

A.B.P.A.

Australian Bush Poets Association

Volume 23 No. 1
February/March 2017

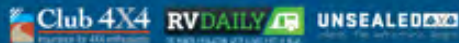


Tamworth 2017



THE MAN FROM
SNOWY RIVER
BUSH FESTIVAL

Presented by
R. M. WILLIAMS
EST. 1992, AUSTRALIA



30 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2017

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.

Entries Close 10th February 2017

WWW.BUSHFESTIVAL.COM.AU

02 6077 4332 | janlewis1@hotmail.com



BIG AVOCA DO

LOUEY HESTERMAN CORA BROWNE FELIX MEACHER ERROL GRAY
KATHY VALLANCE KEIREN O'CONNELL COL DRISCOLL
AVOCA PRIMARY SCHOOL KIDS POETRY PRESENTATION
INAUGURAL 'DOC & LEILA' ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

AWARDED THE PYRENEES SHIRE
'EVENT OF THE YEAR'
AT THE
2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

AVOCA TOWN HALL 6.45PM FOR 7.00PM START SAT 25TH MARCH 2017
ADULTS - \$25 SCHOOL KIDS FREE BYO DRINKS & NIBBLES SUPPER PROVIDED
RAFFLE DRAWS SUPERVISED CHILDRENS ACTIVITY ROOM
TICKETS VIA AVOCA INFO CENTRE - PH: 03 54672266
OR ONLINE AT WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/OQMX
*PLEASE PRE BOOK YOUR TICKETS TO ASSIST WITH CATERING REQUIREMENTS



Australian Bush Poets Association Find us at www.abpa.org.au

**Join in the Forums, writing workshops, post your poems
and keep up with the latest Competition results and
Bush Poetry News**



Find us on:
facebook®

EDITORIAL

A big thank you to all who put their hands up for positions at our 2017 AGM in Tamworth. We now have a great and solid team with no in and out caretaker positions and hopefully we can look forward to a bright future as an Association.

Tamworth again proved that Bush Poetry crowds are still well and truly alive with great crowds at the Frank Daniels Awards at St. Edwards Hall, The Rhymers Roundup, Gary Fogarty's Poets Showcase, The Golden Damper Awards, and the Longyard. We look forward to reading the reports as they come in over the next couple of days.

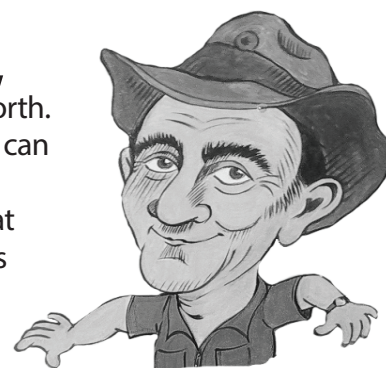
We still seem to have a large division on the rules of Judging and the appointment of Judges to the ABPA and the actual need for competitions to be told who to use or if they can, as has always been the case, have the right to decide who they wish to judge from any walk of life. We have judges on the Accredited ABPA list who have never written nor performed a poem, yet qualify as Judges? I think the Committee will address this problem over the year and hopefully get things rectified. It was so good to see the audience judging at the Inaugural Frank Daniels Awards this year, which was made possible by the hard work and dedication of Ray Essery and Tom McIlveen.

There has been much discussion also on some organisers ruling Bill Kearn's poems ineligible and inappropriate for certain competitions. I have given Bill the opportunity to reply this issue, as he has done. These type of rulings are political correctness gone mad and have no place in our small Association where we need to entertain people to get both new audiences and new poets.

I believe the Committee will look at these things over the year and make the correct decision. Everyone needs to remember that these are voluntary positions for an Association of under 300 members (currently), and these good people should only need to dedicate a very small amount of their time to keeping the Association alive, so please don't take up their valuable time by writing them criticising emails or nasty phone calls as was happening last year to some, including myself.

Remember also that this magazine is a voice for all members, not just a vehicle for the Committee, but importantly will always advise you of Committee news and decisions as they are always very important to all members. But send poems, let us know of your activities, both club and individual and also drop a letter to the editor if you have constructive ideas for the future of our wonderful Association! Have a great year in Poetry.

And I must mention and give a big Thank You to Marion Fitzgerald for the wonderful photos she took at Tamworth for the cover of this issue!



Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

ABPA Magazine Advertising

Rates

Black and White Ads

Full page \$80

Half Page \$40

Quarter Page or less \$20

Full Colour Ads (Space limited)

Full Page \$200

Half Page \$100

Quarter Page or less \$60

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

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

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

All payments to be made within 14 days to
The Treasurer Shelley Hansen

99 Lindah Road West

MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

or via Direct Debit to ABPA Account

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000

Account: 154842108

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

NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is March 27th

ABPA Committee Members 2017

Executive:

President	-- Tom McIlveen	president@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Ray Essery	essery56m@bigpond.com
Secretary	-- Rhonda Tallnash	secretary@abpa.org.au
Treasurer	-- Carol Hutcheson	treasurer@abpa.org.au

Members on Committee:

...Meg Gordon	northlands@wn.com.au
...Max Pringle	maxpringle5@bigpond.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
NT	-- Lance Lawrence	

Non Committee Positions

Webmaster	Gregory North	
Magazine Editor	Neil McArthur	editor@abpa.org.au
Fund Raising Officer	Janine Keating	
Promotions Officer	Brenda-Joy Pritchard	
Returning Officer	Penny Broun	
Facebook Editors	Brenda Joy and Shelley Hansen	

President's Report



Greetings to all fellow ABPA members and magazine readers. Christmas has come and gone... and once again we find ourselves cast into a new year, with the clock relentlessly counting down to next Christmas...(only ten months and three weeks to go, as I type this report.) On behalf of all ABPA members, I would like to offer condolences to the family of stalwart, foundation ABPA member, legendary poet and all round great bloke, John Major. Remembered, honoured and loved by all who knew him.

Tamworth is done and dusted and what a year it was! On returning to work Monday morning, I was asked by a customer...How was Tamworth? My immediate reply was..

.Hectic, intense and wonderful! I probably forgot to add ...Hot! But what the heck, so was

the rest of Australia! Bush poetry is well and truly alive in Country Music Capital. Record

crowds turned up at all regular events and new events were well patronised. The inaugural Frank Daniel Bush Verse Award at St Edwards Hall was an outstanding success, with healthy numbers turning up on each of the five days of competition. On Sunday we were absolutely swamped and filled the hall to almost capacity. Festival goers, many of whom had never seen a bush poetry show before, were turning up in droves to check us out. They were given voting sheets and asked to name their favourite performer on the day. Cash prizes were given each day to the audience's chosen top three performers. After four days of qualifying heats, the twelve finalists competed on Australia Day for the Frank Daniel Bush Verse Trophy, which was once again judged by the audience. Innovator and founding father of this award, Ray Essery was on hand each day to MC and prep the audience with his usual repartee, wit and humorous banter. On behalf of all competitors, audience members and the eternal spirit of Frank Daniel, thankyou Ray... for a truly outstanding contribution. You did us all proud and gave it your all, and made each and every day something very special. Overall winner of the trophy for 2017 and well deserved crowd favorite, was Paddy O'Brien from Murwillumbah NSW. Second place went to Rhonda Tallnash, third place Tom O'Connor, and runners-up Tom McLveen and David Elson.

The Golden Damper was an outstanding success, thanks largely to Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson, who puts in an amazing amount of work behind the scenes and takes very little credit for it. Thank you Graeme! Thankyou to judges Brian Bell, Bill Kearns, Ron Liefekett, Meg Gordon, Ray Essery, Noel Bull and Rob Christmas. Mc's Peter Mace and Ray Essery, Collators and timekeepers... Susan Ashton, Meg Gordon and David Kitchen. The temporary venue at the Rugby Club certainly presented us with a few challenges, however with a little improvisation and welcome help from fellow poets, we managed to pull it off. In fact we had a full house with standing room only for the Saturday morning finals. Congratulations go to overall champion in both categories Claire Reynolds, who absolutely wowed the audience and judges with her performance of Jack Drake's The Water Of The Wells-Beersheba 1917. Well done also to place-getters Rhonda Tallnash, Johnny Peel & Jacqui Warnock.

I got to attend most of the poetry events in Tamworth and found all of them well supported by appreciative audiences. Our annual Poets' Tuesday night get together dinner was well attended and held at Tamworth Gardens Retirement Estate in combination with an after dinner concert as part of the inaugural Bush Poets & Balladeers Concert. Led by Pat Drummond, Greg North and Ray Essery, it was an outstanding success and we have been asked to do it again next year.

