

No.2. Vol.3. February 1996.



The Australian



Bush Poets Association



Australian Bush Poets Association

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Western Australia.
We need a VOLUNTEER

Northern Territory.
Another VOLUNTEER

Port Fairy (Vic)

Folk Festival

March 8-11 1996

Poets Brawls -Story Telling -
- Music -
Information. P.O. Box 36
Port Fairy 3284

Harden - Murrumburrah

Feb 29th - Mar. 3rd. 1996.

Literary Dinner
Harden(ed) Liars Competition
- Concerts -
- Poets in the Park -
- Ted Egan - Jim Haynes -
Blue the Shearer - Frank Daniel
Plus local performers
Ph. Mandy Sachs 063 863 713

Illawarra Folk Festival

Jamberoo

15th - 17th March 1996

- Poets Breakfasts - Poets Brawls -
- New Faces - Yarn Spinning -
- Jim Haynes -
- Blue the Shearer - Frank Daniel -
Ph. Ted Hutton 042 837 826

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members of the ABPA,

There is a big year ahead for Bush Poetry in Australia.

From the response to the number of concerts, shows and competitions held in Tamworth during the Country Music Festival, it is evident that rhyming verse is even more popular than ever and is more than looked forward to by the growing number of followers.

Written and oral competitions are cropping up all over Australia and the quality of the finished articles and performances are getting better each year.

The Longyard in Tamworth saw full houses at each of ten mornings again this year. The 'State of Origin' and the 'Poets' Brawls' proved as popular as ever.

The Imperial Hotel Competitions were hotly contested and North Power, have announced their continued sponsorship for the new year. The Imperial Hotel gives a lot of support to this competition supplying two large marquees which cover the whole Beer Garden for the comfort of

patrons.

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group must be commended on their efforts in bringing Bush Poetry to the fore. The Blackened Billy Verse Competition compliments this turnout.

The new Breakfast Sessions and Oral Competitions at the Oasis Hotel were a great success even though rain on a number of occasions forced the gathering inside. The Oasis Hotel has big plans for improvement for the 1997 Festival, and the natural amphitheatre in the grounds and the rustic stage is an ideal setting for bush poetry.

New concerts were conducted in Tamworth in January. 'The Weelabarrabak CWA' appeared at the Retreat Theatre. 'Poets Preachers and Liars', and the 'Spirit of the Bush' with the Bush Balladeers, shared the Heritage Theatre with 'The Man From Ironbark', bringing a total of eighteen acclaimed separate performances from Members of the Bush Poets Association.. All are to be highly commended.

The Winton (Qld.) Tourism Promotion Association has made a joint effort in moving its

Waltzing Matilda Festival forward from September to April to merge with the NOPA Awards at Longreach.

Organisers of the Bronze Swagman Verse Competition have also moved it forward this year to have their Awards announced in conjunction with the Winton Festival.

From Bundaberg we hear that the Bundy Mob has plans for a Festival early in March.

The Australia-wide Gemboree, being held in Toowoomba at Easter this year, will also feature Bush Poetry.

Organisers of 'Easter in the Country' at Roma (Q) will incorporate Bush Poets in their programme this year. Another new venue is planned for Mitchell a week later -- a good stepping stone for Poets travelling north for Winton and Longreach.

The newly revamped Tenterfield Saddler has announced its support of a Bush Poetry celebration in May.

The more established centres such as the Gympie Muster, Surat, the Fireside Festival and Glen Innes are all going again.

In the south we see that the

inaugural Cobargo Folk Festival has plans for Bush Poets.

Jamberoo, the biggest Folk Festival in NSW, has catered more and more each year for Poets and Yarn-Spinners, who are by far their biggest drawcards.

Harden-Murrumburra (NSW), after its success last year, will be going ahead with its Harden(ed) Liars and Bush Poets weekend.

Corryong in Victoria again looks like being the place to be for the Man From Snowy River Festival following last year's encouraging effort.

The ABPA wishes all these new and old Organisations every success in their ventures and commends them on their efforts to bring to life Bush Poetry, as we see it to be one of the greatest forms of entertainment in the country today.

I wish them well and ask them all to stay in touch with the Association and keep us - and the growing number of ABPA members - informed of their progress, their future plans and the results of their ventures.

Regards,

Frank Daniel.

The Blackened Billy Verse Competition. 1996.

