

No. 7 Vol. 3 July 1996



The Australian



Bush Poets Association



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

Australian Bush Poets' Association Inc.

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Queensland 4350

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BUSH TUCKER DAY TRUNDLE --- NSW

Fun - Games - Music - Dance - Poetry
Blue the Shearer - Frank Daniel
Peter Horan - The Bushwackers
Saturday 17th August 1996
Ph. 068 921 120 - 068 927 286

The Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival

31st Aug. - 1st Sept.
North Pine Country Park
Petrie, Queensland
(Immediately north of Brisbane)
Enq. John Coutts 07 3886 1552

Second Annual

Bush Laureate Awards

Presented Tamworth Jan. 1997

for work produced
1 Nov 95 - 1 Nov 96

Send 3 copies of your

Recorded -- Published
or Heritage Work to

Entries close Nov 3rd FEE \$10

Golden Gumleaf Enterprises

112 Crescent Rd, Hamilton 21d 4007

Surat presents the...

Cobb & Co Battered Bugle Awards

for Performance

BUSH VERSE

16,17,18 - August 1996

plus announcement of

Major Mitchell (Write-in)

Bush Verse Competition

PO Box 40 SURAT Phone 076 265 103

President's Letter... Dear Members of the ABPA,

Just a few notes this month giving an indication of the progress being made by Bush Poetry in its great surge across Australia....

Media coverage of Australian Bush Poetry over the last few months has seen an influx of new Members, and enquiries about our Association.

John Farkas of Capital News in Tamworth has published in recent issues, articles about such Poets as John Philipson, Carmel Randle, and Gary Fogarty. Jon will have regular features in this primarily Country Music Newspaper.

The Australian Farmers' National Country Music Muster quarterly publication from Gympie, Queensland, also devotes a couple of pages -- and sometimes more -- to Bush Poetry, and specialises in Reviews of Poets' Books and Recordings. Another great poetry toe-hold in a C & W magazine!

National coverage was applauded when Nick Erby gave airplay to Gary Fogarty, Ray Essery, and yours truly on Hoedown, Sat. 22nd June. On Sat. 6th July, John Philipson, Gary Lowe, Shirley Friend and Bob Miller were featured.

On Sunday, 31st June, Nick Erby also featured Jim Haynes and myself on Country Music Jamboree. As a result, I have had many calls and letters from interested persons from far and wide, wanting to know more about Australian Bush Poetry ---- where they can hear more, how they can become a Member, and so on.

Nick informed me that more Bush Poetry will be aired from time to time, so I advise Members to make an attempt to catch his program, and write letters of appreciation, giving him some idea of just how many Poetry fans he has, and how far apart his listeners are.

Ian MacNamara of "Australia All Over" on ABC has also donated a lot of time to Bush Poetry, and has on more than one occasion featured readings from Bob Magor's books, as well as from the many listeners who send snippets to him.

More FM Stations throughout the country are playing tapes sent in by Bush Poets, and are always asking for more -- programs conducted by such as Dulcie Meddows in Sydney and Jan Lewis (Radio 3RUM) of Walwa in Victoria. Murray Hartin also has a Bush Poetry Show on Triple J in Sydney.

Marion FitzGerald of North Star NSW now has a segment on Radio 2VM Moree at 5.20 each Tuesday where she has a large enthusiastic audience of 'cotton pickin' cockies' ! (Who else would get up that early?)

Marion plays the best of the Bush Poets in her "Best of the Bush Bards" show, which is part of Ando's Country Music Program sponsored by Moree Alfarm Supplies.

'Blue the Shearer' of Wellington, NSW is now heard on ABC

Radio in Orange, Dubbo, Canberra, Wagga, and Bega on a weekly basis, and soon will go national on ABC from Melbourne.

Queensland ABC Radio also features a lot of Poetry on a regular basis, with Tim Butler in Longreach, Chris Jensen and Stuart Parry in Toowoomba, and David Anderson of Rockhampton being particularly active in this regard.

Bill Gleeson features Bush Poetry every morning on the ABC Breakfast session from Tamworth.

Bush Poets should take advantage of the free publicity given them in the wake of these Radio Programs, and should write letters of appreciation, and submit more of their work, to these Announcers.

They have seen the value of our work. Let us make value out of their use of our work! Let everyone know who you are and what you are!

Best of luck! Regards to all,

Frank Daniel.

Bush Poets' Turnout.

