

A.B.P.A.



Volume 21 No. 6

December/January 2015 2016

Australian Bush Poets Association

Merry Christmas 2015



17th-21st FEB 2016

Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival SIGNATURE EVENTS

The 2016 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival, to be held in Orange NSW, the birthplace of A. B. Paterson, will celebrate all famous Australian Poets whilst still featuring outdoors and healthy lifestyle activities for the whole family. Don't miss the signature events to be held during this 5 day Festival.

A DAY WITH BANJO AT YEOVAL
SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

BREKKY AND POETRY IN THE
PARK
MONDAY 15 – FRIDAY 19
FEBRUARY (EXCL. 17 FEB)

BANJO BREKKY BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

BANJO BIRTHDAY DINNER
WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

DEAD MEN TALKING
THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON NIGHT
MARKET
FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON POETRY
COMPETITION
SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON FAMILY
MARKET DAY AT EMMAVILLE
COTTAGE
SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

For more information on the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival
accommodation and packages

www.visitorange.com.au

EDITORIAL

A great loss to our Bush Poetry Family was the loss of our ever loveable and prolific writer/entertainer, Ellis Campbell. Words cannot explain how his loss has hit most of us, but words indeed are how we cope as Poets. Thanks for those who have paid tribute to this wonderful man.

But we will continue on, despite the losses of our founding members and most influential Modern Poets, and onwards and upward into yet another year of keeping our Traditions alive. Tamworth is breathing down our necks now and although we are saddened at Sam Smyth's unfortunate events and the cancellation of his breakfast and matinee shows this year, there is still plenty of opportunity for Poets at St. Edwards Hall, The Longyard and Gary Fogarty's new venue at the Frog and Toad. Combined with Graeme Johnson's wonderful efforts to booster and continue the legacy of the Golden Damper Awards Competition, all is looking good for another Poetry filled Tamworth.

Unfortunately the Bush Lauriette Awards folded this year so we have no awards for Poets who have produced CD's, DVDs and Books over the past year. Hopefully we can come up with an alternative, being the close Association we are.

Yet again, I have to continue on like a broken record and voice my disappointment at members reluctance to submit anything for the Magazine. It seems that Christmas Time is now even something that most Poets do not even wish to share with others and it may well be time to ask ourselves if we are even willing to attempt to keep this Association alive and functioning with new and inovative content or if we are just happy enough to have me fill it with any old thing I can try to Google up. Please note that the next deadline is extended so as we have all content and results from Tamworth available to print for members, and also to enable me to get home to edit the edition! After that the deadline will return to the 22nd of every second month.

Anyway, Merry Christmas and a wonderfully productive New Year to you all for 2016.

Happy writing and performing to all and safe travels!

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is January 31st

ABPA Committee Members 2014

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AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

**Proudly Supporting The Cerebral Palsy League
Through Magazine Printing**

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
Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000

Account: 154842108

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



President's Report

VALE ELLIS CAMPBELL

For all of us who loved and respected Ellis Campbell, who passed over on 22nd October at age 88, this has been a very sad time. The whole of the ABPA is united in paying respect to one of the finest writers of the modern era and in extending our sympathies to his wife Maureen and his devoted family. Many tributes to Ellis are in this magazine. Farewell for now to a wonderful mentor and friend.



COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee has been working towards considerations that need to be discussed at the AGM, which will include the ABPA Financial Situation, communication ideas between all segments of the bush poetry community, programs for youth and ABPA Championships muted for 2016/17.

With respect to the latter, a new group assessment sheet for children seven and under entering written competitions, is now included in the Competition Package. This is aimed at helping class teachers to take the next steps towards conveying the basics of bush poetry. The competition package is regularly upgraded according to need and we hope that organisers and potential competition entrants will continue to avail themselves of the current information on the site.

The 2015 ABPA West Australian Championship was held in Toodyay from 30th October – 1st November. Report and results are in this magazine. Once again, congratulations to Bill Gordon and his enthusiastic team for conducting yet another successful annual event.

ABPA GOLDEN DAMPER PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

The West Leagues Services Club in Tamworth have again provided venues for the ABPA to hold the Golden Damper Performance Awards. Details of the competition are in this magazine and entry forms may be downloaded from the ABPA Website. Unfortunately, this year we have not attracted sponsorship funding, but, in line with the explicit wishes of ABPA members and the approval of the Committee, and in the absence of an application for a National Championship, we agreed to fund the Golden Damper as our showcase event for 2016. To allow us to do so, we have had to implement means of fund raising to cover the costs. However, if the prestigious Golden Damper is to continue beyond 2016, we must urge all to support it through entries and through attendance at Wests and at fund raising events to be held in St. Edward's Hall (details in this magazine and on the ABPA Website). It is felt to be imperative that the ABPA has a direct, high profile presence at the Tamworth Country Music Festival where so many of our members congregate and where we have chosen to hold our AGM's. Please help us to retain this.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The flier for the annual membership renewal form is enclosed with this magazine. Members are vital for the functioning of our organisation and we thank each and every one of you for continuing as financial members of the ABPA.

OFFICE BEARER POSITIONS

The 2016 ABPA AGM will be held in Tamworth on 20th January, 2016 (see details in this magazine and on the ABPA website.) All office bearer positions are declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Measures have been formulated to allow the smooth running of the 2016 meeting with respect to office bearer appointments and proxy voting and these will be circulated to attendees prior to commencement.

The Office Bearer Nomination and Proxy Voting form is enclosed as a flier. If you are not able to be in Tamworth for the AGM, the proxy voting system allows you to have your say on who you wish to represent you for 2016. You are invited to allocate your choice in this manner.

To allow others time to consider coming forward, I am notifying that I will not be standing for President of the ABPA in 2016, nor will Brenda-Joy be standing for ABPA Secretary. We have gained greatly from our two year term of office but we need to move on to other endeavours. Our departure will allow others to take on these demanding but fulfilling roles. We thank you for having us as part of your Executive for 2014/2015.

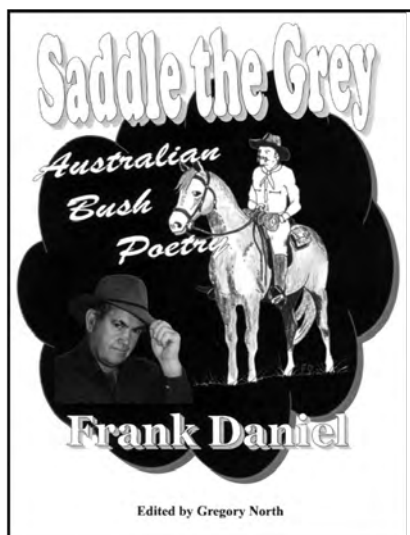
To serve the ABPA membership in any capacity is both an opportunity and a privilege. I recommend that you consider being a part of the Committee that maintains the ABPA on behalf of all its members.

I wish you all a warm and congenial Christmas and festive season and a New Year that brings you whatever is best for your health, happiness and well-being.

In poetry, Hal

Frank Daniel

new book now available



**\$20
posted**

or see
**Special Package
Deals below**

Previously
unpublished poems
and yarns plus some
you've never heard
before!

Proudly presenting Australian Champion Yarn Spinner and Bush Poet, the late Frank Daniel's last collection of original yarns and bush poetry. Edited by Gregory North. Frank was a great entertainer, presenting traditional Australian culture to audiences across the country for over twenty years. He appeared at all the major festivals and compered bush poetry events with his laid back country style and a touch of the blarney from his Irish ancestry.

The book includes mostly previously unpublished poems and yarns. Some Frank recited regularly and some have never before seen the light of day!

This dinkum Aussie's unique narrative writing skills provide a glimpse into the past as well as into modern issues. His home-spun humour and laconic wit make this a great read. Be warned though, as he always said,

"Only half the lies I tell are the truth!"

The Book is A5 size, 128 pages and includes the poems: Saddle the Grey, The Whips Have Long Ceased Cracking, Out for a Duck, Anthrax, The Princess and the Frog, Guess What, Miss!, Keeping Score With Nancy, Poets Never Say Goodbye and many others never before seen and yarns: How We Lost Hopkins, Travelling Abroad, A Pound For The Bull, Two-Bob to Central, The Wheat Dumper, Mrs Ward.

Special package deals:

New + first book \$25 posted

Saddle the Grey new release book + **Bush Yarns and Poetry** - Frank's first book (released 1995, cover may have slight scuffing).

New book + CD \$25 posted

Saddle the Grey new release book + **Saddle the Grey** audio CD (2003).

New + first book + CD + CD \$35 posted

Saddle the Grey new release book + **Bush Yarns and Poetry** book (released 1995, cover may have slight scuffing) + **Saddle the Grey** audio CD (2003) + **Chuckin' Rocks** audio CD (1999). **Only While Stocks Last!**

www.gregorynorth.com.au

Credit card or PayPal.

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BSB 633000, A/c 152718730

Email details: greg@gregorynorth.com.au

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2016 Victorian Bush Poetry Championships at MFSR Festival 2016 Victorian Bush Poetry Championships

Corryong 31st Mar – 3rd April 2016

ABPA Original, Humorous
and Serious; Contemporary
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Open, Intermediate, Novice
and Junior classes;

3 Poets' Breakfasts!



Come from the city, or Wallaby track,
or maybe up near Scone,
Come bush bashin' with your clobber,
or on your Pat Malone.
Horses, poets, friendships
and songs and yarns true blue.
Get crackin' – enjoy our bush festival
until you say "Hooroo".

Entry forms will be on <http://www.bushfestival.com.au>
from 7th December

or contact Jan Lewis 0260774332 or info@vbpma.com.au

ELLIS — YOUR LEGEND WILL ENDURE

A Tribute

© Brenda Joy, 2013

The foremost poet of our time
the master-craftsman of the rhyme,
you've laid aside your pen to take some rest.
You've led a long and fruitful life
with friends and kin and loving wife
whilst all your rich endeavours gained success.

Bush Poets owe you endless debt.
We are unlikely to forget
the contributions of your thoughts and quill.
You generously shared as sage
— in books, through workshops, on the stage —
the breadth of your experience and skill.

You wove the fabric of your years,
the threads from outback, bush careers,
into your tapestry of life's *vignettes*.
In talented "poetic haze"
you relived feats of younger days —
the richness of your age left no regrets.

