

Monthly Newsletter

The Australian



Bush Poets
Association

No.12. Vol 3.
December 1996.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS.
TO ALL*

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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Bush Poets on the Internet.

As of last month the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. is now accessible world-wide on the Internet. President Frank Daniel has installed the system in his home office in an attempt to capture and encourage more input into the Association.

It will give the Bush Poets, in time, a much wider and sought after National audience. Not to mention Internationally as we progress.

Opportunities now exist for the ABPA Inc. to spread the word even further, for Poets to advertise their products - books, cassettes and CD's.

Committees organising festivals and competitions will also be welcome to make use of this facility.

Arts Out West, with the support of Charles Sturt University at Bathurst, has been on the Net for most of this year. Their primary goals being: to make their Homepage available to anyone in the Central West involved in Arts and Heritage, and; to show people who don't live in that region that Central West communities are not cultural deserts. Arts Out West has been supportive of the ABPA Inc. and promotes all known Poetry gatherings far and wide through a variety of outlets, including the Net.

It is hoped that the Internet audience will become a lucrative market for the Bush Poets and be a further step forward in promoting the ABPA Inc.

The email address is: **bushpoet@ix.net.au**

Note: New Fax no. 063 441 496 Canowindra (NSW) Office.

Presidents Letter.....

Dear Members of the ABPA.

Another year draws to an end and I am pleased to say that 1996 was definitely a big year as far as Australian Bush Poetry was concerned.

From the very start in January, the Bush Poets onslaught on Tamworth's Country Music Festival gave some of the largest audiences ever seen in the City's poetry circles a pure and simple insight into the remarkable growth and performance value of this fast developing art form.

The Inaugural Bush Laureate Awards presented at the Longyard Hotel were a great success and from all reports, the number of entries this year have been well and truly above all expectations.

The State of Origin between Queensland and New South Wales Poets was a roaring success and drew a lot of Media attention.

The Fireside Festival in June drew even larger audiences over the two days and nights and is a must on everybodys calendar.

Winton's (Qld.) competition saw two of our Poets on their way to Elko, Nevada in January as guests of the American Cowboy Poets' Association.

On behalf of the ABPA I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Glenn Palmer and Milton Taylor for their big wins and wish them all the luck in the world for their American experience.

The NOPA awards at the Stockman's Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre, Longreach (Q.) were another outstanding success as were many of the newer venues such as Queensland's Charleville, Petrie, Cloncurry and the Palma Rosa in Brisbane. New changes for the better were seen at 'The Kiosk' in Brisbane's Newfarm Park.

New South Wales, to mention a few, saw newer developments at Bourke, Tenterfield, Dubbo, Narrandera, Lithgow, Wagga Wagga, Trundle and Sydney.

The formation of an affiliate branch, The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club, saw some fast moving action in the South with promise of much more to come.

More success stories hailed from Victoria with the continued efforts of our 'Mexican' poets around Wangaratta, Kyabram, Shepparton, Milawa, Bealiba, Corryong and a host of others.

From Western Australia we are proud to have a branch of Australian Bush Poets who kicked off with a promising competition over an extended period of heats which will finalise on Australia Day in Perth.

Many written verse competitions during the year saw a number of wins from noted poets, Carmel Randle of Preston (Q.) and Ron Stevens of Dubbo (NSW). I am disappointed however that **not** a lot of news reaches us in cases

such as the written competitions and even less about the winning poems.

1997 is already shaping up as a big year and Tamworth looks like being the place to be in January with 'Poets Preachers and Liars' performing at a newer and larger venue, the Tamworth Golf Club. The Weelabarabak ladies have moved over to the Heritage Theatre along with Noel Cutler's Balladrama 'Poets in the Pub', and where Geoffrey Graham's very popular 'Man From Ironbark' show will make up just a part of the big list of entertainment at the Heritage Theatre.

Too much to mention here but the general feeling is that Bush Poetry will be taking some giant strides forward in the coming year and I wish all committes, organisers and poets, the best of luck with their proposed ventures. I only ask one thing, let us know about it so that we can tell others.

In closing I would like to personally thank those members who have given me their support and assistance in many different ways over the past year, and an even bigger thank you to my old mate and bearer of many crosses, Ron Selby, for his support and his superb handling of the Newsletter and the distribution of same. Good on ya, Ron! Good on ya, Joy!

Thank you also to the many letter writers who kept in touch and made us feel that we were not on our own.

A merry Christmas and a very happy new year to all!

Keep on writing and reciting,

Frank Daniel.

A RUM COMPLAINT.

© Claude Morris.

The old fellow held out his hands that shook
Like the leaves of a wind-blown tree,
And begged the doctor for relief
From his ghastly malady.
The doctor gave him a thorough check,
With sure and competent touch.
"There's nothing much wrong with you," he said,
"Except that you drink too much."
"That's all very well," the old fellow said -
"You can blame the grog if you will,
But it's not what I drink that's getting me down -
It's the bloody amount that I spill."

From the West.

