


**The Australian**



**Bush Poets**

**Association**



N<sup>o</sup> 10 OCTOBER 1995

# Australian Bush Poets Association

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## 'Bush Yarns and Poetry'

by Frank Daniel  
Illustrated by Joe  
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## BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

OASIS  
HOTEL

TAMWORTH  
JANUARY 1996

Details in this issue

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BY

## Carmel Randle

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## **Cowbell Classic — Allora Qld 22-23 October 1995**

The tiny village of **Allora** on **Dalrymple Creek** in the southern region of the **Darling Downs** had two reasons to rejoice on the weekend of its **Inaugural Cowbell Classic Poetry Festival**. First of all was the influx of Bush Poets into this quiet dairying and grain district and secondly and most importantly was the very welcome **RAIN**.

Spirits were not dampened however and good crowds rolled up for the heats of the Junior, the Novice and the Open recital competitions.

Forty two Poets contested the Open Serious and Open Humorous sections of the 'Cowbell Classic'.

There were twelve Juniors and twenty Novice competitors, with plenty of new faces as well.

Allora Rotary Club president **Jim Deacon** was more than pleased with the resultant competitions and has no doubts about urging his fellow Rotarians to carry on with another show in the new year.

"It was our first effort, and we knew little about Bush Poetry competitions." Said Jim. "I cannot impress heavily enough the assistance rendered by **Carmel Randle** and members of the **Australian Bush Poets Association**."

**Mark Gliori** presented the

winners of the Novice with their certificates, with **Noelle Wardle** of Brisbane coming 1st. **Hazel Whittle** of the Gold Coast in second place followed by **Olive Shooter** of Allora, third.

**Gary Fogarty** compered the heats of the Poetry with guest performances by **Mark Gliori**, **Frank Daniel** and **John Philipson**.

The Smith family of fine poets took out the honours in the Junior Section with eleven year old **Helen Smith** being the overall winner with her own composition, 'Thoughts of Home'. Nine year old **Kathleen Smith** was second with a **Bill Scott** poem 'Possum'. Kathleen has also been heard on **Macca on Sundays**.

Six year old **Jeffery Smith** was placed third.

The Open Serious was really a battle for supremacy with a very deserved win going to **Michael Darby** of **Cloncurry** with his poem 'Shutdown'. He was followed closely by **John Philipson** of **Tamworth** with **Henry Lawson's** 'Sweeney' and **Frank Daniel** of **Canowindra** third with **Henry Lawsons** 'Jack Ellis'.

The Open Humorous saw a turn of events with another close contest when **Frank Daniel** hit a home run with 'God'll Get Ya!' while **Glenny Palmer** of **Cedar Vale** came second and **John Philipson** third.

The overall winner of the locally hand-crafted 'Cowbell Classic' Trophy, was won by **Frank Daniel**.

The **Poets Breakfast** was held indoors on the Sunday owing to the beautiful rain and a great roll up of local residents as well as visitors from Warwick and Toowoomba and places near and far were well and truly entertained by more than twenty poets.

Be ready for Allora in 1996.

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### **Poets at the Carnival —**

#### **Toowoomba 28-30th September**

Another very successful **Poets at the Carnival** was organised and conducted by **Carmel Randle** in her usual manner leaving no stone unturned as she shuffled and shoved Poets, Comperes, Judges and Adjudicators into and out of the very tight schedule which was without doubt the highlight of the Festival.

From the Registration of the Performers on the Wednesday night to the Grande Finale at the Bards of the Bush Concert in the City Hall on the Saturday night all went like clockwork thanks to her skilful deployment of labour and to the assistance rendered her by members of the ABPA.

A Performance Workshop was conducted by **Mark Gliori** of Warwick at the **Southern Cross Sporting Club** and was attended by more than twenty Bush Poets. A

rewarding couple of hours of entertaining hints on improving the delivery of verse and the handling of situations at various functions.

The first Poets Breakfast was held in Big Top at Queens Park and was compered by Mark Gliori.

Milton Taylor of Portland compered Heat 1 of the Hick-Cup which certainly drew some witty verse from the challengers. The Hick-Cup is a segment of one minute poems more commonly known as the Poets Brawl.

The Cobb and Co. Museum was the venue for two Presentations, one compered by Mark Gliori and one compered by John Philipson.

Heats of the Open Serious and Open Humerous Poetry were conducted in the Downs Room of the magnificent burkBurke and Wills Hotel. These heats were compered in stages by Marco, Bob Miller and Carmel Randle.

On Friday and Saturday, two Bush Poetry Concerts were held in City Hall featuring 'Mark Gliori and The Bards of The Bush'.