This prestigious event is held annually by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, sponsored by Seed and Grain Sales and Hathway Storage of Tamworth, with the support of AM Printing Services.

The results were:

1. **Ellis Campbell** of Dubbo,
2. **Peter Hanbury**, Alstonville.
3. **Bob Magor** of Myponga, SA.

Highly commended:

1. **Carmel Randle** - Preston Q.
2. **Milton Taylor** - Portland
3. **Emmett O'Keefe** - Killara.
4. **Gary Harding** - Cairns Q.
5. **Barbara Chaney** - Inverell.
6. **June Welsman** - Harbord
7. **Geoff Allen** - Balgowlah.
8. **Neil McArthur** - Bargara.
9. **Kylie Inman** - Nundle.
10. **Shirley Pearce** - Kingston.

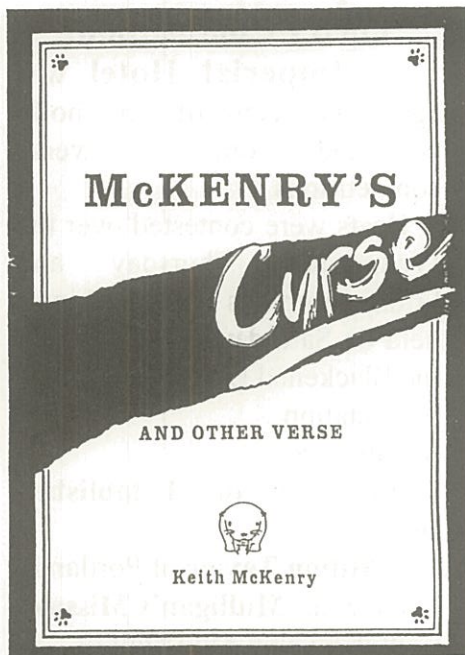
An Encouragement Award went to Miss **Amanda Fogg** of Cessnock NSW.

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STATE OF ORIGIN Round One - 1996

Just to set the record straight the rumours are true. Queensland did win this round, but the big decider will come in June at the Fireside Festival!

Fanged Wombat Productions
proudly announces the publication of



McKenry's Curse and Other Verse
by Keith McKenry
\$15.00 ea Post Paid
5 Bonney St AINSLIE A.C.T
2602.



Illawarra Folk Festival

MARCH EACH YEAR



presented by

ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB Inc
P.O. Box 498
CORRIMAL NSW 2518

Imperial Hotel Bush Poetry Competition.

The **Imperial Hotel** was again the scene of very hotly contested oral verse competitions.

Heats were contested over the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings with the Finals held on Saturday 27th following the Blackened Billy Competition presentation.

Results were:

Traditional or Established section:

1st. **Milton Taylor** of Portland NSW with '**Mulligan's Missus**', written by Neil McArthur of Bargara, Qld.

2nd. **Campbell (The Swaggie) Irving**, with his rendition of Edward Harrington's '**There's Only The Two Of Us Here**'.

3rd. **Frank Daniel** of Canowindra NSW with '**A Grave Situation**' written by Claude Morris.

In the Original section of the Competition, Poets gave a great example of the class and style of poetry being written today, and a glimpse, no doubt of what may be in store for the future.

Results:

Original Section:

1st. **Bob Magor**, Myponga SA, with '**Who Gives The Bride Away?**'

2nd. **Mark Thompson** of Bungendore NSW.

3rd. **Noel Cutler** of Wangaratta Vic. with '**Grandad's Whip**'.

North Power are to be commended for their sponsorship of this event. Thanks to their generosity, all Finalists now receive a monetary prize.

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INFORMATION SHEET FOR FESTIVAL COMMITTEES

The ABPA now has available a comprehensive information sheet for Committees interested in encouraging Bush Poetry at their Festival.

If YOU know of a Committee or Organisation in your area that would benefit from this information, please send for a free copy and hand it to them, or suggest they contact the ABPA themselves.

Our aim is to help you to help them to help us to help others.

Bungendore. NSW. 3.2.96.

The second Bungendore Bush Poets' Breakfast was held in the grounds of the Lighthorse Cottage in Gibraltar Street on the Saturday morning of the Bungendore Country Muster.

Held in the form of an Oral Competition, for Seniors and Juniors, along with guest spots and entertainment from compere Frank Daniel, the two hour breakfast was a credit to the organisers, Toni and Miles Flanagan.

