeme and Brenda Joy.

This package is primarily for use by organizers conducting ABPA National and State Bush Poetry Championships. However, whilst it is not feasible to expect all competition organizers to adopt all aspects of the guidelines and assessment procedures in the package, we would suggest that you take a look at the recommendations to see what can fit in with your needs, funding and time schedules. It has currently been shown that competitions which run basically in accord with the ABPA recommendations are the ones that are attracting the largest number of entrants. It is important for competitors to know the conditions under which they are being judged and the ultimate aim is to gain uniformity Australia wide. If you do not have access to the web you may request a copy of the package through the ABPA Secretary.

If you should need any assistance with any aspect of the package, please contact your State Delegate or a Committee member. We will support you in every way possible to help you to implement the procedures.

The package is subject to constant review, therefore all ideas and inputs from any organizers, clubs or individual members are welcome at any time.

MEMBERSHIP POTENTIAL

It is pertinent to recognize that our largest support system comes from the so-called 'grey nomad' population. This will always be the case. As age catches up with some of our supporters, so the lower end of the spectrum will be replenished each year as a new group of retirees emerges. It is when people leave the constrictions of study, family and the work force that they gain the time to explore other aspects of life.

At any given time there are 200,000 RV vehicles (i.e. caravans, motor homes, camper trailers) touring around Australia. That means there are around 400,000 (mostly retirees) looking for things to do and festivals to attend. With the tourist season well underway in Queensland and West Australia, many of our members are performing at travellers' venues and van parks and we are constantly looking at more ways in which we may share our wonderful craft through these and other outlets.

We have been distributing past issues of ABPA magazines to various caravanning and motor home clubs with a positive response. Penny Broun has enthusiastically accepted the role of 'ABPA Representative' at the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA), the largest of these organizations, which attracts 1,000 plus vehicles to each of its festivals.

We believe that this expanding 'market' is an area where we need to make inroads not just for the sake of the ABPA but for the sake of those 'fair dinkum' Australians who love our country as we do. Some are returning to recollections of Bush Poetry from their schooling days, others are discovering the genre for the very first time. Our aim is to bring more people to a greater appreciation of the beauty of rhyme and metre and to a greater awareness of the ability of bush poetry to preserve and to act as an ideal expression of our unique Australian way of life and of our cultural heritage. There is a saying that a country that rejects its cultural heritage is in danger of losing its soul.

ABPA Magazine Advertising Rates

Black and White Ads

Full page \$80

Half Page \$40

Quarter Page or less \$20

Full Colour Ads (Space limited)

Full Page \$200

Half Page \$100

Quarter Page or less \$60

Poets Calendar and Regular Events free (one or two lines only)

To help offset costs, articles regarding a festival or event would be appreciated if accompanied by a paid Ad.

Send all details in plain text or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au

All payments to be made within 14 days to
The Treasurer Greg North - 5 Dryandra Place
Linden NSW 2778

or via Direct Debit to ABPA Account
Comm. Bank BSB 064 433 Account No 1023 1528

Please put your name/club/invoice as reference so Treasurer can identify who the deposit is from.



**Find and Like our new
ABPA Facebook Page.**

Australian Bush Poets Association

Also find and join us on the World Wide Web

www.abpa.org.au

An apology from the Editor to the family and friends of the late Robert (Bob) Markwell for the spelling error of his surname in the June/July copy of the ABPA Magazine and hope that it did not cause any further stress to those who were so near and dear to him. An unacceptable spelling error and I do apologise sincerely for it going to print.

Neil McArthur ABPA Editor

ABPA Committee Members 2014

Executive:

President	-- Hal Pritchard	hal@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Graeme Johnson	therhymerfromryde@bigpond.com
Secretary	-- Brenda-Joy Pritchard	secretary@abpa.org.au
Treasurer	-- Gregory North	treasurer@abpa.org.au

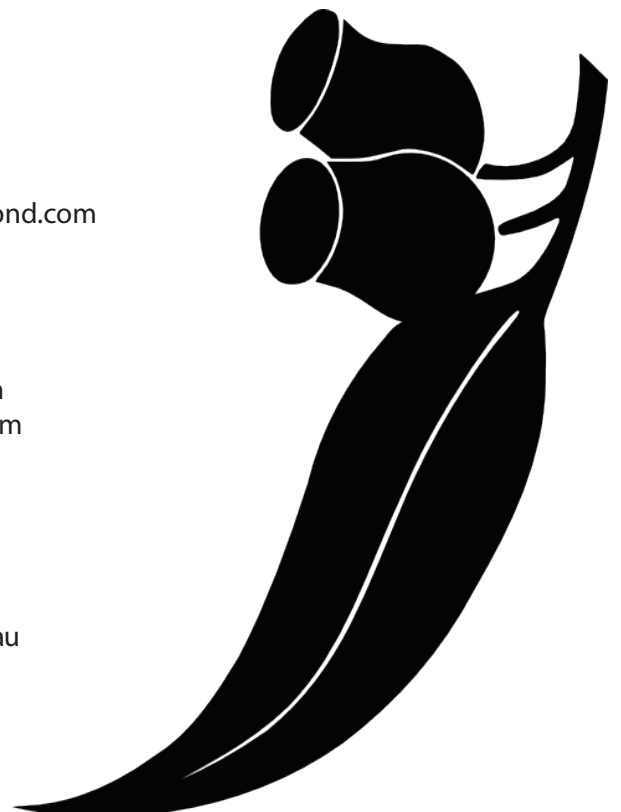
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...Carol Reffold		patchworkpoet@hotmail.com

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Web Administrator	-- Greg North	treasurer@abpa.org.au



Carmel Holly Enid Randle

1935 - 2014

Carmel Randle – winner of the 2007 Judith Hosier Australian Bush Laureate Heritage Award

Born and educated in Brisbane, CARMEL RANDLE spent most of her life in rural Queensland. Until retirement, she taught speech and drama, music and English, but she always found time to devote to her other great interest, rhymed poetry. Carmel travelled extensively throughout Australia performing poetry and appeared at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Nevada, USA, in 1999 and 2000.

Although she has published three books of her own work and won many awards for her writing, including an Australian Bush Laureate Award for Book of the Year in 1997 and the prestigious Bronze Swagman Award in 1996 and 1999, it is for her efforts to further the cause of bush verse that she receives this award today.

Carmel worked hard to establish the judging rules and categories for competitions and was a founding member of the Australian Bush Poets' Association. She has edited and produced three "Co-operative Books of Verse for Aussie Children" and her publication "Help" – a handbook for writers and performers of rhymed verse – is the only practical guide yet written for Australian bush poets. Carmel also worked tirelessly to establish the Australian National Bush Poetry titles and helped make Winton a centre of excellence for bush verse.



Rural Blues

© Carmel Randle

Hey, Mate! Are you an Aussie who's a Farmer?
Perhaps you harvest cotton? Milk a cow?
Do you grow spuds or pumpkins? Breed Racehorses?
Run a vineyard? Expert with a plough?

The seasons haven't done well by you lately!
A drought for seven years -- and then a flood!
It seems your life is governed by the weather --
It's dust and flies -- or else knee deep in mud!

The Dairy Industry's deregulated,
And diesel's costing you an arm and leg,
And when you need assistance from the Pollies
You have to go down on your knees and beg!

The future doesn't look bright for the Farmer.
The signs aren't good! Why don't you 'up and quit'
And join the Townies huddled in our cities --
Become 'Welfare Dependent' for a bit?

I'll tell you why you fight to stay there farming
Despite predictions filled with dire gloom!
Admit it, man! You're just a cock-eyed optimist
Who cannot stomach those who foretell gloom!

You watch a burning sun come up each morning,
Yet hope that one day -- soon -- will come the rain!
You plot your private battle with the weather
And lose -- yet still you try and try again!

The Land's now part and parcel of your make-up...
You witness miracles that Nature brings...
You see calves born, seeds grow, and watch crops ripen...
Rejoice when rainbow glows, or songbird sings....

To you, your job is more than just a business --
You're working WITH the land, and it with you,
So hang on to your vision of the future
And DON'T GIVE UP -- whatever else you do!

For good times MUST be just around the corner;
The bad times -- well, they've been here for so long!
It's the metal that's been tempered by a fire
That proves the most reliable and strong.

And you've been shaped in Mother Nature's furnace,
Beaten by the harshness of our Land,
Moulded by succession of bad seasons
In a way that City folk can't understand.

The Century has turned -- has turned right over,
Bringing us another hundred years --
A time of resolutions for the future;
A time for hope -- a time to quell our fears

So when the winds of change have once more blown,
And people recognise the farmer's worth,
And realise just how much they are dependent
On those who breed the stock, and till the Earth

The hardship of past years will be forgotten!
We'll cheer as your true colours are unfurled.
You'll BE there, at the forefront of our nation
Producing food to feed a hungry World.

Sometimes it seems rewards are long in coming.
Sometimes it seems there's nothing you can do,
But Mate, if you're an Aussie who's a FARMER,
Australia cannot prosper without YOU!

Each Morning, When I First Awake

© David Campbell

Winner 2014 Bundaberg Poets' Society Bush Lantern Award

Each morning, when I first awake,
with dawn's soft light about to break,
a glimmer,
just a shimmer
of a moment in the day,
he's still alive and lying here,
his gentle breathing very near,
revealing
how I'm feeling,
for he's never far away.

I struggle, sometimes, to explain
the way I can, through time, sustain
devotion,
for emotion
is a fragile state of mind.
And yet I seem to find the will
to carry on, to climb that hill
of grieving,
still believing
in the happiness I find.

I can't forget that dreadful night,
the howling wind, our frantic flight,
unseeing,
blindly fleeing
in a panic down the track
towards the bridge across the creek
that led to town, where we could seek
direction,
and protection,
for there'd be no turning back.

The cyclone's fury, now released,
exposed a savage, hungry beast,
a living,
unforgiving
monster crushing life and hope,
destroying all we'd worked to build,
a vision shattered, unfulfilled,
now broken,
just a token
of the storm's destructive scope.

A sudden flash of moonlight shone,
and showed, too late, the bridge had gone,
a raging,
wild, rampaging,
rushing torrent in its place.
Before we had the time to think
the car was sliding, on the brink,
then whirling,
madly swirling
in the water's fierce embrace.

My memory is far from clear,
though I recall the awful fear,
and screaming,
as if dreaming
in a nightmare straight from hell.
I felt his arms around my waist,
then heard him shout, in urgent haste,
commanding,
and demanding
in that voice I knew so well.

I must have fainted from the cold,
and yet, somehow, he kept his hold,
committed,
although pitted
against nature's awesome might,
to saving me from death's dark shade,
so faithful to the vows we'd made,
refusing
thoughts of losing
while he had the strength to fight.

They found us quite a way downstream,
and I awakened from my dream
to voices,
talk of choices,
and a siren's mournful wail.
I saw a face, then felt a hand,
but took some time to understand
revival
meant survival,
that my darling did not fail.

He had, they said, supported me
above the torrent, in a tree,
defying,
yet denying
any chance that he might live.
His heart could not withstand the strain,
he lost his life, but not in vain,
bestowing,
with his going,
all the love that he could give.

That thought is with me even now,
reminding me I must, somehow,
still treasure,
and take pleasure
in the years spent by his side.
I grieve, but yet he still lives on,
and will until the day I'm gone,
admiring
his inspiring
sacrifice with loving pride.



BUNDABERG POETS' SOCIETY INC.

