

A.B.P.A.

Australian Bush Poets Association

Volume 22 No. 6
December January
2016/17



***MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
ABPA MEMBERS***

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 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

Bush poetry events Tamworth, January 2017

Australian Bush Poets' Assoc events

ABPA Golden Damper Awards 2017
Bush Poetry Performance Competition

Heats:

Tuesday Jan 24, Thurs Jan 26 and Fri
Jan 27: all 10.30am - 1.30pm
Free entry
Tamworth Rugby Club-Marius Street

Finals: Sat Jan 28, 10.30am-1.30pm
Tamworth Rugby Club-Marius Street
Entry: \$5

Walk-ups

People's Choice Competition

* Sat Jan 21, Sun Jan 22, Mon Jan 23,
Tues 24 and Thurs 26, includes the
inaugural Frank Daniel Bush Verse
People's Choice Award.

\$5 entry

* Sat Jan 28: 2-5pm
(finale, non-competitive) Free.
St Edward's Hall
72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth
New performers welcome!

ABPA AGM

Wednesday January 25: from 2pm
St Edward's Hall
72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

Poettes

Friday January 27: 2-5pm
St Edward's Hall \$5 entry
72 Hillvue Rd, South Tamworth

Recommended shows

Rhymer's Roundup

Friday January 20 – Wed Jan 25
10.30am - 12.30pm \$7.50
North Tamworth Bowling Club

The Longyard

Hosts: Neil McArthur and Marco Gliori
Saturday Jan 21 – Sun Jan 29: 8-10am
The Longyard Hotel \$10
Goonoo Goonoo Room (at rear of hotel)

Poets Showcase Breakfast

Frog and Toad Listening Room
Hosted by Gary Fogarty
8.30am - 10am
Monday Jan 23 to Fri Jan 27.
\$8 entry includes
Step Up Show 8-8.30am (non-
competitive opportunity)

3 Blokes Fishing

Poetry, Comedy, Music
Marco Gliori, Alan Glover, Peter Willey
Tamworth Golf Club Mahony Ave \$20
Sunday Jan 22 – Fri Jan 27:
11am-1pm.
Bookings 02 6765 9393.

Muz Hartin 30 years at Tamworth

plus CD Launch.
Seven Exclusive One Man Shows from
The Bloke Who Wrote Turbulence.
7pm for 7.30pm start.
Tamworth Golf Club. Mahony Ave.
Phone 02 67659393 for tickets: \$20
Sat Jan 21-Mon Jan 23
Wed Jan 25-Sat Jan 28



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 27th 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

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
or 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

Well that was a big year, indeed, for Bush Poetry. Personally I was on the road pretty much from April through till the end of October and had a great year catching up with so many Poets and Poetry fans. So now we head towards a new year and new challenges in keeping our art form alive.

Firstly we will need to find members who are willing to help form our Committee, as we will be losing the valuable services of many at the end of this year. We need to form a realistic attitude towards the Association whereas there is a minimum of time expected from those Committee members to fulfill their roles, and not the hours and stresses being expected of them by some members who seem to expect our Association to be run and to serve in the same capacity as the United Nations. If you do have a couple of hours spare every fortnight at most, then please consider bringing your expertise and passion along to help form our Committee for 2017 and beyond.

Also we are tending to lose some wonderful Festivals and venues, with the sad news that the Bundy Muster will not be held in 2017. This, sadly is just an example of so much work being left to too few people, and as age catches up with us all, we don't seem to have that young, vibrant age group ready and willing to take over the great paths which have been laid out over the years and decades.

The Mt. Beauty Folk Festival has also been cancelled due to financial reasons and we no longer have several other previously endeared Competitions such as North Pines. Our Golden Damper Awards at Tamworth have now been relegated to a smaller Rugby Club venue and we all should be quite concerned about the future of genuine Bush Poetry.

As an entertainment and comedy genre, Festivals such as the Gympie Muster, Tamworth CMF, and some Balladeers Festivals like Nanango and iconic Festivals such as the Millmerrin Camp Oven Festival continue to draw huge crowds to their Poetry Shows, but sadly the channelling of younger and inexperienced poets is being hampered by lack of opportunity in competition as well as by some unnecessarily biased and inexperienced judging in some sectors, which has turned some competitors off from ever returning to compete again. And to ban poems such as Bill Kearns's works as being inappropriate? Please. Does anybody ever ask their crowds what THEY see as entertaining?

Yes the challenges are there. Are we committed to tackling them? I believe that question will be answered in 2017



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.*

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

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

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:

NSW	-- Rob Christmas	r_e_christmas@yahoo.com
Queensland	-- Cay Ellem	cayandbarry@gmail.com
South Australia	-- Bob Magor	bobmagor@chariot.net.au
Tasmania	-- Phillip Rush	auspoems@bigpond.com
Victoria	-- Jan Lewis	info@vbpma.com.au
West Australia	-- Irene Conner	iconner21@wn.com.au

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



Greetings to all ABPA Members and magazine readers. Christmas is almost upon us once again, with another year done and dusted. Is it true that time is speeding up...or perhaps it is just our distorted perception of time in a faster, crazier and busier world? The highlight of the past two months since the last edition, would have to have been the West Australian Bush Poetry State Championships and the Toolangi CJ Dennis Festival. Congratulations to Irene Conner, Bill & Meg Gordon, and the West Australian committee overall. Another feather to add to your formidable western sombreros! Also to Jim Brown and Stephen Whiteside and your wonderful CJ Dennis committee.

It is encouraging to know that Bush Poetry is indeed alive and well in the West. From all reports, there were great crowds turning up at all events to enjoy watching the best of the west compete and entertain in an extravaganza of good old traditional Australian Bush verse and yarn spinning. West Australian Bush Poets will be hosting the Australian Championships next year and they have certainly laid the foundation at state level, to ensure that the Nationals will be an outstanding success!

The countdown is on for the Tamworth Country Music Festival 2017, and this year promises to be something very special for Bush Poetry. 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'. This will 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. 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.

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.

We have a new venue for the Golden Dampers this year, as you may well have already heard. It is being held at the Tamworth Rugby Club in Marius Street. (very easy to find...follow the main highway coming in on north side of town...keep heading west until you cross under the railway viaduct bridge and it is on the right hand side). Competitors will need to get their applications in promptly, as performance spots are limited and are rapidly filling.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graeme Johnson, who despite having his hands full organising his own Rhymer's Roundup show for Tamworth, has been tirelessly, methodically and meticulously (running out of superlatives) organising the upcoming Golden Damper Awards. There is an enormous amount of work goes into organising these events, and only those who do it would fully appreciate just how much. On behalf of all ABPA members, a big thankyou to all event organisers: Meg and Bill Gordon, Irene Conner, Sandy and John Lees, Jan Lewis, Stephen Whiteside, Jim Brown, Eric Beer, Glenny Palmer and any others that I haven't mentioned, who are involved in organising these events. These events and their organisers are the lifeblood of our craft, and without them, our beloved traditional Australian verse may well fade away into yesteryear.

Speaking of which... it is with much regret that we are seeing the retirement of John and Sandy Lees and the legendary Bundy Bush Poetry Muster (for 2017 at least), which has been running annually without fail for the past 22 years. I have attended four of these musters and considered them second to none. Thankyou John and Sandy for all you have contributed over those 22 years. You are both legends in our world, honoured respected and loved, (Fingers crossed the Muster may be resurrected for 2018).

As many would know, there was an annual review of the ABPA Competition Package and this resulted in some changes to the ABPA Guidelines, Procedures, Assessment sheets and Entry Forms for both Performance and Written competitions. Following post review feedback some further minor adjustments have been made to the Performance Bush Poetry and Yarn Spinning Assessment sheets. So that all concerned with the organisation of, judging of or participation in competitions, are in tune with the 2016 upgrades, everyone is urged to re-familiarise themselves with all the relevant documents and helpful information in the current ABPA Competition Package www.abpa.org.au click on 'Competitions'. Should you have any queries please contact the ABPA Secretary secretary@abpa.org.au or Brenda Joy promotions@abpa.org.au the Review Sub-Committee Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the ABPA, will be held again as usual, on Wednesday afternoon 2pm at St Edwards Hall Tamworth 25th January 2017. All members are urged to come along.

In Poetry, Tom McLveen

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

2017 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, 25th January, 2017. 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.

HELPING THE ABPA TO HELP YOU

As you know, the ABPA is the principle custodian of the tradition of Australian Bush Poetry. Our aims are towards the preservation and expansion of this unique aspect of our cultural heritage. To assist the many groups and individuals dedicated to this cause, the ABPA provides a wide network of media services. Through the outlets of the ABPA website (<http://abpa.org.au/>), the ABPA Magazine the new ABPA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Australian-Bush-Poets-Association-ABPA-897610380368364>) the ABPA interactive forum (<http://abpa.org.au/forum.html>) and the other newsletters that support our aims, the ABPA provides an effective communicative network throughout Australia.

During the past three years, the website monthly homepage features have highlighted the activities and achievements of group and individual members from all facets of our organisation. The Meet a Poet section (<http://abpa.org.au/featured.html>) has introduced both performers and writers, the Club and Festival Co-ordinators sections have helped promote national, state and local activities and the Achievements section (<http://abpa.org.au/achievements.html>) has given wide coverage to our professional poets. To be included in these features you are welcome to send details to the Promotions Officer (promotions@abpa.org.au) or webmaster (web@abpa.org.au). The ABPA Magazine offers ample opportunity for sharing all information relative to Bush Poetry and poets through submissions to the editor (editor@abpa.org.au). In addition, the editors of the new ABPA Facebook page are happy to publish promotions, reports and photographs of all events and activities that members indulge in [send submissions through the Promotions Officer (promotions@abpa.org.au) or Treasurer (treasurer@abpa.org.au)].

