

No.1. Vol.3. January 1996.

The Australian



**Bush Poets
Association**



Australian Bush Poets Association

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Waltzing Matilda Festival

Australian Bush Poetry Competition.

“Little Swaggies Award 1996” Write-in competition

Primary and Secondary School Students

Entry Forms from.

The Organiser. “Little Swaggies Award 1996”

P.O. Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352.

What happened to 1995?

They say that time flies faster as one gets older, but even the kids are wondering just where the last twelve months have gone.

Was it because we were all so busy with the increased number of poetry venues; was it because each year we are required to work harder to keep up with modern society and the pressures of daily life; or was it because we were looking ahead to better times, relief from the drought conditions that have prevailed for so long — or towards a plentiful harvest or perhaps towards another new year of Bush Poetry.

In my case, 1995 seemed to last about a fortnight. With lots of travelling, including Tamworth in January and June, Jamberoo, Murrumburrah-Harden, Winton, Longreach, Toowoomba, The Kiosk in Brisbane, and Corryong as well as the Tours of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, and quite a number of 'local' shows.

Coupled with business commitments (I have too much to do to have a job) it all adds up to one hell of a year.

I have enjoyed my Bush Poetry sojourns so much and have enjoyed meeting so many new faces at so many places that I certainly have been looking forward to a new year of Bush Poetry.

1996 appears to have plenty in store for budding poets, reciters and seasoned performers alike — starting with the Longyard concerts at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Tamworth will also host two Bush

Poetry Competitions. The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group will again be hosting a newer and larger competition at the Imperial Hotel and a new competition has been organised at the Oasis Hotel.

More and more writing contests are being conducted, more and more new poets are coming to light. More recognition is being given to the efforts of the performers and organisers of Bush Poetry functions.

A number of new festivals and shows have been listed for the new year, such as the Yuin Folk Festival at Cobargo on the far south coast of NSW, where Bush Poetry is a major feature.

Big things are happening in Winton which has moved in a joint venture with the NOPA people in Longreach to hold their respective festivals a weekend apart in April/May — much appreciated by those who have to travel great distances.

There is talk of National and International competitions in the air, (a lot of organising ahead for some hard workers here). Although the ABPA is not officially involved in any of these matters at this time, it is encouraging to think that others are looking towards such goals.

Best wishes to everyone for a bigger, better, brighter and longer new year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 1996.

Regards

Frank Daniel

Tamworth =New Awards

New awards for Australian Rhymed Verse will be judged for presentation annually at the **Tamworth Country Music Festival**.

Sponsored by **The Tenterfield Saddler**, the awards are call the **"The Bush Laureate Awards"** and the trophy will be the **"Golden Gumleaf"**.

The City of Tamworth welcomes the initiative shown by this most Australian of companies in choosing Tamworth as the venue for theses awards. January is a time when many awards of significance to our heritage are made in Tamworth.

The first awards will take place at the **Longyard Hotel on Tuesday 23rd. January 1996 at 11.30 a.m.** and high profile Country Music personalities and bush poets will perform and present awards.

There are a two sections to be judged and judges will be drawn from the media, publishing and recording industries. The sections and 1996 finalists are:-

1. Published Original Australian Rhymed Verse (in book form)

Frank Daniel... "Bush Yarns and Poetry"...Publisher..Truthful Publications.

Jim Haynes... "I'll Have Chips"...Publisher...Singabout Australia.

James Hunter... "Barb Wire & Crows"... Publisher..James Hunter.

2. Recordings of Australian Rhymed Verse.

Ray Essary.. "The Mullumbimby Bloke"...Dingo Studios. Producer... Ross Pepper.

Bob Miller... "The Larrikin"... Koala River Studios. Producer..Chris Foley.

John Major... "Australian Bush Poetry"... Daley Planet Studios... Producer.. Peter Daley.

There will also be a special **Heritage Award** made for Published Original Verse with an emphasis on Australian Heritage, Historical, Geographical or Social.

The growth of Australian Verse as entertainment has been phenomenal in recent years and the awards will recognise that popularity. They are also intended to encourage the publishing and recording of Australian Rhymed Verse. These Awards can only grow in status as the years unfold.



<p>Reminder. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEEES ARE NOW DUE \$20 PER ANNUM</p> <p>Send to Mr. Ron Selby Sec/Treas. P.O. Box 77 DRAYTON NTH 4352 Q.</p>
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Queensland Calling.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT NOBBY.

Rudd's Pub at Nobby, some 20 minutes South West of Toowoomba, comes straight from the 'Dad and Dave' Era. There Steele Rudd, author of those wonderful tales, spent some relaxing time, and the front 'Parlour' of the Pub is a fascinating memorial to those occasions.

On Christmas Eve, the second of their Poets' Brunches took place, with Compere, Gary Fogarty, introducing many Downs Poets to an enthusiastic audience. Mark Gliori, Bill Glasson, Carmel Randle, Carmel Dunn, Tom Dunn and Gary entertained with their Verse, while Tracey Fogarty and Shannon Fogarty brought their Songs (and Band-in-A-Box) to lend their musical talents to the Festivities.

The Manager of 'Rudd's Pub' is to be congratulated on his promotion of the Spoken Word Arts -- a facet of the Australian Tradition that blends so well with his decor!

WOODFORD/MALENY FOLK FESTIVAL.

The 10th Annual Queensland Folk Festival held, this year, for the second time, at the new Property purchased by the Folk Federation for the purpose, has proved yet again that there are literally tens of thousands of people prepared to 'rough-it' under very basic camping conditions for five VERY full days of wall-to-wall creativity.

Within the Festival was a 'Spoken Word Festival', organised under the Leadership of Jackie Bridle who, this year, took over Mark Gliori's job.... and carried it off very successfully too! Within the Spoken Word Festival, we enjoyed.....Six 'Poets' Breakfasts', of the Walk-up variety, where not even standing room was available, and more Poets than could be accommodated (ONE POEM ONLY!) attended. There was a different Compere each day here.

