



**Monthly  
Newsletter**

**No.11. Vol.3.  
November. 1996.**

# **The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**

## **Overnight Success**

© Sandra Binns. Kincumber NSW

He's an overnight success, the headlines loudly shout  
And of his meteoric progress, the journalists all sprout.  
They talk about how lucky is his sudden rise to fame  
And to his fortunate discovery they all are laying claim.

Now to listen to them airing their views on his success  
You'd think that it was handed on a platter and no less.  
They don't mention all the heartaches, blood, sweat and tears,  
He's an overnight success — it's only taken thirty years!

# *Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

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## **Flying Doctor**

**by Heather Veal Parkes NSW.**

From my bed here on the hill, through a window six by three  
Comes the droning of a plane, and in morning sun I see  
The air ambulance arriving, from five hundred miles away  
While a stockman fights his desperate fight to live another day.  
Wardsmen running, trolleys clanging, purpose on each face engraved  
White capped sisters, a transfusion, and - another life is saved.  
And over blue-ringed ranges, out across each Darling run  
My thoughts go flying out to where the red dust rims the sun,  
To a family waiting anxiously -but with no sign of fear,  
For fear has been allayed outback by a gallant pioneer.  
And on each and every station you can hear the wires hum,  
No message goes unheard now pedal radio has come.  
Pedal radio! Flying Doctor! The result of one mans scheme,  
A visionary who planned and fought to realise a dream,  
With the AIM and Qantas he bridged each barren mile,  
Scorning sceptics and the doubters, surmounting each new trial,  
Quick and safe communication for the inland his intent,  
And the Flying Doctor Service is his greatest monument.  
Because he chose to chase a dream to stern reality,  
The women and the children of the inland now are free  
Fear no longer stalks the inland - for should tragedy befall,  
They know the Flying Doctor is as close as one short call.  
And the lonely outback mothers, the station hands and boss,  
The boundary rider travelling the stations miles across,  
Lift their heads in silent tribute, when they see those wings go by,  
And bless John Flynn, who made it safe for the medicine to fly.

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

During the course of the year we receive many letters, positive and negative — praising our work, criticising and sometimes complaining. We learn by our criticisms and appreciate hearing from our readers and encourage them to keep in touch.

Regarding Mr. and Mrs. Davis' letter published last month, I wish to make it known that the ABPA does not condone 'filth' in any performance. It is detrimental to our well being as leaders of one of the most entertaining art forms in the country today. However I must point out that the ABPA does not conduct any festivals in its own right, and as such we are not the true controlling body.

When we are part of an audience enjoying the time-tested verse and humour to which we are accustomed, one is occasionally subjected to the off-the-cuff situation where a bad joke or crude remark is over with before we have a chance to do anything about it. This can come, not always intentionally, from Performers and Comperes alike.

Tried and true performers are capable of judging an audience and choosing the right material for each occasion. Each performer takes on the responsibility of his own work and must stand by it alone - and if he doesn't get asked back, it should be obvious to him as to why.

Not all performers are members of our Association - hence we are subjected to the odd 'mis-fit', so to speak, until he or she becomes aware of the fact that we do not like material such as they have to offer. If they do not conform we do not encourage them to continue in such vein.

I was not present at the last Gympie Muster, but at a later venue had only one comment regarding the unsuitability of the winning poet's work. (The poet in question is not a member of our association). When I enquired further in this matter I was informed by three of the Judges, that the recitation was by far the most 'audience appreciated' in the finals - part of the criteria for judging as set down by the organisers. I am still no wiser as to the content of the poem in question. However it seems that the material was not offensive to mainstream Gympie enthusiasts.

As far as the main stage comments are concerned I am at a loss to understand why Mark Gliori would be out of flavour.

The Gympie Muster is a real cultural awakening for some 'first-timers' but by no means is it an experience to be missed. (Sixty thousand people can't all be wrong). I know of other Festivals where the average Bush Poet just doesn't stand a chance. If he or she can't give some of these audiences what they want, he will soon hear of it.

Bush Poetry, we are proud to say, is making bigger and better progress into these once primarily Country Music venues and the audiences and the

organisers are liking it, and we are being asked back.