The bards consisted of Gary Fogarty, Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Glenny Palmer, Carmel Randle, John Philipson, Frank Daniel, Billy Hay, Tracey Fogarty and Milton Taylor. Both Concerts were sponsored by the Toowoomba Events Corporation.

Results were as follows;

Junior (under 16yrs) Sponsored by the Darling Downs Speech and Drama Teachers' Association.

1st. Danielle Miller — Toowoomba

2nd. Carmel Dunne — Warwick

3rd. Kathleen Smith — Allora

H.C. Kelsy Horton — Brisbane.

Novice;

Brook Hastead — Goodna.

2nd. Jan Franklin — Casino

3rd. Trisha Anderson — Brisbane

H.C. Jim Wilson — Toowoomba Hick Cup;

1st. Milton Taylor — Portland NSW

2nd. Bill Glasson — Clifton

3rd. Glenny Palmer — Cedar Vale

Open Serious;

1st. Murray Austin — Bunya

2nd. Glenny Palmer — Cedar Vale

3rd. Frank Daniel — Canowindra

H.C. John Philipson — Tamworth

H.C. Milton Taylor — Portland

Open Humorous;

1st. Ray Essery — Mullumbimby

2nd. Ellis Campbell — Dubbo

3rd. Frank Daniel — Canowindra

H.C. Milton Taylor — Portland

Champion Open Award Winner

—

Ray Essery —Mullumbimby

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**.Nobby Qld. 1st October 1995.**

Historic **Rudds Pub** in the heart of **Dad and Dave** country

was an ideal setting for a **Poets Brunch** organised by **Gary Fogarty** for the Publican **Eugene Hollis-Neath**.

**Nobby** has two very famous former residents in the likes of Sister Helen Kenny ..... and Steele Rudd, who is best known for his stories charting the misadventures and misfortunes of life on a small selection owned by the Rudd family with Dad, Dave, Mother, Sarah, and other comical members of their family.

The Brunch was an ideal way for many of the Poets to unwind after the hectic four days of the Toowoomba Festival.

A crowd of about eighty attended and were treated to a hearty meal by mine host as well as to an appetising sample of Bush Poetry.

As per many a new venture the Publican and his connections were more than pleased with the results and are keen to have the poets return at a later date.

Look for Nobby in next years Calendar.

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**Glen Innes. October long weekend.**

Sorry folks, no news as of yet. If anyone out there has a report on the Glen Innes Folk Festival we would like to know about it. Send it in to Joe please.

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\*\*\*\*\* LATE REPORT on SURAT, BATTERED BUGLE, AUGUST 19 & 20. \*\*\*\*\*

Following a very successful Inaugural Festival last year, SURAT -- that tiny town on the map in south west Queensland-- again played charming host to some very relaxed Bush Poets.

Saturday,(19th Aug.) afternoon's session, 'Poetry in the Vineyard', was an idyllic location where a large gathering of locals sat under the almond trees and were entertained with Traditional Poetry from some sixteen competitors. The Original Competition on the banks of the Balonne river on Sunday morning drew a similiar entry.

A very pleasing feature was the increase in the number of 'Local' Competitors this year. School teacher, Rob Gutteridge was the 'Dark Horse'

Bob Nason's excellent performance of 'The Story of Mongrel Grey' was a most impressive recital.. We heard new poetry from the talented pen of Stephen Burrow, and from some very young writers, too!

A special message for Bob Miller, Frank Daniel, and Marion Fitzgerald..... the Surat people missed you this year! They're most anxious for you to come another time!

The Surat school children were treated to the poetry of Mark Thompson and John Philipson on Friday, and loved every minute of the performance.

A well attended diner on Saturday evening enjoyed the talents of Glenny Palmer, Carmel Randle, Ron Bates, Max Jarrott and John Philipson.

The poets' thanks goes especially to Bob and Chesne Nason of 'Newington who made us most welcome at their Shearers' Quarters, and to the lovely Jan Ritchie and her charming husband, Ron, who organised it all... and lots more besides!

RESULTS.

OPEN TRADITIONAL: 1 Rob Gutteridge..... SURAT.  
2 Carmel Randle..... PRESTON.  
3 Max Jarrott..... KILLARNEY.

OPEN ORIGINAL. 1 Glenny Palmer..... CEDARVALE.  
2 Carmel Randle..... Preston.  
3 Mark Thompson..... BUNGENDORE.