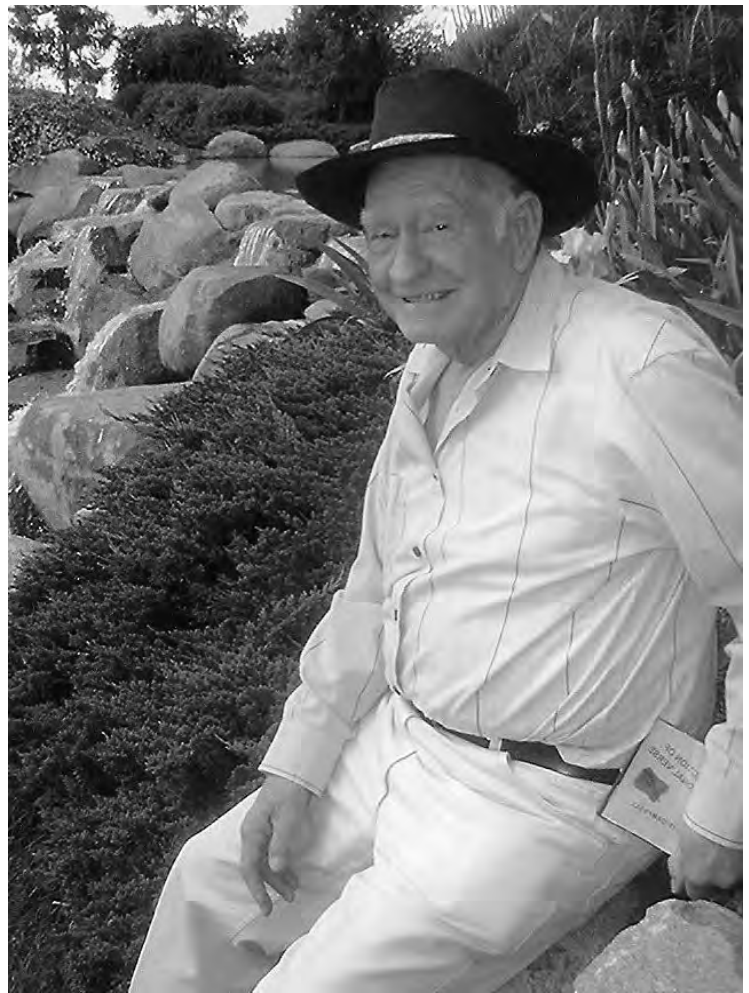
The shearer, stockman, vagabond,
the folk who ventured out beyond,
all tread your volumes of enchanting verse.
Your wisdom, love and inner sight
— compassion for the human plight —
are pools in which your characters immerse.

The partners through your life-time's course,
the friendships formed with mate or horse,
the valour and courageousness of steed,
all intermingle on your page,
whilst Nature's grandeur sets the stage —
the 'Outback' where both Man and beast are freed.

Alive with sight and sound and smell,
expansive land you loved so well,
emerges in your undulating flow.
Describing through a painter's eyes
you colour "unrelenting skies"
with "burnished sun" and evening's "russet glow".

You ride the range or "shadowed vale" —
a masterpiece in every tale,
like magic memories from mists of dawn.
You bring in focus "languid trees",
the "tawny grass", the "fickle breeze"
where bushmen's camp-light melodies are born.

Our inspiration, mentor, friend,
your influence will never end,
your place in writing history's secure.
Ambassador for land out west,
through what you've given we've been blessed.
The Ellis Campbell legend will endure.



On the morning of Thursday 22nd October Ellis passed away peacefully in palliative care in Dubbo. He was aged 88. Funeral arrangements are yet to be announced. Ellis was a highly awarded poet in both performance and particularly in written competitions.

Without doubt, Ellis Campbell has been one of the greatest bush poetry writers of our time. Despite leaving his career until later in life, Ellis gained over 700 awards for writing and performing bush poetry, while through the sharing of his skill and expertise, he contributed to the development of so many other poets. His tips on writing poetry are here.

Up to the age of 84, Ellis was still entering and winning both performance and written competitions. A vibrant, creative man, the last several years of his life were in palliative care. But now he has gone on to a world where all the traumas, depression and physical incapacity of this last phase of earthly life are over.

What Ellis has left behind is a legacy of writing from a master of the bush poetry craft, a family who loved him so dearly and a community of fellow writers and performers who will always remember him as the wonderful mentor, confidant and friend that he was to us all.

A Poet Passed This Way

©Will Moody 2015
(for Ellis)

I've studied all the poets, native born and foreign bred,
grateful for their light that helped me find the way ahead.
But as I lay my pen aside, with "Finis" drawing near,
I find I have no lamp to light the course I now must steer.

The way ahead's uncertain, there's no map to guide my feet.
Unarmed, except by faith, I face the fate all creatures meet.
Truth, honesty and dignity were all I had to give.
I only hope that, when I'm gone, some lines of mine might live.

But...who are these who gather by my bedside in the gloom?
And look!...the gloom turns golden as they crowd into the room.
There are faces here I recognise and some I feel I know.....
surely, these are poets that I learned from, years ago?

A gentle hand upon my breast...a keen, yet kindly, eye...
"It's time that you were moving on, Old Chap, so we came by
to sort of bring you up to speed on what needs to be done
by coves like you who come to join the likes of us, Old Son.

"Now, you can call me Henry; and this bloke, he's known as 'Den'
and Will here, he's a Scotsman...p'raps a kinsman, d'ye ken?
They call this feller 'Banjo' ...and there's mates of yours here too...
who've earned the title 'Poet'.....we've a place reserved for you.

See, God has weighed our efforts and He's given us the job
of droving would-be poets...mate, they are a motley mob!
To keep 'em on the right track and make sure that they don't stray
too far from rhyme and rhythm...or to try to anyway.

We span this wide land over, seeking out the eye that sees;
the heart and mind that yearns to learn its ancient mysteries.
We sit beside the wanderer as he takes a well-earned rest
and contemplates the valley laid below the mountain's breast.

We ride beside the driver of a semi in the rain;
we stand beside the farmer while he reaps his golden grain;
we delve beside the digger picking out his grain of gold;
we whisper to the dreamer, dreaming dreams we dreamed of old;

We gather up the bitter tears brought on by fire and drought
and mingle them with tears of joy that banish fear and doubt.
We sift the days and months and years of sheer back-breaking toil,
then glean the pride that blooms in hearts that love this stubborn soil.

From every man and woman and from every grain of sand
we distil the very essence of this people and this land,
then blend them all together to create the gift we bring
that serves as ink that shapes the lines that make a poem sing.

Wherever there's a camp-fire in the vast Australian night
we join the conversation, hovering just beyond the light.
Wherever there's a poet doing battle with his pen
we stir his heart, but still his mind, and urge him "Try again".

Just a drop of inspiration, gentle hint or subtle clue
to a struggling would-be poet...that's all He expects from you.
The works you've left behind, my friend, have set you now apart.
New poets are emerging...come...it's time to make a start."

Ellis, Milton, Frank...we're listening...



Farewell, Old Mate . 30 Oct.2015

They buried Ellis Campbell in Dubbo yesterday.
The Macquarie paused two minutes on its silver way
Narromine and thirsty townships further west;
paused to pay its respect to Ellis now at rest
in those towns the river spread the startling news:
'Position vacant ,master poet ,with forthright outback views.'
Husband ,father ,fond grandpa,multi- mentor,mate,
They buried him in Dubbo but his words still resonate.
When poets are performing in Corrowong,Dunedoo,
Tamworth.Bundaburg and Gulgong too,
you'll relish Riding Tearaway,hear Luck Can Vary,The Ploughing Team
and other Ellis classics on an outback theme .

Ron Stevens.

A patron saint of poetry
has written his last line--
the page of Ellis Campbell ends
where gifted writers sign.

St Peter has a tutor friend
with whom to share a stage
when bush verse calls its devotees
to hear the veteran sage.

The cadence of his flowing words
in countless lines of verse
will set a standard to achieve
by those who now rehearse.

Kevin Pye.

Gulgong Folk Festival

Located in the historical town of Gulgong in the Central West of NSW the traditional Gulgong Folk Festival has been known for 30 years as the best small Festival in the West. It is about 4 hours away from Sydney and close to Mudgee, Dubbo, Orange, and Tamworth and it is well worth the drive over the Christmas - New Year – break.

This year the Gulgong Folk Festival will return to its roots to celebrate its 30th anniversary. The Festival will start 31st December 2015 and will include the 3rd January 2016 and again "IT IS FOR FREE". The opening to this year's Festival will be a New Year's Eve Party on Thursday night the 31st December. All venues are in easy walking distance. There will be a Guitar competition, a Talent quest, a Poets Breakfast, a Bush Dance, Camping, Street Busking, an Art Exhibition, various Workshops, a Midsummer Magic Show and lots of activities for young and old; street markets, chalkboard art and stilt walking + so much more. Many of these activities would not be possible with the year of fundraising, raffles, the support of local Mudgee Mid-Western Regional Council and local venues and business sponsorship.

If you are interested in helping out at the Festival or to find out more details please contact Ross Kurtz on 0263735266 visit www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au or like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/gulgongfolkfestival>.

With kind regards
Agnes Nordmann
Publicity Officer of the GFF

BUSH POETRY GOES OFFSHORE

A new group to promote Australian Bush Poetry and encourage writers and performers has been formed on Bribie Island. We have been lucky enough to acquire the use of the conference room at the local Blue Pacific Hotel at Woorim on the 4th Monday of every month at 6.30 pm.

At our first meeting we had a large contingent of North Pine Bush Poets to support us and a fine crew of locals. There is hidden talent on Bribie Island and we hope unearth even more. Six islanders presented their own works and were very impressive. One lady rang me the next day and said that she had been wondering for ten years if her writing was any good. She was so encouraged by the reception she received that she wrote two poems that day. I had some old copies of this magazine to distribute along with flyers for the ABPA.

I hope more poets, or just fans, who are travelling Oz will call in for a fun night if they happen to be passing by on any 4th Monday. If you are first in, you can book into Motel Ellem for the night for the same price as admission to the poetry - free of charge. Enquiries - call Cay on 07 34083219.

Cay Ellem

HIJINKS AT HERVEY RANGE!

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates joined in the 150th Anniversary celebration of the Eureka Hotel at Thornton's Gap, Hervey Range on Sunday 13th September.

