

No.9. Vol.3. September. 1996.

# The Australian



# Bush Poets Association

REMINDER. TOOWOOMBA QLD 28th September.....( 076 ) 301106.  
NOBBY. QLD 29th September.....( 076 ) 963211.  
MALENY. QLD 27 -- 29th Sept..... ( 074 ) 457760.

# *Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

P.O. Box 77 Drayton North. Queensland 4350.

<b>President:</b>	Frank Daniel - P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804. Ph. 063 411 588 - Ah. 063 441 477 - Fax..063 411 582		
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<b>South Australia.</b>	Bob Magor - Ph/fax. - 085 582 036		
<b>Victoria.</b>	Geoffrey Graham. Ph/fax. 054 691 312		

## **CANDLE IN THE DARK.**

### **An Amnesty International Literary Competition**

There are four sections;

Open Short Story or Play,

( up to 30 00 words ) Prize \$200;

Junior, ( 16 Yrs & under.) Short story or Play

( up to 2500 words ) Prize \$150.

Open Poetry ( up to 100 lines ) Prize \$150.

Junior Poetry ( up to 100 lines ) Prize \$150.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$5 for open sections and \$3 for Junior sections.

**THE THEME:** Is "Candle in the Dark " and the writing should relate to this in some way, However, the content need not have any bearing on the work of Amnesty International.

The best entries, including the Prize Winning Entries, will be compiled into a printed Anthology.

### **APPLY COMPETITION CONDITIONS.**

Judging by a panel from the Shoalhaven Branch of the Fellowship of Australian Writers. Any number of entries may be submitted, with the appropriate fee. NO entry form required.

**ENTRIES CLOSE 30th NOVEMBER 1996**

Direct Entries and Enquiries to; A1 LIT. COMPETITION  
P.O. Box 7  
KANGAROO VALLEY  
N.S.W. 2577.

( Phone ) (044) 651357.

**Presidents Letter.** Dear members of the A.B.P.A.

Time is passing quickly and it is almost that time of year again — Christmas. (I just thought I would get in first and beat the stores with this enlightening piece of information).

Christmas has no bearing on this letter at all, other than the fact that time waits for no man, and our year is all but up - that is, if your year is based from Christmas to Christmas.

For some, their year is the Financial Year, others have a Calendar Year, some might even go from Festival to Festival, Tamworth to Tamworth, Gympie to Gympie, Winton to Winton or Footy season to Footy season.

My year starts at Harvest time - when the crops start coming in and we see a surge forward from a slack winter's end to a busy summer, where we work long hours to put enough away for the next winter. Planning and looking ahead, making new decisions and trying new ideas — keeping the wheels rolling.

This is how all successful committees and organisations work, (Poets as well), planning, testing, changing and improving on their past performances.

During this year I have seen a lot of improvements made in the conducting and organising of many successful festivals. But I just wonder how many people are aware of the amount of time and effort put into the success of these functions by the hard working few that put them together.

From the moment a festival or show is over, the better organisers are at it again, looking at past mistakes, discussing new ideas, considering positive suggestions and the many criticisms that come to hand, (usually from those who have no input at all other than to tell them how they 'ought to run it'), and planning ahead for the 'Next Year!'

The fruits of their successes has been quite evident this year right from the very start in Tamworth with more Bush Poetry than ever before, through the National Folk Festival (Canberra) to Winton and Longreach, to the greatest ever Gympie Muster. A number of smaller and newer gatherings have also had favourable results, all gained from previous experiences.

The Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival at Petrie Qld. early this month was a good example of organising, and I commend the North Pine Poetry Group for a job well-done.

So much for all the others, but not so for the Canowindra Bush Poets Turnout where the best laid plans were not to be. My sincere apologies to those many people who indicated that they would be in Canowindra, and thank you. We will return! Any-how! Let's keep the wheels rolling and not be too critical of others, especially if we have not had a go ourselves.

Regards,

*Frank Daniel.*

**Bush Laureate Awards - - January 1997.** The Bush Laureate Awards for Australian Rhymed Verse are presented annually at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. These awards are intended to encourage the publishing and recording of Australian Rhymed Verse, to improve the standard of publishing and recording Australian Rhymed Verse and to focus media attention on such work.