19th BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER

incorporating

2014

Qld. Bush Poetry Performance Championships

On the week-end of July 4th, 5th & 6th the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. hosted another successful week-end of performance poetry competitions as well as the much anticipated Friday and Saturday night concerts in the Sails Function Room at Across the Waves Sports Club. Poets and visitors came from as far as Townsville in the north to several towns and cities in the south of our great country as well many from New South Wales.

Prior to the commencement of the week-end Greg North was able to do four school shows before the schools went on vacation. Greg also attended the Bundaberg Library where he entertained close to 40 children and parents with his storytelling and on the Thursday, July 3rd, he conducted a FREE poetry workshop which was attended by nineteen (19) poets.

Forty-six (46) poets took part in the Novice, Intermediate and Open categories plus the Duo competition, Yarn Spinning and One Minute Cup. Ten (10) children recited their favourite poems in the junior categories, two of which were only 4 years of age. These little ones are keen to recite their poems next year and one little one even asked if she could do two poems. In conjunction with the performance competitions the club also ran an Australia wide written poetry competition, namely the Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse, for three categories – Opens, Primary School students and Secondary School students. Also prior to the Muster week-end in conjunction with The Guardian and Dymocks Booksellers the club ran a poem competition with the theme being "Bundy". This created some interest amongst the locals.

The winner in the Open category of the Bush Lantern Award was David Campbell from Aireys Inlet NSW. The winner in the Primary School category was Charli Camenzuli from St. Williams School in Brisbane and the winner in the Secondary School category was Kirsten Buckholz from Bundaberg State High.

The Qld. Male Bush Poetry performance winner on the week-end after three days of competition was Ralph Scrivens from Corrimal in New South Wales and the Qld. Female Bush Poetry performance winner was Rhonda Tallnash from Violet Town in Victoria. Performers who competed in all three categories (traditional, modern and original) in the Open Section were the only ones eligible to win the overall trophies. At the completion of all three categories (men and women separately) these scores were tallied to determine who had gained the most points to be named Qld. Bush Poetry Performance Champions for 2014.

The Friday and Saturday night concerts once again proved very popular and entertainment with stand out performances by Greg North, Noel Stallard and Bob Magor. Two hundred & fifty (250) attended the concert on the Saturday night with most tickets sold prior to the commencement of the week-end's festivities. People were walking out after the concert saying "just terrific", "best night of entertainment", etc.

To finish off a fabulous week-end of poetry and friendship 50 poets, family members and friends made their way back to John & Sandy Lees' place for a sausage sizzle and chat.

A big thank-you to the competitors for their co-operation over the week-end which enabled the Muster to run smoothly.

At the conclusion of the presentation of trophies Club President, Edna Harvey, thanked all who attended to make the 2014 Bundy Bush Poetry Muster which this year incorporated the Qld. Bush Poetry Performance championships a wonderful success and hoped all enjoyed themselves and that we will catch up at some other festival down the track.

For the 2015 Bundy Bush Poetry Muster mark your calendars for July 3th, 4th & 5th with a free poetry workshop scheduled for Thursday, July 2nd.

Until we meet again happy poetry days.

Sandy Lees
Secretary/Muster Co-ordinator

Results on page 9 (Opposite)

2014 Bundy Muster & Qld. Championships Results



Overall Winners of The Queensland Championships
Rhonda Tallnash & Ralph Scrivens



The spoils were shared quite evenly as you can see from our happy and successful Bush Poets!

BUNDABERG POETS' SOCIETY INC.

2014 BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER incorporating QLD. BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Under 8 years

- 1st - Jocelyn Taylor .. Vegies
- 2nd - Rori Cowling .. Vegies
- 3rd - Hannah Smith .. Vegies

8 years to U/16 years

- 1st - Kirsten Buckholz .. I'm Just A Normal Kid
- 2nd - Alex Buckholz - Vince the Cat
- 3rd - Reece Buckholz .. Don't Play With Your Food

Col Shiels Memorial Encouragement Award:

Heidi Smith ..Vegies

Novice Traditional

- 1st - Tom McIlveen ..Doreen
- 2nd - Shelley Hansen .. Why The Jackass Laughs
- 3rd - Maureen Luke .. Song of the Shingle Splitters

Novice Modern

- 1st - Maureen Luke .. Just A Common Soldier
- 2nd - Tom McIlveen .. A Father's Prayer
- 3rd - Rod Hansen .. The Quest

Novice Original

- 1st - Shelley Hansen ..The Jumbuck Drama Club
- 2nd - Maureen Luke .. Caravans
- 3rd - Trevor Stewart .. Springtime In My Childhood

Intermediate Traditional

- 1st - Del Luke .. St. Peter
- 2nd - John Pampling .. My Country
- 3rd - Dot Church .. Lost

Intermediate Modern

- 1st - Del Luke .. The Children of the West
- 2nd - Trevor Stewart .. The Cattle Dog's Revenge
- 3rd - John Pampling .. Down Boy

Intermediate Original

- 1st - Dot Church.. If Only I Had Known
- 2nd John Pampling .. Shopping Daze
- 3rd Del Luke .. Walk In My Shoes

Duo Performance

Barry & Cay Ellem .. The Pontiff's Eyes

Yarn Spinning

Rhonda Tallnash

One Minute Cup

Mal Beveridge .. Down the Creek with Aunty

Open Traditional – Men

- 1st - Maurie Foun.. Flames
- 2nd - Ralph Scrivens .. In The Droving Days
- 3rd - Barry Ellem .. Why Doherty Died

Open Traditional – Women

- 1st - Jennifer Haig .. Taking His Chance
- 2nd - Pam Fox .. The Grimble and the Nad
- 3rd - Rhonda Tallnash .. Wheat

Open Modern – Men

- 1st - Ralph Scrivens .. Turbulence
- 2nd - Barry Tiffen .. I'm Sorry Laurie
- 3rd - Maurie Foun .. And The Band Played Waltzing Matilda

Open Modern – Women

- 1st - Rhonda Tallnash .. Swingers
- 2nd - Jennifer Haig .. Mrs. Joseph Brown
- 3rd - Pam Fox .. Ballad of Peddling Pete

Open Original – Men

- 1st - Barry Tiffen .. Tell Him He's Dreaming
- 2nd - Ralph Scrivens .. Along the Road
- 3rd - Lynden Baxter.. A Soldier's Song

Open Original - Women

- 1st - Rhonda Tallnash .. The 3.00 a.m. Demise
- 2nd - Sue Pearce .. Love You Daddy
- 3rd - Jennifer Haig .. Diamonds in the Dust

BUSH LANTERN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2014

- 1st.. David Campbell – Each Morning, When I First Awake
- 2nd.. Tom McIlveen - The Stringy Bark Butcher
- 3rd.. Jim Kennedy – One Silent Night
- HC.. Jan Facey – I Am Your Campfire
- HC.. Doug Hutcheson – Morning Parade
- HC.. Tom McIlveen – Eugene

BUSH LANTERN AWARD 2014 - SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 1st.. Kirsten Buckholz – Under the Stars
- 2nd.. Hannah Nugent – The Field That God Forgot
- 3rd.. Hannah Nugent – Forgotten Paradise
- HC.. Lily McCarthy – Australia is the Country for Me
- HC.. Hannah Nugent – Disparate Likeness

BUSH LANTERN AWARD 2014 - PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 1st.. Charli Camenzuli - The Perfect Holiday
- 2nd.. Melanie Adcock – The Worst Beach Ever !
- 3rd.. Maddison O'Dowd – The Aussie Zoo
- HC.. Callum Rhodes – If I was a Koala
- HC.. Alex Buckholz – The Bilby
- HC.. Jade Walton - My Home



Blackened Billy Verse Competition turns 25

Next January, at the presentation of the 2015 Blackened Billy Verse Competition the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group will celebrate 25 years of Blackened Billy competitions. Yes, the Blackened Billy is turning SILVER!

It was in 1991 that the first Blackened Billy competition was launched and was won by a very shy young man named R.J. Miller. In a very short time this enigmatic fellow, who had to ask Tamworth poet, John Philipson to perform his winning poem "The Aussie", transformed into the poet Bobby Miller, and was soon lovingly called The Larrikin for his very funny and often outrageous performances.

Bob was the first of a line of very talented poets who won the now famous Blackened Billy trophies. David Campbell and Milton Taylor have won three, and Ellis Campbell, Ron Stevens and Carmel Randle have won two each. Other winners have been Neil Carroll, Charlee Marshall, Col Hadwell, Neil McArthur, Glenny Palmer, Veronica Weal, Joyce Alchin, Alec Raymer, Carol Heuchan, Dean Trevaskis, and Catherine Lee.

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group began the competition with a \$100 first prize as well as the trophy, which was designed by local ceramic artist, Fred Hillier. Costs were covered with sponsorship of small businesses until support was obtained from local printing business, AM Printing, who still make a large contribution to the running of the competition. ABPA came on board with a \$500 sponsorship in 2013.

There is now \$1100 in prize money distributed.

There have been three judges over the last 24 years; Eric Scott, then Bill Gleeson, and for the last 12 years, Keith Jones. Reports from each of these judges show the effort and commitment to finding the best poems from "the pile" and to upholding the best standards for bush poetry writing.

Who will be the winner of the 25th "Silver" Blackened Billy.



Bob Miller 1991



Ron Stevens 1994



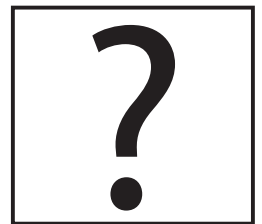
Carmel Randle 1997



Neil McArthur 2001



Catherine Lee 2011



2015



**POETRY READING
Group**

PO BOX 3001 WEST TAMWORTH 2340

Organisers of The Blackened Billy Verse Competition



**Blackened Billy Verse Competition
will be 25 years old in 2015!**

How would you like to be the 25th winner in a list of highly credited poets who have gone before.

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, and sponsors ABPA, are looking for a record number of entries to celebrate this auspicious occasion, which will culminate in the publication of a book featuring all 25 winners.

First Prize is the famous Blackened Billy trophy plus \$600
Second prize \$300
Third Prize \$ 200

Opening Date September 1.

For an entry form, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Blackened Billy Verse Competition, PO Box 3001, West Tamworth NSW 2340 or email janmorris33@bigpond.com

Entry forms will also be available from the ABPA Website from September 1

GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



"I like a land", one old bushman told me, "where the sky comes down to your boots", speaks the second paragraph of *Vanishing Australians* by George Farwell, (Rigby Adelaide 1961.)

The book is probably a bit hard to find now but should still be available through inter-library loan or on the net. *Vanishing Australians* is worth tracking down.