All these aspects are a part of providing a service to our existing members as well as to reaching out to those outside the organisation.

Ways in which you can assist include the passing on of ABPA contact details, information, membership brochures and/or old issue magazines:

- . at all poetry club events,
- . at community, country music, folk festival, etc. events where you are involved in organising, performing, comparing or just attending,
- . through a link to the ABPA website in any individual publications, newsletters, blogs,
- . through reference in any articles where you are featured, interviews, etc. that you give to local groups such as aged care complexes, Probus groups etc. that could have members who would be interested.
- . to schools where you do workshops or visit
- . to your local library
- . to your local Visitors' Information Centre

As the ABPA grows, so too does its capacity to promote not only the genre but also the activities and achievements of all ABPA members. It is a two way street. What can the ABPA do for me and what can I do for the ABPA?

The ABPA membership and promotional brochures (printed in this magazine) have been updated. As a valuable member of the ABPA, we would like to send you a supply of these brochures in the hope that you will utilise them as part of your contribution to the promotion of your ABPA. Many of you are already doing this type of service and the ABPA thanks each one of you for playing your part. If you would like to further share in the ABPA promotional activities and need a supply of brochures or other material to support your endeavours, please contact the Treasurer (treasurer@abpa.org.au).

The ABPA Administration Team.

DEMONS AND LAMBS

© Tom McLveen- Winner of 14th Annual Nandewar Poetry Competition 2016

"Oh Father I've come with my sins to confession, confused and in need of respite...
for Father I'm haunted by some sort of demon who prowls through the dorm every night."
"So tell me my child of this 'dorm' that you speak... is it here behind orphanage walls
or further afield in another abode, at St Patrick's or maybe St Paul's?"

"I speak of the dorm in the building above the communal activity yard,
where all of the doors have been fitted with bolts and the windows are covered and barred.
I sleep in a room with the Primary kids who will vouch that my story is true...
for they have been woken at night by the demon and taunted and terrorised too!"

"So tell me my child of this 'demon' you speak...does it truly appear in the dorm...
or could it be just an illusion of yours, without substance or physical form?
I know that you're feeling emotional now, but illusions are not what they seem!
Perhaps it has all been imaginary and just part of a terrible dream?"

"Remember you told us that demons are often deceitfully clever and wise?
You said they can easily influence souls and are skilled in the art of disguise!
If I have been dreaming, then maybe my dreams have been haunted by demons as well...
and maybe the demon from yesterday's sermon has conjured a magical spell?"

"Then why have the others not spoken to me of this 'demon' that you have disguised ...
and why hasn't resident Father O'Brien or our Brother Gerard been advised?"
"I'm frightened of bothering Brother Gerard...and especially when he's on call.
He blames us for causing disturbance at night and he flogs us for nothing at all!"

"Oh don't be so utterly ludicrous child! You are clearly confused and distressed.
Our Brother Gerard is a man of the cloth who's been formally chosen and blessed!
You should be discussing this matter with him as the Brother in charge of your ward;
for he is the one who will conquer your demon and teach you to trust in the Lord!"

"I trust in the Lord but not Brother Gerard, who resembles the demon I see...
for he is the one who awakes me at night and is constantly bothering me!"
"What bothers you child...is it something he's done or just something he's threatened or tried?
Perhaps it was something you've seen or you've heard, or just something he may have implied?"

"He touches us Father... in ways that he shouldn't and says it is misunderstood.
He says it's considered permissible here and is natural, pleasing and good.
I know it is wrong, but I daren't complain as I'm frightened of what he will do.
He bashes us Father and says he will send us away when enrolments are due."

"I think you are overreacting my child, you are being ridiculous now!
Our Brother Gerard is a shepherd of God who has taken a virtuous vow.
For penance I want you to pray and forgive, then forget what you've seen and you've heard...
as voices and images often distort, when our senses are drowsy and blurred."

"If he is the shepherd, then why does he come to the dorm at eleven o'clock
and waken the lambs that have fallen asleep to entice them away from his flock?
You tell me that I should ignore what I've seen, to be free of all shame and regret...
but Father I know ...for as long as I live I will never forgive or forget!"



WA BUSH POET'S & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC

RESULTS OF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TOODYAY 2016

OVERALL CHAMPION - 1st Christine Boulton
2nd Roger Cracknell
3rd John Hayes

NOVICE ORIGINAL - 1st Greg Joass
2nd Steve Roberts
3rd June Eastwood

NOVICE OTHER - 1st Greg Joass
2nd Steve Roberts
3rd Alan Aitken

CLASSIC READER - 1st Dot Langley
2nd Meg Gordon
3rd Anne Hayes

YARNSPINNING - 1st Dave Smith
2nd Peg Vickers
3rd Bill Gordon

MODERN - 1st Peter Blyth
2nd Rob Gunn
3rd Michael Barclay

TRADITIONAL - 1st Christine Boulton
2nd Roger Cracknell
3rd Peter Blyth

ORIGINAL SERIOUS - 1st Steve Roberts
2nd Christine Boulton
3rd John Hayes

ORIGINAL HUMOROUS - 1st Roger Cracknell
2nd Christine Boulton
3rd Peg Vickers

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC. WRITTEN COMPETITION 2016

Open Serious

Winner: Bobby is Back - Tom McIlveen

Highly Commended: Storm across the Mallee - Peter Blyth

A Red Dirt Road To Nowhere - Shelley Hansen

From Gallipoli with Love Tom McIlveen

Commended: How Blue and Me Joined the Cooee March - Val Wallace

Cooee, Don't Come Home - Tom McIlveen

The Karri Forrest - Peg Vickers

Open Humorous

Winner: The Wrapper - Rhonda Tallnash

Highly Commended: The Night the Fairstar Sunk at Warren - Caroline Tuohey

Commended: I Bought a Jeep - Shelley Hansen

Close Encounters of the Mobility Kind - Brenda Joy

Novice

Winner: The Legacy - Chris Taylor

Highly Commended: One Man's Meat - John Dooley

The Little Champ - June Eastwood

Commended: The Raid of Young Jimmy Flanagan - Steve Roberts

Blood Sweat and Beers - John Dooley

Local Poet

Winner: The Little Champ - June Eastwood

BUSH POETS RETURN TO TOODYAY

Members of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners gathered at Toodyay on the 4th to 6th November for their fourth annual Act, Belong, Commit, Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival & State Championships. It proved to be an enjoyable event for all concerned, with many visitors coming from Perth and Mandurah for the weekend. The Memorial Hall is an ideal venue, with the décor and history making a magnificent setting for Bush Poetry.

Popular winner of the competition was Christine Boulton from Perth, with Roger Cracknell runner up and John Hayes third. This is the second occasion Christine has been successful having won in 2014. It is not long ago that Roger was competing in the novice section, and it is encouraging to see him progress so quickly with his performances. John is a proven poet of long standing. He was right behind the winners in a very close contest.

Winner of the Yarnspinning was Dave Smith from Collie. Everyone was pleased to see Dave back to the fore after some health issues. He has a knack of weaving a good yarn, having been the top yarn spinner at Boyup Brook in 2011. The festival was off to a great start with a workshop presented by one of the judges, Rob Christmas. Rob gave a very detailed presentation on different rhyming patterns and how rhyme and metre create feeling and emotion in a poem. When she gave examples considerable discussion followed, with participants were challenged to write their own lines. Many who attended told me that it was the best workshop they had attended.

Social activity began on Friday night when we packed a school bus for a magnificent evening meal and some well received poetry at the Jennacubbine Tavern. Visitors came from as far as Dowerin for this evening. Competition poetry and Yarnspinning kept the large audience entertained throughout the day. The Roadwise challenge was well supported with fourteen poets presenting a poem on the topic "Distracted Drivers are Dangerous". Peg Vickers won this, and she also won the Poet's Brawl which was held on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday night people gathered in the Memorial Hall for dancing and singing brought to us by two of the new poets, Steve Roberts and Michael "Oxo" Barclay and their partners. A very enjoyable and relaxed evening was enjoyed by all. Toodyay Lions Club did a great job catering for the Bush Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning before the competition resumed for the day. The weekend concluded with presentations to the winners. Toodyay citizen of the year, Peter Robinson, handed out the novice and classic reader awards. Margaret O'Sullivan, manager of Bendigo Bank, Toodyay and Miska Madacsi representing Toodyay Festivals Inc. presented the remainder of the certificates and the trophies.

Sponsors are essential to make an event such as this happen. I would like to extend a huge Thank you to our sponsors, Healthway, Toodyay Shire, Road Safety Council of WA, Bendigo Bank, CBH, Makit Hardware, and Toodyay Caravan Park.

Bill Gordon
President, WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc

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.

Marco Gliori:- Gympie Muster

The Gympie Muster has long cemented its place in Australian Entertainment folklore and Bush Poetry can proudly hold its hand up for making a substantial contribution to its success.

After initially attending the Muster as a compere, Marco Gliori has made a contribution that I believe is unequalled. No other entertainer has been engaged as a solo artist at as many Musters as Marco, and for a long time now he has organised and run the Bush Poets Breakfasts to packed tents every year.