The 1997 Bush Laureate Awards will contain three sections:-

1. Published Original Australian Rhymed Verse. (In book form).
2. Recordings of Australian Rhymed Verse. (On commercially produced cassette tape or C.D. These albums are to contain at least eighty per cent spoken word, not songs).
3. Heritage Award - for published original verse in book form. (i.e. book with an emphasis on Australian Heritage, historical, geographical or social, which include original verse).

To be eligible for the Bush Laureate Awards, product must be published / released between November 1st. 1995 and November 1st. 1996.

Entries for the competition close on November 3rd. 1996.

The judges will be drawn from the media, publishing and recording industries and they will be given the following guide-lines for judging.

1. The quality of verse.
2. The entertainment value.
3. The quality and presentation of the publication or album.
4. The variety of styles and moods.
5. The 'Australianess' of the verse.
6. The quality and appropriateness of illustrations, photos and or artwork.

Finalists will be selected for all sections and the work of these finalists will be submitted for a second round of judging.

Finalists will be advised in writing and announced in the media during December. Winners will be announced and awards presented at a special function during Country Music Week in Tamworth.

Forward three copies of all entries with \$10.00 entry fee per category to: "Golden Gumleaf Enterprises" 112 Crescent Road, Hamilton Qld. 4007.

## **CATTLE CAMP HOTEL**

ALFRED STREET, CHARLEVILLE QLD 4470



**Sue & John Wardrobe**

ph: (076) 54 3473

fax: (076) 54 3093

cold beer on tap  
counter meals  
budget accommodation  
poker machines

**Gympie Muster. 1996.** Early campers at the 1996 Gympie Muster braved frosty mornings to gather in the Muster Club marquee at 8 am for the Bush Poet's Breakfasts which began on Tuesday 20th. August and continued each morning until Sunday 25th.

Led by Jim Haynes, the Bush Poets team consisted of Bob 'The Larrikin' Miller of Maryborough Qld., Ray "the Mullumbimby Bloke" Essary, Mark Gliori of Warwick Qld. and Gary Fogarty of Millmerrin Qld. Popular guest performers were Shirley Friend of Morayfield Q. and John Major of Baralaba Qld. The two hours of laughter and fun got everyone off to a brilliant start each day and many members of the audience returned to enjoy the show every morning during the Muster.

On the Friday the troupe moved to the Talent Search marquee which had been erected in a new location close to the northern edge of the clearing.

Children from the Two-mile School performed with Jim Haynes at the Bush Poets Breakfast on the Saturday morning, reciting poems and singing songs they had written during the previous week at Workshops conducted by Jim at their school.

Heats for the Original and Traditional Kings of Rhyme competition were held on Friday and Saturday. A talented line-up in the Original section saw a number of new (as well as the old), faces at Gympie, with such performers as Paul de Jersey - Southport Qld., Mark Thompson- Bungendore NSW, Trish Anderson - Brisbane, John Major - Baralaba Qld., Carmel Randle - Preston Qld., Merv Webster - Bargara Qld., Laurie Barton - the Gold Coast, Col Hadwell -Byron Bay NSW, Teresa Tompkins - Brisbane, Ted Chynery - Kalbarri WA , Ron Selby - Drayton Nth. Qld., Ron Stephenson - Maryborough Qld. and James Hunter from Brisbane.

Finalists in this event were Carmel Randle, Mark Thompson and James Hunter.

Contestants in the Traditional section were John Major, Carmel Randle, Mark Thompson, Ron Liekefett from Lawnton, Col Hadwell, Trish Anderson, Barry Ellem from Gympie, John Keogh from Bateman's Bay NSW and Ted Thompson from Warwick. John Keogh, John Major and Col Hadwell were the finalists.

John Major won the Traditional 'King of Rhyme' with Col Wilson's poem "The Chainsaw Massacre". Col Hadwell was second and John Keogh, third.

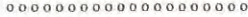
The Original 'King of Rhyme' went to James Hunter with his poem "G'day There, How Are You?"

Mark Thompson took second place with his poem "Where Else Would a Man Want To Be?"

Carmel Randle placed third with her poem, "The Darkest Hour", which

was the winning poem in this years Bronze Swagman Awards at Winton Q.  
 The Junior Poetry Competition was conducted by Mark Gliori in the Kids Country Area and from eight competitors, Jennifer Mason placed first with Tani Crotty second and Carmel Dunn, third.