I am sorry that Mr. Davis and his wife were offended but as I have said many times before, it is not always in our hands to control all situations. We do try however, but are well aware that the Gympie Muster is far removed from the Longyard Fireside Festival and that neither of them are under the control of the A.B.P.A Inc. We are lucky to have them and the many others throughout the country as an outlet for our work. Let us hope that we can continue to give the organisers and the audiences alike just what they want — their monies worth.

On another matter I am saddened by a small number of Bush Poets who are drawing a lot of limelight by reciting the work of other poets and not acknowledging the author. It is not much to ask that an author be given the credit for his work - if it is good enough to perform - then it is good enough to say who wrote it. On a number of occasions I have heard remarks as to how good a certain poet is and what a clever writer he is - then having to inform the person concerned that the clever poetry heard was not the material of the performer. It's a small world.

Regards, *Frank Daniel.*

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## THE LOSS OF A FREIND.

Bush Poetry enthusiast Mrs Lynne Darby of Cloncurry QLD passed away at Mt Isa Hospital on 14th November, surrounded by her loved ones. She became ill during a trip to Asia in September, after which her health continued to deteriorate.

Lynne has been a keen patron of North West Queensland Art and an enthusiastic supporter of Bush Poetry. She initiated the Charlee Marshall Memorial Award for the Cloncurry Bush Poetry Festival, donated awards for the Bundaberg and Mt Isa Competitions and prompted the establishment of the Ilfracombe Bush Poetry Festival.

Lynne Darby is survived by her husband, Michael, two daughters, three sons and one Granddaughter.

Sincere condolences are extended to the Darby Family from all members of the A.B.P.A. her smiling face and warm friendly character will be sadly missed.

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**The Mcfie Clan Society of Australia.** The prize winners of the Fourth Annual Macfie Clan Society of Australia's Poetry Competition were announced at an Art and Craft Evening, held at the Shire Hall, Cunnamulla Qld., on 12th. September, as part of the 1996 Annual Cunnamulla - Eulo Festival of Opals.

The competition is run nationally, and this year's competition drew entries from the seven states. There were a total of 117 entries covering the two sections of the competition, with the section of bush verse introduced this year proving very popular.

The winners were announced by Mr. A.C. (Sandy) McPhie, of Cambooya, Qld, the President of the Society. Sandy is the World leader of the Clan Macfie, whose official title is Commander, Clan Mcfie. As well as a cash prize, each winner received a Society Medallion. Results were as follows.

**John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize** - (entries requiring a Celtic-Australian theme). 1st. Mr. **Graeme Johnson**, West Ryde NSW. with his entry

**"Burra Burra: (A Prologue)"**

2nd. Mr. **Paul Sherman**, Gordon Park, Qld. Entry — **"With the Wind"**

3rd. Miss **Evelyn Elizabeth Skeahan**, Upper Mt. Gravatt, Qld. with  
**"A Beach Chat - 1859"**

**Inaugural Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize** — (for Bush Verse)

1st. Mr. **Kelly Dixon**, Camooweal Qld. Entry **"Trapped"**

2nd. Mr. **William John McCaskill**, White Cliffs, NSW with his entry  
**"Where Swagmen Once Roamed"**

3rd. Mrs. **Heather Joyce Veal**, Parkes NSW. Entry **"Flying Doctor"**

The judges for this year's competition were Mr. Robert Davidson, B.A., B.Lit(Hons), and Mr. Jim Howard, of Melbourne. The judges particularly commented how much they enjoyed reading the many very excellent poems in both the competitions and how much they appreciated the very high standard of the entries received.

Mr. Gary Fogarty, the very well known poet from Millmerrin Q, who was invited to perform at the Art and Craft Evening, recited the winning entry in the Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize, during the evening, which was much appreciated by the large gathering.

The venue for announcing next years winners is yet to be announced.  
(Footnote: The winner of this year's Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize, Kelly Dixon, has spent most of his life in the Queensland and Northern Territory outback working as a stockman, drover, truck driver and grazier. With his wife Marian, he has written many country songs for more than a dozen recording artists in Australia, including the very well known *"Leave Him in the Longyard"*. Kelly published a novel this year *"From West of the Scrub"*)

## Trapped

by Kelly Dixon. Camooweal Q. ©

Drought, and December, the third year of famine —  
Claiming the last of the weaklings, the poor —  
Stark now the bones, lying bleaching and marking  
Pathways of torture which lead to the bore.

