

The Australian



Bush Poets



Association

No 3 MARCH 1995.

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Poet's Corner

**Thank You, God,
for the Rain**

For ages we wrote of the drought and its trials,

Our worries we hid 'neath humour and smiles.

With envy we watched laden hay trains pass by,

Anxiously searching for clouds in the sky.

In times of trouble we know our true friends,

Their prayers echoed ours that drought would soon end.

Help came from many as burdens they shared,

To them we give thanks, all those folk who cared.

Our prayers are now answered as rain tumbles down,

Bringing new hope to the country and town.

Our land will recover, grow green grass again,

Humbly I say, "Thank You, god, for the rain!"

— FLO HART, Mt Tyson.



• **Winton a tent city**

There are three types of accommodation available at the Waltzing Matilda Centenary celebrations from April 6-17 at Winton.

A tent site is available for only \$7 or you can have a tent and site for \$25.

Then there's a tent with the works. This package offers everything you need including breakfast for \$60 a night.

It is suggested you book early by ringing Winton on either (076) 57 1544 or (076) 57 1188.

N. S. W. Notes from Joe

Tamworth. 21-29 January 1995.

The Annual Pilgrimage of Country Music fans to Tamworth was another resounding success for the organisers. Country music was naturally the theme of the Festival where unmistakably, the flavor of the day, every day, was Bush Poetry.

Followers of the Bush Poets and Yarn-spinners were well and truly catered for at the Longyard, the Oasis and at the Imperial Hotel. The Oasis held its' inaugural Bush Poetry Competition and promises to come back next year with an even bigger and better competition with the backing of a large corporate wine maker. More news later about this event as it comes to hand. Indebtedness to this new venue goes to Ron 'Boulia' Bates and mine host of the Oasis Hotel for their splendid efforts in promoting another venue for Bush Poets to expel their cultural wares upon the unsuspecting public.

Imperial Hotel Competition. The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group conducted another successful Blackened Billy Verse writing Competition which was taken out by last years winner, Mr. **Ron Stevens** of Hornsby. **Charlee Marshall** of Thangool Qld. placed second with his poem 'The Sausage King.' Third was **Carmel Randle** of Toowoomba.

From the remaining one hundred and thirty entries received, highly commended awards went to the following; Bobby Miller, Dave O'Sullivan, Ron Selby, Bob Magor, Veronica Weal, Bill Glasson and Gwendolyn Baker.

The Imperial Hotel reciting competition was heralded as the biggest and best since its inception. Over fifty five poets vied for honors in the Original and the Traditional sections over the four days of the contest.

The Original section was won by **Bob Miller** of Mungar, Qld. with possibly his most humorous poem ever, the 'Batchelors Return.'

Second place went to the incomparable **Gary Fogarty** of Goondiwindi, followed by **Charlee Marshall** of Thangool, Qld. (How's that for the Cane Toads?) A highly commended award went to **Noel Cutler** of Milawa, Victoria.

In the Traditional section, First Place was awarded to **Tim McLoughlin** of Scone, N.S.W. with his Thomas E. Spencer poem 'Not Too Bad.' Second was **Frank Daniel** of Canowindra, N.S.W. and **Geoffrey Graham** of Bealba, Vic. in third place. Highly commended was **Campbell 'the Swaggie' Irving**, who recited the Jim Haynes poem 'Dipso Dan.'

The Longyard. This ever popular venue saw capacity crowds lining up from as early as six thirty in the mornings for the Poets Breakfasts. **Jim Haynes** conducted the breakfasts as usual and although the number of poets was restricted due to the overwhelming number of prospective entertainers, it was a resounding success with some splendid performances coming forth.

Winner of the Tall Tales this year was **Milton Taylor** of Portland, N.S.W. with Frank Daniel runner up.

A new segment where Poets were required to deliver a spiel or a Poem about 'What Cheeses Me Orf' was won by **Gary Lowe** of Wyong, N.S.W.

The Poets Brawl was won by **Michael Darby** of Cloncurry Qld.