Our AGM was held as usual on Wednesday and it was well attended by members who contributed enthusiastically throughout. Increased insurance premium requirements for performers were discussed at length. (See Shelley Hansen's extensive report on this elsewhere in this magazine). We also discussed a book of Bush Poetry to raise money for the ABPA to be compiled by Will Moody. The structure of Performance Competitions was discussed to look at the possibility of implementing Novice or Intermediate categories to allow up and coming performers a chance to be acknowledged and encouraged to continue performing. These matters will be further discussed at future committee meetings. Magazine editor Neil McArthur has called for more contributions from members. Bundy Muster stalwarts John and Sandy Lees were acknowledged and thanked. Bill and Meg Gordon spoke on, and called for support for the upcoming Toodyay WA championships to be held in November this year. Ray Essery was appointed Vice President. Thankyou Rhonda Tallnash for stepping up for that most difficult of committee rolls...Secretary. And who better to do it? You are an absolute whiz! (And I officially apologise for telling you that it is simply a matter of taking minutes...sorry... I lied.) Thankyou to our incoming treasurer Carol Hutcheson and new committee members Meg Gordon and Max Pringle and of course our magnificent matriarch, Returning Officer and Public Officer... Penny Broun.

With the stalwart, legendary Mullumbimby Bloke, Ray Essery at the helm to help guide us through stormy waters, I feel there is a great rapport amongst the new committee and I believe that this is going to be an extraordinary year for the ABPA and indeed for Australian Bush Poetry overall!

In Poetry, Tom McLveen.

Letters To The Editor

Hi All,

After Neil's editorial comment in the last ABPA magazine regarding competitors being turned off from ever returning to compete again by the unnecessarily biased and inexperienced judging and the banning of my work as inappropriate, I feel I have to reassure people that I have not been seduced to the dark side and as far as I know I am still on Santa's nice list.

I have always tended to look at subjects from a little out of left field and I make no apology for finding humour in what some may consider "sacred cows". I try to do so in language that lets the listener use their own interpretation and is understood by those who are old enough to understand and not understood by those of tender years. (I thought that demonstrated skill as a writer, perhaps I'm wrong. In any case it is most probably lost on those who seek only to find offence.) I do not, in my opinion, use coarse language (although I realise that "blow", "dash" and "darn" are not acceptable to some people) and you have never heard me use the "F" word in public, in private or in print and you won't.

Our society is made up of a diverse people with diverse views. According to our own viewpoint we might even consider some of these views to be extreme. Where we strike problems is when these people are placed in a position of authority (like a bush poetry judge) and proceed to mould the criteria into that which suits their own particular bent thus rewarding those who are of similar bent and discouraging those who are not.

Take the example of an imaginary bush poetry judge who happens to be a militant, placard carrying, tree hugging conservationist and the poem they are called upon to judge is a humorous one called "They're Cutting down the Old Gum Tree". Do they judge this poem as inappropriate for daring to find humour in the destruction of a tree? My poem "The Senior Cit's Xmas Party" is about the residents of a nursing home who consume some herbal tea they make out of some dodgy herbs grown by those "nice young folk next door" and the mayhem that ensues. Most people find it humorous; however there are those who consider it a poem that glorifies drug taking and debauchery. What can I say except perhaps, "Get a life"?

I realise that while ever I continue to write about things that are untouchable I will upset certain people. So be it. As long as I can share a laugh along the way I will continue to do what I am doing and I'll answer for it on the real day of judgement.

Bill Kearns
Grafton, NSW.

Hi Neil,

recently I was involved at the poets brekkys at Maldon .The 43rd Maldon Folk Festival was held on the 28th to the 31st of October .3 poets brekkys were held at the Wicked Temptations Café with ample seating and a wonderful stage .The audiences are increasing each year with numbers of approx 80 each day , local poets as well as poets from WA NSW and junior poets .This show now has an great following and it good to see many regulars returning each year .The show runs for 2 hours and all walk up poets get to perform .This year the MC was once again shared between the 3 regulars in The Rhymer From Ryde, Graeme Johnson ,Geoffrey W Graham, and Noel (Raging) Bull . With what seems to be a time when we are having a decline in poetry this small festival is still continuing to surprise and is a good reward for the hard working organizers and volunteers.

Cheers
Noel Bull

Dear Neil

I have read and re-read your editorial in Vol.22 No.5. and I would like to make my final (and, I hope, non-political) contribution. For some time now, I have been very concerned about the decline in popularity of Australian bush verse and in the past, I have made some suggestions to the Committee.

The interest of young people in bush verse is on the wane despite the best efforts of visiting poets to schools. I attribute this to the modern child's devotion to current technology. Consequently, I suspect that many children would see a poet's recitation in schools as very enjoyable but only as a passing entertainment.

Youngsters today are so very adapt at producing their own videos. They are also more freely spoken than my ancient generation. From my experience as a high school teacher of roughly 40 years, they also love to act. In addition, many have the ability to take "oldies" in hand and teach them skills using modern technology.

This is one direction ABPA generally seems to be ignoring by sticking religiously to traditional presentations. There is one notable exception, Gerry King, whom I have found very supportive and has run competitions to promote these plus her own ideas. There have been others but, to my knowledge, Gerry is the stand out. However, back to young people.

I can visualize a classroom teacher, teaching the rudiments of good bush verse to a lot of excited kids and then challenging them to write their own poems and create illustrative videos . It would then be up to ABPA to make the most of that enthusiasm. This would be ABPA's challenge.

As a result, I believe a new and refreshing challenge would be issued to all and seeds of longevity sown. Active involvement and using the tools with which children excel is a very important key to taking bush verse forward. This approach combined with a simplification of the rigid rules that apply today would help youngsters see their projects to completion.

This would also be a wonderful way to get the different generations talking and learning from each other. After all, most people progress much faster aided by a mentor. I will always be indebted and grateful to my mentor, Ellis Campbell and I still miss his input.

Yvonne Harper

DENTURES TO THE RESCUE

© Trevor A. Shaw

Winner of the 2017 Blackened Billy

The night of nights had finally come; the Convention Centre packed –
Pre-dinner drinks, entrée, meal - desert bowls fairly stacked.
No hint of a disaster, for the dignitary to fear.
Renowned, across the industry, 'twas a coup to have him here.

His speech was in his jacket. He knew his stuff by heart.
The converted sat, expectantly, for his wisdom to impart.
He did not see the cherry seed submerged deep, in the stew.
His dentures took the impact and they both snapped into two.

The crunch was loud for all to hear. It echoed through the room.
Our speaker sat there petrified, his features draped in gloom.
How could he get his points across; explain his graphs and sums?
How could he polarise this crowd, with a pair of flapping gums?

Big Max was sitting next to him and, reacting to his plight,
grabbed the shattered dentures and disappeared into the night.
Meanwhile, from all around him, loads of well-meant hints ensued,
that ranged from really useless, to a brace of rude and crude.

Big Max slipped back, beside our guest, and gave the man a wink.
"Prepare to make your speech, tonight, and enjoy a final drink."
He reached into his sports-coat and extracted a small prize.
"Here, slap these on your naked gums, and try them out for size."

A dazzling set of dentures had appeared, in Max's hand.
The speaker shoved them gingerly, but they did not fit real grand.
"Too small; too tight; uncomfortable." His brow was bathed in sweat.
Max tried another pocket and produced a second set.

No orthodontist could have made so elegant a fit.
No pressure points, on either gum – they did not rub a bit.
A perfect smile adorned his face. His confidence soared high.
When called to make his key note speech, he felt the urge to fly.

The audience was spellbound, as he swept from point to point.
Applause was more than generous: ebbing, flowing through the joint.
He fielded questions from the floor. His expertise shone through.
The Chair, in recognition, chose to label him, "True Blue".

Returning from the dais, he showered Max with thanks profuse,
admitting he was fearful that his neck was in a noose.
"I want to meet your dentist and pay him what he's worth,
for he'd have to be the finest in his field, on this Earth."

"No dentist would be working, at this hour of the night.
I had to think creatively to repair your fractured bite.
I have a mate who works, next door – a proper little boffin,
who has a range of falsies – he stores them in a coffin."

The speaker's jaw dropped inches, as he took this info in.
"You mean, I've been on stage, showing off a dead man's grin?"
"It could have been a lady's!" offered Max, with twinkling eyes.
"You see, it was a fluke he had a set to match your size."

Max handed him the broken set. "You had better get these fixed."
'Twas obvious the speaker took them back, with feelings mixed.
"You may use the set you're wearing, but return them, please, by Sunday.
My mate will need them then, because the funeral's set, for Monday!"

Judges Comments

FIRST PLACE

DENTURES TO THE RESCUE
Trevor A. Shaw of Biloela QLD

This is a beautifully constructed and humorous narrative. The writer has managed to tell the story with finesse, leading to the rather macabre climax. It might be a good lesson to take care of one's dentures during an important engagement.

The write creates a period of high tension and build up, in order to hold the reader's attention. This is a very well written entry, and the writer has planned his story well, with a good mixture of highs and lows, building to the macabre climax.

Congratulations, a worthy winner of the Blackened Bill

SECOND PLACE

ONE GOLDEN AUTUMN DAY
Helen Harvey of Coonamble NSW

This entry is a well-formulated story by a picture writer, reminiscing about happy times and the activities of childhood friends defending their treehouse and playground in the bloom of youth. However, one childhood friend has the magnetic urge to be a real soldier, and as often happens to those serving their country, disaster rears its ugly head. The memories are powerful in this cleverly written description of flashbacks to their childhood dreams and ambitions. I could not stop reading this creation of a very talented writer.