A new venue at Gympie this year was the Muster Theatre, where Geoffrey Graham presented his "Man From Ironbark" show.



**LIFE IN THE RAW.**

**Claude Morris.**

He was from those empty spaces that hold nothing much to please,  
 Where the sun goes down in sorrow, after seeing what it sees.  
 His suit case was a flour bag, and showing signs of wear -  
 In keeping with his wardrobe, that it held with room to spare.

He had been a boundary rider, and his social calls were few,  
 And his clothing was at best austere, and anything but new.  
 He was very much a 'loner', and had fallen out of touch,  
 But fashions came and fashions went, and never mattered much.

And he sought and found a doctor, and he underwent a test  
 That landed him in hospital for treatment and a rest.  
 "And have you got pyjamas?" asked the nurse that booked him in.  
 "No I ain't," replied the patient - "just an ulcer on me shin."

**Poets live longer and love better**

A psychiatrist, according to a recent news article, has claimed that the romantic image of the poet as a tortured soul is wildly off-target.

This learned gentleman claims that poets are more troubled, but less prone to alcoholism or sexual problems than other writers.

His theory is that poets write about their feelings, about love and about nature, which is much less stressful than writing about other people's joys and tragedies.

Apparently Charles Dickens was so gripped by his writing that he used to cry over death scenes.

Our friend, a now retired London Doctor, admitted surprise when a study of 100 creative writers revealed 54 per cent of playwrights were alcoholics but only so in 31 per cent of poets. Poets were twice as likely as novelists to live to at least the age of 74 years, and three times as likely as playwrights to have a successful marriage. Choose your own course!



# MATILDA COUNTRY CARAVAN PARK

43 CHIRNSIDE STREET, PO BOX 110, WINTON, QLD. 4735

PHONE/FAX: 076 57 1607

Mr R Selby  
Secretary  
The Australian Bush Poets Association  
P O Box 77 Drayton North  
Queensland 4350

Dear Ron

In the August 1996 Monthly Newsletter of your Association there is published a letter from Glenny Palmer headed "A letter to the President....Frank Daniel." In that letter Glenny refers to her win at Winton and writes "The prize I have so far been promised consists of one return flight to Los Angeles."

The prize in each of the categories of Open Male Performer and Open Female Performer was a return Airfare from the nearest capital city in Australia to the Cowboy Bush Poets Gathering in Elko Nevada USA plus \$500 Accommodation Allowance." This was the advertised prize for each winner and that is what Glenny Palmer and Milton Taylor will receive.

I am writing this letter to ensure that there are no misconceptions among your readers caused by Glenny's letter. If a winner wishes to take a partner then that is at their own expense.

I should add that the Australian Bush Poetry Championships which will be held in Winton 25-27 April 1997 in conjunction with the Waltzing Matilda Festival will have similar prizes again.

Yours in Bush Poetry

Bert Swindell  
Treasurer  
Winton Tourist Promotion Association



Top Tourist Parks of Australia Limited

Your Hosts: Bert Swindell and Jeannette Elliott



1995  
Outback Queensland  
Tourism Awards  
Winner

## SPRINGTIME IN VICTORIA.

Springtime in Victoria, a wondrous sight to see,  
 For all who come from near & far to see these things with me.  
 Gold Wattles clumped together or brilliantly alone,  
 Roadsides bloom with golden Broom and flowers of every tone.

Ancient Orchids, wet with dew still wear their winter moss,  
 Prunus blossoms bloom and blow in clouds that drift and toss.  
 Magnolias regal pink and pure with drifts of blooms beneath,  
 Crocuses and Daffodils emerge from winter's sheath.

Springtime in Victoria..... It makes my heart rejoice.  
 Magig Mosses paint the trees and birds are finding voice.  
 Fresh new grasses, velvet green, move me to euphoria,  
 Oh! who would miss the pure delight ?  
 Of Springtime in Victoria .

Dorothy Smith. GEELONG VIC.