<u>LOCAL TRADITIONAL.</u>	<u>LOCAL ORIGINAL.</u>
1. Rob Gutteridge.... SURAT.	1. Rob Gutteridge..... SURAT.
2. Bob Nason..... Surat.	2. Lara Keilor..... ROMA.
3. Roy Barnes..... SURAT.	3. Rod Elkington..... ST GEORGE.

LOCAL JUNIORS. High School.--Vanessa Morrison.  
Years 6-7 --Helen Neill.  
Years 4-5 --Tammy Horrobin.  
Years 1-3 --Lauren Itzstein.

BATTERED BUGLE-- LOCAL. 1 Rob Gutteridge. 2 Rod Elkington. 3 Roy Barnes.

BATTERED BUGLE-- OPEN. 1 Carmel Randle. 2 Rob Gutteridge.3 Mark Thompson.

A GREAT WEEK- END WAS ENJOYED BY ALL WHO ATTENDED.

Take sixty thousand people into the bush, miles from anywhere, let them pitch their tents, or motorhomes, or Camper trailers over the hillsides and creek beds; make sure there are plenty of refreshments (solid & liquid).

Hire every portable convenience and shower in eastern Australia; erect the three biggest 'BIG TOP' marquees available; place a huge double mobile stage on the other side of a dry creek channel from a natural amphitheatre; give every second person a musical instrument----- And you've got the recipe for the Gympie Muster.

Surprisingly, the Gympie Apex Club (only 40 members strong) does this very successfully each year!

Two years ago, this Country Music gathering developed a taste for bush poetry. 1995 saw NOT EVEN STANDING ROOM AVAILABLE at the Poets Breakfasts!

Over 2000 people packed the venues daily! Jim Haynes, Mark Gliori, Bob Miller and Gary Fogarty were the backbone of these magical functions, with Guest Appearances over the week by Glenny Palmer, Ray Essery, Carmel Randle, Shirley Friend, Carmel Dunn, Robert Raftery and Pat Drummond.

The competition, held over the 3 main days, attracted several new faces, and was keenly followed by thousands of fans as was the pending arrival of Bob and Sandy Millers' latest grandchild! Fortunately, Bob was able to announce the safe arrival of little GEORGIA on the final day. (The cheer nearly lifted the tent!)

#### THE COMPETITION RESULTS.

KING OF RHYME -- ORIGINAL; 1. RAY ESSERY. 2. GLENNY PALMER. 3. CHRIS LONG.

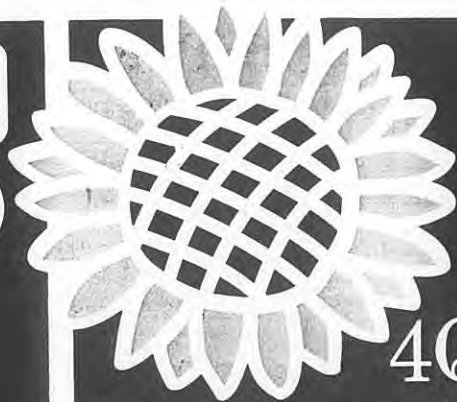
KING OF RHYME--TRADITIONAL; 1. MARK THOMPSON. 2. CARMEL RANDLE.

3. CARMEL DUNN and SCOTT SKIVRING.

BEST PERFORMANCE; RAY ESSERY.

Thankyou to all organisers and performers.....

ABC  
RADIO



4QS  
Southern Qld



POETS AT THE CARNIVAL

TOOWOOMBA, 27th-30th SEPTEMBER, 1995.

The recent "Poets at the Carnival" held in conjunction with the Toowoomba "Carnival of Flowers" attracted sixty-one Poets in 1995 to be part of 4 days of fun, competition, and two "Mark Gliori and The Bards of the Bush" Concerts sponsored by John Armstrong Nissan, Toowoomba, and the Toowoomba Events and Tourism Corporation.

The Competitive Elements of the Canival yielded the following results....

JUNIOR BUSH POETRY (under 16 yrs)

DARLING DOWNS SPEECH & DRAMA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION TROPHY

WINNER: Danielle Miller, Toowoomba.

2nd: Carmel Dunn, Warwick.

3rd: Kathleen Smith, Allora.

Highly Commended: Kelsey Horton, Brisbane.

NOVICE BUSH POETRY

WINNER: Brooke Hasted, Goodna.

2nd: Jan Franklin, Casino.

3rd: Trisha Anderson, Brisbane.

Highly Commended: Jim Wilson, Toowoomba.

THE HICK-CUP (One Minute Humorous Poetry)

WINNER: Milton Taylor, Portland.

2nd: Bill Glasson, Clifton.