THIRD PLACE

A MAN ALONE
David Campbell of Aireys Inlet VIC

This is another story of life on the land, its tragic hardships and bitter aftermath in severe and desperate times. This entry aptly describes the effects on the whole family, the struggle to survive and the ultimate consequences. We read of these circumstances every day, and cannot help but be emotionally disturbed. This entry is graphic in its detail of the son's challenge to his father, to defend his mother. Timing and formulation of the subject material is excellent. Congratulations on a fine entry.

Public Liability Insurance – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the level of ABPA's Public Liability cover?

ABPA currently holds a broadform Public Liability policy with Elders Insurance (underwritten by QBE). The level of cover is \$20 million for any one occurrence (a recent increase from \$10 million on advice from our insurers). The policy specifically covers activities under the definition of "performing artist operation". We are also covered for \$250,000 for property in our physical and legal control. This is not property owned by ABPA, but refers to property owned by another party but for which ABPA may be responsible – e.g. a venue may allow a poet use of their sound equipment. If it were damaged during the performance, the poet may be held responsible.

Is the ABPA as an entity covered by our Public Liability Insurance policy?

Yes, within the definition of "performing artist operation" at events where the ABPA is the organiser (e.g. Golden Dampier). In cases where ABPA is merely a sponsor (e.g. State and Australian Championships), the responsibility for public liability cover rests with the organiser of the event.

Are all financial ABPA members covered by our Public Liability Insurance policy?

Not automatically. The policy provides for individual cover for up to 50 financial members. To access the cover a member must pay to ABPA a set premium per person per year in addition to the regular membership fee. This premium currently sits at \$100 per year, but will increase in the future as policy costs rise. The member is then provided with a receipt, a letter of cover from ABPA, and a Certificate of Currency issued by Elders Insurance. These documents may be used by performing poets when asked by event organisers to supply proof of PLI cover.

If a poet is a member of a poetry group, does his/her PLI cover extend to other members of the group?

No. The cover is for each individual insured poet. If numerous members of a group require cover, they may pay individual premiums to ABPA, or they may elect to pursue alternate options to insure the group as a whole.

What is the period of our PLI cover?

The ABPA's PLI policy falls due on 31 January each year. Member premiums are payable with the annual membership fee due on 1 January. The roll-over date of 31 January bridges the holiday season and ensures members are covered at a time when many are away from home and quite busy with events.

Can a member take out PLI cover with ABPA at any time during the year?

Yes. At any time a member may request PLI cover and pay the set annual premium. That member's cover would then extend from the date of payment until 31 January of the following year. The first 50 members to avail themselves of PLI cover will be accommodated under our policy. It is "first-come-first-served". Once the 50 spaces are filled, other members requiring PLI cover are advised to contact an insurance broker to source the best available option.

What circumstances might lead to a PLI claim and what should a member do if this occurs?

The most likely event would be equipment or venue damage, or accidental injury sustained by an attendee at a poetry event (e.g. a trip or fall). If the ABPA poet is the event organiser, then potentially he/she may receive notice of a liability claim. If another person or entity is the organiser, the claim may fall on them – but they may try to recover some or all of their claim costs from our poet. To that end, most event organisers are now requiring evidence of \$20 million Public Liability cover from all performers. If a poet is aware of a potential claim, he/she should at once notify the ABPA Treasurer who will consult with Elders Insurance. Likewise, any general enquiries regarding PLI cover should be directed to our Treasurer, who will either source the information or supply the contact details of our insurance consultants if required.

Shelley Hansen
Outgoing ABPA Treasurer

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.

Bill Gordon:- Boyup Brook

A trip to the West Australian Festival of Boyup Brook can come as a very pleasant surprise to those of us in the Eastern States who may not get too much news from the land of the Sandgropers. For nearly a decade now, Bill Gordon, well supported by his wife Meg, has been organising the Bush Poetry component at this popular country music festival. Bill and Meg have put in an enormous amount of work and effort and the positive results are there to be enjoyed by all.

Bill has worked on a formula of inviting some of the 'Easts' leading performance poets to headline the popular Bush Poets Breakfasts at the Festival as well as sharing their expertise with the WA Poets via writing and performance workshops. The results are multi faceted, not only does it provide the invited poets with an opportunity to perform to a new and fresh and sizeable audience, but it also allows the WA poets to keep abreast of any new directions that may be occurring in the East. The sharing of knowledge is always a good thing and Bush Poetry on both sides of this vast continent are the beneficiaries.

Now this sort of formula has been used at other Festivals throughout Australia with similar benefits, what makes Boyup Brook stand out happens away from the stage. Bill and Megs, farm-stay property is transformed into a vibrant social hub where bush poets eat, drink, live and share. The camaraderie on show is heart-warming, there is no hint of competitiveness or political agendas here, just like minded people sharing and enjoying their passion, striving to improve their own writing and performances.

The signs are clearly on display that something is certainly working for the WA Poets, the quality of both writing and performing is easily on a par with that on the more populous East Coast. The West has it's own 'stars' who should continue to build on a very solid foundation, providing more and more opportunities for all Bush Poets in the future. It is to be hoped that what, Bill and Meg Gordon have helped build, continues to prosper without losing the strong feeling of mate-ship, fun, enjoyment, and sharing.

Bill and Meg Gordon contribution to Bush Poetry extends well beyond Boyup Brook Festival and with their recent retirement from the rural industry, and their infectious enthusiasm and love of Bush Poetry, we can be heartened by the realization that their unselfish dedication to our craft has not peaked yet.



THE POETTES SHOW – TAMWORTH 2017

In its seventeenth year, the Poettes Show held at St Edward's Hall on the last Friday of the Country Music Festival, showcased lady Poettes from QLD, NSW, VIC and WA. Twelve Poettes in all, honoured and celebrated women through their Traditional and Modern Bush Verse, from our pioneering women to our women of today. The show was co-hosted by Marion Fitzgerald and Rob Christmas, who had big shoes to fill with the absence of the show's creator and popular hostess, Trisha Anderson from Brisbane. Trisha was moving house, but was still able to organize and advise from long distance to ensure the show's success.

Rhonda Tallnash, Jacqui Warnock, Claire Reynolds and Caroline Tuohey were all finalist in the Golden Damper Awards which was to be judged the next day, so we were treated to engaging and invigorating performances from them all at our Ladies Day. Also a finalist and new-comer to the Poettes, Jenny Campbell, from the Blue Mountains, embraced universal issues with her contemporary style of writing and passionate performances. Meg Gordon from Boyup Brook WA enlightened us with the beautiful poetry of Louisa Lawson, mother of Henry Lawson, and the story behind this inspirational lady.

It was wonderful to see Maggi Swain-Daley, Bush Nurse, with her bubbly bush humour, back on the performing scene after a four year break, and Penny Broun from Sydney kept us laughing with her recitation of the Mammogram. Freda Harvey from QLD was also a new-comer to the show and her off-the-cuff comedy was not to be upstaged by special guest, Billinda Kearns, niece of Bill Kearns. Billinda had just returned from the Eurovision Poetry Competition, which was obvious from the facial hair she kept apologizing for – a hormonal imbalance she confided!

The Poettes Show is also known for its delicious afternoon tea party, which set the scene for a very relaxed and entertaining few hours, and we are very grateful to Margaret Finucane, Sandy and John Lees and Janet Simson for ensuring we were all well catered for.

We look forward to seeing you, and many more, at our Poettes Show next year as we come together in one voice, to celebrate WOMEN.

WHAT PRICE A VC

©Peter Mace

On the twenty fourth of July 2006 the first world war medals awarded to Captain Alfred Shout were auctioned in Sydney. Captain Shout was the most highly decorated soldier during the Gallipoli campaign, winning the Military Cross during the initial attack and the Victoria Cross during the August offensive at Lone Pine.

The auction set a world record for a medal.

The winning bidder had wished to remain anonymous, however was later identified as Mr Kerry Stokes.

The collection, including the last Gallipoli VC still in private hands has been donated to the Australian War Memorial.

The auctioneer resplendent in white gloves and black bow tie, now calls the room to order with anticipation high.

"Thank you for your patience, but I'm sure it's worth the wait, for now we've come to offer, lot - ten ,seventy eight".

The polished custom case is then put on display, the cameras flash the press take notes, the auction's underway. "You are bidding here tonight, for this collection that you see a once in a lifetime chance I'm sure you will agree.

For before us here the medals won by captain Alfred Shout a unique opportunity of that there is no doubt. For one lucky bidder to own a piece of history, the highlight is of course, the last Gallipoli VC"

In the centre was the dull bronze cross, its ribbon crimson red, with "for Valour" etched upon it, embossed crown and lion's head. Beside it, the military cross with its ribbon blue and white, a testament to this soldier and his willingness to fight.

"One last thing I must mention" the auctioneer did say. "Before we start the bidding and the sale gets underway. Because of its importance and to this country's laws, this collection is forbidden to leave Australia's shores".

"How much am I bid for it", a white placard held on high, the bid three hundred thousand , five hundred the reply. The room then stunned to silence, a bid made on the phone from a prominent, proud Australian , identity unknown.