T.B.P.M. poets Janeen Mapson, Del Luke, Bill Moline, Barry and Rhyl Graham, Eileen and Bill Flynn, along with Geoff and Maureen Luke performed a mix of humorous and traditional Australian Bush Poetry for over 140 enthusiastic folk at the Drovers Breakfast, Sunday Morning.

Support was ably provided by Gympie's Laurie Pointing, and Boulia's finest, Frank Fayers, both exceptional poets in their own right, and the morning was a great success for the many charities and special interest groups involved, the rustic location of the Heritage Tea Rooms the perfect venue for the event. Included in the morning were very interesting talks on the early droving era through the Thornton's Gap and original Hervey Range road by notable cattle men Henry Atkinson, and George Yardley, detailing the difficulties of moving large mobs of stock over the primitive tracks of the day. T.B.P.M. members really enjoyed the day performing for the 140 plus crowd, and the interest created in preserving Bush Poetry for our future generations.

Barry Graham



Join in the fun in our online Forums
www.abpa.org.au

THE PACT

©Kay Gorrington

Winner 2015 Bush Poetry Section and 'Babes of Walloon'
Overall Award, Ipswich Poetry Feast, Ipswich, Queensland

It was quiet that Shift. I was on my last rounds.
There was only the hum of the normal ward sounds.
"Will you listen? Now listen." an old man had said
as I walked by the end of his hospital bed.

"Can you hear what I hear? It's a glorious sound;
It's the thunder of hooves as they strike at the ground."
I looked back at the man in that bed where he lay
or I knew he was dying and slipping away.

He is rambling I thought as I turned his light down;
just another poor soul in a hospital gown.
It was then that he took a firm hold of my hand
and he told me there's something I must understand.

That tonight he was keeping a pact he'd once made
to a mate he had known in the light horse brigade.
There were tears in his eyes so I sat by his bed
and I'll never forget what it was that he said.

"All my mates they were charging alongside of me
when a bomb had exploded we just didn't see.
For a moment I thought that the time had been stilled
but my mates and their horses they all had been killed.

Now my horse had stood near me despite his own fear
with his blood running red and the enemy near.
With my foot in the stirrup, he'd made for the line
and he got me back safely that war horse of mine

So I couldn't just leave him alone to his fate
and I spoke one more time to my gallant old mate.
Now that horse he had courage. I felt I had none
but I knew from his bleeding what had to be done.

Then I took up my rifle with trembling hands
while my curses rang loud on those far away sands
and I cried for my mate as I whispered goodbye
and I begged him to come when it's my time to die.

So I have to be ready. The time's edging near.
I can hear he is coming with saddle and gear.
Then we'll turn on our heels and we'll make for the sky
and he'll carry me safely to heaven on high.

Will you listen? Now listen to what I have said
for my soul will be leaving this wretched sick bed:
Then you'll hear what I hear. It's a glorious sound.
It's the thunder of hooves as they strike at the ground."

Then his hand it just loosened and fell to his side
and I sat there awhile as I quietly cried.
but the air had grown cold and my hair stood on end
as the curtains they shimmered and time seemed to bend.

I would swear that I saw a horse pawing the ground
with that man in the saddle and turning it round.
He was soon joined by others. The noise was a roar
and I knew that all things weren't the same as before.

On such wonder I gazed as these ghosts all appeared-
the man tightened the reins and that mighty horse reared.
It was then that I heard it; a glorious sound.
The proud thunder of hooves as they charged heaven
bound.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE MEO*

©TOMAS HAMILTON 26OCT15

She sees the parting transport jet and hears its fading whine
It'll touch down in Australia, in about twelve hours time
She knows she's here to do a job, to serve and not complain
But right now a part of her would rather be on that plane

Her tears that now flow freely keeps the fine sand from her eyes
She can't seem to stem the tide, no matter how she tries
Her mates are all around her and yet she feels alone
For its Christmas in the MEO and she's a million miles from home

It's the second festive season, her family has been apart
And poems and prose cannot explain, the aching in her heart
She recalls this time last year, with a painful tear
When she stayed home with precious ones, while her husband was serving here

From a canvas shelter, drifts a haunting lullaby
The soft and loving music, soothes the child's tired cry
She thinks of the first Christmas and she sees the irony
For wasn't baby Jesus, once a refugee?

Each Christmas sees our heroes, serve in some foreign land
Sometimes it's just to show the flag, sometimes to make a stand
I pray their very presence, may cause all wars to cease
And maybe then one year we'll have, a Christmas that knows peace

*Middle East Area of Operations

'TIS CHRISTMAS, O'LEARY!

Neil McArthur © 2011

'Tis Christmas, O'Leary, a time to be cheery,
Not drowning yourself in the mem'ries of home!
'Tis Christmas, begorra! and though we be poorer,
There's riches unknown in this pile of loam.

And not as a failure will I leave Australia,
I've come here for gold, and 'tis gold that I'll find!
With patience and caution we'll stumble on fortune,
We've the luck of the Irish, so never you mind.

'Tis Christmas O'Leary, no time to be teary,
For I miss my family as badly as you.
Keep the Emerald Isle, out of mind just a while,
And drink to our future and raise up your brew!

With windlass and bucket, we'll raise that great nugget,
That seems to elude us in every shaft
But there's time left a'plenty, to rise to the gentry,
A miner needs patience to ply out his craft!

'Tis Christmas O'Leary, now don't look so dreary,
Drink to our Lord and the Ireland you grieve.
There's gold to be found in this Ballarat ground,
So let's drink some ale 'fore taking our leave.

Don't dwell in the clover, Eureka is over
Though many a digger is now in the ground,
Great works are to follow, so take that last swallow
A toast to the fallen, then buy the next round.

So here's to the gold and to Ireland the Bold,
And here's to the toil that makes us both cuss.
'Tis Christmas O'Leary, and though we be bleary,
The Luck of the Irish is riding with us!

THE STATE SCHOOL KIDS OF GUM

©Noel Stallard

School holidays would start next week in country town of Gum,
and Christmas was the big event we couldn't wait to come.
To Santa months before we'd sent our letters of request,
explaining what to bring for us school kids here in the west.
But yesterday a new kid came to join our school of twenty,
he had no shoes, his clothes were old and dirt and grime a-plenty.

His name was Jamie Lowley and he'd moved here with his mum,
they lived across the railway line where drunks and hobos come.
His mum worked at the Café, serving coffee, meals and tea,
it seems the dad had taken off when Jamie was just three.
So we kids thought we'd do our best to make him feel at ease,
share lunch with him, play games with him, show him how we climb trees.

But we knew the coming Christmas for Jamie would be bleak,
a letter to the North Pole now would take more than a week.
And Santa and his helpers soon were packing up to go
with toys and presents, reindeer sleigh and hearty, "Ho, ho ho."
"There's no way we can get to him a letter now from Jamie,
but maybe we can help Santa", said gentle little Amy.

"We kids attending Gum State School could give Santa a hand,
and make sure Jamie gets this year a Christmas that is grand.
If Santa knew what Jamie loved he'd certainly deliver,
so maybe he just needs us kids to be his little giver.
Let's face it we have lots of things that Jamie would enjoy,
and if we shared we're sure to make his Christmas one of joy."

"We'd have to tell a little lie so Jamie writes a list,
of things he'd like at Christmas time and hope they still exist.
We'd say our flying doctor, whom we know as Doctor Dan,
could fly his list to Santa Clause, 'cause Dan's a clever man.
There's nothing Dan won't do for us, for we're his special kids,
he tells the world there's no one like his Gum School billylids."

What Amy said was super cool and Jamie wrote a list,
and while our Amy took a copy, Jamie did insist,
We take his list to Doctor Dan's new Flying Doctor's Plane,
and tell him that he'd best be quick, the forecast was for rain.
We winked at Dan and he winked back and to the sky he flew,
and then we Santa's Helpers knew what we would have to do.

When Jamie left, we checked his list to see what we could get,
Jack said he had a Nike cap and Jim a new train-set.
Arika had a Gameboy Game a Mario World Two,
and Blake would give his skateboard too that almost was brand new.
A silver scooter Clancy said he'd also give to Jamie,
while Reebok shoes would go in too, a special gift from Amy.

Our Principal, Miss Smily heard what we had planned to do,
and said that she would like to make a contribution too.
We don't know what it was she gave, the box was very big,
as brightly coloured paper wrap held some big thingumajig.
Dr. Dan and our Miss Smily said that they would make real sure,
on Christmas morn to have our gifts stacked up at Jamie's door.

We never saw the smiling face of Jamie and his mum,
but Jamie told us later how his mum was overcome.
That Santa who for many years did not know where they were,
and only when they came to Gum did He find him and her.
And we kids of the Gum State School were proud that we could say,
that just like Santa we brought joy to folk on Christmas Day.



Tips for Competition Organisers

by David Campbell

I deal with a lot of entry forms for written competitions. Some are good, some are just adequate, and quite a few are simply not up to scratch. Is this important? Yes, because the entry form and associated conditions are part of a competition's promotional material, and poor design and a lack of thought can discourage entrants. People make judgements based on clarity, layout, and the usefulness of the information provided. A sub-standard entry form is a bad advertisement for a competition. So here are some suggestions for competition organisers.

Allow sufficient space to fill in personal details. It's extremely frustrating to be faced with a cramped form, with limited room for entering information, particularly long email addresses. If possible, double-space between the lines. Many of us are getting on a bit, which means that it can be difficult to manage tiny, legible handwriting. It is counterproductive to jam the entry form onto the same page as the conditions, along with a fancy title and some sort of artwork. Use a full A4 page for the entry form, and put the conditions on a separate page. That way we can keep the conditions for reference and submit the entry form. Pages clogged up with logos and pictures are a waste of space, paper, and printer ink. On several occasions I've had to re-format documents (if I have an email version) just to fit the entry form onto a separate page and create enough space to fill in the necessary details. An alternative, of course, is to allow full on-line submissions (not merely on-line payment), and some competitions are moving in that direction. Note that there is a sample entry form available for download in the Competitions section of the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au as part of the comprehensive ABPA Competition Package.

Provide entrants with all the information they need. Some conditions are so cryptic that it's pure guesswork trying to figure out what's going on. Apart from basic information about prizes, the closing date, entry fees, payment details, and any line-limit, entrants need to know about any restrictions based on previous awards (both "no cash prize" and "no first prize" are common) or prior publication. In terms of publication "not previously published for individual profit" is simple and clear, and allows for poems that might have merely appeared in an anthology to be eligible. Vague, general statements that ban any prior publication are useless because poets may not be aware that something has been published, perhaps in a poetry group's local paper or a competition booklet that they've never seen. Or even posted on a website by somebody else. It happens! It's also a good idea to specify the type of font (to avoid obscure ones), line spacing (single-space should be fine for poetry and it saves paper), and whether or not hand-written entries will be accepted. And quote the ABPA definition of bush poetry for those who may be new to the genre.