3rd: Glenn Palmer, Cedarvale.

OPEN SERIOUS BUSH POETRY

WINNER: Murray Austin, Bunya.

2nd: Glenn Palmer, Cedarvale.

3rd: Frank Daniel, Canowindra.

Highly Commended: John Philipson, Tamworth.

Milton Taylor, Portland.

OPEN HUMOROUS BUSH POETRY

WINNER: Ray Essery, Mullumbimby.

2nd: Ellis Campbell, Dubbo.

3rd: Frank Daniel, Canowindra.

Highly Commended: Milton Taylor, Portland.

THE MACAFFERTY'S/MECURE INN AWARD

CHAMPION OPEN PERFORMER

WINNER: Ray Essery, Mullumbimby.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It was indeed a pleasure to see you and so many other poets at the Carnival of Flowers '95. The standard has certainly improved and the new-found fame of the performance poets and their poetry as top-line entertainment has revived a priceless part of our heritage and culture.

I heard mention several times of the tremendous mateship among the competitors, and I'd like to concur by saying that a better bunch of liars, larrikins and lunatics I'm yet to meet! It is a pleasure to be in such company and so rare in our "modern" world.

Bush poetry has certainly come a long way in a short time. Full marks to the founders of the association (whoever they are) and to the current committee who have worked so hard to promote Bush Poetry. I feel a special mention should go to you Ron for your efforts each month to produce and circulate such a professional newsletter. The value of those few pages every month are beyond worth. Surely the organisation would have gone almost nowhere without your sustained efforts to keep members informed in such a comprehensive manner. The newsletter has become the keystone of the association and I hope members will appreciate it and support it.

While I'm on the subject; there have been a few negative notions bandied about over the past few months, but I hope members will appreciate that any organisation that has grown and advanced so rapidly, and has attempted such major projects must expect a few teething problems along the way.

In fairness to those involved, and with the greatest of respect, we have seen some ordinary folk doing some extra-ordinary things, and the real beneficiaries of their selfless toil have been the poets and people of Australia. The celebrity status of some of the current stars is testimony to the influence and value of the organisation and the ability of the members who quietly do their part. I hope that current members and the generations who follow will appreciate the tremendous contribution of so few who have already accomplished so much in such a short time!

Keep up the Good Work!

Best regards, John Smalley.

\*\*\*\*\* THOUGHTS OF THE NIGHT. \*\*\*\*\*

(Wen we pitched our swags by the side of the road near Barcaldine.)

Who will visit me to-night?  
Will love chance to pass my way?  
Will sleep find my pillowed head?  
Will I dare to dream.....  
of joy.... or pain?  
Will death seek my soul  
Before the distant dawn?

Tomorrow knows my fate,  
I'll when I awake,  
if I do.....  
and if I don't...  
Will I know that too?

\*\*\*\*\*

Poets, Is this 'Bush Poetry'? If not -- What is it? Is it a poem or only poetic verse?

Have we found a definition of "What is Bush Poetry" yet? Do we really need one? If we insist on rhyme, should we not also insist on meter? By definition: Poetry is 'Rhyme and/or meter'



ABOVE: bush Poets in Toowoomba for the Poets at the Carnival were (from left) John Phillipson, Tamworth, Mark Gllori, Warwick, Australian Bush Poets Association secretary/treasurer, Ron Selby, Drayton, and Ray Essery, Mullumbimby.

#### RESULTS

**Open humorous bush poetry:** Winner, Ray Essery, Mullumbimby, NSW.

**Open serious bush poetry:** Winner, Murray Austin, Bunya Mountains.

**The Hick-Cup (one minute humorous poetry):** Winner, Milton Taylor, Portland, NSW.

**Novice bush poetry:** Winner, Brooke Hasted, Goodna.

**Junior bush poetry:** Winner, Danielle Miller, Toowoomba.



▲ Five-year-old Kelsey Horton and her mother, Zita Horton, of Brisbane, at the Poets Breakfast during the Poets at the Carnival in Toowoomba last week. Kelsey made her bush poetry debut reciting a Banjo Paterson poem, *The Weather Prophet*.

# IMAGE

## Cedar Vale's lady poet still a 'bushy' at heart

**B**ORN in the country and brought up in the city, Australian Champion Lady Bush Poet, Glenny Palmer (pictured), of Cedar Vale, near Beaudesert, is a bushy at heart.

Winning the title of Australian Champion at the Australian Bush Poetry Championships in Winton during the Waltzing Matilda centenary celebrations earlier this year, Glenny was in Toowoomba last week for the annual Poets at the Carnival competition.