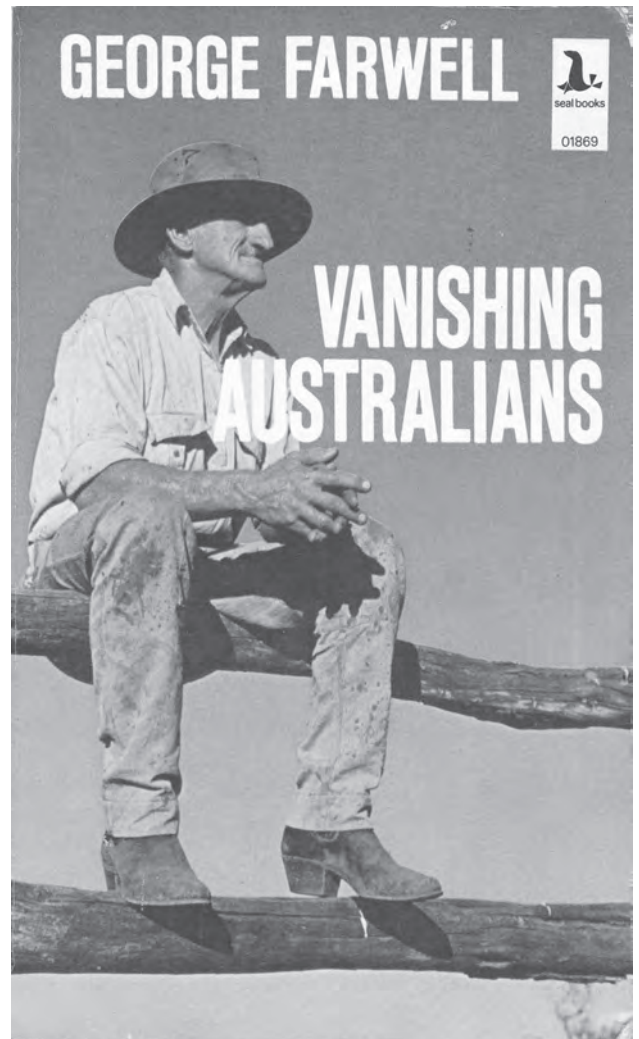
George Farwell travelled the country listening to the stories and reminiscences of stockmen, miners, timber-getters, station cooks, shearers, dog scalpers, croc hunters, bullockies, shanty keepers and all the myriads of bush characters who keep steadily disappearing from rural Australia.

The anecdotes Farwell has recorded, would provide inspiration for many a poem. Cases like the water-bourne swagman who carried his and his dog's worldly possessions in three dinghies tied in train, who gets flushed out of a billabong by a big flood. The first rowboat carried man, dog and swag. The second, a motley collection of bric-a-brac, and the third, a floating vegetable garden.

Then there was the case of the disgruntled bullocky who hooked his team to a bush hotel and threatened to tow it away after an altercation with the publican.

The stories fill *Vanishing Australians* from cover to cover and make it absolute grist to the mill of those of us who love the folklore of this wide, brown land.

Jack Drake



Can Anyone Help?

Hi Neil,

I have a problem which you or someone in the ABPA might be able to help me with. As you know, I do Family History. I am currently doing a manuscript about my grandmother who wrote poetry. Among her papers and poems is one that was written in pencil with notations but I don't think that it is by her. She may have copied it from a book or something. I don't want to put it in my family history if it is by someone else. It is the sort of poem you would expect Jack Thompson to recite. I've tried to google it but nothing came up.

It is a very long poem .. 12 verses with 2 that might even be a chorus. I have a feeling I have heard it somewhere before. Jack doesn't know who wrote it either. It is called "Men of the AIF". I'll do a couple of verses so you can get the idea. If anyone is familiar with it or knows who wrote it, I would be grateful to hear from them.

I KNOW I have heard it somewhere!!!! It is not in my grandmother's style but is a great poem. Hoping you might have heard it and know who wrote it.

Cheers,
Stella Drake

There's a tough uncultured blighter
With a grinning lantern jaw
He's a hell for leather fighter
When you hit him on the raw
When the cards were stacked against him
in the jungles of Malay
He fought with heart undaunted
in the brave old ANZAC way.

In the ancient streets of Cairo
He revived a former scene
When he tried the game of "Two Up"
On a local fellaheen
But the fella he was cunning
And he's seen the game before
So he turned each penny over
With his dark and eager paw.

When they hemmed him in at Tobruk
with a ring of spitting guns
"Come and get us" was his challenge
To the Dagoes and the Huns
Sure they thought they could insult him
When they christened him a "Rat"
Now he wears the name with honour
Like his old lop sided hat.

The first Chorus goes....
He's a hero, he's a symbol
He's the hope of you and me
He's the soul of all his comrades
Who died for liberty.

Congratulations to the winners of The Kembla Flame Award.

Winners List Kembla Flame 2014

First place - No 13 'A Colourful Encounter' - Brenda Joy
Second Place - No 50 'Beyond The Rabbit Fence' - Terry Piggott
Third Place - No 11 'Through The Dreams Of A Child' - Brenda Joy

Highly Commended:

No 37 The Masters Of War - Tom McIlveen
No 52 A Bloke Called Basil - Terry Piggott
No 14 Four Views Of An Australian Summer - DG Adams (NZ)

Commended:

No 58 A Tribute To Kel, An Ignoble End - Maureen Clifford
No 59 Eureka Yields to Bingo - Robyn Sykes
No 30 Folding Fitted Sheets - Bev Stewart



Judges Report: The Kembla Flame 2014

It was a delight to read all the entries that were presented for consideration for the Kembla Flame. There were more entries than the previous year. Again the topics chosen varied widely covering everything from war to sunset and coming from as far afield as New Zealand. It was a little surprising that some writers continue to base their poems on old jokes. Generally the understanding of Rhyme and Metre was evident and several writers even attempted very tricky rhyming schemes. However, a couple of poems shone through the rest and after their individual evaluation the three judges had the same poems in their top ten. When they met to finalise, it was not hard to select the top two and the other place winners were hard on their heels.

Congratulations to Brenda Joy for winning her second Kembla Flame. Brenda demonstrated an outstanding 'turn of phrase' and deep understanding of the technicalities of writing 'Bush Poetry'.

Congratulations to Terry Piggott for his second placing. Terry is a remarkable poet. His narrative transported us to the outback. The judges expressed the wish that there were two 'Flame' trophies to award.

Third place also went to Brenda Joy with another outstanding poem.

For the other awards please see the results page.

Thank you to all who entered the Kembla Flame and we hope to read more of your poetry next year when we hope to be able to add to the prizes.

On behalf of the judging panel,
Zondrae King



Our good mate
Frank Daniel
as captured
in a wonderful
pencil sketch by
ABPA Member
Neville Briggs
at Dunedoo
in 2010

TO: The Prime Minister.
Canberra .A.C.T.

July 2014.

Dear Mr Abbott,

I am an "Asylum Seeker",
And I DIDN'T arrive by BOAT,
But if you grant me 'ASYLUM',
I will gladly give you my vote.
For I'm living in Third World conditions,
I'm not allowed money at all,
I do my own Washing and Cooking,
And I sleep on a Mat in the Hall.
I'm not allowed an opinion,
I can't speak out 'bout my life,
SO I BEG YOU - PLEASE grant me 'ASYLUM',
As I want to escape from THE WIFE.

Signed:
"Will" Lever.
('Skewiff' Watts)

No One Is Perfect

Been there, done it for twenty years
The stage is almost my home
And although I am claustrophobic
On the stage I am all alone

The usual nerves come calling
Butterflies swirl 'round my gut
I can't have a smoke 'cause I gave up
So I'm going half off of my nut

But I know I'll be right when I walk up
When the words all come flowing back
And I see those old friendly faces
Barney and Mavis and Jack

And the mob that I saw up in Charters
And the Tamworth and Gympie crowds too
And a handful of folks from Mildura
And a couple from old Dunedoo

So now I'm settled, relaxing
Comfortable, ready to rhyme
Then complacency opens my cake-hole
And bugger, I've lost the first line!!

Neil McArthur ©2014

*Like most people I was in such a state of shock was not going to write any
thing but this poem wrote itself.*

THEY FELL AMONG THE SUNFLOWER FIELDS

©TOMAS HAMILTON 27JUL14

They fell among the sunflower fields, victims of a war
They were never part of, from their peaceful shore
All the horrors of the past, we somehow soon forget
For no one saves the innocents, when the devil casts his net

They fell among the sunflower fields, in that tragic land,
The reasons for the carnage, we cannot understand
The flags flap limply in the breeze, where once they flew with pride
Solemnly lowered to half mast, the grief they cannot hide

They fell among the sunflower fields, as they took their final breath
Where summer suckled nature , there is just the stench of death
In this eerie silence, the birds they make no sound
It has the pall of sorrow , of any battleground

They fell among the sunflower fields, eternity has begun
Here a mother's daughter, there a father's son
To others they were strangers, but the same tale they now tell
Taken to God's bosom, from the gates of hell

They fell among the sunflower fields, no more will they roam
The only quest we now desire, is to bring our loved ones home
May I ask one simple question, to those who acted so insane
Would you still be gloating, if your family was on that plane?

Test Your Bush Poetry Knowledge!

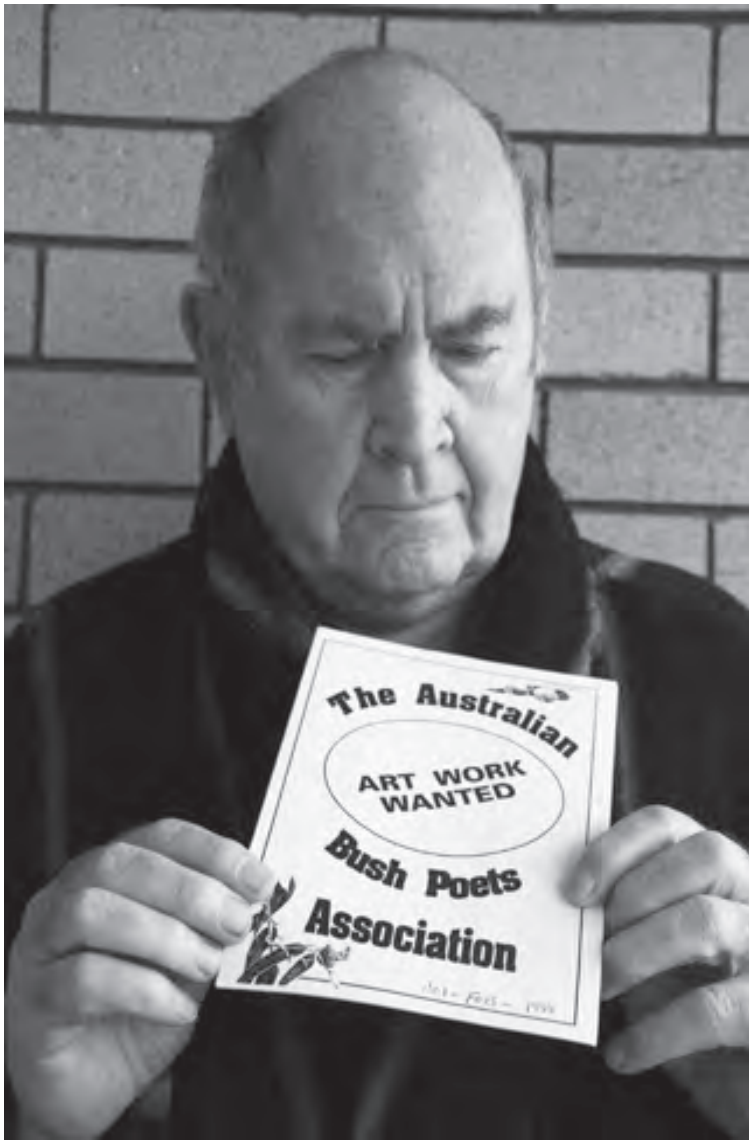
1. What does The P stand for in ABPA?
2. How many verses are there in The Man From Snowy River?
3. What was the first given name of C J Dennis?
4. Home of the Battered Bugle
5. Saltbush Bill's Occupation was?
6. Poet, Bob Miller, was known as The.....?
7. Home of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Cottage
8. The Carnival Of Poets was held in this city
9. Name of our first ABPA President
10. Where you can shoot kanga-bloody-roos
11. Name of 2014 Bronze Swagman winning poet
12. On which Plains do the Dead Men Lie?
13. How many years is the ABPA celebrating this year?
14. What town was Henry Lawson born in?
15. Home of the upcoming NSW Bush Poetry Championships
16. How did Poet Barcroft Boake die?
17. Which city hosted the 2014 Qld. Championships?
18. Name of the modern day poem 'Queenie Lucinda O'Toole'
19. Home town of Australian Poet Marco Gliori
20. Name of 2014 Judith Hosier Award Winner

Answers on Page 16



20 Years On.....

Frank Daniel shows us the very first edition of the ABPA Magazine



IMPERIAL HOTELTAMWORTH.