"I have one million dollars, going once then twice then --sold" An auction record for a medal has been set, the room was told. Who was this brave young ANZAC that the fuss is all about, and pray tell me what's the story of this captain Alfred Shout.



A Kiwi army regular in the fight against the Boers, enlisted with the Aussies for the war to end all wars. With the first battalion AIF, landed on that fateful day, And there amongst the chaos the Turks sure made them pay.

For each foothold, ridge and stretch ,of barren rocky shore. But Shout there proved his worth , the slouch hat he proudly wore. Bayonet charged machine guns, at Gaba Tepe the second day, "The bravest thing I ever saw", private Thompson's heard to say.

On his feet for the first two days then a bullet in the arm, still carried back the wounded, a dozen saved from harm "I am with you to the finish", Shout roared out in the fray, But when he could no longer stand, they carried him away.

A month on board the hospital ship,discharged himself then back Fighting in the trenches,till the orders came -- attack We're going to hit the Turks at The Nek and then Lone Pine That rocky stretch of scrub that in time became the shrine.

Shout took aside young Ross McQueen, the night starless and black "Well make a name for Australia, and ourselves tomorrow, Mac". The fighting raged the next five days, trenches won then lost Till Shout and Captain Sasse advanced heedless of the cost.

Shout tossing home made bombs, Sasse firing through the stench Sandbags used to fortify each foot of captured trench Armed with the last three jam tin bombs one last attack is planned Two were hurled, the last went off, before it left his hand.

Aboard the ship Neuralia this brave hero lost the fight A simple burial at sea in the morning's half pale light He had followed many others the doctors could not save Destined there forever to have no known grave.

I've stood before the monument at Lone Pine on ANZAC day And read the lists of fallen, this debt we can't repay And recalled the words then spoken as the bugle starts to sing "No braver man has ever worn the uniform of the King".

So now back to the auction, and the million dollars bid, A fair price to pay for the exploits that he did. The price that all these heros paid is one that makes me weep A million for Shouts medals mate, I reckon that was cheap.

The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2017

1st Prize: *Dentures to the Rescue*

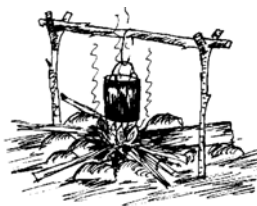
Trevor A. Shaw
252 Tognolini Baldwin Rd
Biloela QLD 4715

2nd Prize: *One Golden Autumn Day*

Helen Harvey
PO Box 68, "Savanna"
Coonamble NSW 2829

3rd Prize: *A Man Alone*

David Campbell
PO Box 248
Aireys Inlet VIC 3231



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Driftwood Will Moody
59 Sunset Ridge Drive Bellingen NSW 2454

The Harder Road Kay Gorring
28 Emerson Drive Morayfield Qld 4506

Sad Scale Saga Wendy Seddon
36 Blackbutt Crescent Medowie NSW 2318

Another Dawn Brenda Joy
12 Erobin St Coochiemudlo Island Qld 4184

The Heart of Darkness David Campbell
PO Box 248 Aireys Inlet Vic 3231

To All the Lonely People ...G'day Val Wallace
81 Graham Street Glendale NSW 2285

Archie McAllister Makes His Mark Elizabeth Egan
"Corella Valley" 1216 Binda Rd Crookwell NSW 2583

Henry (177153) Jim Kennedy
4 Shiraz Place Carseldine Qld 4034

Grandad's Christmas Dinner Leonie Parker
6 Backhouse Ct Brassall Ipswich Qld 4305

JUDGES SUMMARY BLACKENED BILLY 2017

This year saw 146 entries for the Blackened Billy. I enjoyed the many topics covered and the different techniques of writing. I am still amazed by the endless creativity produced by our Australian writers.

Many of the topics covered were of a poignant nature; many covered the sorrow and hardship of war, the difficulties in managing the aged, and the assistance to people who have a difficult lifestyle. These were very adequately handled with creditable description.

The year 2015 saw the production of the Blackened Billy anthology, and this is a fitting tribute to the many creative writers that have been successful in winning the "Billy". This year sees the high standard continue.

I continue to praise the efforts of Jan, who has carried on under difficulties throughout past years, and it has been due to her tireless efforts that this competition has remained as one of the most prestigious in Australia.

Judges report The Kembla Flame 2017.

The judging panel was delighted that more than half the entries were in praise of the beauty of Australia and written in true bush poetry style. The most common fault was in addressing metre. Some writers commenced in a particular metre and after one or two stanzas suddenly changed to a different metre. Metre can be best explained as the heartbeat of a poem.

Due to poor health, promotion of the competition was less than in previous years, resulting in fewer entries. Overall, the standard of entries was quite high. The results were announced and prizes presented at the Illawarra Folk Festival. Members of the Illawarra Breakfast Poets read winning entries for those winners who could not attend in person. Full results appear below.

The judging panel encourages all participants to keep up the high standard of writing, and we look forward to reading more great work in the future. We encourage writers to enter as many competitions as possible, as participation improves writing skills and ensures the survival of Australian Bush Poetry.

Results :-

First Place : 'In a Bush Clearing Small' by Jim Kent.

Second Place: 'As Shadows Fall' by Brenda Joy.

Third Place: 'Men and Make Do' by Wendy Seddon.

Highly Commended:

'A Red Dirt Road to Nowhere' by Shelley Hansen.

'Sober and Sane' by Tom McIlveen

MacLean from Milparinka

© Hugh Allan

There were murmurs round the bar room, as he slouched towards the bar,
and MacLean from Milparinka quickly ordered half a jar.
He had perspiration dripping and his face was filled with dread,
with exasperation showing in the shaking of his head.
Then he sank the beer most loudly and he grabbed the barman's hand,
'It's my darling wife, Griselda, she just doesn't understand!'
And the barman pulled his hand away with, 'Just you watch it, mate!'
Then MacLean apologised and said, 'I'm in a shocking state!'

'While considering our future and discussing what we'd got,
I suggested my retirement, and she asked, "from flamin' what?"
Her insinuation shook me so I said, "You're talking rot,
I've been months here building sheds and things, eleven on the trot."
But she gave me her opinion, adding panic to my fears,
by proposing I should stay at work another dozen years!'
And the ringers drinking near him muttered 'strewth!' and 'stone the crows!'
as MacLean caressed his bearded chin, while pondering his woes.

Then the barman took a 'phone-call, had a glaring kind of glance
at MacLean, and then he nodded as he said, 'He is, by chance.'
Then he turned, and looking worried, said, 'Griselda's hit the town,
you'll have to go, and hurry up—she's on her way around.
Just convince her that retirement was designed to be enjoyed;
that it's highly undesirable to always be employed.'
Then the barman grabbed a shoulder and towards the door he strode,
and MacLean, amid confusion was ejected to the road.

Then a tractor passing by him, threw a lump of cow dung out,
and MacLean, who didn't see it, caught a sideways sort of clout,
then in falling back and flailing, nearly knocked the barman out.
And the ringers in the doorway cried, 'Come back and have a shout!'
Then Griselda came a-running as an urgent woman would,
and the barman stumbled forward, and he wasn't looking good.
Then she said, 'You're drunk!' and shoved him, and among the dung he fell,
where a thousand flies befriended him, enchanted by the smell.

Then Griselda, waving flies away, ran straight into the bar,
and MacLean looked up, and smiling, calmly handed her a jar,
which she drained, then took up station with her man beside a stool,
and she told the gawping drinkers, 'You might think I'm just a fool,
but although I give him trouble, he is still my golden star!'
And a dusty drover shouted out, 'He's more yer ol' galah!'
Then the barman lurched in stinking, said, 'I've had a bit of strife!'
And MacLean from Milparinka grinned, 'Here, come and meet the wife!'

So the barman staggered over and he said to her, 'G'day!
I think your man's exhausted and he needs a holiday.
Now I reckon he should take you 'cross to Birdsville for a spell.'
But Griselda said, 'I'll tell you what, you've cracked your flamin' shell!'
And the barman, reaching forward gave her arm a gentle grasp,
and he left a smear of cow dung and MacLean let out a gasp.
Then he took Griselda's other arm and led his darling wife
to the street and off to Birdsville and he saved the barman's life.

Vale John Major

An extract from Gary Fogarty's eulogy at the funeral of Johnny Major
The loss of John Major was a huge loss to both Bush Poetry and his family and Bush Poet Mates.

John's interest and involvement in, and love of Bush Poetry goes way back to his schooldays, but a trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival in 1989 introduced John to the wider bush poetry community and vice versa. He quickly fitted in and was accepted into Bush Poetry's inner circle, which was a pretty good effort for someone who drove a Volvo. Personally, a few years later when I myself was invited into the Bush Poetry world it was little wonder that John and I began a thirty plus year friendship, as along with Marion Fitzgerald, we were pretty much the only 'rural' based Poets at that time. When I spoke with Marion before leaving to come here today she spoke fondly of John, recalling the wonderful gifts of Elvis Presley memorabilia that he had given her over the years. Now if a Volvo driving, Elvis fan is not enough, then just add in the fact that John's hero was a New Zealander, Tex Morton. Few, if any, spent much time in a car with John without being subjected to Tex Morton CD's blaring from the CD player.

