

A.B.P.A.

Australian Bush Poets Association

Volume 25 No. 6 December/January 2019/20



Merry Christmas 2019 to all Members

Orange360

All year round.

ORANGE NSW

BANJO PATERSON AUSTRALIAN POETRY FESTIVAL

16th-23rd FEB 2020

www.orange360.com.au

SIGNATURE EVENTS

**BANJO'S BIRTHDAY POET'S BRUNCH –
YEOVAL**

Sunday 16th February

BANJO'S BIRTHDAY TWILIGHT BBQ

Monday 17th February

BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL NIGHT MARKET

Friday 21st February

BANJO POETRY BRAWL

Friday 21st February

**BANJO PATERSON AUSTRALIAN POETRY
COMPETITION**

Saturday 22nd February

**BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL DINNER –
MOLONG**

Saturday 22nd February

FAMILY MARKET DAY

Sunday 23rd February

Next Magazine Deadline is September 27th

ABPA Committee Members 2019

Executive:

President	-- Tim Sheed	president@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Ray Essery	essery56m@bigpond.com
Secretary	-- Meg Gordon	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Treasurer	-- Janine Keating	treasurer@abpa.org.au

Members on Committee:

Manfred Vijars		manfred@rocketfrog.com.au
Bob Kettle		thegypsies2@gmail.com

Non Committee Positions

Webmaster	Gregory North	web@abpa.org.au
Magazine Editor	Neil McArthur	editor@abpa.org.au
Facebook Editor	Jan Lewis	janlewis1@hotmail.com

ABPA Magazine Advertising Rates

ABN 17 145 367 949 ARBN: 104 032 126

Black and White Ads

Full page \$95
Half Page \$55
Quarter Page or less \$35

Full Colour Ads (Space limited)

Full Page \$240
Half Page \$140
Quarter Page not available

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, Word or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au
All payments to be made within 14 days to

The Treasurer - Janine Keating

P O Box 644

GLADSTONE QLD 4680

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.

Editorial



Member's Written Competition \$100 Prize Each Edition

Last Month's Competition drew some quality entries about Climate Change. The poems were, again, all of a high standard, and quite diverse, but this issue the Judge chose the winner to be

*Congratulations To Allan Vagg
with his entry 'A Climate Campaign We Can All Get Behind'*

Remember this is judged independently and purely on entertainment value. We are looking for something that is the 'most publishable'!. (I think I made that word up!)

Congratulations to all entrants on some great writing and other worthy poems will be published randomly in future editions of our Magazine.

Each Magazine, one member will receive a \$100 prize and have their Rhyming Australian Poem published here and on our website.

There will be a given topic and the Poem which is decided to have taken the most original approach to the topic will be announced the winner in the following Issue.

The entries will be judged anonymously and the decision will be final.

So get to it. You do not have to be the most accomplished poet in the country to win this!

This Month's Topic - **My New Year's Resolution**

Entries close **January 16th**

Send to editor@abpa.org.au

(Please don't send by post)

President's Report

Presidents report

I have just completed a five month trip around the country and am still reflecting on the many lessons and messages taken in during that time.

I did not fully appreciate how many poets and storytellers there are out there. In every town or locality when people hear that you are a keen bush poet/storyteller they always proudly mention one or two locals who quietly and modestly rise to the challenge when required. They ask you if you know them but the answer is rarely yes. In many country towns you will find thin booklets of rhyming verse and short stories commemorating local events and people.

I share the concern of many poets and storytellers that the primary school children have not heard or seen bush poetry like the best of Banjo Paterson's ballads, humorous or otherwise performed or even included in the school curriculum. When they get it they love it.

It is heartening to know that some of the local poets voluntarily go into the schools to spread the word and expose the children to a broad range of our best writers.

Poetry, music, singing and the arts generally are very poorly represented or taught in schools, particularly in primary schools in the regional and remote areas we toured.

On a brighter note the Tamworth Country Music Festival is coming up in January and the Golden Damper and Frank Daniels Awards are being held at the same time. Many of our best bush poets will be performing and beginners have the opportunity to perform and learn from others.



I hope to see you there.
Tim Sheed

RESULTS FOR BENALLA ENTERTAINMENT MUSTER 2019:

Ross Noble Novice Poet Winner **Ben Hoeksema**
2nd **Jai Thoolen**
3rd **Wayne Anderson**

Ross Noble Spoken Word Performer of the Muster
voted by audience: **Lorraine McCrimmon**

Original Song Champion **Wayne Anderson and Jane Crowe**
2nd **Glen Arndt**

Non-Original Song Champion **Wayne Anderson and Jane Crowe**
2nd **Merri Winter**
3rd **Adele McCormack**

OVERALL SONG CHAMPION
Wayne Anderson and Jane Crowe

Carol Reffold Memorial One Minute Poem
voted by audience: **Jan Bentley**

Many thanks to Jai Thoolen for making the trophies this year – including a perpetual Carol Reffold trophy - great job!
Thanks also to Colin Carrington, Geoffrey W Graham, Jill Meehan and Jeff Mifsud for a good team effort. Jan Lewis.



Jai Thoolen and Wayne Anderson
with the trophies



Lorraine
McCrimmon



Euroa Ukelele group

A Climate Campaign We Can All Get Behind

© Allan Vagg

They were splashed across my telly screen on the evening nightly news,
Marching through the traffic, stuck to the roads with glue,
Waving emotive placards, chanting idealistic slogans,
'Bout how they're more evolved than all the rest of us ungrateful bogans.

Disrupting city centres, to make sure we know they care,
About the world's finite resources and the quality of our air.
But they must have missed the irony as they gridlocked all the masses,
All those stationery idling cars pumping out toxic Greenhouse Gases.

All that public awareness posturing, followed up with ... not much,
You see they got their message wrong, it's just a little out of touch.
It's irrelevant if we leave the oil untouched in the granite,
We've got to drill down to the real issues if we want to save the planet!

See we DO face a resource problem, that fact is certainly not wrong,
But the world has far too many people, and we're living far too long!
Our modern medicine and lifestyles in our grand Utopic stage,
Means we're clogging up the system 'til a proper, ripe old age!

We were never meant to live this long, as the top Apex consumer,
So if we want to save the planet, we're going to have to all die sooner!
And our 'Healthy, Longer' lifestyle, we will have to just accept,
Causes Overpopulation, and we'll soon have nothing left.

It's all 'Sugar Free' and low fat foods with countless Vegan options,
I still don't know what Quinoa is but we lap up those concoctions,
With reduced salt in my skim latte, because I know I should,
While my milk is free of dairy, so you know it must be good.

I need to balance my biotics with a yoghurt from Peru,
While spring water branded 'Fiji' means it's healthier for you,
I'll only eat organic produce so my long life can't be stolen,
Tuck into a tub of birdseed just to regulate my colon.

You see I'm going to live forever, well at least I'm gonna try,
But all this modern lifestyle makes it just so hard to die!
We can breeze on, young and carefree, as our Expiry Date's displaced,
There's only one big problem: All that rubbish has no taste!

What's the point of living forever if your diet is so stale,
That you're excited for a lunchtime feed of air-fried crisps and kale?
Your body lives forever, while your spirit slowly dies,
While it craves the guilty pleasures of double cheeseburgers with fries.

So I campaign to eat unhealthy, though I may gain a little girth,
But I'm going to ensure that I enjoy my time on Earth,
And we'll be fighting for the planet as we satisfy our hunger,
As there is the added bonus that we all will die much younger!

We won't be clogging up the planet once we have lived past our best,
A shorter generation gap, let Darwinism do the rest!
Less living people on the planet will preserve dwindling resources,
And we'll also have less impact on environmental forces.

So, I'm talking bacon wrapped in bacon, with a special serve of chips,
When I wake up in the morning get a pastry on my lips,
A cupla' lunchtime schooners plus Mixed Grill would be a gem,
And I'll give those kebabs a shake each time I'm tanked at 3 am.