## THE PALMA ROSA POETS.

Robert Rafferty.	Glenny Palmer.	Trisha Anderson.	Trevor Kuchel.
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry club has just been formed to encompass Albury, Tumbarumba, Corryong, Tumut, Gundagai, Junee etc. I'd be happy to talk to anyone about this or any other poetry related issues. Corryong has just had another showing of Geoff Graham's 'Man from Ironbark' show - A few of us have seen it 3 times! It's great to see people making a living by indulging their passion as Geoff does, I agree with his comments in the May Issue of ABPA.

Jan Lewis WALCHA Vic. (060)371357.

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### "ON THE ROAD" WITH KEVIN.

We are in the big time doing Bush Poetry in the Primary Schools of Lithgow and district as a lead up to the Lithgow Valley Festival in November with prizes from Lithgow Credit Union. (ring Heather (063) 523636 ) Performances in Portland 25, Marsden Swamp 3, Jenolan Caves 27, Rydal 4, Sodwalls 14 Tarana 10, Hampton 20. Yes Kevin Campbell and I are on the road with Bush Poetry and enjoying every minute.

Denis Kevans. Wentworth Falls NSW

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Recently while working on a poem entitled 'Basher Brogans Pride', I was a little stumped as to whether there was an 'E' in rouseabout. I was rather amused at the result I received on my computer, and thought I'd share the experience with others by way of verse.

### THE ROSEBUD ROUSEABOUT.

My mind was on a new bush verse based 'round the shearing shed;  
Though my spelling was a problem, A thing that poets dread.

The word in tow was rouseabout, I surely was in doubt;  
My computer spell check icon, would surely help me out.

I moused over to the window, and clicked the word called start,  
Then rouseabout came on the screen, with a suggestion on a chart.

Most rouseabouts are manly lads, young Kidman's on the grow;  
Though the suggestion that it made, showed some folks sure don't know

It did not recognise the word, not found-- the thing displayed;  
But suggested I try ROSEBUD, Some help-- I felt betrayed.

Mer Webster BARGARA. QLD.

## POEM WANTED.

A lady in MERRIWA NSW has requested a copy of a poem. Title unknown, but some of the verses go something like this;

Blasphemy and blue lights blended  
In the firey stress of work,  
Happless new chum recommended  
To a better place than Bourke.

Riding 'round eternal fences,  
Pulling dead stuff out of dams,  
Taking ?????? ?????? ?? chances  
In a yard of angry Rams.

last verse goes;  
"Out of all this wild confusion,  
After meditation deep,  
I have come to this conclusion,  
That the road to HELL is SHEEP."

If any member can help with this poem, please send it on to **John Philipson**; 7 Brolga Way. TAMWORTH. 3240.

\*\*\*\*\*

ON THE SICK LIST. Mrs Gloria Bates, wife of Ron Bates has been in Toowoomba base Hospital in a serious condition and Ron would like to thank all the poets for their well wishes cards and flowers.

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**GLENGALLEN BUILDING TRUST.**

*PRESENTS.*

**PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION**

ORIGINAL TRADITIONAL ETC.

**ALLORA TOWN HALL**

(between WARWICK & TOOWOOMBA QLD.)

**SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER.**

**ALL POETS WELCOME.**

**INFO...Brenda Moscrop**

**AH.(076)648217. BH (076) 615962**

\*\*\*\*\*

## COAL TRAIN.

If your on a triple header from Blackwater or the Bluff  
In by Dingo and Rockhampton and the track is pretty rough,  
(For a showery rail's a greasy rail that makes the drivers slip  
So you never get the chance to open up and let her rip).  
You've got no brakes, you've got no power, you're nearly out of sand  
And the hundred hoppers on behind are getting out of hand  
And you're edging through the cuttings looking out for fallen rocks  
Just say a prayer and cross yourself and trust the Jesus Box.

What's in it is a mystery, you hope it's working right  
As you snake them gently 'round the curves and the tail is out of sight.  
Another shower dampens the rails just as they're getting dry  
So you have to ease her down again and curse the weeping sky.  
You hope all level crossings clear, you'd never make her prop,  
( It'd take three miles of careful brakes to bring her to a stop).  
And meantime with your nerves a-twisch and heart down in your socks  
You say a prayer and cross yourself and trust the Jesus Box.

An hour late at Westwood then in through Rockhampton town  
Across the highway slowly as the dawn comes creeping down  
On paddocks, houses, hillsides. Now the clouds are open wide  
As you swing her to Point Barney where the great bulk-carriers ride.  
So drop the load for shunting and greet the rising sun  
With another trip behind you and another job well done.  
Then take them to the engine shed and set the brakes on locks  
And bless again the men that made the wondrous Jesus Box.