Minutes of the Inaugral meeting held 28/1/1994.
 The meeting was opened at 12.45 when Merv (bluey) Bostock invited those present, who wished to be involved, to remain after the Imperial Hotel Original and Traditional Bush Poetry Heats.
 Merv welcomed those present and outlined his vision of the need for a unifying representative association for Bush Poets. *ONLY 22 PAID UP THANKS!*
 Those present at this meeting were:
 M. Bostock. CAIRNS QLD. R. Selby. DRAYTON QLD.
 G. Graham. BEALIBE VIC. M. Jarrott. KILLARNEY QLD.
 B. Magor. MYPONGA SA. J. Johanson. WYNNUM QLD.
 T. Hall. TAMWORTH NSW. N. Cutler. MILAWA. VIC.
 R. Begg. FORSTER. NSW. P. Begg. FORSTER. NSW.
 B. Miller. MUNGAR. QLD. B. Dickman. CHINCHILLA. QLD.
 B. McConnell. SHELDON. QLD. J. Philipson. T/WORTH. NSW.
 J. Major. Baralaba. QLD. J. Rennick. FORBES. NSW.
 C. Irving. TRURO. SA. P. Powell. BLACKVILLE. NSW.
 R. Essery. MULLUMBIMBY. NSW. B. Hay. CHINCHILLA. QLD.
 C. Randle. PRESTONS. QLD. R. Bates. GATTON. QLD.
 P. Roberts. TAMWORTH. NSW. F. Daniel. CANOWINDRA. NSW.
 D. Broad. COOMA. NSW. D. Walker. FORBES. NSW.
 S. Edwards. BILGOLA PLATEAU. NSW.
 J. O'Brien Vize. ROCKHAMPTON. QLD.
 A proposal that such an Association be formed was passed unanimously on a show of hands.
 Nominations were called for an Interim Committee
 Acting PRESIDENT. Merv Bostock.
 Moved.. Noel Cutler. Seconded... Ried Begg
 ELECTED.
 Acting Secretary/Treasurer. Ron Selby.
 Moved.. Carmel Randle. Seconded.. Bob Miller.
 ELECTED.
 Executive Member. Max Jarrott.
 Moved.. Carmel Randle. Seconded. Bob Miller.
 ELECTED.
 Executive Member. Geoffrey Graham.
 Moved.. John Philipson. Seconded. Ron Selby.
 The acting President outlined his proposed aims for the Association. These were discussed and enlarged, Generally they were agreed to be.....

1. The publication and circulation of a newsletter on a regular basis to keep members informed on, A. Upcoming events. B. Progress within the Assoc.
2. The registration of the Association with the Justice Department.
3. The promotion of Bush Poetry, both performance and publication. So that more Australians may be made aware of, and enjoy this art form.
4. The formation of a body that can represent all Bush Poets at state and national levels so that poetry may become a recognized art form in both print and performance.

An Interim membership fee of \$20. per annum was set, payable to the treasurer forthwith.
 It was unanimously decided the next Annual General meeting would be held following the Friday heats at the Imperial Hotel, TAMWORTH. January 1995
 The acting president thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1:30 pm.

*** INVITATION TO ALL POETS. *** 9/4/94.

In conjunction with the official opening of the Birdsville Working Museum, The opening of the Diamantina Shire Council Caravan Park and the Birdsville Hotel.
 We are having a full event for poets including Poets Breakfast, Best Performance of Traditional Bush Poem, Yarn Spinning Competition and also a Poets Brawl. Co-ordinated and chaired by BOB MILLER. (The Larrikan)
 Travel out with flight West or drive and see the west. Accomodation at the Hotel or camp at the Caravan Park.
 Contact and enquiries to JOHN MENZIES..... (076) 563259. Let us know if you can make it. We hope to make this an annual event....
 BE AT BIRDSVILLE 9th APRIL 1995.

Friday, February 4, 1994

THE CHRONICLE

Beating around the bush



with John Morris



Bush poets at Tamworth

At the recent Australian Country Music Festival at Tamworth, bush poets gained even greater recognition than in previous years when three of Australia's best were invited for the first time to recite at the Australia Day concert.

Around 12,000 rose to give a standing ovation when Queensland Bob Miller recited his original poem, *What Makes a True Australian?*

The theme of Miller's poem was that mateship was not just confined to the bush, and that real Australians were everywhere.

Toowoomba bush poet Carmel Randle was there, and said the standard of competition was extraordinarily high in both the original and traditional competitions.

People lined up for 1½ hours before the opening for the poets' breakfast. Many had to bring their own chairs.

Bush poets winners

Here are the winners of the Tamworth Imperial Hotel Bush Poets Competition for performance:

ORIGINAL POEMS — Mark Giori, Warwick 1; Ray Essery, Mullumbimby, NSW 2; Bob Miller, Mungar, Qld 3.

TRADITIONAL POEMS — Ray Essery 1; Noel Cutler, Victoria 2; Geoffrey Graham, Victoria 3.

Bush poets organisation

A steering committee was elected at Tamworth to form an Australian Bush Poets Association, with Cairns bush poet Bluey Bostock as acting president and Toowoomba's Ron Selby as secretary.

Among other things, the organisation will notify members when festivals are held and organise book publishing.

If you write or perform bush poetry, you can join by writing to Ron Selby, 9 Gipps Street, Drayton, 4350.

Drunk story

A drunken man staggered into his front yard at Chinchilla and collapsed just as police were driving past.

They stopped and stood the man on his feet, asking him what he was doing there. He told them that he lived there.

"They all say that," said one of the two policemen.

"I'll show you," said the drunk. He opened the door of the house and waved his arm around, saying, "This is my house, and over there is my lounge chair."

He walked up the staircase: "And this is my staircase in my house."

He threw open the bedroom door and pointed to a woman asleep in bed: "And that is my wife."

Pointing to the man lying beside her, he said: "And that's me!"

Kindly reprinted with permission of the TOOWOOMBA CHRONICLE.

INTERIM MEMBERSHIP. \$20.00 Due Now.

*** SECRETARY/ TREASURER REPORT. ***

May I first thank all who supported my nomination to this position and say that I will do my best to fulfill my obligations.

This Association will undoubtedly go ahead in leaps and bounds with the vast and diverse talents of its members.

YOU! the member are in the box seat to place the AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION to a pinnacle of success, where we should gain the recognition of our form of poetry, be it serious or humorous but always uniquely Australian, to where it deserves.

Bush Poetry has enjoyed a meteoric rise in the past two or three years, where most venues have trebled in public attendance.

BUT! This Association can only fulfill its aims and ambitions with the complete backing of its members. That is INPUT, by YOU the member on ideas and information on coming events, no matter how small,

Remember you may not want to attend a certain event, But other members may be only too willing to attend and support all and any events.

As editor of your news letter, I will only be able to pass on to other members, the information I receive on anything that may be happening around the country. I will need the Name of the event, the Date, Times and Contact name. Or if there is an article in your local paper concerning Bush Poets send it in, there may not be enough time to contact other members, but it may be noted for mention in next years calendar.

We have events happening all over from TAMWORTH to TOOWOOMBA, LONGREACH to BIRDSVILLE, MALANEY to ORANGE.

Written Competitions such as the BANJO PATTERSON AWARDS of ORANGE, (entries closed 31/1/94) may not interest you but may be of great interest to other members. A letter from our association to the organizers of this event should supply us with much earlier notice should the event be held again next year.

I have been a member of a variety of other clubs (car clubs, Golf, Fishing Motor racing ect) that have existed on a mundane level mostly due to a

lack of support and involvement by its members like Joe blow saying " I was going to do that job but I thought Somebody Else would do it" Or "I could'nt find an envelope or a stamp to send my entry in!"

In each news letter I propose to include some information on books ect available from other poets, Where to get them or a postal address to order them from. So if you have a book on the market or wish to buy another poets book, you will be able to do it through this association.

Information on publishers, where to get the best deal, Who to talk to, Where best to sell your book Who to see about illustrations, ect ect..

This is all information that can be passed on to other members through this association.

REMEMBER:: The more input the better info. The postal address, (for the first 12 months)

*** THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION.***

PO Box 77 DRAYTON NORTH.
QLD. 4350.

Telephone enquiries. (076) 301106.

ps. Drayton is on the edge of TOOWOOMBA.

NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ART FESTIVAL.
(In conjunction with the RINGERS MUSTER)

LONGREACH...28th APRIL..to..1st MAY.
PO Box 518 LONGREACH QLD. 4730.

JIM HAYNES WORKSHOP.

Thur.28th 6.30...9.00.pm
\$10. per sess. Sat. 30th 9.30...12.30.pm
Sun. 1st 9.30...12.30.pm

SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER. \$20. Bookings needed.

open sessions of Singing, Instrumental, Poetry
yarn spinning and Annual Poetry Cup.

For Info. Pres. TIM BUTLER. (076)581477. BH.
(076)581544. AH.

REGIS. FORMS. DAVID SELL. (076)583601.

WORK SHOP. HELEN AVERY. (076)581718.

The Banjo Paterson Festival
ORANGE NSW

17th February to 13th March 1994

"Banjo" Paterson
Writing Awards

The aim of these awards is to honour "Banjo" Paterson a great Australian writer and the favourite son of Orange, with a competition to foster writing of prose or poetry with an Australian theme.

CONDITIONS

1. The Competition will be judged to select, in the opinion of the judges, the best entries of poetry and prose with an Australian theme. First prize will be \$1,000.00, second \$400.00 and third \$200.00 in each of the two sections.

2. Entry Forms are available from:-
The Banjo Paterson Festival Committee, C/- P.O. Box 194, Orange, NSW, 2800.

3. Entries close last mail on 31st January, 1994

4. Entry Requirements

- Entries must be the unaided work of the entrant
- There is no limit to the length of poetry while prose must not exceed 4,000 words.
- Entries do not have to be written in the same style as the work of Banjo Paterson or in 'bush' style as the awards are aimed at promoting all forms of Australian writing and all writers.
- Entries previously published will be considered by the judges providing no payment was received.
- An entry fee of \$10 must accompany each entry, along with an entry form and stamped self addressed envelope. The entry forms can be photocopied.
- Entries with Entry Form, fee and stamped self addressed envelope must be received by the last mail on 31st January, 1994, at Banjo Paterson Festival office, P.O. Box 194, Orange, NSW, 2800.
- NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE CONSIDERED
- All entries are to be available for reproduction or publication by the Banjo Paterson Festival Committee with copyright being retained by the author.
- Judging - a panel of judges will be presided over by Mr John Miller, chairman of the Banjo Paterson Festival Committee.
- The Judges' decision will be final.
- The winners will be notified by phone call and all entrants will be notified of the results by mail.
- Members of the Banjo Paterson Festival Committee and their families or judges and their families are not eligible to enter.
- There is a separate competition for children 16 and under for which separate entry forms and conditions are available from the above address.



**THE
LARRIKIN RETURNS**



**Australian Bush Verse
by
Bob Miller**

Available from;
2 PILERWA RD MUNGAR
QLD 4650.
\$10. post free or both books \$12.

