

# A.B.P.A.



## Australian Bush Poets Association

Volume 22 No. 5  
October/November  
2016



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

*Lest We Forget*

# Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Competition 2017



For individual performance of original poetry of any style

Entries are now open. Entries close at 5 pm on Wednesday 8 February 2017. Performance and judging will be on Saturday 18 February 2017 in Orange NSW.

**Classes:**

1. Open – for any individual contestants
2. Novice recital – for individual contestants who have not won first prize in a poetry recital competition
3. Novice reading – for individual contestants who wish to read their poem
4. High school students – for individual contestants who are attending high school in 2017
5. Primary school students – for individual contestants who are attending primary school in 2017

**Prizes:**

Class 1 Open:	first prize \$600;	second prize \$300;	third prize \$100
Class 2 Novice recital:	first prize \$400;	second prize \$200;	third prize \$50
Class 3 Novice reading:	first prize \$300;	second prize \$150;	third prize \$50
Class 4 High school:	first prize \$200;	second prize \$100;	third prize \$50
Class 5 Primary school:	first prize \$200;	second prize \$100;	third prize \$50

To find out more and for an application form, go to [www.rotarycluboforange.org.au](http://www.rotarycluboforange.org.au) and click on the Events Calendar; or, alternatively, write to us at PO Box 52, Orange NSW 2800.

Entry fee for Open and Novice Classes is \$5 • Entry for the School Classes is free

TASTE  
COLEAMBALLY  
FOOD AND FARM  
FESTIVAL



The Observer

## POETS' BREAKFAST

featuring recitals by special guest  
award-winning bush poet John Peel

SUN 23 OCTOBER 2016

7.30AM – 9.00AM

Venue: Coleambally Town Hall



HOSTED BY LOCAL BUSH POET CAROLINE TUOHEY

Start your festival day with a fabulous cooked breakfast and enjoy a relaxing & entertaining morning of bush poetry.

If you have never recited but are keen to give it a try, our Poets' Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to experience the joy of reciting poetry in an informal and supportive atmosphere.

Poems can be your own work or the work of other poets. You can read your poem or recite from memory.

For those first timers, you'll receive fantastic applause and great encouragement.

If you're a seasoned pro, we can't wait to be entertained by you!

Short poems will be given preference so everyone who wishes to recite gets their chance to do so!



Proceeds from the breakfast go to the Coleambally-Darlington Point Country Education Fund

**Breakfast Cost Per Person:**  
\$10 pre ordered (by 22/10)  
\$12 on the day

**Menu:**  
Egg and bacon rolls  
Sausages  
Tea, coffee, orange juice  
Fruit platter  
Damper

Contact: Caroline Tuohey  
0428 675 743  
[carolinetuohey@bigpond.com.au](mailto:carolinetuohey@bigpond.com.au)  
pre-register your poem or simply see Caroline at the breakfast



PO BOX 3001 WEST TAMWORTH 2340

Organisers of The Blackened Billy Verse Competition

PRESS RELEASE

### THE 2017 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

ATTENTION WRITERS OF BUSH VERSE

The Blackened Billy Verse Competition, now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, is regarded as one of the most prestigious BUSH POETRY competitions in Australia.

Writers of Bush verse are invited to compete.

**First prize is \$500 plus the famous BLACKENED BILLY TROPHY.**  
**Second prize is \$250 and third \$150.**

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](http://www.abpa.org.au)

Tamworth Poetry Reading group welcomes entries from novice and experienced writers.

Entry forms are available from Blackened Billy Verse Competition, PO Box 3001, West Tamworth NSW 2340, or email [janmorris33@bigpond.com](mailto:janmorris33@bigpond.com) or [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au)

Entries close November 30 and the winners will be announced at the Tamworth Country Music Festival on Friday, 27 January 2017.

# EDITORIAL



We, as an Association and as an entertainment genre, are facing very uncertain times! There seems to be no young performers coming through our ranks to carry on our great tradition of Australian Bush Poetry. Despite many poets taking to the schools for workshops and performances, and despite the wonderful turnout of children to Festivals such as Bundaberg, Winton and even more recently the Gympie Muster, we no longer have that late 20's to 40 year old performers coming through our ranks. At the height of the resurgence of Bush Poetry, the majority of our best poets fell into that age group, and still to this day are our most popular performers. What can we do to address this? I have no ideas. Perhaps if some sectors of our Association start putting entertainment before strictness of content? Maybe change our judging to reflect the audience's idea of entertainment compared to the political correctness of following so many 'must do's' on the Judging sheets? I, for one and others I have spoken with see it as detrimental to our art if someone is marked down for a small stumble in their highly entertaining competition poem, compared to high scoring of someone who has done a perfectly worded though less than entertaining performance of a much rehashed poem

As I say, I don't know the answer but I certainly see the effect in trying to find some new, original and entertaining poets to put up at shows such as the Longyard. If anybody has any ideas then please let me know. As I say, the future is not looking good as far as new talent goes, and without it our audiences at the biggest festivals in Australia will eventually become bored and walk away.

Our Committee also seems to be under fire, which worries me deeply as they are meant to be working in a part-time, voluntary capacity which should be only taking up a very small amount of their time, yet they seem to be having to deal with issues that are quite meaningless or counter-productive and are not only making them spend much more of their valued time on ABPA matters than they should have to, but are forcing them to reconsider and reassess their positions on the Committee next year. This is very disappointing as we are only an Association of 400+ members and should be simply working for the good of our craft and not being attacked by political agendas and such. Will you put your hands up to take on their roles? I personally find our current Committee to be easy and very pleasant in getting along with and commend them for both volunteering and the professionalism they display.

Happy writing and performing to all and safe travels!

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

## 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 Shelley Hansen

99 Lindah Road West

MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

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.

**NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is Nov 25th**

## ABPA Committee Members 2016

### Executive:

President	-- Tom McIlveen	president@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Hal Prichard	halenda@live.com.au
Secretary	-- Rhonda Tallnash	secretary@abpa.org.au
Treasurer	-- Shelley Hansen	treasurer@abpa.org.au

### Members on Committee:

...John Peel	peel_jg@hotmail.com
...Robyn Sykes	robinsykespoet@gmail.com
...Carol Reffold	patchworkpoet@hotmail.com

### ABPA State Delegates:

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ABPA Editor	-- Neil McArthur	editor@abpa.org.au
Web Administrator	-- Greg North	web@abpa.org.au

## **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION**

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

# President's Report



Well here we are...marching ever onward, with Winter already a fading memory, Spring well and truly sprung, and Summer almost upon us! The Brisbane Ekka, Binalong NSW Championships, Rathdowney Logan Village Music & Heritage Festival and the Drovers' Camp Festival Camooweal are done and dusted, whilst the wheels have well and truly started turning in preparation for Tamworth Country Music Week 2017, WA Championships in Toodyay (4th-6th November) and the CJ Dennis Poetry Festival, coming up at Toolangi Victoria 22nd to 23rd October. Welcome to our newer members. So far for this year of 2016, we have 42 new single memberships, 3 dual memberships, and 2 new clubs/associations.

The new ABPA Facebook Page is powering along, and is proving to be a great support to the main ABPA website. It was set up to provide an informative network about poetry and poets between members, as well as a promotional outlet to reach the wider public. Your contributions and interest in our new page is always welcome and I would encourage all fellow members to continue using it, as well as the website forum. Contributions to be posted under the banner of the ABPA, may be sent to (Shelley Hansen at) .... [treasurer@abpa.org.au](mailto:treasurer@abpa.org.au) or to (Brenda Joy)... [promotions@abpa.org.au](mailto:promotions@abpa.org.au)

I have been asked to clarify a matter mentioned in my previous Report regarding the risk of legal liability. This issue was entirely surrounding the potential consequences which could result from inappropriate use of the ABPA online forum. Changes to forum access permissions have recently been implemented in an effort to mitigate this risk as much as possible. To allay concerns and answer any lingering questions on this topic, the Executive has posted a list of FAQs on the ABPA forum, for the information of all ABPA members.

Extract from the Report from the Review Sub-Committee.

REPORT RE ANNUAL REVIEW OF ABPA COMPETITION PACKAGE AND ABPA STRATEGIC PLAN.

In line with the ABPA Committee's policy (established in 2015) to have an annual review of the ABPA Competition Package and the ABPA Strategic Plan, all ABPA paid up members were invited through the ABPA Magazine in the President's Report, the ABPA Website and the ABPA Forum, to submit in writing, any concerns or recommendations re the above, to the ABPA Secretary, for assessment by a Review Sub-Committee.

This Sub-Committee comprised the ABPA Executive, Tom McIlveen, Hal Pritchard, Shelley Hansen and Rhonda Tallnash, Ordinary ABPA Committee members Robyn Sykes, Carol Reffold and John Peel and ABPA Promotions Officer, Brenda-Joy Pritchard.

Over a four week period, the sub-Committee conducted the review via email and through a decision-making SKYPE meeting.

The resultant minor amendments to the ABPA Competition Package will become available after the sub-Committee's findings have been ratified by the ABPA Committee in November and the necessary adjustments to the Competition Package have been implemented.

There were no submissions relevant to a review of the ABPA Strategic Plan.

Details of the submissions made and the decisions regarding them will be available after November to any ABPA paid-up member who makes application in writing to the ABPA Secretary.

It would be greatly appreciated if judges, organisers, competitors and supporters visit the ABPA Website to re-familiarise themselves with the wide range of helpful material in the 'Competition' section, before being part of a performance or written competition.

The ABPA Committee and the ABPA Review Sub-Committee wish to thank all who availed themselves of the opportunity to input to the upgrading of the ABPA Competition Package and for the continuing support given to the ABPA Administration to assist them to keep our organisation functioning as the principle communication network for all aspects relating to the genre of Bush Poetry.