Specify the timeline. That is, state when and how winners will be notified, and when and where the results will be publicly announced. Six weeks should be sufficient time between the closing date and the announcement of results, and anything longer than eight weeks is too much. Please send results and judges' reports to the ABPA webmaster web@abpa.org.au as soon after the competition as possible. It only takes a few minutes. Don't leave entrants in limbo, wondering what's going on and whether they're free to send their entries elsewhere. And if there's an anthology involved, don't keep people hanging around for months wondering if their poem has been included.

Finally, think beyond your own competition. Consider what effect your rules and timeline might have on other competitions, in particular whether you're hindering or helping entrants who might be waiting to submit entries elsewhere. Organising a competition is a big job, mostly done on a voluntary basis, and the effort involved is greatly appreciated by all poets. If it is done efficiently and well the outcome should be an increase in entries and the successful promotion of bush poetry in general.

For Ellis

©David Campbell

Delivered by posties the old-fashioned way,
and always with something so helpful to say,
the letters would come, and thus brighten my day,
from Ellis.

With talk about festivals, poets he'd met,
and thoughts about writing, I cannot forget
that I will forever be owing a debt
to Ellis.

As will many others he knew through the years,
performers and writers and all of those peers
who shared in the poetry, laughter, and tears
with Ellis.

A passionate spokesman for what he believed,
he earnt all the accolades that he received,
and so we think highly of what was achieved
by Ellis.

And though it might seem that an era has died,
his legacy's lasting, and so he will guide
the poets who follow, and speak with great pride
of Ellis.

Our Poetry Kids

In April this year, Caitlan Klippel, age 13, of Corryong, Victoria, became the ABPA Junior Written and Performance Champion. Coming from where Banjo's, 'The Man from Snowy River' is re-enacted annually, it is not surprising that Caitlan's penchant is towards Bush Poetry. Aren't we lucky to have such a talented, young writer who loves the genre as we do?

Brenda Joy

CORRYONG

Clear blue skies with eagles soaring overhead
Open country roads with the wind in my hair
Rustling brown leaves that crunch beneath my feet
Rivers that flow from the mountains to the sea
Yellow sun that warms my face and back
Of changing seasons searing drought and flooding rain
Night times alive with the bullfrogs chorus
Gods own country, Corryong my home.

©2013, Caitlan Klippel (at age 11)



MY INSPIRATION

In a little town we celebrate, you should come along
and share the love of bush poetry with yarn, music and song,
remembering the stories and poems of long ago,
the Bush Christening, The Loaded Dog and Clancy of the Overflow.

And what about the famous old Kosciusko ride,
where the man and his pony owned the mountainside?
We laugh with 'Mulga Bill from Eaglehawk...' who showed us how to ride,
whilst Dorothea Mackellar wrote of her '...sunburnt country...' with pride.

Then there's the Ghosts of the Geebung Polo Club, and the fire at Ross's farm.
We read about mateship and saving friends from harm.
So thank you to the poets, Gilmore, Banjo, Lawson and CJ,
you've taught us how to really dream and with our words to play.

Then softly the night falls and the stars are bright above,
our chests swell with national pride and hearts overflow with love.
We can call ourselves creative and use poetic refrain
but give me those great poets and I'm happy once again.

© 2014, Caitlan Klippel (at age 12)

MY POETRY

Can you hear the soft quiet sounds of the night?
In the distance the cry of night creatures take flight.
From my warm, comfortable bed I dare not arise
as to do so would fragment the words that I prize.

The visions that greet me from deep in my slumber,
they haunt me and taunt me, are pulling me under.
Then comes the silence or the roar of a waterfall.
Such visions in my mind, so splendid are one and all.

When weary eyes close and I'm nearly asleep,
my words come and dance for me, play hide and seek.
It is when I am sleeping that my poetry grows,
I dream in bright colours and everything flows.

My poetry is more than just some words on a page.
To me it is the patter of rain or the wind in a rage.
I listen to nature and its beauty embraces me --
to share this with you is my greatest epiphany.

The rhythm and beat keeps time with my heart,
sweet feelings, emotions then I'm back to the start.
The words come together and such beauty is born,
then I wake and its morning and my visions are gone.

©2014, Caitlan Klippel (at age 12)



Caitlan's poems were pre-published in Young Xpressions in the August edition of Free XpresSion.

WANTED

People To Laugh Their Bums Off!!

Where?



Every Morning At The Famous THE PUB GROUP

LONGYARD HOTEL BUSH POETS BREAKFASTS

Goonoo Goonoo Room

Hosted by

Neil McArthur

Along With

Marco Gliori and Ray Essery



Featuring Australia's

Finest and Funniest Bush Poetry Entertainers

Including Prousty, Murray Hartin, Brad Maclean, Bill Kearns, Errol Gray, Jack Drake, Col Milligan, Dave Prior, Greg North, Peter Mace, Peter Capp, Lyn Tarring, and many more!!

New Show Every Day - **8am to 10am**

From 16th to 24th Jan 2016

Admission - **\$10.00**

Tickets at Gate or prebook from bottleshop or on 02 67018400

Bush poetry events Tamworth, January 2016

Australian Bush Poets' Assoc events

ABPA Golden Damper Awards 2016

Bush Poetry Performance Competition

Heats: Tuesday Jan 19, Thursday 21

and Friday 22: all from 10.30am

"Outback Bar" Conference Room

Free entry

Finals: Saturday Jan 23, from **7am**

Blazes Auditorium \$5

Tickets available from the Club.

All in West Tamworth Leagues Club

ABPA concert, get-together and fundraiser

Featuring Pat Drummond, Jason Roweth, Ray Essery, Greg North, Neil McArthur, John Peel and Robyn Sykes.

Wednesday January 20: 7pm

St Edward's Hall

72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

\$10 entry

Walk-ups

Saturday Jan 16 - Tuesday 19 and

Thurs 21 and Sat 23: 2-5pm

St Edward's Hall

72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

Free. New performers welcome!

ABPA AGM

Wednesday January 20: from 2pm

St Edward's Hall

72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

Poettes

Friday January 22: 2-5pm

St Edward's Hall \$5 entry

72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

Recommended shows

Rhymer's Roundup

Friday January 15 - Wednesday 20

10.30am - 12.30pm \$7.50

North Tamworth Bowling Club

Thursday January 21: 7.30pm

Manilla Bowling Club \$10

The Longyard

Hosts: Neil McArthur and Marco Gliori

Saturday Jan 16 - Sunday 24: 8-10am

The Longyard Hotel \$10

Goonoo Goonoo Room (at rear of hotel)

Partners in Crhyme

Gregory North and Graeme Johnson

Saturday January 16: 7.30pm \$10

Manilla Bowling Club

The Poet's Showcase Breakfast

Econo Lodge Conference Room

(formerly Frog and Toad)

Hosted by Gary Fogarty

8.30 to 10am \$7 entry

Monday 18 to Friday 22 January.

Four Funny Buggers

Poetry, Comedy, Music

Marco, Muz, Brad and Alan

Tamworth Golf Club Mahoney Ave \$20

Monday 18 - Friday 22: 11.30am 2 hour

show.

The Bard & the Balladeer

Graeme Johnson & various Bush

Balladeers

Monday January 18-Friday 22

8.00 am-8.50 am

Salvation Army Homestead (Annex

Room) Free Entry

Compiled by the Australian Bush Poets Association. Any alteration/ additions/ subtractions please contact
robinsykespoet@gmail.com

NEW BUSH POETRY SHOW FOR TAMWORTH 2016

I am delighted to let members of the ABPA know that there will be a new and exciting Bush Poetry Show at Tamworth Country Music Festival in 2016. It will be advertised as "The Poets Showcase Breakfast" and will run from Monday 18th through Friday 22nd (8.30am to 10.00am) at the Econolodge Conference Centre (formerly the Frog & Toad) as an integral part of the Ted Egan & Country Mates entertainment package.

The Poet's Showcase Breakfast will provide an additional opportunity for a whole roster of Bush Poets to get exposure and (dependent on crowd numbers) a reasonable pay day at the Tamworth Festival. The brand new format will see a line-up of Australia's most popular storytellers get 30 minutes a morning to showcase their talents with the revolving line-up ensuring audiences a brand new, laughter packed show each day.

I am honoured to have been offered the opportunity, by Ted Egan, to both host and organise what I hope will become a permanent and successful part of many future Tamworths. It has given me a good reason to return to the Tamworth Festival after a three year, self-imposed absence.

The line-up for the 2016 Festival includes Murray Hartin, Ray Essery, Jack Drake, Bill Kearns, Dave Proust, Peter Capp, Errol Gray and myself. Despite several phone calls I was unable to engage any of the female poets I wanted for the show.

I would like to say thanks to all these people for being willing to take a 'punt' on an untried show and a special 'Thank You' to Neil McArthur who has done everything possible to assist me get this project off the ground.

See you in Tamworth.

Regards

Gary Fogarty

Brand New Bush Poetry Show For Tamworth 2016

POETS SHOWCASE BREAKFAST

Econo Lodge Conference Centre
(Formerly Frog & Toad) - 236 Goonoo Goonoo Road

Mon 18th - Fri 22nd Jan 2016 - 8:30am to 10:00am

NEW

Gary Fogarty

EVERY DAY!