Let me address some of the many contributions that John made to Bush Poetry, he was one of 22 people present (not exactly sure of the number) on the day the ABPA was formed and he remained fiercely loyal to the genre right until the end, performing for under privileged children just days before his passing. I often worked Festivals with John to discover afterwards that he had arrived a day early and performed free of charge for the local aged care facility. He was extremely giving of his time and talent. If John had a failing it was probably that he thought that everyone should listen to Bush Poetry at every available opportunity, for as long as possible.

John was without doubt, one of our best reciters, over the years building a large repertoire of classic and contemporary poems. It is often said in bush poetry circles that to reach the top you have to be able to write original material, and while there is much truth in that statement, John managed to be the exception to the rule, honing his skills and establishing himself amongst the best we had to offer.

He was quick to get involved with new ventures and I recall fondly going on a BP tour of Victoria with John, the late John Philipson and Noel Cutler, (Poets In the Pub) one of the first Poetry groups to do so. I learnt a few things about John on that trip, firstly that he did not take at all kindly to being booked for speeding, I still reflect on exactly how we did not end up in custody that day, after John heatedly spoke ill of that policeman's ancestors several generations back..... I also learnt that Joy Major was worthy of a Sainthood, after my first sleepless encounter with John's legendary snoring.

John was also one of five poets (along with Marco Giori, Murray Hartin, the late Bobby Miller and myself) who in the late 1990's took a stance at Tamworth Festival which resulted in the previously unpaid bush poets finally getting some financial reward for their talents. Many of today's Bush Poets would not be aware that they owe their paycheques to the strong stance of this group. Again the innovator, it was at John's suggestion that he, Neil McArthur, Rupert McCall and myself started the Sex Lies and Bush Poetry show which ran successfully at Tamworth for nearly a decade, helping to break down (along with The Naked Poets) the assumption that Bush Poetry was only appropriate in the Breakfast time slot.

There was one other very important thing that John Major brought to Bush Poetry ----- Joy ---- Joy Major, was to myself and my poetry mates the walking definition of a Lady, I seriously doubt if there has ever been, or ever will be, a more respected member of our community and I treasure the conversations we often shared.

I was fortunate to get to perform often, and spend considerable time with John over his poetry career. Did we always agree? No of course not, mates seldom do, he was way too serious in his poem selection, and I wasted too much time on comedy poems that could never really happen, but we always parted on good terms and talked regularly on the phone.

Wherever you were with John you could be sure of at least two things, he would undoubtedly run into someone that he knew, and he could successfully run a raffle regardless of how small the crowd was. Ray Essery, who performed and travelled with John extensively would always state that "if you want to make money just get Johnny Major to run the raffle".

John refused to let advancing years and health concerns slow down his poetry commitment, in fact he was a man who always exhibited boundless energy and would pursue performance opportunities at full throttle. In the last few years John started to concentrate on finding his own niche in the poetry world, allowing him to travel less and freeing him up to perform the style of poetry he loved, rather than being commercially compliant. You only need reflect on how busy he was to realise that he was as successful in doing this, as with most things he undertook. His role as Travel Guide escorting groups of people on trips to a full Lake Eyre would seem to have been created especially for him. He could proudly inform people of some of the history and the wonderful natural beauty of the country he loved, while performing poetry for an audience that could not escape from the fuselage of a small plane. Oh, of course there was also an exciting marketing opportunity to sell multiple copies of his three Bush Poetry CD's, and I often received a phone call with a few antidotes on who he had met on the trip, as well as his latest sales figures.

John Major performed for a wide demographic of people in all parts of this great country, regardless of the size of his audience he always gave of his very best, he always presented himself immaculately (helped in no small measure by the wonderfully crafted waistcoats that Joy had made for him), he gave generously of his time and talents and there are many who will, in the years to come, and especially today, recall and reflect fondly, on a time they saw him perform.

I will remember John as a man who was fiercely proud of his country and its flag, a man devoted and loyal to his beautiful wife Joy and to his family, a man passionate about history and enthusiastically dedicated to sharing those stories through his poetry performances. I will remember him for his enduring contribution to the Bush Poetry community and as a mate, I shall miss him.



Tamworth CMF Reports 2017

Poets Showcase Breakfast

Tamworth 2017 saw the 2nd year for the "Poets Showcase Breakfast" at the Frog and Toad, and what a year it was with ticket sales up by well over 50%. It's never easy starting any new show at Tamworth and we always had a three year plan. Thanks to the quality of our performers and the word of mouth advertising from our audiences, the future looks fairly bright.

The Frog and Toad are keen to have us return in 2018, as we were their most successful show this year, and we are already planning to improve several aspects regarding signage, parking etc.

A huge THANK YOU to Ray Essery, Errol Gray, Marion Fitzgerald, Col Milligan, Bill Kearns, Jack Drake, Freda Harvey and singer Kylie Castle, who all brought their 'A game' to the show. Thanks also to our fellow poets who came along and supported the show, your presence was noted and appreciated. The most important and hard working member of our team doesn't make it onto stage, but Cindy Fogarty was again our biggest asset, selling door tickets, raffle tickets and acting as a roving PR lady.

To the audience, we never take any one of you for granted, we deeply appreciate each and every one of you coming along and helping to spread the word on the quality of our show. To those who supported us on multiple days and to those who returned after last year, we say a special thank you. \$100 was raised from our Limited Edition Wine Raffle for 'Westpac Rescue Helicopter'.

The initiative of the "Step-Up Show" went well, with participating poets performing above expectations, THANK YOU to Bill Gordon, Paddy O'Brien, Claire Reynolds, Jackie Warnock, Tom McIlveen, Ron Liekefett, Manfred Vijars, Mal Beveridge, Pa Kettle, Maggie Swain Daley and John and Carmel Lloyd. The audiences loved them and all poets should be proud of their efforts, we greatly appreciated your contribution. A little disappointing that we didn't get 15 'different' poets for these spots and we may have to rethink this for next year, any feedback is welcomed.

Congratulations to the organisers and performers at all the other Bush Poetry Shows at the Festival for flying the Bush Poetry Flag. Well Done.



The Longyard Bush Poets Breakfasts

It is always a pleasure and an honour to be able to present Bush Poets Breakfasts at the Longyard each year. It is not a matter of just standing up and saying 'Look at how good our shows are going'. That would be a disservice to Bush Poetry and all those who started and continued to make The Longyard one of the great Bush Poets Breakfast in Australia. From Jim Haynes humbling beginnings with just a handful of poets on the front deck, through to Frank Daniels annual efforts to present new poets and keep the mornings fresh and entertaining, we have now reached the point where we had seven out of nine sold out shows, one almost full and a pretty decent last day crowd when the roads were full of caravaners running from the heat!

In keeping with that tradition, on Australia Day there were over two hundred and fifty people waiting at the gates by 6.30 am waiting for the doors to open at seven! And what a show they got!

The vibrant crowds seem to lift the Poets to new heights, and this year my co-hosts, Marco Gliori and Ray Essery helped me in presenting acts of such calibre as Prousty, Jack Drake, Marion Fitzgerald, Bill Kearns, Col Milligan, Errol Gray, Dave Prior, John Lloyd, Greg North, Greg Scott, Alan Glover and Gary Fogarty, along with special guests Maggie Swain- Daley and Darren Colston. Darren opened and closed our Australia Day with brilliant renditions of great Aussie songs. We also presented Competition Winners, both Paddy O'Brien and Claire Reynolds to wonderful applause.

I have already booked the shows for next year and will always be on the lookout for new talent to present. I have already had some enquiries from very popular performers of different genres who have seen our crowds and vibe but, whilst humbling, it is always going to be a Bush POETS Breakfast first.

Thanks again to The Pub Group and The Longyard, to Craig and his staff for giving us this wonderful venue every year. To Mike Vee and Wayne on the door to Sandy and John Lees who are always there to help us and also this year to Shane and Liz Dunne. But none of these great mornings at the Tamworth CMF would even be possible if not for the wonderful efforts of my wife, Colleen, who fought through recent illness to make sure I was up and organised and that everything at the shows were organised each and every morning. Thanks mate, I love you.

So now it's onto organising next year's Longyard Poets Breakfasts and see if we can break the records for a third year running!



My wife Colleen on the right with the beautiful Terese Proust

The Australian Bush Poets Association
"ABPA GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS 2017"

Review

The 31st presentation of the ABPA sponsored 'Golden Damper Awards' was held during the 45th Tamworth Country Music Festival 2017.

The new venue of the Tamworth Rugby Club was packed to capacity over the 3 Heats & Finals series. The location proved somewhat difficult to find initially but after posting an ABPA Volunteer Sentry at the Rugby Park gates our happy audiences found their way between the Caravans to the Club's Auditorium.

Whilst the total number of competitors was slightly down on last year's numbers the attentive punters were still held captivated by the class & quality of this year's competitors. Contestants came from 'far & wide' in an attempt to win one of the elusive "Damper" trophies. The Northern Territory, Far North Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and inland & coastal NSW were all represented.