Judges for the morning were, Reg Sylvester of Braidwood, Jim Garret of Canberra, and Kelly Dixon of Camooweal Qld. — who was noticing the cold weather on the Southern Tablelands! The locals were in short sleeves!

The **Open Original** section was won by Garry Lowe of Chippaway Bay, followed by Mark Thompson of Bungendore with Laurie McDonald in third place.

The **Open Traditional** section was won by Mark Thompson followed by Campbell Irving and Saxon Condon.

The **Junior Poets** were well

represented with performance of verse from C.J.Dennis, Paterson and John O'Brien.

Chris McRoberts and Lindy Drumgold were placed equal first with Lizzy McRoberts in third place.

Pleased with the outcome of the breakfast, the organisers have now advised that the next year's Breakfast will be held in the gardens of 'Elmslea' Homestead under the shady elms.

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BARDS and BALLADEERS

Bush Poetry night

**at St. Mary's T.P.O'Brien Centre
West Street, TOOWOOMBA**

with...

**Robert Raftery Gary Fogarty
Carmel Randle John Major**

and the music of

Tracey Fogarty

Friday, 15th March at 7.30pm

POETRY AT LIBERTY'S

Duggan St. Toowoomba

Friday, 8th March 7pm

Featuring

John Major Gary Fogarty

Robert Raftery

and the music of

Tracey Fogarty

Bookings essential Ph 38 3294

Oasis Hotel Bush Poetry Competition.

Tamworth's Oasis Hotel expanded their Bush Poetry involvement this year to include Traditional, Original and Junior Competitions.

Sponsor for the Oasis, Bundaberg Rum, have pledged their support for 1997, with bigger and better things to come.

Pleased with the efforts of the organisers, the Oasis Hotel has plans for improvements to the venue and a complete new programme of concerts in the New Year.

Results were:

Open Traditional Section:

1st. **Michael Darby** of Cloncurry with 'The Man from Snowy River' by A.B.Paterson.

2nd. **Ray Essery** of Mullumbimby with "Death of a Kelly" by Charlee Marshall.

N.O.P.A.

NATIONAL
OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS
Longreach Queensland
May 3 - 4 - 5. 1996
076 5817189 Fax 583 198

3rd **Glenny Palmer** of Cedarvale with 'November', again by Charlee Marshall.

Open Original Section:

1st. **Milton Taylor** of Portland, with 'Grey Laughing Eyes'.

2nd. **Noel Cutler** of Wangaratta, with 'Grandad's Whip'.

3rd **Bob Magor** of Myponga.

Juniors:

Traditional Section:

1st. **Carmel Dunn** of Warwick.

Original Section:

1st. **Carmel Dunn** of Warwick.

If you happen to be travelling through the Southern Tablelands of N.S.W., be sure to call in and say hello to ABPA Members, **Reg and Paris Silvester** at the...

Jillamatong Gallery 35 Wallace St. Braidwood.

Reg and Paris are keen followers of Bush Poetry and have expressed interest in selling Bush Poets' Books, Cassettes and other product. Write, or call 048 422 154

MATILDA DREAMING

He looked down on the colony from the throne of the Southern Cross.
He shook his head in pious disbelief.
If that lot's going to make it..I'll have to play my hand
And deliver them one miracle at least.

As his spotlight beamed on Winton that clear, crisp April night,
He was captured by the sounds that reached his ears.
They were launching Banjo's ballad 'bout the swagman and his fate,
When he found his eyes were filled with salty tears.

While they Waltzed Matilda one more time, he set about his plan,
He sprinkled it with Golden Wattle Dust
And touched the words with Magic ...then he boomeranged it off
It's mission was to build a country's trust.

Destiny would stretch that song to reach around the world--
Enhancing it with orchestra and voicing it with choir;
But nothing half as beautiful could seek and grab the heart
Than harmonica's sweet weeping , heard from a stockman's fire.

So when the Big Wars called this country to suck her young blood dry,
Matilda was the heartbeat and the soul.
She farewelled them.. she buried them..then phoenix-like she rose,
To welcome back each hero to her fold.

MATILDA DREAMING

She became our Country's catechism... became our Country's prayer,
Through drought and flood and bushfire hells, survived.
For a hundred years we stood the test of all that hard-life gave;
Our identity was earned and we have thrived.

Now, towns have grown to cities with a Multicultural flow;
For that's the way it all was prearranged;
But take a look around you, boys, and you will clearly see,
Down this trail of life, some things have never changed.