The timberline shimmers, smudge on the skyline,  
The raw savage sun, heats the red gibber plain —  
No vestige of pasture for clean-skin or brumby —  
The dust devils herald the morning again!

Away when the lancewood entwines with the mulga,  
Where seldom the long-searching stockmen now ride —  
The wilga and currajong, boxwood and heather —  
Give shade in the noonday - where bush cattle hide!

Away to the westward, mirages are dancing —  
Illusions of water the lost soul to craze —  
And fifty miles north on the brassy horizon —  
The range on the boundary is muted in haze.

Missed every muster since he was a yearling,  
A monarch - he dwarfs the top rail of their yards,  
His scalpel-like horns, are a challenge to any  
Who coverts a wife from the harem he guards.

Disturbed by the scents and the sights at the water —  
Drinkless, he holds his mob, three days and more —  
Mistrustful of gateways and hateful of mankind —  
He puzzles what dangers encircle the bore?

Ah! But drought and December, tests even the bravest  
Of hearts, in this place where the dust devils breed —  
By evening the old bull is coaxing his charges,  
To muster their spirits - and follow his lead.

Softly, so softly, he calls to his matrons,  
Quietly they nuzzle the calves at their feet,  
Dejected, they break one last time from the timber —  
To follow their Lord from that leafy retreat.

Trapped (Cont'd)

They leave their last refuge of boxwood and wattle,  
For the long painful trek to the borehead again —  
No longer majestic, the leader now shambles,  
This last time he leads them, 'cross gibber and plain.

At moonrise, they huddle behind the old leader —  
Who nervously sniffs, at the scents he so hates,  
But thirst is the victor, he loses, and falters —  
Like Judas he leads the mob - through the steel gates!

Nimble, a stockman, leaps down from a beefwood,  
He swings the big gates, and they lock with a snap —  
The warrior ushers his mob to the trough —  
Where they drink - and surrender to man and his trap.

At sunrise, the manager straddles the top rail —  
He gloatingly studies the pitiful mob —  
Then turns to his stockmen - now thoughtfully standing —  
None hearing him mouthing his praise for their job.

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**MAPLETON (Qld.) YARN FESTIVAL.** Mapleton once again acted as a mecca for poets, preachers and liars with the sixth Mapleton Yarn Festival last month. With a great mixture of seasoned performers and opportunities for newcomers, it certainly lived up to its reputation as an enjoyable couple of days with a very relaxed atmosphere.

The rain held off - the sun shone, and so did the poets.

The "What Cheeses Me Off" competition originated at Mapleton and was joined this year by several other low key, light-hearted "contests". Festival organiser, Jacqueline Bridle and her committee worked tirelessly to orchestrate a show which somehow managed to mix top bush poets like Ray Essary, John Philipson and Neil McArthur with wonderful comedians Martin Pearson and Shirley Friend and the acclaimed (and aptly named) story-teller Jan (pron. 'yarn') Wositsky. Those alone could have constituted a festival and yet there was abundant opportunity for those not so experienced to get behind the microphone.

The Ernie Setterfield Club Challenge saw some spirited poetry from representatives of a number of clubs around the ridges. Organisers had some concerns that numbers in this first time event might have been a bit low, but they were proved totally wrong when it ran over time by the best part of an hour.

(Mapleton cont'd)

The ANZ Bank Nambour have donated a fine perpetual trophy for this event and participation looks set to grow even bigger.

A welcome (and very popular) addition to the festival this year was provided through the generous sponsorship of Montrose Poet's Corner Wines. As well as coming up with the rewards in the special Poet's Corner event, hosted by Greg Young, they provided prizes (of the red or white variety) for a number of others. There wouldn't have been too many poets who went home without a bottle of this excellent drop.

The highlight of the evening at the Bowls Club, was undoubtedly Shirley Friend's melodrama "Stark Horror For Bonnie T Bay". Narrated by Martin Pearson with Shirley and a cast of committee members, it combined villains, heroes and forgotten lines in a tale of that 'trip for a lifetime' — Captain Harfur Lips first fleet to Australia.