Glenny has had a successful year as a bush poet, also winning the original verse category in Surat's Battered Bugle competition in August, and taking out second place in The King of Verse original poetry section at the Gympie Country Music Muster a month ago.

She has had a fast rise to



bush poetry fame, only competing in bush poetry for the past 18 months.

"I went to a poetry evening in Beaudesert and my life as a bush poet began," Glenny said.

"I've always done a lot of writing and had stories and poems published. I suppose I

have been writing poems all my life and thought I was the only one who did, until I was introduced to the Bush Poets Association."

Glenny has just written her first book of poetry, titled "Poems and Various Other Lies, By the Wandering Wordsmith".

POETS BY THE RIVER.      NEPEAN ROWING CLUB N.S.W.

Readings held on the LAST Thursday of the Month.

INFO; June La1. ph (02) 625-8577.

S.M. 11/01/95 P.29

# On fire in poet awards

A FIREMAN at Brisbane Airport has won a national bush poet's competition with an amusing poem called *The Builder*.

It traces the trials of the family when a builder is brought in to do some work on their home.

Greg Young, 45, of Coolum on the Sunshine Coast won \$1000 from the Henry Lawson Society of NSW Poet's Corner Award.

"I've been writing bush poetry for five years," Greg said.

"I used to write poetry as a kid but five years ago I got divorced and it was a good way of putting my thoughts down.

"Then I went along to a poetry club and saw how my stuff compared. Seeing that made my writing improve."

Although he gets a bit of a ribbing from his mates at the airport station, where he has worked for the past 15 years, Greg said they had a good chuckle from reading his poems.

"I usually write humorous things about people."

Although he hasn't written about the the station before, he has included one of the firemen in a poem.



Building a poetic reputation - Greg Young

Greg has no plans to write full-time. He loves his job, but hopes "the big one" never happens.

"When you first start out at the airport as a young guy you some-

times wish something would happen but when you get older you just pray that it doesn't."

Here is the first verse of Greg's prize-winning poem, *The Builders*:

6 The greatest threat to neighbourhoods - and we lived in quite a few, is the arrival of the builder to build next door to you. Now I've nothing against builders when they're building down the road - but I don't like bloody builders building next to my abode. 9

THE HENRY LAWSON OF N.S.W.

MONTROSE \$1000

POETRY AWARDS. 1995.

WINNER:

GREG YOUNG... MT COOLUM Q

"The Builder."

FINALISTS:

Tim Watson... Bellvue Hill NSW

"Littoral"

Quindyth Young. Alstonville. NSW.

"Where did you come from

Baby dear"

Emmett O'Keefe. Killara NSW.

"Lost."

Greg Young. Mt Coolum Q

"January Fires"

Rod Gibson. Byron Bay NSW.

"Coastal Dreaming."

Ron Stevens. Dubbo NSW.

"Bloody Minded."

CONGRATULATIONS!

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOC.

Your entry in the 1995 Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Grand Floral Parade has won 2ND PRIZE - NOVELTY & HUMOROUS.

Thank you for your participation.

Kind regards

TOOWOOMBA EVENTS AND TOURISM CORPORATION



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For every Unknown Soldier who died in World War One,  
There's a broken-hearted mother weeping softly for her son.  
Perhaps he was a leader who we'd follow to Hell's Gate's:  
But more likely just a digger, So, this tribute from his mates.


There was honour in his bearing, and his heart would never yield,  
Even as he lay there dying in the mud on Flander's Field.  
He rode with us-The Light Horse, and he fought without a care.  
Now our mate The Unknown Soldier, lies beneath the sand dunes there.

And we saw him on Gallipoli. when we were fighting where  
He was lying near the ridge top opened-eyed with glassy stare.  
He was many times a hero, on the Somme and Pozieres:  
Our mate The Unknown Soldier. There are many buried there.

But instead of pseudo glory and the medals and the fame:  
Think of grieving women waiting for their men who never came.  
Of the sisters, wives and mothers whose forgiveness we implore,  
For the husbands, sons and brothers who were lost in useless war.


So Vale to The Unknown Soldier who so surely died in vain.  
But for those who weep in sorrow, his light will never wane.  
And the rows of unmarked crosses standing mute, without a name  
Only left those wives and mothers with a grave they cannot claim.

But now their unknown soldier is brought home for them to share;  
To rest in peace - in honour, and ease the heartache there,  
And for the hundred thousand dead, and the few who are living yet,  
In silence let us bow our head, In Respect -- Lest We Forget!



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## GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS!