The CROSS OVER CHALLENGE....more details later!

Three Heats and a Finals of 'Yarn Spinning', hosted by Jim Haynes.

Four Afternoon 'New Faces' Sessions in a Workshop situation.

'Bush Poets' Concert' with Gary Fogarty, Bobby Miller and Campbell.

'Mostly Women' Concert with Lisa Gerhardt-Plucknett, Carmel Randle, Jackie Bridle, Glenny Palmer and Shirley Friend.

Stand Up Poets' 'Late Night Concert'.

'The Great Debate', hosted by Jim Haynes.

'The Man From Ironbark'....Geoffrey Graham as Banjo Paterson himself!

'Poets' Breakfast for Children', hosted by Ian Mackay, Shirley Friend, and 'Holly'. This attracted some THIRTY Junior Poets!

Four 'Comedy Lunches' featuring such stand-up Artists as Martin Pearson, Jean Paul Bell, John Haag, Nana Obscuras, Shirley Friend, and Alice Springs Desert Patrol.

A 'Closet Comics Coming Out' Session with Jonathon Atherton.
 A Workshop on 'Recitation Techniques' with Peter Auty and Martin Pearson.
 A feature 'Testimonial Concert to Bruce Simpson', with Ted Egan, John Philipson, and Gary Fogarty.

....and the wonderful FINALE, the 'Charlee Marshall Concert', hosted by Ian Mackay, with Guest of Honour, Beryl Marshall, featuring so many of Charlee's Friends in the Poets' Brotherhood..

Add to all of this that many of the Poets also acted as M.C.'s for three or four other Events, and you will appreciate the involvement!

Bush Poets participating at Woodford included Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty, John Philipson, Carmel Randle, Glenny Palmer, Jim Haynes, Jackie Bridle, Lisa Gerhardt-Plucknett, Geoffrey Graham, Bruce Simpson, and Campbell the Swaggie.

For many years the 'Nimbin Poets' have been a feature of the Maleny Festivals. Originally based in the Communes of the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, there has been a notable shift in their approach to their Poetry over the last few years.

Although the Bush Bards haven't yet convinced them that...

POETRY THAT DOESN'T RHYME IS BASICALLY A WASTE OF TIME!

....many of the trappings of their earlier years (beads, sarongs, more beads, scarves, more beads, obvious tattoos, more beads, etc...) seem to have lost their emphasis. They now call themselves the "Stand Up Poets". When I inquired why, I was told that they were Poets like the Stand Up Comedians. I agree that their work isn't funny.

Twelve months ago, a challenge was issued. A CROSS OVER Event. The Bush Poets should dress as Hippies, and perform an item rubbishing Bush Poetry, while the Nimbin Poets would dress as Bushies and rubbish the Hippie style.

It is a matter of History now that it took twelve months for the Nimbin Group to recover from the visual thrashing and verbal superiority of Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Shirley Friend and Co.! They didn't realise that Bush Poets can also ACT! As a result, they came this year fully prepared, and the contest was closely fought! THEIR challenge was for the a SUNG act, with only 5 poets involved, (That's because there were only 5 of them!) again in CROSS OVER style. Sadly, Ray Essery wasn't at Woodford this year, and his vocal talents were greatly missed. Bobby Miller proved just how big an effort he was prepared to make by taking Guitar Lessons at 5 o'clock in the morning. Listening to his efforts was also a VERY big sacrifice by the Poets camped nearby. Eventually the Teacher gave up!

Word of the challenge spread like wildfire around the Festival Site! Standing Room was unavailable half an hour before the Session started. The Acting Premier of Queensland arrived to see the battle.

Fortunately, Geoffrey Graham plays a guitar! He, along with Gary Fogarty on double bongos, Shirley Friend straddling very precariously some sort of weird drum, Bobby Miller unrecognisable in sarong and dreadlocks -- with mobile phone in his bum bag -- and Jackie Bridle, well ringed up, represented the Bush Poets.

7

Their opponents didn't seem to know the difference between Australian Bush and USA Wild West.

With noisy electric guitars, Shauna (as lead vocalist) tapping a tambourine and looking like she came from Texas, and their obvious singing experience -- they have a Video on the market -- they hoodwinked the Judge, who I think, wanted to keep the Competition alive for next year! I believe the Bushies have a SECRET WEAPON for the next one....

As well as Bush and Stand Up Poets, Woodford gathered performers from as far afield as New Zealand -- and Roger Lusby was a BUSH Poet! -- Kuranda in Far North Queensland, Broome W.A., many from Sydney and Brisbane and all points in between! This must have been very gratifying to the hard-working local Group, the Mapelton Poets.

But that's what Woodford is.... a meeting point for styles, races, cultures, and cultural ideas. There are FIFTEEN large Venues starting around 8.30 each morning and providing non-stop entertainment until 1 am the next morning, without the STREET ENTERTAINMENT! The Festival culminates in the FIRE EVENT, with a cast of thousands. Sydney should hire their Organisers for the Year 2000 Olympics!

There are just TOO many happenings..... you have to plan your itinerary!

Mention must be made of Martin Pearson, who has been performing at Woodford/Maleny since its early days. If there was an award for 'Top Performer at the Festival', for 1995/6, it would have to go to Martin!

Hailing from Rockhampton, Qld., his Comic Songs, Stand-Up Comedy Routines, Leadership of the Negative Team in The Great Debate on Political Correctness of Language ('The 12 Days of Christmas' will never be the same -- we'll give Fruit Bats in Gum Trees in future!), performance of fractured Fairy Tales, and even his Jaffle Calls at the Poets' Breakfasts (He was the COOK there!) endeared him to all! Good On Ya, Martin!

BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOK OF VERSE.

The new Bronze Swagman Book of Verse has just been released.

This Waltzing Matilda Centenary Edition is now available from.....

The Winton Tourist Promotion Association,
PO Box 44,
WINTON Q 4735.

Cost is \$12.50 which includes postage and handling. This is a Limited Edition.

SUPPORT A.B.P.A. BUY A COPY (or two)
OF THE 1996 ANNUAL.

Queensland Report Continued.....

WALTZING MATILDA POETRY AWARDS.

The 2nd Update on these Awards will be circulated early in February.

REMINDER:-

Entries close for THE BRONZE SWAGMAN (Write-in) Awards on **29.2.96**
(Yes, it's a LEAP YEAR!)

Entries close for THE LITTLE SWAGGIES (Write-in) Awards on **31.3.96**

Why not do YOUR bit to foster Bush Poetry in our Schools? Write for a supply of Entry Forms for the LITTLE SWAGGIE AWARDS, and take a copy PERSONALLY to your Local Schools. Ask for the Headmaster of Primary Schools, or the English Subject Master or Performing Arts Co-ordinator in the Secondary Schools. (No restriction on photocopying Entry Forms. No Entry Fee!)

ALSO REMEMBER:-

The **WALTZING MATILDA POETRY (PERFORMANCE) AWARDS** will be held in **WINTON** on 26, 27, 28th April. Open, Novice, and Junior Categories are included.

The **NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL** will be held in **LONGREACH** on the 3rd, 4th and 5th May.

For information about ANY OR ALL OF THESE, write to....

**WALTZING MATILDA POETRY AWARDS,
PO BOX 7714,
TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE. 4352**

NORFOLK ISLAND.

It has just come to our attention that there are BUSH POETS on NORFOLK ISLAND! We hope to hear more of them in the future!

FROM WEST AUSTRALIA

If you happen to be in West Australia on Australia Day,
why not be part of...

**WIRELESS HILL AUSTRALIA DAY
POETS CUP AND YARN SPINNERS EVENT**

Wireless Hill Reserve, 26th Jan, 2 - 5pm.

Free Entertainment by 'The Dingo's Breakfast Oz Music'. The Event is open to all. A general time limit of 5 minutes applies.

Address for information is: **Community Arts Officer,
City of Melville,
PO Box 130
APPLECROSS 6163**

....or give Rusty Christensen (364 4491) or Anne Faren (364 0695) a call.

Cobargo Folk Festival 23 - 25 February 1996.

Come along and enjoy a week-end full of fun with Bush Dances, Poet's Breakfasts, Woolly Yarns, Continuous Concerts, Workshops, Festival Markets, a Street Parade, and much much more at the Inaugural Yuin Folk Club Festival at Cobargo on the Beautiful South Coast of NSW.

Among the artists appearing with the many dance and music groups will be the likes of Jim Haynes, Mic Conway, Wongawilli Bush Band, Enda Kenny, Loaded Dog, Frank Daniel, and the Friends of the Scaly Legless Lizard, who will be joined by a great number of local and south coast musicians, singers, poets and woolly yarn spinners.

A range of accomodation is available at the Cobargo Showground for weekend ticket holders. A range of other accomodation is available at Bermagui, Wallaga Lake and Tilba, all within easy reach of the Festival.

A Week-end ticket will cost \$25.00. An Early-bird ticket will cost \$20.00. Student (14-18) \$10.00. Children — Free. Day Tickets \$15.00. A weekend ticket includes entry to all concerts and workshops from Friday night — great value.

For all enquiries please call Georgina on 064-934 763.

● Pet goat

On finding a well on his new property a farmer threw an old railway sleeper, lying by the well, down into its murky depths to see how deep it was.

Just as the sleeper splashed into the water and the farmer was think-

ing what a long way down the water was, when he heard a noise and turned to see a goat charging at him.

He jumped aside and the goat went headlong down the well and into the water.

A man came running over a nearby ridge and asked the farmer if he had seen his pet goat.

"No," lied the farmer.

"He was easy to recognise," said the man.

"His rope was tied to a railway sleeper."

**** THE AUDITOR'S REPORT. ****

Ron, Ron. What have you done?
There's piles of papers here and there,
and everything is everywhere!

A feeling of intense despair
is coming over me.

Well thank you for the beer my friend.

Perhaps we ought to start again
to tally the receipts and then,
we'll count the memberships again.

Another beer would go down well
before we balance off the till.

The pile on the window sill
surely isn't unpaid bills!
We're bankrupt now for sure!

Ron, Ron. What have you done?
This figure here is surely queer.

And would I like another beer?

Well things are not as they appear.
Another beer might make this clear.
Receipts for June are missing mate.
The monthly statement's always late.

You say the National Bank's irate?
I fear we face a tragic fate.

And what's this number two account?
and what's this slush fund all about?

These stubbies keep on running out!
Its thirsty work you know!

Ron, Ron. It seems the sum
of this pile matches that pile.
And I was thinking all the while
accountancy was not your style.
I thought we were a country mile
from where we ought to be!

These columns now are making sense.
You've called them shillings, pounds & pence,
but all the totals tally -- hence
the ledger now is balanced!

The numbers on your scribble sheet,
though kinda rough and not so neat,
are all correct! What a feat!

And profits too! An added treat
I never thought I'd see!

Ron, Ron. The deed is done!

The whole ordeal is over!
Let's hope the figures look this good
when you and I are sober!

There are few sounds quite so healing
and few sights quite so grand,
as the precious gift of falling rain
on our parched and thirsty land.

John Smalley.
Toowoomba.