Our treasurer Shelley Hansen has regrettably given notice that she will not be standing for election at the 2017 AGM. This is being announced early in order to give ample time to source and nominate a suitable replacement for the Treasurer role. If any interested member would like to discuss the duties involved, please feel free to contact Shelley at [treasurer@apba.org.au](mailto:treasurer@apba.org.au). As always, thank you to all fellow committee members for your continued support, and to Graeme Johnson for his tireless contribution in overseeing and organising the upcoming Golden Damper competition in Tamworth. Also to Janine Keating for her work in seeking ABPA sponsorship and thank you to Ray Essery and Neil McCarthur for your support and donations in helping to launch the Inaugural Frank Daniel Bush Verse Award, to be held at St Edward's hall in Tamworth this coming January. I have further explained this in another submission in this magazine, entitled 'St Edwards Hall Walk-Up and Compete. I would like to urge and invite all members to consider coming to Tamworth in January, for an extravaganza of Bush Poetry over an eight day week, that I guarantee you will find second to none!

In Poetry, Tom McLveen.

Dear Neil

As ABPA members would know, after the failure to elect a Treasurer at the last AGM, I was approached and asked to take on the role. I agreed (subject to Committee approval) to fulfil the Treasurer duties for the duration of the 2016 membership year. This decision was subsequently ratified by special Committee resolution.

I am now giving advance notice that I will not be standing for election at the 2017 AGM. This is being announced early in order to give ample time to source and nominate a suitable replacement for the Treasurer role. If any interested member would like to discuss the duties involved, please feel free to contact me at [treasurer@apba.org.au](mailto:treasurer@apba.org.au).

My tenure still has several months to run, but I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the Executive and Committee for their teamwork and commitment. Grateful thanks also go to my predecessor Greg North for his excellent record keeping and his generous advice. Lastly, thank you to all ABPA members for your support thus far – and in advance, for the rest of the year.

Best Regards  
Shelley Hansen  
ABPA Treasurer

*Shelley, we thank you so much for filling in a Treasurer and doing such a great job. Good luck with all future poetry endeavours and family health. You have been wonderful to work with as Treasurer. Again Thank you so much!*

Neil

St Edward's Hall Tamworth Walk-up & Compete for th  
INAUGURAL FRANK DANIEL BUSH VERSE AWARD 2017.

The upcoming annual walk-ups at Saint Edward's Hall in Tamworth this January, will be introducing 'THE INAUGURAL PEOPLE'S CHOICE FRANK DANIEL BUSH VERSE AWARD.' It is the brainchild of Ray Essery, who is not only keen to see Frank Daniel commemorated with an annual award in Tamworth, but to also give visiting poets an opportunity to pick up cash prizes each day, in a relaxed, fun environment, where they will be judged by members of the audience, to determine the People's Choice champion. 1st, 2nd & 3rd placed winners will be chosen each day and awarded a cash prize, and will then be eligible to compete in the final championship round being held at 2pm on Australia Day, Thursday the 26th of January. The final winner, who will also be judged by the audience, (and Frank of course, who will be there with us in spirit), will be awarded THE FRANK DANIEL BUSH VERSE TROPHY, another cash prize, and the opportunity to perform at the legendary Longyard Hotel's Bush Poets' Breakfast Show on the following Sunday morning. I would like to thank Ray Essery and Neil McArthur for their support, who in conjunction with myself, will be donating cash prizes to get this inaugural event up and running.

We are planning on making it an annual event, and ask all poets visiting Tamworth in January, to come along and support us. We are working totally in conjunction with the more prestigious Golden Damper Competition and by no means trying to detract from it. We are offering performing poets the opportunity to hone their skills for the big stage of the Golden Damper, which will be run again, as usual by Graeme Johnson. We plan to start at 2pm and finish for afternoon tea at 4pm, so as not to overlap or conflict with the Golden Damper times.

All non-professional poets are invited to compete and everybody is welcome to come along to enjoy the entertainment and participate in the judging for each event. Judging sheets will be handed out to each member of the audience, who will allocate each performer a score out of a 100 points. We will then collate the scores and announce the three winners after the last performance each day. So as not to bias judging, a random running order will be selected from a hat. Maximum time of each poem, including preamble will be five minutes. Extra points will be awarded for original poems. There will be a door entry fee of \$5.00, one half of which goes towards prize-money, with the other half to be donated to the ABPA.

Daily winners are only eligible for one daily cash prize, but will obviously still be eligible for the final cash prize. Any enquiries can be directed to myself at my email address... [thepoetofoz@gmail.com](mailto:thepoetofoz@gmail.com) or you can phone me on 0417 251287.

See you in Tamworth!  
Tom McIlveen.

## Vale Peter 'Whipstick Wortho' Worthington 21.6.45-22.7.16

Another bush poet and Bendigo identity has left us.

Peter Raymond Worthington, better known as Whipstick or Wortho was farewelled in grand style on July 22nd. His good friend Bob English spoke about Peter's life and his many roles.

Whipstick was a remarkable bloke who could put his hand to nearly anything. I had great admiration for his many talents. Equally at home in front of a large audience or having a beer around the campfire, Whipstick seem to fit in anywhere.

He was a PMG linesman, a brickie, soldier, and a handyman, but more importantly he was a son a brother, a father, a community worker and a friend to many.

Over the years he developed a strong love for bush poetry and as his grandkids can attest, one of his favourites was Banjo's – "The Man from Ironbark". Pa Wortho would go on to write many poems himself and came third in the Australian Bush poetry Championships. A popular reciter at many of the festivals he always had one up his sleeve. One of his highlights was reciting a poem each year at the local Anzac service. He was also in his element on that day running the two up game.

Whipstick's daughter Meg read one of his poems Wortho's Ghost with an additional verse written by Meg's daughter. His son Ryan did the eulogy and painted the picture of a man who was not just a good dad but a good friend as well. Whipstick's sister, Adele did a reading of A life that matters and a poem written by David Parker titled He is gone was read.

As the hearse moved slowly away in the overcast afternoon, Whipstick was piped to the strains of Amazing Grace floating through the drizzling rain.

A fitting tribute to a remarkable bloke.

Our condolences to Whipstick's family, his children, his many grandchildren and many friends.

Vale – Whipstick. (From Geoffrey W Graham)

## The Fading of the Light

© David Campbell, 2011

If you're yearning, mother, yearning,  
please remember all I've done,  
and with each day's long, slow turning,  
say a prayer for your son.

They were cheering, mother, cheering,  
when we marched away to war,  
but laments are all I'm hearing,  
and the cannons' deadly roar.

There was glory, mother, glory,  
in our hearts on that fine day,  
but the truth's another story,  
for there is a price to pay.

We were willing, mother, willing,  
as our leaders took us out,  
but I'm haunted by the killing  
and tormented by the doubt.

We were singing, mother, singing,  
as we left old Sydney town,  
but the bells of hell are ringing  
as the bullets cut us down.

There was laughter, mother, laughter,  
as our ship sailed out to sea,  
but for now and ever after  
only death can set us free.

We were joking, mother, joking,  
when we landed over here,  
but the gas that leaves us choking  
is a constant source of fear.

I've seen beauty, mother, beauty,  
in this land so fair and green,  
but a soldier does his duty  
in a horror unforeseen.

There is daring, mother, daring,  
in this battlefield of mud,  
but now most are long past caring  
as the trenches run with blood.

I am mourning, mother, mourning,  
for the men of Passchendaele,  
for so many now are sleeping  
'neath the shell-fire's deadly hail.

I am falling, mother, falling,  
and my body's racked with pain.  
I can hear your sweet voice calling,  
but your message is in vain.

I am dying, mother, dying,  
with the battle at its height.  
In this foreign field I'm lying,  
at the fading of the light.

## The Wave Hill Spur.

© 2016 Helen Harvey Coonamble

Winner, 2016 Bronze Spur Award for written bush verse, Camooweal, Qld.

My maker moulded me from steel – I took shape in his hand;  
with skilful care he fashioned me as if I were his brand.  
The anvil he once toiled above had 'Queens' stamped on its side,  
and if that piece of iron could talk it would recant with pride  
how a Wave Hill station 'smithy' had fashioned me with care  
but never knew he would create the legend born out there.  
From cattle camps to droving runs the lonely breezes stir  
to spread news of Fred Gutte and his famous Wave Hill Spur.

My life has been both full and free, my home is this wild land  
that tests the mettle of a man as he burns in his brand,  
or wanders as some men will do, forever on the track  
behind a mob of cattle somewhere in the great outback.  
Those men and I, we are the same - forged from the toughest steel.  
We've battled flood and fire and drought – know only what is real.  
The kind of men who'll wander out to where dead breezes stir,  
and strapped tight to their boots would be the famous Wave Hill Spur.

*So, slip me on and see how I sit easy on your boot.  
I never slide or shift about while any outlaw brute  
may try his best to move you while you flow with ev'ry stride,  
in rhythm with each twist and turn required for such a ride.  
But if by chance, he shakes you with a jolt so strong and curt,  
you know I'll still be on your boot when we both hit the dirt.  
For though you may be shaken you will not be thought a cur  
while ever you strap on your boot, the famous Wave Hill Spur.*

I've been there in the Murrarji beneath a burning sun,  
with men who gave no quarter and in turn would ask for none.  
Though sometimes when dark storm clouds rolled and spooky bullocks  
stirred,  
with eyes a-wide in terror when the first loud clap was heard,  
as lightning split the darkness while an eerie scrub land shook,  
then stockmen with a dreaded heart, but ne'er a second look,  
rode out to turn a panicked mob with vision just a blur,  
and trust placed in his sure camp horse and famous Wave Hill Spur.