John Philipson hosted the Traditional Poet's Breakfast on the Sunday, and later introduced some story-tellers of exceptionally dubious veracity in the King of the Liars Yarn Competition sponsored by R.M. Williams.

The Busking Competition sponsored by Lillyponds Caravan Park saw Bill Hay emerge triumphant with his harmonica and yarn combination. Neil McArthur followed closely. Peter Auty took out the 'Stoned Frog' statue for persistence and Martin Pearson received the much coveted 'Yeti Award'. Merv Webster from Bargara Q was often mentioned in dispatches among the many prize winners.

Jan Wositsky's show "Yaputchá" was brilliant and will be featured at the coming Woodford Festival as will Shirley's melodrama.

There has been an ever increasing number of festivals since the first Mapleton Yarn Festival in 1990. Both the appreciation of Bush Poetry and the number of performers have similarly expanded in that time. As a result, there is enormous pressure not only to present top performers, but also to give lesser known or beginner poets an opportunity, allowing for the cross-fertilisation of the two.

The Mapleton Yarn Festival certainly did this in a relaxed atmosphere that in many ways was more akin to a reunion than a contest. If you missed it this time, don't make the same mistake next year.

I.McK.

9/c  
JONDARYAN WOOLSHED COUNTRY MUSIC & BUSH POETRY.  
SUNDAY.....23rd....MARCH...1997. (Mark your calender !)



## Greetings from Victoria.

A terrific time was had by all at the Maldon Folk Festival recently. The amount of talent is amazing. Bush Poetry is becoming more popular every year and this year was the best yet.

The longstanding Yarn event saw some of the stalwarts like Scritch and Eddie Scott, plus a deal of new blood and of course the everlasting Campbell the swaggie.

The Poets Brunch in it's new time slot was very successful and one of the most enjoyable events I have compered. The full range of performers were at this event. Besides the regulars we saw exciting performers like Bill Dettmer, Margaret Goff and Julie Perrin plus talented newcomers like Graeme McIntosh. For two performers it was their first time ever. The icing on the cake was contributions from Greg Champion and Andrew Clermont.

Highly recommend this event for 1997. Last weekend before the Melbourne Cup.

Another year almost over, everyone gearing up for Xmas, and I get to spend a bit of time with my ever sacrificing family, in between all the jobs at home that never get done through the year and build up till it becomes a massive great pile.

Then it's Tamworth once again!. **The Heritage Theatre** will once again ring out with more Poetry and music of course in the Australian vein. Shows like the "**Poets in the Pub Gang**" with Noel Cutler, John Philipson, Gary Fogarty and John Major: an innovative balladrama using yarns & bush poetry presented in the form of an anecdotal afternoon in a country pub. "**Back to Weelabaraback**" will return to Tamworth, along with performers of the calibre of **Wayne Horner, Bruce McCumstie, and Pat Drummond**. Also due to popular demand "**The Man from Ironbark**" will return.

Keep smiling,

Geoffrey Graham (The Bealiba Bulladee)



**OASIS HOTEL BUSH POETRY COMPETITION**  
**TAMWORTH.....1997.**

Starting Saturday 18th through to the end of the festival, 26th January, The Oasis will be featuring country bands from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm then Bush Poetry from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Extensive advertising by Bundaberg Rum.

We want to give **ALL** poets equal stage time as all artists to make this venue another poetry window to every patron of the festival. We will do our best to ensure every poet enjoys the hospitality of the Oasis and no-one will go away feeling disappointed,

**HELP MAKE THIS A BIG SUCCESS !**

It will lead to a bigger and better venue each year with your support. I have an agreement with the Oasis for the next 5 years and I am negotiating with various sponsors to back the event over those 5 years.

Bluey Bostock  
Organiser.



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**18th, 19th & 20th April 1997**



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**Geoffrey Graham and Family**

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**Merry Xmas.**



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

I write in reply to the letter from G & P Davis in your last issue criticising the quality of material I performed at the recent Gympie Muster. The letter also criticised the compere (not I) and the winner of the Gympie Muster Poetry Performance competition, James Hunter. The word that perhaps summed up their concern is taken directly from their letter.. 'FILTH'.