Have you any news of festivals or concerts in your area? If so, don't keep it a secret. Let every one else in on the news. Send all details in to your relevant Publicity Officer or to the Secretary Ron Selby and have it publicised.

Then - after your function is over, let us know what it was like and we will tell everyone what they missed out on through not being there!

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### **Oasis Hotel, Tamworth 1996.**

Looking ahead to January next year we find a big programme planned for Bush Poetry at the Oasis Hotel in Tamworth.

**Ron 'Boulia' Bates** of Crowley Vale Qld. is the main organiser of this new venture and, as are the new owners of the Oasis, is very excited about the opportunities available for competition poets.

Poets Breakfasts will be held on Saturday, 20th. and Sunday 21st of January and again each morning from 7am to 9am before the competition heats start from Wednesday 24th to the Finals day on Saturday 27th. January.

Trophies will be awarded to the best three Poets from each section of the Open Original, the Open Traditional, the Junior Original and Junior Traditional.

Admission is free to all the

events at the Oasis and no entry fee is required for the competitions.

The only expense incurred will be the purchase of a breakfast if so desired.

Judges already confirmed as coming to this big event are, **Brian Young, Stan Coster, Bruce Simpson and Kelly Dickson.**

For the Junior competitions, **Robbie Gough and Ab Teece** have agreed to be judges.

**John Philipson** of Tamworth will be one of the Co-comperes for the Breakfasts

Entry forms are available from the Manager, Oasis Hotel, New England Highway, Tamworth NSW 2340 or by 'phoning 067 66 3391; as well as from

**Ron 'Boulia' Bates,**  
M/S 437, Lake Clarendon Road,  
Crowley Vale, Qld, 4343  
or by calling 074 66 5120.

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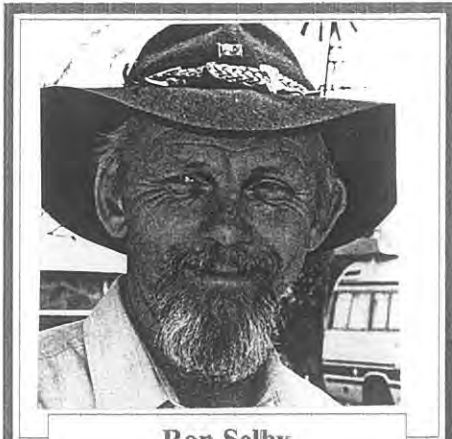
### **Murray who???**

Murray Hartin? Na! - Murray River? Nup! - Murray Cod? No way!

Where do they come from? How many more are out there? Poets, I mean. New faces at Toowoomba this year included **Murray Austin** of Bunya who delighted and surprised the crowds and fellow Bards with his exceptional quality of self composed Bush Poetry, both serious and humorous.

Murray said that he had originally approached **Ray Essery** about his verse and asked if Ray would be





**Ron Selby**

interested in using some of it as he toured the various festivals.

Typical of Ray, was his encouraging response to a fledgling Poet, "No, bugger ya! Come along and have a go ya'self!"

With help such as this Murray thought anonymity would be the go, that he needed a character to hide behind, and entered under the name of Ned O'Dugan. He might as well have called himself D'Arcy Kelly, as the organisers soon saw through his alias.

And so Murray Austin turned up at Toowoomba and took out first place in the Open Serious against some of the Countries most seasoned competitors.

Perhaps his heart wrenching preamble about redundancy twigged a tear in the eyes of the adjudicators.

Backstage before the finals in the City Hall, Murray commented that he used to play football years ago, but was never as nervous before a game as he was awaiting his turn on stage.

Welcome to the ranks of the Bush Bards, Murray.

**Congratulations are in order for Ron Selby, our hard working Secretary Treasurer who celebrated his birthday on October 8th. Ron is now halfway and we wish him all the best from the ABPA**



**Murray Austin**



**Ray Essery**



### **Imperial Hotel. January 1996.**

Good news for Bush Poets at the forthcoming Tamworth Country Music Festival.

The Bush Poetry Competition will again be held at the The Tamworth Imperial Hotel and as usual will be organised by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.

Three changes, however, will be made to next years format.

Firstly a change of name. The event will now be known as the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition.

Secondly there will be an opportunity for non competitors to try themselves out on the Thursday and the Friday prior to the commencement of the competition heats.

Thirdly, North Tower have agreed to be the major sponsor for 1996, thus enabling the committee, along with the help of their previous sponsors to distribute some \$2000.00 in prizes and Trophies.

Audiences at the Imperial have always appreciated the poets efforts to entertain and reflect the country lifestyle and next year the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group will have sponsorships to match their appreciation.