I've watched the Cross roll over underneath a Western sky;  
seen drought, with all its hardships and I've heard lone Curlews cry.  
I've ridden touchy horses that would never make a hack,  
while droving thirsty cattle out along the Canning track.  
I've stuck fast with my rollers tucked behind each shoulder blade  
of horses, while they bucked and squealed – saw legends being made.  
I've drifted ever westwards where strange Min Min lights occur,  
with horsemen who strapped on their boots the famous Wave Hill Spur.

*So slip me on and see how I sit easy on your boot.  
I promise not to slide or shift while any spooky brute  
may try to part your company along some lonely track  
while early morning breezes bite through clothes upon your back.  
I've ridden into history with bold men who had dared  
to venture into hostile land when no one else had cared.  
Now I, like they, are legends because nothing could deter,  
those horsemen who strapped on their boots, the famous Wave Hill Spur.*

# 'The 9th of June'

© 2013 Glenny Palmer

Winner Binalong Poetry Serious Section

'It's crazy – unbelievable – they surely have it wrong.  
Not you! Why, you're invincible – my man – my rock – you're strong.  
There's nothing ever daunted you – no! – this just can't be true.  
How will I face a life without your caring; without you?'

"Come, gather up your courage Sweetheart – sip this cup of tea.  
I've made it how you like it; it will settle you – you'll see.  
Don't pound your fists upon my chest – here, place your hands in mine.  
That's better – sit beside me now – we'll work through this just fine.

It might as well be me as anybody else's dread;  
a young bloke with a family and all his life ahead,  
or some poor single mother with her children left behind.  
I'm happy with the life I've lived. I honestly don't mind."

Ah yes, we worked our way through it alright, and it was hell  
to watch you clawing for a breath, not knowing when the bell  
was set to sound its final chime and free you from this curse,  
and knowing that your blind determination made it worse...

...for you. To bells and chiming times, no quarter would you give,  
"To hell with deadlines! I'll take charge of just how long I'll live."  
I smiled in acquiescence for you'd told the stars and moon,  
and me, and land and sea, that it would be the 9th of June.

The 9th of June – not one day prior – for you'd insured your life;  
that day when men in suits would sign the cheque, to see your wife  
provided for, as you had done, would ever do, and yet  
a harsh, extended suffering you'd shoulder as your debt.

They told me on the 9th of April, 'Listen for the bell.'  
I lingered by your bedside in the searing fires of Hell;  
for three long days and nights I listened, sobbing in despair  
and wondered if you heard my pleas – or knew that I was there.

And then I spoke to you of mundane things, of daily life;  
how Ann had called to visit – how young Tim was back in strife.  
I spoke of how the weather looked like maybe we'd get rain,  
and how the Government had made a mess of things again.

I spoke of how the house was going. Steve had been along  
to fit the windows, paint the doors, and how it won't be long  
before I'd have you home again tucked up in your old chair,  
if only for an hour or so; such precious time to share

But then I spoke of bravery – of how I'd never seen  
another with such character as strong as yours had been.  
I spoke my love and gratitude; your love of Brigadoon,  
when suddenly – you smiled at me – and whispered, "9th of June."

Oh, the doctors were astounded; (it was small surprise to me.)  
I knew you far too well; relief? oh yes, most certainly,  
but then your candid character emerged, 'I want a stew;  
the bonza one me missus cooks... and make a man a brew!'

The nurses rolled their eyes and shook their heads in disbelief.  
I did likewise, then scurried home to slice up stewing beef.  
And so for ten more days I cooked, and prayed, and cooked, and cried,  
and treasured every intimacy shared, while by your side.

As April plodded vainly on, you courted only June.  
You fought so hard to cling to life; to not leave me too soon,  
but plans and dreams of men and mice so often go awry  
while angels on their mission grant such scant time for 'goodbye.'

I dreamed I saw them John; I saw them lift you to the sky  
and you were fit and free again. It's for myself I cry.  
And now I fancy I still feel your hand, so firm in mine  
for Fancy is the friend that fosters memories' design.

And what a clutch of memories you left me. How I laugh  
at how you never did a solitary thing by half;  
at all the times I threw your boots and you out through the door;  
at how you always broke back in, outraged, but poised for more.

There'll never be another, John, they broke the mould for you;  
the tough and candid bushman who did all he said he'd do.  
And sometimes, in my fancy now, when gazing at the moon  
I see you raising hell in Heaven - on the 9th of June.

A big thanks to Gary Fogarty for supplying our Magazine with this, the first of Tributes to those who have kept our Festivals going through very hard work to continue and build on our proud tradition of Australian Bush Verse. If you have an individual or group that you believe deserve recognition for their contributions in this area, please send them to the Editor for inclusion in future magazines.

## Louise Dean:- Winton Junior Bush Poetry Festival

This year will mark the 21st year of the Winton Junior Bush Poetry Festival, making it the most successful and long running Bush Poetry event for schoolchildren in Australia. Both the Performance and Written Awards were started in 1996 by Carmel Randle whose passion and dedication drove the event in those first years. Louise Dean took over as the organiser in 2000 and has tweaked and adjusted conditions of entry to ensure that the event has remained relevant through to the present day.

While the Festival once operated with a committee of up to a dozen members, these days Louise, with the assistance of husband Graham, does all the essential lead up work with a group of volunteers coming together to help on the day of the Festival. What was once a two day Festival with over 500 nominations, two sets of Judges and two halls is now a one day Festival. In its heyday Schools from Boulia, Cloncurry, Mt Isa, Winton, Longreach, Hughenden, Stonehenge, Evesham, Barcaldine, Muttaborra, Ilfracombe, Aramac, Prairie, Windorah, Stamford, Cameron Downs, Jundah, Longreach School Of Distance Education, plus many boarding school students from Toowoomba, Charters Towers, and Atherton made this one of the most prestigious junior cultural performance festivals in Queensland.

With no ability to generate income,(requiring subsidy from Winton Business & Tourism Assn) and difficulties in getting Judges to travel all the way to Winton for small recompense as well as changing priorities within the education system, the footprint of the event has been somewhat reduced. The fact that this event is still running can be put down to the tremendous dedication and hard work of Louise Dean and her husband Graham who have both contributed unselfishly to the promotion of Bush Poetry for decades. Add to their work on the Junior Festival, their contribution to the Little Swaggies Award, the Secondary Video Competition(added by Louise to encourage the continued participation of High School students), the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Awards until 2007, and the fact that they are now the only two remaining members of the Bronze Swagman Award Committee and you start to get your head around the staggering size of the contribution this wonderful couple have made to the Bush Poetry movement.

I can't help but think that if the modern day revival of Bush Poetry is to continue then we need to identify, attract, and reward more people like Louise and Graham Dean who have for so long given so much, while taking so little and asking absolutely nothing.



## Ray Essery:- Casino Beef Week



The NSW rural town of Casino has long worn the unofficial title as the states Beef Capitol, every year in May the town unites to host "Beef Week", a week long celebration of Casino, cattle and all things community. For over twenty years now, part of these celebrations has been the Bush Poetry shows organised and run by Ray Essery at the iconic Cecil Hotel.

With the shows attracting record crowds at this year's event, it goes without saying the Ray is doing a lot right in hosting this annual event. During the last Twenty years he has had to deal with 4 different publicans, educating them to the benefits of hosting a Bush Poetry show and then proving to them that he could deliver on the numbers promised. Ray has utilised a long list of poets and singers over the years, continually searching for new and emerging performers to combine with a roster of seasoned poets capable of delivering the quality Bush Poetry shows that have come to be expected at Beef Week.

The ever changing world of Bush Poetry and the changes to Beef Week itself has necessitated that Ray continually tweak his program over the years, and participants can now enjoy performing to enthusiastic crowds at the Cecil shows as well as delight in performances for the local school and aged care facility. Over the years Ray has worked steadily to ensure that the remuneration for performers has increased to a respectable level.

Ray's personal popularity with audiences in this region, combined with his long term dedication and hard work to this particular event has resulted in over twenty years of quality Bush Poetry shows and paid engagements for many, many poets. As long as Casino continues to celebrate Beef Week it seems probable that Ray Essery and Bush Poetry will be an important part of the program.



# NSW Champions crowned in Binalong

Poetry, music, yarns, patter and more...the weekend's Binalong Bush Poetry Prize had it all, including the ABPA NSW Championships. Classical, original and contemporary bush poetry took the audience, many of whom had travelled from afar, on a journey to remember.

The championships, held over two days, set a scintillating standard. Saturday night's Celebrate Australia Concert saw the packed hall enthralled by seven top-class acts.

It was standing room only in the hall on Sunday morning when the kids stole the show. Binalong and Bowning schools plus individual junior competitors performed to standing ovations.

Rhonda Tallnash (Violet Town Vic), Terry Regan (Blue Mountains) and (in absentia) Glenny Palmer from Queensland won the Bubbles Garry, Adrian Sykes and Isobel McDonald Awards respectively (Women's, Men's and Written ABPA NSW Champions).

"It was such an exciting weekend," Binalong Arts Group Inc President Robyn Sykes said. "Fabulous poets, enthusiastic crowd and a wonderful atmosphere." Huge thanks to the many people, community groups, sponsors and others who helped make it happen."

Community groups including the Tennis Club, Red Cross, Hall Committee, CWA and P&C fed travellers and locals alike. Open mic and One Minute Poem events meant the shy, the novices and the suddenly-inspired could have a go.

The rustic scenery and decorations made the Mechanic Institute feel like a bush camp, highlighted by a wooden cockatoo on a stand, painted by Binalong's local Archibald Prize winning artist, Janet Dawson. Cockatoo-inspired trophies from Peter Minson Art Glass complemented the theme.