Today we still have Swagmen .. tucker box and waterbag.
Still the Squatter and the Troopers ..one .. two .. three.
But can't we spare a jumbuck for a hungry fellowman?
For that traveller could be you .. he could be me.

Stand up for what you know is right and try to mend the wrong
Enjoy each Magpie Morning, filled with song;
Then your voice may be heard for another hundred years,
Like the voice that called you from the Billabong.

Waltzing Matilda ... Waltzing Matilda..

WON'T YOU ALL COME A WALTZING MATILDA WITH ME ?

V.J.Lopez

The Blackened Billy, like all awards connected with the Tamworth Country Music Festival, is a prestigious poetry event, vied for by poets from all states of Australia and New Zealand. The brain-child of Winsome Farley, it was introduced by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group in 1991. It is remarkable, and says much for the strength of poetry in Dubbo, that four of the Blackened Billys awarded to date rest in that town. Ron Stevens has two, Ellis Campbell one and Neil Carroll one. The other two went to Queensland to none other than the late and great Charlee Marshall and "The Larrikin" Bobby Miller.

BACKSTAGE PASS

ACCESS ALL AREAS



CHARACTER: Festival regular Campbell Irving spins another yarn



WHAT'S THAT?: Frank Daniel makes a point during a bush poetry contest



EXPRESSIVE: Milton Taylor emphasises the meaning of life and other things



INVOLVEMENT: The duo from Ironbark bush poetry festival grabbed the audience's attention with their raps

RAPPIN' COWBOY: Queensland's Murray Giori took bush poetry to another level with his performance in the state of origin contest at The Grange



THE CANETOADS: Successful Queensland State of Origin bush poetry team: Bob Miller, John Major, Marco Giori and Shirley Friend with judge Greg Champion (at the rear). Carmel Dunn was absent for this shot



THE COCKROACHES: The NSW Origin team, Gary Lowe, John Philipson, Murray Hartin, Ray Essery and Frank Daniels (front) look worse for wear in defeat



The Cast of the WEELABARABAK C.W.A. REVUE, TAMWORTH: L.to R.: Carmel Randle, Philippa Powell, Linda Scott, Glenny Palmer and Gary Fogarty.



TAMWORTH POETRY READING GROUP RESULTS: L.to R.: Milton Taylor, 1st Traditional Performed Poetry; 2nd H.C. Blackened Billy. Carmel Randle, 1st Highly Commended Blackened Billy. Bob Magor, 1st Original Performed Poetry; 3rd. Blackened Billy.

THE HENRY KENDALL POETRY COMPETITION 1996.
closing date; 28th FEBRUARY.
Info- (043)417820 or (043)234120.

Beating around the bush



with
John Morris



• Skydoctor

A new book based on the adventures and experiences of a flying doctor of the 1950s tells about the lives of the people who inhabited the Channel country in Queensland's outback.

The author is Dr Len Dawson, who was a flying doctor for Charleville Base early in 1954 to 1957.

Contrary to popular opinion among city people, the outback is a busy place and the young Dr Dawson soon learned that when he arrived in Charleville with his wife Meg and baby son Stephen.

The couple had just arrived and started to unpack when the first emergency call came through from Thargomindah, two hours away from Charleville. The patient was a young woman who had had a miscarriage and was bleeding badly.

Back to Charleville Dr Dawson organised himself for the next emergency — which wasn't long coming.

"Young stockman mustering near Windorah ... kicked by his horse ... in the chest ... winded ... still can't breathe properly ... yes, severe pain ... he's got a prominent horseshoe mark on his solar plexus"

So the adventures began ...

Skydoctor is on sale through the Bush Poets Association, PO Box 77, Drayton North 4350; or phone (076) 30 1106.



WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL, 1996: Bruce Simpson Testimonial. Bruce, with his Commemorative Shield, seen with John Philipson (L) and Ted Egan (R) who presented his Poetry and Lyrics.

• Book now

The Waltzing Matilda Festival at Winton is set for April 26-28. It will gather "Australia's best bush poets and yarn-spinners" to compete for a major prize of a return trip to the Cowboy Bush Poets gathering in Nevada, US, plus the Bronze Swagman trophy.

Festival organiser Chris Blanch said he hoped the competition would tap the resurgence in bush poetry across Australia and turn Winton into its official home, as Tamworth is to country music.