The scene has been set for a good weekend of Bush Poetry and Yarns at the Central Western New South Wales town of Canowindra. Home of ABPA President, Frank Daniel, Canowindra is nestled on the Belubula River which is part of the Lachlan Valley region.

To be held along the lines of the successful Fireside Festival, the Poets' Turnout will kick off with a Bush Poets' Smoko and Welcome at 10.30 on the Saturday morning. The full program will be conducted in the Auditorium of the Canowindra Services and Citizens' Club. A Poets' Brawl will follow the Lunch Break, to be backed up with Tall Tales and more Poetry during the afternoon.

The Turnout Concert will commence at 7.30pm, and will feature guest Poets. Intending Poets and Patrons are advised to make bookings to help with the programming. Put it on your calendar and be there!

CANOWINDRA NSW

BUSH POETS' TURNOUT

Canowindra RSL Club 21-22 September 1996

Sat. 10.30am.... Poets' Smoko 12.30 - Lunch - 1.30 - Poets' Brawl
2.30 - Tall Tales and more... Dinner - 6pm

CONCERT 7.30pm

'Blue the Shearer' - Frank Daniel - Bob Miller

Sun. 9.30 - Breakfast - Farewell

Bookings, Meals, Camping, Accommodation by 31.8.96
Phone Frank Daniel 063 441 477 AH.

From..... LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, I was privileged to be in Winton to see Milton Taylor and Glennie Palmer, become the winners of a trip to America, (to represent Australian Bush Poets) It really struck home -- the cost, the time and the sacrifices, poets and their families make to keep the Bush Poetry homefires burning, so to speak. It would be nice if partners could be rewarded also. I am sure both our worthy winners would appreciate the support of their helpers on the trip to America. This would mean at great cost to themselves, I believe.. I feel sure, in some small way , other members who wish to, could assist.

I would like to start the ball rolling with a small donation of \$10 possibly other members would also like to contribute???

Valerie Lopez. Bundaberg QLD.

Sir, I can't help but agree with Rhubard (' The Competition'). The essence of the poet is his feeling and that makes us vulnerable. A little praise goes a long way, but unthinking criticism can crush an ego. I, personally, am humbled by the amount of talent out there, largely untapped and unrecognised. I too write for myself. When I try to please others it just doesn't work ! Did someone say " Poets are born, not made"???

Sandra Binns.. Kincumber. NSW.

Sir, I thought the amount of publicity given to questioning the value of performance competitions in last issue of ABPA newsletter was poorly timed. When performers like Glennie Palmer and Milton Taylor had just won the most prestigious competition in Australia there seemed to be some detraction of their efforts in attitudes of some writers. I personally sent a message of congratulations to each of these fine performers, and hope that many other poets throughout Australia did likewise.

I believe it is most ungracious not to acknowledge someone superior to oneself. I take my hat off to these great Performers and the many others who made them earn it.

After all, aren't we all Entertainers? To entertain and give pleasure to others is the ultimate prize.

Yours in poetic fellowship,

Ellis Campbell Dubbo NSW.

BUSH POETRY AT THE GYMPIE MUSTER - HOW COME?

A few people have asked me that question lately. so to the best of my knowledge, this is how come.

Fifteen years ago the Webb Brothers, in conjunction with the Apex Club of Gympie, organised a week end of country music on their property near Gympie.

From that has grown The Gympie Muster which now runs for five days and attracts approximately sixty thousand people - many of whom camp, regardless of weather conditions. Is it conceivable that we could do this with bush poetry???

After three years at the Webb Brothers property, the Muster site moved to the Amamoor State Forest, where it has remained. It is organised and run by a very efficient, dedicated Committee, and all members can feel justly proud of their achievements.

Bush Poetry was introduced to Muster audiences only recently. In 1989 the organising Committee decided to include a Talent Search in their program and that incorporated a search for talented performers of Bush Poetry. The competitions were for the Original and Traditional "Kings of Rhyme".

An additional marquee, 'The Crowbar', was erected in 1992 and Mark Gliori was invited to perform there and introduce the Country Music Bands. Following that Muster, he was asked to submit recommendations regarding Bush Poetry for subsequent years. His suggestions for morning shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday were adopted, and in 1993 the Breakfast Shows began, including competitions for the Original and Traditional 'Kings of Rhyme'. Mark compered the Shows and asked Jim Haynes, who was at the Muster performing musically, to do a Guest Spot. The Muster Committee was delighted and has welcomed Performance Poets in the Muster programme each year thereafter.