Gold sponsors ABPA, Mylora Pastoral, Sibelco and Yass Valley Wind Farm top the list of more than 30 sponsors.

## Binalong Bush Poetry Prize 2016 ABPA NSW Championships

### NSW Written Champion (Isobel McDonald Award):

Glenny Palmer

### NSW Women's Performance Champion (Bubbles Garry Award):

Rhonda Tallnash

### NSW Men's Performance Champion (Adrian Sykes Award):

Terry Regan

### Written Prizes

#### Written Serious

1st Glenny Palmer – The 9th of June

2nd Will Moody – Moonlight on Menindee

3rd Tom McIlveen – Bobby

HC – Tom McIlveen – A Terrible Dream

HC – Helen Harvey – Young, Naive and Ten

C – Helen Harvey – Our Forgotten Heroes

C – Leonie Parker – Tomorrows

#### Written Humorous

1st Shelley Hansen – Elixir of Life

2nd David Campbell – 'Oo'd Wanna be an Aussie Bloke?

3rd Glenny Palmer – Committee Ditty

HC – Tom McIlveen – When Irish Hearts are Happy

HC – Tom McIlveen – A Simple Colonoscopy

HC – Brenda Joy – The Road Ahead

C – Arthur Green – Of Young Travis McGee and Sweet Mandy McPhee

C – Arthur Green – Halley Through 'Down-Under' Skies

C – Brenda Joy – Boots and All

#### Best Novice

Brendan Pierotti

### Performance Prizes

#### Women's Classic

Sue Pearce

Rhonda Tallnash

Heather Searles

#### Women's Original

Rhonda Tallnash

Heather Searles

Sue Pearce

#### Women's Modern

Rhonda Tallnash

Heather Searles

Sue Pearce

#### Men's Classic

Terry Regan

Ken Potter

Ted Webber

#### Men's Original

Terry Regan

Ted Webber

Ken Potter

#### Men's Modern

Ralph Scrivens

Ken Potter

Terry Regan

#### Junior performance

Best Original: Ivy Saunders

Best Individual: Holly Regan

Best Group: Ella Young, Grace Miller, Isabella

Jarrett

Encouragement: Mason Williams

#### One Minute Poems

Gwen Hinchliffe & Will Moody



Ken Potter (Illawarra), Ted Webber (Young), Ralph Scrivens (Illawarra), Terry Regan (Blue Mountains) Rhonda Tallnash (Vic.), Heather Searles (Hunter Valley) and Sue Pearce (Tumut).

RESULTS:

WINNER: KELLY DIXON (Milla Milla FNQ) "His Mungindi Girl"

2nd Place: Tom McIlveen (Port Macquarie NSW) "The Silence of The Lambs"

3rd Place: Will Moody (Bellingen NSW) "Moonlight on Menindee"

(Introducing my new category 'Very Highly Commended Indeed' ('VHCI') for those who were just a whisker away from placing in the top three.)

VHCI: David Campbell (Airey's Inlet VIC) "Strangers"

Ways" Brenda Joy (Charters Towers QLD) "Love In Love's"

Carol Heuchan (Cooranbong NSW) "To Youth"

VHC: Tom McIlveen (Port Macquarie NSW) "Bobby"

Dream" Tom McIlveen (Port Macquarie NSW) "A Terrible"

Lakes" Terry Piggott (Lynwood WA) "The Lady of The"

HC: Will Moody (Bellingen NSW) "The Neck To Knee Controversy"

Tom McIlveen (Port Macquarie NSW) "Bluey"

Quest" Donald Crane (Toowoomba Sth QLD) "Westward"

Commended: Zondrae King (East Corrimal NSW) "A Boy's Coo-ee"

Night" Caroline Tuohey (Darlington Point NSW) "The Night The Fairstar Sank At Warren"

Jim Kent (Port Fairy VIC) "Memories Of a River"

WILD and WONDERFUL AUSTRALIA

WINNER: SHELLEY HANSEN (Maryborough QLD) "Rich Beyond All Measure"

VHC: Brenda Joy (Charters Towers QLD) "My Sacred Place"

Tom McIlveen (Port Macquarie NSW) "Rainbow Serpent's Legacy"

nb. I don't usually allocate secondary awards in this category, but these two entries were of such closely aligned skill to the winner, that I really wished to acknowledge them, with these Very Highly Commended awards.

A story of the droving days  
We lifted a mob from the wild Nebine scrubs;  
a livelier mob you would likely not find.  
They were sullen by day and they galloped by night,  
as the dark of the mulga we left far behind.  
Long-horned and lean, they were terrors to hold  
on the camp in the dark, when they started to ring,  
but they met their match in the drover that trip;  
matched by the wives of young Barnaby King.  
Young Barnaby King was the best of the bunch,  
and the Charleville locals to strangers would boast  
he had never been beaten by bad ones before,  
from the Watercourse flats, to the Gulf country coast.

It was said he'd been born in a Warrego camp,  
when the rains at Carnarvon had poured for a week,  
and his mother had taught him when twenty weeks old,  
to swim without fear, in the Warrego creek.  
At twenty five years he became a road-boss  
who would balk at no lazy old belly-deep run,  
or a bank-to-bank flood in a river of foam  
he would lead a mob in, and regard it as fun.  
Just so long as the tailers were kept to the trot,  
the cunning old leaders would follow him in,  
and if ever a stranger should question him why,  
he'd just grin them his lop-sided Barnaby grin.

He'd tell them the river was there to be crossed  
so, why should he wait for the water to fall?  
far better he'd state, to just lead the mob in,  
and his method of swimming was best of 'em all.  
If you wanted to get the mob where you were headed,  
and wanted to wash off the dust from the hides  
of the cattle, 'twas good sense to take on the river,  
than sit and just hope for a swapping of sides!  
You might wait for a week, for the water to lessen,  
but where would you feed 'em, the whole thousand head,  
on a stock-route flogged bare by the passing of others?  
No. Better to swim 'em, young Barnaby said!

We came to the banks of the Barwon one morning,  
the water was racing, and spotted with foam,  
The leaders were baulking and eyeing the torrent;  
the tailers were hanging back, looking for home.  
While some locals were watching we drovers from Queensland,  
men covered with dust from their boots to their hats,  
their swift-footed horses, the long-horned old leaders,  
had started to ring, on those Mungindi flats,  
until up to the lead rode a girl on a pony,  
a girl of the bush I could tell from her seat,  
with spurs on her boots and a whip 'round her shoulders,  
a pony that looked both well-cared for and fleet.

She rode to where Barnaby King sat, just waiting—  
waiting for bullocks to steady and stand,  
and her smile lit the land, like the sharp morning sunrise,  
she stood in her stirrups, to offer her hand.  
In a voice etched with silver, she told him while smiling  
she'd help him with coachers, if he could but wait.  
So he rode with the girl to a Wayside tin humpy;  
she stepped down so lightly, and opened a gate  
to a yard where two Jerseys were finished with milking,  
she haltered them both, and she gave one to King  
to lead back to the mob where we drovers were watching;  
back where the restless ones wanted to ring—

Then she rode with her Jerseys, straight into that river,  
 her pony unflinching in spite of the swirl  
 of the waters and currents, which carried the pony,  
 she angled him crosswise, that Mungindi girl,  
 and our bullocks decided to follow the Jerseys  
 who swam with their owner through flotsam and whirl.  
 What a sight was it then for the Mungindi locals,  
 as bullocks all swam, for that Mungindi girl.  
 And we made it —we drovers and old Nebine bullocks;  
 made it up pathways of yellowed wet clay.  
 When we came from that torrent bedraggled but grinning,  
 we'd bested the wrath of the Barwon that day.

We skirted the township and fed them on clover,  
 those long-horned bush bullocks, then just at last light,  
 we bedded the mob on a patch of blacksoil,  
 and we hobbled our horses on good grass that night—  
 We yarned for a time 'bout the girl and her pony;  
 the milkers she'd brought to the river that day,  
 to help us cross cattle from far away Boatman;  
 bush bullocks we'd brought from out Charleville way.  
 And when morning came fresh, with the promise of newness,  
 we all could read something was brewing that day,  
 A local man rode to our camp by the myalls  
 and told us, "The young girl had been swept away—

Years ago, when her stirrup had snagged in a sapling,  
 her pony was drowning, and she'd tried her best  
 to pull from the spring-bar, that treacherous stirrup,  
 the river the victor, took her to her rest.  
 Where the grey gums and lignum and wild willows wave,  
 there's a tiny white cross, roughly nailed to a post,  
 and the girl with her milkers and pony you saw,  
 now and then drovers see, but, she's only a ghost—  
 Yes, a ghost which still comes to the drovers in trouble,  
 to help with the cattle who balk at the sight  
 of the river when flooded"— and mark you my words,  
 that young Barnaby King was quite thoughtful that night!

We had crossed the wild Barwon, led by a slim girl,  
 through the debris and foam of the late winter flood,  
 And we silently thanked someone watching our crossing,  
 who'd steered us up through the gum saplings and mud—  
 We blocked the mob then, in the shade of some myalls,  
 and everyone looked for the Mungindi kid,  
 who was not to be seen, she had just disappeared,  
 but we'll always remember the job that she did  
 when she came to our help without asking reward  
 and led our bush cattle across that wild stream,  
 In wonder we sat in our saddles and thought,  
 was the girl ever there---or did we but dream?

Barnaby first met with Love by the Barwon,  
 and now where the girl and her pony's asleep  
 he has placed a steel fence, and a slab of grey granite,  
 to fend off the hoofs of stray cattle and sheep  
 that might tread on the place where his young Love is resting,  
 way out where the fronds of the sad myalls wave.  
 And he always goes back to the flats by the Barwon,  
 to sit for a while by his bush darling's grave—  
 Each year he goes back, and a bunch of bush blossoms,  
 he places each time, by the cross of white stone,  
 which marks where the Mungindi girl lies forever;  
 the only love Barnaby ever has known.