We all know the fats in food are what gives it all its flavour,
Plus it lubricates your arteries, so it's really one to savour,
I've never been a smoker but I s'pose in this case it fits,
I'm a fan of chocolate, cheese and coffee, that I'm happy to admit.

So, we DO need to save the planet for the sake of humankind,
That's why I've written up a new campaign we ALL can get behind,
We'll start a world-wide movement, we'll drive passion in the streets,
Cripple global governments when folks start voting with their feet.

And we'll get a crowd together for our message is a strong one,
And our placards will all say: "We're Here for a Good Time, Not a Long One!"



North Pine Poets Charity Concert

The North Pine Bush Poets recently ran a variety show to assist the Winton farming families as they battle through this horrific drought. To say that people were generous would be a massive under-statement as the original target was re-set several times and we smashed through the ten thousand dollars to finally end up with approximately \$12,500 !! To those who contributed, we all thank you very much. We saw beautiful and heartfelt donations by people who know the value of the Australian spirit and helping your mates out. The lady from Winton Lions had her speech ready to go and was expecting a cheque for \$5,000 but when the \$12,500 was handed over her speech went out the window, she could barely speak through the tears that were welling up in her eyes. Thank you one and all, you have changed lives. please find the details in the press release below. Mal Beveridge sums it up perfectly.

The North Pine Bush Poets charity concert held at North Lakes Sports Club on Sunday afternoon was an outstanding success raising a total of \$12,100.00 for The Winton Lions Club's drought fighting efforts. Over \$8000.00 was received by way of donations and nearly \$4000.00 was contributed by admission fees, on the spot donations and raffles. The show went on despite the attention of a huge storm which knocked out the stage lights and computerised audio visual system but the old stagers came prepared and quickly set up their back up gear and the show started right on time marked by the ringing of a bell.

A flash crowd performance of Banjo Paterson's 'Clancy of the Overflow' with poets popping up in the audience with a verse each completely surprised the 178 patrons and a group effort delivered the poem's final stanza in front of the stage to great applause.

Nineteen poets and musicians provided a super afternoon's entertainment which was wrapped up by a singalong featuring old favourites Black Velvet Band, Botany Bay, Click Go the Shears, Home Amongst the Gum Trees and finished with a rousing finale of Waltzing Matilda.

Winton is a sister city of the Moreton Bay Regional Council and The MBRC provided a grant of \$800.00 towards costs. The Chrysler Owners Club of Queensland donated an outstanding \$2000.00. North Lakes Sports Club generously donated the free use of the 'Discovery Room' to host the concert. There were many substantial donations from across the country and they will all be acknowledged on the North Pine Bush Poets web site and FB page in the near future. Quest newspapers supported the publicity for the event by publishing details in last week's edition.

Mrs Ivone Campbell, accepting the cheque on behalf of the Winton Lions Club from Club President Ian McDonald said, "This is completely overwhelming. You will have no idea just what this will mean to the people of Winton." She was clearly elated and a little emotional!

Amongst other things Winton Lions will now be able to host a Ladies Pampering Day complete with counselling services, technicians and masseuses who all have to be brought in from the coast. Last year's inaugural event which attracted 100 people was also supported by the menfolk but we won't tell any tales about that! Additionally, the pre-schoolers mums and dads will receive financial support and a number of bursaries will be funded to help send Winton school leavers to University.

Mr Ian McDonald in his closing remarks thanked all performers and supporters for making this year's Charity Concert an unforgettable event.

Mal Beveridge



STOP PRESS!

A new written competition will be run in 2020 as part of the King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge & Bush Festival at Murrurundi, NSW. The already popular Poets' Breakfast awards best walk-up poetry performance, judged by Carol Heuchan. Next year, \$500 prize money has been ear-marked for the inaugural Written Competition, with sections for Serious and Humorous poetry and overall Champion.

Carol has regularly been the featured performer at King of the Ranges Festival and just loves the whole event, saying it is, without a doubt, her favourite Aussie Festival.

Keep an eye out on the ABPA website for the entry forms soon and start planning for this exciting, dinky-di Aussie event. Enjoy the poetry and see - first hand - our own Stockman and women become legends. Whip-cracking, packhorse, cross-country, trick riding, bareback, saddle bronc. riding and brumby catching are all just part of the action. The kids are country kids – bullet proof and keen as mustard to have a go at things like wild goat racing! Yep, fair dinkum feral goats are harnessed to carts and kids hop in and take their chances! Spills and thrills and heaps of fun. Book your camping or accom. (limited) now for 27-29 Feb. 2020 see www.kingoftheranges.com.au



KING OF THE RANGES STOCKMAN'S CHALLENGE & BUSH FESTIVAL

The 2020 Inaugural WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

\$500 Prize money!

Original Serious 1st \$100 2nd \$30 3rd \$20

Original Humorous 1st \$100 2nd \$30 3rd \$20

Best Poem overall will receive an additional \$200

ENTRY FORM available from www.abpa.org.au

\$10 per poem or for two poems

Critique (if required) additional \$10

Entries to:

The Secretary, Kay Seath (KOTR)
17/28 Deaves Road, Cooranbong. 2265
Enq: 0416 262399
Email (enquiries only): kaysie2@hotmail.com

Dear Poettes -

To all my special Poette friends -

At the 2019 Poettes Show in Tamworth I announced that after 23 (or more ?) years I have decided to take off my Poettes Hat and pass it on to two of my dear Poette friends Marion Fitzgerald and Jacqui Warnock.

I have enjoyed every moment of my years organising this Show every Tamworth, of meeting so many talented women, and of the wonderful camaraderie we have all enjoyed and I know you will continue to enjoy at these happy afternoons - I want to Thankyou all for your support and friendships over the years.

As you will read elsewhere in this publication Marion and Jacqui will be focussing on a particular Charity and I will be forwarding to her for this Charity over \$500 which I have had in a Bank account to pay for Poette 'incidentals' over the years.

My best wishes and grateful thanks to you all
Trisha Anderson

The Maldon Folk Festival was held on the 3rd 4th and 5th of Nov with a Poets show held each of the three mornings at The Wicked Temptations Café Courtyard. The audiences were entertained by the three hosts, Graeme Johnson The Rhymer from Ryde, Noel Bull and Eric Purdee. Walkups were welcomed as well with some great performances from Tom OConner, a well known poet at festivals, along with some people performing for the first time, including children. Poet brekkys like this play a role in poets gaining experience and helping them to become better performers. These shows now play an important part at this festival and we hope they continue to foster Bush Poetry.

Cheers Noel Bull

PAPPINBARRA DREAMTIME

© Tom McLveen.

Winning Poem Serious Section W.A. Championships Silver Quill 2019.

In the hills of Pappinbarra, there was once a sacred jarrah
growing eastward of the Great Dividing Range.
It's been withered, parched and battered and then broken down and scattered
by the hands of time and stormy winds of change.

It has suffered deprivation, famine, drought and dehydration
from a thousand blazing suns and raging fires.
It has seen the bush advancing, while the Koori tribes were dancing
to appease their Gods' insatiable desires.

In the days before Eingana, Rainbow Serpent and Goanna,
there was nothing here but desert, rock and sand.
Then the Goddess of the mountains had created streams and fountains
to revitalise this parched and barren land.

So it came to be that later, given form by their creator,
that the first of Earth's inhabitants appeared.
They were sent to Pappinbarra with a seed of sacred jarrah,
to be cultivated, nurtured and revered.

Soon the tree had thrived and flowered and its canopy had towered
high above the bushland reaching for the sun.
It had spread and propagated till the forest was created
from the wilderness where Dreamtime had begun.

In the forest there were creatures with extraordinary features
they'd inherited from prehistoric spore.
Some were bold and rainbow feathered, others timid, grey and weathered
by those winds and blazing suns from days of yore.

There were frogs and snakes and spiders and nocturnal squirrel gliders,
and of course the wallabies and kangaroos.
In the foliage around them, as if trying to astound them,
were the pink galahs and screeching cockatoos.