\*\*\*\*\*

I remember my brother who used to drive triple-headers from the coalfields down to Barney Point, and how he told me about the Electronic Device that let's the driver control the three loco's that some of the blokes call the Jesus Box ( because it's a bit of a bloody miracle how it works ) and wrote this poem.

I know a bit about driving trains from my days long ago on the old sugar mill loco's around Innisfail, so was able to write it down.

Bill Scott.

WARWICK QLD.

## CHARLEVILLE'S INAUGRAL COMPETITION.

Charleville residents were treated to a feast of Bush Poetry on Saturday, 31st AUGUST. The local club, Charleville Bush Balladeers, staged the inaugural Bush Poetry Comp. as part of the local Booga Woongaroo (Mulga Tree) Festival.

Although the local club was formed only 10 weeks ago it had all stops out in an effort to have everything ready for the big day and from the comments of visiting poets, judges and townsfolk, their efforts were well recieved. Poets from all over QLD and some from NSW appeared impressed with the organisation of the event and the hospitality shown to them by the Charleville Poets.

The written comp. "The Bush Bards Awards" was run in conjunction with the Performance and well supported by poets from most Australian States, the quality of the entries left little to be desired with several poems in each category being highly commended by the ludgees.

The performance poetry catered for five categories, Open Male, Open Female, Novice, Humorous and Junior. Heats commenced at 9am and continued until 3am when everyone left to be part of the Bush Poetry Float in the festival procession down the main street.

The finals commenced at 6pm and at the conclusion prizes were awarded for all categories in both the written and performance poetry. The organisers congratulate all who were good enough to win more than one prize.

Sunday was set down as a Family Fun Day and a One Minute Poem was held to get things rolling. Poets also helped to fill the program and were seen reciting in all sorts of places in Charlevill's new parkland.

The members of Charleville Bush Balladeers were thrilled with the result of their first competition and are already looking towards planning next years event.

Many thanks to all who entered the competition, the quality was outstanding. We hope to put together a book of poems and will let you know when they will be available. (raising the printing cost may take a little time)

Keep writing and reciting.



.GLENIS BENTLEY (SEC)

## RESULTS of CHARLEVILLE BUSH BALLADEERS COMP.

### WRITTEN SECTION

1st Carmel Randle PRESTON QLD "Veteran"  
 2nd Ellis Campbell DUBBO NSW. "Remember Chubby"

### HIGHLY COMMENDED.

Reversals. & Impressions. Ron Stevens. DUBBO NSW.  
 The Darkest Hour. Carmel Randle. PRESTON QLD.  
 The Riding of Tearaway. & An Old Man Sitting In The Sun.  
 Ellis Campbell. DUBBO. NSW.  
 Banjo Reminisces. & Going Droving.  
 V.P. Read. BICTON. W.A.  
 J. Johanson YARRAWONGA VIC.  
 A Mothers Dream.

### JUNIOR SECTION.

1st Carmel Dunn. WARWICK QLD. "Shattered Dreams"  
 2nd. Kacey Leard. CHARLEVILLE QLD. "Goodbye"  
 H.C. Carly Everitt ADAVALE QLD "Toms Ride"

### BEST LOCAL WRITER.

1st Dale Leard. CHARLEVILLE QLD. "Just Whistle Dick"

### HIGHLY COMMENDED.

My Mate. & Legends. Col Bently. CHARLEVILLE QLD.  
 The Hands That Rocked The Cradle.  
 Mrs Dale Leard CHARLEVILLE QLD.

### PERFORMANCE POETRY.

JUNIOR. 1st Sally-anne Windus. CLONCURRY QLD.  
 2nd Ali McKelvie. MT ISA QLD.  
 3rd Imogen King. CHARLEVILLE Qld.

HUMOROUS. 1st Terry Reagan BLAXLAND. NSW.  
 2nd Liz Ward MT PERRY. QLD.  
 3rd Dale Leard, CHARLEVILLE QLD.

NOVICE. 1st Joy Major. BARALABA. QLD.  
 2nd Colin Bently. CHARLEVILLE. QLD.  
 3rd Merryl Anderson. MT ISA. QLD.