**hosting a rotating Roster showcasing some of
Australia's Most Popular Performing Bush Poets
in Five Entertaining Mornings of Australian Comedy**

Errol Gray

Murray Hartin

Bill Kearns

Jack Drake

Peter Capp

Dave Proust

Ray Essery

Air Conditioned Venue
Breakfasts & Snacks - Coffee & Tea
Tickets at Door - Visitor Info Centre - Online: www.tcmf.com.au

GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake

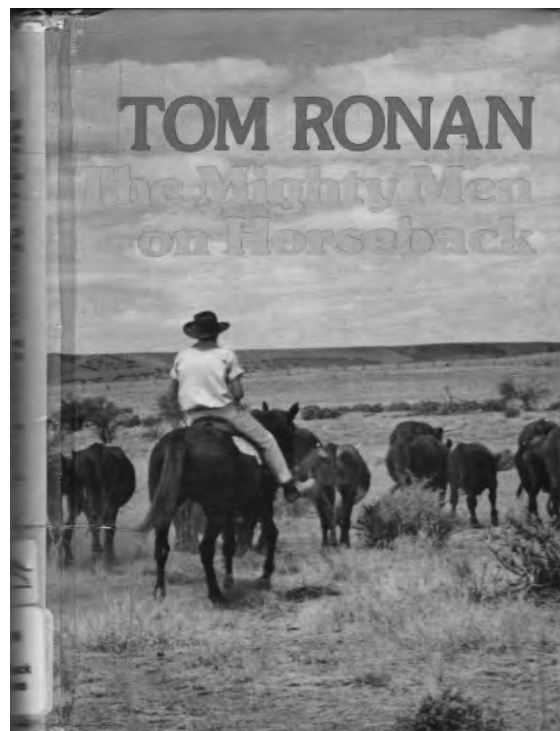


Tom Ronan is one of my favourite Aussie authors and he certainly does not disappoint in *The Mighty Men on Horseback* (Rigby Ltd 1977).

Mighty Men is a collection of short stories, sketches, yarns and biographies all set in the Northern Territory during the first half of the twentieth century. As usual, Ronan's deep knowledge of the times and places he writes of, is obvious. His father, Dennis, was one of Australia's best known drovers and was appointed manager of the massive Victoria River Downs by Sir Sydney Kidman. Tom spent his life in the Territory and knew the place and it's off beat inhabitants by heart.

The book contains pathos, whimsy and humour in spades. I particularly enjoyed Ronan's description of an old time drover's formula for sacking incompetent cooks. "Small, easy to handle cook; chuck him out of the camp and chuck his swag after him. Middle sized cook; explain to him as one gent to another that his talents are being wasted. Give him his cheque and a letter of introduction to some member of Parliament. Big tough cooks; best doctored with OP rum mixed with knockout drops and left in swag with cheque in boot while camp does extra-long days stage."

Mighty Men on Horseback is a touch on the politically incorrect side like a lot of stuff written in those times, but is definitely a great Aussie read and well worth seeking out.



The life and times of 'The Banjo' is a fascinating subject to almost all devotees of bush poetry. One of the best treatments of A.B. Paterson's life, is given in 'The Banjo of the Bush' by Clement Semmler, (University of Queensland Press 1966.)

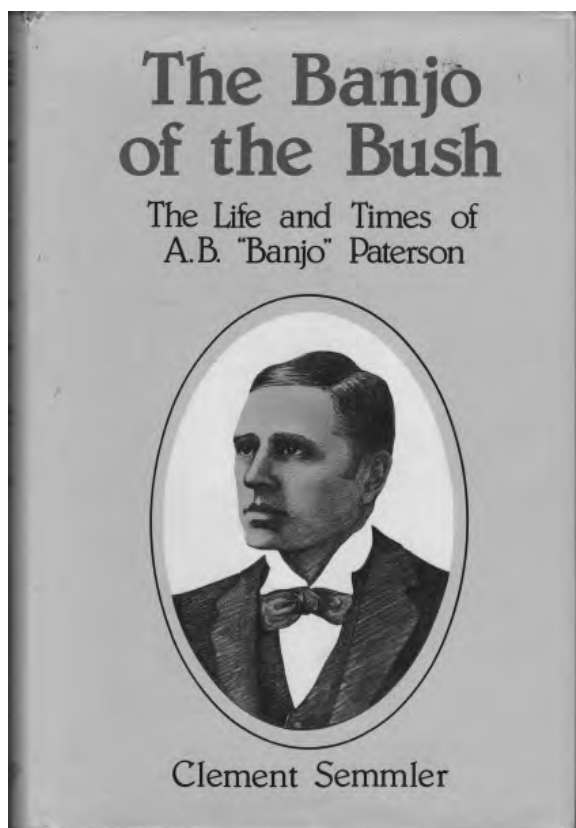
The Banjo of the Bush follows Paterson's life from his rural boyhood through legal training in Sydney. It documents his forays into journalism as a Boer War correspondent, his somewhat off key friendships with Henry Lawson and 'Breaker' Morant as well as his passion for horses and racing.

Liberally studded with examples of A.B.'s poetry and prose and with a keen insight into motivations of this brilliant but aloof poet, Semmler's work is probably the definitive account of Paterson's life.

The Banjo of the Bush is definitely required reading for anyone interested in 'The Banjo's' history. Although Paterson gave little away of a personal nature, Semmler paints a vivid picture of just what made Australia's most famous poet tick.

The book is very well worth reading.

Jack Drake



More great Aussie reads at
www.outbackbooks.info

'The Best Bloody Buys'

© 2010 Glennie Palmer

'The Lawn Patrol Mower'

Has he still got the bike? Yair...

The Court gave him custody of that. (karmic retribution)....AND he got the house, plus/plus/plus... 'cause I was supposed to be smarter than him, and therefore had 'better future prospects.'?? Fair dinkum! But I got the "Lawn Patrol" motor mower! I kid you not.

This "best bloody buy" was so ancient that the petrol tank was a long vertical cylinder, situated between the two x one inch gal water pipes that were laughingly called handlebars. He didn't actually "buy" that one; he swapped a "best bloody buy" electric shaver for it...that didn't work. So he's out on the front lawn, (when we were 'townies' for a while) yanking the bejeezes out of this thing's piece of rope...that he'd hand wind on to the starter wheel...bluur bluur blubber blub splat....it wouldn't start for love nor money.

Our good mate next door was the heavily bearded Mike the Pommie. Mike was waltzing around his front lawn with his flash bright red mower purring like a kitten, and making rude gestures to indicate that we were losers, because he'd already told the old man he was nuts, and that that mower would never go. "Never go? Be buggered, you wait 'n see. This is a ripper; best bloody buy I've ever got!"

This neighbourly discord was wearing on me, and as demented as my old man was, he was my man (or so I thought at the time), and if anyone was going to publicly humiliate him, it was gunna be me! not some furry faced Pommie smart alec. So I warned Mike, if he kept it up I'd put a hex on his fancy bright red purring machine. More gestures. So I pointed both my hands, with fingers outstretched like witches do, and said 'zap!' He took 2 steps.... and on my childrens' heads, I swear... his mower blew to pieces...true as God! For about 2 weeks after that the old man was extremely obliging and cautious with me, and as for Mike the Pommie, well, he wouldn't come within coo-ee of me. His missus sent him over to give me a letter that had been mistakenly put in their letterbox, and fair dinkum, he was quivering on my front porch, and chucked it at me...and ran.

Every Sunday for about 5 weeks thereafter, I'd see Mike the Pommie haul his bright red mower out, and try and try to get it started, only to ultimately ram the thing back under the house, slam the gate, and splutter a lot of words I'd never heard before. Like a lot of Pommies are prone to do, he cemented his front yard and painted it green. Guess where the bright red fancy mower went? In with the fill, under the concrete! True story.

For 20 years I was married to this "best bloody buy" fanatic, (I'm a stayer, not a sprinter) and in 20 years I don't think my grass got mowed once. Every Sunday he'd roll out whichever "best bloody buy" mongrel bred mower he had, and bluur bluur blubber blub splat, the swine wouldn't start.

He musn't have been able to get a good enough buy on a simple socket set to remove whatever the hell nut he was trying to get off, and insisted on using a chisel and a hammer to try to remove it.

Every Sunday...chink, chink, chink..."You @#^* bastard of a thing!! and bang!! slammed back into the 'ripper tool shed' he'd bought...then the door'd fall off its hinge, and the blaspheming would continue, as he chink chink chinked at the flamin' hinge.

Now I'm married to Big Al who is a ripper hole digger, (my former genius wouldn't dig holes for my plants) but Big Al's real smart. He got 3 cows to mow the lawn, and I'd rather be in that s..t than the one I wuz in!

(see Appendix 2. I blew another 20 years on Big Al...he didn't quite work out either. He was superseded by 'croc')



Competition Results

NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL

The 13th annual Nandewar Poetry Awards have concluded successfully with over 50 entries being received. The second best number since the competition started. All of the poems were of a high standard and the judge had a difficult time sorting out the winners.

This years winners are:-

1st place – David Fatches with “Skip”
2nd place – Terry Piggott with “The Last farewell”
3rd place – David Campbell with “When Rhyme is a Crime”
The following all received Highly Commended certificates.
Noel Hill for “Trooper Charley”
Tom McIlveen for “Bluey and again for “Bobby’s Return”
David Campbell for “Farewell”
David Fatches for “The Hot Water Urn”

Congratulation to all the winners and
Thank You to those who participated.

Max Pringle O.A.M., Co ordinator

P.S. – Next year could we please have a few humorous poems? Tissues were in high demand at the readings.

Poetry winners at Kangaroo Valley Festival 2015

At the recent Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival the title of ‘Reciter of the Festival’ was hotly contested with eight men and two ladies strutting their stuff. The field was split down the middle as far as original material was concerned, with the winner, Bruce Latham, delivering a side splitting self penned piece describing the ‘romancing’ of a star picket. He gets to keep that big lump of timber for a year, have his name put on it and then return to the festival (free ticket) and Judge the next reciter of the Festival in 2016.

The written poetry was also well subscribed this year with entries from all over Australia and New Zealand. The Open section was won by Terry Piggott of WA, with the two HC going to Leonie Parker and Shelly Hansen.

It seems to be a fair thing to have fewer awards. This allows authors to re-edit their poem (or not) and send it to another competition. Also with only a first (winning) place and one or two Highly Commended or Commended places, it will give the lesser awards more value. I believe Terry’s poem, ‘The Last Farewell’ will be included in this magazine.

In the junior section, the local Public School (Primary) were very well represented with every class submitting entries, except year 5&6, who were rehearsing for a production. With serious consideration finalists were chosen and came along on Saturday to read their poem. Everyone received a Ribbon Award with Max Hinde receiving the book prize, and a very promising young poet, Amelia Sim, aged 8, receiving the Special Medalion.

The book was a children’s picture book depicting ‘A Bush Christening.’

The teenage section was won by Jarrah Carlile.

Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards

20th Annual Junior Festival

A large crowd attended the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards – Junior Performance Section, which were held in Winton on Thursday 10th September 2015.