Now, the last of those drovers who crossed with the cattle,  
 crossed where the girl and her galloway died,  
 still talk of the love of a reckless young drover  
 who worshipped a girl by the old Barwon's side—  
 They'll tell you that Barnaby King never married,  
 and how he goes back to the town every year,  
 to sit in the shade of the grey weeping myalls,  
 where pictures of someone he loved are so clear;  
 someone who'd captured his heart at the crossing,  
 his first-ever love left his mind in a whirl,  
 and some swear to the truth of that day by the Barwon  
 when Barnaby met, with a Mungindi girl.

*Author's note:*

*Back in the forties a Mungindi woman used to help us cross cattle over the Bar-won by leading two big pet bullocks in front of the drovers' mob, and this was done quite regularly if the bush-bred cattle balked at walking across the traffic bridge, which led right into the end of the main street of Mungindi.*

*Local legend had it that a young girl used to do the coaching job, but had drowned one day, and still her ghost came back now and then, to help drovers in trouble. My poem is based on that piece of folklore.*



*Kelly Dixon is one of Australia's best-known bush balladeers. His poems have been set to music by some of Australia's leading country music stars – including Slim Dusty, who recorded Kelly's classic "Leave Him Out There in the Longyard." Kelly's verses have been collected in the books From a Drifter's Pen and From Under the Cross.*

*A three-time winner of the Golden Gumleaf at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards – an honour he shares with the likes of Slim Dusty and R. M. Williams – Kelly was also a founder member of the Australian Bush Balladeers Association.*

*Dixon fell into country music through Slim Dusty, having begun his career in folk as one of the founding members of the Mt Isa Folk Club. "I got into county music by default, I'm a folkie," Dixon said.*

*"Slim Dusty, I met up with him at the Dubbo Showgrounds way back in the '60s and I used to be always doodling with pen and paper and somebody said "You should show that particular ballad to Slim.""*

*Dixon went on to write more than 40 songs for Slim Dusty and still writes today.*

*"I'll be writing till I die, it's just a habit" – Kelly Dixon*

## RIP Wayne King

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden and unexpected death of our fellow member, Zondrae King's husband Wayne, on 7th August 2016. For those who knew Wayne, he was a wonderful man and will be dearly missed by family and friends. Our hearts and condolences go out to Zondrae at this very sad time.

## Office Bearers for 2016/17 for Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.

President – Edna Harvey  
Vice-President – Jayson Russell  
Treasurer – Cate Henry  
Secretary – Sandy Lees  
Publicity Officer – Sandy Lees  
Afternoon Tea Convenor – Shirley Shepherd  
Equipment Co-ordinator – John Lees

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### Results of the FAW Eastwood Hills Boree Log Award for Bush Verse

Judge: Brian Beesley

#### First Place

Wills		Brenda Joy
	Highly Commended	
When Bobby Comes Marching Home		Tom McIlveen
Bluey		Tom McIlveen
Coal Mine Convict		Brenda Joy
	Commended	
From Alice Springs		Hugh Allan
Bushed		Carol Heuchan

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Those that paved the way for us that followed ...

### **From the ABPA magazine #8 September 1994**

#### **\*\*\* BUSH POETS ON TOUR.\*\*\***

An extensive tour of the Outback was arranged and led by Mark Gliori last month. The six poets included Bob Miller, Murray Hartin, John Major, Noel Cutler, Bill Hay and Mark. Bluey Bostock and Ken Reid made a brief appearance at Quilpie on their way to Winton to assist in the organising of the Waltzing Matilda Festival in 1995. The troop staged a show at Windorah on 31st to a very receptive audience then on to Birdsville on the 1st Sept. where another three shows were held at Peter Barnes' Caravan Park. Bill Hay said "The weather was dirty, gusty and dusty and many a tent was blown down, a miserable time, weather wise."

Then on to Bedourie where other sessions were held in the Council Hall and they were treated to a guided tour of Bedourie by Scott Mead. They were then off to Boulia to another successful show at the Golf Club and were looked after by Cliff Donahue. Then a comfort stop at Middleton on the way to Winton where Noel Cutler gave a Whip Cracking demonstration.

A brief consultation with Peter Evert at Winton and then on to Longreach where they performed at the Outback Performing Theatre and Shearing Shed run by Alan Blunt, which was an outstanding success, to an enthusiastic audience and very well organised. A great night on the tour.

After discussions with Tim Butler at the A.B.C. Longreach they were off again back to Winton for two more performances and appreciated the first class accomodation at the Matilda Motel.

The Tour having reached a very successful climax at Winton they then headed for home.

Mark and Murray left on a coach and John and Joy left for Barralaba. But Bill Hay wasn't quite finished yet, he rang through to Augathella and arranged another show at the Ellengrove Hotel and were again treated to top class hospitality and another great night.

Bill hay summed up the report by saying: "I consider we did a lot of good on the tour and gave the people of the Outback a look at Bush Poetry with some of the best poets in Australia,

All members of the troop would like to thank the many people who assisted with the tour, the managers of the motels, hotels and other venues.

John Armstrong Nissan of Neil St Toowoomba provided a Nissan Patrol Station Wagon, Peter Manson - of Roma who provided the signs for the cars, the Winton Committee who provided much needed funds without these efforts the tour may not have been the total success it was.

Thank-you all.

Mark

PS, We travelled 3985 ks in two 4WDs

With Thanks from Manfred Vijars

**"Wild and Wonderful Australia"  
Winner Copper Croc Award 2016  
Rich Beyond All Measure**

© Shelley Hansen

I have watched the Winter beauty of a Thargomindah sunrise  
as it washes rosy brush strokes on the silhouette of dawn.  
I have listened to the kookaburra herald forth with laughter,  
calling out that all is well" as he proclaims another morn.

I have wandered in the highlands in the frosty breath of morning  
and rejoiced in the survival of a fragile alpine bloom.  
I have seen the tiny fairy wrens negotiate the bluster  
of a chilly breeze - without a thought of danger, threat or doom.

I have glimpsed a wedge-tailed eagle in the Nullarbor's remoteness  
and the emu cross the desert plain with locomotive gait.  
I have seen the resting kangaroo and pirouette of brolgas  
as the morning glory barrels in across the Torres Strait.

I have watched the grey galahs perform their circus troupe manoeuvres  
while the sulphur-crested cockatoos screech loudly to complain,  
and the cheeky rainbow lorikeets and timid pale rosellas  
graze on waving flowered graises brought to life by sudden rain.

I have traced the captive rainbow of a Queensland boulder opal  
in the seam of vibrant colour that invades its ironstone heart.  
I have touched the glassy surface of a thunder egg, smooth-polished  
to belie the birthing cradle that became its fiery start.

I have been to Fraser Island with its endless sandy beaches  
where the lakes are fed by hidden springs from sources deep and cold.  
I have felt the ground grow cool beneath my feet in verdant forests  
where the tree ferns thrive by crystal streams and soft green moss takes hold.

I have stood atop a mountain in majestic border ranges  
where the vista of the valley seems a thousand miles below.  
I have heard the tinsel tinkle of the enigmatic bellbird  
as it shares performance spotlight with an omnipresent crow.

I have seen the silver sparkle of the swirling cascade's tumble  
as it plummets from the precipice to smite the weathered rocks.  
I have seen the seagulls swooping to anticipate a feeding  
while escorting fishing trawlers heading homeward to the docks.

I have felt the icy ocean winds that sweep the southern shoreline  
where the albatross soars gracefully above the white-tipped waves.  
I have paused on Sarah Island as a sobering reminder  
of the past that shaped our heritage, preserved in crumbled graves.

I have seen the Rock of Uluru grow purple in a sunset  
when the curtained sky is swathed in grey, without a hint of red.  
I have stood by Kata Tjuta in the shimmer-haze of noonday  
as the silence of the Dreamtime floats serenely overhead.

I have seen a midnight star-scape on the plains of South Australia  
and beheld a full eclipsing moon arise at Broken Hill.  
I have seen the splendid morning star's reflection in the water  
as it meets the far horizon in the pristine pre-dawn chill.

I have loved the wild and wonderful uniqueness that surrounds me,  
and I know that if I leave these shores, wherever I may roam  
I am rich beyond all measure as I dream in vibrant colour  
of the bluest skies on earth, above this land that I call home!

# GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



Queensland's last notable Old Time Outlaws, Paddy and Jim Kenniff's nefarious activities have been chronicled by a number of historic authors. Myths and legends have been represented as facts and a lot of copy has been published that could best be described as 'bunkum'.