Then the white-man came and plundered and the Koori Gods had wondered
why he trampled, desecrated and destroyed.
He had left the forest bleeding and the Koori tribes receding
from the pristine paradise they'd once enjoyed.

He had gorged himself and squandered as his progeny had wandered
far afield in search of misbegotten gains.
The koalas dozed and dithered as the Rainbow Serpent slithered
down the mountain side in search of new terrains.

Now today in Pappinbarra, there's a stand of sacred jarrah
that's as primitive as prehistoric man.
Though the locals will defy it and authorities deny it –
I believe it's where the Dreamtime first began.



SANTA'S TRAVELLING THE MILKY WAY

©Tony Caswell (TC The Goodna Gunna)

Santa Claus is coming to town
Well, that's what I've been told
He's coming from the top of the World
From a place they call The North Pole

He plans to visit every country
One being the Land of Oz, Australia
And because he has the Aussie Spirit
Santa never dreams of failure

He's read all the letters and cards
The elves have filled his magic sleigh
And he has told his reindeers
"Tonight we're travelling the Milky Way"

"Australia is a big land" he said
Where Natures beauty will never cease
It's filled with people from many Nations
Who wish to enjoy freedom and peace"

He knows where everybody lives
Each gunyah, unit, caravan and house
And when the reindeers land on your roof
They land as quietly as a mouse

So parents, put your children to bed
And make sure they are sound asleep
Because when Santa does his magic
No one's allowed to take a peek

And children, if you want Santa to come
There's something you have to do
That is to be happy, polite and good
Then on Christmas Day, there'll be a gift for you



Tony Parry

When You Wish on a Star

By Grahame "Skew Wiff" Watt.

I wished on a Star last Friday,
I wished for a Cloud- Oh! So wide
For the Land to be covered in Raindrops,
And the Rivers to rise with the Tide.

I wished for the Land - re-invented --
For Rain - to put out the Fire,
So Koalas and Wrens 'nestle' safely,
And 'Joeys' have Mums they require.

I wished for Green Bush and Green Pasture,
And Water-Holes filled to the brim,
Where 'Yabbies' and 'Tadpoles' are happy,
And 'Platypus' learn how to swim.

I wished for a season of 'Dampness',
Where 'Flooding' and 'Down-pour' is rife,
For Red-Gum and Wattle to flourish,
And the 'Goodness' of Rain to bring Life.

I wished on a Star last Friday,
Yes! down on my knees once again.
-- Now I hear the 'Patter' of Raindrops,
And I smell the Sweet Fragrance of RAIN.

From waltz to rock 'n' roll

By Robyn Sykes

From east to west the sun's rich rays spread rampant self-esteem
in playgrounds full of knee-high grass where sheep and cattle dream.
Creeks play chasings, hear them laugh! Rocks tease with hide and seek.
The soil is drunk on water. Cross your fingers luck won't leak!

The climate spins like whirligigs now carbon's die is cast.
My heart knows it's a spiral, but my bones hope good times last.
Did Mother Earth consent to those Caesareans for coal?
La Niña and El Niño switch from waltz to rock 'n' roll.

The dry-eyed earth's repressed emotions rumble deep inside
as dust forms scabs to dress the sores the sceptic eyes denied.
Paddocks, bare as bandages, are barren wastes that bind
my life to anguished Mother Earth, both faces drawn and lined.

The climate spins like whirligigs now carbon's die is cast.
My heart knows it's a spiral, but my bones hope drought won't last.
Did Mother Earth consent to those Caesareans for coal?
La Niña and El Niño switch from waltz to rock 'n' roll.

With heatwaves, cyclones, blizzards, fires, Earth bellows "That's enough!
You big-brains learn some manners, or my lessons will get rough.
Famine mixed with flood creates a placid averaged sum
You dare to think I'm average? I will crush you with one thumb."

The climate spins like whirligigs now carbon's die is cast.
My heart knows it's a spiral, and my bones agree at last.
Did Mother Earth consent to those Caesareans for coal?
La Niña and El Niño switch from waltz to rock 'n' roll.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WA

NAMBUNG COUNTRY MUSIC AND POETRY FESTIVAL

Another wonderful festival put together by hosts Brian and Gloria White of Nambung Station, Cervantes WA was enjoyed recently.

Just over 1100 visitors were entertained with 4 days of quality music and 10 poets shared the stage producing some outstanding poetry. Profits from this event go to Make A Wish Foundation.

NAMBUNG.
TOODYAY.



Central part of crowd at Nambung



Left Christine Middleton on stage

W.A. Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn.



above Bev Shorland

Below Barry Higgins, Tim Sheed, Alan Aitken, Cobber Lethbridge, Stinger Nettleton Bill Gordon, Rob Gunn , Roger Cracknell.



TOODYAY BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

WA State Championships attracted good entries this year and the Toodyay community once again made us feel very welcome . Blustery weather did not deter our crowd and we had good audiences throughout the weekend. All monetary donations received went to the Qld Drought Appeal.

Judges Tim Sheed, Geoffrey Graham and Jeff Swain commented on the high standard of poetry performed. An added attraction this year was Christine Middleton playing her harp between performances.



L to r Festival Secretary Meg Gordon, Christine Middleton, ABPA President Tim Sheed (Judge), WA President Bill Gordon, Geoffrey Graham (Judge)



L to r Overall Winner with Toodyay Shire Shield Roger Cracknell. Rusty Christensen Yarnspinning Shield Bill Gordon



Yarnspinners 1 to r Rob Gunn 3rd, Arthur Leggett 2nd, Toodyay Shire Rep. Cr. Susan Pearce, Bill Gordon 1st



Original Serious 1 to r Ray Jackson 3rd, Peter Blyth 2nd, Shire Rep Cr. Susan Pearce, Roger Cracknell 1st



Poets Brawl Winner Peg Vickers with Toodyay Shire Rep Cr. Susan Pearce



Traditional 1 to r Roger Cracknell 1st, Peter Nettleton 3rd, Shire Rep Cr. Susan Pearce, John Hayes 2nd.



Original Humorous 1 to r Arthur Leggett 1st, Shire Rep Cr. Susan Pearce, John Hayes 2nd, Bill Gordon 3rd.

Bush Poetry's Dead

© (Old Grumpy) Harry Bestwick

Bush poetry's dead...("No way" I reply)
Not while ever a bushman, sits watching a fire
In his head, there are stories...all dancing about
All whirling around as they wait to get out.

All the things that he's seen, while he works through the day
The old mossy horn cow, as she chased him away
The broilgas that danced on the grass down the flat
The kite hawk swooping low, as she dived on the rat

The stumbling night horse, that fell really hard
When the cattle mob rushed, (a tree crashed near the yard)
Limping back in next morning...broken ribs...(two to match)
The night camp deserted...his horse hard to catch.

Bush poetry's dead...("No way" I reply)
Not while this old bushman...recites round the fire
My verse may be rough...but the rhythm's quite fair
With a group of grey nomads...my poems I share.

They all flock to my fire...with a chair and a drink
For a bucket of laughs...before one (makes them think)
My verse might not be good...but of that, I'm not sure
For next night they're all back, and demanding some more.

(Maybe in towns...when on stage in big halls,
the numbers might dwindle...there could be some falls)
But out in the bush...where the grey nomads camp
The bush poem is king...with each poet a king!

Bush poetry's dead...(AT THE GRASS ROOTS...NO WAY!)
Round a fire, way up north...where the grey nomads play
The group may be massive...or could be, less than eight
Bush poetry's booming...it's not dying, old mate.