Overall, there were a total of 350 student performers – 185 Individuals and 20 Groups.

Every student from Prep to Year 6 received a certificate and special 20th anniversary ribbon, as well as medallions and trophies for first, second and third prizewinners in each year section.

Other prizes awarded were: the Banjo Award sponsored by Gary Fogarty, 3 x Encouragement Awards sponsored by Janine Haig and Jennifer Bell, and the Clover Nolan award winners received a special 20th anniversary sash.

There were nine competing schools from across regional Queensland:

Barcaldine State School; Cameron Downs State School; Longreach School of Distance Education; Longreach State School; Our Lady’s School, Longreach; Stonehenge State School; St Francis School, Hughenden; St Patrick’s School, Winton; Winton State School.

Janine Haig from Chinchilla and Manfred Vijars from Brisbane were our judges this year, with Graham Dean from Winton as Compere.

The Sponsors for this event were:
Corfield and Fitzmaurice, Winton Shire Council and Winton Business and Tourism Association Inc.

Any event is not possible without volunteers who help to make the Festival a wonderful success. Thank you to I.C.P.A. for the catering service.

Thank you to all teachers, students and families for their support of this wonderful event.



Co Ordinator, Zondrae King
with KV Reciter Of The Year
2015, Bruce Latham

THE LAST FAREWELL

©Terry Piggott 2015

Winner 2015 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival Comp.

You'll find no marble monuments or statues grand and tall,
perhaps a tiny ring of stones; more often none at all.
to mark the final resting place where unknown people lie,
amid the desolation here, beneath the outback sky.

No roads will lead you to this spot for tracks have long since gone
and left this place forgotten now as time moved ever on.
Most graves have all but disappeared beneath the shifting sands,
or overgrown by saltbush in this harshest of all lands.

Yet somewhere in this graveyard was a prize worth searching for
and ghostlike voices urged me on that I could not ignore.
I'd chanced upon this place while looking for a grave that day,
because of something precious that I'd found not far away.

It lay there almost hidden partly buried in the sand;
a marker from a grave somewhere, perhaps quite near at hand.
I scraped away the dirt and grime and words began to show;
a poignant, moving story told of heartbreak long ago.

The date was from the early days when gold lay all around
and I could sense the sadness then while holding what I'd found.
Perhaps imagination brought on by those words of grief;
the message was so touching in those lines so sweet, yet brief.

He'd written of his love for Sue no doubt when close to tears;
of how his love grew stronger with the passing of the years.
And visions of that tragic day went flashing through my mind;
a broken man stands by the grave I knew I now must find.

I searched among what looked like plots; the few that could be seen,
while trying to determine where perhaps Sue's grave had been.
At first this task seemed hopeless; Just a waste of time I feared,
a stone or two had marked a few the rest had disappeared.

Then in a dusty corner there, at last a clue was found,
four termite riddled post stumps near what might have been a mound.
A close examination then confirmed this was a grave
and instinct told me this was Sue's; the girl who'd been so brave.

I cleared away the bush and weeds and found a large flat stone
and carved into its rugged face the name of Sue was shown.
Again that sense of sadness as I looked down at this plot
and thought about a tragedy that time had long forgot.

Then vision's of a strong man's tears once more flashed through my mind;
her grieving husband must move on and leave his wife behind.
He'd face a lifetime of regret; decisions he would rue,
for all the gold that's known to man could not replace his Sue.

I placed the marker by her grave then laid stones all around
and Sturt Pea seeds I'd gathered, I then scattered on the ground.
I hoped they'd bloom each winter and then brighten up the scene;
a lasting floral tribute, to a love that had once been.

ROAD WATCH

© 2014, Brenda Joy

Winner, 2015 Coo-ee Festival, Humorous Section, Gilgandra, NSW

I'll tell you a story about an event
that happened last summer and caused my ascent.
I'd grown very bored with the daily routine
of having my udders pumped out by machine.

My Mum often told me about an old bull
she claimed was my Daddy. Her eyes would grow full
of tears at the memory – those were the days
when cows became pregnant in natural ways.

But sadly he died of exertion (through love),
and heifers now-days get a push and a shove.
It isn't romantic to calve from a tube –
it's like a car service with no grease and lube.

Now I'd seen hoofed mammals all covered with wool
but never before had I seen a live bull.
I couldn't believe it when outside one day,
a whole herd of cattle came passing my way.

And there in all grandeur was *Bos Indicus* * –
the sound of his bellow was mellifluous.
I lost all control for my need was intense.
With one mighty lunge I leaped over that fence.

He strode the 'long paddock' equipped and entire –
a tropical stud. I just had to admire
his pendulous dewlap, his massive great hump.
He told me of places beyond the Black Stump.

Our ill-fated court-ship soon ran out of luck.
The whole Brahman herd was piled in to a truck
and sent off to market as premium beef!
Thank goodness my dots saved me coming to grief.

My cattle drive days were exciting, but hard
I scuttled on back to the dairy cow yard
and no-one else knows of my wild, roadside ways,
but I'm an enigma – I'm famous these days...

... 'Cos I've borne a calf that's resistant to drought;
a hump's on her back and they can't work it out.
My farmer's convinced he's created a breed
of climate-change milkers to answer their need.

But there's no protuberance in his syringe
(and I won't let on of my long-weekend binge).
Unless he discovers how I had the hots
us New South Wales Holsteins will not change our spots.

I may tell my daughter the secret one day
of her handsome daddy who led me astray,
but meantime while Farmer Han's coffers grow full –
I'm watching the road for the next Brahman bull.

** Drought resistant breed of cattle originating
on the Indian sub-continent, known as 'Brahman'.*

WINTON 2015 Junior Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards

Driving into Winton from Longreach, you get a sense of the 'bigness' of the Queensland outback. Big sky, big country. Winton is the heart of this country - Matilda Country. Step outside any house in any street in Winton, turn right or left and you will see the edge of town. That's how you can tell you're in a small country town; but big is all around you, it encompasses and cradles you. You can feel a humble insignificance, yet for its Bigness it's not hostile, but friendly - Very Friendly.

Big-ness is reflected in the hearts of Winton's residents, there is much pride here. A strong community with wide involvement in (big) local projects like, The Outback Festival, Truckies Reunion, Winton Film Festival, Winton Diamantina Devils (Premiers SIX years in a row now so there), The Bronze Swagman and the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, Junior Festival.

The Junior Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards was the brainchild of the late Carmel Randal. The Festival, proudly presented by the Winton Business and Tourism Association has been running for 20 years. Louise Dean has been with the Junior Awards since inception. And this year, the Awards have been brought into the Digital Age with the insertion of the, Secondary Bush Poetry Digital Competition. For its inaugural year, the Secondary School Digital Competition attracted over 50 entries from within the "Matilda Country" catchment and from as far away as Brisbane. The entries were creative in concept and content, diverse in material and adventurous in production - and all were bush poetry. The Digital competition is a wonderful opportunity for many levels of the school curricula to become involved as acting, Props, Costumes and Sets are permitted.

The inaugural winner of the Secondary School Digital Competition, 2015 is Lachlan Carlisle. His clip can be found here ... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fh_oExSHRI

... and more information on the Bronze Swagman website - <http://thebronzeswagman.com/>

The live, Junior Performance section attracted over 350 student performers on the day. Each performer received a special 20th anniversary ribbon, as well as trophies and medallions for the many placegetters. A "Banjo Award", awarded to the best performance of a Banjo Paterson poem sponsored by Gary Fogarty and three encouragement awards sponsored by Janine Haig and Jennifer Bell were also given out. The "Banjo Award" recipient for 2015 - Riley Robertson (pictured)

There were nine competing schools from around Qld. : Barcaldine State School; Cameron Downs State School; Longreach School of Distance Education; Longreach State School; Our Lady's School, Longreach; Stonehenge State School; St Francis School, Hughenden; St Patrick's School, Winton and Winton State School. The judges were Janine Haig from Chinchilla and Manfred Vijars from Brisbane, with Graham Dean from Winton as compere. For information on the 2016 Waltzing Matilda Secondary School Digital Competition, a link to the PDF file outlining the criteria and entry form can be found here

<http://thebronzeswagman.com/competition-rules-2-2-2-2>



On the first weekend in April, the mountains around Corryong are set to ring with a new crop of Banjo Paterson fans and entrants in the Poetry and Bush Music events at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival.

In 2016, we will again proudly present the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships. This means we follow the Australian Bush Poets' Association's rules and categories; **around \$5000 in prizes and trophies** and we have retained our MFSR Recital comp, with three finalists reciting the famous poem on Friday night at Banjo's Block, the poets' home base. **Guest judges and performers include Graeme Johnson (Head Judge), Geoffrey Graham, Carol Reffold and friends.**

From Thursday to Sunday, there'll be hardly a time when somebody, somewhere in Corryong is not reciting a poem or singing a song. People have been actually known to attend a festival without even going near a horse!

However, we DO encourage you to try different components of our authentic bush gathering. There is surely something to please everyone!

We hope you'll join us for Original, Contemporary and Classical sections of competition, Poets breakfasts on Banjo's Block, concerts in a friendly atmosphere of camaraderie. Plenty of camping available, motel accommodation hard to come by.

Entry forms and draft Poetry program will be ready 7th December from www.bushfestival.com www.vbpma.com.au www.abpa.com.au

Jan Lewis 0260774332 email: info@vbpma.com.au





THE GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL PRESENTS

A POETS BREAKFAST

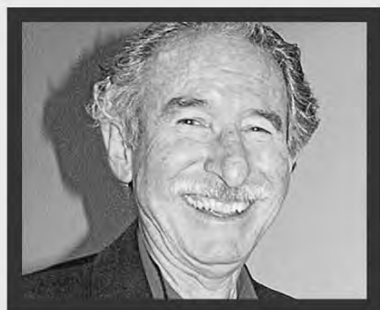
GULGONG R.S.L CLUB | SAT 2ND JAN 2016 | 7.30 AM - 10.00 AM



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BEST BUSH POETS!**

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Kevin Pye
Author of 8
top Australian
Poetry books**



**Your MC
For The
Breakfast is
Des Kelly**

WWW.GULGONGFOLKFESTIVAL.NET.AU | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GULGONGFOLKFESTIVAL

St. Arnaud

Another year, another great Poets Breakfast at St. Arnaud. Held in conjunction with the St. Arnaud Country Music Festival, this year saw a new concept, where the Breakfast was taken outside and independent of the Club and held in the wonderfully traditional surroundings of the Shearing Sheds of the Showgrounds. Organised in the usually competent manner by both Kathy and Ross Vallance of St. Arnaud, It was wonderful to see the in-out of the local school kids in painting the great backdrop of the Swaggie and his dog. They did a terrific job. Also to Ross (and mates) for building a new portable stage which can be used by others in the community as well as by the poets.