Dear Reader,

As with all good
bush poetry, this poem is
totally and absolutely true
(except for a few minor
variations/ additions/ sub-
tractions) to maintain rhyme
and rhythm, a slight touch
of poetic license here and
there, a few aspects includ-
ed that were probably
true but I couldn't quite
remember, a couple of
almost insignificant embell-
ishments to add poetic
humour, and a tiny (but not
excessive) amount of BULL
that everyone tries to get
away with, (so why shouldn't
I?)

A few minor facts seem to
have been slightly distorted
eg. Ron is actually a very
meticulous and highly organ-
ised record keeper, and I
don't drink-- but all-in-all
I reckon this poem is about
as true as anyone could
make it! I bet it's truer
than anything you've ever
written!

The Auditor.

New Book.

'The Selection'

A compilation of his favorite
works plus many many more
new poems by

'Blue the Shearer'

\$15.00 incl PPH .

- P.O. Box 225

Wellington NSW 2820



BUSH poet Mark Thompson is to record his book of poetry *From The Heart*.

The Rodeo Bum, Good Mates Are Hard To Find, My Little Blonde-Haired Filly ... they'll all be there, Thommo said.

So will *Sticking Me Boot Up the Government's Bum*, which puts the slipper into our politicians.

Thommo sent a copy to Bob Hawke when he was PM and received the following reply from his office: "Mr Hawke does accept the poem in the spirit in which it was sent. However, he feels there is some overuse of poetic licence and underuse of facts."

I thought he was pretty close to the mark in all verses, including this one:

"And they'll spend on paintings with such ease, but nothing seems queerer,

"Than to buy 'Blue Poles' from overseas, when their laws wrecked Namatjira ..."



• Tarzan and Jane

Tarzan and Jane were sitting in their jungle tree house, when Jane told Tarzan to go and get something for dinner.

Tarzan was gone half the day and when he returned he had three dead finches and two dead chimpanzees.

Jane looked at Tarzan in disgust and said: "Oh! No! not finches and chimps again!"

HELP!

A HANDBOOK
FOR WRITERS AND
PERFORMERS OF
RHYMED VERSE
BY

Carmel Randle

DIP.T.,L.T.C.L.(Effect.Sp)

\$10 PPH from "Splendacrest"
MS 852 PRESTON Q 4352

The
**Tamworth
Bush Poetry
Competition**
Imperial Hotel
24-27 January
1996

**BUSH POET'S BREAKFAST
AND COMPETITION**



**Saturday 3rd February 1996
8.30 AM**

at the Light Horse Cottage
29 Gibraltar St, Bungendore

Come and recite your favourite bush poetry
or just come along and listen, while enjoying
a country breakfast.

Prize money for adult's and children's sections
provided by:

Light Horse Cottage

Bungendore Leather and

Royal Hotel Social Club.

Enquiries:

06238 1651

06238 1303

BUNGENDORE



Look for the

ARE you the type who drops your Wagga from your Wagga Wagga?

So you end up calling the famous southern NSW city Wagga, instead of Wagga Wagga?

Naughty you! You're not supposed to call Wagga Wagga Wagga!

You're supposed to call Wagga Wagga Wagga ... If you get our drift.

And songwriters Jim Haynes, Ted Egan and Greg Champion have got together to tell the country just that.

Their new song, *Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga*, is an appeal from the heart.

"People are forever saying only half the place name," Ted told *Australasian Post*. "It shows a nice laid back Australian laziness - but the song is saying that you shouldn't do things by halves."

Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga features dozens of Aussie place names.

The chorus says:
You don't call Kurri Kurri

You don't call Gin Gin

You don't call Mooney Mooney Mooney

And you don't call Kin Kin Kin
Never call Pindi Pindi Pindi
And don't call Grong Grong Grong

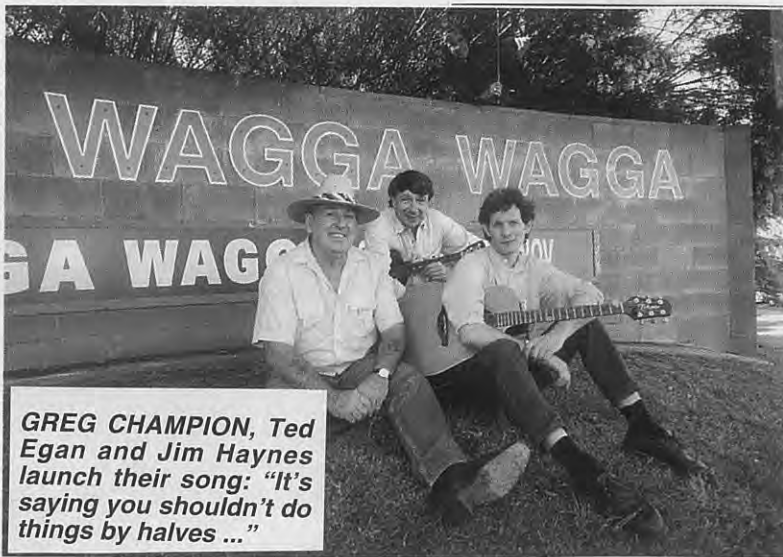
And don't call Wagga Wagga Wagga, no sir,
Callin' Wagga Wagga Wagga is wrong.

Songwriter Jim Haynes, whose comedy album

Weelabarabak For Me recently won a prestigious songwriters' award at Tamworth, wrote with the help of a Postcode book and his Subaru wagon.

"I've driven about 100,000km in two years so I've got first hand knowledge of many of the towns," Jim said. "I had to leave out a whole swag of place names. There were plenty to choose from."

Jim explained that omitting one half of a double-barrel town name changed dramatically the meaning of the name.



GREG CHAMPION, Ted Egan and Jim Haynes launch their song: "It's saying you shouldn't do things by halves ..."

"Aborigines used the double word as the plural," Jim said.

"In the language of the Wiradjuri people who settled the area, Wagga means crow. Wagga Wagga means bloody heaps of crows. The double barrel is very important to the overall meaning."