"Bush poetry is making a really big resurgence both in Australian folklore and culture and we're well set up here, in that these are the areas that Banjo Paterson liked so much," Mr Blanch said.

He said the fact that more than 300 people, some travelling thousands of kilometres, were expected to compete in the festival showed how popular bush poetry was becoming.



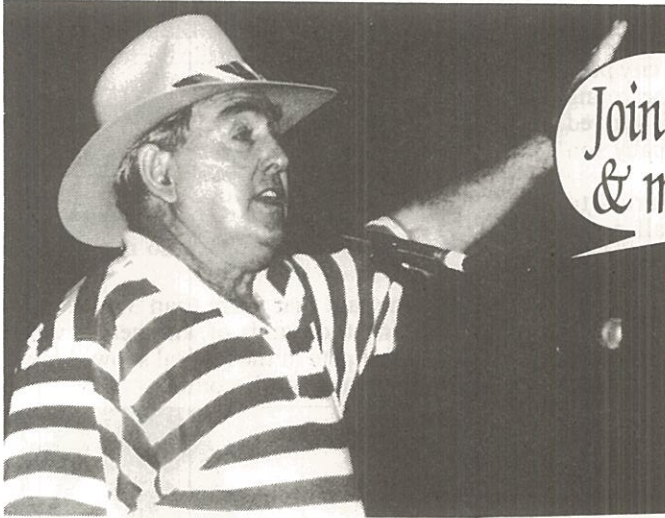
DOCTOR DENTIST: As flying doctor Len Dawson pulls a tooth, the patient sits casually in a chair while his uninterested son sits in the foreground. This photo is in Dr Dawson's just released book, *Skydoctor*.

**Advance Harden-Murrumburrah Corporation
Golden Grains Committee**

PRESENTS

"BEST OF THE BUSH WEEKEND"

29th Feb-3rd March 1996



Join me TED EGAN
& my Mates

BLUE THE SHEARER
ABC RADIO PERSONALITY

JIM HAYNES

FRANK DANIEL
CHAMPION YARN SPINNER



Could you please give a plug in your next issue to the National Folk Festival, to be held in Canberra next Easter, 4-8 April. The Festival always is very strong on the spoken word, and bush poetry in particular. This year our booked poets include Blue the Shearer, Frank Daniel and Jim Smith; there will be four Poets' Breakfasts, a Poets' Supper, a Bush Liars session, a number of poetry workshops, a Poets' Supper, and the First World Poetry Debate. Any lover of bush verse would be crazy not to come.

Smiles and awards for bush poet Carmel

By
NAOMI WIELAND

Warwick's own bush poet 12-year-old Carmel Dunn came home smiling with two awards from the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

She was awarded best junior traditional bush poet with her Banjo Patterson and Will Ogilvie recitals but more importantly she won best original poet with her composition titled "Sunset".

It was the first time both sections were opened to junior poets at the festival.

Carmel's parents Tom and Maureen Dunn had already entered her in the original section before she wrote the poem.

"Carmel had been putting off writing her own poem but when the Tamworth Country Music Festival nominations went through she had to," Mr Dunn said.

The result was "quite a good" poem about outback Australia according to Mr Dunn.

Carmel was also a member of the Queensland State of Origin team—bush poetry team that is, with another Warwick poet Mark Glicri and Bob Miller, John Major and Shirley Friend.

Queensland won the poetry competition which involved each poet "having a go" at the other team.

The Tamworth floods did not affect the festival with record crowds swarming to the event last week. Carmel said those camping along the river had to move to higher ground.

And when asked if she was going back next year, Carmel replied with an emphatic "yes!"

"All the poets are so friendly and give me heaps of support in competition. It's great fun," she said.



Warwick bush poet Carmel Dunn came back home with two awards from the Tamworth Country Music Festival for her traditional and original bush poetry performances

*** CONGRATULATIONS to Norma Jeffries who was awarded ***
The Inglewood Shire Australia Day Cultural Award.

DO'NT MISS !!!

*** THE BUNDY MOB'S MUSTER. ****

MARCH 8th, 9th & 10th

'ACROSS THE WAVES SPORTS CLUB' BUNDABERG.

Information; Bette Shiels (071)532204.

**JILLAMATONG
GALLERY**

15 Wallace Street
Bundaberg 2627
Phone (071) 522 154

**** THE PEDALLING POET PUSHES PAST PERTH TO CANADA. ****

W.A. Poet Brian Gale took his push bike and 100 books to CALGARY, CANADA and met up with 50 poets from Canada & America for a three day get-together at Pinchers Creek 300ks south of Calgary. Being the only AUSSIE there, Brian donated a copy of his latest book to assist the funding for the event and it was auctioned for \$85.00! Not bad ay! After he had sold most of his books (just to lighten the load) Brian peddalled over the ROCKIES to VANCOUVER, over 2,000 kilometers.

CLOSER TO THE HEART' by Brian Gale \$10.00 Post Paid.

25 Georgette Drive MARGARET RIVER W.A. 6285.

*** THE DOUBLE SEATER LOO WITH A VIEW.*** by Brian Gale. W.A.

I came to Indian Island, off Canada's coast so fair,
Never dreaming of the beauty and tranquility out there,
A quiet lovely little place with not a lot to do,
With an open air bathroom and a double seater loo!

Most people came to urinate, Or do what they have to do.
I mostly sit and contemplate and gaze out at the view.
Now the building isn't modern and the plumbing isn't there,
But to sit and watch a scene like this, you could be a millionaire!

Well! There's no need to close the door while you are sitting there,
There's hardly anyone around and I doubt they'd care.
I think of all the folk out there that sit upon their throne,
And wish they had a loo like this that they could call their own.

Now you know that I have told you there's a double seater loo,
His and Hers sitting side by side, Well believe me this is true!
Of all the toilets I have known, on this I must agree,
No greater peace of mind have I, When I go there to pee.

I know one day I'll have to leave and get away from here,
But the memory of that toilet will always be so clear.
To gaze at the hills and ocean as the tide goes in and out,
I feel like a King upon his Throne, of that there is no doubt!

PRINTING DEADLINE. Items for magazine must be
received by 15th of the month.

Our Constitution's Birth

Born 26 January 1996, TAMWORTH NSW ... will never die.
("Australian Bush Poet's Association")

Our Annual General Meeting was "in church" and underway
We'd settled down and saddled up to have the final say,
Bluey brought us all to order, balladeers and versifiers
Full on rhymesters, wily raconteurs and a sprinkling of bush liars.

And there beside the Sacraments the Saviour sired and plied
We trimmed our Constitution, checked its fall and metered guide
We had gathered from all corners of our great and star crossed land
To carve our Code of Conduct, prime its heart and let it stand.

And for a while our Bluey sipped his "half a gallon coke"
As I wondered if the flagon might have had a little soak
In that mesmerising fluid from a Queensland sugar town
That fortifies its citizens and has brought it world renown.

Then he slipped the "jug" to Bobby, Bobby Miller from the coast
And I harkened there between us three ... who liked his rum the most?
And would our best bush lawyers and incisive thinkers come
To see our Constitution birthed and sealed in coke and rum?

As we snagged our Constitution on its 'twenty seven points'
Our artists checked their watches, they had "gigs at other joints"
But we battled through assisted by some folk who knew the score
And when we thought we'd firmed her up, those folk they snagged some more.

Now our role's to look for writers of the verse you can't forget
Well, we've looked quite hard already but we haven't found one yet
We're to foster, field and nurture stage performers and their craft
Bide the scribes who sculpt the Scriptures of the bush with feathered shaft.

Then Carmel rose and stunned us with a caustic document
Which to give to Blue his common due, he tried to circumvent
Neatly typed and vitriolic, with a passion Carmel quoted
And the board acknowledged duly that the tablet would be "noted."

And a patch of gloom descended in the family of our ranks
For the clash was of the Titans and the ones we call the Planks
And I wondered if they'd talk again ... I really hope they do
'Cause we value Carmel highly, and we love our Bluey too.

Bluey did the "hard yards" when our spurs were bright and new
 And laboured on the "Poet's March" with sprinklings of our crew
 He shared a grander vision and with Winton full in view
 He left Matilda's birthday to Banjo, Carm., and you.

Then we took the vote on President, Bluey Bostock stepped aside
 And we sanctioned secret ballot 'cause our mateships might collide
 Then the "chair" flashed "Frankie Daniels" would lead us down the track
 Bluey pumped the southern truckies' hand, "Be Geesus, I'll be back!"

Then Boulia spat the dummy, said we'd knifed a friend and mate
 As he gave our crew the aerial flick and bolted for the gate
 "We'd like to think you'll think it over through the evening there old mate
 For there's good grass in the paddock and we'll never shut the gate."

On the subject of Vice President, we reckoned we'd need two
 So we pinioned R J Miller and our old mate Bostock, Blue
 Now the reins of higher office adorn their time worn hands
 For the greatest of bush poets have unto them thrust the plans.

Then the call rang out for Secretary, the big job writers hate
 And all eyes swung to Selby 'cause Ron's work down there was great
 We took the vote then cheered him, there were tears on this occasion
 As Christ winked from the Crucifix on his standing bush ovation.

And I thought it right and fitting on that sacred turf ... Tamworth
 On the birthday celebration of the greatest place on earth
 As we cranked our simple Charter, put a saddle 'round its girth
 Carmel penned the moving minutes of our Constitution's Birth.

Robert Raftery c
 Picture Writer
 Brisbane Australia
 27 - 1 - 96

To Frank & Bob
 To Ron, Carmel, Blue
 congratulations on the "Birth"
 of the "Picture-
 Writers"
 Robert Raftery
 29-1-1996
 (S)

The Royal Oak Hotel.

Forty kilometres north of Albury on the Hume Highway, at **Mullengandra**, is the **Royal Oak Hotel**.

Situated in spacious peaceful surrounds, the Royal Oak boasts enjoyable country tavern hospitality, with log fires in winter and on chilly days, and tingling cold drinks throughout summer. Free camp facilities are on site.

Proud owner, Wendy Lyford, is an enthusiastic member of the ABPA, and is dedicated to establishing the Royal Oak as a true haven for Bush Poetry and Yarn Spinning.

On the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm they have a gathering of Poets, Storytellers, Readers and Writers, and all are welcome. You can waltz your matilda for a true blue weekend at the Royal Oak on the 4th weekend of each month.

So bring along your own bush instrument and churn out a tune.

After free breakfast on the Sunday morning, everyone is invited to perform bush yarns and poetry.

More info and bookings from Wendy **060 204 239**.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING....A.B.P.A.

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association was held in St. Peter's Church Hall in Tamworth on Friday, 26th of January. Thirty eight members were present.

The first item on the agenda was the adoption of a constitution. Amendments were made to the proposed constitution which was subsequently adopted.

The election of office bearers saw **Frank Daniel** elected as **President**.

Vice Presidents are **Merv Bostock** and **Bob Miller**.

A unanimous vote saw **Ron Selby** re-elected **Secretary-Treasurer**, unopposed.

**Waltzing Matilda
Bush Poetry Awards
26 - 28. April, 1996**

WINTON

In conjunction with the
Bronze Swagman Awards
Enquiries P.O. Box 7714
Toowoomba M.C. Qld 4352

**Waltzing Matilda Bush
Poetry Awards.**

Winton 26 - 28 April 1996.

REMINDER
Entries for the
BRONZE SWAGMAN
Close on the 29th of this
month!
FEBRUARY

In conjunction with the "Bronze Swagman Award" for written Bush Poetry, the Winton Tourist Promotion Association has organised the exciting new Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards.

These will be held in the following categories...

1. **Open Male Performer.**
...Professional or Open Amateur.
2. **Open Female Performer.**
...Professional or Open Amateur.
3. **Novice Male Performer.**
4. **Novice Female Performer.**
5. **Junior Male or Female.**
...enrolled at a Secondary School.
6. **Junior Male or Female.**
...enrolled at a Primary School.

Prizes being offered include:

Category 1 and 2.
 The **WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS.**

Each winner will receive a **Daphne Mayo Jolly Swagman Statuette**...as well as a Return air fare from the nearest Capital City to the **Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada USA**, plus \$500 Accomodation allowance.

In addition, the Winners' names will be inscribed on the base of the Perpetual Trophy... Bust of R.M. Williams.. donated to the Winton Shire Council by the A.B.P.A. following their Inaugural Chamionships held in Winton, 1995.

Second placegetters will receive a Banjo Paterson Statuette.

Category 3 and 4.

The **CHRISTINA MCPHERSON NOVICE AWARDS.** Each winner will receive a Daphne Mayo Jolly Swagman Statuette and a Travel Allowance.

Banjo Paterson Statuettes will go to the second placegetters.

Category 5 and 6.

Juniors will be competing in the **CLOVER NOLAN AWARDS** for Jolly Swagman Statuettes with the Winners'

School receiving a cash prize of \$250.

Statuettes again go to the second placegetters.

An updated information package on the requirements for this competition is now available.