Administration services
provided by OCTEC



THE BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL

IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Poets Wives

©Rhyl Graham 2010

They travel this vast country to try and earn a quid,
I wonder if they dreamt of this when they were just a kid,
They're doing what they seem to love, but does it pay the way,
Entertaining the crowds, wherever they choose to stay.

It's about these bush poets I'm telling you of here,
They will gladly give it all they've got, once they have your ear.
Their talent with enthral you, be it serious or fun,
I bet you go home smiling, when the show is finally done.

I sometimes wonder - from where their inspiration comes,
Does it come naturally? Or is it after a few rums?
I guess it's all the incidents that happen in their lives,
But most of it, I would say, could be coming from their wives!

She'd be such an easy subject, her being there each day,
And in the night time also, as beside her he would lay,
He'd be looking for ideas from every word she said,
Even write about his fight for the warm spot in the bed.

And while judging competitions, who's at his beck and call?
The wife of course, runs to and fro; giving it her all.
Collecting papers here and there; and selling his CD's,
"C'mon woman, could you move it? Hurry would you please?"

But she smiles just quietly, she knows it's all in fun,
As they're both in this together, when all is said and done,
He'll need her inspiration for yet another show,
So by his side, she'll travel the road he plans to go.

So when you hear bush poetry and if it makes you smile,
You'll remember how it lifts you, if only for a while,
Thank God there's someone out there who enjoys this type of life
And always there for back up will be his loving wife.

(Rhyl gave me a copy of this poem after the 2010 Qld. Bush Poetry Championships at Ravenswood after seeing who was doing the bulk of the work over the weekend! And I don't think it was any of the male poets!! Thanks Rhyl - Ed)

The School Bully

©Todd Snider

In the playground of a school
When there's no eyes in the way
There was a bully that would pick on kids
Every single day

He had a pack of big mouth mates
Who'd back him all the way
And a giggling girlfriend who'd believe
In everything he'd say

Then one day this little kid
He'd beat up many times before
Realized to his own surprise
That he could still take more

And with that he hatched the evil plan
To make that devil pay
He walked up to him in the yard
And he found the nerve to say

"If you're gonna hit someone today
You're gonna hit me too
In fact you're gonna hit me every day
Because now I'm picking on you!"

"And as crazy as it might sound right now
I'm not stopping till I'm through.
It's too late to beg for mercy
Yep, cause now I'm picking on you

That bully just laughed and laughed of course
And so did all of his friends
And he beat that kid unmercifully
For days and days on end

Only each time a bit less impressively
To that girl and all his friends
Who eventually secretly started
To hope that kid would win in the end

Now you never head him say this
Cause he thinks his mates don't know
But winning this battle every day
Cost our bully the war long ago

And of all the scars he's got to show
For each blow that kid sneaks in
The worst one is knowing tomorrow
He has to fight that kid again

Answers To Bush Poetry Knowledge Quiz

1. Poets 2. Thirteen 3. Clarence 4. Surat Qld 5. Drover 6. Larrikin 7. Ballarat 8. Toowoomba 9. Bluey Bostock
10. Tumba-bloody-rumba 11. Tim Borthwick 12. Never Never 13. Twenty 14. Grenfell NSW 12. Binalong NSW
16. Suicide (hung himself with his stockwhip) 17. Bundaberg Qld 18. Milton Taylor 19. Warwick 20. Trisha Anderson

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CO-ORDINATORS

We are very fortunate this year that bush poetry events will have included four State Bush Poetry Performance and Written Championships, held under the auspices of the ABPA. These championships are not run by the ABPA as an organization but by individual members who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to helping to present bush poetry as stand-alone events or through integrating it into other festival activities. In doing so, they hold bush poetry competitions basically in accordance with formats and guidelines that are proving successful. These competitions foster camaraderie between poets at all levels of development and provide for those members who enjoy either performing or watching both the more traditional aspects of bush poetry and the modern, more humorous approach that has helped to expand the popularity of our genre.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all festival and competition co-ordinators and their committees for the work they are doing towards preserving, maintaining and expanding our unique cultural heritage through oral and written, bush poetry, yarns and storytelling.

WE BEGIN OUR TRIBUTES WITH A THANK YOU TO...

Jan Lewis, Co-ordinator, 2014 ABPA VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
Held in Corryong, Victoria 3-6 April, 2014 at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival

As the Man From Snowy River Poetry Event Manager and the Secretary of the Victorian Bush Poetry and Music Association, Jan leads (and needs) a reliable volunteer team. In addition to the Victorian State Championships in 2013 and 2014, Jan and her supporters co-ordinated the ABPA Nationals held in 2012.

"Conducting the poetry segment at the MFSR Bush Festival requires fitting Poetry around core events like the Street Parade and the MFSR Re-enactment. Paid MFSR festival staff, deal with budget, sponsorship, program printing, media, permits, tenders, and assistance with mail outs, but the Poetry budget is \$9,000 and this is a wonderful sponsorship to help cover the costs. About half of this goes for prizes and trophies. The rest goes in judges' fees and accommodation, etc, venue hire, sound and media. Around 15,000 people attend the whole festival annually, which includes around 40 adult poets (30 competing) and 2 schools participating (around 100 children involved)."

Jan has already put her hand up to co-ordinate the ABPA National Championship in 2015. She has certainly been kept busy and makes a wonderful contribution to Bush Poetry in general and to the ABPA in particular.



Robyn Sykes, Co-ordinator, 2014 ABPA N.S.W.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

In Binalong, NSW 12 - 14 September, 2014 – Binalong

Banjo Paterson Bush Poetry Prize

Binalong is a small village near Banjo Paterson's childhood home of Ilalong in South West NSW. It is therefore very appropriate that the NSW Championships should be held in such an historical location. Robyn tells us that the vision of the Binalong Bush Poetry Prize is for a friendly, inclusive event where as many as possible may share in the poetry and the fun. "We want people to recite, relax and refresh in our village environment. From walk-ups to open performances, school kids to written comps, novices to music, there's something for poetry lovers of all ages and stages.

"To run the ABPA Championships in our village of 250 people takes strong community support. All the local businesses are behind us. Yass Valley Council is a strong supporter. We are delighted to have sponsors in neighbouring towns as well. The BBPP

committee has planned, plotted and persuaded for nearly 18 months to make this an event that will go down in our village annals as a wonderful celebration of our poetic heritage. We are delighted to invite all poets, friends and friends-we-haven't-yet-met to come and celebrate with us."

The ABPA is fortunate to have Committee Member Robyn as an able and willing promoter of Bush Poetry in her district.

Thank You To Our Wonderful Co-ordinators

Sandy and John Lees, Co-ordinators,

2014 ABPA QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Held in Bundaberg 4th – 6th July, 2014.

Report from Sandy and John

The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. are very fortunate to have as their major sponsor, Across the Waves Sports Club Inc., who have for a number of years provided a venue free of charge for the entire week-end as well as a substantial cash donation. Of course there are many other smaller sponsors, who without these, it would make the running and organizing of our annual Musters much more difficult.

This year 46 poets competed in the various categories - Open, Intermediates, Novices and two children's categories as well as duo performances, yarn spinning and a One Minute Cup. Both the Friday night Walk-Up Concert and the main Concert on the Saturday evening were well attended with the 'full house' sign put out on the Saturday evening - 250 seated.



To organize our Musters we first elect a committee, then a co-ordinator and from there it is a committee run Muster. A priority at the first meeting is to select judges. Three ABPA approved poets who must be able to judge the Open & Intermediate categories and take part in the Saturday evening concert are contacted. Another three judges (who are also poets - not singers, politicians, etc.) are contacted to judge the children and novice categories as well as share comparing duties during the week-end. The co-ordinator does all the contacting of judges, sponsors and all paperwork associated with the Muster - entry forms, programmes, score sheets, etc. It is on the week-end that extra hands are needed to carry out specific tasks. These tasks have been allocated prior to the week-end so that everyone is aware of who is doing what to eliminate confusion and to make for a smooth running of the Muster. We feel that by running our Muster this way there is very little room for error and it makes for a successful and friendly Muster. No negatives received - just positive feed-back. It's a lot of work, takes up a lot of time, but the end result of course is what the Club's aim is but most important is for all to enjoy each other's friendship over the three days.

As part of Bundy's Muster a written competition is also conducted, the Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse. For this we also use three ABPA approved judges who are asked not to divulge that they have been contacted to judge. This means that not only those who are entering don't know who the judges are but they also don't know who the other two judges are which we feel is for unbiased judging.

The ABPA also wishes to acknowledge the achievements of members who specialize in specific areas which help to promote the cause of the ABPA and of Bush Poetry in general.

Agricultural Show Arena Spectaculars

Since 2002 Wally Finch has been involved from concept to writing to performance in bringing Arena Spectaculars to Agricultural Shows throughout regional Queensland and northern New South Wales. Agricultural Shows are the oldest form of continuous entertainment in Australia. They are a genuine part of our heritage in very real danger of being lost. Some have already vanished forever.

The Arena Spectaculars are a kaleidoscope of imagery and sound with huge casts held together by the narrative of one bush poet, Wally. Over the years they have covered historical subjects from Ned Kelly to Phar Lap. Because they are heritage based and easy to identify with, they have been instrumental in bringing crowds back to their local shows. For the team, their largest audience was on the Gold Coast a few years back when they performed to over 27,500 across three days.

This year their presentation of the Waltzing Matilda Arena Spectacular for the anniversary of Banjo Paterson's birth 150 years ago, was at the Toowoomba Show from 27th – 29th March. Although, ironically, rain affected the schedule and the Thursday night had to be cancelled (only the second cancellation in 110 performances from 29 different shows), those who braved the weather on the opening, including the Queensland Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley, enjoyed the music and bush poetry presented. When the full show went on on the Saturday night, there was an enthusiastic crowd of over 5,000.

Wally said "Our heritage offers us such a rich field of discovery as poets, writers, and, story tellers and the Arena Spectaculars demonstrate a different dimension of how our Bush Poetry can reach out to large audiences in regional and rural areas. Imagine what we could do in capital cities."



Competition Results

Results of the 43rd Bronze Swagman Award 2014

Winner: Tim Borthwick, Toowoomba. Qld.
"The Last Beer"

Runner-Up: John Tully, Kingaroy. Qld.
"Get Back on Your Horse"

There were 5 Highly Commended entries:

Trevor Shaw, Biloela. Qld.
"Proudly Blue"

Bob Magor, Myponga. SA.
"The Sheepdog Trial"

Valerie P. Read, Bicton. WA.
"Chasing Wild Cattle"

Valerie P. Read, Bicton. WA.
"Australia Bids You Welcome"

Max Merckenschlager, Caloote. SA.
"Baradine Christmases"



RESULTS FROM GULGONG HENRY LAWSON SOCIETY OF NSW LITERARY AWARDS, June 2014

THE LEONARD TEALE PERFORMANCE POETRY AWARD

1st Prize — Terry Regan (Emu Plains, NSW) "Grannies New Washing Machine"

2nd Prize — Ken Potter (Wollongong, NSW) "The Cabinet in the Corner"

3rd Prize — Ken Tough (Wagstaffe NSW) "Rocky Creek"

Highly Commended —

Jenny Markwell (Wangi Wangi NSW) "The Last Red Gum" Tomas Hamilton (Richmond, NSW) "Up and Over"

Catherine Stewart (Lismore NSW) "The Man from Ironbark"

Commended —

Ron Stevens (Dubbo, NSW) "The Shanty on the Rise"

Douglas Worsley (Northmead NSW) "Second Class Wait Here"

John Davis (Kingspoint, NSW) "Anthrax"

Beverley Jackson (Glenwood Qld) "Black Stump Charlie"

AUDIENCE VOTE AWARD-

1st Prize — Ken Tough (Wagstaffe NSW) "Rocky Creek"

THE LAND OPEN WRITTEN POETRY AWARD

First Prize — Tom McIlveen — "The Carnage at Stringybark Creek"

Second Prize — Ron Stevens — "Last Words".