Why focus the song on Wagga Wagga?

Jim said it was because of the

AUSTRALASIAN POST

city's international reputation.

"Some years ago I was in New York and I was asked quite out of the blue by a cabbie if I came from Wagga Wagga. 'Everybody's heard of Wagga Wagga,' he said."

Then, after Trevor Chappell bowled underarm to a New Zealand cricketer in an international match at the MCG, Jim saw a cartoon in a London

newspaper that showed the Wagga Wagga Ladies' Bowls Club coaching the Australian cricket team.

But if you are one of those types who calls Wagga Wagga Wagga, it might be a comfort to know you're not alone.

At a city reception held in Wagga Wagga for the three entertainers, Mayor Peter Dale said it was usual to drop a

The Chronicle Toowoomba

Meet Ned, be fed

Ned Winter is the Camp Oven Cook.

His enterprising tourism business, located 100km west of Toowoomba near Cecil Plains, is an experience not to be missed.

"Ned's Corner" offers groups a three-course meal cooked in authentic camp ovens.

He treats his guests to Australian yarns and poems.

Bush music and entertainment can also be arranged.

Ned explains to guests the art of camp-oven cooking and treats them to delicious bush meals.

He always asks them to bring along a good sense of humour and a healthy appetite.

The complex has rustic charm and

is set in spectacular bush scenery.

Walls are lined with memorabilia that depict his early campdrafting days.

A number of historic bush implements are also on display with a unique story attached to each one.

The nearby lagoon adds to the scenery, and is also the centrepiece of a number of Ned's yarns.

It is situated 21km south of Cecil Plains and visits are by appointment only.

Busloads are best catered for.

Further information can be obtained by phoning Mr Winter on (076) 68 0309.

Information supplied by the Toowoomba & Golden West Regional Tourist Association.

"Wagga" out of the name.

He even admitted that he had to think twice about it.

"I was practising saying 'Wagga Wagga' on the drive here," he said.

And a scan through the Wagga Wagga telephone directory is revealing. Of about 200 businesses listed which use the name, only 20 use the two Waggas.

"Some young kids don't even know the town's called Wagga

Wagga," said Jim Charles, a long time resident. "They just think it's called Wagga and that's it."

Radio and country music star Greg Champion, who co-wrote and helped produce the

record, was unsure of its chances of commercial success.

"I don't have high hopes because it's difficult to gauge market forces," he said.

"Sometimes you think something will go well and then are

surprised when it doesn't take off. Then other times you are surprised by success.

"It's a good, blokey singalong with a yobbo chorus. It might sell all right."

**Story: CAMDEN SMITH
Pictures: ROB FOX**

THE A.B.P.A. MONTHLY

I dreamed I went to Winton where all poets should be mates
but they ran a competition called "The Battle of the States".
Then the Big Guns traded insults til the atmosphere was blue,
so I jumped up upon the stage to say a word or two.

"Frank Daniel - Mark Gliori - Ray Essery & Co!

Stand back and let a poor old coot from down south have a go.
I'm 86 - half blind and I have one foot in the grave,
I've listened to you wet-backs and banana-benders rave;
I don't know who the winner is, I just stepped up to state
compared to Banjo Patterson, you're almost second rate.

Your Country doesn't end where someone drew a boundary line
when we celebrate Australia Day your State's as good as mine.
Tho' Mrs Snodgrass of Victoria is looking down her nose:
No one wants her poetry or listens to her prose.
Her entourage write rave reviews about her in 'The Sun',
if she ever came to Winton she would turn around and run
so she'd go back home to Toorak, write a protest to 'The Times':
"Those dreadful country poets still write poetry THAT RHYMES!!"
Now up here you have a champion already standing tall
It's the A.B.P.A. Journal that may yet unite us all"

The Big Guns started shaking hands as Big Guns always do
then I woke up and realised my yearly sub was due
Please find enclosed. Best wishes for the year ahead to you.

Yours Sincerely,
Harry Bowers, Victoria.



**** BUSH POETS AT BLACKHEATH N.S.W. ****

Any poets interested in forming a poets group in the Blue Mountains, In the fabulous Blue Mountains, are invited to attend a poets get-together on Friday 23rd FEBUARY 1996 at the GARDI... opposite the Railway Station, Blackheath, at 7.30pm. For information contact: JUNE LAL - (02) 625 8577. welcome!

SORRY THIS EVENT CANCELLED!

THE BUSH WILL SORT THEM OUT

There are writers of the town and bush who yawp for lack of style
And sullen lights, contemporaries wedged tight in "wait a while"
And other rank who froth and hiss and prime the inken loom
Who'll never crank a work of worth from cradle to the tomb.

And reciters who will write a work that fails upon the page
But rises on performance when it's spoken on the stage
And if its claimed by others and it works in isolation
It might go on to greatness on the centre stage of Nation.

And couplets that at last might pass the saline test of time
To mingle with immortals of the best bush verse and rhyme
And confined to scores of lightless drawers and blind manilla covers
Find the classic thoughts that wither from the taunts of mindless others.

And sundries who are waiting in the wings with velvet purses
To commercialise the contents and merchandise the verses
Rubbing shoulders with the corporates and the lairs and money lenders
And the motives often hidden in their sterilised agendas.

And then there's those who worry 'bout the metre and the rhyme
Who'd split hairs about the difference 'tween the two cent and the dime
Who wonder through their insular nights about true form and structure,
In the building of their ballads they will lack good architecture.

And then there's stars of raging stage with reputations built
Whose claims and "vein imaginings" go grandly on the wilt
When the acid test of normal life puts mateship into doubt
Never fear the final outcome 'cause the bush will sort them out.