If you are not already on the

mailing list from Winton, send a business sized stamped self-addressed envelope to...

The Organiser.

WALTZING MATILDA

POETRY AWARDS

P.O. Box 7714

Toowoomba M.C 4352

WEELABARABAK C.W.A. REVUE.

TAMWORTH 1996.

The popularity of Bush Poetry in Tamworth is now so well established that audiences are craving more than just Poets' Breakfasts and competitions.

1995 saw Concerts as an added attraction. These give the Poets involved the opportunity to extend their creativity as well as perform entertaining Poetry which does not necessarily comply with Competition requirements.

The innovation of 1996 was the Weelabarabak C.W.A. Revue — a Production by a group of the Women Poets. This was a true Revue, incorporating music, comedy and satire, as well as the original Poetry of the performers.

The Retreat Theatre provided an ideal intimate venue, and the format (which included Devonshire Tea in true C.W.A. style) was appreciated by the audience.

Philippa Powell, Glenny Palmer, Linda Scott and Carmel Randle developed, produced and presented this Show, with some humorous participation by Gary Fogarty, whose Line Dancing efforts have to be seen to be believed.

A refreshing difference here was the characterisation. Because of the structure of the Revue, the Poets were able to change character to suit the various presentations.

The idea of combining acting skills with Poetry performance certainly proved a winner on this occasion.

N.O.P.A. May 3, 4, 5.

The Labor Day Weekend will see the sixth **National Outback Performing Arts** event run in conjunction with the **Outback Muster** held by the **Hall of Fame** in **Longreach**, Western Queensland.

1995 saw a very successful event run alongside Winton's Waltzing Matilda poetry events. This format was such a success that the committee has decided to continue with it.

NOPA will be held in Longreach the weekend following Winton, **May 3, 4, 5.**

As always, apart from the Poets' Cup, it will remain a non-competitive event.

Workshops will be held in Winton and Longreach between April 28 and May 3.

Performance categories include both Traditional and Contemporary Bush Verse, Bush Music, and Yarn Spinning, with the **emphasis on genuine Australian style and content.**

The programme will kick off with an Open Evening Session on the Friday, followed by a Poets' Breakfast the next

morning — plus the Poets' Cup.

Another Open Evening session will be held on the Saturday night.

Sunday will see 'Poets on the River' with a social cruise and a luncheon.

Another evening program will be conducted with Dinner, and Verse by selected performers, and the Finals of the Poets' Cup.

For further enquiries contact **Secretary, NOPA, Longreach.**
Ph. 076 581 718 Fax 583 198

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"DON'T CALL WAGGA WAGGA WAGGA" - COMEDY SONG OF THE YEAR

The catchy song, "Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga", penned by Jim Haynes and Greg Champion, has taken out the Comedy Song of the Year at the Tamworth Songwriters Association Awards held during the Country Music festival.



The song was recorded by Jim, Greg and Ted Egan and released as a four track CD by Massive Records. Jim, Greg and Ted each contributed one other song and sales and airplay have been very enthusiastic.

"The Three Terrors", as they have been dubbed, were even accorded a civic reception in Wagga Wagga for the official launch of the song. The concert version always turns into a rousing singalong as audiences join in the chorus:

Don't call Kurri Kurri Kurri, and don't call Gin Gin Gin,
And don't call Mooney Mooney Mooney, and 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!
Calling Wagga Wagga Wagga is wrong!

If you would like more information or a copy of "Don't Call Wagga Wagga Wagga" for airplay please ring Kay Crick at Massive Records on 02 9959 4900 or contact the above address for interviews and information on Jim.

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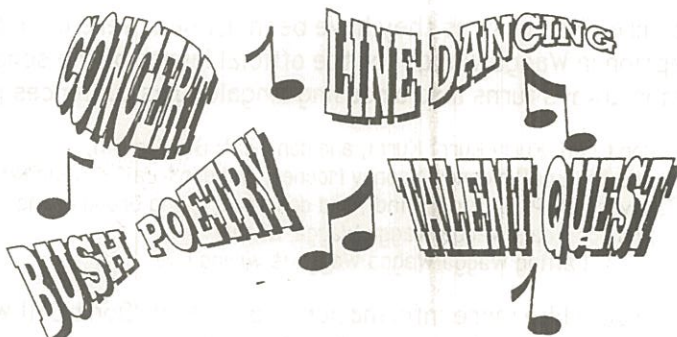


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