Ipswich Poetry Feast Awards Open Age – Bush Poetry

1st	Kelly's Corner	Heather Knight
2nd	Australia in Extremis	Catherine Lee
3rd	A Simple Epitaph	Tom McIlveen
Runners Up		
Highly Commended	Mallee Farmer	Max Merckenschlager
Highly Commended	From Gallipoli with Love	Tom McIlveen
Highly Commended	Song of the Water-Lilies	Max Merckenschlager
Highly Commended	Walk a Mile in Our Shoes!	David Campbell

The Ipswich Local Poet Award went to
Leonie Parker with The Last Summer Rose

DRY OUT THERE

© Leo (Huggy) Huyghebaert

That wind is biting at my ears
My eyes are cold and full of tears
I'm standing here no-one's around
Gidgee and spinifex abound

A fire now, some billy tea
The stars a swag just them and me
Out here 'neath the Southern Cross
The city's well they're no great loss

At last I found my way back home
Where as a child I used to roam
Mid July and cold here at night
Tomorrow will be clear and bright

There's that feeling I belong
A heartfelt pain that's very strong

A sleepless night of memories
How we'd ride and chase brumbies
Of climbing trees and childhood pranks
And sliding in the dam of banks

Shame the water has left the dam
Just bones and horns and one less ram
No yabbies now like we caught then
From boys we all grew into men

We've moved to places far away
But in my heart this place will stay
Though dry and dusty rain will come
Yet sadly though too late for some.

Finalists in the Nandewar Poetry Competition 2019

To Learn To Lose by Robyn Sykes – First Place

Kelley's Corner by Heather Knight – Second Place

Mackenzie's Son by Heather Knight – Third Place

Old Man Drought by Tom McIlveen – Highly Commended

Nearly Lovers by Robyn Sykes – Highly Commended

A Precious Chance by Shelley Hansen – Highly Commended

Congratulations to all those who managed to gain awards.
Thank you all for your support.

Max Pringle O.A.M.



Our Poetry Kids

with Brenda Joy

"Catherine is an avid reader. She is especially passionate about descriptive writing and enjoys researching history and other interesting subjects to inform her work." Catherine wrote these

poems as a Year 6 project at the Ravenswood School for Girls in North Sydney. The poems are based on fictional characters from the First Fleet.

Forever Young

by Catherine Swemmer

A young, young boy by nature,
a stowaway by name,
A young, young boy still growing,
a boy to take the blame.

Great care for young Tarheto,
guarantee of mateship,
all that lives must pass away,
keep stiff the upper lip.

Monsters of the sea bow down,
to his wisdom and splendour,
young Nick on board the ship, to
Captain's whip surrenders.

Sparkling moonlit seas glisten,
Silently humming and,
Waiting for the world to take,
It's rough, gnarled, silky hand.

"Yes sir" when he has done wrong,
an honest pleasant boy
who admits all his evil?
Like cats atop a buoy.

Evans gets to learn from him,
like age is turned around,
a young boy teaching adults,
his lessons are sound.

Knacks for reading, knacks for maths,
knacks for learning just that,
although Latin may not be,
Nick's meant to be format.

Questions and queries were asked,
when captain took his glance,
A short and stout red headed boy;
Nick didn't quite entrance...

The Scenes of Toil, Enslavement and Urging

by Catherine Swemmer

The cobble stone aisle swayed
underneath her blistered feet.
The rugged calico shredded her hands as she
toiled,
toiled at the forfeiture of a loved one,
toiled at the inhumanity of her proprietor,
toiled at the ugly bloodstain
on the rugged tapestry.

She stared at the subcompacts hightailing by.
She longed to escape from her enslavement,
the enslavement of love,
the enslavement of hope,
the enslavement of joy.

For five nights and six days she worked
from dawn till dusk.
She screamed at the murderous scene
pictured on the tapestry,
a scene that was foolhardy,
a scene of blood and gore,
a scene of love gone amiss.

Enraged redcoats with grotesque black boots
and lanky rifles marched by,
urging her to work faster and harder,
urging her to forget her life in England,
urging her not to speak,
urging her to become a machine.

Around her bourgeois bawled tearfully,
unmerciful redcoats glared from every angle,
everyone bitterly repented signing up for this,
the measly meals,
the horrible help,
the famished, scorching summers.

Both poems - © 2017 Catherine Charlotte Swemmer (at age 11) pre-published in *Free Expression* 2018. 07/08

Catherine's poem *The Scenes...* was previously published in *Oz Kids in Print* in August 2017.

Great Aussie Reads



On behalf of all ABPA Members and Poetry fans in general, it is with great pleasure that this issue, instead of publishing book reviews by Jack Drake, that we repay the favours he has performed over all these years by publishing news that Jack has released his own latest book. He and his lovely wife Stella, will be launching the new book on 10th December at the Art Gallery in Stanthorpe. Feel free to drop in if you are in the area.

PRESS RELEASE

Bronco Harry's Last Ride

Following many requests from Bush Poetry fans, Jack Drake from Stanthorpe, has finally produced his second book of Bush Ballads and Yarns published by Boolarong Press.

"Bronco Harry's Last Ride" contains 84 hilarious and serious, original poems written by Jack, plus 7 short stories from the bush.

His first book of poems "The Cattle Dog's Revenge" was originally published in 2003 and has sold over 10,000 copies. Jack has also written two books comparing historical events from Australia and America. Both countries has a Wild West!

Jack has also released five CDs of poems through Restless Music Studios plus a school package for teachers eager to enthuse their students with Australia's Bush Poetry Classics.

"Bronco Harry's Last Ride" will be launched at the Stanthorpe Art Gallery on Tuesday 10th December, 2019 from 6 pm. All poetry fans are welcome to come along and the book will be available there for sale and signing.

Jack has been writing and performing for 25 years in Queensland, northern NSW, Western Australia and New Zealand. As well as judging performance and written Bush Poetry competitions. He is going to Tasmania in 2020.

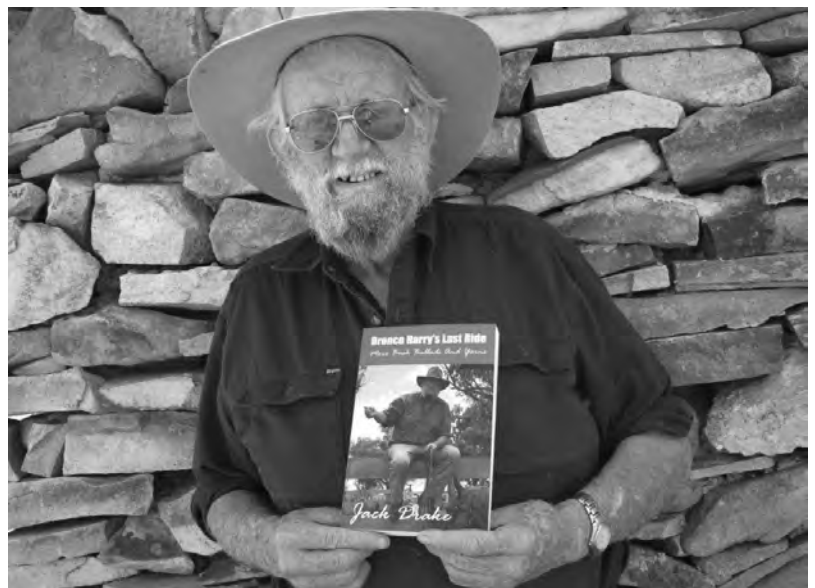
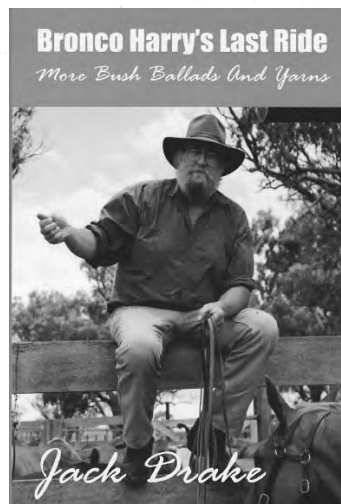
For more information see Jack's website www.jackdrake.com.au. Books and CDs are available from Ballandean Estate or by postal order from Jack at jdrake@halenet.com.au.

IT'S FINALLY HERE

JACK DRAKE'S NEW BUSH POETRY BOOK

BRONCO HARRY'S LAST RIDE

More Bush Ballads and Yarns



Jack proudly showing off his latest, wonderful book.