Always at the leading edge of performing poetry Marco has continued to reinvent the Gympie Poets Breakfasts so that it remains a fast paced, relevant and entertaining showcase for modern Bush Poetry. Never afraid to think outside the square and engage with non-typical performers he has ensured that the Gympie Poets breakfasts are unpredictable, never boring and exciting enough to keep drawing large crowds year after year. Always on the lookout for new and emerging original talent Marco must submit a proposal to Muster organisers each year with his only guarantee of success being the quality of the previous year's show.

The Muster has been through more than a few changes over the years and we can be grateful that we Bush Poets have had someone like Marco in our corner, with the ability to innovate and adapt the shows so as to never give organisers a reason or the chance to consider anything other than the fact that Bush Poetry is essential to the ongoing story of the Muster.

Marco Gliori has a reputation as a performing poet that is unequalled in Australia and his ability and determination to keep the Muster Breakfasts front and centre will ensure that many fellow poets will enjoy well paid performances at this iconic Australian event for years to come.



Neil McArthur:- Longyard

The iconic Longyard Bush Poets Breakfasts have been an important part of The Tamworth Country Music festival for more years now than most of us care to remember. While Jim Haynes and Frank Daniels should justly receive accolades for contributing to the successful history of this event, both as organisers and comperes, there is no doubt that present organiser, Neil McArthur, has elevated these breakfasts to another level.

At a Festival jam packed with quality shows it is testament to Neil's organisational skills that the Longyard Poet's breakfast is more often than not fully booked and is without any doubt, one of the most successful shows at the Festival. While Neil is always on the lookout for new and exciting talent, it has been his determination to engage only the very best of available poets and deliver modern, vibrant and entertaining Bush Poetry shows to the public that has seen the Longyard Breakfasts reputation skyrocket.

Neil and his wife Colleen have worked extremely hard for many years now, putting their own hard earned money at risk to ensure that poets were paid an appropriate fee for their services and backing their show to draw a paying crowd. The organisation of these breakfasts is a year round undertaking with the only guarantee of retaining the venue and time slot is the success of the previous year's shows.

Neil's status as one of our leading performing poets and his dedication to organising the Longyard Breakfasts will ensure that Bush Poetry's traditional home at the Tamworth Festival will continue to be a showpiece for our art form for many years to come.

Many people may not realise the huge pressures involved in being responsible for running one of the most iconic shows in the Bush Poetry world, but each and every one of us owe a debt to Neil & Colleen and their contribution to The Longyard Bush Poets Breakfasts.

Cancellation Of Bundy Muster 2017

The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. has been organizing what has become known as The Bundy Bush Poetry Muster since 1994. With the exception of 2009, when we didn't hold this event, the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster attracted poets from all over Australia to travel to Bundy to compete for the overall champion poet. As well as the competitions held over 2 ½ days, where a hand-crafted 1 litre keg was hotly contested, there have been very successful and entertaining concerts held on both the Friday and Saturday evenings. In conjunction with the Muster each year, the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. also held a written competition known as, The Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse, which attracted a chrome plated kerosene lantern mounted on a wooden base. However after discussions at our club meeting on Saturday, November 12th, a decision was made not to run the Muster in July 2017 but to re-assess the situation in October 2017 for July 2018. The cancellation of a Bundy Bush Poetry Muster in 2017 unfortunately was because of the following reasons:-

(a) I made the very difficult decision not to be the co-ordinator because of personal and family reasons, and

(b) we are a small group and our members are getting older. We do not have anyone who wishes to 'put their hand up' to take on the role of co-ordinator for this event in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, on behalf of the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for coming to Bundy in July, whether it has been only once or for many years, to participate in our festival. We wouldn't have had the following, or the name, which made our festival very highly regarded throughout Australia if it wasn't for folk like yourself/selves making the journey to Bundy to enjoy poetry and friendship.

As you can well imagine this has caused me a great deal of anguish and guilt as well as shedding a lot of tears but in the end it all came down to a number of very personal reasons.

Your support of our festival has been very much appreciated.

The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. is still in existence with our club meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street, Bundaberg. John & I are very much involved with our local club – just stepping down from the annual Muster. We look forward to catching up with you at some poetry festival in Australia or if you are in Bundy we will look forward to seeing you then.

Cheers
Sandy
SANDY LEES
Secretary

Coleambally Food and Farm Festival Poets' Breakfast – Report

The inaugural Poets' Breakfast at this Riverina Festival was given a stamp of 'excellent' by festival organisers. Held on an extremely chilly morning, host Caroline Tuohey donned a beanie and special guest John Peel kept his coat on while they recited for a very rugged up crowd.

An audience of around 50 people enjoyed John's excellent delivery of his humorous poems about a rocket silo, Elvis Presley, fencers and geriatrics sharing false teeth. They were also left in no doubt of John's ability when they were treated to a flawless recital of The Man From Snowy River.

Three audience members braved the microphone – Trudi Chant, Mona Findlay and Bernie Evans – to great delight and support from the rest of the crowd.

Host of the breakfast and Riverina local, Caroline Tuohey had on hand a variety of bush verse books containing poems by Lawson, Paterson, O'Brien and Dennis that allowed people who didn't have a poem with them to simply choose a book, find a poem and recite that.

The breakfast was cooked by the local branch of the Country Education Fund of Australia and raised approximately \$540.00. Thank you to everyone who attended and also to John Peel and his family who not only supported the Poets' Breakfast, but enjoyed other festival events during their visit.



The Wrapper

© 2016 Rhonda M. Tallnash

Winner 2016 Humorous Section – ABPA WA State Championship, Toodyay, WA

Young Lionel worked in Bendigo at Myer's bustling store,
the best darn parcel wrapper that had ever walked the floor.
He'd wrap the biggest birthday gift to sweeten the surprise,
or neatly strap the smallest box with lovely bows and ties.

So many wrappers came and went but Lionel was the best,
he'd wrap a gift in no time flat. Far quicker than the rest.
If items were unwieldy that just didn't mean a thing
for he could wrestle any shape with fancy curling string.

His Mum was very proud and thought the whole wide world should know
of Lionel's gift for wrapping gifts. He should be on a show!
Then reading through the newspaper, she happened on an ad
that read, 'Auditions – Rappers Wanted - Every Lass and Lad'.

So Lionel packed for Sydney – suits and ties to look his best
with comfy shoes and dapper shirts his doting Mum had pressed.
He packed his papers, bows and strings in colours that would match.
Then gave his Mum a hasty kiss. He had a train to catch!

The queue of scruffy city kids in clothing meant to shock
began outside the theatre door and stretched around the block.
He thought them quite disgraceful with their unkempt dirty looks,
their backward caps and gaping shirts and piercings. Just like crooks!

Then Lionel noticed none of them had brought their tools of trade
but only ghetto blasters with a deafening tirade.
If he had known he needed to bring music to compete
his 'Partridge Family Remix' would have given him the beat.

At last inside the theatre, three cool judges gave the cue
to file up on the stage to show the crowd what they could do.
They lined up as some music started thumping out full bore,
then two kids threw their legs out wide and twirled across the floor.

Well Lionel was astounded that there were no gifts to wrap,
but undeterred he grabbed a passing twirler by a strap
that held his scruffy pants up - with the view to wrapping him.
The rapper squawked, bobbed up and down – and shook each lanky limb.

But Lionel had the paper set. A lovely duck egg blue,
a gorgeous floral pattern with contrasting golden hue.
Well he had wrapped some tricky things back home in Myer's store
but this gyrating parcel would now test his skills for sure.

So when the dancer hit the floor and spun upon his head,
he grabbed the chance to wrap him from the bottom up instead.
He wrapped the paper round the feet. It curled up to the knees
and when it reached the waist he ordered, "Put your arms in please."

Before the kid could back-chat or eject a nasty word,
the paper covered up his mouth so all his curses slurred.
By now our Lionel had the curling string around the feet,
so on the rapper's final spin the parcel was complete.

He lay there on the stage. A wondrous vision to behold.
A lovely wrapped up rapper trussed in duck egg blue and gold!
The curling string was neatly looped from feet to neck through crutch.
A gold bow on the backwards cap was Lionel's final touch.

And when the music stopped the theatre crowd were all amazed.
Despite the blatant mix-up Lionel's wrapping skills were praised.
A special trophy was created, shaped just like a bow,
so Lionel's Mum could put it on the mantelpiece for show.

The big boss back at Myer was as proud as he could be,
he put Lionel on a poster and called in WIN TV.
So now when Lionel wraps the gifts, crowds gather in the mall,
but will you see a rapper busking there? No! Not at all!

The Ghost Writer

© Roger Lusby (Nelson New Zealand) In memory of a good mate

An Akubra was his signature, he wasn't dressed without it
Just like many others it was always on his head
He used it as a semaphore, acknowledging old friendships
He waved it all about to emphasis what he said

To the uninitiated he might seem a dreamer
But when he was on stage he had ability and poise
Once you got to know him, a shearer in his young days
he became a cobbler, one of the special boys

He never did a lot of things that he spoke about
but if you listened to him you would think he'd done them all
He had stories of the outback, and his love of wild ponies
His dog, his mates and family, were all in his recall

Above all he had stories, and his need to share them
was the thing that gave much pleasure to us all
In a rhyming couplet the balladeer inside him
would weave a magic spell around us all

There was laughter, always present, from the listeners to him
but a tear would just as quickly follow too
As emotions he could pull on, would see the hardy buckle
when a pain that broke his heart was put on view

The ballads he recited, if they belonged to others
Would always be acknowledged as they should
If it was "Turbulence" or Banjo, with "The Man from Snowy River"
He would from memory perform them as he could

Then one day it happened, the lonesome reaper took him
and we lost a favoured balladeer
But he came back to help me, as I stumbled in performance
Of a poem, I was telling, to a group who came to hear

It was just a fleeting vision, but I saw his old akubra
He was smiling underneath it when he said
The word you need is love mate, and I finished my performance
As he tipped his old akubra on his head

His ghost had come to help me maintain the old tradition
That a balladeer possesses in the chat
And if ever love is missing from the words in my performance
I will find it underneath that Ozzie hat



G'day All,

I would just like to lend my support to the email from Carol Heuchan. I commend her courage in raising some real issues and sincerely hope that it does not become a case of "Shooting The Messenger".