OPEN FEMALE. 1st Dale Leard. CHARLEVILLE. QLD.  
 2nd Liz Ward. MT PERRY. QLD.  
 3rd Pat Fennell. MT ISA. QLD.

OPEN MALE. 1st Ron Selby. DRAYTON. QLD.  
 2nd Ron Bates. GATTON. QLD.  
 3rd Terry Regan. BLAXLAND. NSW.

Many thanks to those who travelled many miles to help with the success of the weekend Thanks also to Glenny & Allen Palmer, Tim Butler & Ron Selby (judges) and Compere John Major.

## SALUTE TO HEROES

by Harry Bowers    Warragul    Vic.

Dedicated to Kieran Perkins

He stands upon his block. The southern cross  
Identifies his golden wattle cap.  
Almost forgotten by his great opponents,  
only a few believers stand to clap.  
Yet, in his mind, the spirit of Australia  
surges his heart great heart - to heights unknown.  
"This is my race! They shall not take it from me.  
This is the race that I shall claim my own.  
I shall not flinch the barriers of pain,  
What I have done then I will do once more,  
This is the place, the day that I have worked for,  
this is the time I climb up off the floor."

Half a world away a nation watches,  
holding its breath to see him take the lead  
and feeling he will not last, already sad,  
for he has been a champion indeed.  
Leading still! His country is on its feet  
Leaping! Weeping! Screaming out his name.  
He surges further forward, heart responding,  
every thrust is reaching out to fame.

This is the unbelievable finale.  
This is Ulysses returning home to Troy:  
Inspiring his country men to grand endeavours  
in every field, in triumph and in joy.  
He raises his arms in quiet exultation,  
already forgotten that barrier of pain;  
swimming a race the whole world will remember  
and such a race we'll never see again.  
Two golden caps upon the victory podium  
Australians have all grown taller on this day  
Heroes are what this very land is made of  
In this nation's memories - **THIS ONE WILL STAY.**

## Poets Calendar. Events and Competitions.

### **"Maroochy Arts Festival" — Nambour Civic Centre. Oct. 16 - 20.**

Performance Poetry. — Written Competition closes Sept. 20.

Enq. Maroochy Arts Festival. P.O. Box 5255 SCMC Nambour Q. 4560

### **"Brekkie with the Bush Poets" Toowoomba Country Music Festival**

**Oct. 19-20 — Clifton Showground — (9 -11am)** Performance Poetry

Join Mark Gliori, Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty and Carmel Randle — Line dancing!

Talent Quests! Gina Jeffries, Lee Kernaghan etc... Enq. Ph. 076 32 4955

Top Entertainment Promotions P.O. Box 980 Toowoomba Q. 4350

### **"The Mapleton Yarn Festival" — Lilyponds Park Mapleton Oct. 19 - 20**

Performance Poetry - Largely Non-competitive.

Includes "The Ernie Setterfield Club Challenge" (2-Poet Team)

Enq. Mapleton Yarn Festival c/- Mapleton Post Office Q. 4560

### **"Golden Gumleaf - Bush Laureate Awards" Closing date. Nov. 3rd.**

Presented in Tamworth in January 1997. Three sections: 1. Published Original Australian Rhymed Verse (Book form) 2. Recorded Rhymed Verse (Cassette/CD)

3. Heritage Award (Publication -Emphasising Australian Heritage. Historical -

Geographical - Social) For Product released from Nov. 1 1995 - Nov. 1 1996.

Send three copies of product with entry fee of \$10 to - Golden Gumleaf Enterprises

112 Crescent Road Hamilton Q. 4007

### **The Kiosk - New Farm Park. Brisbane. Wed. Nov. 6th. Jime Haynes.**

#### **"Festival of the Valley" - Poets in the Park - Lithgow NSW - Nov. 16. 8am.**

Performance Poetry - Open - Novice - Junior entries close Nov. 8th.

Written Poetry Competition closes Oct. 11th. Entries to Heather Younger

P.O. Box 119 Wallerawang NSW 2945 Phone. 063 523 636

#### **"Man from Snowy River Bush Festival" Corryong Vic. Nov. 15 - 16 - 17 1996**

Non Competitive Bush Poetry over three days Enq. Sandra Beirs 060 762 120.