We will return to Jack's regular Book Reviews in Great Aussie Reads in our next issue.

Available from Jack \$30 plus \$6 postage

Website: www.jackdrake.com.au

Postal: P.O. Box 414, Stanthorpe Q 4380

Email: jdrake@halenet.com.au

Phone: 07 46837169

More great Aussie reads at www.outbackbooks.info

Henry Lawson. Henry Lawson

© Jack Drake

Henry Lawson, Henry Lawson..... life was never kind to you.
You had little gift of hearing and depression made you blue.
You bore the cross of separateness. It drove you to the bottle
but dysfunction, pain and poverty could never truly throttle.

The wordsmith there inside you who came bursting forth in verse.
You flew the flag of common men - the best, the rest, the worst.
You saw the faces in the street, the wastrel, drunk and whore,
and captured them in living verse to live forever more.

You tramped the track to Hungerford in hazy distance far.
You sailed out through Sydney Heads, crossed Mallacoota Bar,
the shanties and the sandstone street, the mountains and the tide,
New Zealand and the Golden West, then hard by Sydney side.

I've seen the old brick fireplace, the only part still standing
of a simple home that nurtured you and kept your soul expanding.
I've seen your final resting place – a grave adorned with shell,
when death arrived to bring you peace and free you from your hell.

Henry Lawson, Henry Lawson... poor, lonely, tragic man.
The words, the prose, the poetry, the ragged race you ran.
You trod a line so ill defined between success and failure
to become the voice who handed down the essence of Australia.

WHY ME?

© Jack Drake

The rains all failed and where grass once grew there was nought but dust and sand,
and the first of drought squeezed each last drop of hope from the wasted land.
The sheep all died and the cattle too, and my favourite stockhorse mare.
Behind the stable all life expired. I found her lying there.

It was all too much for my wife to bear. She ran off with a travelling man
and left me there on the wasted land to do the best I can.
"Could it all be worse" I cried as I looked at that sky of cloudless blue.
My daughter arrived with a child inside to tell me her bloke shot through

And she brought the news of my only son. His business in town had failed.
In desperate straits he had turned to crime and faced twenty years in jail.
I stumbled blind to the dusty yard. I fell to the ground and wept
and that's when I noticed my faithful dog, dead by the back yard steps.

It was then that the fire came over the ridge and consumed the place in flames.
The fire and drought tore my life blood out. I despaired to try again.
With my hand on my heart and the tears on my cheeks, I asked my maker "Why?"
and that's when the thunder rumbled 'round and dark clouds filled the sky.

The raindrops beat on the burnt out roof like a drum to seal my fate.
I knew in my heart that this was the end. Too late. Too late. Too late!
My life's work wrecked. My family ruined, and why? There was no explaining
and now as if God was just rubbing it in, it was finally gonna start raining.

I got to my knees in the ash of my dreams and I clasped my hands in prayer.
"Why me God? What did I do to you?" I cried in my dark despair,
and a voice boomed out from the sky above as the storm clouds heaved and tossed.
"I dunno Jack, but there's something about you that really pisses me off!"

Jack Drake

Born in New Zealand, he loved the words of Banjo Paterson from the age of 10. Now an Aussie his life long experiences with horses, sheep, cattle and all bush things adds a ring of authenticity to his renditions.

Now a second volume of Bush Ballads and Yarns in the same style, has been compiled by Jack – Bronco Harry's Last Ride.

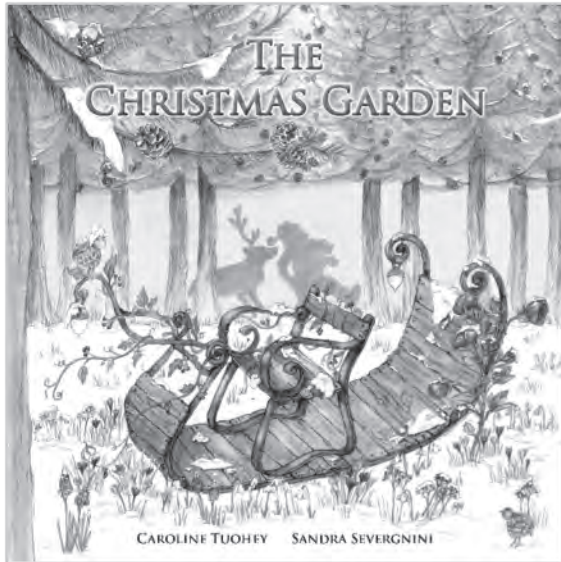
Bush Poetry Awards Won by Jack Drake

- Bush Poet of the Year, 2001. The Asthma Foundation of NSW
 - Winner, Original Performance, National Bush Poetry Championship. Brisbane EKKKA 2001
 - The Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush, Written 1999, Performance 2000 & 2001
 - Australian Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth, Finalist with The Cattle Dog's Revenge CD, 2002
 - Australian Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth, Finalist with Dinkum Poetry CD, 2003
 - Golden Gumleaf Trophy at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth, 2004 for
 - best, Original Verse Book of the Year with The Cattle Dog's Revenge Bush Ballads and
 - Yarns published by CQUPress. Second publication by Boolarong Press.
 - Australian Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth. Finalist with Bronco Harry's Last Ride CD, 2006
 - Golden Gumleaf Trophy at the Australian Bush Laureate Award at Tamworth for Best
 - Album of the year 2011 with his CD Australian Bush Poetry Classics
- The Australian bushman's sense of humour is legendary: dry, laconic and with a good bite. Jack Drake is one of Australia's best writers and reciters of this comic bush verse. But he also has a great sense of the farcical and the crazy tall story. These are more ballads and yarns you'll be wanting to recite in the evenings on the verandah. Again, we guarantee a belly-full of laughs or your money back.

Looking for a Rhyming Christmas-Themed Picture Book?

Check out ABPA member Caroline Tuohey's newest release

'The Christmas Garden' published by Little Pink Dog Books.



Available from all good bookshops (shopfront and online).

Signed copies available directly from Caroline –
www.carolinetuohey.com
or email carolinetuohey.com
RRP \$24.95 Hardcover

THE BETTY OLLE POETRY AWARD 2019 – RESULTS

1ST Irene Dalgety Timpone Atherton Qld 'Down the Track'
2ND Catherine Lee Mona Vale NSW 'Gentlemen Heroes'

Highly Commended Val Wallace Glendale NSW 'G'day to all the Lonely People'

Highly Commended Heather Knight Wentworth Falls NSW 'MacKenzie's Son'

Highly Commended Irene Dalgety Timpone Atherton Qld 'Remembering Bill the Bastard'

Highly Commended David Campbell Aireys Inlet Vic 'Guilt'

Highly Commended Brenda Joy Charters Towers Qld 'Outreaching Still'

Commended Robyn Sykes Binalong NSW 'Just one Word'

Commended Shelley Hansen Maryborough Qld

'Among my Souvenirs'

Commended Carol Heuchan Cooranbong NSW 'Poppie'

Commended Brenda Joy Charters Towers Qld 'Coal Mine Convict'

Commended Catherine Lee Mona Vale NSW

'Fallen Majesty'

THE BETTY OLLE JUNIOR POETRY AWARD 2019 – RESULTS

1ST Caspar West Hawthorne Qld 'Devil-Eyed Horse'

2nd Peyton Croft Kyabram Vic 'Aussie Animals'

Highly Commended Melanie O'Shanassy Kyabram Vic 'Echidnas'

Sapphire City Festival 2019

As part of the great family of bush poets, it is always a pleasure to be invited to present poetry at the coming together of people at a festival. The Poets Breakfast, part of the Sapphire City Festival in Inverell, held annually on the last weekend of October, takes place in a lawn amphitheatre in picturesque Campbell Park, right in town and beside the Macintyre River.

During the morning some children from local schools did a great job presenting their poems, some of them original works and many featuring the drought and longed for rain.