A spokesman from the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, Mr. Cliff Hathway said, "We are looking forward to lots of happy Poets, enthusiastic audiences and very

satisfied sponsors with long memories."

**(Don't forget to have your entries in for the Blackened Billy Verse Competition, by November 30th)**

—o o o o o—

**Carmel Randle** was born and educated in Brisbane, Qld.

She compensated for this urban experience by becoming heavily involved in the Pony Club and Junior Farmers' movements. After training as a Home Economics teacher Carmel eventually escaped from the City and taught everything but Home Economics in South-West and South-East Queensland schools. Family and work commitments have seen Carmel live and teach in Dalby and Toowoomba. In 1988 she moved to a little patch of paradise called Preston, and found Bush Poetry in October 1992 in Longreach at the National Outback Performing Arts Festival.

Recent successes include Reserve Champion Lady Performer at the Australian Championships at Winton Q; The Battered Bugle Awards (Surat Q); Ernie Setterfield Award (Mapleton Q); and placings in the Blackened Billy Awards (Tamworth); Diamond Shears (Longreach) and the Gympie Muster Awards 1995.

Now retired, Carmel divides her times between the Volunteers for Isolated Students Organisation (VISE) and writing and performing

Bush Poetry.

There are 'Many Faces' to Carmel Randle; the faces of Henrietta; the faces of Miss Ermytrude; the faces of Holly; the faces of Bush Poetry; the faces of experience; the faces of a boy; the faces of people she has known and the faces of Australia.

Why so many faces? Well you may ask, but when teaching in schools with ever nosy students and parents, anonymity is often the safest way to conceal ones identity in Literary circles to avoid Classroom 'distractions'!

Be it so, but Henrietta grew from a family challenge, 'I bet you can do better than that Mum!' after a particularly poor episode of 'Red Faces': Henrietta took up the bet. Carmel loves a challenge, and after a winning performance on the Telly one Saturday night, Henrietta was to become a star.

Another more recent publication from Carmel Randle is one designed to help budding authors and poets. Entitled 'Help', this book deals with the technicalities of writing and performing rhyming poetry.

It is a workshop type book suitable for authors aspiring to competition writing where technicalities may mean the difference between success and 'also-ran'.

'Many Faces' and 'Help' are

both available from Carmel Randle, 'Splendacrest' MS 852 Preston. Qld. 4352. at \$10.00 each postage paid.

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TAMWORTH 1996.

When you travel down to TAMWORTH  
For the Country Music Show  
Head out to the OASIS  
Where you'll hear Bush Poetry flow,  
And the folks out there will greet you  
To a friendly atmosphere  
And meet the living legends  
Who are judging there this year.

All the week we have a breakfast  
There's a competition too  
And we're catering for every poet  
There's no selected few.

For we want everyone to join our fun  
The old, The young, The new  
Just go and see the chute boss  
He will tell you what to do.

Yes, The OASIS HOTEL,  
Where we'll meet and mix,  
Is the place to be in 96.  
\*\*\*\*\*

ALL enquiries to: Mr Ron Bates  
m/s 437  
Lake Clarendon Road  
GATTON QLD 4343.  
Ph; (074) 665120.

(Re-printed because the copy in SEPT. issue was almost un-readable. apologies...ED.

## Can you help?

ABPA member, Bob Magor of Myponga South Australia has had a request from a lovely lady in South Australia for information regarding a poem her late father Harold O. Baker used to recite. Her father came from the Armidale area of NSW.

If you know the words to this poem, or can add to, or can supply any information whatsoever, would you please contact Bob Magor c/o P.O. Myponga. S.A. The poem starts something like the following;

### The Taxidermist

Reginald Alfonsus Bundy had a scientific mind  
And from his early childhood he was taxidermically inclined  
And birds and bees of many species, gathered he from far and wide  
There were curly wogs and snakes and spiders  
and goodness knows what else besides  
Skinned, preserved and stuffed and mounted  
Beetles, butterflies and bees  
Guinea pigs and great goannas  
Fish, leeches, frogs and fleas  
Came at length the day when Reggie  
specimens of all near home  
had within his vast collection  
that he did decide to roam  
further afied for strager creatures— and so on. Can you help?

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### A SONNET TO THE MASTER OF HIS ART

(For Milton Taylor - Australia's best)

Milton's mind - like matted wool-  
is filled with such emotions.  
His gentle words caress the soul  
and summon such commotion....  
The feeling in his pleading fingers  
warms the coldest lonely heart.  
Imaginations' images  
reflect the purest noblest art.  
I cried with tears of joy and pain.  
I learned of love and deep regret.  
And if I never hear again  
your timeless tales I'll not forget  
the magic inspiration you impart;  
or the vision of the master of his art.