Before I address the concerns raised in the letter, I must first question the wisdom of the Editor of this magazine in publishing the letter. the writer/s suggested there were other performers/comperes whose material upset them, yet they did not name them. This made the letter appear as though it were a personal attack on me, and has forced me to write a letter in defence. I have no objections to contributors raising various concerns, but when another member's name is mentioned, that member should be personally contacted and invited to respond, or alternatively such a letter should be forwarded to the member for his/her personal attention.

In answer to the criticism regarding James Hunter's effort in winning the Gympie Poetry Performance Award. I should point out that James Hunter was, in accordance with the rules set down by the Muster committee, awarded his prize after gauging audience applause. Whether the judges agree with this method or the end result, is in hindsight a non-issue. It may however be an issue for future Musters and maybe any concerns should be taken up with the Muster office by the individuals concerned.

In answer to the comments from G & P Davis regarding the compering (not I) and general performances of the poets on stage at the Gympie Muster. I believe the performers catered to all the different personalities which make up the audience, I know that neither I nor my fellow performers use 'obscene' language, though the images presented may be suggestive, risque or putrid. If you really wanted to critique the work performed at venues frequented mainly by 'adults' you might also like to include the words 'violent' 'sexist' 'racist' 'biggoted' and 'homophobic', not to mention several other story -lines that promote alcohol, and dangerously incorrect stereotypes.

The minute we 'overdefine' what 'Bush Poetry' is we exclude other poets and this becomes a form of discrimination. I once read an opinion in a literary magazine that modern Bush Poets were only a pale imitation of 'Banjo' and 'Henry'. Although I loathe such a generalization I have seen some performances that have allowed me to understand where that opinion came from. If this present Poetry resurgence is to be recognized in years to come, it will need to be innovative and unique. It will need to appear representative of the 90's (the 1990's, that is) and let's face it, things like 'Sex' are open for mature debate in this day

and age. If, as a performer, I want to incorporate 'Sex' in a comedy routine, why should I be restricted simply because I am affiliated with the Bush Poets. It may not surprise G & P Davis to know that among my great inspirations as a 'standup' performer are, Ben Elton, Billy Connolly, Rowen Atkinson and Australia's own Andrew Denton. Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson have NOT inspired me as live entertainers, but as wonderful writers.... and therein lies a distinct difference, especially as far as some of the audiences I have encountered are concerned.

In answer to G & P Davis's comments regarding my contribution to the degeneration of the Bush Poetry Movement, I can only say that whilst they were contemplating how best to construct their selective attack on me in last months issue I may well have been channelling my energies into one of five projects.

Perhaps I was assisting at the Anglican Ladies Rose Festival Concert, or being guest speaker/performer at a charity dinner to raise funds to build schools for the children of Bangladesh. Perhaps I was even sharing some special moments during a week long holiday with my little cancer-suffering mates from Camp Quality. I could have even been busy rehearsing my Primary School Show, getting ready to corrupt small children with poems about snake murdering Grannies, or razor wielding Barbers...or perhaps G & P Davis I was out on the grog thinking up another 'Night To Remember'.....just for YOU !!!!

A performer would be silly not to take on board constructive comments by his or her audience. I know I often walk a thin line between what is 'safe' material and what is 'questionable' to some. Frankly I enjoy this walk and will continue to take it. I am sorry G & P Davis won't be there to watch me, and I assume they left this year's Muster when Col Elliot was allowed on the main stage. (Sorry.....I was in the front row.)

I know opinions vary as to 'what' material should be performed at 'what' venues. I do see that 'record' numbers are still attending our shows, and the numbers continue to grow. Perhaps we are seeing splinter groups forming that will follow, appreciate different styles within the 'Bush Poetry' movement. I appreciate this fact and of course the viewpoints of those within, but can only speculate as to what level of support we will enjoy in the future. However, unlike G & P Davis, I do remain optimistic.

My last note must be addressed to the Editor who (by publishing the original letter...thus forcing me to respond) has allowed such a spiteful confrontation to appear on the pages of what has, even in times of robust debate, remained a positive and constructive magazine.

Mark GLIORI. WARWICK QLD.