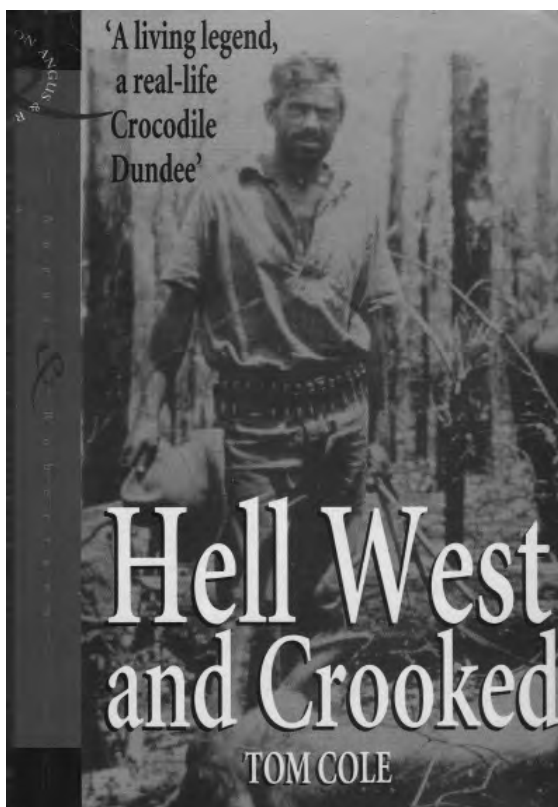
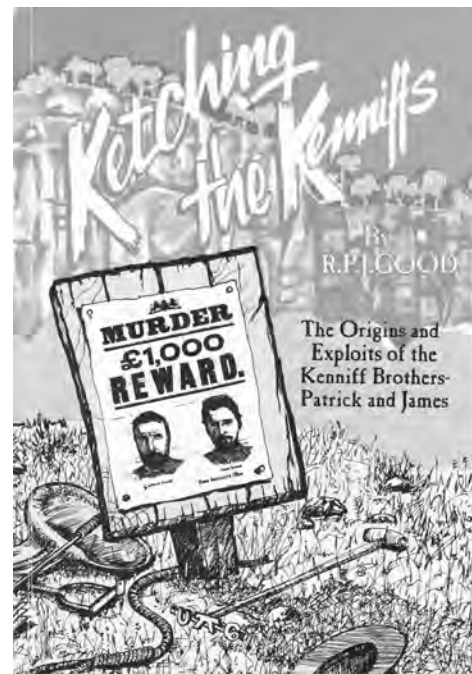
The best treatment on the Kenniffs is without a doubt 'Ketching the Kenniffs' by R.P.J. Good published by Maranoa Regional Council 1996. Revised edition 2001.

Bob Good is a policeman who located the official transcripts of legal proceedings following the murder of a policeman and a station manager in the Carnarvon ranges on Easter Sunday 1902 by the Kenniffs.

The discovery of the records mouldering away in an old police stable at Oaky whet Bob Good's curiosity and between discovering the records in 1976 and publishing in 1996, his labour of love has produced the most accurate account of the Kenniffs available.

The upper Warrego region of Central Queensland is known as 'Kenniff Country' to this day. Paddy and Jim Kenniff have been called Queensland's Ned and Dan Kelly and alongside Big Harry Readford, the Mt.Cornish cattle duffer, they qualify as the most notorious early day outlaws in the Sunshine State.

Ketching the Kenniffs is a great historical read and can be obtained by contacting the Injune Visitors Information Centre where I obtained my copy.



There is no way Hell West and Crooked by Tom Cole (Angus & Robertson 1988) can be regarded as a totally accurate historical record. Tom has not let a good story be spoiled by undue adherence to facts, but Hell West and Crooked is a rattling good yarn of the Australian Outback.

Cole arrived in this country in 1906, a young Englishman looking for adventure in the colonies. He embarked on a career as an outback stockman, horse breaker, drover, buffalo hunter and crocodile shooter.

Tom's style of writing breezes across the pages and his life story is an absorbing and entertaining read. I have enjoyed the work several times and probably will again. However, don't take it all as gospel. Tom has related quite a few of those old yarns that have been doing the rounds for years and probably losing nothing in the telling.

The story of a notorious Territory character who made a group of Aboriginal women sit on a tin roof all day in the sun, has been told and re-told but it is blatantly impossible. How could one man keep several people on a building's roof on his own? As fast as he guarded one side, they would be escaping from the other. Just the same, that tale has been around for years and Tom obviously didn't look too deeply into the logistics of it.

The same goes for the yarn that Breaker Morant somehow escaped the clutches of the firing squad and made it back to the Territory in the wake of the Boer War. There is too much solid historical evidence to the contrary.

On the other hand, Tom's account of the Farquharson brothers' record making dry droving trip across the Murrarji Track is a very good record of the event. An author is only as good as his sources and Tom probably should have checked some of his more carefully.

Having said that, I would still call Hell West and Crooked a great read. Cole has captured the feel and soul of the Never Never, and in his words and the book effortlessly transports its reader to the country further out.

More great Aussie reads at  
[www.outbackbooks.info](http://www.outbackbooks.info)

Jack Drake

## 2016 Royal National Show – EKKA – Report

Another very successful EKKA (Brisbane's 139th Royal National Show) has come to a close and, with record numbers and beautiful weather, it has certainly been a great success.

The Bush Poets this year performed four times daily on the Stage shared with the Sheep Shearing demonstrations – great fun, and also a perfect location – even the sheep “baa-ed” on cue occasionally !!

We had eighteen poets performing over the 'Ten Days of the Ekka' – and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous support – I hope you enjoyed it all as much as I did.

The 'EKKA Bush Poetry Competition' was held on the first Saturday of the Show – we had good entries in the Open Established and the Open Original but desperately need more Entries in the Junior Competition – (12 yrs and under and 13 yrs and under 18yrs) – please encourage any students/children you may know to enter. Contact me on trisha.spencer@bigpond.com

The Winners of the EKKA Bush Poetry Competition are as follows :

Open Established – 1. Carmel Wooding  
2. Amy Bradfield  
3. Kevin Dean

Open Original 1. Carmel Wooding  
2. Graeme Johnson  
3. Paddy O'Brien

Student (12yrs and Under)  
1. James Wooding  
2. William Wooding

Congratulations to the Placegetters and also to all the contestants and thank you for being a part of the 2016 EKKA Bush Poetry Competition.

Many thanks to all the 'crew' who helped to present the Competition – the JUDGES, the COMPERE, the COLLATORS and the RUNNER – it all wouldn't happen without your input.

Also, I would like to thank our generous Sponsors – Catherine Sinclair and Peter Forster from the Consultancy Bureau, The Stockman's Hall of Fame and the RNA.

...and Many Thanks to our very supportive RNA Councillor for Bush Poetry Catherine Sinclair -  
My sincere thanks to you all –

*Trisha Anderson*

### Milton Ulladulla Junior Poetry Comp RESULTS 2016 JUNIOR BUSH POETRY

#### WRITTEN SECTION

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1st KIRRA DALE ST MARYS  
2ND JORDAN MAGI ULLADULLA  
3RD TOM SQUIRES ST MARYS

#### COMENDED

BEAU ALDERMAN ST MARYS  
JASPER TAY ST MARYS

#### PERFORMANCE SECTION

-----

1ST LUCAS MCDONALD MILTON  
2ND FRED GRAVENOR ST MARYS  
3RD LILY GRAVENOR STMARYS

#### COMENDED

SIENNA FLYNN ST MARYS  
LILLY REID MILFORD STMARYS

JIM GRAHAM PERPETUAL TROPHY  
LUCAS MCDONALD  
SHOWMANSHIP TROPHY  
FRED GRAVENOR

## New ABPA Badges Now Available

The ABPA Committee has just obtained a supply of new ABPA Badges. which are die-cast metal in an attractive bronze colour, featuring our name and logo, and is secured with a stick pin. They are now available from the Treasurer for \$10- each, including postage.



# Competition Results

## CAMOOWEAL LIVE

Despite some welcome-to-the locals rain in the lead up to this year's festival, around 300 people stayed on through the unseasonal pre-festival downpours to greet the sun and the stars of the Outback for the annual reverie of the Drovers' Camp Festival and all the side events that make it an especially great week to be on the border of Queensland and the Northern Territory.

There was the usual music and poetry entertainment around the town at the Post Office Hotel and van park, in various street locations as well as down -by -the-riverside where the Georgina was resplendent with water and bird life. There was the Friday Drovers' Luncheon, the Friday night parade, mail run and auction and after, invited musicians Bandana from Mt. Isa, John O'Dea and Tom Maxwell rotated for a great street concert.

Saturday was music and more music at the Drovers' Camp with the Lake Nash band and some wonderful walk-up artists also contributing. There was the annual Race meeting at Cronin Park, the art, photography and memorabilia exhibitions and of course, all the bronco branding competition events. Visiting from the Riverina, South Australia was Mick Batchelor and his horse Wallace representing the 6th Light Brigade (see photo) cantering to the background recitation of Banjo Paterson's The Last Parade.

As always, there was the very special line up of those men and women who lived through the droving era of our history (see photo). This year many of them related yarns of their experiences to M.C. ABC's John Nutting. For Saturday night the Southern Cross Media Country Music Spectacular featured the touring 'Anne Kirkpatrick Family and Friends' show.

Sunday, following the pattern of recent years, began with the Bush Poets' Breakfast with invited bush poets Brenda Joy and John Lloyd ably supported by poets and yarn spinners warming-up for the Drovers' Camp Talent Award. The Bronze Spur Award (see results below) was announced at the breakfast and Brenda 'launched' her new DVD In the Spirit. The Lake Nash band then played gospel for a moving Sunday Service.

The DCTA took to stage with 20 different bush poetry, yarn or ballad/song acts (see results and photo below). After the Awards ceremonies, music continued on into the afternoon.

All in all another successful event for the border town and the wonderful team of organisers who make it all run smoothly. We would recommend everyone to come to Camooweal in the fourth weekend of August 2017, for that authentic Outback experience which celebrates all that is traditionally Australian.