Over the event's 31 year history only Marco Gliori (1990) & Lyn Tarring (2015) have ever won the 'double header' so to speak and this year the ladies shone through again with Claire Reynolds (from Gloucester NSW) taking out the top honours in both the Original & Established sections.

As a matter of fact 5 out of the 6 overall places were won by the ladies with John Peel (2nd in the Original Section) being the lone male winner. Other placegetters were Rhonda Tallnash & Jacqui Warnock. (see winners list attached). Event Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson announced that this year's "Golden Dampers" (his fifth at the helm) would be his last for the present time as he has turned his attentions elsewhere. President Tom McIlveen thanked Graeme for his 'service & attention to detail' over that period.

Well folks only 365 days till we can 'do it all again' See ya there!

Original Section		
		(Medallion & \$350.00 & Golden Damper Trophy)
1st	Claire Reynolds	
2nd	John Peel	(Medallion & \$250)
3rd	Rhonda Tallnash	(Medallion & \$80)
 Established Section		
		(Medallion & \$300.00 & Golden Damper Trophy)
1st	Claire Reynolds	
2nd	Jacqui Warnock	(Medallion & \$150)
3rd	Rhonda Tallnash	(Medallion & \$60)

"The Rhymer's Roundup"

Festival Review

The Tamworth Country Music Festival 2017 saw the presentation of the 5th year of the popular "Rhymer's Roundup" Bush Poetry Shows that were once again held at the North Tamworth Bowling Club.

These 6 shows ran from Fri 20th-Wed 25th in the Club's auditorium. Audiences reclined in comfy chairs enjoying the air conditioning, meals and bar service offered by the small but vibrant Bowling Club known affectionately as the "Bowlo" to Tamworth locals.

The crowds also enjoyed the talents of Graeme's 'stellar' line-up of Bush Poets that included current Australian Female Champion Rhonda Tallnash, current 'Runner-Up' Male Champion John Peel, 3 x times Male Australian Bush Poetry Champion Gregory "Man of many Hats" North & Golden Damper Award Winners Noel Bull & "The Rhymer from Ryde" himself.

They were joined on stage this year by guest muso's, Singer/Songwriter Pat Drummond (TSA Lifetime Achievement Awards winner 2016) and Golden Guitar winner Steve Passfield.



BUSH POETS & BALLADEERS CONCERT TAMWORTH.

The inaugural Bush Poets & Balladeers Concert 2017 at Tamworth Gardens Retirement Estate, organised by Tom McIlveen and Susan Ashton in conjunction with Estate manageress Heather Charters, was an outstanding success. Led by Pat Drummond, Ray Essery and Greg North the audience were treated to a mix of Australiana ballads, yarn spinning and bush poetry. We have been asked to return again next year.



Tamworth Golf Club Poetry 30 Years in Tamworth - Muz Hartin

Again the Poetry took centre stage at the Tamworth Golf Club with Murray 'Muz' Hartin's series of one man shows on most evenings at the Club. Performing a one man show for two hours can be a very tricky thing to pull off, but with Murray's wonderful and relaxed style of storytelling, yarns and interaction with the audience, combined with a countless list of original poems, Muz performed to great audiences with ease.

I was luck enough to get out and open a show for him, and thoroughly enjoyed the show, not to mention a wonderful stage setup which included some of Muz's best memorabilia and collectables he has picked up over his 30 odd years of performing, including a gifted Slouch Hat, LP Covers, old antique signs and so much more which gave even more depth to his show, with people admiring these both before and after the show.

All this, plus launching his new CD, A Double Shot Of Muz!

Yet another great showing of Bush Poetry at Tamworth 2017



3 Men Fishing

What would Tamworth CMF be without the mad antics of a Marco Giori Show! This year Marco teamed with Funnyman Alan Glover along with great comedian and Muso, Peter Willey.

Great crowds gathered to enjoy a mixture of solo sets as well as the crowd involving word games and other antics.

Marco, along with Murray, has now been at the Gold Club since the inception of the first Naked Poets Show, which has been the catalyst for so many other successful Poetry shows at the Festival.

Still flying the flag!

With the British surrender of Singapore in February 1942, approximately one hundred and thirty thousand allied troops became prisoners of the Japanese Army. Seventeen thousand of that number were Australians, mainly from the 8th Division, A.I.F. A further three and a half thousand Australians were taken prisoner during the war in the Pacific.

Nearly eight thousand of those captured died, were murdered or killed, while suffering years of unimaginable hardship, starvation, torture and degradation at the hands of their captors. Many more died soon after returning home. However, never had the world seen a finer example of that inherent, almost indefinable something that makes all true Australians unique. That special something we call mateship.

BLUEY, JACK AND ME

© Vic Jefferies

One bit me for the makings, the other needed a light,
that was how I met these blokes, if memory serves me right
and though the years have flown away I never will forget
the mates I made that day over a lousy cigarette,
because then we boarded a ship leaving Circular Quay
and sailing off to fight the war went Bluey, Jack and me.

It was less than thirty years since our fathers earned their fame
and every man amongst us swore we'd uphold that name,
for while our coppers were serving almost every where
we were going to be the mob to stop the Japs "Up There."
As part of the Eighth Division went 'The Dreadful Three'
yes, that was what they called us then Bluey, Jack and me.

Now history shows there was something wrong with our leader's plan
and how most of us became the prisoner's of Japan.
For years we stuck together determined we would live
giving to one another all we had that we could give,
that was not unusual and looking back it's plain to see
dinkum mateship saved the lives of Bluey, Jack and me.

You can talk about your pals and chums even comrades too,
but you never saw the likes of the friendship that we knew.
The other blokes in the camp who came from a different land
used to think we were brothers they could not understand:
mateship built Australia, it is how we are born to be,
then they had never seen mates like us, Bluey, Jack and me.

We cared for one another sharing our scraps of bread,
I still remember Bluey bathing my fevered head
and how those crazy skeletons saved my worthless hide
by doing my share of work - if you couldn't work you died.
Jack declared, "There'll be none of that for The Dreadful Three!"
That was how we lived for years, Bluey, Jack and me.

So we battled on together through torment, pain and hell,
surviving in a manner simple words could never tell
till at last the war was won and on that glorious day
I recall how those who freed us turned their heads away;
they could not bear to look at, no they couldn't bear to see,
the almost dead who greeted them with Bluey, Jack and me.

Now I'm searching in my heart for the words I'd like to say,
while Bluey marched on years ago we're burying Jack today,
but as I see that soldier raise the bugle to his lip
I have to quickly close my eyes and seek a firmer grip
because between their graves there's a plot reserved for me,
and I know it won't be long before once again we're three.

While I'm sure they wait in heaven, if perchance they've gone below,
Mate, that makes no difference because where they've gone I'll go!
Though I trust The Lord in his wisdom will readily agree
mates like us should stay together throughout eternity
and He would never separate the famous 'Dreadful Three'
'cause I reckon we might have earned our keep - Bluey, Jack and me.

Vic (Blue) Jefferies
9 Sqdn RAAF
Vietnam 1966-67

OUR POETRY KIDS

Gemma Kirk 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 she is an A class student in Italian language, She recently went on a tour of Italy which she found absolutely wonderful and she intends to return this summer. Gemma plays the piano and keeps fit by attending gymnasium on a regular basis. *Lovely thoughts here Gemma thank you.*

Brenda Joy

SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT

by Gemma Kirk



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
that gets us into strife.

But through everything we say and do
it's only love I hear
and after every fight we've had
our make-ups are sincere.
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)

(Previously published *Free Xpression*, June 2016)

GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



This book has extremely close ties to bush poetry. It examines our National song and its co-authors, Banjo Patterson and Christina Macpherson, more deeply than any other work on the subject.

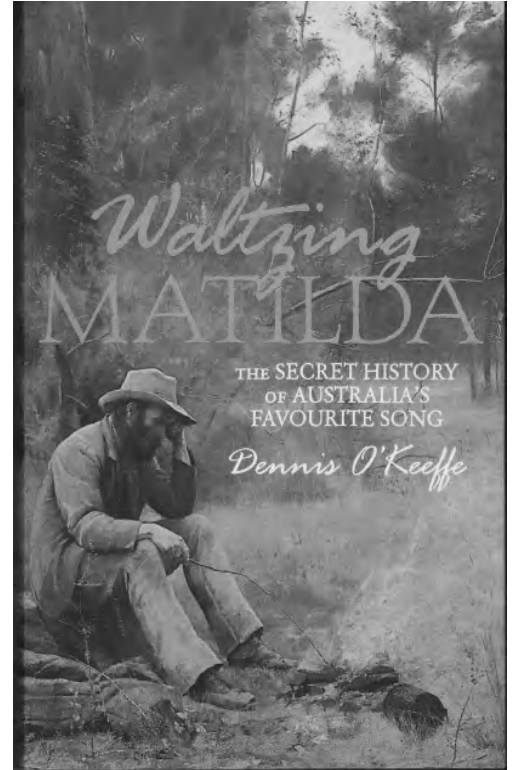
Waltzing Matilda, The Secret History of Australia's Favourite Song by Dennis O'Keeffe (Alan and Unwin 2012) seems to have finally exposed events in Western Queensland in the 1890s when the song was written.