#### **"Tumbarumba Heritage Week" - Sat. Nov. 16 - 9am**

Procession, Poetry Recitals - Poets Breakfast. Followed by.....

**"Gundagai" Nov. 24th. 8 am.** at the **Dog on the Tuckerbox.** Poet's Breakfast - whip cracking - dog high jump - bush bands - dancing - fun for all.

**Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club.** Ph.060 205 232

#### **"The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1997" Entries Close Nov. 30th. 1996**

Written Competition for Bush Verse Send \$3.00 with each entry to

**The Blackened Billy Verse Competition — Tamworth Poetry Reading Group**

P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth. NSW. 2340

#### **"Annual Get-together" - Tumbarumba Bowling Club. Dec. 31. 11.00 am.**

Written Poetry Competition. Open - Junior. Closes Dec. 9th. Entry Fee \$5 /poem.

Ph. 060 205 232 **"Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club"**

**Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** Two full days of Traditional Australian Bush Poetry and entertainment drew a good crowd of enthusiasts and competitors to the North Pine Country Park, Petrie Qld. on August 31st and September 1st.

The Inaugural Festival was a combined effort by the North Pine Poetry Group and the Pine Rivers Shire Council to promote the development of Australian cultural traditions within the Pine Rivers Shire.

The Camp Oven was chosen as the theme for the Festival because it is typical of "Eating Out, Australian Style"! Fundamental to the development of the After-dinner Entertainment of sharing Bush Poetry aloud.

The busy programme got under way at 9am on the Saturday with heats of the Junior, the Local and the Nervous Novice competitions.

Eight youngsters lined up with credible performances from each to see Carmel Dunn of Warwick take out the honours in this event.

The Local Male or Female Competition saw a number of first timers in Poetry contests and some nerves were evident during this heat. The winner of this section was Tony Dale of nearby Strathpine reciting 'Bess'. Second place went to John Coutts of Kalangur with 'Airmen of Old', an original poem about the Royal Flying Doctor Service. John Sweeney of Burpengary came third with the old 'Banjo' Paterson favourite, 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle'!

Twenty Nervous Novice's (Male and Female) competed in category 3 giving the listener a good sample of old, plus some very new and entertaining verse for consideration.

Denleigh Stenzel of Lowood Q. held off the opposition for a win with the 'Rupert' McCall Poem 'Green and Gold Malaria!' Trisha Anderson of Brisbane came second with 'My Country' by Dorothea McKellar followed by Russell Plunkett of Virginia Q. with his own composition, 'Spirit of Australia'!

From twelve challengers, Greg Young of Mt. Coolum Q. came first with his poem 'The Builder', in the Open Male Humorous. Second was Tony Dale with 'A Bush Christening' and Mark Thompson of Bungendore NSW came third with 'Dipso Dan'.

The Open Ladies Humorous section was won by thirteen year old Carmel Dunn of Warwick Q. who recited the Mark Gliori Poem 'Granny and the Snake!' Trisha Anderson followed with 'A Yanks Letter to His Dad' and Jacqueline Bridle's Parody on the 'Girl From Ironbark' came third.

Guest entertainer, Ian Mackay of the Sunshine Coast created a great moment of mirth with his tongue twisting story of the 'Three Piddle Ligs'

In the Serious categories, Tony Dale won the Mens' section followed by Mark Thompson and Denleigh Stenzel. The Ladies section was won by Carmel Dunn. Trisha Anderson, came second and Margaret Newman from





Articles from Carmel Randle. *Poet? Lyricist? Songwriter?*

**Poetry**, n.1. the art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts. 2. literary work in metrical form; verse.

**Poet**, n.1. one who composes poetry. 2. one having the gift of poetic thought, imagination and creation, together with eloquence of expression.

**Lyricist**, n. one who writes the words of songs.

**Song**, n. a short metrical composition combining words and music.

“You ought to get so-and-so to Judge (your Bush Poetry Festival)! He’s written for Slim Dusty!”

Well, good for him! He’s a LYRICIST! He may or may not be a Poet! What is more important is, “What POETRY has he written? Are Bush Poets accepting - - and choosing to perform - - his Poetry?”

There is a distinct difference between writing Poetry and writing the words of songs (Lyrics). Just a few examples....