Brenda Joy,  
Camooweal 28th August, 2016

## RESULTS CAMOOWEAL DROVERS' CAMP FESTIVAL 2016

### WRITTEN

*The Post Office Hotel, 'Bronze Spur' for Written Bush Verse*

1st Place	Helen Harvey, Coonamble, NSW The Wave Hill Spur
2nd Place	Peter O'Shaughnessy, Eaton, WA Tuckunarra Stew
3rd Place	Catherine Lee, Thailand In the End
H.C.	Janice Williams, Stawell, Victoria Black Range Wedding
Commended	David Campbell, Airleys Inlet, Victoria Walk a Mile in Our Shoes!
Commended	Helen Harvey, Coonamble, NSW Days of Glory

### PERFORMANCE

*'The Drovers' Camp Talent Award' for Performance of Bush Poems, Yarns and/or Ballads/Songs*

#### BUSH POETRY

1st Place	Carmel Lloyd of Calen, Queensland
2nd Place	Trevor Stewart of Bundaberg, Queensland
3rd Place	Ralph Greenham of Hillcrest, South Australia

#### YARNS

1st Place	Carmel Lloyd of Calen, Queensland
2nd Place	Ralph Greenham of Hillcrest, South Australia
3rd Place	Trevor Stewart of Bundaberg, Queensland

#### BALLADS/SONGS

1st Place	'Pepper Jane' of Jondaryan, Queensland
2nd Place	Grace Wright of Camooweal, Queensland
3rd Place	Kevin Harris of Tamworth, NSW

### OVERALL WINNERS FOR THE DROVERS' CAMP TALENT AWARD FOR PERFORMANCE

Winner	Carmel Lloyd of Calen, Queensland
Runner Up	Trevor Stewart of Bundaberg, Queensland
3rd Place	Ralph Greenham of Hillcrest, South Australia



More Results Can be found on our Website [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au)



A horseman once said, "The best thing for the inside of a man is the outside of a horse". It is also known that if you can mix troubled youth and horses together, sometimes magic happens.

## Lords of the Dance

© Lynden Baxter

As the morning sun burned the mist away  
On the breeze, a cry came, "Yahoo – hey – hey"  
And a laughing boy on a racing horse  
Bent the bullocks back from the watercourse  
As I watched them duel as they held the face  
Saw a picture drawn with the horseman's grace

And it seemed to me that the morn was kissed  
By a different light through the swirling mist  
And these common things in the days of man  
Now seemed touched somehow by the Master's plan  
When the dice was rolled and the cards were dealt  
In my heart I felt what the Gambler felt

Let's step back awhile and I'll tell the day  
That I saw His work down old Langley way  
Saw Him make the call, play the cards of chance  
Saw the boy and colt learn a way to dance  
I saw magic pass through the rosewood rail  
As it changed two lives, yes, it's true this tale

Now the boy had come here from foster care  
Just a hand-me-down, this his cross to bear  
With a rebel tag and a troubled eye  
The words, fight and flight were his battle cry  
Oh, so hard the road that now lay ahead  
A street-kid, sixteen, his young mother dead

And the city slums and the alleys dark  
They had shaped his life and had left their mark  
It was, Watch your back, quick, just take and run  
And there, violence ruled with the fist and gun  
Yes, for him, childhood never had a chance  
Just a child whose mother had lived to dance

Then from Eastern Creek rode a horseman, true  
On his halter rope danced a colt of blue  
A fine colt as blue as the outback sky  
But an orphan, though, with a troubled eye  
He had done it tough with the old mare dead  
See old Deacon's blood in that fine proud head

And old Jazz, well known in the silver bush  
For her moonlight dance, when the bullocks push  
But the snake had struck and her life was gone  
Now her colt, alone, had to battle on  
But the price was high, oh, the battles lost  
In his eyes, the violence, his scars, the cost

To this place, some call it, just 'Start Again'  
It was, make or break, in the world of men  
For a second chance, though the road was hard  
Like the lessons learned in the breaking yard  
And the breaking yard was the common ground  
It was there two lives had been turned around

There the colt of blue, like a thunderstorm  
Sent the dust clouds high, showed his whirlwind form  
And his pounding hooves played the rhythm strong  
And the boy was drawn by the wild horse song  
And what did he see in that mirrored eye  
For a tear fell as the colt swept by

Did an unseen hand touch a hard young heart?  
Show a different way for a second start  
Did the colt of blue recognize his kind?  
As he fought his fear and the ropes that bind  
Ah, now, who can say how the cards will fall  
But to me, this one was the Master's call

Well he got his chance when the Breaker said  
"He's too good for me, here, lad, take his head"  
It was there mid sweat and the swirling dust  
That the hand was played in the game called Trust  
And this magic passed like a lightning bolt  
Through the city kid and the rebel colt

Oh, so slow at first, they both learned the way  
Now, just look at them hold their own today  
A fine horseman, free, on a colt, true blue  
Yes, this tale, my friends, is a story true  
And they say that life is a game of chance  
But those two out there were both born to dance

# Logan Village Competition and Results

September 11 saw 14 poets gather on the village green at Logan Village to enjoy the 'Logan Village Music and Heritage Festival' and what a day of great fun and poetry it turned out to be! The day started with a bush poet's breakfast and the one minute was run in front of the main stage, the idea was to highlight bush poetry in Logan in a fun way for the public!

The day then continued in the hall for a competition with a full range of events including the children's, a classical, a modern, an original, and a comedy event called 'The Village Idiot.'

It was a really full day, with poets definitely full of chocolate cake celebrating the 'Logan Performance Bush Poets' second birthday! It was decided that the Bush Poets breakfast will precede the competition every year!

The judges, Wally Finch, (who stepped up and saved the day filling in for Pam Fox) Jim Tonkin, and Gerry King had a really difficult job but did it admirably.

The results were as follows:

The Children's: Rocky Cullen, Allysia Smith, Caine Cullen

1. The One Minute: Paul Wincen
2. The Classical: Paul Wincen, Suzanne Honour, Graham Hampson
3. The Modern: Pa Kettle, Paul Wincen, Janine Keating
4. Original: Don Macqueen, Pa Kettle and Hunter Cullen
5. The Village Idiot: Rocky Cullen
6. The Poet on Film: Janine Keating



A Big 'Thanks' goes to Wal for filling in and to all the poets that travelled long distances particularly Janine Keating who came all the way from Gladstone! Bush Poetry needs more poets like you!

Gerry King

Dear Brenda,

I may move in many different circles these days but I do continue to have a genuine interest in Bush Poetry in general. I cannot help but feel that the A.B.P.A.'s prime focus appears to be competition. It is most commendable that so much effort goes in to ensuring the organisation and fairness of judging of these events is carefully considered to maintain integrity. Congratulations. I support and contribute to that wholeheartedly.

But there is also a very important field outside competition. There are issues relating to and affecting the professional sector of Bush Poetry that could be addressed - issues of protocol, integrity, marketing etc. I have in the past suggested that perhaps a (rotating) panel of genuinely professional poets could be approached to discuss such issues and to be available to advise the ABPA on certain matters pertaining to strictly poetry matters as opposed to administrative matters. Most committee members are appointed on what is thought to be their administrative capacity yet they rarely seek advice on things that affect the bigger picture - the poetry entertainment world. This is where Bush Poetry and its ability to be embraced by the public at large is, I feel, unintentionally placed in jeopardy by some of the decisions of the ABPA.

For example:

The crossing back and forth of some from 'competition poet' to 'professional poet' and back again ad hoc.

The 'soliciting' for judging jobs. Unethical.

The undercutting (to an unsustainable degree) 'fees' charged by many for public performances (charities not withstanding).

- Some people's bios are better written than their poetry!

The publishing of winning poems of the ABPA website. A most unprofessional idea. Why would anyone buy a book if they can get the poem free? And any poem used by the author as a performance piece would have lost all impact by being out in the public domain. Not to mention the propensity for dubious reciters to just help themselves.

The generous prize money for amateur competition winners who produce an average of twenty minutes of reciting at an event, yet an ever dwindling consideration for fees for the judges who also travel long distances and who have worked hard to achieve their status, who judge for long hours but also provide the 'drawcard' entertainment for that event.

That situation could be further diminished by the utilisation of non-qualified judges.

Reciters making money by doing (primarily) the works of others. Come on.

The lopsided view of worth. After winning the Australian Championship twice, I retired from competition. But I am 'advertised' negatively against someone who won it more than twice (by perhaps staying at it ad infinitum!) There are other achievements of far more value in marketing and I'm sure other professional poets have more worthy accolades also.

Let's get a balance.

It is almost as if, albeit unintentionally, the ABPA is undermining our ambassadors - the professional poets.

Marketing would do well to focus on THE ENJOYMENT of poetry rather than just that it is competitive. Where are the photos of clapping crowds? Where is the photo of someone laughing their head off? Where are the quotes of audience members moved to tears by a performance? Where is the support for what our band of professionals are achieving? A picture of a person holding a certificate is not going to entice people to come along to a poetry event. We need folks OUTSIDE just competitions to re-connect with our art. And I believe we need to look outside our own back yard.

I hope this email is accepted in the manner it was sent - with a genuine concern for the future of Bush Poetry.

Sincerely,

Carol Heuchan

# GYMPIE MUSTER POETS 2016

Another great Gympie Muster has been and gone and once more Performance Comedy Bush Poetry had the famous Crowbar Venue packed to the rafters. With organiser, Marco Giori there followed a band of mad and hilarious acts such as Peter Capp, Bill Kearns, Neil McArthur, Susie and Mal, Irish Joe Lynch, our Backyard Balladeer Errol Gray and this years guest comedian, the hilarious Peter Willey.

Each day was intermingled with audience participation with both Games and the One Minute Campers Brawl which, as usual, attracted a pile of entries.

Hats off to Marco who seems to reinvent these breakfasts each year with something new and exciting in the form of new interaction and new characters performing as to make the shows fresh and eternally popular.

The Poets Camp, or as Peter Willey called it, Main Stage, was a thriving little place with other poets such as Bill and Meg Gorden, Janine Keating and Leanne Strauss, and also our woodcutter and all around handyman and his wife, Bill and Marg Gull from Ballarat, joined in the shenanigans and sing a longs around the campfire each night, which in itself was a bit of a talent quest. Along with Peter and Errol, Marco and Cappy showed their musical prowess with McArthur throwing in the occasional badly sung song to send everybody to bed early. Susie also showed her singing ability.