The late Dennis O'Keeffe devoted his life to traditional Australian folk music. Along with Richard Magoffin, the Western Queensland poet we also lost a few years ago, Dennis must be considered a leading authority on "Waltzing Matilda" and all its associated history.

Although "Matilda" appears on the surface to be a frivolous, fun ditty, it is in fact a protest song celebrating the working class struggle of the 1894 Shearers' Strikes. O'Keeffe has also unearthed certain facts and character traits about "The Banjo" that Paterson himself was at pains to conceal, making it very clear why our national poet was consistently obscure when questioned about the song and its origins.

Dennis O'Keeffe's book also has a connection with modern bush poets. Our own Col Driscoll takes the role of "The Swagman", Frenchie Hoffmeister, in the play "Waltzing Matilda" also written by O'Keeffe which has featured at many venues as well as on the ABC's Landline programme.

Waltzing Matilda is a fascinating exposé on a song that has become one of the most performed and recorded pieces on earth. It's seemingly simple lyrics deal with rebellion, riot, murder and arson during a class struggle that almost became a civil war. Toss in an illicit love affair and you have a winning formula for a great read. Bravo Dennis O'Keeffe.



The romance and tradition attached to Australia's drovers is one of the proudest parts of our heritage. It follows therefore, that the story of Australia's and in fact the modern world's, greatest drover will be an absorbing and fascinating tale.

In the Tracks of Old Bluey - The Life Story of Nat Buchanan, CQUPress 1997 by Bobbie Buchanan, great granddaughter of Nat, is certainly the definitive work on this amazing man.

Nat Buchanan arrived in Australia from Wexford, Ireland at 11 years of age in 1837. His life in the new country was studded with enterprise and adventure. From serving before the mast on a sailing ship to pay his passage home after an ill-fated foray to the California gold rushes, to master minding the movement of twenty thousand head of cattle from Queensland to the Top End near Katherine, his feats of droving and exploration are little short of incredible.

Blessed with an innate sense of direction and locality as well as an incredible physical endurance, Nat Buchanan has been recognised as one of this country's finest explorers and cattlemen. His achievements are legendary. Nat was the first man to take stock over the legendary Murrumbidgee Track. First to traverse the Barkly Tablelands. First to establish a stock route from the Kimberly to the West Australian goldfields. Pioneer of the live cattle export business to Asia, and much, much more.

Bobbie Buchanan has done a great job of cataloguing her great grandfather's career from beginning to end. In the Tracks of Old Bluey is a must read book and is still available from Boolarong Press as are most of the good works from CQU's Outback Books since they folded some years ago.

More great Aussie reads at
www.outbackbooks.info

Jack Drake

THE YALGOO CHRISTIAN

© Keith Lethbridge

He wasn't the most respectful lad,
And he didn't appear too bright,
But the gift of the gab was his saving grace
At times when the odds were tight.

We made our camp in a mulga patch,
To the east of Yalgoo town,
And the sultry air was breathless calm,
As the evening sun went down.

The chattering birds grew silent,
As we finished our damper and tea,
So I glanced at the young rascalion,
And he frowned back at me.

Then he nosed the air like a startled colt,
And he searched the darkening sky.
"Some weather comin' up, Dad," he said,
And I nodded in grim reply.

We carefully stamped the camp fire out,
And emptied the billy can,
Packed our gear and rolled our swags
In the back of the old red van.

"No time to move to a safer camp,
She's comin' in hard and strong.
We're in for a bit of a squall, old son,
But it probably won't last long."

Then the wind came up and the lightning struck,
And scrub fires lit the night,
And we didn't know whether to laugh or cry,
It was such an amazing sight.

Racing, dancing, crackling flame,
And billowing, choking smoke,
Then seconds before we were cooked for sure,
The thundering rain clouds broke.

And down she came like a crashing wave,
To shatter the decks below,
While snug in the back of the old red van,
We prayed for the storm to go.

Then bolt after bolt of lightning crashed,
And the thunder roared each time,
Louder and closer, until it seemed
We were surely the next in line.

I had never enforced religion,
As a part of his education,
But out in the Yalgoo scrub that night,
He received his inspiration.

He suddenly prayed to save his soul,
And repented his wicked past,
And he closed with a wild, impassioned plea
To the Saviour he'd found at last:

"I know you mean to punish my Dad,
And deliver him straight to Hell,
But in case it's slipped your notice Lord,
I'm stuck in this van as well!"

The sun came up on a brand new day,
As pretty as ever before,
And a glorious freshness filled the air,
With the birds in song once more.

And the Yalgoo Christian soon grew up
As a natural, sinful man,
But I never could let the lad forget
That night in the old red van.

THE LARD BROTHERS GO TO AN 'ALL YOU CAN EAT' LUNCHEON

© Neil McArthur

The pub had a quick spit and polish
They laid out the tableware fine
'All you can eat' at the Tangoona pub
For a measly five ninety-nine

The publican put on a second chef
And an extra waitress or two
But if he had of known who was coming for lunch
He'd of let the whole thing fall through

For as the local yokels all entered
And sat for the 'All you can eat'
The Lard Brothers flew through the front door
And running, they dove for their seats

The waitresses served up the entrees
And a bloody great boiler of broth
Jack Lard, the elder, he grabbed it
And scoaled it with barely a cough

Then Raymond, the younger, reached over
And grabbed the whole basket of bread
And a bloody great fresh water lobster
Then, shell and all, bit off it's head

Well, half of the lunch crowd vacated
The others were in disbelief
As Jack Lard and young brother Raymond
Set upon all they could eat

The plates disappeared down their gullets
The tablecloths, swallowed down too
They shouted out, "Bring on the main course
And two nine-gallon kegs of your brew!"

From then on their manners went downhill
The patrons all left in disgust
It was enough to sicken a feral pig
As the Lard brothers loaded their guts

They devoured all the meat and the salads
(One of the chefs, too, I think)
When all that was gone, they screamed for desert
And another two barrels to drink

The Publican came over crying
And begging the brothers to stop
"You're sending me broke with your huge appetites
And you've left me with barely a chop!"

But the Lard brothers grabbed him and eat him
Then Raymond, he started to bloat
His guts exploded and splattered the walls
And his head stared up and said 'quote'

"I think I've had near enough, brother Jack
This here be my last eatin' stint.
But before I hit God's smorgasbord in the sky
Feed me my coffee and mint!"

But his death didn't stop Jack Lard eating
He eat all the chairs in the pub
Then stood up and left their in anger
'Cause the bastards had run out of grub

He eat his way down the main street
Then eat his way steadily east
He devoured everything he encountered
On cows, sheep and wheat he did feast

So don't you be listening to rumours
Of crops and stock dwindling in heat
Of mouse plagues or locust or rabbits
It's Jack Lard having all he can eat!

BERT DAVIS SPOKEN WORD AWARDS



Bert Davis (1925- 2014)

ENTRIES OPEN UNTIL 12 MARCH 2017

**Information brochure and entry form available from
strongbold@adam.com.au**

**Event to be held on Sunday 2 April 2017
at Three Brothers Arms Hotel, Macclesfield, South
Australia, from 2:30 pm.**

1st Prize \$400

Presented by MACCY SHY POETS

Supported by

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

Sponsored by MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Follow us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/MaccyShyPoets>

ABOUT THESE AWARDS

"Creativity at any Age"

Albert Victor (Bert) Davis discovered at the age of 75, after retiring from dairy farming, that he possessed a talent for creating, memorizing and reciting spoken verse about his life in and around Macclesfield.

He also had an innate ability to remember and relate stories of his own life and those he heard from relatives and friends.

From that time until the age of 86, when his 2 year battle with illness started, he enjoyed a fine reputation for his poetry and his presentations at local gatherings. Bert passed away on 19 June 2014 at the age of 88.

Bert Davis (1925- 2014)

AWARDS & PRIZES

Best Spoken Word Award\$400

Runner-Up Award \$50

People's Choice Award.....\$TBA

Possible other awards at the discretion of the Judges.

Consolation prizes courtesy of Strong & Bold Publishing.

Entries will be judged based on creativity, content, relevance to the "Creativity at any Age" theme, spoken delivery, timing and memory.

Judging results will be announced at the event.

Prizes will be awarded where possible on the day of the event or will be posted shortly afterwards.

Get well Barry Ellem

Unfortunately, just before the Tamworth CMF, one of our most supportive and active Bush Poets, Barry Ellem, became quite unwell and was hospitalised. Sadly both he and his wife Cay could not attend Tamworth this year and were very much missed. We wish both Barry and Cay all the best in Barry's recovery, and I for one would think that the closeness of their friendship and travels over all these years will carry them a long way with Barry's recovery. All the best from your Bush Poetry Mates!



Vale Peter Riddle

The Bush Poetry community has lost another of its 'characters' with the passing of Peter Riddle just after Christmas. Peter was well known to the crowds who follow the Bush Balladeer Festivals, most often performing as an enthusiastic walk-up performer (although sometimes included on the main program).