Both Rhymed Poetry and Lyrics rely, to varying degrees, on RHYTHM or METRE. The metre of good poetry is REGULAR, with either one or two weak beats between each strong beat. It repeats one of five patterns, viz. 1. weak, strong 2. strong, weak, 3. weak, weak, strong 4. strong, weak, weak 5. weak, strong, weak.

A poem which has more than two consecutive weak beats between two strong beats has a poor, faltering rhythm. It is not good poetry.

The Metre of a LYRIC does NOT have to be regular. The strong beat hits the first note in each bar of music, and because of music’s ability to add in quavers, semi-quavers etc. to cover extra syllables, any irregularity in the rhythm can be covered up.

Bush Poetry relies on RHYME. Rhyme is not essential in Lyric writing. If you think through the lyrics of some of the most successful songs, you will realise that their ‘Rhyme’ leaves much to be desired!

“She loves you, Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!” sold a million! A very successful Lyric by a very successful Lyricist, but....! Try reading the words of some songs you know while purposely ignoring the sounds of the music in your head. e.g. “Give Me a Home Among the Gumtrees”. Would you be proud to enter the LYRICS of that song in a write-in POETRY competition? And then there was the famous “John!..... Marsha!” song!

A lyricist can use ASSONANCE instead of Rhyme. (This is the use of a repetition of vowel sounds, but with different consonant endings eg. Moo and Boo; Creek and Creed.) A singer’s voice holds final notes on the VOWEL sound - - which is then the PROMINENT sound - - and finishes off quickly on the consonant, which the listening ear then finds unimportant.

A LYRICIST doesn’t even need Assonance, or any other FIGURE OF SPEECH. (They’re what make Poetic Language poetic!) Most Lyrics of successful songs these days are FREE VERSE. Just read your Record Covers! It is the strategic complementary repetition of musical phrasing that satisfies the Listener’s ear in these songs.

## *When is a Song a Song?*

"I've just written a Song - - and it's good! So-and-so says so!

"Great! Can I have a look? ... and out comes a piece of paper with some words on it, but not a note of music in sight!

"Does it have a tune?"

What we are looking at here is POTENTIALLY LYRICS!

A Lyricist has a hard row to hoe! Unless he is a Singer-Musician with the ability to notate his song, or a good enough vocal quality to successfully perform it, he is always reliant on others. He either has to be in close empathetic contact with a musician who can set his Lyric to music and/or a Singer who can - - and will! - - perform his song, or, alternatively, it's 'do it yourself' or 'sink into oblivion' time! Until he is accepted in the Music field, he's in No-man's Land! Poet becomes a convenient handle!

Because the Poet's Art is more structured than the Lyricist's, the finished product is far more flexible. Poems by 'The Greats' - - Paterson, Lawson etc. - - can be readily set to music. They are masters of the art of writing Poetry. The technicalities of their rhyme and rhythm do not falter! That is what has made them 'Great'! A hundred or more years later, our senses can still receive and relate to the perfection of structure they achieved, which hasn't dated - - even if, in some cases, their topics have! Some of today's best Bush Poems are, similarly being chosen to be set to music.

Alternatively, some of my worst memories of Bush Poetry Competitions concern hearing Performers trying to present, as Bush Poems, the words of songs. Their phrasing and timing become badly affected! I'll refrain from naming the Songs in deference to the feelings of the people concerned! Another twist to this problem was evident to those who attended the celebrations of "The Man from Snowy River", with the effect it had on one performance of the poem that the Performer had initially learnt it as a song!

There are, in Australia literally hundreds of thousands of people who appreciate good Poetry. There are many thousands writing it! (Sadly, such a small percentage of them at the moment belong to our Association!) Many good Poets for one reason or another do not let their talent be generally known!

Performance Poetry is about satisfying an audience, and a Performer is successful if he leaves his audience feeling that way! So Judges at Performed Poetry Competitions are 'Audience Representatives'. They may, or may not, be poets... to YOUR knowledge! Even a Lyricist can be an 'Audience Representative'!

In the Bush Poetry scene at the moment, we are often working along with Country Music Festivals. Are we, as Poets, being asked to Adjudicate their MUSIC performances?

### **HELP!**

A handbook for

**WRITERS and PERFORMERS of RHYMED  
VERSE**

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