Third Prize — Valerie Read — "A Country Cop".

Highly Commended

Tom McIlveen — "Hooves and Horns".

Terry Piggott — "The Bushman and the Warrigal".

Yvonne Harper — "Love Letters to Gallipoli".

Yvonne Harper — "The Loaded Dog Does It Again".

Commended

Heather Knight — "The Man You Might Have Been".

Catherine Lee — "Stolen".

Yvonne Harper — "An Old Timer".

EMERGING WRITTEN POETRY AWARD

First Prize — Caroline Tuohey — "The List".

You can keep up with
more results at our
Website
www.abpa.org.au

Results of 2014 BROKEN SKI AWARD, Mt. Perisher Festival

Open Section

1st Tom McIlveen for 'Snowy Mountains Fantasy'

2nd Gregory North for 'Broken Ski'

3rd Terry Piggott for 'The Bushman and the Warrigal'

Highly Commended

Brenda Joy for 'Cross of Honour'

Maureen Clifford for 'Tears of the Moon'

Intermediate Section (Secondary School age)

1st Hannah Nugent for 'The Field that Got Forgotten'

Highly Commended - Vian Pao for 'Self'

Hannah Nugent for 'Forgotten Paradise'

Junior Section (Primary)

1st Jarrah Carlisle (7 yrs old) 'I am the River'

Highly Commended Izzy Boustead, Felix Boustead

Snowy Poetry Cup Awarded for best recitation of a poem at the festival. Held at the Snow Gums Restaurant *
Winner Gail Copley for a recitation of CJ Dennis's poem 'I Dips Me Lid'

The Snowy Poetry Slam

Held at the Sundeck Hotel - Winner Denise Burton

Mel and Susie on Tour in Winton

Another great season in Winton switching on the uninitiated to the joys of bush poetry. We perform every night at the Matilda Country Tourist Park and always welcome talented guests. It's not every year that Jack Thompson or Tony Barry hop us and recite with us, and 2014, though a short season, saw plenty of terrific guest artists including bush poets Lyndon Baxter, Alan Stone, Frank Fayers, Jim Tonkin, Geraldine King, junior reciter Travis Peatley, age 9 who recited and sang and John and Carmel Lloyd who will perform at the park throughout August.

We had school groups including years 7-12 Columbus College, Charters Towers; the Banjo Paterson College and stacks of kids during the school holidays. We had fundraising groups and tours including the wonderful Bob Green's Happy Wanderers annual trip for the Ipswich Hospital and the Graham Roger tag-a-long tour. We had ukuleles, guitars and even a sax player. We welcomed Nora and Bernie, an Irish duo who led an Irish sing-a-long, Phyllis on piano and the wonderfully talented duo Wendy and Dave aka The Cartwheels.

Of special note, Felix Meagher spent some time in Winton this season promoting his show "The Man they called the Banjo" based on the research of Felix's brother in law, the late Dennis O'Keeffe. Felix also performed in the shed with us. Then, to our delight, Colin O'Keeffe, brother of Dennis, arrived with his guitar and performed in the shed over 2 nights.

We had bush poetry fans by the score including Jan and Neal Woollard, and Mel's mob descended in force as her parents celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in the shed. All in all a terrific season, thanks to everyone who came to see our show and thanks to the folk who joined us on stage. We're off on our next big adventure - The 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Good Luck from all your Bush Poetry mates, Mel & Susie! - Ed



with Lyndon Baxter



with Jimmy Little



with Tully, Innes and Parker



Frank Fayers



with Jim Tonkins and Geraldine King



School Holidays



with Felix Meagher



with Jack Thompson

Meet Tomas Hamilton

Tomas Hamilton was born in Dublin, Ireland. He came to Australia as an infant with his parents in the early fifties. His parents claim it was for a bit of a look, but Tomas did not make it back to the "ould sod" till 1990. He grew up in various country towns in the Hunter Valley in the days when 'the parishes were run by Irish priests' so it was easy to embrace the Aussie way of life but still be regarded as an Irishman by his mates. Tomas joined the RAAF at 17. He finds it amusing when he sings "I was only 19" at gigs and he had already been in the forces for two years.

Tomas was a product of the 60's folk scene. He bought a guitar and hung around the folk clubs near the bases he was stationed at.

He married his wife Betty in 1969 and the pair of them had a week's notice to move to another base. After five children and over forty years of marriage Tomas claims the learning curve goes vertical.

After 21 years Tomas resigned from the RAAF and spent 17 years in a job he'd rather forget about. Tomas started serious song writing in 1996 after the army Blackhawk tragedy and the RAAF Boeing 707 crash which took the life of a close friend. He had the honour of performing songs he had written at services for those lost in both tragedies and in 1997 released a tape of 8 songs self compositions on an album titled Remembrance. About this time he started a monthly Irish session in the Hawkesbury and it now has grown to a weekly gathering. A new tape Shamrocks and Wattle followed in 1998 and Barbwire and Bullshit in 2000. His ballad "The Long Tan Hymn" has been used throughout the Hawkesbury on Vietnam Veteran's Day since he wrote it in 1999. After a change in career in 2004 and pressure from fellow musicians Tomas put down his first CD titled "Further Down The Track" and re-released Barbwire as a CD. After writing "Sydney in the Rain" and with the encouragement from fellow "muso's he released yet another CD of 16 self compositions titled "Hamiltons's 5th" in November 2006.

In 2007 while on a visit to England he popped over to Dublin for a week and did several gigs, a highlight of which was performing at Darcy Kelly's in Dublin on Easter Sunday and Ned O'Shea's Merchant the following week.

Before Tomas left for Dublin his mother remarked that he had never written a Dublin Song. While waiting to fly out from Dublin he wrote The Grey Walls Of Glasnevin. (Glasnevin is the main cemetery in Dublin). Ten months later he played it at his mothers funeral. In 2009 he released his sixth album "Glasnevin's Grey Walls". The album contains 14 tracks of self compositions which reflect his Irish heritage and experiences in life. Tomas has been a Hawkesbury resident since 1981.

After having many of his songs published as poems Tomas released a CD of his award winning poetry in August 2010 titled Dust (It was nominated as a finalist in the Australian Bush Laureate Awards for Best Album for 2011) Tracks and poems from this album have been recited on radio programmes both here and overseas, in fact Magpie 91 is featured in Ian McNamara's (Macca on a Sunday Morning) latest book. Although Tomas is not a Vietnam Veteran the concluding track on Dust was reviewed as "The one that does it for me", on a US Vietnam Veterans site. This CD has seen him invited to poetry festivals and performances throughout the state and he released another poetry album titled "The Gift" in 2012. He also appears as St Patrick at the John O'Brien Festival each year in Narranderra. In 2012 Tomas returned to Ireland and performed at numerous venues including O'Donohues the spiritual home for such icons as Christy Moore and the Dubliners. Tomas is a regular performer at music, bush poetry festivals and folk clubs around Australia and has performed overseas in Europe and North America.



THE MEDIC

©Tomas Hamilton 28th April 2014

Young Jamie watched the old men march, on every ANZAC Day
And he wondered why his father, had always stayed away
His mother kept his medals, safely out of sight
Though he vowed he'd never wear them, she thought one day he might

He lost his youth in Vietnam, a tragic lesson learned
Though years made him a wiser man, the anger it still burned
Betrayed by his own nation, by the treatment he'd received
He pledged his life to his flag, but he had been deceived

In ninety eighty seven the shame was cast aside
And they welcomed home the veterans, who'd served this land with pride
James senior sat down with his son and through heartache and through tears
He told to him the story, he'd kept inside for years

There are so many roles to fill, when troops go off to war
I decided to both serve and save and joined the Medical Corps
It was my solemn duty, to help my mates survive
My unofficial motto, "Just bring them back alive"

I did two tours in Vietnam, without a second thought
But hadn't planned when I came home, for the nightmares that it brought
When I watched my dad march, the crowds rose up and cheered
But I was met by a howling mob who just stood there and jeered

Even now it haunts me, the way they all behaved
They didn't seem to give a damn, for all the lives I'd saved
People said "Don't worry, everything will work out fine"
But they hadn't seen the carnage, caused by a Claymore mine

I tried to shun the visions, but still they would not stray
And I know now for certain, they are here to stay
You struggle to get on with life, you think you're fine and then
The dull thudding of a Huey, brings them back again

Now young Jamie serves his country, in a far flung foreign land
And the past that stalks his father, he can now understand
They have so much in common, it makes him feel so glad
That he wears the medic's beret and he looks just like his dad

There's a bond that now unites them, they seem just like a firm
From James senior and young Jamie, there's so much we can learn
For when loved ones are stranded, with a cruel and heavy load
If you want to help them, you have to cross that road

Jamie like his father, finds his nerves are somewhat frayed
Treating victims of an I.E.D, hidden where children played
No matter what the odds are, you can't give up your post
For it's hard to face an enemy, who vanishes like a ghost

Time it is against him, a medivac is a must
Soon a Blackhawk clatters overhead and descends down through the dust
The victims are all placed on board, their repat has begun
Another cargo safely on its way, courtesy of James Harrison and Son

A SNOWY MOUNTAIN FANTASY

©Tom McIlveen 2014
(Winner Broken Ski Award 2014)

Have you ever been invited to an oceanfront location,
and then wished you'd gone to Jindabyne instead?
I had found myself entangled in some seasonal migration,
with a looming sense of cold impending dread.

It was meant to be a haven on the blue Pacific Ocean—
but was little more than water, rock and sand.
I was feeling disconcerted by the deafening commotion,
when I drifted off to Winter Wonderland.

I was dreaming of a bungalow, beneath the Snowy Mountains,
with a freshly fallen covering of snow.
Where the icy jewelled waters from the glaciated fountains
were cascading into crystal pools below.

From the top of Kosciusko, I could almost see forever—
from the ocean to the western slopes and plains
where the dusty brown horizons, of the distant Never-Never,
waited patiently for purging winter rains.

On the wings of wedge-tailed eagles, I was soaring in my slumber
over Crackenback and down the Alpine Way...
to the valley of Khancoban and the town of Tumbarumba
where the skies are never cloudy, dull or grey.

On our way to Woomargama and the lake at Yarrawonga,
we had crossed the Murray's golden banks of sand,
where the river drifted freely into Albury-Wodonga...
to the heart of sacred Wiradjuri land.

Through the eyes of wedge-tailed eagles, I could see the pristine waters,
where the Rainbow Serpent dozed upon the shore.
He was dreaming of Baiame and his dedicated daughters,
who had roamed this land in primal days of yore.

I could see their forms projected on the Snowy Mountain ranges,
which were covered in a silent shroud of snow;
as Baiame gazed in wonder at the catastrophic changes
to the Snowy River flowing down below.

It was waning as it trickled down across the eastern ridges,
where it once had flowed consistently and free;
while the western Murrumbidgee, with its channelled pipes and bridges,
was diverted from its journey to the sea.

In the silence of the mountains, I could hear Baiame urging
me to join him in another timeless sphere...
in a distant fourth dimension, where my spirit was converging
with an image that began to disappear.