These three events were conducted by **Mark Giori** of Warwick, Qld, with the assistance of **Murray Hartin** and guest artists. A lot of enjoyment came from all of this, and as we were constantly reminded throughout the Festival that 'Poets Never Lie,' a lot of people went home believing that even the world really could be flat.

Mark Giori and **Murray Hartin** excelled themselves with a couple of concerts, aptly called 'One Night Stanzas,' at the Tamworth Baptist Hall. Considering that the old Church building didn't fall down with the attendance of **John Philipson** and **Ray Essery** shows that the Almighty must have a soft spot for Poets.

The troupe consisted of **Mark Giori**, **Murray Hartin** (Tamworth), **John Philipson** (Tamworth), **Shirley Friend**

(Bundaberg), Ray Essery (Mullumbimby), Marion Fitzgerald (North Star), Bob Miller (Mungar), John Major (Baralaba), and Gary Fogarty (Goondiwindi). Proceeds of the night went towards the local Motherhood Quest Appeal.

Starmaker winner, **Tanya Self**, of Maryborough, appeared at each of the Longyard performances as our special guest and, among others, sang her new self-written hits, 'The Dumaresq,' and 'He Just Knows.' Special mention must go to her Bass Guitarist, thirteen year old Benjy Pocock of Redcliffe. Look out for this young lady in the future. Congratulations Tanya, from all the Bush Poets.

Bush Poets At Bungendore. N.S.W. 4th February 1995.

A new attraction at the Tenth Annual Bungendore Country Muster was the inclusion of a Bush Poets Breakfast on Saturday, 4th February at 8a.m.

The Poets Breakfast was sponsored by the Light Horse Cottage and was held in the Garden of the Cottage in Gibraltar Street. Full credits to the organisers for the lovely cooked breakfasts supplied gratis to all the performers

The morning kicked off with some Tall Tales and recitals by former Bungendore district resident, Frank Daniel, who was also the M.C. for the Breakfast. **Leigh Brown** of Yass N.S.W. made a commendable contribution to this segment before taking her place as one of the Judges for the Bush Poetry Competition. Leigh was assisted by **Dot Coster** and **Barry Thornton** in this task.

Bush Balladeers came to Bungendore from as far away as the Snowy Mountains, Mudgee, Canberra and the South Coast as well as locally.

Winner of the Bush Poetry was **Mark Thompson**, followed by **Col Finley** and **John O'dell**.

Organisers of this first ever Bungendore Breakfast, Myles and Toni Flanagan of the Light Horse Cottage, are now more than convinced that their efforts have been well rewarded and have announced that another Breakfast and competition will be conducted next year at the Eleventh Bungendore Country Muster.

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association was held at Tamworth on the second weekend of the Country Music Festival.

Mevyn 'Bluey' Bostock of Cairns Qld was re-elected as President after his tremendous contribution during the past year. 'Blueys' dedication to the Bush Poets movement has been greatly appreciated, his personal input towards the big Winton Festival in April cannot be matched.

Vice-Presidents elected were, **Bob Miller** of Mungar, Qld, and **Frank Daniel** of Canowindra, N.S.W.

Ron Selby, of Drayton Nth. Qld. was returned as Secretary-Treasurer. Our sincere thanks to Ron on his first years efforts in this position as well as for his collating and distribution of the A.B.P.A. Monthly newsletter.

A Publicity Officer was elected for each State, with **Robert Raftery** representing Queensland, **Frank Daniel** - N.S.W., **Geoffrey Graham** - Victoria, **Bob Magor** - South Australia and **David Sell** - Tasmania.

Executive officers being the two Vice-Presidents and the Publicity Officers.

On the lighter side it must be noted that no ladies were elected by this Macho lot, but, by taking matters into my own hands, I feel that **Judith Hosier** of Brisbane be declared the **O.P.M.** (Official Poets Mum) for another twelve months and that **Carmel Randle** of Toowoomba be declared the **H.P.A.** (Honorary Poets Aunty) for the ensuing year. Where would we be without their organising talents. Carmels' assistance to the Secretary does not go un-noticed, and a special vote of thanks must go to her in her efforts towards the Winton programme. If you have any news of coming events, or other information that you feel would be of value to other Poets in your area please contact your state Publicity Officer.

For New South Wales, contact Frank Daniel, P.O. Box 16 Canowindra. N.S.W. 2804.

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Jim admits his heart's in music not books

TAMWORTH - Jim Haynes has recently released a new album and is in Tamworth for the Country Music Festival to do what he likes best - sing.

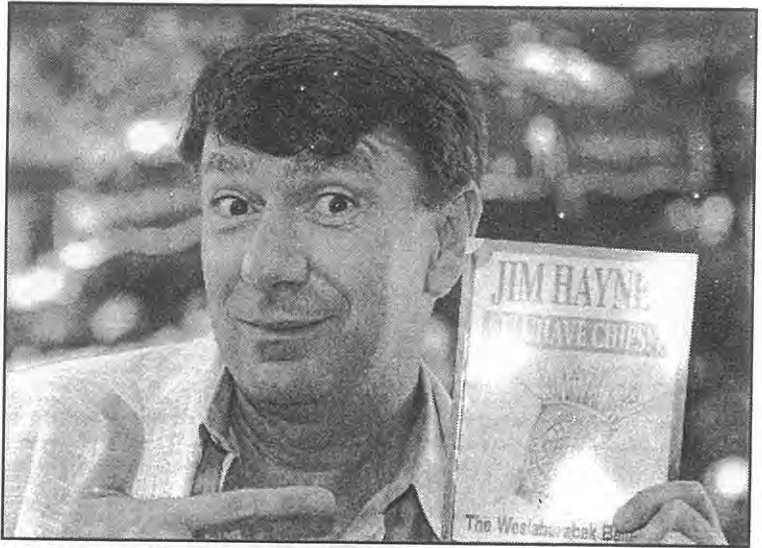
He's also here to release his long-awaited book of bush verse, *I'll Have Chips*.

But Jim said music, not writing, was where his heart laid.

"The album was a labor of love. A chance for me to record my songs the way I really wanted to with great musicians like Garry Steele, Lawrie Minson, Pixie Jenkins, Marcus Holden, Steve Newton and Andrew Clermont," Jim said. "But producing a book is nothing but sheer hard work."

When Jim combines his music with his wordsmithing talents, he produces some impressive songs.

One track called *Weelabaraback For Me* picked up the award for best Country Come-



Jim Haynes with the book that brought blood, sweat and tears, *I'll Have Chips!*

dy/Novelty song at the Tamworth Songwriters' Association awards on Wednesday night.

The book comes in response to many people asking Jim for

copies of the *Weelabarabak* poems, and also to the big public reaction the title poem received when it was broadcast recently.

But this week, Jim

will forget about his book as he belts out a few tunes at The Longyard Hotel.

"I don't want to think about it. I just want to sing."

'I'll Have Chips.' by Jim Haynes. \$15. inc, post from Singabout Australia
P.O. Box 183. KINGSFORD NSW 2032.

A magazine ran a poetry competition setting out three rules for submission; the poem had to rhyme, be brief and appeal to most people.

The winner is printed below.

PAY DAY.

From G. Young, MT COOLUM QLD.

JIM HAYNES



SINGABOUT AUSTRALIA
P.O. BOX 183
KINGSFORD NSW 2032
PH:(02) 663 4791

press release 9/2/95

Songwriting Award, new book and single release for Jim Haynes, Reluctant Author who just wants to Sing !

Hot on the heels of his new album release on EMI comes a big trifecta for **Jim Haynes** - "Comedy Song of the Year", a book, and a new single.

Jim was 'almost lost for words' when his song "**Weelabarabak For Me**" took out **Country Comedy Song Of The Year** in front of a packed house at the Tamworth Songwriters' Awards. "I was up against John Williamson, Graeme Connors, Colin Buchanan, Gina Jeffreys and Garth Porter," said Jim, "So I hadn't exactly prepared a speech. In fact, John bet me five dollars that I would win so maybe he knew something. Mind you I didn't mind losing the bet, I was glad to pay up."

The book, "**I'll Have Chips**", comes in response to the big public reaction the title poem received when it was broadcast recently. "The Weelabarabak stories have always been popular but this time we were knee-deep in letters," said Jim, "I really didn't want to take on book publishing after making the album and touring so much last year, but in the end we did it anyway. Making the album was a labour of love, but I discovered that producing a book is nothing but sheer hard work!"

Jim seems more excited about the release of a second single from his EMI Album "Here I Am". The song is '**Not Missing You**', an up-tempo original which he says is "great fun to sing". 'It's Country Today' have filmed a live video of the song for television airplay in February/March.

The Queensland Events Corporation have asked Jim to take the very successful "Best Of The Bush" Show to Winton in April for the ten day Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations. Jim will also host a new "Best Of The Bush" festival in Harden-Murrumburrah on the first weekend in March before heading to the Port Fairy Festival and the Illawarra Folk Festival on the two following weekends.

"It's great to have so much work," says Jim, "I really enjoy performing and singing - it sure beats writing books !!"

For EMI Press Kits, photos, interviews or more information contact:
Matthews Music/Kookaburra OR Singabout Australia
75 Denison St ROZELLE 2039 PO Box 183 KINGSFORD 2032
Ph 02 555 1066 fax 555 1301 Ph 02 663 4791

THE SWAGGIES WALK. CAIRNS TO WINTON.

The Swaggies Walk began in Cairns on February 11th and is still making it's way down the coast. President and fearless leader Bluey Bostock is heading the team of Bush Poets, Country singer and Didgeridoo player.

They have been performing in towns and schools where they have been warmly recieved and Bluey said, "we have reached thousands of children who will be the future leaders of this country and instilled in them the importance of keeping the Australian Traditions and Waltzing Matilda alive".

Just a word concerning the vehicles on the trip, the bus and mini bus are owned and registered by Blue Bostock and the trailer they are towing is registered in my name. There have been some minor problems on the mechanicle side of the trip but nothing our fearless leader could not handle with the assistance of our very valued sponsors.

Blue is putting in a sixteen hour day with the promotions and the organisation of the shows but he could do with some help to organize the shows for BUNDABERG on 24th March and MARYBOROUGH on 25th so if you could spare a little time on promoting these shows please give Bluey a call on 018 772613.

At the time of printing this magazine they are in Rockhampton and remaining dates are; EUMUNDI on 22nd, MIRIAM VALE on 23rd, BUNDABERG on 24th, MARYBOROUGH on 25th, BOONAH on 26th then a wee break to the 31st where they have been invited to appear at the TOOWOOMBA ROYAL SHOW then onto CHINCHILLA on the 1st APRIL and maybe a couple of towns before they reach WINTON for the start of the celebration on the 6th APRIL.

The Waltzing Matilda Celebrations and the town of Winton will be remembered in Australia's history due to the efforts of the Winton Committee, Bluey Bostock and the the members of the AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION.

BE A PART OF HISTORY, WALTZ YOUR MATILDA TO WINTON IN 95.

sincerely

Ron Selby,



Proudly sponsored by Aussie companies

AMPOL
DORF TAPS
DUNLOP & BEAUREPAIRES
R.M. WILLIAMS
EXIDE BATTERIES
DAY DAWN



Star line-up for Waltzing Matilda celebrations

By SAM STRUTT of AAP

WINTON: This is one time locals in the tiny western Queensland town of Winton will hope it doesn't rain.

Drought-ravaged or not, the 1500 townsfolk will look to the sky in April and pray that the heavens don't open, because the arid outback dot 1000km north west of Brisbane is gearing up for the party of a lifetime.

Everyone from Prime Minister Mr Paul Keating to artist Hugh Sawrey has been invited, and it's even been declared a public holiday.

On April 6, Australia celebrates the birth of part of its cultural heritage.

When Banjo Patterson first had *Waltzing Matilda* performed in the North Gregory Hotel in Winton on April 6, 1895, the locals knew it would go straight to the top of the charts and take pride of place as Australia's most enduring hit.

The *Waltzing Matilda* centenary promises 12 days of authentic outback entertainment from April 6-12.

From whip cracking con-



tests to the *Clancy of the Overflow* cattle drive, the Centenary celebrations have been geared towards providing tourists with the definitive outback Australian experience, whether it's your cup of billy tea or not.

With all 100 beds of fixed accomodation already sold out, the local council is busy building Tent City, a massive infrastructural nightmare.

About 10,000 already have booked and thousands more are expected to front during the fortnight.

Greyhound Pioneer Australia and McCafferty's coaches are making daily trips into Winton, Queens-

land Rail are freighting in the crowds and Flight West airlines will operate special services from Brisbane.

"We reckon we can fit about 5,000 tents in the local showgrounds, about 300 to 400 at the Catholic school and another 300 in between if we have to," Winton Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Mr Tim Rose said.

Club Patterson is the five star camping ground. For \$60 per night your tent will be provided, your breakfast cooked and they'll even make your bed.

Tent City, or Quart Pot Stopover, will set you back \$7 a night for the tent site and toilet and shower facili-

ties and there's the Squatters Rest where they'll provide the tent for \$25 per night.

If you're game, you could just unroll your swag and sleep under the stars.

What Tim Rose is hoping will bring in the numbers is a varied and well-planned entertainment line-up, mostly co-ordinated by the Queensland Events Corporation.

The *Waltzing Matilda* opening four-day pass costs \$50 and provides access to events from April 6-9 including entry to the Western Picnic Race meeting, the John Williamson opening night concert bush dances and the Aussie Country Music spectacular.

The last day pass also is \$50 and includes entry to the grand parade, a poets champagne breakfast, and the closing ceremony at the Royal Theatre.

The Swaggies Pass costs \$100 and allows access to all events and concerts.

Advance tickets can be booked through Ticketworld.



JOHN WILLIAMSON will perform at the opening night concert for the Waltzing Matilda celebrations in April.



LEE KERNAGHAN part of the line-up of top talent for the centenary in Winton

Celebrate the 100th Birthday Party for Waltzing Matilda

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP

BREAKFAST WITH THE BARDS

Pushing past the Showground's gate
pass underneath memorial arch
wrought iron lattice with ruddy tinge
squeaks rustily upon the hinge
Past the charred and blackened pit of campfire
drizzle's drops ignite to hiss and steam
Swaggies curled foetal beside their billy's
stir, sluggish from last night's Guinness binge

Stomach's pit is stirred by hunger
felt above the clamour of headache's din
Those with hardy constitutions
scoff sausages, charcoaled and thin
Corn cobs golden, teeth-a-chatter, running yellow down my chin
Hair of the dog, abstinence, coffee and tea
remedies plied to assuage the hangovers
breakfast with the bards is about to begin

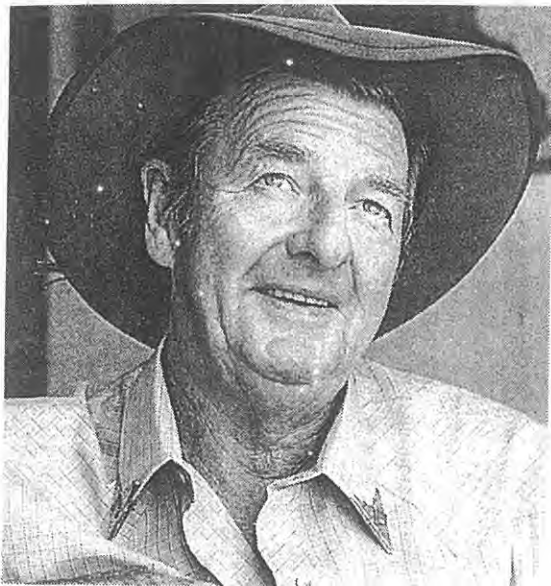
Outback eisteddfod held 'neath the trees
inside the cool canvas, billowed by the breeze
Elder statesmen take their place at the rear
Literati's larrikins whose only real honours
are the blessings bestowed on them by their fellow peers
Their parental presence permeating, alleviating juvenile fears
coaxing, cajoling the wedlock of words
overseeing the odes of nervous novices
in their premature and laborious births

Butterflies beating down in the pit
flutter of fingers, fidget and itch
Paper sheet hovers 'tween trembling hands
lemming-like, letters swim towards the edge
Light headed nausea, knees knocking, to retch?
Escape is denied them, those clumsy black consonants
Order restored by prompt punctuation
as composure implores you to take a deep breath
Spotted sweat seeps onto brow
Your name is called, Your time is now

Voice initial set a quiver
 vacillating nervous tone
 Intonations giving credence
 to the exhortation of your tome
 Confident courage of convictions
 conspires with nuances, inflections
 culminating in the cadence of recitation's repertoire
 Actuating with finesse, verbalism's final coup de grace

Silence saunters in the air
 seconds hang their like a week
 Indeterminable doubt
 Sea of faces, comprehension?
 adulation's fickle hands you seek
 Rising swell of resonance sweeps towards the makeshift stage
 Uninhibited tide of acclamation
 given without hesitation
 regardless of your size or station
 Proud and meek, you've come of age

Copyright© 1994/Graeme Johnson/West Ryde NSW



SLIM DUSTY is one of the top drawcards for the Aussie Country Music spectacular in Winton.

• Outback muster

The Waltzing Matilda Centenary will be held from April 6 to 17 and then, five days later, just 174km down the Matilda Highway, the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach will hold its annual Outback Muster on April 22 and 23.

The muster weekend begins with the annual Drover's Reunion and the yearly festival of bush verse, song and yarn telling, a bush poets' breakfast and the usual "Dinner and Verse" evening on Sunday.

Bronco branding and rough-riding will feature on both days. The Outback Games will be held on Sunday morning, providing entertainment for all comers.

Inquiries can be directed to Jim Cuming or Jane Stuart on (07) 22 15300 or a/h on (07) 26 23664.

Beating around the bush



with
John Morris



• Waltzing Matilda

The big event on the Australian Calendar isn't the Rugby League grand final when the Crushers trounce the Broncos.

It's the 12-day Waltzing Matilda centenary at Winton from Thursday, April 6, to the end of the Easter holiday weekend Monday, April 17.

What a true blue Aussie program line-up.

There are too many to give them in one hit but here some just to whet your appetite: On April 6/7 a big two-day Western Picnic Race Meeting is being held and Toowoomba's own John Peel be a Longreach to take a steam train to Winton and back.

• Great Cattle Drive

It would seem that the entire Queensland Outback is coming alive for the Waltzing Matilda centenary festival celebrations from April 6 to 17.

Latest news is that the Great Australian Cattle Drive with the Queensland Drovers will leave Longreach on March 13 bound for Winton. It will join the festival on April 10.

Here's a great opportunity for anyone looking for that rare adventure. Get a pair of riding boots and a wide-brimmed felt hat and book in for two days or two weeks of real Outback living on the trail.

For survival information and the price, ring office cowboy Margo Blakeney on 617 832 0777.

• All roads to Winton

Winton is set to become the best-known town in Australia through its imaginative Waltzing Matilda celebrations in April.

Not only is a herd of cattle heading from Longreach to Winton as part of the celebrations, but Queensland Rail (QR) has now joined in, offering passengers either first-class travel on the Spirit of the Outback or a four-day steam train adventure.

Special steam excursions also will operate between Longreach and Winton on April 6 and return on April 9. On April 7 and 8, trips will be offered between Winton and Dillcar.

Inquiries: QR Travel Centre on (07) 235 2941, Longreach railway station on (076) 58 1081, or Winton railway station on (076) 57 1530.

• Matilda weekend

The action-packed Waltzing Matilda centenary celebration program will continue on Saturday and Sunday April 8/9 with more Bush Poetry at the Waltzing Matilda Marquee. And the North Gregory Turf Club will run the Centennial Cup.

Thrills and spills of the Night Rough Stock Rodeo will be on at the showground on Saturday evening while Slim Dusty will perform with some of Australia's leading country music artists in an Aussie Country Music Spectacular.

The Australian Film Festival will continue in the open air theatre.



PONDERING SWAGMAN: This monument stands in the main street of Winton and was erected as "A tribute to A. B. 'Banjo' Paterson who wrote 'Waltzing Matilda' in this district in 1895 and to the many swagmen who lie in unmarked graves throughout the country".

Best of the Bush. Murrumburrah-Harden N.S.W.

3-4-5- March 1995.

N.S.W. Notes

A new venue for Bush Poetry started up in March this year with the A.H.M.A. Golden Grains Committee and Murrumburrah-Harden Rotary Club Inc. combined venture, '**The Best of the Bush**' presented by **Jim Haynes**.

The Programme for this weekend kicked off with an introductory dinner for the people of Murrumburrah-Harden at the Terra-cotta Restaurant on the Thursday night. It was here in this old 1870's vintage former bank building that **David Mulhalla**n from ABC Radio National in Adelaide introduced **Jim Haynes** to the guests and gave them an insight into what lay ahead for the weekend.

Jim 'done us proud' with the launch of, and recitations from, his new book, '**I'll Have Chips.**' Which is selling well with orders flocking in from all over.

'**Blue the Shearer**' is a very popular man in this neck of the woods. It is amazing just how many people tune in to his regular spot on ABC Radio each Friday morning.

A '**Liars Dinner**' was conducted at the Country Club on the Friday evening, where a good collection of **Harden-ed Lies** came forth from some of the locals, ably spurred on by **Frank Daniel**, who has never told a lie in his life.

'**Blue the Shearer**' needless to say, delivered some more of his Liberal 'dribble' and had a good crack at the Labor content of the district in his usual personable manner.

Poems from 'Blues' Hate Files, such as the Chainsaw and the Mower are more popular than ever, with his Cross-eyed Bull surely being his most requested.

Leigh Brown must surely have wondered at the short distance she had to travel from Yass to be part of the big programme. Leigh appeared on the Friday night as well as the Best of the Bush Concert at the Mechanics Institute on the Saturday night.

Special guest from Milawa in Victoria was **Noel Cutler**,

who was also pleased that he only had three hundred kilometres to travel and not the usual seven or eight hundred. Noel, who is an Australian Champion Whip Cracker and a winning Bush Poet had a very busy weekend, accompanying Jim on his rounds of the district schools where he demonstrated the art of Whip-cracking to the Students.

Noel will be contesting the National Whip-Cracking Titles at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney, in April.

A Poets breakfast was conducted on the Sunday morning in Newsome Park and prospective Poets and Yarnspinners attended this and other workshops on the programme.

The hospitality of the residents of the Murrumburrah-Harden District must not go unmentioned, and a special thank you is extended to the organisers and to the families billeting the visiting poets.

Another successful 'Best of the Bush' programme, where the general feeling is that the Poets and Yarnspinners will be returning in 1996.

Saturday, January 14, 1995

Bushranger granted his last wish

SYDNEY: The last wish of Australian bushranger Captain Moonlite was granted yesterday, 115 years after his death.

The remains of the bushranger, whose real name was Andrew George Scott, were reburied in the south-western New South Wales town of Gundagai, with his two fellow bush-rangers.

Moonlite gained notoriety for a siege of a Gundagai property in 1879. His comrades, James Nesbitt and Augustus Wernicke, died in the final shootout and Scott was hanged in 1880 for shooting a police officer.

Moonlite's final wish was that he be buried alongside his friends in Gundagai.

However, there was public opposition to this and his remains were put in an unmarked grave in Sydney's Rookwood Cemetery.

Gundagai residents Ms Christine Asimus and Mr Sam Ferguson spent more than a year researching his life, finally succeeding in having his last wish granted.

"He was educated, he was articulate, he was a poet, an engineer, a sailor, an excellent horseman, skilful with firearms and also quite spiritual," Ms Asimus said.

She believed poverty caused him and his associates to turn to crime.

"Misery and hunger produced despair," Ms Asimus said.

The ceremony began with the casket being taken to its final resting place by a 120-year-old horse-drawn hearse.

Moonlite was one of scores of bushrangers who terrorised the outback last century.

His unmarked Sydney grave was identified in 1987 by researcher Roy Parker.



Geoffrey W. Graham
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BREADCRUMBS FROM THE BULLADEER.....

Tamworth is all over for another year. The highlights for the Bush Poets being The Longyard (It just keeps on getting bigger and better), the Imperial competition and the Friday and Saturday nights in town with people paying to see Bush Poets,, Good Stuff.

I trust everyone has recovered and is looking forward to an exciting year with Winton and a host of other activities. I feel 1995 is the year Bush Poetry will really leave it's mark.

The next festival in Victoria is Charlton coming up on the 19th February. That's the Country and Bush music festival, including Poets Breakfast, however seeing as how it will be over by the time you read this, I'll see you there or give you a postmortem next time.

In March is the acclaimed Port Fairy Festival....already sold out. Take note all those festival organisers!

To all the Victorians who get this newsletter, if you know of some event/s coming up...please let me know so I can publicise it.

Our goal should be to get Bush Poetry happening at all the festivals in Victoria.



Keep Smiling.....

Geoffrey Graham

Frank Daniel Transport

COWRA & CANOWINDRA

P.O. BOX 581, COWRA 2794

PHONE: (063) 41 1588

1995
**THE NATIONAL OUTBACK
 PERFORMING ARTS**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
"THE OUTBACK MUSTER"



LONGREACH
 21st to 23rd April, 1995

A unique annual gathering of bush entertainers performing traditional contemporary and original works.

8. Venues:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Friday evening: | Banjo's Outback Theatre |
| Saturday Breakfast: | Hall of Fame Cottage |
| Saturday Afternoon: | Banjo's Outback Theatre |
| Sunday Evening: | Hall of Fame Cottage |

9. Emphasis must be on an Australian, rural or outback theme.

Well known Poet and Entertainer, Jim Haynes will be conducting "Performance" workshops in Edgley Hall from 7.00 - 9.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th April. These workshops will cover a range of topics related to writing and performing in public..... Cost: \$10.00 per night

A MUST FOR ALL PERFORMANCE POETS

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 Longreach Motel Ph. No. 076 581 996
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Longreach Swaggies Ph. No. 076 583 777
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Longreach Airport..... Ph. No. 076 581 520
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It is important to remember that the emphasis of the National Outback Performing Arts is on "fair dinkum" Australian entertainment.

ENJOY - PARTICIPATE OR SPECTATE

Swaggie to walk the final miles to Waltzing Matilda festivities

One of Australia's last true-blue swaggies has come into his own this year.

New Zealand-born Campbell Irving, 42, has been on the wallaby around the eastern states of Australia and the Northern Territory for the past 12 years.

Campbell, a bush poet who regularly turns up in the Garden City on his never-ending round of folk festivals and carnivals, will — naturally — be joining the Winton Waltzing Matilda Centenary celebrations next month.

He is one of McCafferty's Express Coaches' best customers, but this year could see him changing down a gear.

As part of his push to reintroduce the spirit of the Matilda Waltzers Union code, he will be hoofing it on the last stage from Longreach to Winton.

He says he welcomes some company on the 180km wander that sets out from the Stockman's Hall of Fame on March 8.

"This is putting the swagman out in front," Campbell said.

"A very few of us are just keeping the image alive; that's what I've always been about."

Campbell, who reckons every year is the best year to be a swaggie, does not believe an itinerant renaissance will fol-



SWAGGIE'S BIG YEAR: Swaggie poet Campbell Irving, 42, will be one of the few true-blue drifters hitting the Winton Waltzing Matilda Centenary next month. Campbell, who usually travels by bus, will be walking the last stage from Longreach and has invited company.

low the centenary: "Most people won't walk further than their front door."

And although he often recites Banjo Paterson, he prefers Henry Lawson, the so-called "people's poet".

Just a few tenets govern this sundowner's life; the folk festival calendar and the swaggie union rules drawn up by a collection of "frowsy deadbeats, loony hatters and aggressive cadgers" on the banks of the

Lachlan in 1877.

But Campbell, who makes a living from busking, reckons he might have found a loophole in rule 13.

The rule states: "No member to look for or accept work of any description. Members found working will be at once expelled."

"I don't see that the sense of the word work covers what I'm doing in the mall," he grinned.

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FOR STORY TELLERS, MUSICIANS, AND POETS.

Unleash that hidden talent.

10am - Midday

AT The Mapleton Markets

(8.30am. - Mid-day, Mapleton Hall Grounds)

1st. Saturday of Every Month

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For more enquiries ph. Rose on 457649