The truth of the matter is that a significant number of 'professional poets' have all but turned their back on the ABPA for the exact reasons that Carol has highlighted. Those 'professional poets' (I'm not a big fan of this title, but can't think of another) like Carol and myself (and others) who still believe in the need for a strong and relevant and inclusive ABPA are often attacked for our efforts in finding what we believe to be relevant issues.

We of course make no claim to be 'fountains of all information' but surely the fact that we have developed careers in Bush Poetry (often bringing other poets along with us) (I am not aware of any other poet in Australia who has been responsible for organizing more paid jobs every year for my fellow poets than myself, many, but not all of these events also have opportunities for walk-up poets as well- I think this is my most credit worthy accomplishment in Bush Poetry) should mean that we have something to share and contribute to the Bush Poetry movement if given the chance. Both Carol and myself made submissions to the recent review of Judging, neither of us still competes so there was no personal gain to be had, just a willingness to help. (A big thank you to the Committee for accepting, considering and replying to my submission).

While supporting all the issues Carol has raised I would also like to raise my concerns regarding the divisions I have seen occurring in our ranks. Given the fact that we are a very small organization I am troubled by divisions and tensions between - Competition and Professional Poets - Written and Performing Poets - Long time Members and Newer Members - writers/performers of Humorous Poetry and writers/performers of Serious Poetry.

Unfortunately petty disputes, misinformation, jealousy, and personal conflicts have been eroding the common good achieved by past and present Committees and members. I believe a solution lies in open and inclusive communication and constructive debate between all, Committee, members and Bush Poets and fans who are not members and any other stakeholders like sponsors, promoters and organizers who hire Poets.

Like Carol I hope and pray that my comments are taken in the manner they are intended, to assist. I am very appreciative of all those who have put their hands up to go on committee, both past and present (I have never been on committee myself but have volunteered in the past for 'special projects' like working on the Strategic Plan and the Emergency Group who were called together to prevent (successfully Thank God) the ABPA from being de-registered many years ago). I am aware that several of the current Committee have volunteered their services due to the fact that nominations for some committee positions were non-existent, and these people deserve special thanks.

If the validity of Carol's comments need any justification we need only look to the fact that despite all the efforts put into improving competitions and the judging and financing of same, there has Australia wide been a serious decline in the numbers of poets competing at competitions. The Inaugural Australian Championships attracted 97 competitors in the open sections. A small annual competition was run in my home town of Millmerran some years ago by a poet called Kev Barnes (I assisted behind the scenes, but it was Kev's baby) Kev regularly attracted over 50 competitors, with very little, if any prize-money. There are many other examples. Why have numbers dropped off so drastically, we need to debate these issues, soon???

Respectfully wishing for a Strong Bush Poetry Movement

Gary Fogarty

Australian Camp Oven Festival 2016

Well the last of the red hot coals has cooled down, the last of the camp fire smoke has drifted away and the last of the visiting caravans has pulled out of Millmerran Showgrounds to signal the close of the 10th Australian Camp Oven Festival. As has been the norm since 1999 when the first Festival was run on a wing and a prayer, at the suggestion of legendary camp oven cook Ned Winter, and bush poet Gary Fogarty, the two Bush Poets Breakfasts were nominated by Festival goers as one of the highlights again this year. Gary Fogarty, Murray Hartin and Mel & Susie were at their entertaining best and carried on a fine tradition at this award winning national event of showcasing only the very best of Australia's Bush Poets. Despite suffering from a hernia and pneumonia, Ned Winter managed to enthrall the audience with a cameo appearance, respecting his contribution to starting the Festival. Ned also cooked a huge damper in the shape of a map of Australia which proved a favourite photo opportunity over the weekend.

Independent sources estimated the crowd watching the Poets Breakfast at "very close to 3000". This is undoubtedly one of the largest crowds for Bush Poets in Australia, rivalled only by Booyup Brook in WA. Debate is strong between the two events as to who is entitled to bragging rights, but a friendly rivalry can only be good for our craft and will insure that Bill Gordon (Booyup Brook) and Gary Fogarty continue to strive for bigger and better shows to draw bigger and better crowds well into the future. Of course both events would welcome competition from any other Bush Poetry events for the title of 'Largest Crowd'. The Festival Committee have received nothing but positive feedback from visitors, with most promising to return in two years time. Unfortunately this year, demand for camping spots was such that some, who hadn't pre-booked, were unable to be accommodated with the Millmerran Showgrounds at capacity. Day visitors added to the owners of over 1300 caravans and campers to boost the crowd numbers to an estimated 8000 plus.

Cindy Fogarty (wife of poet Gary Fogarty) is just one of a hard working committee who deserves special mention for a mammoth job well done. Cindy is the entertainment Co-ordinator for the Festival, responsible for booking all main stage entertainment, children's entertainment, roving entertainers, static displays, workshops and special guest speakers as well as running a team of young volunteers who acted as hosts and hostesses, guiding festival goers around the grounds and providing information.

See you all at this iconic, truly Australian Festival on the first weekend in October 2018.



Report: 2016 Toolangi C. J. Dennis Poetry Festival

High winds in the lead-up to the festival this year put the whole festival at risk, as nine massive mountain ash trees crashed to the ground at "The Singing Gardens" tearoom, former home of C. J. Dennis in Toolangi, a small hamlet in the wooded hills 70 km east of Melbourne. The principal damage was to the pump house which, in addition to housing various pumps, also contained 100 plastic chairs and a fridge – all of which were broken. Damage was also done to the pipes leading from the Yea River to the ornamental lake, and to the waterproof bottom of the lake itself. (C. J. Dennis buffs may recall seeing photos of Dennis and the English Poet Laureate John Masefield lounging on the bank of this lake in 1934.)

However, the show must go on, and indeed it did! Hot on the heels of last year's celebration of Dennis' masterpiece "The Songs of a Sentimental Bloke", the festival this year celebrated the sequel, "The Moods of Ginger Mick", first published in 1916. This book, which proved almost as popular as the Bloke, took Bill's best mate, Ginger Mick, and placed him front and centre. Mick, an even bigger rogue than Bill, enlists in the A.I.F. He is sent off to Egypt for training before being sent to Gallipoli, where he fights, is injured in battle, convalesces in hospital, returns to battle, and is promoted to Lance Corporal shortly before being killed. It is a simple enough plot, but the book explores many of the themes and emotions that were swirling around about the War at the time, and had much to do with the creation of the Gallipoli myth as we now know it.

Last year Geoffrey W. Graham performed nine of the 13 poems in "The Sentimental Bloke" at the festival, with a connecting narrative written by myself. However, this year I felt it would be terrific if we could perform the whole book – 16 poems (if you include "The Battle of the Wazzir" which was written for the book but banned by the censor – which we did!).

I calculated the performance would take about two and a half hours, so it wasn't really practical to present it all in one sitting. I therefore broke it up into two parts – the first six poems to make up Part 1 for the hour before dinner on Saturday night, and the remaining ten poems for an hour and a half after dinner. Geoffrey did a sterling job, it must be said. It was a test of stamina as much as anything else and, as we all know, Geoff is a pretty fit bloke! I provided a connecting narrative once again, with Maggie Somerville explaining some of the slang. I imagine it will be a long time before "The Moods of Ginger Mick" is again performed publicly in its entirety, but I am very glad we made the effort to do so, and I think the audience appreciated it.

The bad weather continued during the weekend, with steady rain and hail most of the Saturday, resulting in a power black out. Fortunately, the Williams (owners of "The Singing Gardens") were able to fire up the generator, and we barely lost a beat!

Other events held over the weekend included the Awards Ceremony for the Written Poetry Competition, a "showcase" of C. J. Dennis poetry and song, a Poets' Breakfast on the Sunday morning, and a moving theatre on Sunday afternoon, featuring "C. J. Dennis" (myself), "Banjo Paterson" (Geoffrey Graham), "Henry Lawson" (David Campbell), "Will Ogilvie" (Jim Brown) and "Mary Gilmore" (Ruth Aldridge). Maggie Somerville also sang a song, "The Blue Kingfisher" (a Dennis poem she had put to music) for the local school children to perform a ballet to. (Thank you to Cathy Phelan for the costumes and choreography, and for teaching the dance to the children.)

If you add all the excellent meals and afternoon teas that were served over the course of the weekend from the highly industrious and efficient kitchen of "The Singing Garden" you can see that, all in all, Toolangi on the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd was a pretty good place to be!

We wish to thank Jan Williams and her family for the enormous amount of work they put in this year to get "The Singing Gardens" ready for the festival, and also the Bendigo Community Bank (Healesville branch) for their continuing generous sponsorship.

Next year we will be celebrating the centenary of the publication in 1917 of "The Glugs of Gosh" and "Doreen". Now, won't THAT be something!