For there's linesmen and lineswomen who have berthed bold streams of magic
About the things that make us tick and circumstances tragic
And on the national register of Australia's greatest treasure
A handful of that glittering verse has graced the tape for measure.

As our movement gains momentum to the scrub's great drum and fife
She'll attract all modes of mankind to its tapestry of life
Embrace them, give them free range they've a right to write and tout
Irrespective of our output, the bush will sort us out.

Robert Raftery c
Picture Writer
Brisbane Australia
10-10-95

*Robert Raftery
Best wishes for
Christmas 95
& beyond!*

WOODFORD REMEMBERS CHARLEE MARSHALL.

We decided, after it was over, that Charlee would have approved... so I reckon that means something. It was the first Woodford/Maleny Festival since Charlee Marshall had passed away and yet there was his name on the programme and even bobbing up in the opening ceremony.

Beyond shadow of doubt, there was a debt to repay, recognition to give, and the special tribute on the last day of the festival certainly did that.

Ian Mackay had the unenviable task of putting together a concert which celebrated Charlee's involvement and inspiration without touching too much on the still sad nerve endings left by his passing.

Bill Hauritz, Executive Director of the Queensland Folk Federation, spoke glowingly of Charlee's role in establishing the strength of poetry at festivals throughout Australia...("the father of the spoken word," he called him). He revealed his hope that the QFF could help to publish some of Charlee's previously unpublished work, with next years festival being targetted for the release.

A host of other poets performed his poems and many added personal recollections. Beryl Marshall, Jim Haynes, Mervyn Langford, Gary Fogarty, Glennie Palmer, Geoffrey Graham, Tilly Mackay, Bobbie Miller, Rosalie Eriksen, Jenny Magrath, Jacklyn Bridle, Carmel Randle, Denis Kevans, Shirley Friend and Ian Mackay, as well as entertaining with poetry, helped to paint the wider picture of just who this character was and the effect that he had had.

Much recognition was also given to the role that Beryl played in aiding and abetting him and, more recently, in being a performer herself. It was great to have Beryl down for the festival and Jackie presented her with a bright "festival hat" to show appreciation of her years of involvement.

The QFF specially put on a carton of champers, a toast was drunk, and a fine afternoon was had by all.

After a string of Charlee's more humorous poems, Glennie Palmer performed his beautiful poem "November" and, lest that be a sad note to depart on, Ian finished by lifting spirits with a light-hearted reflection.

As well as the tribute, though, Charlee would certainly have been pleased with the leap made by the spoken word at this year's festival. Poet's Breakfasts drew capacity crowds to the Troubadour Cafe every single morning and the "bursting at the seams" list of participants reflected that same enthusiasm.

The challenge between the Stand-Up Poets and the Bush Poets was, once again, a real delight. Geoffrey Graham's "Man from Ironbark" proved to be an excellent production and the Poet's Brawl and the Yarn Spinning competitions (with Jim Haynes at the helm) were closely fought in front of huge and appreciative audiences. This year, Poet's Afternoons were formally introduced, particularly for new performers and they too were very well received.

The other highlight was the first Poet's Breakfast in the Children's festival. Shirley Friend, Ian Mackay and Carmel Randle (who admitted afterwards that they weren't quite sure what to expect), found so many young reciters that they couldn't fit them all into the single morning allocated.

Time after time, one heard the comment that the spoken word was the best bit of the festival. Expressions like that owe much to the energies not only of Charlee but to all the people he has inspired and encouraged to carry it on.

Ian Mackay

TED EGAN, Greg Champion and Jim Haynes launched *Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga* to an enthusiastic audience at a country music venue in the southern NSW city.

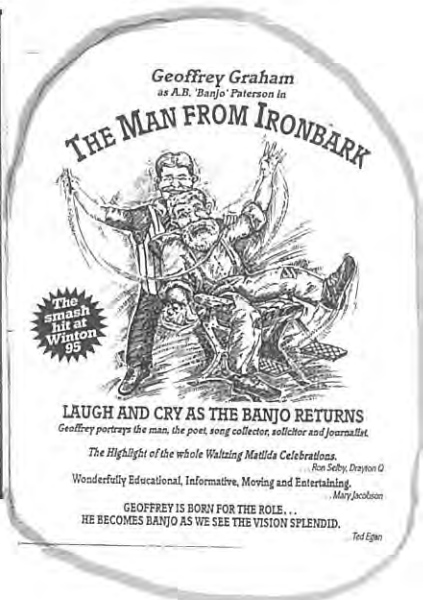
Then they performed individually, with Ted and his Fostersfone – a simple, stringed bass made out of a Foster's beer carton – stealing the show.

A group of local schoolgirls who'd seen Ted perform in Alice Springs last year mobbed him for autographs and cheered enthusiastically at the completion of each song.

Midway through Jim Haynes' bracket of songs, time was up for the girls and they filed out of the venue.

"They must be music lovers," Jim cracked.

The Australasian Post, December 2, 1995



A man who was once described as the 'best buckjumper in the world' is now buried in the Casino Cemetery.

Mr Darcy Powell, 85, died in a Sydney Nursing Home, he lived most of his life at Disputed Plains, west of Lismore.

The legendary show-man and horseman, Lance Scuthorpe, said 60 years ago that Mr Powell had no peer as a buckjump rider. Mr Powell was born Tyndale on the Clarence river, grew up with horses and they became his life.

An American show-man and veterinary surgeon, Jack Ashton, who toured Australia after World War 1 with a horse tent show he called 'Roundup' challenged local riders to pit their skills against his meanest buckjumpers. Darcy did so at Colemans Point, Casino.

When Darcy rode his buckjumpers, Ashton was so impressed that he begged Darcy to go to the United States with the show. Darcy did not go and instead went to work with the Armstrong family on their property at Disputed Plains. The Armstrongs were leading horse breeders, mainly for the showing, but they also produced remounts which were exported to India. Darcy Powell broke and schooled the horses and rode them in competitions. About 1919, on a horse named Mr Radium, owned by Miss Kate Armstrong, Darcy became the first rider in Australia to clear a seven foot (2 metre) high jump.