## EDITORS RESPONSE.

Firstly may I personally apologize to Mark Gliori for printing parts of the letter from G & P Davis in last months issue. While it is not the intention of this association or this magazine to print derogotive comments about any member personally, the 'letter to the editor' was intended to raise the issue of the 'slightly off key' poems and jokes that ARE creeping into the various shows and competitions, (I personally am guilty of reciting one or two myself!) and I did not realise this letter was a personal attack on the competence of Mark as a performer and a compere

I attended the Gympie Muster and competed in the heats of the competition though I did not actually hear the poem presented by James Hunter, so therefore cannot comment on its contents, BUT if the Gympie King of Rhyme is reliant on 'the crowd applause' then almost any of todays comedy, off-beat, 'allmost on the line' poems would always draw a greater 'crowd applause' than anything along the lines that Lawson, Paterson, Ogilvie or any other Great Australian Poets ever wrote. To me this is sad when a division is created that diminishes the reason this Association was formed. And that is the enjoyment and preservation of Australian Poetry.

As editor and Secretary I recieve about 20 or so letters a week. These letters are addressed to the Association and not to me personally. In future if any member has any opinions of the nature of G & P Davis, PLEASE send them to the people concerned.....or the Organiser of the event.

Ron Selby DRAYTON QLD.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

I was most distressed by the letter from G & P Davis regarding rude jokes on stage as told by Mark Gliori, having known Mark for many years now, I find this allegation very hard to believe. Indeed over the years I have never heard him be rude in any manner whatever. In fact it would be very unusual for such, so stated rudeness, to be brought into any Bush Poets Event. It would make me feel very sad if this allegation were true. But maybe these people are a bit on the prude side.

Your friend in Bush Poetry.

Beryl Marshall

## Where Swagmen Roamed

by John McCaskill

From the crashing phosphoric waves of the coast  
to the eerie min min lights in the desert sky  
a thousand mile from the glow of the city  
where once roamed the swagmen and here am I

Yes a thousand mile from the city  
under the Diamantina sun  
where the stars shine on for ever  
when the cloudless day is done

Where pioneers crossed the channel country  
though not the first to tread this land  
struggled on to map the way  
for those prepared to make a stand

Then the natives stared in wonder  
at the squatter and his horse  
as he sought out fertile country  
on the plain along the water course

Where years of struggle built fine stations  
for those that made the grade  
for those that broke their hearts  
there's nothing left but ragged graves

Here the drovers cracked their stock whips  
in those very early days  
droving mobs that numbered thousands  
making dust turn into haze

They came in search of minerals  
and they found the opal grand  
now Australia's national gemstone  
from beneath this rugged land

Those that love her wonder like I do  
at the beauty hidden here  
like the mystical tree lined billabong  
in dreamtime a place that some might fear

**Letter to the Editor** — from Gary Fogarty, Millmerrin Qld.

With plans to conduct the second Australian Bush Poetry Championships at Winton in 1997 I would like to raise some issues for debate.

Let me begin by saying that I have no intention of competing in 1997 and after being fortunate enough to win the first Australian Championship in 1995 my only reason for commenting is to hopefully better "Bush Poetry".

Let me also say that I have no argument with the fact that the Association has given permission to the Winton Group to run the Championships.

While the Association has voted not to conduct any of its own competitions in the future, they still retain the rights to the Australian Championships. In granting permission to Winton, or any other organisation for that matter, to run the Championships for them, I believe the Association has the right to expect the Championship to be run in accordance with their requirements.

It is on these requirements that I would like to comment.

Winton ran their own competition in 1996 structuring it in the way they saw fit. This is their right and I congratulate them on a job well done, it made their competition a little unique in relation to other competitions.

However I think it is inappropriate to conduct the Australian Championships along the same lines. Using this structure it is very possible that we could end up with a person who has never written a single poem being called the Australian Bush Poetry Champion. It is also possible under this structure to have a poet beaten in the Finals by someone else reciting their poem, maybe even the poem they intended to recite themselves.

With a very generous prize on offer it is possible for someone to learn just three poems, enter, win and carry the tag of Australian Bush Poetry Champion without ever having contributed a single thing to the bush poetry movement. If you think this is far fetched take a look at the criticism that has fallen on country music's Starmaker Quest with accusations, of non-country music singers entering in an attempt to claim the prize, bringing the Quest under fire.