Heats for the Original and Traditional 'Kings of Rhyme' were given a separate time slot in 1995. The heats begin on Friday and Finalists perform and are judged at the Sunday morning show.

The morning shows had become so popular with campers that the Organisers asked Mark and Jim to begin the 1995 shows on Tuesday, and continue them daily for the five days of the Muster. This is also the schedule for 1996.

The considerable profits derived from each Gympie Muster are shared among nominated beneficiaries with an emphasis on Country orientated Charities.

Judith Hosier. Brisbane.

AUSTRALIAN POETS and COPYRIGHT

Copyright requirements -- and the method of establishing them -- have changed significantly through the years. Currently, if you put the symbol "©" followed by your name, basic address, and the year on the bottom of a poem, you have established your ownership of that work.

If you allow another person, or group of persons, to publish one of your poems in an Anthology they are preparing, a Newspaper, or even an Advertising Brochure, you should sign a "Copyright Waiver" -- that is, a brief statement authorising them to so use your work. Many Entry Forms for "Write-In Competitions" now incorporate such a waiver. Before signing, it is wise to check that these are specific, eg. You give permission for that poem to be used for that particular Competition, or to be published or recorded in such merchandise as may be generated by that specific Competition. Look twice at Waivers that are not specific!

Anthologies resulting from such Competitions should have the © symbol and Poet's name with each Poem, and a general entry -- usually in the first couple of pages of the book -- stating that individual Authors retain the Copyright of their work.

When you publish your own Anthology, you can establish your Copyright of the work by requesting an ISBN Number, which is then printed on the cover (spine for preference) and again in the front of the book.

ISBN stands for the "International Standard Book Numbering" system. These numbers are available on request from the ISBN Agency in Canberra. Have ready

1. The Correct Title
2. The Author
3. The Publisher
4. The Publisher's Address.

If you are paying a Firm or Business to print the book for you, YOU are THE PUBLISHER -- as well as the Author.

You can get an ISBN number over the phone. There is no monetary cost. Phone (06) 262 1431 or FAX the above details to (06) 273 4492. Don't be in a hurry -- you may have to dial many times! Very late or very early seem to be the quickest times for contact!

To complete your registration of Copyright, you then MUST send a copy of the book (when it is printed) to the National Library, and the State Library in the Capital City of your State. Some State requirements also list one or two other Libraries to which you must supply a copy.

You should (eventually) receive a Receipt for these books. Check individual State requirements when you are requesting your ISBN .

HOW LONG DOES COPYRIGHT LAST?

Fifty years after the death of the owner of the Copyright!

I was recently handed a list of some Australian Poets whose works are now out of Copyright. This had been researched through "The Australian Companion to Literature" (Oxford Press) -- a book that is available in most Public -- and many Private -- Libraries. I include some of the List here for your reference...

BAYLERBRIDE, WILLIAM	born Brisbane, W.Blocksidge	1883-1942
BOAKE, BARCROFT		1866-1892
BRENNAN, CHRISTOPHER	born Sydney	1870-1932
DAVIS, NORMA	born Westbury, Tas	1906-1945
DENNIS, C.J.	born Auburn, SA	1876-1938
DYSON, EDWARD		1865-1931
ESSON, LOUIS	born Edinburgh Scotland	1879-1943
EVANS, GEORGE ESSEX		1863-1909
FURPHY, JOSEPH		1843-1912
GARDINER, FRANK		1830-1903
GOODGE, W.T.		1862-1906
LAWSON, HENRY	born Grenfell NSW	1867-1922
MAURICE, FURNLEY	pen name of Frank Leslie	1881-1942
MORANT, HARRY BREAKER		1864-1902
NEILSON, JOHN SHAW	born Penola SA	1872-1942
PATERSON, A.B.	born near Orange NSW	1864-1941
SPENCER, THOS.E.		1845-1911
WOODS, W.A.		1861-1939

What do they all have in common? They've been dead more than fifty years! Some of them died very young, didn't they?

There is much more information available from that same source, eg. some Poets very popular with Bush Poetry Performers are not yet out of Copyright. Using their work without permission for recordings, etc. could lead to problems!

Some notable names include...

CAMPBELL, DAVID	born Ellerslie Station, Adelong	1915-1979
GILMORE, MARY		1865-1962
HARNEY, BILL	born Charters Towers, Q.	1895-1962
HARRINGTON, EDWARD	born Shepparton Vic	1896-1966
LAWSON, WILL		1876-1957
O'BRIEN, JOHN	born Yass, NSW	1879-1952
OGILVIE, WILL	born Scotland	1869-1963

(AND YOU THOUGHT 'POETS BRAWLS' WERE ORIGINAL ???)