It's great to see these big and famous festivals such as the Gympie National Music Muster embracing Bush Poetry in the form of breakfast shows and shows our genre can be easily as entertaining as any other act there who take the stage. So the planning is already underway for Gympie 2017 and I'm sure Marco will produce just as great a range of shows next year as he has been doing for so many, many years.

Onwards and upwards!

## Nanango Country Music Muster

Another great Nanango Country Music Muster saw two Poets Breakfasts and a spot on main stage on the Saturday night featuring Ray Essery, Gary Fogarty and Neil McArthur.

Gary hosted both breakfast in his own unique and highly popular and professional manner and along with the help of walk-up poets and some of the local Bush Poetry Group, managed to entertain an enthusiastic crowd for three hours on the Friday Morning and another two hours on the Sunday.

Although the rain set in, the crowd just pulled out umbrellas and tarps and refused to move! Such is the dedication of Country Music crowds.

With over 800 vans on site, Nanango once again proved it's popularity on the Country Music Calendar and looks set to continue for many more years.



## **ST.ARNAUD**

### **POET'S BREAKFAST**

**30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT**

**LORD NELSON PARK**

**SHEEP PAVILLION**

**POETS 9 – 11 AM \$10**

**FEATURING : NEIL MC ARTHUR**

**COL MILLIGAN, RHONDA TALLNASH, &  
KATHY VALLANCE, (0439 256 332)**

**WALK UP POETS WELCOME**

**PLUS BREAKFAST, \$10**

**Provided by St.Arnaud Uniting Church**

**BREAKFAST 7.45 – 9am**

**A NOT TO BE MISSED MORNING OF  
COMEDY BUSH VERSE**

# 2017 DUNEDOO BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

2nd TO 5th MARCH 2017

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY OF \$5000

## PERFORMANCE

Combined Male/Female Sections for INTERMEDIATE and YARNSPINNING

Separate Male and Female Sections for OPEN --

CLASSICAL, CONTEMPORARY and ORIGINAL Serious and Humorous  
WRITTEN

Both Serious and Humorous Categories

Walk up Meet and Greet, SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT, Poets' Breakfast, Lots of fun

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM CO-ORDINATOR;

Eric Beer, "Pine Hill", 299 Forans Lane, NEILREX, NSW, 2831.

Phone 02 6886 3592, Mobile 0429 388 530, pine.hill.2831@bigpond.com

OR download from ABPA website. Like us on ABPA Facebook.



**AUSSIE**



Benalla Bowls Club

## BUSH ENTERTAINMENT MUSTER

**7 – 9th October Benalla Bowls Club,**

**Arundel Street, Benalla**

A fun weekend of dinkum songs, bush poetry and yarns  
Friendly annual gathering for musicians and bush poets and their  
friends, with Poets' Breakfasts, workshops, concerts.

**Victorian Song Championships** and Novice Poet Competition.

Friday night we feature '**Shannon Come Home**' (Cost \$15) a musical by  
Jill Meehan, Christine Middleton and Tim Sheed. Jill and Christine  
will also judge the Song Championships with Will Arnold.

Lots of laughs and participation. New poets and friends very welcome.

(Victorian Seniors Week) Weekend wristband \$25/\$20 concession

More details on [www.vbpma.com.au](http://www.vbpma.com.au)

Jan Lewis (VBPMA Secretary) 0422 848 707 [info@vbpma.com.au](mailto:info@vbpma.com.au)

# Golden Damper Awards 2017

PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

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, Colin Driscoll, 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 Poet's 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 'ABPA-Golden Damper Awards') to the ABPA so it could be run under their auspices.

In 2017 the 'ABPA-Golden Damper Awards' performance competition will consist of 2 sections, Original & Established (Modern or Traditional).

3 days of heats will be held on Tues the 24th, Thurs the 26th and Fri the 27th of January 2017 with the finals being held on Sat the 28th January 2017.

(\*NB\* Due to unforeseen circumstances the location of our venue for 2017 cannot be confirmed at this time). (For further information consult the ABPA Website for updates).

Entries are invited from both established and new performers. Entry forms are available from the ABPA website, [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au) or send a stamped, self addressed envelope to "The Co-ordinator-Golden Damper Entries 2016, P.O. Box 655, West Ryde, NSW, 1685".

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

ABPA-Golden Damper Awards' 2017 Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson would like to invite ABPA members to submit their names to him for the 3 judging spots (per day of the competition) that the ABPA is required to fill. (Only names on the current ABPA Accredited Judges list will be accepted). (This list 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, 1 Timekeeper and a Doorperson (whose responsibility it will be to collect much needed donations on the 3 days of the Heats).

\*NB: In 2017 the 'ABPA-Golden Damper Awards' will be run under the ABPA "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 2017.

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

Sponsored by



***Graeme Johnson***

**Illawarra Breakfast Poets & Illawarra Folk Club**  
**Present- in association with the Illawarra Folk Festival**

**The Kembla Flame 2017**

Prizes valuing \$500.00

(there will be no competition in 2016.)

Presentation Friday 13th, January 2017

**\*\* Judges decision is Final\*\***

Author's name must not appear on the poem

- Entries must be the sole work of the entrant
- PLEASE SEND 3 COPIES of each poem,
- The topic of the poems must be something or someone Australian or part of the Australian way of life.
- All poems must have good consistent rhyme and metre
- Poems must not have won a first place or have been published for profit
- Closing Date is 30th December, 2016. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Entry fee is \$8 Per poem or \$20 for 3 Poems
- Copyright remains with the author. Permission to use is granted for advertising only.
- Entry fees must be paid before judging, Direct Deposit to Illawarra Breakfast Poets (bank details from competition Secretary)
- Use surname as ID.
- Cheque or Postal order to Illawarra Breakfast Poets
- All entries addressed to Competition Secretary, 4 Dick Street, Corrimal NSW 2518.
  
- Prize are as follows:
  
- First Place \$200, plus Kembla Flame Trophy, and certificate  
Second place \$150, plus certificate - 3rd Place \$50 plus certificate.

*All prizes will be presented at the lunchtime concert Friday 13th January 2017 at Illawarra Folk Festival Bulli. Winners will be invited to perform their poem at the festival*

**MILTON SHOW SOCIETY BUSH POETRY**  
**8AM POETS BREAKFAST WITH WALK UPS**

**ADULT PERFORMANCE COMPETION**  
**TO START AT 11AM**  
**TO BE HELD AT THE MILTON SHOW**  
**SAT 4th MARCH 2017**

**ADULT COMP CARRIES A TOTAL OF**  
**\$1500 PRIZE MONEY**

**1ST \$600 2ND \$350 3RD \$250**  
**PLUS 3 HIGHLY COMMENDED AT \$100 EA**

**MAXIMUM OF 15 PERFORMERS ACCEPTED ON FIRST IN FIRST SERVED BASIS**

**Entries postmarked no later than 8th FEBUARY 2017 Entry fee \$15**

**POEM CAN BE SERIOUS OR LIGHT HEARTED AND CLASSICAL, CONTEMPORARY OR ORIGINAL**  
**DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS FROM ABPA WEBSITE OR [www.showdayonline.com](http://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](mailto:jda76436@bigpond.net.au)**

*an invitation to join the*  
**Australian  
 Bush Poets**



Association Inc.



**www.abpa.org.au**

**Our website:**

- showcases modern poets and performers,
- lists poetry events, competitions and festivals,
- displays award-winning poems and yarns,
- provides writing and performing techniques,
- contains bush poetry competition resources,
- links you to others through our online forum.

**Our magazine:**

- features poetry information, news and views,
- previews and reports on poetry events and competitions throughout Australia,
- advertises opportunities, products and services,
- displays interesting information and photos of members past and present,
- is a wonderful record of bush poetry and poets.

**If you:**

- enjoy Australian poetry with rhyme and metre,
- love our unique Australian culture & heritage,
- seek camaraderie with like-minded people and
- like having fun – **THEN JOIN US** – see over.

**Become a Member  
 Give a Gift Membership**

Join online by credit card or PayPal at:

**www.abpa.org.au**

or send this form with a direct deposit,  
 cheque or money order  
 to the address below.

Membership is for a calendar year from 1st January to 31st December.

Annual membership includes all magazines (including back issues) for the current calendar year.

Members joining after October will receive the year's remaining issue as well as all magazines for the following calendar year.

Name:.....

Postal address:.....

Phone:.....

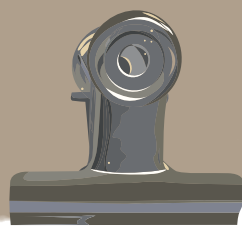
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- Single membership \$45
- Single membership \$35 (emailed mag. only)
- Dual membership supplement \$15 (2nd family memb.)
- Junior membership \$20 (under 18)
- Public Liability Insurance \$100 (to next 31 Jan.)
- Membership badge \$10 (including postage)

Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_  Receipt please  
 NO receipt (your magazine label shows receipt number & memb. expiry)

Payable to **Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**  
 Direct Deposit BSB: **633000** Account: **154842108**  
 Reference: Your **NAME**. Please include your **NAME** as the reference and send confirmation with this form to [treasurer@abpa.org.au](mailto:treasurer@abpa.org.au) or

**Australian Bush Poets Association**  
**PO Box 87**  
**VIOLET TOWN VIC 3669**



## **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.

"Laggan Bush Poets." 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

SINGLETON BUSH POETS. Meet at the Albion Hotel, John Street Singleton. 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Neville Briggs 02 65711398.

### **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, Recliffe. Contact Janice Ebrington 0421941494

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](http://www.abpa.org.au) to download a membership form, or contact the Secretary [secretary@abpa.org.au](mailto:secretary@abpa.org.au)