I fully realise that there are people out there who do not write their own material that have made huge contributions to bush poetry through their recitations (some are good friends of mine). These people should not be overlooked and I believe we should move towards an Australian Bush Poetry Recitation Championships as well as an Australian Bush Poetry Championship. I still believe strongly however that the Australian Bush Poetry Champion should be just that — "a poet".

I also believe that the judges for the Australian Championship should be ratified by the Association, and need to potentially be drawn from anywhere in Australia.

I believe that competitors in the Championships should not be utilized as comperes, even if they are not competing in that particular section.

I believe that the Judges should be in close proximity to the stage and that the venue and sound equipment be of a suitable standard for an Australian Championship. i.e. hire a sound professional for the duration of the Championship).

In my opinion the most important issue at the Championship is not who the eventual winner will be, is not the size of the prize, but is how large a crowd is there



to witness what should be this Associations showpiece. I believe the Association and the poets who compete have the right to expect a crowd in accordance with the importance of the event. The onus should fall on any organisation wishing to host the Championship to prove to the Association that they have the ability to provide such a crowd.

National publicity should be provided prior to, during and after the event, we as an Association should inform Australia of our competition, our poets and our new champions.

I am also concerned about the confusion that is clearly evident amongst poets and the public as to whether Winton will be hosting the official Australian Championships in 1997. To my knowledge it is, and I believe all confusion (and believe me it is out there) can easily be avoided by changing the name of the event to include the name of our association, for example, The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. Australian Championships, sponsored by ..... and conducted by .....

If this is to be the "official" Australian Championship I believe it must include the name of the Association. Please do not let us end up like boxing with seven world championships.

I have contacted Mr. Bert Swindell from Winton in regard to these matters and he has kindly offered to take the issues to a meeting for me.

I would like to clearly state that these are merely my opinions, but I would like to see these issues discussed at our next meeting with the single aim of promoting Bush Poetry to the best of our ability.

Yours sincerely, *Gary Fogarty.*

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## CONGRATULATIONS.

To Mark and Julie Gliori and a warm welcome to Grace Nancy Gliori, a sister for Amy and Sophie. Born on 17th November and weighing in at a healthy nine and a half pounds. All are doing well.

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### Notice of Meeting

**A General Meeting of the  
Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.**

**Sat. 25th. January 1997 - 2 pm.**

**St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall  
cnr. Vera & Kathleen Streets  
Tamworth NSW**

### **NOTE!**

**The ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING OF THE  
A.B.P.A. INC.  
HAS BEEN  
POSTPONED TO A  
LATER DATE TO BE  
ADVISED**

**MONCRIEFF U3A NORTH GOLD COAST INC.**

P.O. Box 64 PARADISE POINT QLD 4216

PH (07) 5529 0583

**Literary Competition Results. 1/11/96**

<u>Category 1.</u>	1st	Diane Esmond. "The Fisherman"	BUNDABERG	U3A
	2nd	Wendy Ratawa. "The Goose Lady"	GEE LONG	U3A
	3rd	Barbara Williams. "The Choice"	GEE LONG	U3A
	H.C.	Maurice O'Connor. "A Chinese Poem"	MONCRIEFF	U3A
<u>Category 2.</u>	1st	Coral Hartley. "The Clean-up"	MACGREGOR	QLD
	2nd	Mary T Locke. "Come Home Rover"	BEECROFT NSW	all is Forgiven"
	3rd	Peter Jaques. "The Letter"	PARADISE POINT	QLD
	H.C.	Donna Pearce. "The Punishment"	BEENLEIGH	QLD
<u>Category 3.</u>	1st	Carmel Randle. "Seasons"	PRESTON	QLD
	2nd	Carmel Randle. "Veteran"	PRESTON	QLD
	3rd	Ron Stevens. "Are You Coming Back Through Here?"	DUBBO	NSW
	H.C.	Carmel Randle. "Green Can Dreaming"	PRESTON	QLD
	H.C.	Zita Horton. "Small White Crosses"	MANSFIELD	QLD

Comments on the high standard of content & presentation were made by the judges in each section.

Congratulations to all who entered - you are all winners in some respects. An Anthology will be printed soon.

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT COMPETITION NEXT YEAR.

Thankyou for entering.....

Marg Williams  
President.