I awoke from blissful slumber with my senses now returning
and commotion still resounding in my brain...
and reflected for a moment, with an all consuming yearning
how I'd love to share the Dreamtime once again!

The Road Past Gunnedah

©Tony Lang
(Written after I learned of some inner city, Sydney intellectuals who
went in search of 'the bush' because they couldn't agree on "bush.")

There's some folk walking back
On a long-forgotten track
Off a road past Gunnedah.
They were heading for 'The Bush'
But they didn't know the way,
So the driver kept on driving,
But then heard someone say:
"Stop the car, O Linda,
I think we've gone too far –
We're on the road to Gunnedah!"

So they had a little meet
In Breeza's only street
Along the road to Gunnedah.
Linda had a GPS;
They thought they'd be OK
But the flamin' thing was broken
And it led them far away
In their car, off the tar
To the township of Coolah,
'Way out past Gunnedah.

So they turned the car around –
They'd covered so much ground
Along that road past Gunnedah.
Then Linda put her foot down,
They'd many miles to do,
But the sun was in her eyes
And that's when they hit the 'roo.
With no sump or water pump
Their swags they had to hump
Along the road past Gunnedah.

If you see some dusty tramps
With blistered feet and cramps
Along the road past Gunnedah,
Just chuck them in the boot
Of your Holden car or ute,
For they're weary and they're hungry
And they're very sore of foot.
As you put them on a train
Back to Sydney town again,
Don't mention 'bush' or Gunnedah!



Emily Matilda Manning (1845 – 1890)

Emily Matilda Manning was born in Sydney on 13 May 1845, the daughter of William Manning, a prominent judge and parliamentarian, and his wife Emily Anne (née Wise). She was educated at a private school in Sydney, and enjoyed a privileged upbringing, with the family mixing in the colony's highest social circles. Emily's interest in literature was encouraged by John Woolley, Professor of Classics at the recently established University of Sydney, though as a woman she was not permitted to attend the University itself.

In the mid-1860s, Emily Manning went to London, where she worked as a journalist and writer for English periodicals. Returning to New South Wales in the early 1870s, she became a regular contributor to various Sydney newspapers and periodicals. As well as pursuing a journalistic career, Emily began publishing her poetry in the press about this time, with her poems generally appearing under the pseudonym 'Australie'.

In 1873, she married Henry Heron, a Sydney solicitor. The couple would have seven children, but still Emily managed to maintain a career as a journalist and author. Her only collection of poetry, *The Balance of Pain* and other poems, was published in 1877 under her pseudonym 'Australie'. This volume, which was critically well-received, highlighted Manning's range and versatility as a poet; the title work was a long narrative poem employing a variety of verse forms, and the collection also included hymns, a dramatic cantata, and descriptive poetry.

From the early 1880s, Henry Heron began experiencing financial difficulties, and Emily became more active in journalism, probably in order to supplement the family income. Her work was highly regarded, and before her premature death Emily worked as a leader writer and associate editor for Sydney newspapers including the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Illustrated Sydney News*. She died of pneumonia on 25 August 1890.

Poetry Collections - The Balance of Pain and other poems London George Bell and Sons 1877

Morning, Night and Endless Morning.

by Emily Matilda Manning

FROM my window I look'd at early morn, and the earth lay glist'ning green,
While the sunshine glow'd with the light of joy on a gleaming spring-tide scene,
Where the buttercups shone in a golden maze, and the tender harebell blue
In a quiver of love hung down its head and smiled through its tears of dew.
While the river wound with embracing arms round the emerald-glancing fields,
And the purple hills in the distance cast no shade on the glowing wealds.
Then the soft wind pass'd with a wooing sigh o'er a world that seem'd so still'd,
That none could tell how its pulses throb'd and its hidden bosom thrill'd
With the stirring joy of the springing buds and the thoughts of the yet-to-be.
But the air grew quick with essential life, and hope breathed it out to me,
And e'en as I felt its warm spring breath, the joy cords of my soul were strung,
And my life-blood warm'd, and my heart was stirr'd, and I knew that I was YOUNG.

I look'd again in the dead of night, and the valley was hid in cloud,
And the sweet spring-fields that had gleam'd so green were wrapp'd in a cold white shroud,
While the morning buds that had thrill'd with love had bloom'd through the livelong day,
And some were asleep and some were pluck'd and many had faded away.
E'en the stars were dim, and the moon shone out with such chill and loveless light,
That the beams that fell on the face of the earth but paled it to ghostlier white,
While the mountains, black as threatening doom, their lengthening shadows cast,
And quench'd all hopes and flickering joys, with the gloom of a darkening past;
For the day was gone, and the night had come, and the morning was slow to break,
And 'twas hard to feel that from sleep so deep the earth could ever awake.
Then I gazed on the lifeless scene, and felt the grey air death-cold;
My pulses stay'd, and my soul grew chill, and I felt that I was OLD.

I will look beyond, to a far-off world, to the promised Land of Peace,
Where the sun shall glow with life-warm hues, and the morn-tide shall never cease!
There the buds of earth shall bloom anew, in a fairer lovelier strand,
And none shall fade, and none shall be pluck'd by a cold destroying hand;
For the River of Life will glistening flow through the endless-flowery fields,
And the soul shall thrill with the rapture deep that perfection's beauty yields.
Then, then shall be Spring! Then, then shall be youth, and the fulness of love and life!
Not ebbing and changing, and growing old, but ever and ever rife
With growing, deep, and increasing joy, and the everlasting bliss
Of faith fulfill'd and perfected hope that its guerdon no more can miss.
There Love shall reign from sphere to sphere, and His endless praise be sung,
By the earth-old souls that again shall be for ever and ever, YOUNG!

The BATTLE of ROMANI, August 1916

The Battle of Romani, fought between 3 and 5 August 1916, was the last ground attack on the Suez Canal at the beginning of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign during the First World War. The battle occurred 23 miles (37 km) east of the Suez Canal, near the Egyptian town of Romani and the site of ancient Pelusium on the Sinai Peninsula.

The Anzac Mounted Division, was under the command of General H.G. (Hasry) Chauvel, containing the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Light Horse Brigades, the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and the 5th Mounted Brigade (British Yeomanry).

Late in July 1916, Australian patrols began a series of hit-and-run raids on enemy bivouacs. The Turks continued their stealthy approach on Romani until they reached the Anzac outposts a few miles out from the tableland. At almost midnight on August 3rd, was when the Australian listening posts encountered troop movement to their front. In an instant the desert erupted into action. Thousands of Turks, who had crept to within yards of the outposts, swept forward screaming, "Allah, Allah. Finish Australia." The main body of the 1st Australian Brigade consisting of 1st, 2nd & 3rd Regts, faced the full fury of the Turks.

Charging shoulder to shoulder in massed ranks with fixed bayonets, the Turks ran straight into the point-blank fire of the Light Horsemen. The Light Horsemen, being well prepared, faced their fury with machine-guns, rifles and bayonets as whole lines of the enemy were wiped out only to be immediately replaced by others. For three hours the Light Horse stood firm against one massed attack after another. Then, still under tremendous enemy pressure, they were ordered to withdraw slowly. The withdrawal was carried out according to orders. As a result, the Turks were convinced they had the Australians on the run, increased the pressure and even crashed through some parts of the Anzac line.

At sunup, General Chauvel could see, from his vantage point that 1st Brigade was still struggling against tremendous odds as it continued to retreat. Turks were now sweeping in massed waves against the New Zealand brigade. Hidden on the flanks waiting Chauvel's command were the 2nd and 3rd Australian Brigades, while British cavalry and artillery units were already moving up into position. After more violent fighting, the Turks not only over-ran the New Zealanders holding Wellington Ridge, but many infiltrated right through the Anzac area. As a result, men began stalking each other in deadly hand-to-hand combat.

Suddenly, a mass of 800 Turks flung themselves at Mount Meredith, held by the New Zealanders. The Kiwis opened up, returning a rapid fire into the close-packed enemy ranks dropping the Turks in their hundreds. Chauvel then directed the remnants of the 1st Brigade to stop their withdrawal and, after joining up with the New Zealanders, hold a firm line. Then he brought the 2nd and 3rd Brigades in from the flanks, thus implementing his plan to compress the enemy into an area covered by the British artillery. Finally, as the Anzacs dismounted and moved in a great mass towards the Turks, the British artillery opened up. Salvoes crashed right into the enemy ranks.

After that, General Chauvel applied pressure right along the line. The Turks turned and fled, leaving 5000 dead on the battlefield. In the pursuit that followed, the enemy was to lose many more men before finally falling back to their main position across the Sinai Desert. The fight for Romani, and ultimately the Suez Canal, had been won, largely by the Australian and New Zealand mounted troops. Some of the light horse had been in constant combat for 59 hours. The battle of Romani was over.



Corporal Austin William Edwards, SN#1090, stands by his horse, "Taffy" prior to the Romani engagement.

Corporal Edwards was seriously wounded at the Battle of Romani. During the battle, Taffy, instead of fleeing the battlefield, patiently stood by his wounded rider to remount and escape

Austin William Edwards

A joiner from Cundletown, Manning River NSW
Next of kin was listed as Mrs. Jessie Edwards - Mother.

Service Number: 1090

Rank: Private/trooper and gained the rank of corporal.

Embarked from Sydney on the 16 August 1915 on the HMAT Marere A21.

TAFFY WAITS

(c) Graham Fredriksen 1956 - 2010

Well, I've seen, boys, a full many horses
the length of my travels, and yet
'twould be fair to admit that the Forces
had the ones I shall never forget.
And there's one stands alone from the others,
though I don't know a thing of his blood,
where he came from or what, but his mother's
just the type you would want in your stud.

I have ridden this wide land all over,
from the high country scrubs on the coast,
to the dry inland tracks of the drover,
seen the best of which horse breeders boast.
And the handiest, too, and the tamest,
doing feats quite extraordinary and grand,
but intelligence-wise and the gamest
was this horse in the old Holy Land.

There they carried us days without water—
and the khamsin a furnace's breath;
and they stood steel to steel in the slaughter
as we charged the barrages of Death.
And amidst all the bullets and bayonet,
in an act such as I've never seen,
this brave horse—the Romani campaign, it
was August of nineteen sixteen.

We'd been months in the North Sinai desert
under General Sir Harry Chauvel;
not the place I would want to revisit—
it was hot as the hobs of all Hell.
We were camped at some wells and our squadron
was employed doing garrison works;
and our only relief was the odd run
in with Arabs on side with the Turks.

Then, one day we were detailed a mission—
the road to Kantara was cut;
Abdul Johnny had taken position
to ambush the King's "Mounted Fut".
And we chance rode right in to the fracas
('twould be stretching to call it a stunt)—
no artillery column to back us,
and a legion of Turks to our front.

Still, we soon had our Lee Enfields cracking,
and our bayonets we slipped to the stem
and we turned and charged heedless, attacking
the centre and nearside of them.
The "mad bushmen" they'd named us; we earned it
as we galloped full, headlong and bold,
and the tide of the battle, we turned it—
till their sheer weight of numbers took hold.

It was then, in the heaviest clashing,
when the order came round to retire,
that I saw through the bayonets slashing
and the gunsmoke and withering fire,
one of ours on this red taffy gelding,
a young trooper, lurch back in his seat,
take a shot through the hip and was felled in
to the dust at the red horse's feet.

I wheeled round on my own mare and quickly,
but I couldn't get near to his side,
for a fresh wave of Turks rolled in thickly,
and my own health had me occupied.
They came on us with wild shrieks of "Allah !!"
"O sweet Jesus !"—I sighed in response;
and it seemed that the gates of Valhalla
had let loose all its warriors at once !!