Stephen Whiteside
President
The C. J. Dennis Society



Mildura Country Music Festival

The 2016 Mildura Country Music Festival was again a great success and the Bush Poet's Breakfasts were no exception! Crowds of 400 to 500 people flocked in each day over the Festival, which consisted of ten Poets Breakfast over the ten days of the Festival. Our venue, The Edge Hotel at Buronga is one of the most popular venues at the festival and the hospitality shown by the staff to both Poets and audience was second to none.

Although there were fewer walk up poets this year, due in part to the terrible floods up north and down south, which wouldn't allow them access through to Mildura, our band of regular Poets, being Kathy & Ross Vallance, Col Milligan, Rhonda Tallnash, Evelyn Attkinson and myself, managed to fill out the twenty hours over the week. Although the voices were straining and the brains were on overload, there was little repeated until the end of the week and even then our Poets were still dragging new poems from the back blocks of their brains! A Wonderful festival and if you get a chance to pop along next late September, make sure you pop along and join in all the fun of the Mildura Country Music Festival!



The Edge Hotel Breaky crowd



First time performer Gray Orton
from Tasmania

Neil McArthur

ST. ARNAUD COUNTRY MUSIC POETS

A wonderful concept of running the Bush Poets breakfast independant of the Country Music Festival at St. Arnaud paid big dividends for organisers Ross and Kathy Vallance this year with a great turnout to watch the guest performing Poets. Kathy and Ross themselves led the charge along with Rhonda Tallnash and Col Milligan who were both on fire all morning leaving yours truly to try to keep up with the madcap antics which were intermingled with some great serious poetry. Julie Morris was a wonderful addition to the line up along with local poet Joy Steer. Congratulations to Ross and Kathy for putting on such a great show which will undoubtably grow even bigger over the coming years such was the response of the ausience and the feedback throughout the wonderful Victorian Town of St. Arnaud. It just goes to show what motivated people can achieve with a bit of sweat chasing up sponsors and funding to keep our great tradition of Bush Poetry entertainment alive!

Neil McArthur



From left - Ross Vallance, Rhonda Tallnash, Neil McArthur,
Kathy Vallance, Col Milligan and Julie Morris.



Neil McArthur entertaining the great crowd!

From The USA

Hi All,

Not long back from ten days Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Western Music Association Convention and Awards Ceremony.

Hotel Albuquerque in a beautiful place – traditional high end Mexican architecture and decor. It is absolutely huge. The foyer alone is as large as the average performance theatre in O. There are two ballrooms and a number of concert saloons, very wide hallways (for the many information stands and commercial merchandise) huge rooms for artists merchandise and consignment clothing and goods, large Restaurant – in turquoise, copper and silver with silver chandeliers, two bars, and of course wonderful balcony suites. Catering very much to conference and conventions.

The hotel is where workshops, 'coffee with the DJ's', get-togethers, showcase concerts, campfire stage concerts and numerous jam sessions took place. Including a Midnight Pyjama Showcase! I hid behind the pillars till I was sure it wasn't like Bridget Jones Diary and I would be the only one in PJ's, but no, there they all were in crazy 'jamies of every description. What fun!

The Awards Night, though, was held at the magnificent Kimo Theatre, the only Native American theatre in the United States. Just amazing. The whole place, ceilings and all, decorated with Native American art and sculpture. As if there's not enough bling in the normal shows and Gatherings, they really 'dressed to kill' for the Awards Night. All the women in long dresses, jewellery and diamantes around the edges of the cowboy hats. Even the fellas had jackets and ties (even bow ties!) with their cowboy pants. (Needless to say, I felt a bit like a wilted violet in my plain Aussie gear.)

There's a band playing in the foyer – Three Trails West singing tradition cowboy songs. Then there's another band and harmony singers on the stage. Wow. And two cowboys go into the audience to escort winners to the stage. And the trophies are carried out by Miss Rodeo Queen 2016, Miss Texas 2016 and heaven knows who else.

So I'm thoroughly enjoying it all. The fabulous Dave Stamey gets inducted into the Hall of Fame as well as winning six of the awards. Then Susie Knight goes up to stage to receive the Poet of the Year Award. And I nearly died when she said "There is just one person responsible for this and she is sitting right up there – all the way from Australia, my mentor, Carol Heuchan."

I'm sure I don't have to tell you what that meant.

What a night. What a fabulous time all round. And to cap it off, I get enquiries for EIGHT more Gatherings over there! A truly wonderful time with wonderful friends.

Thank you Bush Poetry for this amazing journey.

Carol.

p.s. I go to Colorado Gathering and then Cochise Gathering in Arizona in January/February and being booked is only the beginning of all the organisation that's involved.

From The Archives - Thanks To John Major



Bush Poets Tour Group, 1996, on the South Australian and Queensland boader south of Birdsville. Marco Giori, Murray Hartin, Noel Cutler, Bob Miller, John Major and Bill Hay

Dear Rose...

© David Campbell

Winner Themed Section (a poem inspired by The Moods of Ginger Mick) Toolangi CJ Dennis Poetry Competition 2016

I ain't a one fer letters, Rose, an' that's no noos ter you,
so gettin' this will likely be a shock,
but sittin' ere I've 'ad a chance ter think a few things thro',
as maybe Father Time's about ter knock.
This war, she ain't no picnic, Rose, I've seen the gates uv 'Ell,
a place wot takes 'em, friends an' foes, an' rings the final bell.

Yer dunno wot it's like, old girl, ter 'ave a mornin' fag
an' share a jolly chinwag an' a larf
wiv some bloke 'oo, when day is done, ain't nuffin but a rag
uv flesh an' bone becos 'e's blown in 'arf.
Fair dinkum, Rose, this flamin' war, it opens up yer eyes,
an' makes yer wonder wot it's for, an' 'oo might win the prize.

The Turk, 'e ain't no shirker, lass, 'e don't 'old nuffin back,
'e kicks us in the slats the 'ole day long,
an' tho' the top brass reckons that the fightin's well on track,
I'm thinkin' that they might've got it wrong.
But, still an' all, we give our best when word comes down the line,
fer blokes like these'll pass the test, this bonzer push o' mine.

Yer know me well, I done me bit at stirrin' up the cops
in good ole Spadger's Lane on Sat'dy night,
but, bli'me, when yer over 'ere the stoushin' never stops,
becos the only rule is stand an' fight.
There ain't no place a man can run, an' some uv 'em go mad
when shellin' brings 'em quite undone an' kills the dreams they 'ad.

An' that's wot's hurtin', my sweet Rose, it eats away inside,
an' leaves me achin' 'eart fair fit ter burst,
fer though a man's seen dilly days wot don't give 'im no pride,
'e knows when Cupid's dart 'as done its worst.
So 'ere I am, fer once in life, I'm down on bended knee,
an' beggin' yer ter be my wife — Rose, will yer marry me?

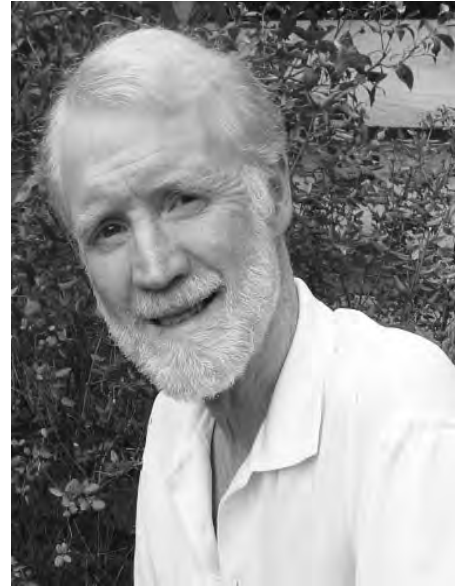
I ain't got much ter offer, love, them bunnies don't bring much,
an' 'struth, yer know I ain't too fond uv work,
but maybe now I'm Corperil, wiv men ter lead an' such,
I'll 'ave a chance ter find a steady lurk.
It's funny 'ow it's turnin' out, it's strange, I mean ter say,
'ow blokes like me wot mess about can get ter show the way.

P'raps it's made a man uv me, this dirty, stinkin' war,
wiv all the rotten things wot I 'ave seen,
fer all the thorts I'm 'avin' now I never 'ad before,
as if it's took me brane an' wiped it clean.
Yer might be thinkin', as yer do, that I've gorn orf me 'ead,
but Rose, if I ain't talkin' true, then Gawd can strike me dead!

So when I gets back 'ome again an' sees yer smilin' face,
I 'opes that you'll agree ter be my bride,
then like Doreen an' good old Bill we'll maybe find a place
where we can be so 'appy, side by side.
An' then, p'raps, as years go by, a kid, or even two,
will be the sunlight in our sky, a gift fer me an' you.

It can't go on much longer, love, this war ter end all wars,
it seems ter me we're runnin' out o' men,
fer lots uv 'em ain't leavin' 'ere, they'll lie on forrin shores,
an' never see their families again.
So maybe there's a lesson 'ere that we 'ave got ter learn,
a message soundin' loud an' clear from them 'oo won't return.

But now, dear Rose, I 'as ter go an' earn a soljer's pay,
as word 'as come we're 'eadin' fer a scrap,
just one more stoush wiv Abdul when a man can only pray
'e takes 'is shot before the other chap.
So, darlin' girl, please think o' me, an' 'old me in yer 'eart,
an' count the days till I am free, an' we will never part.



WILLS

(The Story of Thomas Wentworth Wills, 19.08.1835 – 02.05.1880)

© Brenda Joy

Winner, 2016 Eastwood Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers 'The Boree Log' Bush Poetry Literary Award.