ANON

### THE SWAGMAN

(For Michael Darby)

(From his photo in "The Country Life"  
(October 6 1994)

A swagman's wiley weathered brow,  
forged of summers blazing shroud,  
and racked of rain and winter winds,  
is petulant and proud.

No lustre left - No gleam or gloat.  
No arrogance or haughty airs.  
Only rough and wrinkled lines  
of life's experience written there.

Gentle natured - meek and mild,  
rough and rugged - wild and free,  
walking now in wisdom's path;  
angelic ministrant to me.

ANON

# Bush poetry revival underway

By **LINDA GROSS**



Bush poetry enthusiasts, John Hart and Joanne Ryan, Toowoomba.

THEY say bush poetry is having a revival, and by the enthusiasm and following that the movement had in Toowoomba last week for the annual Poets at the Carnival competition, it has been well and truly confirmed.

Australian Bush Poets Association secretary/treasurer, Ron Selby, of Drayton, believes the resurgence of bush poets and bush poetry was badly needed for Australia's heritage.

"We need another Banjo Paterson, Henry Lawson, or Dorothea McKellar, because we haven't had one for about 80 years," Ron said.

"Otherwise the tales about this era in history won't be recorded in bush verse for future generations," he said.


Last week's Poets at the Carnival, held in conjunction with the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, attracted 59 bush poets from throughout Queensland and NSW.

Festivities began on Wednesday with a poets breakfast in the park, followed by the first heats of the several categories in the competition.

Poets vied for success in the Open Serious Bush Poetry, Open Humorous Bush Poetry, The Hick Cup, and Junior competitions.

Various performances were also held in different venues throughout the three day carnival of poetry.

## JONDARYAN WOOLSHED COUNTRY MUSIC CHALLENGE

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**   
**11 AND 12 NOVEMBER 1995**

A TOTALLY NEW CONCEPT OF  
COUNTRY ENTERTAINMENT

By the JONDARYAN WOOLSHED COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB.  
A division of the JONDARYAN WOOLSHED HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND PARK  
ASSOCIATION in association with GARDEN CITY COUNTRY MUSIC  
ASSOCIATION.

This is not a competition and there will not be any paid artists. Amateurs and professionals are welcome.

The CHALLENGE is to you, the Country Music Enthusiasts, to come and be entertained. BUT we also CHALLENGE you to get up on stage and entertain others in return.

We CHALLENGE you and the public in general to come and have a relaxed camp-over weekend at the JONDARYAN WOOLSHED at a very modest cost.

The CHALLENGE goes out not only to Country Music Supporters, but also to Bush Poets and Line Dancers. In fact to anyone who has an act that entertains. If we can get a group together who can play for Bush Dances, then this will also happen.

Sound gear and a drum kit will be provided. Bring your own instruments. A supervised "Cloak Room" will be provided to store gear while you relax with friends.



THE BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION,  
organised by  
THE TAMWORTH POETRY READING GROUP,  
at  
THE IMPERIAL HOTEL TAMWORTH,  
25th, 26th and 27th JANUARY 1996.  
INFO: P.O. BOX 1164 TAMWORTH NSW 2340.

# Bush Poetry Competition

Entry is  
**FREE!**

at

## OASIS HOTEL

Tamworth



A Poets Breakfast will be held each morning before competition starts <<> Breakfast 7 am to 9 am  
Competition 9 am start  
Cost per head - \$5.00 (Breakfast Only)

- Breakfast Only <<> Saturday, 20 January & Sunday, 21 January, 1996
- Breakfast & Competition <<> Wednesday, 24 January; Thursday, 25 January & Friday, 26 January, 1996
- Breakfast & Finals <<> Saturday, 27 January, 1996
- Free Farewell Breakfast of Song & Verse <<> Sunday, 28 January, 1996  
- 8 am onwards

Trophies will be awarded to Best Three Poets  
from Each Section



4 Sections ~

- 2 Open Sections ~ Original (Poets own work)  
~ Traditional or Established Verse
- 2 Junior Sections (16 years & under)  
~ Original (Poets own work)  
~ Traditional or Established Verse

Entry Forms from

Oasis Hotel, New England Highway, Tamworth, NSW, 2340  
Phone (067) 66 3391

or

Ron "Boulia" Bates, m/s 437, Lake Clarendon Road,  
Crowley Vale, Qld, 4343  
Phone (074) 66 5120