Darcy often delighted children by telling them the story of one of his most memorable rides, and his great friend, the late Tom Somerville put the story to verse.

This poem is said to be 'every bit as gripping as The Man From Snowy River' and is one of the great poems in the repertoire of 'The Mullimbimby Bloke', Ray Essery.

Pigs get ready for big wet

Livestock moving to higher ground and black ants building high nests are signs of a big wet season ahead, according to Central Queensland bushman and poet Mr Ray Rose.

"I think there're big rains coming," he said.

Mr Rose said cattle and bush pigs were perhaps the best indicator of rainfall as they moved to higher ground.

"Pigs don't like swimming — they cut their throats with their feet."

Mr Rose said that in the past couple of days he had observed cattle herding on to higher ground and he had heard reports of wild pigs moving out of the lower areas.

"The black ants are building higher nests in higher ground. We consider that a good sign out west."

With 59 years in the outback Mr Rose believes nature provides a good indicator of the seasons.

"But then I could be wrong," he said. Even bushies know the importance of a disclaimer.

'Bush Yarns and Poetry'

by Frank Daniel

Illustrated by Joe

Published by...

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P.O. Box 16

Canowindra NSW

2804.

\$13.00 incl PPH

Bush bred on the Sandon river, where the headland met the sea,
Just sixteen hands of coal black sin, He had no pedigree.
There wasn't a man could ride him, Tho' many they said had tried,
The fame of a killer stallion, was talked of far and wide.
Then came one Darcy Powell, from up at Coraki,
He said "I'll ride this outlaw, or one of us must die!

And people came from near and far, to see the youngster ride.
'Twas a dreadful thing they said, And surely suicide.
They corraled the horse at Yamba, in a rope yard by the sea,
Each vantage point was taken, from ringside, dune and tree.
Well, Darcy rode that demon, three times around the ring,
When a mug from up at Grafton, gave the gate an open swing.

The mustang went for the river, each buck was ten feet high,
He spun and squealed but couldn't shift the lad from Coraki.
They never touched the oyster wall, just took it in their stride,
Into the foaming torrent, against the swirling tide.
They crossed the bar on an ebbing tide, the sea was getting rough,
But Darcy said "I'll stay with you 'till you've had e' bloody 'nough"

Unmouthing this demon stallion, No answer to the rein,
He'd learned to swim in the Sandon, he was going home again.
Out on the blue horizon, the outlaw's mouth was sore,
'Ere Darcy turned him homeward, and headed back to shore.
The sea was rising from the south, the storm was getting worse,
But never a moment ceased the fight, 'tween Darcy and the horse.

Then the rider in amazement saw, the black ball come in view,
They turned again to seaward, the stallion and his crew.
They beached at length ten miles away, at a place called Woody Head,
The man collapsed upon the sand, The stallion, he dropped dead.
Now ever since when breezes blow across the restless sea,
The crested snow white horses play... To that stallion's memory.

GIG GUIDE Jim Haynes

TAMWORTH FESTIVAL

January 1996

Yuin Festival, Cobargo Feb 23rd - 25th
Harden-Murrumburrah March 1st - 3rd
Port Fairy Folk Festival March 8th - 11th
Illawarra Folk Festival March 15th - 17th

Greetings,

Yes I've been malenied or woodforded which ever you like. It all means the same thing, and it was everything they said it would be, and then some. When I drove up to the outside and looked into the distance hills at a mass of tents, I though blimey, tent city or what. Such a delightful setting,;I reckon I could nearly live there. I did say nearly. Just one thing might stop me..the heat. They did warn me but oh it was too bloody hot to perform. Still a fantastic festival, just the amazing variety of talent. Even amongst the poets, there were stand up poets who sit down most of the time and lie a lot. You figure it out!. There were new wave poets, political poets, feminist , feral, nimbin poets, Lismore poets..the list goes on...And of course there were the bush poets .Felt a bit odd doing a traditional poem when the performer before you has just done a monologue about two yellow flowers. Met a few new faces, new to me anyway, Jackie Bridle, Ian McKay, and a pile of others. Poets everywhere. The fire event was unbelievable , with a sea of people covering the hillside. A lot of work has gone into that spectacle.



Tamworth is around the corner, with more poetry at more venues than ever before.

The **HERITAGE** theatre is the venue for a lot of Heritage entertainment.

* **Murray Hartin** and the gang will put on 3 shows.

* **The Bush Balladeers** comprising Noel Cutler, Geoffrey Graham, Frank Daniel and Bob Magor will do three nights at 7.30 PM. The dates are Sunday Jan 21st, Tuesday Jan 23rd and Thursday Jan 25th.

* **Dingo Dryden** will perform his own show on at least four days of the festivals.

* **The Man from Ironbark** will grace Tamworth for the first time. Ten shows in all, nearly every day of the festival. Wed 17th to Saturday 20th at 7.30 PM; Sunday 21st at 2.00 pm; Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th at 2.00pm.

The Oasis Hotel is also set for a mess of Bush Poetry.

I wish success to everyone, and a real pat on the back to **Ron Selby** for a bloody good job done over the last 12 months. Good on Ya Son.

Cheers.....the Bealiba Bulladeer.

Profile: Geoffrey Graham.

Geoffrey Graham has almost become a household word in Australia following his successes in 1995. A Bush Bard with a difference, Geoffrey proved himself one of our top performers when he produced and performed his one man show, "The Man From Ironbark". The 'Man' first hit the stage to packed houses at the Winton (Q) Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations in April.