A couple of local poets also took to the stage but mostly it was me entertaining the crowd.

As I was including a railway poem in my repertoire, I had done a little research prior to my visit and discovered that from 1901 Inverell had had a railway service to Sydney, via Moree and taking 24 hours, in the early days. With the demise of railway travel, the last train departed Inverell station in 1987. Recalling this, it was gratifying to me, when, later in the day a member of the audience told me that she had actually been a passenger on that final train.

My railway poem, inspired by the commemoration of 150 years of NSW Railways in 2003, and written for my school friend Judy Wilson, from Collarenebri, pertains to the "school trains" and the tiny community of Pokataroo, 100 miles NNW of Narrabri. Now, little more than a "blink and you'll miss it", it once survived and thrived as a bustling community, as many places did, because of the railways.

Usually, after presenting this poem people will approach me with recollections of their own rail journeys. Recently at a Rotary Drought Support bar-b-q, I was inundated by people in the audience wanting to take to the microphone and recall their own experiences, many of them quite humorous, travelling to and from boarding school on the trains. A very good ice breaker.

I am reminded of Noel Stallard's poem, The Poet's Gift which says:

"When poets write they draw upon events they've seen or heard and couch these life experiences in rhythmic rhyming word. And though the poet's memories seem unique to them in time, their verses to their listeners can recall a paradigm of similar experiences the listener wouldn't find unless the poet triggered off this recall to their mind....."

In Inverell, a rare treat was that I was able to present my poem, with the lady for whom it was written in the audience there.



Keepers of our Heritage

© Shelley Hansen 2019

Winner, 2019 National Henry Lawson Award for Traditional Rhyming Verse

If you feel the urge to travel, with a passion to unravel
precious pieces of our heritage that make us who we are,
you'll be offered many chances through technology's advances
to imbibe tall tales and true – from the sublime to the bizarre!

If you make the choice to enter some iconic tourist centre,
you may marvel at the wonder of a "sound and light" display,
hear the stories told with vigour by a holographic figure
which transports you on a voyage to relive a bygone day.

These displays are eyebrow-raising, but although we're rightly praising
their technique and innovation that invades our ears and eyes
with a glimpse of former glory – there is much more to the story
of the keepers of our heritage beneath Australian skies.

There is more than just a semblance of the spirit of remembrance
far beyond the beaten track where tourist buses never go.
Where a gold coin grants permission to embrace an exhibition
that recalls what you've forgotten, and reminds you what you know.

It's the amateur collections filled with shades of past reflections,
often housed in modest buildings in some lonely outback town.
It's the volunteers who tend them and defiantly defend them
from the ever-present threat of being closed or taken down.

It's the loving renovation of a crumbling railway station
that recalls the lost prosperity of wool "a pound a pound",
where the tea rooms, long neglected, have been cleaned and resurrected
with refreshments in the hope that passing footsteps will resound.

It's the work of small committees in the country and the cities
to unearth the buried stories lived by people of the past,
It's the effort of presenting, so that visitors frequenting
may remember and re-tell them – and the legacy will last.

Through each piece of rusty treasure we should take the time to measure
time and distance that we've travelled through a sea of calm and strife.
Whether maritime adventures, or an ancient set of dentures,
each can tell us tales that teach us what's important in our life.

We can see a farmer ploughing with his horse, his figure bowing
with the task of making furrows that are true and straight and deep,
and the blades, now still, remind us that we shouldn't look behind us
when the focus of the future is the vision we should keep.

We can feel the newsroom's clamour as the printing presses hammer
to produce the inky broadsheets that proclaim the daily news.
"Extra! Extra!" they are crying, as the passersby are buying
paper windows to a world too far away to shape their views.

Now, as life is quickly changing, with our values rearranging,
is it time to re-evaluate our notions of "true blue"?
For to be assured of knowing the direction we are going
we must understand the lessons of the past we've travelled through.

Whether large or small endeavour, town or country, or wherever,
we should "dip our lids" to keepers of the lives we used to lead,
for they truly are deserving, all those lovingly preserving
Aussie heritage in stories for our children's kids to read.



Murphy's Muster

© Ed Mahon

Contributed in memory by Russell Steel

Murphy had this mongrel dog,
Who never barked a lot.
His Mother called him Algernon,
But Murphy called him spot.

Now, Spot, he wouldn't muster cows
Nor would he muster sheep.
But any other animal
He'd muster in his sleep.

He loved to muster mozzies
And make 'em run all day.
Then fly into a billy can (and put the lid on)
So Murphy'd sleep the night away.

He mustered up some moonlight
One night when it was dark,
While Murphy read the Sunday Times.
Now, that was quite a lark.

And once he mustered Cane Toads
And drove 'em all the way
From Maroochydore to Townsville
And across to Morton Bay.

Then Murphy got a call one day
From a bloke who was in strife.
The kind of bloke who'd stand by you
And be your mate for life.

"I need a hand old mate," he said.
"I hate to ask of you.
But can you take a hundred drums of treacle
Down to Davenport, and be there by the end of June?"

"For my brother rang the other day
And a tear was in his eye,
'Cos he runs a bakery down there
And his treacle mine's run dry.

"Wow! From Bundaberg to Davenport
That's quite a lengthy trot.
Just hang on for a minute
while I check with my mate, Spot."

Well, Spot, he thought that this could be
His greatest crowning glory.
Him and Murphy heroes,
And more verses in this story.

They had to wait each morning
For the rising of the sun.
'Cos if they tried to leave when it was cold,
The treacle wouldn't run.

Disaster nearly struck one day,
Just ten miles from Yeppoon.
Miss Johnson's kindergarten class
Attacked with drippers and with spoons.

But Spot, the dog, he turned the round
And took 'em back to class.
The day was hot and sunny
And the treacle running fast.

But, with the cloying smell of treacle
As they passed along their way,
Some empty Golden Syrup tins
Snuck up and tried to stay.

Then honey jars and jam tins
Began to cluster round
The treacle like a magnet
As they approached each town.

And every day it took some time
To draft the interlopers out.
Spot would quickly round them up
And Murphy'd scream and shout

"Get way back there" cried Murphy, "get way
back."
And gave a whistle blast.
"Just slow 'em down ya bloody fool,
They're going way too fast."

But Spot knew what he was doing.
He'd seen what Murphy'd missed:
A little jar of Vegemite
Had snuck into their midst.

So, from Camooweal to Dubbo
And down the Kosciusko track,
From Corryong to Bairnsdale
Old Spot ran up and back.

'Cos Spot just kept them moving.
Not too quick and not too fast
Then down to Phillip Island
And towards Bass Straight at last.

They hit the water at a run
That soon became undone.
'Cos the water in the Straight was cold,
And once again, the treacle wouldn't run.

Then great big pods of Humpback Whales
And schools of Tuna too,
Came racing in to feed on what
To them was treacle stew.

But one more time it was old Spot
Who to the rescue came.
He found his voice and barked and barked
and barked and barked and barked
And rounded up those treacle drums again.

And when at last to Tassie's shore
The travelling treacle came,
Murphy stopped to have a spell.
And Spot, he did the same.

"Well, there you go," cried Murphy
To the man who baked the cakes.
"A hundred drums of treacle,
And only four weeks late."

"Well, that's no good," the baker said
"You are so very late.
you'll have to take 'em back again.
They've passed their use-by-date."

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

2020 A.B.P.A. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Incorporated will be held at St.Edward's church hall, Hillvue Road, South Tamworth, at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 20th January, 2020. At that meeting, all office bearing positions will be declared vacant.

OFFICE BEARER NOMINATION FORM

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

Nominations of candidates for election as Executive, Ordinary Committee or State Delegates must be made in writing on this form, signed by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Secunder. This form must be delivered to PO Box 644 Gladstone Qld. , 4680 or signed, scanned and emailed to treasurer@abpa.org.au at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the office bearing vacancies, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and nominations for the unfilled position/s may be received from the floor at the AGM.