The Poets Breakfast itself drew a crowd of around a hundred people to come and watch a line up of Victoria's best Bush Poets, including Queensland Champion Kathy Vallance, her husband Ross, Col Driscoll, Col Milligan and hosted by Neil McArthur. It was great to see a new concept succeed and it bodes well for the future of Bush Poetry in Victoria. A similar team of Poets travelled to Kyabram the following weekend to extend the entertainment to their Country Music as well. Bush Poetry is alive and well in Victoria!

Neil McArthur



From Left: Kathy Vallance, Col Milligan, Neil McArthur, Col Driscoll

Mildura CMF - Poets Walk Up Breakies

Once again the 10 days of walk up breakies highlighted the Music Festival and the crowds each morning were outdoing, by far, most of the music shows around town during the Festival. Held at the Edge Hotel at Buronga, it was MC'd by Kathy Vallance for the first two days and then by Neil McArthur after that. Poets came from far and wide, with Bill & Meg Gordon and WA Champ, Christine Boulton making the trek from WA! Victorian Poets of the calibre of Col Milligan were in attendance, John Smith from Forbes and others from Qld and SA. A great time for Australia's third biggest Country Music Festival Crowd and so great to see it still growing every year. Thanks to everybody who helped make the mornings an overwhelming success.

Neil McArthur



Bill Gordon (WA) Christine Boulton (WA Champ) Kathy Vallance (Qld. Champ) Neil McArthur (MC)

Champ takes all at competitive WA Bush Poetry Festival in Toodyay

Keith Lethbridge (Cobber) scooped the pool winning all sections at the 2015 WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners State Championships. Making him this year's Bush Poetry, Yarnspinning and Poets Brawl Champion. Despite Keith's clean sweep, competition was extremely close with Peter Blyth and John Hayes taking very close second and third positions. Keith is widely acknowledged as one of the best Bush Poets in Australia, not only for his performing but also for his written poetry. He won the WA State Championships in 2005, and has also won the coveted Bronze Swagman trophy in 2009 with his poem "Gallipoli".

Members and supporters of WA Bush Poets from across the state made the most of the opportunity to meet together socially as well as competitively to enjoy an entertaining weekend of quality poetry, laughter and camaraderie at the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners State Championship held in conjunction with the Act, Belong, Commit Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival, the free event offers a high standard of poets presentations, workshops, a fun bush dance and wind up BBQ /sing-along and is held annually in Toodyay, on the first weekend in November, this year's event was held October 30 - November 1st. A written competition was held in conjunction with the Championships both serious and humorous categories were won by Terry Piggott. Terry has been winning competitions across the country for many years now, and has recently released his second book "Call of the Outback".

Judges for the performance competitions, Rod and Kerry Lee and Jeff Swain are foundation members of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Assn, it was good to be able to renew friendships and enjoy a performance by Rod and Kerry. Rod commented on how much the standard of performance had improved in the 2 years since he last judged. WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners thank the Shire of Toodyay for their continued support of our Festival and sponsors - Healthway Act, Belong, Commit program, the Govt of WA Road Safety Community Grants Program, Makit Hardware Toodyay and the Toodyay Lions Club. Mark 5th, 6th & 7th November, 2016 in your diary, book your accommodation and start writing and practicing because we want you in Toodyay for our 2016 Festival and State Championships. Check out our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au Don't forget to Slow Down and Enjoy the Ride.



WA Champ Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge taking home the spoils

'ABPA GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS' 2016

PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Golden Dampers say, "Give it a go!" Ever wondered how winning a Major Bush Poetry Competition felt? Like to experience that feeling again? Well wonder no longer as in this article 5 previous ABPA Golden Dampers share with you their experiences of the event. Inspirational, you bet! Get those entry forms in today.

Colin Driscoll: 'Winning the 2009 ABPA Golden Dampers Award with my poem 'Memoirs of a Sheep' gave me the self belief and inspiration to continue writing, performing & ultimately recording my Bush Poetry. My success opened many doors and allowed me to work alongside many of the finest Bush Poets of the modern era thanks to their encouragement & support. I competed on 3 occasions and each time found the experience to be nerve racking, exhilarating and highly rewarding. The camaraderie amongst the contestants was fantastic. My advice to you all, "Give it a go!"'



Lyn Tarring: 'Nothing can come close to the electric atmosphere that is generated between the audience and the performer at the ABPA Golden Dampers in Tamworth. The adrenaline rush becomes addictive and you will return again & again to be embraced by its spell. This is something that all aspiring Bush Poets should experience firsthand. Winning the ABPA Golden Dampers will leave you on a 'high' for some time thereafter.'

Peter Mace: 'My first win in 2007 was the impetus for me to record a CD and opened the door to my participation in many Festivals all around the country. It also provided the opportunity to perform with a wonderful array of poets and singers over that time. Thanks to all those (past & present) for keeping the ABPA Golden Dampers tradition alive as one of the finest competitions in the land. Long may it continue!'

Gabby Colquhoun: 'I was 'gobsmacked' when I finally 'struck gold' in 2006 reciting 'Pierced to the Eyeballs' written by everyone's 'mad mate' Billy Kearns. My second win came in 2013 reciting another one of Billy's gems, 'The Senior Citizens Meat Raffle'. It takes real guts to 'get up & have a go' but remember to relax and enjoy yourself as well!'

Brian Langley: 'When I first enquired about the ABPA Golden Dampers competition in Tamworth I was amazed at the names that appeared on the winners list. 'Looks like the way to get ahead' I thought. 'Everyone who is anyone in the Bush Poets scene has won there'. So there I was in 2013 nervously waiting my turn to 'do my thing'. I managed to score a place in both finals and went on to gain a 2nd place in the Original Section. The following year I again 'gave it my best shot' and actually won 1st place in the Original Section. My wife was yelling out, my fellow competitors were hugging me, and a little tear trickled down my cheek, "My God! I've done it" I thought!'

So there we go folks. Now's the time to secure your place in history by entering this prestigious competition. Fame & fortune await you! Event Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson is still seeking ABPA accredited judges who would like to volunteer their services to assist with the shows production in 2016. An MC is also still required for the heat on Fri 22nd. He also seeks other willing helpers to fill the following positions of Score Collating (x 2), Timekeeping (x1) and a Doors person (x1) for the heats and finals.

Remember everybody, it's our competition. If we all 'give a bit' it will lessen the load for everybody concerned. Let's make the 2016 'ABPA Golden Dampers Awards' the best yet! Join the crew today!



Sponsored by



THE 2016 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

After our exciting Silver Anniversary year in 2015, which was won by Brenda Joy of Charters Towers, we now settle back around the campfire and see what wonderful poetry the billy can bubble up for 2016. The Blackened Billy is without doubt one of Australia's most prestigious Bush Poetry Competitions and has a long and rich history which was captured in the recent wonderful release of the book "The Blackened Billy Turns Silver" available at a cost of \$15, incl. postage and handling. (Send money and postage details to Jan Morris, PO Box 3001 West Tamworth 2340 or janmorris33@bigpond.com as soon as possible so you don't miss out on this significant publication.)

Writers of Bush Verse are invited to compete in the 2016 Blackened Billy Verse Competition. First Prize is \$600 plus the much loved Blackened Billy Trophy, Second prize is \$300 and Third prize is \$200. Bush poetry is a traditional type of verse written with rhyme and rhythm that reflects the Australian way of life. The genre has widened in recent years to encompass modern living in both the city and the bush. Look for writing Tips on the Australian Bush Poets Assn website www.abpa.org.au

Tamworth Poetry Reading Group welcomes entries from new and old writers.
Entry forms will be available from September 1.

Write to Jan Morris PO Box 3001 West Tamworth or email janmorris33@bigpond.com



2016

21st BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2016**JULY 1st - 2nd - 3rd**

at

ACROSS THE WAVES SPORTS CLUB

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2016

Performance Competitions

- Open (Male & Female) – 18 Yrs +
- Intermediate – 18 Yrs +
- Novice – 18 Yrs +
- Junior Categories (U/ 7 Yrs.
7 Yrs to 12 Yrs & 13 Yrs to 17 Yrs.)
- Yarn Spinning
- Duo Competition
- One Minute Cup

**Competition Enquiries & Entry Forms**

SSAE to:
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.
PO Box 4281
BUNDABERG SOUTH 4670

**BUSH LANTERN AWARD 2016- WRITTEN COMPETITION
FOR BUSH VERSE****ALSO****BUSH LANTERN AWARD - JUNIOR CATEGORY
(Primary & Secondary School Students)**

Closing date for written
competitions May 20th, 2016.
Results announced on July 3rd
at Presentation of trophies
Muster week-end.