We were caught between anvil and hammer,
and the air was a aof lead,
and the rifles ran hot with the clamour,
and the sands of Romani ran red.
There were stumbling men, shell-shocked in stupor;
there were dying men, dead horses, too;
and I looked to that young wounded trooper—
and I swear what I'll tell you now's true !!——

That red horse by his master had waited,
though grim Death swung the scythe all around,
and the rifle fire roared unabated—
he'd stood hard by that man on the ground.
And the rider tried reaching his stirrup
from a crawling position, half prone,
but he hadn't the strength to get near up,
for the shot, I'd say, had broken bone.

And when next I looked, he was a-straddle:
that red taffy'd crouched down on all fours
for the man to crawl onto the saddle
where he swayed to a momentary pause.
And then slowly, and steady, ascending,
one brave Lighthorse eased off through the fray,
through the carnage, determinedly wending,
and he carried them safely away.

'Twas compassion, 'twas courage exquisite—
never since such a horse have I seen;
and his coat was as red as the desert,
and his eyes, they were Charity's sheen;
and his mane was the colour of honey,
and his heart . . . well, I'd have to endorse . . .
O what colour is Love ?——all the money
in the world would be cheap for that horse.

And the trooper, they say he recovered,
and our squadron . . . well, we won that day;
and, sometimes, thinking of our beloved
faithful comrades that bore us away,
I look back down the long years abating,
and that image, boys, stays in my mind,
of Romani and red Taffy waiting
for the mate he would not leave behind.



2015 ESSENTIAL ENERGY AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

The "Golden Damper" Performance Awards

Tamworth (NSW) has long been the home of Australian Bush Poetry. The connection began over 25 years ago when a small local poetry reading group began a Bush Poetry competition in a local hotel during the Tamworth Country Music Festival. This competition grew quickly in popularity with both performers and audiences alike until it reached its current standing as one of the 'premier' Bush Poetry competitions in Australia.

Indeed the "Golden Damper" Performance Awards have been the launching pad for the careers of some of Australia's best performers and writers since its inception all those years ago. Familiar names such as Murray Hartin, Mark Giori, Bobby Miller, Bob Magor, Milton Taylor, Roderick Williams, Noel Stallard, David Proust, Peter Mace, Ray Essery, Guy McLean, Gregory North, Melanie Hall, Carol Heuchan, Gabby Colquhoun & Marion Fitzgerald have won the coveted trophies since the competition began in 1987.

Many of these artists have since gone on to be Australian Bush Poetry Champions and some have even become household names around the nation!

As it happened a number of these performers banded together to form the Australian Bush Poets Association (ABPA), an organisation which now has hundreds of members and provides support and guidance for performers and sets the guidelines for how bush poetry competitions should be run.

In 2013 the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group handed over the running of the event, (now known as the "Essential Energy-ABPA-Golden Damper Performance Awards") to the ABPA so it could be run under their auspices.

In recent years the "Golden Damper" Performance Awards have been held in the very comfortable environs of the West Tamworth Leagues Club and West's will continue to host the event under its new title in 2015.

For 2015 the "Golden Damper" Performance Awards will consist of 2 sections, Original & Established (Modern or Traditional).

3 days of heats will be held in the "Outback Bar" (at West's Leagues) on Tues the 20th, Thurs the 22nd and Fri the 23rd of January 2015 with the finals being held in "Blazes" Auditorium (at West's Leagues) on Sat the 24th January 2015.

Entries are invited from both established and new performers. Entry forms will be available shortly from the ABPA website, www.abpa.org.au or send a stamped, self addressed envelope to "The Co-ordinator-Golden Damper Entries 2015, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685".

Entries close when the 9 allotted spaces in each section on each day are filled.

Golden Damper 2015 Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson would like to invite ABPA members to submit their names to him for the 2 judging spots (per day of the competition) that the ABPA is required to fill. (Preference will be given to those whose names are on the current ABPA Accredited Judges list). (This can be found on the ABPA Website). Graeme would also like to hear from anyone willing to MC each day's event.

Graeme is also seeking names of potential volunteers to fill the following positions over the course of the event. He requires the assistance of 2 x Score Collators and 1 x Concierge (per day).

*NB: For the first time in 2015 the "Golden Damper" Performance Awards will be run under the recently ratified "Guidelines for Australian Bush Poetry Competitions" rules. The competition will also use any or all associated Judging & Rank Order Tally Sheets as described in the "Guidelines for Australian Bush Poetry Competitions" document (that can be found on the ABPA Website) in the running of this competition in 2015.

It is the responsibility of any potential entrant to the competition to familiarise themselves with the relevant documentation.

Sponsored By





Dorrigo, N.S.W.

Presents

Bush Poet's Competition/Breakfast

**Date:- 25th October 2014
beginning 8am**

**Venue:- Top Pub Dorrigo
(Dorrigo Hotel Motel)**

**Prize:- Perpetual Trophy + 2 Tickets
for next year's Dorrigo Folk Festival.**

All Enquiries to
Rod Worthing
bjandrod@gmail.com



AUSSIE BUSH ENTERTAINMENT MUSTER

**at the Benalla Bowls Club
Victorian Bush Poetry &
Music Association
10 - 12 October 2014**

A fun Aussie Weekend!!

Friday 10th **Morning 10.30am** – 12.30pm Christine Middleton's Play 'Scones, Lamingtons and Chocolate Roll' with Tim Sheed and Matisse Schubert

Afternoon Col Carrington in "Down the Track with Mulga Bill" at 2pm.

The second 'Off and Racing with Mulga Bill' 3.15pm.
7.30 pm Australiana concert (6pm dining)

Saturday 11th 8.30am - 10am Poets Breakfast

10.30am – 12noon Writing family stories (poems, songs) with Christine Middleton, (including how technology can help you collect, store and publish them.)

1.15pm short memorial Anzac performance at Weary Dunlop statue

2- 3pm Novice Poets (TBC),

3.30pm Victorian Song Championships – Original & non-original

7.30pm Australiana Concert with Lazy Harry, Song winners & friends

Sunday 12th 8.30am - 10am Poets Breakfast

10.30am workshops and music

2 - 4pm poems and songs with 'Henry Lawson' (James Howard)

Bookings / enquiries:

Jan Lewis, VBPA Secretary info@vbpma.com.au



Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

17th to 19th October 2014

Written Bush Poetry Competition

Section 1 Child under 12 years -

Section 2 Youth 13-17 years (no entry fees)

Section 3 OPEN - 18 years and over (Bush Poetry) no limit to number of entries.

Section 4 -Crystal Creek Meadows : Theme '**Endeavour**' -

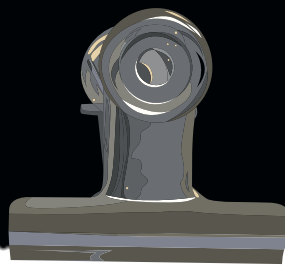
With climate change and biodiversity loss, we need to become more resilient in the future, as individuals, families and communities. Even animals and plants will need to adapt. Write a poem which captures the spirit of endeavouring as an uplifting and positive story to inspire people. *By entering, the author gives permission for Crystal Creek Meadows to include their poems in an anthology to be made available to their guests. Copyright remains with the author.*

For full details see Rules and Conditions that come with entry form available from abpa.com.au or zondraeking@gmail.com or the Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival website. Trophies for sec 1 to 3.

- Crystal Creek Meadows Accommodation prize Sec 4.

Entry fees \$5 per poem sec 3 only

Entries close 26th September.



Regular Monthly Events

NSW

Illawarra Breakfast Poets meet every Wednesday at 7am at Coniston Community Hall, next to Coniston Railway Station. Ample parking, no steps, everyone welcome.

"Bush Poetry In The Upper Lachlan." The Laggan Pub, Laggan NSW. The 1st Wednesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. For further details contact Mike or Elaine on (02) 4837 3397

Gosford Bush Poets meet at 7pm the last Wednesday of every month at the Gosford Hotel, crn. Mann and Erina Streets Gosford. All welcome. Contact Vic Jefferies 0425252212 or Peter Mace (02)-4369356

Port Macquarie (Hastings-Macleay) Poetry Group now meets 2nd Sunday afternoon 1pm to 4pm, Port Macquarie Senior Citizens Club (Pioneer Room), south end of Munster St, Port Macquarie. Contact Rod, Janice, Ian, Tom or Bessie 6584 5425

Milton Ulladulla Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Group First Sunday Every Month at Ex Servos Club Ulladulla 2pm start visitors welcome contact John Davis 02 44552013

Binalong - A Brush with Poetry @ Black Swan Wine Bar and Gallery. last Sunday of every odd month (except January), 2-4pm Open mic. Contact Robyn Sykes 02 6227 4377

The Queanbeyan Bush Poets meet at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Casuarina Room at the RB Smith Community Centre, Crawford Street, (opposite the Council Chambers). Contact Laurie McDonald on 02 6253 9856

Port Macquarie Minstrels , Poets and Balladeers meet fortnightly; 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm in the Pioneer Room, Senior Citizens Hall south end of Munster St, Port Macquarie . Contact Tom Mcilveen 0417 251287

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poet Group meet from 9am on 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at The Distillery - North Pine Hotel, Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Rd. Petrie Contact :- John 07 38862660 or Noel 07 33513221

Kuripla Poets - last Sunday of the month 2pm to 4.30pm, Croquet Hall, 91 Codelia St. Sth Brisbane. Contact Marilyn 0458 598 683

Geebung Writers - 9.30 am every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Geebung RSL. Contact Jean (07)32654349

Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. 2nd Saturday of the month. Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street. Contact Edna (07) 41597198; Jayson (07) 41550778 or Sandy (07) 41514631.

Beaudesert Bush Bards meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9.30am at the Beaudesert Arts & information Centre, Mt. Lindesay H'way, Beaudesert. Phone 07 5541 2662 or 3272 4535.

Redcliffe Peninsular Poets - 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm to 9pm. Winton Room, Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Downs Street, Redcliffe. Contact Trish (07) 38847790 or Trish1942@gmail.com

Russell Island Writers Circle - 2nd Thursday of the month at 9.30 am. St. Peters Church Hall (Next to IGA). \$2 donation. Contact Trish (07)34091542

Shorncliffe Cafe On The Park - 3rd Monday of the month from 6pm, 6 Park Pde, Shorncliffe. Contact Kevin Dean (07) 38810986

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates for adults is 7.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month and 3:45 for children at the Aitkenvale Library, Aitkenvale Townsville.

Victoria

Kyabram Bush Verse Group- First Monday, every second month, namely Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. at the Kyabram Baptist Church meeting room, crn Fenaughty Street and Lake Road Kyabram 7.30pm. Contact Mick Coventry 0427-522097

Gippsland Bush Poets meet Monthly, 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the RSL Hall in Hood St. Rosedale

Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers (TOMPABS) meet Monthly (mostly Tuesdays in Corryong) for writing workshops, Monthly on 3rd Sunday for Music and Poetry at Maurie Foun's 'Poets' Paradise'. Contact Jan Lewis (02) 60774332

Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets - Third Sunday even numbered months, except December when second Sunday. Newmarket Hotel, cnr Nolan St & Strickland Rd, Bendigo 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Contacts: Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739 or Ken Jones 03 5441 5121

WA

Albany Bush Poets Group 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact Peter 98446606

Perth monthly muster, 1st Friday of each month 7pm - 9.30pm at The Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive Bentley Park 6102 Contact Dave 0438341256 or Terry 0894588887.