How can I overcome the stress, the pain of 'Cullin's curse'?*
My life is in an utter mess, my drinking makes me worse.
These latter years I'm just a wretch, they've labelled me insane
as traumas rent my mind and etch their fissures in my brain.

A child of wealth, I'd made my name, 'Australian Native Son',
the founder of our football game,* my accolades were won.
And cricket too had honoured me, as legend of its code.
I'd entered sporting history. I'd paid the debt I owed.

But Father, you were harsh and raw, convictions strict and strong.
Emancipists like you sought more – the right to co-belong,
the right of opportunity despite your 'convict stain',
the right to live at liberty beyond your roots of pain.

You forced me to your station land, enslaved to your commands,
to ways I could not understand, to work of harsh demands.
An empire hewn in family toil above the sandstone seams,
Cullin-la-Ringo's fertile soil would help fulfil your dreams.

You drew me from my "...futile..." ways into your new pursuit
to forge your ownership assays where tensions were acute,
where tribes had lived for centuries – wild men of hardy stock.
They knew the hidden qualities of every vitros rock.

You claimed your right of ownership to land not yours to own.
You felt you had the right to strip the Black Man from his throne.
Did you expect the native race would simply run away?
It was their home, their sacred place – they made their bid to stay.

I was not there when you were killed. Returning I would find
communal graves with bodies filled with stench to haunt my mind.
I heard the tortured screams resound where nineteen lives were lost.
On this horrendous slaughter ground, you paid your final cost.

This massacre – one tragic link in retribution's chain –
whatever those to come may think, my terror will remain.
I tried to keep your scheme alive, despite the fears and strife
but knowing I could not survive, I left to save my life.

I joined the sporting world again to reconstruct my dream,
I even undertook to train a Native cricket team,
but nothing left can compensate. My mind is still a mess.
I'll end this hell, obliterate this fierce, traumatic stress*.

My agony is nearly through. I had my hour of fame.
I spurred the visionary view to form our nation's game,
but it has brought no inner peace and demons urge me on
to make the pain of living cease. My era's nearly gone.

My grave may lie a lonely plot, a patch of mounded earth.
There'll be no headstone on the spot to signify my worth,*
but if the future recollects my tale in prose or rhyme
it will be seen my life reflects a mirror of my time.



NOTES –

* Cullin-la-ringo – sheep holding property near modern Springsure in Queensland.

* AFL (The Australian Football League)

* The worst massacre in recorded history occurred at Cullen-la-ringo in 1861.

Nineteen white men were slaughtered by local Aboriginies.

Horatio Wills, Tom's father, was one of those killed.

* An Aboriginal team – known as the Australian Native XI – the first Australian cricket team to go on tour to England.

* We would now term Wills' illness PTSD 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder'.

* Tom's grave was unmarked for one hundred years before the Melbourne Cricket Club erected a headstone to its '...most famous son...' in 1980.

OUR POETRY KIDS

SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT

by **Gemma Kirk** (at age 16)

Gemma is the granddaughter of John and Ruth Davis. Her school is St Mary McKillop's College in Canberra ACT. On weekends Gemma works in an Italian Pizza Parlour and is an A class student in Italian language. She recently went on a tour of Italy which she found absolutely wonderful. Gemma plays the piano and keeps fit by attending gymnasium on a regular basis.

Lovely thoughts here Gemma.

When I wake up in the morning
to smile is my first thought
I've lived through tough times with tough people, hard
situations I have fought
but I have never been alone at any given time
my family have been by my side
as through this life we climb.
so I can't say I've had the worst,
in fact I've had the best
because no matter what has happened
they've all withstood the test.

Now I know we're far from perfect,
things have happened in the past
and sometimes to criticize
we all have often been too fast.
I know we've had our share
of solid argument and fight
and frequently I'll forget that I'm not always right.
There are many trying moments
in this modern life we live
there's always disappointment
when some take but never give.

Despite, trauma, death and frightening diagnosis
and ever so much more
my family's always been there
every time I've hit the floor.
So I can smile through disappointment,
through sadness and through spite
because they've never disappeared
when the times have been most tight.
We all are very different we can never be the same
the way our lives play out
can be really quite a game.

The thing about a family is
that they can be your saving grace
no matter what the problem
they will help you find your place.
Disappointment has found us all
at one time or another
you know I've had a few close calls
with even my own mother.
We fight and then we make up
it's the circle of our life
I think it's a clash of personalities

My family gives me love and care,
at times my personal nurse
and although sometimes life seems hard
it could be so much worse.
So I go to sleep at night,
forget the hard thing that's been said
and remember all the good things,
for it's losing them I dread.

I guess that you could say despite it all,
my world they keep turning.
They're a long way from perfect
but they keep our home fires burning.
So each morning when I wake,
I smile from the bed where I am curled
grateful for the family I love,
more than anything in the world.

© 2015 Gemma Kirk (at age 16)

MY RUTHERGLEN

by **Mietta Habets** (at age 11)

Mietta Habets attends Rutherglen Primary School in NE Victoria. Her creative pursuits include a bi-weekly book review show on the local radio station, 87.6 Indigo FM called 'Books on the Menu', and reading and writing – for school projects and independently. She has on several occasions done poetry readings for community events and this poem reflects her community spirit.

Walking down the street I see,
people saying "Hi!" to me.
People young, people old,
people standing tall and bold.
Mr Reggie is one of these, he is one I like to greet.
He is funny, he is kind, and not at all does he mind
finding time for me, whether in the rain or shine,
Mr Reggie always seems to have the time.

Walking down the street I see,
people saying "Hi!" to me.
People young, people old
people waiting to be told,
"There's a new person in the neighbourhood,
I wonder whether they are any good?"
This was Geoff,
Now, he was direct but he was kind,
and not at all did he mind,
coming down to visit us,
though he could sometimes make a fuss.

Walking down the street I see,
people saying "Hi!" to me.
People old, people young,
people helping get things done.
Karryn helps with her many skills,
whether in her jeans and boots, or dressy frills.
She volunteers to help the community,

GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



In 1864 the outpost of Somerset near the tip of Cape York, was established with the hope it would become Australia's Singapore. The name Jardine was associated with this attempt to create a far North Queensland centre of trade throughout its turbulent history.

Too Many Spears by Peter Pinney and Estelle Runcie (Angus & Robertson 1978) tells the story of Somerset and its pioneer Frank Jardine. From beginning to its eventual demise, the settlement faced all the hazards of its isolation as well as constant harassment from some of the most hostile native tribes in Australia.

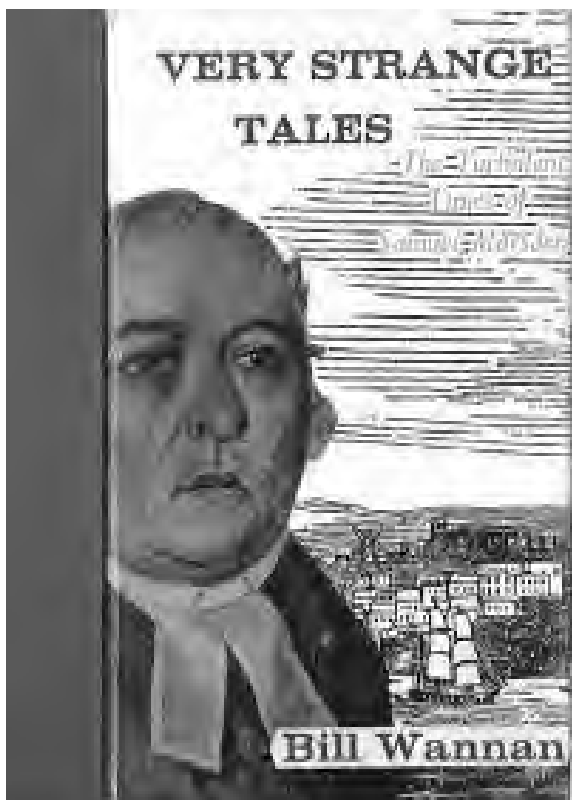
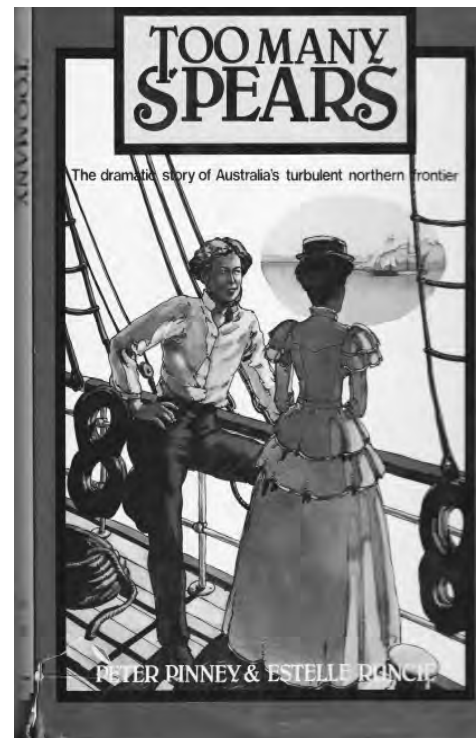
Frank Jardine and his brother Alex, left Rockhampton with 250 cattle and 42 horses. They made it to the new settlement the following year with 12 horses and 50 head of cattle, and Somerset's problems were only beginning.

Pinney and Runcie have related the Jardine story from the establishment of Somerset to its abandonment more in the style of an adventurous novel than an historical tome and *Too Many Spears* is a much more enjoyable read due to the skill of its authors.