Entry forms : SSAE to
Bush Lantern Co-ordinator
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.,
PO Box 4281
BUNDABERG SOUTH. 4670

All phone or e.mail enquiries:

Sandy Lees (Muster Co-ordinator) .. 07 41514631 or leesjds1@yahoo.com.au
Edna Harvey (President) .. 0428574651 or edna_harvey@hotmail.com
Jayson Russell (Vice-President) .. 07 41550778 or blanata@bigpond.net.au
OR ... ABPA website



The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. is proudly supported by Across the Waves Sports Club, Miller Street, Bundaberg

MILTON SHOW SOCIETY

BUSH POETRY

ADULT PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

TO BE HELD AT THE MILTON SHOW**SAT 5th MARCH 2016****11AM START****TOTAL OF \$1500 PRIZE MONEY****1ST \$600 2ND \$350 3RD \$250****PLUS 3 HIGHLY COMMENDED AT \$100 EA**

MAXIMUM OF 12 PERFORMERS ACCEPTED ON FIRST IN FIRST SERVED BASIS

Entries postmarked no later than 8th FEBRUARY 2016 Entry fee \$12

POEM CAN BE SERIOUS OR LIGHT HEARTED AND CLASICAL, CONTEMPORARY OR ORIGINAL

DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS FROM ABPA WEBSITE OR www.showdayonline.com and follow the prompts
OR

Contact John Davis 37 George avenue Kings Point NSW 2539

Ph 02 44552013 email jda76436@bigpond.net.au

Total Prize Money Over \$5000

DUNEDOO *Bush Poetry* Festival

3rd — 6th March 2016

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH
6pm - Dunedoo Jubilee Hall
Meet & Greet - BBQ available - Brawl Titles available

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
9am - Bus Tour
Bring own lunch - cost \$15 - Bookings required
4pm - Sports Club - Intermediate Competition
7pm - Sports Club - Yarn Spinning Competition

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH
8am - Central School Hall
Classical - Female
Classical - Male
Original - Serious - Female
Original - Serious - Male
Contemporary - Female
Contemporary - Male
7pm - Central School Hall
Original - Humorous - Female
Original - Humorous - Male
Entertainment by professional poets
Bookings required - Supper provided
cost \$25 per person (poets free & partners \$10)

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH
8am - Dunedoo Jubilee Hall
Brawls at Breakfast

BOOKINGS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Eric Rees
ph: (02) 6886 3592 mob: 0429 388 538 fax: (02) 6886 3592
email: pine.hill.2831@bigpond.com

ACCOMMODATION

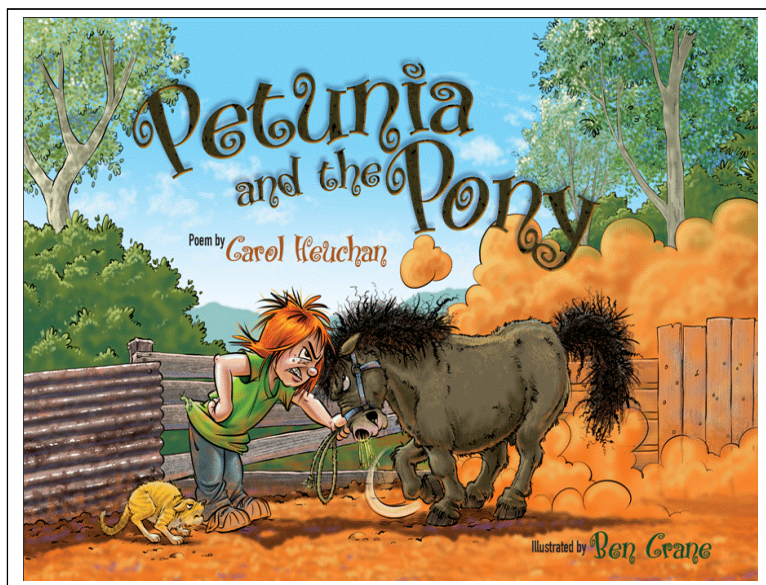
Swan Motel - 02 6375 1112
Redbank Gums B&B - 02 6375 1218 or 0428 751 218
Rosa Cottage B&B - 02 6375 1151 or 0429 724 200
Sharon Holt - 6375 1509 or 0428 859 509
Dunedoo Hotel - 02 6375 1403
Dunedoo Caravan Park - 02 6375 1455
Showground or In-Home Contact Eric



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Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2016



Organised by
Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.
Supported by
A.M. Printing Services
and
The Australian Bush Poets Association.



First Prize: \$600 and the Blackened Billy Trophy and certificate
Second Prize: \$300 and certificate
Third Prize: \$200 and certificate

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Poetry entries to be bush verse, on one side of A4 paper only and must be entrant's own work.
- Name, address and telephone number of entrant must be placed on a separate page (not on entry).
- Entries shall not have previously won 1st prize in any poetry competition.
- Entries shall not have been previously published for the monetary gain of the author.
- Entries close 30th November 2015 and the Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Winning entries will be announced and prizes presented prior to the Friday Heats of the 2016 ABPA Golden Dampier Awards, on 22nd January 2016 at Wests League Club, West Tamworth.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Entry fee of \$5 per entry, or 5 entries for \$20.
- There is no limit to the number of entries.
- There is no limit to the length of entries.
- Copyright is retained by the author.
- Winners will be notified by mail. All entrants who wish to receive a copy of the results, please enclose a business sized **stamped**, self addressed envelope. For a judge's critique, also enclose \$10 per poem with an additional business sized **stamped**, self addressed envelope.

Send entries to: The Blackened Billy Verse Competition
PO Box 3001
WEST TAMWORTH NSW 2340

This entry form may be copied, or extra copies obtained by sending a business sized **stamped**, self addressed envelope to the above address.

Cut along dotted line. (Retain top part of this form for your records)

Name: (Print)

Address: Postcode:

Telephone: (.....)

Email:

No. of Entries: Entry Fee Enclosed:

(Please make cheques payable to Tamworth Poetry Reading Group)

Authors retain copyright, but Tamworth Poetry Reading Group reserves the right to arrange publication of the winning poem, without payment, in the Newsletter of the Australian Bush Poets Association, The Northern Daily Leader, and Capital News.

I agree to the conditions of the competition.

Signature: Date:



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

2nd Sunday - 2:00 pm Poetry at the Pub Katoomba Blackburn's Family Hotel. All forms poetry, free entry. Contact Denis Rice 02 4782 6623 tdrice3@southernphone.com.au

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 :- Manfred - 0411 160510 or Cay - 07 34083219.

Kuripia 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 0428 574 651; 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 Inc meet every first Tuesday of the month at Aitkenvale Library Meeting Room at 7:00pm. They also meet at Bellevue Hotel, Allen Street, South Townsville, every third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm for 'Pub Grub' and 7:00pm for 'Walk-Up' poetry. Loads of fun. All welcome.

Bribie Island Bush Poets meet at 6.30 pm on the 4th Monday of each month in the Conference Room of the Blue Pacific Hotel, Woorim on Bribie Island. Contact Cay - 07 34083219.

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 7104 or Ken Jones 03 5441 5121

Henry Lawson Memorial & Literary Society Inc. - Meet third Saturday each month/except January. Monastery Hall St. rear St. Francis Church. Lonsdale street. Melbourne. All Welcome. From 1-30pm till 4-00 pm. Contact: Maree Stapledon: 0408 100 896

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.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS

If you wish to find out more about the Australian Bush Poets Association, or if you are not already a member of the ABPA and wish to become one, please go to our Website www.abpa.org.au to download a membership form, or contact the Secretary secretary@abpa.org.au P.O. Box 1727, CHARTERS TOWERS, Queensland, 4820.

2016 ABPA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Incorporated, will be held at St.Edward's Church Hall, Hillvue Road, South Tamworth, at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20th January, 2016. At that meeting, all executive, committee and state delegate positions will be declared vacant.

Any financial member can nominate or be nominated for any of the following positions
Executive -- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
Committee -- three members, Delegates -- one from each State.

The Office Bearer Nomination Form and Proxy Voting Form is included as a flier in this edition of the ABPA Magazine.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICE BEARER NOMINATION FORM

(N.B. Any financial member of the ABPA can nominate or be nominated for a position.)

Nominations of candidates for election as Executive, Ordinary Committee or State Delegates must be made in writing on this form, signed by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Secunder. This form must be delivered to 5 Dryandra Place, Linden, N.S.W. 2778, or signed, scanned and emailed to treasurer@abpa.org.au at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the office bearing vacancies, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and nominations for the unfilled position/s may be received from the floor at the AGM.

Nomination for the position of **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, COMMITTEE MEMBER, STATE DELEGATE** for the State of (Please circle one)

Nominee(Please print)
 Address:.....

Nominee's Consent.....(Signature of Nominee).....(Date)

Nominated by(Please print)
 Address:.....

.....(Signature of Nominator).....(Date)

Seconded by(Please print)
 Address:.....

.....(Signature of Secunder).....(Date)

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

To allow financial members unable to attend the AGM to vote for all or for specific office bearing positions, this form may be used.

I,.....(Please print full name)
 of.....(address)
 being a financial member of the Australian Bush Poets Association, hereby appoint
(Please print full name of proxy)
 of.....(address)
 as my proxy to vote for me, on my behalf for the following office bearer positions (please circle your choices) ALL POSITIONS OR specific office bearer position/s only as follows:-
 PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY COMMITTEE MEMBER
 STATE DELEGATE: QUEENSLAND NSW VICTORIA TASMANIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA WEST AUSTRALIA
 and for special resolutions (optional, circle if desired) as determined by the President, at the ABPA AGM to be held on Wednesday 20th January, 2016 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

.....(signature of member appointing proxy).....(date)

N.B. All proxies must be submitted on this official form and must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 24 hours before the meeting. No member may hold more than 5 proxies.

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2016 A.B.P.A. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Incorporated will be held at St.Edward's church hall, Hillvue Road, South Tamworth, at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 20th January, 2016. At that meeting, all office bearing positions will be declared vacant.

OFFICE BEARER NOMINATION FORM

(N.B. Any financial member of the ABPA can nominate or be nominated for a position.)

Nominations of candidates for election as Executive, Ordinary Committee or State Delegates must be made in writing on this form, signed by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Secunder. This form must be delivered to 5 Dryandra Place, Linden, N.S.W. 2778, or signed, scanned and emailed to treasurer@abpa.org.au at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the office bearing vacancies, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and nominations for the unfilled position/s may be received from the floor at the AGM.

Nomination for the position of **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, COMMITTEE MEMBER, STATE DELEGATE** for the State of (Please circle one)

Nominee(Please print)
 Address:.....

Nominee's Consent.....(Signature of Nominee).....(Date)

Nominated by(Please print)
 Address:.....

.....(Signature of Nominator).....(Date)

Seconded by(Please print)
 Address:.....

.....(Signature of Secunder).....(Date)

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

To allow financial members unable to attend the AGM to vote for all or for specific office bearing positions, this form may be used.

I,.....(Please print full name)
 of.....(address)
 being a financial member of the Australian Bush Poets Association, hereby appoint
(Please print full name of proxy)
 of.....(address)
 as my proxy to vote for me, on my behalf for the following office bearer positions (please circle your choices) ALL POSITIONS OR specific office bearer position/s only as follows:-
 PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY COMMITTEE MEMBER
 STATE DELEGATE: QUEENSLAND NSW VICTORIA TASMANIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA WEST AUSTRALIA
 and for special resolutions (optional, circle if desired) as determined by the President, at the ABPA AGM to be held on Wednesday 20th January, 2016 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

.....(signature of member appointing proxy).....(date)

N.B. All proxies must be submitted on this official form and must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 24 hours before the meeting. No member may hold more than 5 proxies.