Peter worked as a dairy farmer just outside of the small rural Queensland town of Pittsworth and both performed and wrote Bush Poetry with a passion. Uncle of Gold Guitar winning Bush Balladeer Jeff Brown, Peter could also claim to be a song writer with a track, "The Clydesdale's" on one of Jeff's Albums.

Unfortunately Peter lost his beloved wife, Heather, a while ago and personally had been fighting a determined battle against prostate cancer. Never one to complain, he never let it interfere with his performing and he continued to support walk-up opportunities until the end.

Peter was known as an accomplished performer, fully understanding the art of entertainment, although often known for stepping over the line with his choice of jokes and for cheekily asking for extra time from the stage. But that was just part of the make-up of a man who was one of the real characters of our Bush Poetry family. He loved Bush Poetry with a passion, he will be missed and he will be remembered.

TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH

From March 30th to April 2nd, 2017 Tenterfield will host the 21st Oracles of the Bush. A great event and a darn good effort championed by a strong group of volunteer organisers.

All bush poetry fans are invited to Tenterfield to celebrate Australian Bush culture, poetry, music and Oracles 21st birthday. This year features a few new venues and revamped events including a poetry inspired breakfast in Bald Rock National Park.

Marco Gliori will lead a team of top professionals to entertain over the weekend. Marco, Melanie Hall and Susan Carcary, Peter Capp and Bec Hance will come together to present the major concert on the Saturday night. They will also perform individually at 13 other venues over the 4 days.

2017 Oracles theme is 'Destination Tenterfield...My Home Town'. Total prize money in excess of \$3000 will be up for grabs in the Looming Legend Bush Poetry Competition. Budding authors and performers are invited to participate in the written and performance sections of the competition. Adults and children are both provided for in the poetry competition. Full details of the Oracles of the Bush programme and poetry competitions are available on the website,

www.oraclesofthebush.com, by email: oraclesofthebush@gmail.com or on Oracles face book page.

Entries close on 10th March, 2017.

GULGONG HENRY LAWSON LITERARY AWARDS

Plans are well under way for the 2017 Gulgong Henry Lawson Literary Awards.

Entry forms are available at the Henry Lawson Centre, 147 Mayne St, Gulgong; or can be downloaded from the web site, henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au (click on Events).

Entries close on March 27th, 2017.

The Leonard Teale Performance Poetry, proudly sponsored by Moolarben Coal with \$1,000 first prize and a Henry Lawson statuette, is the highlight event of the Literary Awards finalised on the Saturday night of the June Long Weekend at the Gulgong Prince of Wales Opera House, where the final 10 performers "strut their stuff" in front of an audience of about 100 people, and 3 judges.

The Written Poetry, has a first prize of \$500 and also a Henry Lawson statuette.

There is also an Emerging Poet's Award in both Performance and Written Sections, to encourage up and coming poets who have not won a 1st prize in a major literary awards.

These sections have traditionally been entered by adults, but High School students are welcome to enter, and over the years students have won 1st prizes in the Open and Emerging Sections, and also some 2nd, 3rd, H/C and Commended Awards.

Entries come from all over Australia, and occasionally from overseas, but don't let this discourage you from entering in this fine competition.

For enquiries email: henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au, or phone Kevin & Jan Robson (Literary Awards Co-ordinators) on 63741944.

Gong for Big Avoca Do

The Big Avoca Do committee has extra reasons to celebrate at this years upcoming show, with the 2016 Big Avoca Do being awarded the 'Event of the Year' at the recent Pyrenees Shire Australia Day Awards.

Committee President Bruce Field and local poet Col Driscoll accepted the award on behalf of all the artists, committee members, volunteers and sponsors who have contributed to the shows success over the past 6 years.

This years show will continue with the tradition of promoting Australian Bush Poetry and Music with artists such as Errol Gray, Kathy Vallance, Cora & The Crop Bros and special guest Keiren O'Connell taking to the stage. As usual the kids from the Avoca Primary School will open the show with recitals of their original poems inspired by their annual poetry workshops with Col Driscoll.

Once again funds raised from the Big Avoca Do will be donated to the Avoca Primary School and other local causes. For more information about the show please check out the Big Avoca Do Facebook page or contact Col Driscoll on 0419 558924

Vale Col Wilson AKA Blue The Shearer

In news just come to hand as the Magazine goes to press, we have learned of the passing of one of Australia's most popular and wonderful true gentlemen of the Bush Poetry Genre.

Blue the Shearer, aka Col Wilson, passed away on Friday 3rd February in Springwood NSW, aged 89. Blue probably holds the record for the most poets reciting his work over many years. A one-time public servant, Blue wrote a poem every week for ABC radio for more years than most can remember. Always ready with his quick wit and incisive political commentary, he tackled politicians, current affairs as well as the mundane facets of everyday life.

Since poetry on current affairs can date quickly, he is best remembered for his humorous poems such as The Cross-eyed Bull, The Addict, Esmerelda, Joanna, Supervet, Chainsaw Massacre, The Trailer, My Mower, Down Boy, The Thong, Walls of Jericho, The Blowfly, The Grandkids, The Wingen Pub and Mental Elf, which he said was the poem he most proud of.

Blue shared his poetry with people across Australia over multiple decades, and had a close relationship with ABC Central West. Our thoughts are with his many friends and family among the community at this time.

Col was a wonderful bloke and his poems contributed enormously to the growth of modern bush poetry. He will be sadly missed.



R.I.P. Blue The Shearer



THE NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION 2015

Conducted by

The Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc. In conjunction with the rules of the ABPA CONDITIONS

This competition is an OPEN event for ORIGINAL verse having good RHYME and METER.

Previously published poetry that has not won a first prize in any written competition will be accepted.

A4 size pages should be used keeping each entry separate, using one side of paper only.

Entries should be typed where possible.

Cover sheets should be used. Entrants name or other details must not appear on any of the poems.

Cheque or money orders for the total amount of entry fees should be made out to Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc. and must accompany all entries.

CLOSING DATE. Entries date stamped no later than July 30th the year of the competition will be accepted.

Copyright remains with the author. Poems will not be used in any anthology without the author's permission. Poems will not be returned.

The winners will be announced at a function on the October long weekend of the same years. Venue to be announced.

If required entrants should supply a SSAE for results to be posted after the awards are presented.

The judge's decision will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

As well as 1st; 2nd; and 3rd places there may be Highly Commended awards made according to the judges discretion.

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 PER POEM OR 3 POEMS FOR \$10.00.

Extra poems can be listed on a separate cover sheet. Entry forms may be copied.

THE 15TH ANNUAL

NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION

CONDUCTED BY
NARRABRI & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



FIRST PRIZE: \$150 AND TROPHY

SECOND PRIZE: \$100

THIRD PRIZE: \$50

ENTRY FORM

Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc.
P. O. Box 55
Narrabri 2390

Entry forms to be returned to:
The above address

THE NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION 2015

Conducted by

The Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc.
In conjunction with the rules of the ABPA

Oracles of the Bush

Tenterfield
New South Wales
Australia

March 30th to April 2nd, 2017

Featuring

Marco Giori,
Melanie Hall and Susan Carcary,
Peter Capp and Bec Hance
Written and Performance Poetry Competitions
2017 Theme: 'My Home Town'

(Entries close 10.3.17)
www.oraclesofthebush.com
email: oraclesofthebush@gmail.com
Telephone: 0407 203 728 or 0484 904 553
Follow us on Face book.

Gulgong Henry Lawson Society of N.S.W. 2017 Literary Awards

Performance Poetry Competition — \$1,000 First Prize & a
Henry Lawson bronze Statuette, and
also a Written Verse Competition — \$500 First Prize & a
Henry Lawson bronze Statuette

**Total Prizemoney of over \$3000, and in the Emerging Sections, a
\$200 First prize, and a Loaded Dog bronzed statuette.**

Entries close 27th March 2017

Contact for entry forms-

Web: www.henrylawsongulgong.org.au (Click on *Events*).

Email - henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au

Facebook: *Gulgong Henry Lawson Centre*

Ph Kevin & Jan 0263741944



Presentations at the
Gulgong Henry Lawson Heritage Festival
June Long Weekend 9 – 12 June, 2017



Regular Monthly Events

NSW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poet Group meet from 9am on 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at The Distillery - North Pine Hotel, Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Rd. Petrie Contact :- Manfred - 0411 160510 or Cay - 07 34083219.

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

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

Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. 2nd Saturday of the month. Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street. Contact Edna 0428 574 651; Jayson (07) 41550778 or Sandy (07) 41514631.

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

Redcliffe Peninsular Poets - 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm to 9pm. Winton Room, Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Downs Street, 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, Woormin on Bribie Island. Contact Cay - 07 34083219.

Victoria

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

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

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

Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets - Third Sunday even numbered months, except December when second Sunday. Newmarket Hotel, cnr Nolan St & Strickland Rd, Bendigo 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Contacts: Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 7104 or Ken Jones 03 5441 5121

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

WA

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

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

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS

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