The battle to establish one of the remotest cattle stations in the country, the conflicts with hostile Aborigines, shipwrecks, feuds with authority and even a lost treasure, make *Too Many Spears* a compelling read.

The central character, Frank Jardine, can be regarded as hero or villain depending on the reader's perspective, but there is no way he can be considered boring. He lived by his own rules because in that time and place, he could and did.

The research is well done and despite its pace and appeal as an adventure story, *Too Many Spears* can be well regarded as historically accurate.



Samuel Marsden is something of an enigma in Australasia. Here in Australia he is remembered as "The Flogging Parson" while across the ditch in New Zealand, he has achieved almost saintlike status as a saviour and advocate of the Maori people.

Very Strange Tales. The Turbulent Times of Samuel Marsden by Bill Wannan (Lansdowne Press 1962) tells the story of this convoluted character from our days of early settlement.

Bill Wannan was a prolific recorder of Australian history in the mid twentieth century and *Very Strange Tales* is probably the most complete treatise on the mysterious Mr. Marsden. The Reverend Samuel Marsden began his career as a clergyman in Yorkshire. Prior to that he had been an apprentice blacksmith until he came under the influence of the church. He arrived in Sydney aboard 'The William' in 1794 to fill the post of Assistant Chaplain.

Marsden was described as "of unprepossing appearance, his ruddy face marred by shrewd unkindly eyes, a slightly bulbous nose and a mouth that in its down turning thinness suggested a lack of humour and cruelty".

In *Very Strange Tales*, Bill Wannan shepherds the reader through the early days of Botany Bay and Sydney and how it affected Marsden and his subsequent career. He also digresses from the main theme to describe other events in the history of Australia and New Zealand.

Marsden was definitely a paradox. A pious churchman, industrious farmer and judgemental wowser on one hand. He also dabbled in gun running, bootlegging and the collection of human heads. *Very Strange Tales* is very worth reading.

More great Aussie reads at
www.outbackbooks.info

Jack Drake

ABPA Golden Damper Awards 2017

★ NEWSFLASH ★

THE NEW HOME OF THE ABPA GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS 2017 is the TAMWORTH RUGBY CLUB



Yes Folks a new and exciting era has dawned for the “**ABPA Golden Damper Awards**” as they settle into their brand new venue for the Tamworth Country Music Festival 2017. This will be the **5th venue** to host the awards following stints at West's Leagues, The Imperial & Longyard Hotels and even the Car park of the local KFC (at one stage). This will be the **31st** staging of our prestigious event and hopefully *the best yet!*

The **Tamworth Rugby Club** is located in Marius Street Tamworth. Whilst there is no 'on-site' parking available within the grounds of the Rugby Park (this parking is for resident campers only) there is plenty of parking available in Marius Street directly outside the venue and also in Macquarie Street (adjacent to the Rugby Park). There will be a Festival Shuttle Bus Drop off Point a short walking distance from the Rugby Park.

The Club is newly renovated and is Air Conditioned and has Full Bar Service. Tea & Coffee will be available each day of competition and the Club will also be serving meals over the 4 days. (A \$5.00 Bacon & Egg Roll from approx. 10 am and a Baked Rotisserie Lunch from approx 12.30 pm (at a price yet to be determined).

The Club seats **160** patrons in a “**Theatre**” format (so we suggest that you arrive early to get the 'prime' spots) and has a large stage area.

Now that you're familiar with the changes that have been made the only thing to do is to fill up the competition roster for each day of the Heats. Inspiration, Innovation & Exhilaration are only a few of the feelings that will overwhelm the contestants in the highly competitive atmosphere of this premiere 'Showcase' event.

All cards are laid 'on the table' as Bush Poets from around the country 'give their all' in the pursuit of winning one of those 'elusive' “Golden Damper” trophies. Who knows? This year is may just be your turn to 'bask in the glory' of reciting success.

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

14th Annual Nandewar Poetry Competition for 2016

1st Place.....Tom McIlveen for Demons
and Lambs

2nd Place Ron Stevens for Bush Poets

3rd PlaceTom McIlveen for A Terrible
Dream

HC Tom McIlveen for Co – ee
Don't You Come.

THE BETTY OLLE POETRY AWARD 2016 - RESULTS

1ST Max Merckenschlager Murray Bridge S.A.
"An Outback State of Mind"

2nd Shelley Hansen Maryborough Qld.
'Accordin' Ter Rose"

Highly Commended
Brenda Joy - Charters Towers Qld. "Our River - Our Land"

David Campbell Aireys Inlet Vic. "Shadows"

Tom McIlveen - Port Macquarie NSW. "Demons and Lambs"

Tom McIlveen Port Macquarie NSW. "Bobby"

Catherine Lee Mona Vale NSW. "Rainbow Stone"

Tony Hammill Carindale Qld. "Walers"

THE BETTY OLLE JUNIOR POETRY AWARD 2016 - RESULTS

1ST Greta Sullivan St. Augustines College Kyabram Vic.
"The Men of Cooper Creek"

2ND Carmen Oxenford Citipointe Christian College Carin-
dale Qld.
"Bushfire"

Highly Commended
Justin Lu
Citipointe Christian College
Carindale Qld.
"Mining on the Goldfields"

**Junior Winner
Greta Sullivan**



More Results can be found on the ABPA website

2017 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 25th January 2017. 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 Seconder. This form must be delivered to PO Box 87, Violet Town 3669 Victoria or signed, scanned and emailed to secretary@abpa.org.au at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place, that being by **COB Wednesday 11th January 2017**. 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 Seconder) (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 25th January, 2017 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 - Penny Broun no later than 24 hours before the meeting, that being 2.00pm of Tuesday 24th January 2017. Only financial ABPA Members at the time of the meeting are eligible to vote and/or appoint a proxy. No member may hold more than 5 proxies.

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 25th January, 2017 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 - Penny Broun no later than 24 hours before the meeting, that being 2.00pm of Tuesday 24th January 2017. Only financial ABPA Members at the time of the meeting are eligible to vote and/or appoint a proxy. No member may hold more than 5 proxies.

**** Please photocopy more forms if required**

"Poets Showcase Breakfast" to offer Walk-up Spots at Tamworth

Well the Poets Showcase Breakfasts are on again at the Frog & Toad Listening Room in 2017. Running from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th January from 8.30am to 10am, each morning will see three of Australia's leading performance Bush Poets showcase their talents for 30mins each. These breakfasts allow the poets more time to show audiences the full scope of their abilities and the rotating roster will assure audiences of a brand new show each day. This is the second year for this new Poets Breakfast and it is hoped that audience numbers will build upon the solid base achieved last year, to a level which will insure another opportunity for bush poets to compete for paid performances every year at Tamworth.

This year the line-up of poets will include Gary Fogarty(host), Ray Essery, Errol Gray, Jack Drake, Marion Fitzgerald, Bill Kearns, Freda Harvey & Col Milligan.

"As I have always believed strongly in providing a means for new and improving poets to move through the ranks, I have decided to add an extra 30 mins every morning (8.00am to 8.30am) to the program at the Frog & Toad. This will allow for 3 x 8min spots / morning (plus time for changeovers). This new addition will be advertised as "Step Up Show", with poets to be selected on a first in basis each morning at the Festival. I will not be taking pre-festival bookings for these spots due to the amount of work involved if poets have to pull out due to illness etc. It is hoped that these spots can be filled with new poets each morning to give 15 poets a go over the week." Original, humorous poetry is preferred, but this is a preference rather than a rule. Unfortunately, these spots will have to be on a walk-up (unpaid) basis to start with, but we would love to unearth some 'fresh' talent that is worthy of paid spots in the future. Poets wishing to take part should turn up at the venue at 7.30am to express their interest and three will be selected each morning, without bias or favour, to provide a balanced show. Selected poets each morning will of course be refunded their admission fee and be allowed to sell their product. Unsuccessful poets can then book in for other mornings if available. The early time slot should allow plenty of time to make it to the heats of the Golden Damper Competition.

This additional 30 min show will be promoted in conjunction with the "Poets Showcase Breakfast" with the aim of providing poets the opportunity to perform an 8min, non-competitive bracket at a great venue with good sound and to a sizeable audience.

POETS SHOWCASE BREAKFAST

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th January - 8.30am to 10.00am



236 Goonoo Goonoo Road Tamworth

Gary Fogarty
hosts a Rotating Roster of
Australia's Most Popular Bush
Poets

- ❖ Ray Essery
- ❖ Jack Drake
- ❖ Errol Gray
- ❖ Bill Kearns
- ❖ Col Milligan
- ❖ Freda Harvey
- ❖ Marion Fitzgerald

"Start your day with
some original
Australian Humour!"



NEW SHOW – EVERY DAY

Breakfast Available – Air Conditioned Venue

Tickets only \$8 Available at door – (includes Step Up Show)



STEP UP SHOW

8.00am to 8.30am

Providing an opportunity for Aspiring Bush Poets

NEW!

Laggan Bush Poets Give Generous Donations

Laggan Bush Poets were privileged to meet with some of the young people involved in raising awareness and funds for a Skate Park in Crookwell.

During the evening, Mike Delaney initiated an animated 'interview' session with the young people attending and those present were both impressed and amazed at the fund raising efforts so far. In conjunction with grants from other local charitable organisations, fund raising is nearing the target of \$200,000. What an impressive effort by our local youth. They are all keen to see their dream realised and the skate park is envisioned as a welcome addition to providing a popular outdoor recreational facility for both local and visiting youth.

It bodes very well for our town and region, with such outstanding young people stepping up to contribute towards ensuring a bright future for youth in our area.