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

Nominee(Please print)

Address:.....

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

Nominated by(Please print)

Address:.....

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

Seconded by(Please print)

Address:.....

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

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

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

be used. I,.....(Please print full name)

of.....(address) being a financial member of the

Australian Bush Poets Association, hereby appoint(Please print full

name of proxy) of.....(address)

as my proxy to vote for me, on my behalf for the following office bearer positions (please circle your choices) ALL POSITIONS OR specific office bearer position/s only as follows:- PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY COMMITTEE MEMBER STATE DELEGATE: QUEENSLAND NSW VICTORIA TASMANIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA WEST AUSTRALIA and for special resolutions (optional, circle if desired) as determined by the President, at the ABPA AGM to be held on Wednesday 20th January, 2020 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

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

ABPA AGM Nomination and Proxy Form 2015.11

THE RAY ESSERY VARIETY MUSTER

As the name suggests, Australia's legendary bush poet and raconteur, RAY ESSERY has assembled a diverse and talented cast for his RAY ESSERY VARIETY MUSTER at the Southside Uniting Church, Tamworth on Wednesday 22nd January at 7pm.

With Ray as the compere, anything could happen and undoubtedly will. Keeping Ray in line will be his good mate ERROL GRAY singing his backyard ballads and cracking up the audience with his comical take on our daily mundane lives.

Back in the 80's, the exquisite harmonies of THE GOTTANI SISTERS, took them from North Queensland to the world stages including Fan Fair in Nashville where they performed with the greats including George Jones, Lyn Anderson and The Jordanaires. Since then, they've toured extensively in Australia and the USA, and somehow, Ray has persuaded them to appear on his show. You can't miss these girls.

Rounding out this eclectic line up is the fiddling firecracker himself, PIXIE JENKINS. With one of the best violin tones, Pixie is one of the top fiddlers in Australia. He's played with everyone and anyone from Jimmy Barnes to, of course, John Williamson. As well as being a great musician, he is totally mad and hilariously unpredictable.

Tickets are \$20 and only available at the door on the night.



RESULTS OF WA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

held in Toodyay 1st-3rd November 2019

JUNIOR ORIGINAL 3rd Charleigh Zele
2nd Kalahni Brown
1st Clodagh Naglewicz
NOVICE - OTHER 3rd Charleigh Zele (My Country - Dorothea Mackellar)
2nd Anne Hayes (The First Surveyor - AB Paterson)
1st Heather Denham (When Dacey Rode The Mule - AB Paterson)
NOVICE - ORIGINAL 2nd Charleigh Zele (Smoke and Crackle)
1st Heather Denham (Skeletons in The Closet)
YARNSPINNING - 3rd Robert Gunn
2nd Arthur Leggett
1st Bill Gordon
TRADITIONAL - 3rd Peter Nettleton (O'Hara JP - Henry Lawson)
2nd John Hayes (An Old Master - CJ Dennis)
1st Roger Cracknell (Song of Old Joe Swallow - Henry Lawson)
MODERN - 3rd Arthur Leggett (While The Billy Boils - K. Goodchild)
2nd Bill Gordon (Who'll Give The Bride Away - Bob Magor)
1st Robert Gunn (Sinbad Smith - Dixie Solly)
ORIGINAL SERIOUS - 3rd Ray Jackson (Why Do I Cry)
2nd Peter Blyth (One of The Best)
1st Roger Cracknell (Droving Then And Now)
ORIGINAL HUMOROUS - 3rd Bill Gordon (The Boyup Brook)
2nd John Hayes (The Whole Hog)
1st Arthur Leggett (The Horse's Name is Rose Marie)
OVERALL RESULTS - 3rd Peter Blyth
2nd Bill Gordon
1st Roger Cracknell

SILVER QUILL WRITTEN VERSE 2019 RESULTS

Junior Written Verse
Third: Natalie Barr Into The Night (Croyden Hills Vic)
Second: Natalie Barr Is Anybody Out There
Winner: Natalie Barr My Home
Novice Written Verse
Highly Commended: John Dooley It's All Online (Toowoomba Qld)
Peter White The Retirement Village Review (Eagley Qld)
Third: Peter White The Pencil Pine and The Pussycat
Second: Peter White Bridget The Barmaid
Winner: John Dooley Miles of Just Nowhere Serious
Commended: Tom McIlveen The Wild One (Port Macquarie NSW)
Peter O'Shaunessy The Day The Guns Grew Still (Eaton WA)
Brenda Joy Imitation Eagles (Charters Towers Qld)
Highly Commended: Tom McIlveen A Simple Epitaph
Chris Taylor One Person's Point of View (Bunbury WA)
Equal Third: Tom McIlveen From Gallipoli With Love
Equal Third: Glenn Palmer Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (Jimboomba Qld)
Second: Tom McIlveen Old Man Drought
Winner: Tom McIlveen Pappinbarra Dreamtime Humorous
Commended: Max Merckenschlager The Pine Valley Murder Hunt (Murray Bridge SA)

TAMWORTH WORKSHOPS

BILL KEARNS Mon 20th Jan 10-11am

What judges are looking for in performances



GREG NORTH Mon 20th Jan 1-2pm

Performance



MANFRED VIJARS Tues 21st Jan 10-11am

From Bards to Bush Ballads



FRANK DANIEL WALK UP AWARD

Monday 20th 11-12 pm and 2-3pm

Tuesday 21st 11-12pm

Wednesday 22nd 9-10am

Thursday 23rd 10-11am Final

GOLDEN DAMPER PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

Tuesday 21st January 1-3pm Heat 1

Wednesday 22nd January 10am-12pm Heat 2

Thursday 23rd January 1-3pm Final

Winner in each category \$300 plus trophy

Second in each category \$200 plus certificate

Third in each category \$100 plus certificate



Regular Monthly Events

NSW

Illawarra Breakfast Poets meet every Wednesday at 7am at Marco Polo facility at Woonona. Ample parking, 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 Bush Poetry Group meets fortnightly 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm in the Pioneer Room, Senior Citizens centre south end of Gunster St, Port Macquarie. Contact Bill Yates 6583 3360, Barbara 6584 0208 or Bessie 6583 5255.

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 @ Cafe on Queen, 15 Queen St. In the studio by the Balgalal Creek. 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 Old School House at Christ Church, 39 Rutledge St, Queanbeyan. Enter via Church Lane. 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.

Wombat Bush Poets meet at 1.30 pm at the Young Hotel for poetry, music and open mic. Last Sunday of even months except December. Contact Ted Webber 0459 707 728

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poets Group meet at the rear of Coutts Cottage, Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Road Kurwongbah, on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month from nine a.m. to twelve noon. Contact the President Ian on 0427212461 or the Secretary Mal on 0417765226.

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

Contact Marilyn 0458 598 683

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

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

Beaudesert Bush Bards meet on the **Second** 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.

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

Shorncliff "Poets of the Park" "Poets of the Park" meet at St Margaret's Church Hall in Sandgate, beside the primary. every 3rd Tuesday from 5-45 pm contact 042 15 14 555

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates Inc meet every first Tuesday of the month at Aitkenvale Library Meeting Room at 7:00pm. 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

Logan Performance Bush Poets - meet 2nd Sunday of every month, 9 to 11am at the Beenleigh Historical Village. 205 Mains Road Beenleigh. All Welcome. Breakfast available Ring Gerry 0499942922..

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

Perth 1st Friday monthly 7-9.30pm The Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley Park. Contact Rodger 0419 666 168 or Sue 0418 941 016

Albany 4th Tuesday monthly. Contact Peter 08 9844 6606

Bunbury 1st Monday even months 7pm. Rose Hotel. Contact Alan 0400 249 243 or Ian 0408 212 636

Geraldton 2nd Tuesday monthly. Beliar Caravan Park. Contact Roger 0427 625 181

Kalgoorlie 1st Wednesday monthly. Kalgoorlie Country Club. Contact Paul Browning 0416 171 809

GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 29-31 2019



GULGONG
FOLK FESTIVAL

*A John Dengate political parody writing competition,
and another regular folk song competition.*

This is new for 2019, and in two sections;

a) for writers up to 21 y.o.a and (b) for writers 21+ y.o.a.