POETRY IN MOTION.

On your marks. Get set. Muse. Sports - style poetry meets are thriving in Taiwan, the Sinorama news agency reports. The Keelung Poetry Research Society, which meets above a Bathroom Fittings shop in the northern Taiwanese city, is a typical example.

The contestants, mostly older men, wait breathlessly for the starter's gun, while the chairman of the Society scratches a suitable poetic subject on the blackboard at the front of the room. "Gathering Around the Stove" was a recent topic.

The signal to start is given, and the pens start scratching. In the old days, timing was done with a device incorporating an incense stick and a coin dangling by a thread over a bronze bowl. When the burning ember reaches the thread, the coin falls into the bowl with a resounding "clunk" and the poets stop writing and hand their masterpieces to the judges.

Today, Taiwan being what it is, they tend not to bother with the incense and coins, and just time the sessions with their Rolexes, although they still use the jargon by talking of "Hitting the Bowl Poetry Competitions."

Runner-up prizes are toothpaste and socks. The grand prize, for the poet who has shown masterful skill in celebrating the chosen topic with his choice of words, with flawless rhythm and cadence, is a packet of yummy monosodium glutamate. (Chewing Gum???)

Oh! What Shakespeare or Tagore would have produced with such incentives!

(Taken from the Far Eastern Economic Review. June 1996.)

NEVER A ROSE BLOOMED IN MY GARDEN.

Never a rose bloomed in my garden
though I tended it every day;
thorns of remorse tear and harden,
as the rose calls me further away
Never my love strolled in my garden,
though I wistfully waited each day;
devotion engenders no pardon,
so the rose, with my dreams, floats away.

Glennie Palmer. Cedarvale QLD.

THE PALMA ROSA POETS

The call was out on the Brisbane side from the heart of Palma Rosa
Through the city's svelt and the gidgee belt as a writer and composer,
We'll muster in the "Grand House", ply our literary communion.
For the greats and the mates and the membership of the English
Speaking Union.

We're the 'Palma Rosa Poets' and we'll chant for the bush and city...
Versifiers and reciters, and we're suave and neat and pretty!
We'll entertain, we'll make you laugh, we'll have you think and cry,
And before we part we'll win your heart and fill your memory's eye.

The 'Palma Rosa Poets' at Hamilton..... on high

Robert Raftery.

Our first performance will be on Wednesday 31st JULY
at 7p.m. We are planning a fun evening of poetry, including
presentations from Glennie Palmer, Australian Ladies' Champion
Bush Poet, 1995 & 1996; Robert Raftery, renowned Brisbane
Poet; Bill Hay, the 'Father' of Bush Poetry in Queensland;
Trevor Kuchel, a brilliant entertainer and poet from Nerang, Qld.;
and Trisha Anderson, Runner-up in the Australian Ladies Bush
Poetry Competition, Novice Class in Winton Qld 1996.

The entertainment will commence at 7.30 p.m. sharp and
finish at approximately 10.30 p.m. Supper will be served at
interval with light refreshments available, BYO drinks. PRICE
\$10.00 per head.

We do hope you will be able to attend our first evening
of the Palma Rosa Poets. We are planning to hold a poetry
evening every two months or so, and we will be inviting
different guest performers to each performance.

I look forward to seeing you at Palma Rosa.

Trisha Anderson.

R.S.V.P. 25th JULY.

'PALMA ROSA'
The English Speaking Union
9 Queens Road
HAMILTON. QLD 4007.
ph (07) 3262 3769.

Mrs T. ANDERSON
113 Manson Road
HENDRA QLD 4011
PH (07) 3268 3624
or (07) 3262 3769.

WANTED: A Gympie school teacher is searching for the words to a
poem called "The Ballad of Darkie Moor". If you can help,
please send in a copy, or information where it may be
available, and we will send it on to her.

Editor

TRAVELLING SPIDERS.

My laser car is red, and I like to keep it clean,
So I wash it fairly often and take pleasure in the sheen,
But months ago I noticed on the mirror just outside,
A web would cloud it over, no matter what I tried!
Though I carefully removed it, then polished up the glass,
By the next day it was there again, designed with better class!

But gradually it dawned that they were doing it no harm,
And I quite enjoy their company whilst driving to the farm,
So have given them these names, that came to me on a hill,
Have decided she'll be 'Tweak' and her mate, he will be 'Twill'.
Lo! those spiders go how I go, sometimes slow, sometimes fast,
Find they're still there right beside me when storm and winds have passed.

They're tenacious and evasive for I haven't spied them yet,
Though I creep up, oh, so quietly, hoping just to get
A glimpse of tiny spiders- but alas it's not to be!
Maybe they are nocturnal-- I'll wait till night and see,
And when I shine the torch, they might be sitting in their web,
Would be so lovely just to spot them- before I go to bed.

They have travelled many miles now, two thousand, maybe more,
Hope the 'Ruapekee dust' didn't make their eyes too sore.
For we stayed a night in Taupo - to gaze across the lake,
And from there to Rotorua - the sulphur fumes to take!
These were rather pungent, so I'm sure they jumped with glee
When they realised that we were heading home to have our tea!

Now I think that everyone should have a tiny 'Tweak', a little 'Twill',
For company gives pleasure, and in turn that always will
Make one carefully consider just how fast one ought to go!
Could maybe bring the 'Road Toll' down! Well, you never know!
For you wouldn't want to harm them, such craftsmen of their task,
'Tis amazing how that web outside, is spun and made to last...

Janet Hilliar. New Zealand

TOOWOOMBA COMPETITION 28th & 29th SEPTEMBER

Full details next month.

ALI THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE.

Mount Isa and Cloncurry poets picked up a swag of awards at the Greyhound Pioneer Cloncurry Bush Poetry Festival last month.

Four generations of one Mount Isa family competed in the event with all reaching the finals or winning their sections.

Nan Capewell and her daughters Merril Anderson, Dale Leard and Pat Fennell, granddaughter Kim McKelvie and her great-grand daughters Ali McKelvie and Nikki Anderson all reached the finals or won awards during the weekend.

Pat Fennell said the main thing at the Festival was the great diversity of ages with older people passing poetry onto young competitors.

"The atmosphere is always great at a Bush Poetry Festival because they don't compete madly and are happy when someone else wins," Mrs Fennell said.

"Having the family together was the highlight for us because my two sisters now live in Charleville so it was lovely for them to come back. It was beaut for my mother (Nan Capewell). It was terrific for her to have us all together happily competing in the Poetry Festival."

It was the first time Mrs Fenell, who won the Open Performance Modern Poetry, Best Poem on a theme of 'Women in Primary Industry' and Best Novice Award, had ever competed.

Nan Capewell, 82, won the Masters section and her grand - daughter Ali McKelvie, 6, won the Tender thirteen Performance.

Her sister Merryl Anderson won best poem on a Wildlife theme and her other sister, Dale Leard, won the Best Traditional Humorous Poem section.

(Taken from The North West Star..... Mount Isa.)

Ron Stevens has published his 4th collection of prize-winners -

REVERSALS @ \$14.00 inc. postage;

also **WINNERS IN RHYME**, a 90 minute audio-tape of 22 of his winning Bush Verse poems @ \$10.00 inc. postage.

Both from Ron at 14 Eden Park Ave
DUBBO NSW 2830.

POETS' CALENDAR

- July 29 WRITTEN POETRY: "**John Dunmore Lang & Will Ogilvie**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. J.D.Lang Award for Celtic-Australian Theme.
Will Ogilvie Award for Traditional-style Aust. Bush Verse.
Contact: McFie Clan Society c/- Bob McPhee, 8 Jahn Drive
Glenore Grove Q 4342 with SSAE. Ph 074-66 5269.
- July 31 WRITTEN POETRY: "**Voices of the Heartland**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. Max 50 lines. Theme 'Voices of the Heartland'.
Conducted by ABC Radio, Qld Arts Council & State Library.
'Experienced Poet' and 'Budding Poet' Categories.
Contact: Your local QUEENSLAND ABC Radio Station.
- July 31 WRITTEN POETRY: "**Mt. Isa Writers' Association Inc.**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. Poetry 120 lines Maximum.
Contact: MIWA Competition, P.O. Box 2781,
Mt. Isa Qld 4825 with SSAE.
- July 31 WRITTEN POETRY: "**Charleville Bush Bards Award**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. Open and Junior. Also Best Local Writer.
Contact: Dale Leard, 31 Wildie St. Charleville Q 4470
Phone: 076- 54 2265
- July 31 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Charleville Bush Balladeers**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. *ACTUAL COMPETITION Aug 31 - Sept 1*
Open, Novice, Junior, Male/Female, Humorous
Contact: Dale Leard, 31 Wildie St. Charleville Q 4470
Phone: 076- 54 2265
- Aug. 4 PERFORMANCE POETRY: 9am "**Poets' Breakfast**"
"Dad & Dave's" at North Pine Country Park. Non-Competitive.
Traditional type... All encouraged to perform!
Contact: North Pine Bush Poets Group, 5 Old Gympie Rd.,
Kallangur, Q. 4502 Phone: 07- 3886 1552
- Aug. 4 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Queensland Art Gallery**"
Bistro Court. South Bank, Brisbane. 11am - 1pm Concert.
Starring Bobby Miller, Shirley Friend, Glenny Palmer
- Aug. 9 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Camp Oven Bush Festival**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. *ACTUAL COMPETITION Aug 31 - Sept. 1*
Junior, Novice, Local, Open, Male, Female, Serious, Humorous
Contact: Community Support Unit, Pine Rivers Shire Council,
PO Box 5070, Strathpine Q 4500 with SSAE.

..... Calendar Continued.....

- Aug. 16,17,18 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**The Battered Bugle**"
Surat Cobb & Co. Festival. Competitive.
Traditional. Original, Local. Open.
Contact: The Secretary, P.O. Box 40, Surat Q 4417
Phone: 076-25 2103
- Aug. 18 PERFORMANCE POETRY: 9am "**Poets' Breakfast**"
"Dad & Dave's" at North Pine Country Park. Non-Competitive.
Traditional type... All encouraged to perform!
Contact: North Pine Bush Poets' Group, 5 Old Gympie Rd.
Kallangur. Q. 4502 Phone: 07-3886 1552
- Aug. 23,24,25 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**The Gympie Muster**"
Amamoor State Forest, Gympie. Competitive & Non-Competitive.
More Music than Poetry, but quite an experience!
Poets' Breakfasts start Tues 20th. Competition likely 23rd & 24th.
Contact: National Country Music Muster, PO Box 616,
Gympie. Q 4570 Phone: 074-82 2099
- Aug 31 Sept 1 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Camp Oven Festival**"
North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Competitive & Non-Competitive
Junior, Local, Novice, Male, Female, Serious, Humorous.
Poets' Breakfast (Traditional Style) & Camp Oven Dinner.
Contact: Community Support Unit, Pine Rivers Shire Council.
P.O. Box 5070, Strathpine Q 4500
- Aug 31 Sept 1 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Charleville Bush Balladeers**"
Sat. Town Hall; Sun. Racecourse Complex. Competitive.
Open, Junior, Novice, Humorous, Male, Female.
Contact: Dale Leard, 31 Wildie St. Charleville Q 4470
Phone: 076- 54 2265
- Sept 20 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Maroochy Arts Festival**"
ENTRIES CLOSE. ACTUAL COMPETITION 16 - 20 October.
Contact: Maroochy Arts Festival, P.O. Box 5255 SMC
Nambour Q 4560
- Sept 20-25 PERFORMANCE POETRY: "**Bourke Mateship Festival**"
Fri.20th Poets' Night. Sun 22:John Meredith Aust. Bush Poetry
Contact: Paul Roe Bourke. NSW
Phone: (068) 722 982 or FAX (0658) 722 305

- Sept. 27 - 29 PERFORMANCE POETRY: “**Heart of the Hinterland**”
 Maleny Performing Arts Festival. Competitive.
 Novice, Open, Traditional, Pathos, Hilarious, Yarn Spinning.
 Contact: Jackie Bridle, c/- Mapleton Post Office Q 4560
 Phone: 074-45 7760.
- Sept. 30 WRITTEN POETRY: “**Moncrieff U3A Literary Competition**”
ENTRIES CLOSE. Rhyming Poetry. Max 40 lines.
 Contact: Literary Comp. U3A P.O. Box 64
 Paradise Point Q 4216 with SSAE.
- Oct. 16 - 20 PERFORMANCE POETRY: “**Maroochy Arts Festival**”
 Nambour Civic Centre. Competitive.
 Contact: Maroochy Arts Festival, PO Box 5255 SCMC
 Nambour Q 4560
- Oct. 19,20 PERFORMANCE POETRY: “**Brekkie with the Bush Poets**”
 9-11am Toowoomba Country Music Festival Clifton Showgrounds.
 Join Mark Gliori, Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty & Carmel Randle.
 Line Dancing! Talent Quests, Gina Jeffries, Lee Kernaghan etc..
 Contact: Top Entertainment Promotions, P.O. Box 980
 Toowoomba Q 4350 Phone: 076- 32 4955
- Oct. 19,20 PERFORMANCE POETRY: “**The Mapleton Yarn Festival**”
 Lilyponds Park, Mapleton. Largely Non-Competitive, but...
 Includes “The Ernie Setterfield Club Challenge” (2-Poet Team)
 Contact: Mapleton Yarn Festival c/- Mapleton Post Office Q 4560

Just a smattering of ‘what’s on’ for Bush Poets in our State!

Do YOU like this format for advance information of Festivals, Competitions, and Events? If so, please tell us! Such a system can only work, of course, if EVERY MEMBER passes on to us the appropriate information from his/her Area.

Send QUEENSLAND information to.....

either:

Ron Selby, PO Box 77,
 DRAYTON NORTH Q 4350

or:

Carmel Randle, MS 852,
 PRESTON via Toowoomba Qld 4352

or:

FAX to (076) 309 998

Send SOUTHERN information to

Frank Daniel, PO Box 16,
 CANOWINDRA NSW 2804

or:

FAX to (063) 411 582

MY TEACHER.

"Don't say 'You can't!'" my teacher said. "Just always say you'll try,
And you know I'll always help you, and be there by your side."

He gave me strength to carry on when I felt like giving in,
With his kindly words and gentle voice, he taught me how to win.

He taught me which were Gidyea trees and Mulga trees and Box.
He showed me how to find the spring that seeped out through the rocks.
He picked for me the wild bush flowers, and said which ones were weeds,
And he taught me all about the grass on which the wild birds feed.

While he worked, he told the story of the Snowy River ride.
And at night he sang me songs as he sat there by my side.
When the sun was just beginning to lightly touch the east
He'd wake me up to listen to the bird calls from the trees.

Now when the mist is rising off the river at sun up.
When I hear the fish all feeding with a deep and splashing plop,
I know he's still beside me watching as I cast my line,
Where the ti - trees touch the water, leaving ripples as their sign.

And when I sing his songs to my daughters and my son,
I'm passing on a legacy that keeps a family strong.
And I tell them how we're lucky to live, love and be free,
In this land of milk and honey, as he had once told me.

I learned from him to treasure all the wonders of this land.
And to show my dedication, be the first to raise my hand
To defend with love and loyalty the country I was born,
To be proud to be Australian, and not let others scor n.

Although he's gone, he's with me every single day,
And I thank God for the teacher that I had, to show the way
To appreciate our way of life, and you know, I'm really glad,
That my very special teacher was a man I once called 'Dad'.

Dale Leard. CHARLEVILLE QLD.

LOOK HERE! We're looking for submissions for the 1996 A.B.P.A
Annual Anthology. See Advertisement elsewhere in this Magazine!

Carmel Randle.... is the author of the winning entry in the 1996 Bronze Swagman Awards for Bush Verse. These Awards have been held annually by the Winton Tourist Promotion Association in Queensland since 1972. Over six hundred entries were received this year.

In our present day and age, on average, Women outlive Men. This simple statistic brings its own set of problems to the people of the Outback. This poem is dedicated to an old friend who, against all the odds, managed to retain a remote Channel Country Property for her family.

The Darkest Hour

Another sultry summer's day has shuffled to the west
As I slip into a squatter's chair to snatch a moment's rest
On the open east verandah, where the moon, just past its prime
Silhouettes the gidyea by the creek and boundary line.

Just two of us, each lost in thought. A moon has come and gone.
No rain this time... a dry moon! Lord, what ARE we doing wrong?
How can two lonely women carve a living hereabouts
When all we get are dust storms, searing heat, and flamin' drought?

Myself --- I shared a dream with John. This was his family's soil.
For many generations it had seen their loving toil!
We'd dream about the future as our boys grew into men,
And feel the circle of our lives turn over once again.

John taught them basic outback skills as soon as they could walk---
They knew of stock and native plants as first they learned to talk ---
And in between their schooling, well, they learned to shoot and drive,
And mend a fence, and fix a pump. They'd need THAT to survive!

Then College years.... how Jack just couldn't wait to come back home,
But Jim there found a new life very different from his own....
A 'Guru' all-important.... How I wish he'd keep in touch!
We hope he's happy, safe, and well.... but miss him, oh, so much!

Then Jack came home with Lorna as his lovely blushing bride --
Just the sort of friendly girl to take things in her stride!
Consoled me when the hand of Death smote keenly at John's heart;
Here to give a focus least our dreams should fall apart.

3
And she gave us Jan, and Little John --- they're such a bonny pair!
Now snuggled safely in their cots, they sleep without a care!
They prob'ly won't remember much about their Daddy, Jack,
'Cause no amount of wish or prayer can bring my eldest back!

No cure for his Cancer --- there was nothing we could do! ---
And now his lovely Lorna is a lonely widow too!
So we sit in friendly silence as the moon climbs up the sky
And grapple with the reasons why our menfolk had to die.

We wonder where our Jim is..... Will he ever change his mind
And come again to share his life with those he left behind?
Why should we bother staying here in drought and dust and sand?
Deep in our hearts we know we feel THIS IS OUR Tribal Land!

Sure, I miss the quickened heartbeat when my John returned each day,
His smile across the table, and the teasing things he'd say,
And the heartache weighs so heavy in the middle of the night
When I long to throw my arms around my love and hold him tight!

So I sit here, bathed in moonlight, and I ponder on the worth
Of striving for a lifetime to retain this piece of Earth.....
Would my forebears rise and haunt me if I ever should give in?
Would 'to quit and run away' be termed 'a grievous mortal sin'?

And I think of Jan and Little John --- perhaps they wouldn't care....
They'd find "Home's Where the Heart Is!" True --- if those they loved
were there!
And the years until they're old enough stretch grimly out ahead
As they lie there wrapped in silence in their comfy baby bed!

Don't treat my cogitations now with scorn or faint derision ---
When the Agent rings me back I must have made the right decision
'Cause he's pressing for an answer, and it's me who must decide.....
Will the City or the Country be the future for our Tribe?

The moon has gone. Is that the dawn..... that rosy eastern glow?
A sleepless night with worry fraught, but now at least I know!
I'll dial the Agent's number -- Help me, please, Lord! Guide my hand!
The answer's "No! I cannot.... will not.... sell my children's land!"



Caught in the Act!
The PSYCHEDELICS
Poetry Olympics Team at
Winton, 1996. L to R.
Glenny Palmer, Philippa
Powell, Linda Mackie-Scott,
Joye Dempsey and Trisha
Anderson in the "National
Anthem or War Cry" Event.

POETS WANTED !

Any poets in the EUMUNDI QLD area or poets passing through. Elizabeth Esprester, ph (074) 491991. would like to record your poems for future radio broadcasts.

JOHN DERUM TO VISIT SOUTH EAST QLD.

John Derum, popular T.V. star, Actor, Poet will be coming to Brisbane, and possibly Toowoomba in early October for a series of workshops and performances. Exact dates and times are yet to be finalised. There should be a full report and agenda in your next A.B.P.A. magazine.

THE 6th MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL.

20th OCTOBER 1996

At the lilyponds park Mapleton.

THE ERNIE SETTERFIELD CLUB CHALLENGE.

The Mapleton Yarn Festival is inviting all poetry groups to send their favourite poets to represent their club for a fun challenge. The group awarded with the **CHALLENGE CUP** will take it home to display in their club for a year then return the following year to defend their title.

There are **no entry fees** and each club will receive two Festival passes for their representatives.

The poems must be original, with one being Humorous the other serious.

If your club or group is interested in this Challenge Please write, **ASAP**, to **The Mapleton Yarn Festival** c/o Mapleton Post Office or phone enquiries on (074) 457760.

Gympie Muster
20 to 25 AUGUST 1996.

6 Big Breakfast Concerts

Tues 20th - Sun 25th

Jim Haynes Mark Gliori

with

Gary Fogarty Bob Miller, Ray Essery

(Winners in previous years!)

Original & Traditional Competitions
Friday 23 Sat 24

Finalists perform at
Sunday Breakfast Concert

Wanted!

**Your Poetry for consideration for
1996 A.B.P.A. Anthology**

Some poems that have already been received 'for the Magazine' have been held over for Anthology consideration, but...

We Need More!

Submissions **MUST** have the following statement attached...

"I hereby give permission for the A.B.P.A. to publish my poem, '(Name of Poem)' in their 1996 Annual Anthology. I agree that any MINOR editing deemed necessary for publication purposes may be done"

Signed _____ and PRINT your name and address!

(Minor editing would include spelling corrections, punctuation, and enhancement of lay-out on the page.)

Don't 'miss the boat' this year!
Send by EARLY OCTOBER! (1996!)