## Poets' Calendar. Events and Competitions

- Jan 31 WRITTEN POETRY. "Bronze Swagman Award" ENTRIES CLOSE  
Contact: Winton Tourist Promotion Assoc. PO Box 44 Winton Q. 4735
- Mar 20 WRITTEN POETRY. "Little Swaggies' Awards" ENTRIES CLOSE  
Primary and Secondary School Students. Entry Forms at Schools, or  
Contact: Organiser, PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- Mar 24 PERFORMANCE POETRY. "QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships"  
held Winton, Qld. April 25 - 27 1997. ENTRIES CLOSE.  
Contact: P.O. Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- April 24 PERFORMANCE POETRY. "Junior Bush Poetry Festival" Winton, Q.  
Competitive Individual & Group Performance from Years 1 to 12.  
Contact: Organiser, PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- Apr.25-27 PERFORMANCE POETRY. "QANTAS -Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships"  
Competitive & Non-Competitive. Open Male & Female Championship; Novice Male &  
Female. Traditional Poets' Breakfasts; Bush Poets' Bush Olympics; Great prizes!  
Contact: Organiser, PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- May 2 - 4 PERFORMANCE POETRY. "National Outback Performing Arts Festival" Longreach, Q.  
Largely Non-Competitive Bush Poetry, Yarn Spinning and Music. Poets' Cup.  
Contact: Secretary P.O. Box 518 Longreach Qld. 4730.

### GLENGALLEN BUILDING TRUST PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION.....16/11/96.

The Performance Poetry held at the Allora Town Hall was well attended by some very good poets. The organisers are happy with the roll-up and results and will be looking forward to bigger and better things for next year. So if you missed the event mark your calendar now.

<u>TRADITIONAL.</u>	1st	Ron Selby.	Drayton	QLD
	2nd	Ray Mobbs.	Pittsworth	QLD
	3rd	Tom Dunn	Warwick	QLD
<u>ORIGINAL.</u>	1st	Ron Selby.	Drayton	QLD
	2nd	Col Hadwell	Byron Bay	NSW
	3rd	Max Jarrott	Killarney	QLD
<u>HUMOROUS.</u>	1st	Max Jarrott	Killarney	QLD
	2nd	Tom Dunn	Warwick	QLD
<u>CHILDRENS.</u>	1st	Carmel Dunn		
	2nd	Sarah Jane Driver.		

## Poets Calendar. Events and Competitions.

**"The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1997"** Entries Close 30th. Nov. '96  
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

**Woodford Folk Festival. Qld. (Formerly Maleny Festival)**  
December 27 to January 1. Phone 074 760600

**"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"**.

**Henry Stuart Russell Poetry Competition.** Written Competition.  
Closing date 1st January 1997. Ph. C. Elbourne P.O. Box 32 Millmerran Qld. 4357

**Back to Weelabarrabak.** A show not to be missed.  
Starring - Marion Fitzgerald - Shirley Friend - Philippa Powell - Linda Scott.  
**Heritage Theatre Tamworth - Showing 11am - January 21 - 22 - 23 - 25 - 26**

**Longyard Hotel Tamworth January 1997** The State of Origin returns - Poets  
Brawls - The best of the bush and more.

**The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition - Imperial Hotel**  
Heats and Finals 22 - 25th January 1997. Entry forms — send S.S.A.E to —  
Jan Morris - Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340

**Oasis Hotel Bush Poetry** - Country Music Week in Tamworth.

**Bungendore Country Muster.** 1-2 February 1997.  
Poets Breakfast and competition. Sat. 1st. at Elmsleigh Homestead.  
Breakfast Sunday at the Muster. Frank Daniel and Blue the Shearer

**2nd Yuin Folk Festival — Cobargo NSW. 21 - 23 February 1997.**  
A weekend of Poetry - Music - Song and Dance in the Historic working village  
of Cobargo. Early - bird tickets \$20 close 31-1-97  
Enq. Yuin Folk Club Inc. Ph. Cec 064 927 258 Jim 044 735 464

**Illawarra Folk Festival 12 - 16 March 1997 — Jamberoo NSW.**

**JOHN O'BRIEN FOLK FESTIVAL - - Narrandera NSW 21 - 23 March 1997.**  
Ph 069 591 766 — 069 592 788

**National Folk Festival - Canberra - Easter time.**

Found any mistakes in this publication?

If so, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes!