

The Australian



Bush Poets

Association



No 4 APRIL 1995.

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** CHARLEE MARSHALL RECORDS NEW CASSETTE. **

Re : Review of Charlee Marshall's cassette 'After All'.

Charlee Marshall fans were wrapped to hear that he had at last recorded a selection of his original works in the form of a spoken word/music cassette entitled 'After All'. I was pleasantly surprised to find a warm collection of humorous and sincere poetry intermingled with music and sound effects that are a treat for any listener, and an inspiration to aspiring Poets and Country Music Song Writers.

For the Charlee Marshall fan, you are guaranteed a souvenir that allows you to capture a part of Charlee's soul. He has carefully chosen the works that best reflect the diversity of his 'writing moods'. He has invited friends and family to accompany him throughout the recording, both in song and spoken word, giving it a genuine campfire atmosphere.

Any product portraying the talents of one of the finest writers poets in the country deserves a spot on the coffee table, but this cassette offers a personal confrontation with the man himself. Don't miss out.. I mean... After All !!!

Mark Glavin

"MY UTE". (*A Bit of a Doggerel*)

by Milton Taylor

I'm a kelpie, a collie, a cattle dog blue,
Labrador, doberman, dalmatian too,
Poodle, retriever or foxie-pom cross,
In the back of my ute mate - I am the boss!
My ute is a Holden, a Datsun, a Ford,
Toyota or Mazda, when I spring aboard
I bask in the glory, the power one feels
When guiding my wonderful kingdom on wheels.
Be it brand new and shiny or battered and old
Black, white or purple or three shades of gold,
The colour's no problem, the brand name no sweat
As long as it gets me where I wish to get.
My ute is the best, creme de la creme
Ute and dog, dog and ute, oh boy what a team!
Surveying my realm I'm bursting with pride
Enjoying my wondrous triumphal ride.
You'll all hear my challenge, my bark of defiance
Commanding attention, demanding compliance
As my ute makes it's progress, hear the sound ring
From the king of the ute, in the ute of the king.
Other dogs howl as they strain to compete
With my regal position, Lord of the street,
Their utes are quite nice, I bear them no malice
But compared to my marvellous travelling palace
They're damned insufficient for one of my stature,
They can't cause euphoria, bring about rapture
Like my splendid ute can, it's one of a kind,
Most noble of utes - that ute is mine!
On the footpath or street I'll do you no harm,
But dare touch my ute and I'll chew off your arm.
The eye of the tiger and lurking beneath
The heart of the lion with crocodile's teeth!
Docile no longer, ablaze with aggression
Guarding my treasured, most valued possession.
What causes this change, this strange transformation
From friend to all men to scourge of the nation?
If man's home is his castle, then a dog has one too,
Nought else can approach what a ute does for you,
And the pride, the contentment, I tell you it's beaut,
Just being a dog in your own bloody ute!

HONEYMOON at Beach House and Seaside Resort

SEASIDE RESORT
COOLANGATTA

PRIZE VALUE: \$1890.

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Invites your participation in the **Street Bussing**
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June 11 Sun

- from 4.30pm Twilight parade

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EXPERIENCE THE BEST - THE GOLD COAST
Selected FINALISTS invited to perform

PHANTAST EVENTS:

PHANTAST is a non-profit association dedicated to fostering art and culture and entertainment

The festival happens from 3 - 17 June 1995

Suitable size stamped addressed Envelope, with sufficient postage, must be enclosed if entry is to be returned, or if result sheet only is required



SEASIDE RESORT,
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To:
Send entries recapturing humorous or unforgettable or just in reminisce, with this form to:

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111 LOGAN STREET
BEENLEIGH, QLD.4207

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June 12 Mon

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INFORMATION: (07) 807 5785

June 10 Sat

Street bussing competition

June 12 Mon

Windaroo "ghost" day at Windaroo Cottage

if any one from outside the area gets into the prizemoney.

Russell Hannah conducted this years Wooly Yarns and a large number of Yarn Spinners and leg pullers gathered at the Jamberoo Pub for this event, which was taken out by **Shirley Friend**.

The Poets Brawl was compered by **Frank Daniel**. The Saturday afternoon brawl was won by **Roz Brown** from Colorado, who showed some good style in a Poem about 'Skeeters,' which impressed the judges a lot.

The second Poets Brawl on the Sunday was won by 'Balmain' **Bob Devers**. New poets in this section were the likes of **Gary Lowe** from Wyong, who has a great collection of humerous poetry. The very clever **Vivian Sawyer** from West Wollongong took the Mickie out of Jims Weelabarrabak yarn, while her non-tiring eighty three year old mother **Vina Oehm** gave her moneys worth as well.

Terry Gleeson from Sydney excelled himself with a couple of Blues poems and **John Daisy** had a saucy sexy tale to tell, while **Dawn Delamerez** had a not to happy yarn about Tradesmen.

Four hourly sessions of yarns were conducted by **David Mulhallan** from ABC Radio National in Adelaide, and were recorded for replay on the '**Swag of Yarns**' programme which is aired on FM ABC at 9pm on Saturdays.

'**Blue the Shearer**' is always a favorite at Jamberoo where he, as well as **Jim Haynes**, has been included on the '**First Ten Years**' CD and Cassette. 'Blues' 'Cross-eyed Bull' must be by far the most popular Poem, going by the number of times it is requested. 'Blue' conducted a workshop on poetry, '**The Crime of Rhyme**,' which was well attended and well received, with his audience participation proving a popular point.

'Blue' also conducted two sessions of '**New Voices**' in the Pub, giving budding, if not shy Poets, a chance to express their hidden talents. Another successful venture by the 'Illawarra mob' who beleive in giving much encouragement to prospective entertainers.

A busy man at the Festival, 'Blue' was also featured in the '**War of the Satirists**' with **Tom Paxton** from America, **Roy Bailey** (U.K.) and **Al Ward**, all accomplished guitarists and singer song writers. 'Blue', as he puts it, was the only one who had 'nothing to play with,' as they milked their 'sacred cows' and sent up many an institution. A crowd of near seven hundred crammed into the **School of Arts** for this programme which left the main Marquee looking like a furniture exhibition.

With the 'Resident Censor' recuperating from a major operation in Sydney, 'Blue,' a very worried man, managed to keep his mind on the job, and our best wishes go out to his beloved for a swift recovery.

Again it was obvious that Bush Poetry and Woolly Yarns are becoming more popular at each Festival. More time was allocated this year for such and it is expected that next year we could see something in the way of a larger venue to cater for the big crowds of Poetry fans at Jamberoo.

Gerringong. 15 March 1995.

Another first for Bush Poetry was a successful concert held in the Gerringong Bowling Club on the Wednesday before the Jamberoo Folk Festival. A crowd of over three hundred gathered for the evening with **Jim Haynes, Shirley Friend, Bobby Miller and Frank Daniel** doing the honours on behalf of the Bush Poets.

Coming events. Wombat. (Near Young N.S.W.) 7th - 8th April.

Ph. Pat. 063 843229

13th - 17th April. National Folk Festival Canberra. ph.06 2497755 (Phil Watson)

'Blue the Shearer' was making a reverse charges call from Harden-Murrumburrah to his wife in Wellington. He gave the Operator the number required and the number from which he was calling.

The operator asked, 'and who shall I say is calling?'

'Blue.' 'Just say it's her beloved.'

Operator. 'Herbie who?'

A true story, so he says, and why would he tell a lie?

regards from *Joe.*

FULL REPORT AND RESULTS ON WINTON NEXT MONTH.

31 — THE AUSTRALIAN Wednesday April 19 1995 — 31

44 — THE COURIER-MAIL

Australian Bush Poets Assn.

Cubby House raffle in aid of drought aid.

WINNING TICKET IS WHITE 2938 LINDY WASLEY (SYDNEY)

Drawn at Winton 15/4/95 by Mr Tom Burns MLA.

Promoter M Bostock.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 1995

Ins Co
Policy
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lost or

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION Cubby House Raffle in Aid of Drought Aid, drawn at Winton on 15th April, drawn by Mr Tom Burns, Winning Ticket No. White, 2938, Lindy Wasley, Sydney. Promoter Bluey Bostock

Winton Celebrates Matilda's Centenary

Sleepyheads smile with bush poets at Winton

LAZING back in a canvas chair, sipping hot tea, munching doughy damper and being entertained by bush poetry is the ideal way to banish the stubborn veils of sleep.

Many people at the Winton festival have been doing just this and have been having such a laugh they are glad they dragged themselves out of their swags so early.

Marion Fitzgerald is one of the six bush poets performing in the Royal Theatre at the Waltzing Matilda Centenary and is thoroughly enjoying the laid back atmosphere of the festival.

She shares with many other poets a great admiration for Banjo Paterson and has come from North Star in New South Wales to join in the celebrations in Winton.

"Winton is the ultimate for bush poets," she said.

"It's the pinnacle.

"It's always the great poets who are the cornerstone and poets have come from all over Australia to this.

"It means so much to us."

Performance poetry was different to other poetry in that it was always written to appeal to the audience - written strictly for performance.

"When you write for performance you really develop personality in your poems.

"When you start performance poetry you have to really develop a type of poetry so it's distinctive to you.

"All the performing poets have different poems which is one of the good things about it - there's so much variety.

"The majority of us are original poets."

Marion started bush poetry in 1988 and won the Bush Poetry Championships at the Tamworth Country Music Festival for two years in a row, in 1988 and 1989 in the original section.

Marion has become known for writing poems from an animal's point of view.

She has written two books, "Among udder things" and its sequel "Some more udder nonsense".



● Performance Bush Poet, Marion Fitzgerald (left) stands with another Bush Poet, Mr Frank Daniel outside Clancy's Marquee after another amusing morning of poetry and breakfast.

In 1990 she was invited to go to America to represent Australian Bush Poetry with Bruce Simpson, Ted Egan, Nerys Evans and Randal Chandler.

They spent 12 days performing in Nevada at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Performance poets loved to perform to stir the emotions of the audience, whether it was to make them laugh or to make them cry.

"More than anything we like to humour them, everyone likes a good laugh."

Performing reflective poems that made the audience so still and quiet that you could hear a pin drop was satisfaction for a poet.

Marion said she often saw the same people at many of their shows who had faithfully travelled to see them regardless of where they performed.

In Winton she recognised people she had seen at one of the Bush Poets shows in New South Wales.

"Bush poetry definitely has a beautiful following."

She said one of the nicest things about the Bush Poetry Breakfasts in Winton was that they found many frustrated bush poets in the audience who were anxious to have their turn at performing or reciting their poetry.

"You're never too late to start.

"A lot of the poets performing have been on stage for two years.

"It's one of those things that covers all generations."

The Bush Poets performed with people of all ages from young children to elderly people.

Marion said her favourite contemporary poet who wrote in traditional style was Bruce Simpson.

"Of humorous poets there are so many I would hate to pick - I have so many favourites, the list goes on and on."

When the Waltzing Matilda festival finishes in Winton the next stop for the Bush Poets is Longreach for NOPA.

They will do a few other tours on the way down to Longreach.

The last time Marion was in Longreach was in 1990 when she performed in the first Longreach Drivers Reunion.

She said all the Bush Poets were looking forward to NOPA in Longreach and were having a great time at the Winton festival.

Everyone's in slow gear, even people from the city, everyone's in out-back mode.

"We've been to so many festivals but more than anything it's so laid back, Winton is wonderful."

Welcome to the newest in the Kleinschmidt clan.

Delia and Mark are the proud (if a little tired) parents of Hadyn Burnham Kleinschmidt.

Little Hadyn was born on March 18 and weighed in a 6lb 10oz.

Congratulations to all, I guess I picked the wrong sex hey D.

Thought For Today

El amor es fuego, pero con el no se cuece el puchero. (Love is a furnace, but it will not cook the stew.) — Spanish proverb.

Zero unemployment

From the mouth of Too-woomba revenge poet Campbell Badgery: "The solution to unemployment is getting rid of employment."

Swaggie walk continues 'Aussie style'

DESPITE an accident that almost claimed his life just two weeks ago, Mervyn (Bluey) Bostock, is continuing his swaggie walk to Winton for what he de-

scribes as 'Australia's biggest party' — the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations.

Bluey, who is the promotions officer of the Waltzing Matilda Centenary, has led the team of bush poets, country singers and didgeridoo players to more than 20 centres around the state to promote Australia's heritage and the Waltzing Matilda celebrations.

However, just two weeks ago, the bus he and three others were travelling in was involved in a head-on collision south of Miriam Vale, leaving each of the four pas-

sengers in hospital.

From Cairns, Bluey was on life support and has four broken ribs, a cracked vertebrae in his neck and lacerations. Country music singer, Alec Beckett, of Ipswich, received a broken rib and a "good shake-up."

However, both have now continued their trip to Winton. The didgeridoo player, Roy Newman, of Moree, NSW, had half his tongue cut off and a broken disc in his back, and won't be able to play at Winton, but will still be attending.

Bush poet, Mark Thompson, of Byron

Bay, suffered a dislocated shoulder and body injuries.

Bluey was putting in 16 hour days promoting the Waltzing Matilda celebrations, and organising shows in each centre they stopped in.

The group were due to appear at the Toowoomba Royal Show last Friday, but were unable to, as a couple of their team were still in hospital.

Bluey, himself, still on crutches, called in to Toowoomba on his way through to Winton, but was also unable to perform.

The Swaggies' Walk began in Cairns, in February,

and has made its way down the coast and inland, performing in hotels, RSL Clubs and schools in many towns including Birdsville, Babinda, Innisfail, Tully, Mission Beach, Charters Towers, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay, St Lawrence, Augathella and Chinchilla.

"I have lived in my swag for the last 12 months, attending and performing at festivals, country race meetings, rodeos and shows, and I wasn't going to miss out on the Waltzing Matilda celebrations," Bluey said.

Poet speechless after win

Goondiwindi's Gary Fogarty cleaned up at the Australian Bush Poetry Championships in Winton last weekend.

"The shock has still got me speechless, which is not the best way for a poet to be," Mr Fogarty, 36, the inaugural national champion, said.

He won the open serious section with *The Hut*, the open humorous section with *Modern Wife*, and the A.B. Paterson recitation with *The Last Parade*.

Crowds of 200 to 400 people clus-

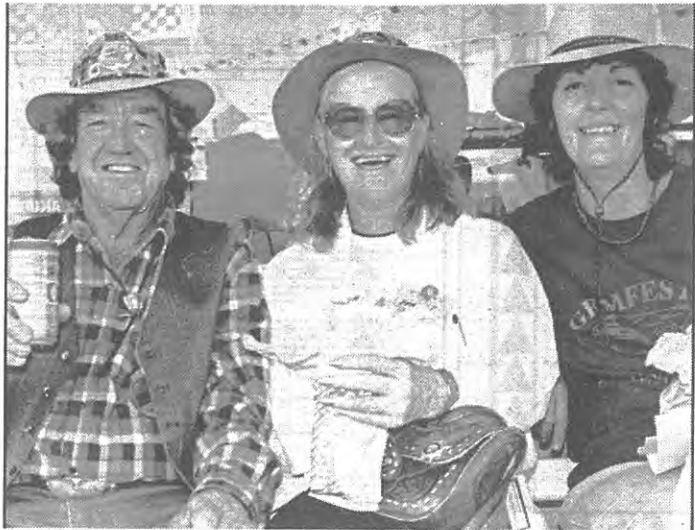
tered in the main marquee for the poetry heats and finals involving around 80 competitors over nine days.

Mr Fogarty, who won the poets' brawl at Maleny at New Year and was second at the original section at the Tamworth Country Music Festival this year, said the atmosphere at Winton was "brilliant".

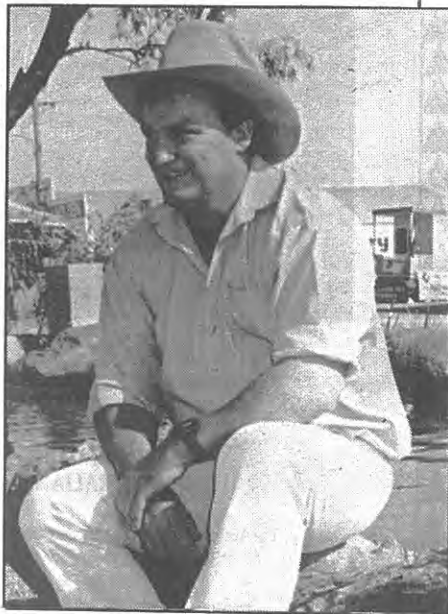
Together with Brisbane's Bodgie Bard, Rob Morris, Mr Fogarty will be performing again at Toowoomba's Dancing Bear Cafe on May 6.

toowoomba education centre

Post Office Darling Heights Toowoomba Q 4350



Bush poets Kevin Woods from Redcliffe, caught up with two old friends Hazel Bird and Linda Drake from Emerald.

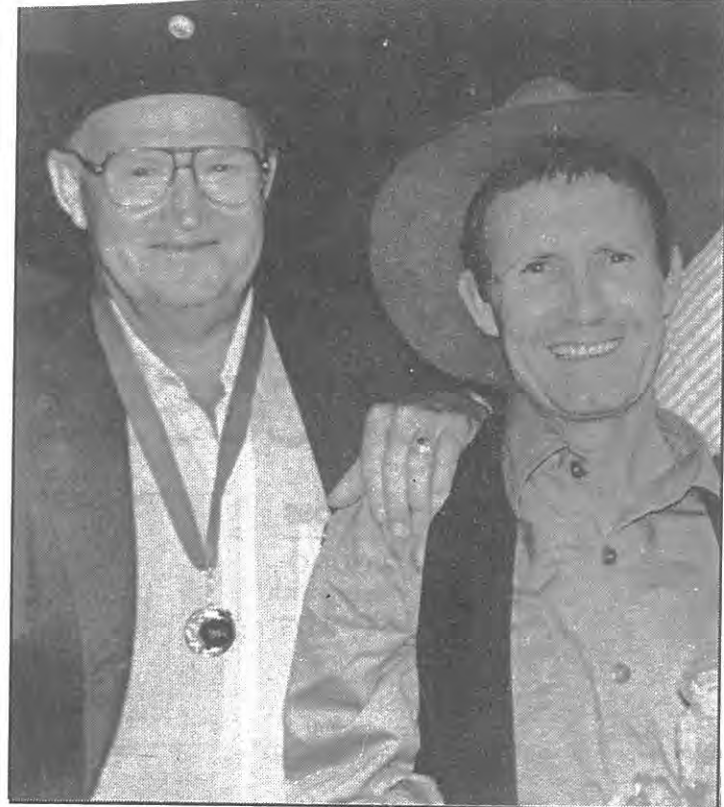


Bush poet Gary Fogarty, Goondiwindi, has enjoyed a rapid rise in the past 12 months.

TOOWOOMBA

The Chronicle

Your good morning daily



President of the Australian Bush Poets Association, Mervyn 'Bluey' Bostock, of Cairns, at the recent 'Poets at the Carnival' festival, in Toowoomba, with Bob Millar, of Murgon.

Pleasure and pain of life on the road

By **BRUCE McMAHON**
in Winton

IPSWICH country balladeer Alec Beckett has spent three and a bit years singing around the traps.

"Anybody that listened to me before that was a fool," Alec said in Winton's main street yesterday.

Alec is one of a number of street performers entertaining the mobs who have come to town for the Waltzing Matilda centennial celebrations.

Bush culture on offer in last night's festivities



included the Bushranger Film Festival, Ted Egan in concert and continuing heats of the Australian Bush Poets Championships.

Alec was a boner and slicer at a meatworks near Ipswich.

"This singing just came out of the blue. I knew I had to get out in the open," he said.

But Alec, travelling with the bush poets' bus around Queensland in recent months, has been slowed by the crash outside Miriam Vale on the coast, which left a few walking wounded poets and singers.

"I'm shot through with painkillers at the moment," Alec said before breaking into *Leave him out there in the longyard* for the appreciative crowd wandering the western town.



ALAN Beckett . . . 'shot through with painkillers after a road accident' but still crooning for the Winton masses.

Picture: **GEORGE FETTING**

Mark has Matilda spirit

OVER 2,500 entries waltzed in from across Australia and overseas for the 'Spirit of Australia' poetry competition.

Entries were received from all Australian states as well as Romania, the United States of America, England and Scandinavia for the two categories - Open and Junior.

ABC Radio 4QL presenter, Mr. Tim Butler, said judges of the competition were looking for a poem, in 300 words or less, about what the spirit of Matilda means today.

Professional bush poet, Mr. Mark Gliori, of Warwick, was the winner of the Open category while 12 year old Toowoomba girl Alissa Marrie, took out the Junior section.

A presentation to the winners was made at the Aussie Country Spectacular Concert by Slim Dusty on Saturday night.

As the winner of the

Open category, Mark won \$1,000 and a trip to Winton for two people as well as entry to all events.

He was also presented with a statue of a swaggie.

Winner of the Junior category, Alissa Marrie, won \$500 and a trip for two to Winton.

Mark has been writing poetry for 12 years and said he was not 'a genuine bushie' but was exposed to rural life after living in a rural community.

He said he began writing poetry as he "wanted to portray other Australians through word picture (poetry) and the images and humour that is uniquely Australian".

It's an opportunity to show people their own lives and to give part of their lives themselves," he said.

Mark said he wrote poetry on a variety of topics ranging from snake-killing grandmothers to nose-picking children, to the Spirit of Waltzing Matilda.

He said his poems are based on real life experiences.

"They always seem to be connected to something," Mark said.

Mark first came to recognition as a bush poet through performing at the National Outback Performing Arts around 1988/89.

He is a full time performer with the Queensland and Victorian Arts Council and regularly gives performances for school children, from preschoolers to Year 12 students.

Mark also performs at major festivals and events throughout Australia.

He said he does not enter written poetry competitions as he believes this sacrifices certain writing techniques such as capturing the unique rhythm of language.

However, Mark decided to enter the Spirit of Waltzing Matilda poetry competition as it was a very important competition and was too good of an opportunity to miss.

Mark's winning poem touched on contemporary Australian topics such as migrants and Aboriginal reconciliation as well as the inbuilt fear modern people have.

SWAGGIE
(The Spirit of Waltzing Matilda)
By Mark Gliori

A SWAGGIE's haunting, waltzing down the dimlit city street where memories of Matilda and Eureka come to meet. Where dusty dead horizons call Sundowners from the past for a slice of pickles pork and a billy boiling fast - and souls of long lost underdogs come sensing our dismay to tell us that the dream we have - were theirs - just yesterday.

But the 'Peking Duck' that greets them - the 'Capuchino' smile prove mateship has progressed a multi-racial country mile. Just look to Cabramatta or the canefields south of Cairns you'll find liberated Asians and continental clans. Recall your own ancestry and then if you be game desire these hearts and send the visionaries home again.

There's an Anzac helmet crusted in coral north of Crete. A distinguished cheerless shrine decorates a Turkish street

Two soldiers wait forever in a twisted ammo van where cattle graze forlornly on a slope in Vietnam - just trickles in a stream below such bridges we have crossed - investments in a future where the dream must not be lost.

Now beckoning our heroes down a moonlight country road a lonely phantom searches for a friend to share her load. She's the spirit of a culture portraying our great land through the works of Namajira and Oodgeroo's skilled hand.

She's a drifting shadow mourning - where slums are home it seems to godless generations lost in shattered Blackman's dreams.

A special congregation pauses by a Billabong where sweet untamed aromas bless this country's wholesome song.

While in the distance race our youth in engines of the age - vague aspirations trapped inside a rattling metal cage. The speeding lights fade quickly but project a brilliant ray of faith in the Australian dream - their dream - just yesterday.

SPIRIT OF WALTZING MATILDA

By Alissa Marrie, age 12

I KNOW the spirit of 'Waltzing Matilda', is still around today.

It is in the hearts of those who love,

The 'true blue' Aussie way.

It has spread from tiny billabongs,

along our rivers to the seas. Over high mountain ranges, and valleys, plains and trees.

From the great outback, the spirit has spread, through cities and through towns,

Reached tiny huts and huge homesteads, as it travells all around.

I know it was with our brave soldiers, who kept our country free, And those who fought the raging bushfires, and risked their lives to help others flee.

It has touched the courageous who struggle, as the drought cripples their land,

And their mates in the towns and cities, who have lent them a helping hand.

It is for all who call Australia home, wherever they come from. So join in friendship; be 'true blue', and sing this jolly song.



LEGEND CONTINUES: Harristown State High School Year 8 student Alissa Marie completed her prize-winning poem for the Spirit of Matilda competition in a few hours.



THE WINNING SPIRIT: Warwick poet Mark Gliori is a winner in the Spirit of Matilda Poetry competition.

MOUNT ISA ANNUAL LITERARY COMPETITION 1995

Mount Isa Writers' Workshop invites writers to submit entries to the Mount Isa Annual Literary Competition, details of which are set out below.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. All entries must be submitted in the English language, typed, with double spacing, on one side of the page only. Entrants should retain a copy of their work. Entries will NOT be returned.
2. Each entry must have attached a cover sheet showing ONLY the title of the entry, the writer's pen-name, and the category in which it is entered. Entrants in the Junior Category must also state their date of birth. A *Pen Name* is one which is NOT the writer's real name.
3. Entries must be accompanied by an Official Entry Form containing the writer's real name, address, telephone contact, category entered, pen name and the title of the entry. Multiple entries should be listed on the one entry form.
4. Writers may submit a maximum of TWO entries per category, and may also submit entries in more than one category.
5. Entries must be the original and unpublished work of the entrant, and should not previously have gained prizes in any other competition.
6. Copyright for the entry remains with the author. The organising Committee will, however, endeavour to publish the winning and commended entries, at its and the judge's discretion, in an occasional publication. Entrants agree to allow the organising Committee to so publish, and accept that the award of the prize for the entry, or a Certificate of Commendation, will be sufficient payment, or reward, for any such publication.
7. Entrants must be bona fide residents of Australia.
8. An entry fee of \$4.00 (\$2.00 for Junior entrants) must accompany EACH entry. (Cheque or Money Order payable to Mount Isa Literary Competition).
9. The closing date for entries will be 31 July each year. The results of the Competition will be announced in late October each year.
10. In the interpretation of these conditions, and in the judging and selection of the prize winners, the decision of the judge shall be final; no correspondence will be entered into. By lodging an entry or entries to this Competition, the entrant agrees to be bound by the above conditions.
11. Entries should be submitted to:

The Honorary Secretary,
Mount Isa Annual Literary Competition,
P.O. Box 2781,
MOUNT ISA, QLD. 4825.

Poets pleased with new interest in Aust history

SELF-confessed yarn spinner, Frank Daniel, jokes about the energy he devotes to writing and performing his own style of bush poetry. It is hard work, he laughs, making sure people enjoy this old fashioned entertainment.

But the bush poet from New South Wales is completely at home on the stage, completely comfortable under the scrutiny of the critics,

● Spinning a yarn or two... bush poets, John Phillipson, Tamworth, and Frank Daniel, Canowindra, on the 'banks' of the Combo waterhole, in Winton's main street.

By **TONI SOMES**

poets and appreciators who make up his audience.

Queensland Country Life caught up with Frank Daniel during a break in the Bush Poetry Championships, being held as part of the Waltzing Matilda Centenary, in Winton, this week.

Despite being a natural comedian, there are some things he is deadly serious about, and the growing popularity of bush poetry is just one.

"I think the popularity of bush poetry has grown tremendously during the past five years," he explained.

"On the most part, I think it is a result of a revived interest in our heritage and the bush.

"People want to know about Australia's history and they are slowly facing the fact that our history is completely entwined with the bush."

Mr Daniel also believes the surge in bush poetry reflects the average Australian's desire to get back to simple entertainment.

"In hard and complicated times, people don't want to have to deal with hidden meanings and convoluted stories, so poetry offers them direct entertainment.

"For bush poetry is very much a matter of what you hear is what you get. It does not have to be interpreted, it just has to be enjoyed."

His colleague, Tamworth poet, John Phillipson, agrees vehemently.

There is a distinct emphasis on simple enjoyment with bush poetry and many people are just starting to appreciate that, he explains.

Mr Phillipson, a former grazier and stock inspector, has always had a passion for poetry, a result he believes of being exposed to greats like Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson, early in his school years.

"Bush poetry is really growing, I think more and more people are considering it an acceptable pastime," he said.



**QUEENSLAND
Country
LIFE**

N. S. W. Notes from Joe.

Jamberoo N.S.W. 15 - 19 March.

The **Tenth Annual Illawarra Folk Festival** was held in the beautiful little village of Jamberoo in the heart of the famed Illawarra District of N.S.W.

Jamberoo must surely be the home away from home for the Irish in Australia. Soft silvery mists cling to the mountains, (which you can see between the showers,) for most of the day. You can detect forty shades of green in this scenic valley, Guinness flows freely by the gallon at the local, the place is full of Irishmen, and it just so happens to be St. Patricks Day half way through the Festival.

On the Folk scene artists were presented from Ireland, Canada, Britain, and the U.S.A. **Roz Brown**, from Denver Colorado is renowned for his collected songs from the turn of the century to the present day and draws the audiences into a sing-a-long mode as he brings back some of the never to be forgotten old favorites. Roz plays the Auto-harp; is also a member of the Cowboy Poets Association of America and is very popular at the Poets' Breakfasts and the Poets Brawls.

Special guests in the Bush Poetry segments of the Festival this year were **Shirley Friend** (Brisbane) and **Bobby Miller** (Maryborough). Their contributions to the success of the weekend will long be remembered. Bob was enthusiastically received at all functions where such poems as 'The Will,' 'The Waiter,' 'The House Husband,' 'The Batchelor' and the 'Batchelors Return' kept patrons laughing until they split their sides.

Pain enough one might think until Shirley hit the stage. Aptly kept 'til last by the inimitable **Jim Haynes**, who compered the Breakfasts. Shirley absolutely brought the house down. The Audience didn't know what hit them. Whoever would have thought that one could laugh so much as at a Poem about a subject as painful as a 'Mammagram,' or something as fragile as a roll of toilet paper, or the agony of getting the 'middle bit' in a specimen bottle.

The Woolly Yarn Spinning Competition has become an institution at Jamberoo where the locals regard it as a personal affront

WAITING IN THE WINGS

There'll always be a champion, the anointed, the elite,
Always there'll be winners and they won't be all discreet,
They'll rise and rise before our eyes, we'll stand aside
agape,
As they captivate an audience and strike the judges tape.

A slimmest micro second, an inflection in the speech,
The difference makes the difference then the P.R. gives them
reach,
A little break, a step up, a dash of casting couch,
Then a chauffeur and a minder and a bigger money pouch.

And the struggle for the spotlight often dims us lesser
lights,
As friends of half a lifetime, we stare like grounded kites,
But spare a thought for the legions lost before you next
compete,
We're the rank and file that firmed your style and cheered
beneath your feet.

Through the crimp and cramp of stillness and the crush of the
lean old years,
The folds of rejection letters are tinged with your salt and
tears,
And your photo framed on the wall now framed by the grace of
the King of Kings,
Once an apprenticed carpenter and "Waiting in the Wings."

You've battled on, persisted, you've gone for line and honour,
You've blitzed the field and formed a shield of star and ~~prima~~
donna,
You move in tighter circles now, your verse bids voice and
strings,
And rarely rhymes to mates and mimes there "Waiting in the
Wings."

We try to talk of past events, the love of written lore,
But the conversation tapers like it never did before,
We shake hands with a "See you mate", but the noun is base and
hollow,
With its usage on "Restricted" with the coming of tomorrow.

Call it human nature, give it credence with a grudge,
Condemn the adjudicator, referee and loaded judge,
Beware the *deadly duo* and the venom in their stings,
When *jealously and envy* hide ... they're "Waiting in the
Wings."

And when the seasons's aged us and the hearse is standing by,
When the last milled stanza's dripped from pen it is then that
one's thoughts will fly,
As we watched you steer as the Great Wall sings, stand aside
as your encore rings,
To embrace the core of us restless things, there ... "Waiting
in the ~~wings~~."

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ROBERT RAFFERTY
"Waiting in the Wings"
FEB 14 1968 X

R. I. A. 11

Mapleton Community & The Mapleton Poets present the 5th

MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL

(A Spoken Word Festival for poets, preachers, and liars.)

21ST & 22ND OCTOBER 1995



- 3 Venues (including a children's tent).
- 5 Competitions for all ages and categories.
- A top line up of Wordsmiths including the likes of Shirley Friend, Bob Miller, Ian Mackay, & Campbell.
- Celtic Tunes & Tales by Rebecca Hood
- Bernard O'Snaill and Sue Fish.
- Elizabeth Esprestors International Guests.
- Music By Global Change.
- Aboriginal Tales, Bush Yarns, & Comedy.
- A Twilight Parade. Dance Groups. & Drama.
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