*There is a wealth of material around us so get thinking,
get writing.*

** any questions? contact Di Clifford on 0458 032 150*

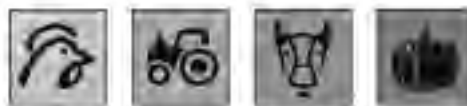
*Other customary festival features to be enjoyed again
include the Markets in Coronation Park, as well as Black-
board concerts and informal sessions in the hotels around
Mayne Street.*

Don't miss the Poets' Breakfasts!

*Morning music will be heard around Buskers' Corner, for
those not aspiring to the main stages.*

*For details pertaining to GFF 2019, go to
www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au*

MILTON SHOW SOCIETY BUSH POETRY



milton show
society

8AM POETS BREAKFAST WALK UPS WITH A DIFFERENCE.

PRIZE'S \$100 1ST \$60 2ND \$40 3RD ENTRANTS MAY
RECITE OR SING A SONG UNACCOMPANIED (WITHOUT
MUSIC)

OPEN PERFORMANCE COMPETITION TO START At 11 AM
TO BE HELD AT THE MILTON SHOW
IN THE JNA THOMPSON PAVILION
SAT 7TH MARCH 2020

OPEN COMP CARRIES A TOTAL OF
\$1500 PRIZE MONEY

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

MAXIMUM OF 15 PERFORMERS ACCEPTED ON FIRST IN
FIRST SERVED BASIS

Entries postmarked no later than 7th FEBRUARY 2020

Entry fee \$15

Entries to Poetry Coordinator John Davis 37 George
Avenue Kings Point NSW

2539

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

COMPLIMENTRY TEA & COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
THE VENUE.

DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS FROM ABPA WEB-
SITE 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

OUT NOW

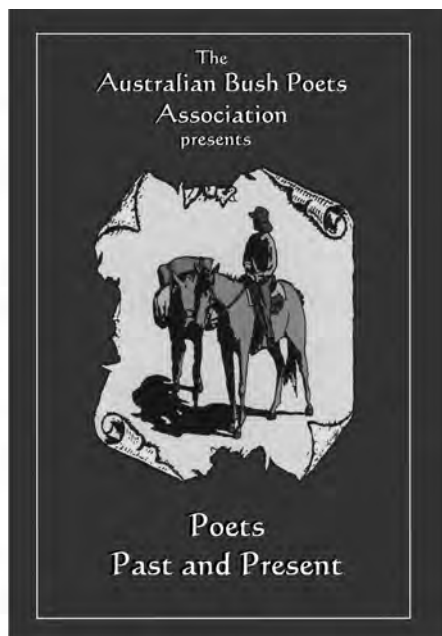
As promised.....

Our very own
'Who's Who' of
Modern Bush
Poetry

from our winning
Poets' archives
since ABPA
records began.

A 'must have' of
62 poets, 118
pages of poetry,
total of 192 pages.

'Evocative'



Thanks to Editor Will Moody and to contributors,
archivists, proof reader, helpers. Profits to ABPA.

\$28.00 per book posted. To order: post cheque with
details to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 644, Gladstone.
Qld. 4680, or direct bank deposit: ABPA. BSB:
633000. A/c:154842108 plus details, email or post.
treasurer@abpa.org.au Cheaper 7 £ over. In stock.

Cate Henry

POETTES in the Pink at Tamworth

For the past twenty two years, Trisha Anderson has presented the Poettes Show during Tamworth Country Music Week. It is the show that features lady poets from all parts of our great country, giving them the opportunity to bring homespun and traditional verse to the stage that expresses their sentiments, their journeys, their hardships and their triumphs. In January 2019, Trisha announced her retirement from the Poettes Show, handing the reins to Marion Fitzgerald (pictured right) and Jacqui Warnock (pictured left) to carry on her legacy.

Under their guidance, all interested lady poets will still have the opportunity to take to the stage – but under the banner of a new name and

a new purpose.

'Poettes in the Pink' is a show that celebrates the power of women in verse, and in doing so the ladies will have the honour of raising money for a cause close to their hearts The McGrath Foundation - to help place breast care nurses across Australia.

Lady entertainers who would like to participate in Poettes in the Pink in January 2020 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival should contact Marion on 0428-295135 mssfitz@bigpond.com or Jacqui on jackandjacqui@bigpond.com or 0427-944850 by 1st January 2020.



Poettes in the Pink



The Show that Celebrates the Power of Women in Verse
Wednesday 22nd January 2020 - 1.30 pm

TAMWORTH SOUTHSIDE UNITING CHURCH

440 GOONOO GOONOO ROAD – OPPOSITE THE BIG GOLDEN GUITAR

Admission: \$5.00

Proudly supporting the McGrath Foundation to place breast care nurses across Australia

Light lunch available from 12.30 – 1.30 Afternoon tea 3 – 3.30

Proudly brought to you by

R. M. WILLIAMS
EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA



CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF BUSH POETRY AT THE 2020 MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

2ND - 5TH APRIL 2020

JACK RILEY HERITAGE AWARD: MALE AND FEMALE

ONE MINUTE AND MFSR RECITAL COMPETITIONS

POETS' BREAKFASTS AND CONCERTS

DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORMS FROM THE WEBSITE FROM 8TH
DECEMBER 2019 OR CONTACT:

Jan Lewis: 02 6077 4332 or janlewis1@hotmail.com

BUSHFESTIVAL.COM.AU



WANTED:

PERFORMERS TO PRESENT POEMS, YARNS
AND SONGS IN CELEBRATION OF THE LAST
25 YEARS OF THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER
BUSH FESTIVAL - VISIT WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

BUSHFESTIVAL.COM.AU



towongshire



THE KEMBLA FLAME

Written Bush Poetry Competition 2020

PRESENTED BY

ILLAWARRA BREAKFAST POETS

Total prize money \$800, all prizes are *cash* with certificate.
To be announced at Illawarra Folk Festival, January 2020.

OPEN

First – The Kemplla Flame Trophy, \$300 and certificate.

Runner up – \$200 and certificate
plus two prizes \$100 and certificate.

NOVICE

\$100 and certificate.

Entry forms available from ABPA.ORG.AU Events page.

Entries close 23 December 2019



The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

www.abpa.org.au

Treasurer: Janine Keating PO Box 644 GLADSTONE QLD 4680

Email: treasurer@abpa.org.au Phone: 0417 648 125

Membership Application Form 2020

You may pay online at www.abpa.org.au or via direct debit (see below for details)

Renewing membership New member

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

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

Members joining after 30th September will receive the year's remaining issues as well as membership for the following calendar year.

Name:

Postal address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Email:

Signature: Date:

ABPA Membership Fees:	(AUD)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single membership	\$45	(posted magazine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Single membership	\$35	(emailed magazine only)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual family membership	\$60	(one posted magazine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dual family membership	\$50	(one emailed magazine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior membership	\$20	(under 18 years – emailed magazine)
<input type="checkbox"/> International member supplement	\$25	(for postage - not for emailed magazines)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Liability Insurance Package	\$95	(\$20 million PLI cover (31/01/2020 to 31/01/2021))
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership badge	\$10	(includes postage within Australia)

Total: \$ _____

Receipt please
 NO receipt thanks (your magazine address label will show your receipt number and membership expiry)

Cheque Payable to: **The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**
Postal address: **PO Box 644 GLADSTONE QLD 4680**

Or pay by direct deposit to:
Bank: Bendigo Bank
BSB: 633 000
Account Number: 154842108
Account Name: Australian Bush Poets Association Inc
Reference: Your NAME

Please include **your NAME** as the EFT reference and send advice to treasurer@abpa.org.au
or via post to P O Box 644 GLADSTONE QLD 4680