It was delightful to see the interaction between the young people and our older members on the evening, with good humour, respect and appreciation in evidence for everyone present.

It was a pleasure for the Bush Poets to be able to donate \$700 to the Crookwell Skate Park on Wednesday evening.

The LBP Group has recently donated an amount of \$100 to Samaritan's Purse, to assist with postage for their Christmas Boxes for children in poverty, which are packed with so much care and love. \$100 has also been donated to Friends of Crookwell Library, in appreciation for their gift of books for monthly raffle prizes.

Thanks to the generosity of Laggan Bush Poet members and Laggan Pub patrons, in excess of \$1,000 has been raised at the Bush Poet monthly meetings over the past 12 months. This money is generated solely from donated prizes towards the monthly Draw. Well done everyone involved – what a great effort.

A friendly welcome is open to all at Laggan Bush Poets, Musicians and Friends meetings on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Laggan Pub, where a lively evening of entertainment is thoroughly enjoyed by young and older alike. (NB: No meeting in January).



DASTARDLY DEVIOUS DEEDS WERE DONE

by Pamela Fox May, 2016

Now Clarice Clarkson's Carrot Cake was "Champion" last year and Suzy wasn't happy and she thought it was quite clear that Clarice only won the prize because she bribed the judge. She'd given Bert her home-made sweets, her tasty choc'late fudge.

So Suzy started scheming and for months before the show she plied Bert with her Rocky Road, hoped gratitude would grow. Inviting him to dinners, she cooked up delicious food and he would clean his plate right up, to do less would be rude.

Her busy kitchen overflowed with treats of every sort. That she could just be using him, he never gave a thought. Her Honey Hazelnut Fruit Pies brought tears into his eyes and never once did she let slip about the cooking prize.

But Clarice wasn't simple - she was equal in this game. Her Melting Moments, lemon tarts had often brought her fame. So cunning Clarice concentrated on the "inner man" to find her way into his heart by cooking was her plan.

With tasty treats of every kind they hustled to his door. Meringue Maroons and Custard Creams and jellies by the score. Now Bert had quite a sweet tooth and he never once said "no", and being naive never linked it to the local show.



His favourites were lamingtons – just plain or filled with cream. He even found that when he slept, food featured in each dream. And with this sugar overload, his waist began to swell and after months of over-eating, he became unwell.

His blood count was erratic and blood pressure shot sky-high. Admitted to the hospital, the victim might just die. Diabetes was the verdict and one week before the show they sought another cooking judge - was really quite a blow.

So Penny Parsons was appointed, she would be the judge and she preferred things savoury, she hated sweets like fudge. Their devious deeds hadn't worked, they didn't win one place and thought the "Champion" announced was simply a disgrace.

The winner - an outsider, wasn't even from the town. These scheming sheilas got their just deserts and wore a frown. Yes, Tommy Turton's Turnip Tarts had won the major prize; and as for Bert, I'm pleased to say, he's back to his old size.



GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL

NEW YEAR'S LONG WEEKEND

www.gulgongfolkfestival.com

gulgongfolkfest@gmail.com

THE GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL PRESENTS....

POETRY AT THE GONG



Poets' Breakfast



A long way from Tipperary: *Anzac Tribute*



150 Years of Henry: *Celebrating Henry Lawson's life*



Poets' Lunch

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 Categories

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.



THE MAN FROM
SNOWY RIVER
BUSH FESTIVAL
Corryong, Australia
Proudly brought to you by
R. M. WILLIAMS
EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA

Club 4X4 RV DAILY UNSEALED

30 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2017
CORRYONG, VICTORIA

Bush Poetry Championships at MFSR Festival
Victorian Bush Poetry Championships
ABPA Original, Humorous and Serious; Contemporary and Classical sections.
Open, Intermediate, Novice and Junior classes; and 3 Poets' Breakfasts.
Download entry forms from the website

WWW.BUSHFESTIVAL.COM.AU
02 6077 4332 | janlewis1@hotmail.com

f i t towongshire VICTORIA 4X4

BUSH POETRY at The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival 2017

You have to come to Corryong's Man from Snowy River Bush Festival at least once! There are plenty of different events to entertain the whole family including the \$80,000 horseman's Challenge to find the modern day 'Man From Snowy River,' the Re-enactment of Banjo Paterson's famous poem; "The Man From Snowy River," Riley's Ride, Bush Idol singing competition, Art and Photography Exhibition, Dog Jump, Working Cattle Dog Championships, the MFSR Rodeo under lights, trade and bush markets galore plus excellent live music featuring The Wolfe Brothers and the Bushwackers, but I digress – I'm telling you about the Bush Poetry!

The MFSR Festival will again proudly present the A.B.P.A Victorian Bush Poetry Championships from 30th March – 2nd April, 2017. Following the Australian Bush Poets' Association's rules and categories; the event has approximately \$5,000 in prizes and trophies. We have our own MFSR Recital competition, for entrants to send in their sound files, with three finalists reciting the famous poem on Friday night at Banjo's Block; the poets' home base.

Guest judges and performers include Senior Judge Graeme Johnson, Carol Reffold, Robyn Sykes, Geoffrey Graham, 'Dingos Breakfast' and friends.

The above names are all at the top of the poet-tree (hehe), travelling around our country judging and performing. Geoffrey Graham will transport you to glimpses of life as Banjo Paterson and other past poets too. We have Roger and John from Dingos Breakfast to be our main MCs. Roger and John hail from Western Australia and have included MFSR on their east coast tour. They present a selection of Oz music, poetry and yarnspinning, with the accent firmly on comedy.

From Thursday to Sunday, there'll be hardly a time when somebody, somewhere in Corryong is not reciting a poem or singing a song. Geoffrey Graham and Dingos have their own shows all well worth seeing. Local schools will get the ball rolling and entertain us on Thursday. The local RSL members will host our tribute concert with cuppas and Anzac biscuits entitled 'Spirit of Kokoda and Anzac' in readiness for the Street Parade on Friday (full program available late on at www.bushfestival.com.au). On Sunday morning we will entice Novice Poets to grace the stage before the Intermediate Poets and then the Yarnspinnners. Juniors too!

We hope you'll join us for Original, Modern and Classical sections of Bush Poetry, starting each day with Poets' breakfasts at 8am on Banjo's Block, concerts and a campfire singalong in a friendly atmosphere of camaraderie, with Club all weekend.

MFSRBF www.bushfestival.com.au | ABPA www.abpa.com.au Jan Lewis (P): 02 6077 4332 | (E): janlewis1@hotmail.com



Barry Tiffin and Sue Pearce
performing at the
2016 MFSR Festival



St Edward's Hall Tamworth Walk-up & Competition for the 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 or you can phone me on 0417 251287 or Ray Essery on 0438 843817

See you in Tamworth!

Tom McLveen.

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 THE ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB INC
- 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 COMPETITION
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 FEBRUARY 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 and follow the prompts
OR

Contact John Davis 37 George avenue Kings Point NSW 2539

Ph 02 44552013 email jda76436@bigpond.net.au

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 6571 1398.

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.

Kurilpa 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.

Beaunesert Bush Bards meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9.30am at the Beaunesert Arts & information Centre, Mt. Lindesay H'way, Beaunesert. 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 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.

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.



16th-26th FEB 2017

BANJO PATERSON AUSTRALIAN POETRY FESTIVAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

The 2017 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival, to be held in Orange NSW, the birthplace of A. B. Paterson, will celebrate all Australian Poets and feature outdoors and healthy lifestyle activities for the whole family.

Don't miss the signature events to be held during this Festival!

BREEKY AND POETRY
IN THE PARK
16, 18, 23, 24, 25 FEBRUARY

BANJO BREEKY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON
NIGHT MARKET
FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON
POETRY COMPETITION
SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

BANJO PATERSON
FAMILY MARKET DAY AT
EMMAVILLE COTTAGE
SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

BANJO HISTORICAL TOUR
& A DAY WITH BANJO
AT YEOVAL
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

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

www.visitorange.com.au



The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Inaugurated 1994 ARBN: 104 032 126 ABN:17 145 367 949

www.abpa.org.au

Treasurer: Shelley Hansen, 99 Iindah Road West MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

Email: treasurer@abpa.org.au Phone: 0409 665 843

Membership Renewal Form 2017

You may pay online at www.abpa.org.au (credit card or PayPal)

Details on file:

Write in any changes here or give a gift membership

Receipt No.:

Name:

.....

Address:

Town:

Phone:

.....

Mobile:

.....

Email:

.....

Date Joined:

.....

These details:

☐ are correct

☐ have been changed as shown above

Please renew my/our membership

ABPA Membership Fees: (AUD)

☐ Single membership \$45

☐ Single membership \$35

(emailed magazine only)

☐ Dual membership supplement \$15

(for second family member – no magazine)

☐ Junior membership \$20

(under 18 years – receives magazines)

☐ International member supplement \$25

(to cover international postage costs)

☐ Public Liability Insurance cover \$100

(cover is to 31/01/18)

☐ Membership badge \$10

(includes postage)

Total: \$ _____

☐ I DO require a receipt

☐ I Do NOT require a receipt (your magazine

address label will show your receipt number and membership expiry.)

Payable to:

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

99 Iindah Road West MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

Or pay by direct deposit to:

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000

Account Number: 154842108

Account Name: Australian Bush Poets Association

Reference: Your NAME

If paying by direct deposit please include **your NAME** as the reference and send confirmation **with this form** to treasurer@abpa.org.au or 99 Iindah Road West MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650