With wife Rose, and now three little nippers, Benjamin, Sarah and Adam, Geoffrey has settled on a small farm at Bealiba in western Victoria. It was here they converted a rough bush block into a family farm with an orchard, some chooks, a dog and a cat.

Originally from Robertson on the N.S.W. tablelands, Geoffrey grew up on the family property and has fond memories of chasing cattle through the scrub, shearing sheep, ploughing, picking up spuds, rabbit trapping and skinny dipping in the dam.

After schooling and a pile of jobs, including work in factories and abattoirs, Geoffrey studied Agricultural Economics at Armidale. He then used his acquired skills as a lecturer in Farm Management at Yanco Agricultural College.

At Yanco he developed an interest in the stage, performing, and involving students in

performance in a yearly production. This led to taking up performing full-time.

After a Drama course in Melbourne Geoffrey did a spate of acting in television and films such as 'The Anzacs' and 'The Far Country'.

A chance meeting whilst busking led to a stint in the 'Back-o-Bourke' Restaurant. It was here he developed a style that is unique amongst performers today.

Using the business name of "Dinkum Oz Entertainment" the Bulladeer combined his talents as a singer, guitarist, bush poet, yarnspinner and comedian, and as such, plied his trade.

Ensuing successes led to owning and running his own Entertainment restaurant, 'Dinkum Oz', in Melbourne for a number of years.

It was here that Geoffrey and Rose met and were married before leaving the 'big smoke' for a more settled (????) life near the township of Bealiba, which is Aborigine for 'where the Hell is it?'

Geoffrey had his first taste of what makes Festivals tick when he went to Tamworth in 1994.

'The Man From Ironbark' will again tour Queensland and other states in 1996 and he may be contacted on 054 691 312.

BUNDY MOB'S MUSTER

MARCH 8th, 9th, & 10th.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The Bundy Mob Bush Poets have pleasure in inviting Australian Rhyming Poets to enter their second Poetry Muster to be held at the Across The Waves Sports Club on 8th, 9th and 10th of March.1995.

This competition awards a multitude of trophies in many categories.Sponsored by many businesses in Bundaberg.

Heats will be conducted on Fri 8th and Sat 9th at two sports clubs in Bundaberg. Finals will be judged Sun.10am after a poets breakfast at Across the Waves Sports Club.

Catogories are..

Junior to 16 years. Serious & Humorous sections.

Novice comp. (Not having won prizes for performing poetry.) This poetry may be read. Novices cannot compete in Open sections.

Open. Humorous & Serious sections. (Not to be read) Original or Traditional. Contestants must submit three poems for Traditional to enable co-ordinators to select one which is not likely to be performed more than once.

Novice. Humorous and Serious sections. Traditional or Original.Three poems titles to be submitted with entry, as above.

Dark & Stormy One minute Cup. All poets may enter. Entries will be accepted by mail, but one minute entrants will be given a choice of six topics to write a poem on, at registration, to ensure each poem is completely original and not previously been performed.

Entries will be accepted by mail. \$3 per section, except Junior, which is \$1-50 per section.

A poetry concert will be hosted by Mark Gliori on Sat. evening. His guest performers will be chosen from the heats. The Black & Stormy Cup will be conducted during the concert, and compered by Bundy's favourite poet, Neil McArthur.

PRIZES TO BE WON.

Trophies for 14 differant sections plus the overall Champion of the muster will recieve a full Keg of Bundy Rum, valued at \$450.

A special encouragement trophy, The Michael Darby Encouragement Award will go to the Junior poet judged best.

If accomodation is required a list of available motels and Caravan parks will be sent if s.s.a.e. is sent.

Many Bundaberg businesses are sponsoring this years Muster and due to a Regional Arts Development Funds grant, we are able to bring interstate judges to judge our contestants.

Contestants will recieve a number instead of being introduced by name, to ensure impartiality.

All entries should be sent to Bette Shiels. Co-ordinator.
Box 2495. Bundaberg. 4670

Further enquiries phone Bette (071) 53 2204.

Entry forms may be photocopied.

Hoping to see you at our Muster,

Kindest Regards,

Bette Shiels.

Co-ordinator.
Bundy Mobs Poetry Muster.

Products List.

**Poets, authors, and reciters
and others — take note!**

The ABPA will be compiling a Catalogue of all Merchandise, Books, printed matter, Cassettes and C.D's published and recorded and manufactured by members of the Association. This catalogue will be separate from the monthly newsletter and will be sent to all subscribers and other outlets which may assist in further sales.

We need Photos and Photocopies of your Book, Cassette or CD covers and anything else you may consider of value.

For free inclusion in this list we ask you to furnish details to the Association as soon as possible.

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The Australian Bush Poets Association Annual.

An Anthology of Poems selected from the many contributions received at the Editors desk during 1995 has been published by the Association again this year following the success of the 1994 Anthology.

This Annual will be released at the The Tamworth Country Music Festival in January.

Copies are also available from the Secretarys Office.

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Going to Tamworth for the Country Music Festival?

Enjoy the....

WEELABARABAK C.W.A. REVUE

featuring Bush Poets

*Glenny Palmer Linda Scott
Philippa Powell Carmel Randle
and Friends*

Afternoon Tea and Fun and Dames at 3.30pm

Wed 24th,

Thurs. 25th

Sat. 27th Jan. 1996

RETREAT THEATRE

cnr. Bridge St. and Gunnoo Gunnoo Road, TAMWORTH.

The Retreat is a small Theatre... every seat a good seat! However, there aren't many of them! Advance purchase of tickets highly recommended.

Tickets available from...

Carmel Randle, Philippa Powell, Glenny Palmer or Linda Scott at
Tamworth Poetry Venues, or write to....

WEELABARABAK CWA REVUE,
76 Hill Street,
TAMWORTH 2340

OR...

MY GUY'S MENSWEAR
356 PEEL ST.,
TAMWORTH.