Rusty Christensen, President of the Western Australian Bush Poets Association writes again to inform us of the progress being made in the West. The second qualifying heat of their competition was held on Friday 1st. November at the Raffles Hotel where after having 70 turn up for the first heat, the number attending rose to 120. 'Just some idea of how the Bush Poetry and Yarn-spinning is taking off' says Rusty.

The third and last heat will be held at the Dept. of Conservation and Land Management Amphitheatre in the forest at Mundaring, just out of Perth on the 30th. of November. The finals will be conducted on Australia Day 26th. January, 1997 at Wireless Hill Park, Melville, with panoramic views of the Swan River and the City of Perth giving a great setting for the occasion.

Consideration is being made to send their winners to the east for further competition and are considering Winton in April and Adelaide in February.

Any members heading west can contact Rusty at 51 Coogee Rd. ARDROSS W.A. 6153 or 'phone him on 364 4491.

The Cowboy Poets, Live at Elko.

For a week in the dead of winter, when things get quiet on the ranch, the town of Elko, Nevada USA is transformed into a crowded and lively festival of poets, musicians and friends, who come together to celebrate the spirit and craft of the cowboy. Over the years, The Cowboy Poetry Gathering, known to most simply as "Elko" has become, in the words of the Chicago Tribune "a major American cultural event."

"The Cowboy Poets Live at Elko" captures the irrepressible spirit of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, held annually.

The Western Folk Life Center has sponsored programmes and conducted field research to record and preserve range life. Poetry is only a part of the outcome.

The cowboy can make most of his tools of trade, and over the years many have become regular artists at these ranch-grown skills. The work of these artisans is displayed at the center in rawhide braiding, woodcrafts, sculpture and other craftsmanship.

ABPA Inc. member Dick Warwick of Oakesdale, Washington USA appears regularly at Elko.

Cowboy Poetry celebrates heritage, tradition and good old days, and is considered to be the fastest growing cultural activity in America today according to the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada.

There are about fifty cowboy poetry gatherings around the country each year. The Palouse Country Cowboy Poetry Round Up in Pullman and Moscow during September attracted seventy performers over the four days.



Greetings from Victoria,

Well, nothing like a letter or two to get people busy with their pens.

I have just one comment to make on the letters sent to the editor.

I would hate to see the day when lots of letters sent in are not published because of a variety of reasons, many of which we the members may not be aware of. Surely the newsletter should be the sounding off board for any opinions, comments etc on the subject of Bush Poetry, festivals etc. Apart from letters which could be construed as being libelous the newsletter is the perfect vehicle for debate.

Things a bit on the quite side in Victoria, as we're all girding our loins or loosening our belts for Xmas.

Tamworth around the corner and a host of things happening in 1997.

Future Events:

January FESTIVAL Tamworth(See back cover)

March 2 FESTIVAL Charlton country & Bush Music Festival, Reg Poole, Craig Giles etc.
Poets Breakfast. Geoffrey Graham

March 21,22 FESTIVAL Narranderra John O'Brien
Folk Festival
Sunday Poets session Geoffrey Graham.

A Prosperous Xmas & Keep smiling

Geoffrey Graham

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

In contrast to some of the more recent letters in our magazine I would like to share with our members some of the inspiring and humorous feedback, not to mention the immense satisfaction that I receive from time to time. I recently performed at a two day cultural camp organised by Mr Graeme Hartley from Monogorilby State School near Mundubbera in Queensland.

Students from grade 1 through to grade 7 participated in numerous activities throughout both days including dancing, music, swimming, problem solving, craft work and not forgetting poetry.

I was reasonably happy with my efforts during the camp, although explaining the Bachelor syndrome and the reason for making home brew to grade 1 and grade 2 students was rather difficult. Several weeks later I received one of the greatest collections of unbiased, straight from the heart, thankyou letters that would make any performer justifiably proud.

Verbatim excerpts from some of these are.....

I am writing to thank you for sharing your time with us, I mean after all you could have been out earning a thousand dollars a day with your poetry. You could even have been chilling some lady with a cold, slimy, green hand, or brewing beer in the outback but whats done is done. I would like to thank you for your time and poetry.....Your poetry loving friend

Jissica Lithgow Year 7

We really appreciate your hard work. Thank you for bringing along your smile.....Tammalee Johnston.

I would like to thank you for telling us some Aussie poems it was very good. I hope you win a whole heap of trophies.....

Gavin Hams.

The best thing I enjoyed was 'Brue' I really appreciate you telling us your funny poems.....Jennifer Fuchs Year 7.

I think all of year 5's students liked you very much.....

Natalie Einam.

The man from ironbark was my favourite thing and I liked when I was the policeman and I like it very much.....

from Chey.

I would like to thank you for telling us some poems. Most of them were hilarious. My favourite part was I'll have Chips. In fact all of it was my favourite. I am in year 6 (not 6a) I liked the one with the frog (I've forgotten the name) and the man from iron bark. I was one of the loiterers. Everything in our session was excellent..... One of your listeners David Fredericks.

This last one is an absolute classic. It goes to prove that even the mighty Mungar Maggot can be pipped at the post for top prize.

Thank you for telling us some of your funny poetry and showing us some posters of yours and tapes you were very funny. You were best activity I went too except swimming.....
Yours sincerely. Tracy Green.

It's nice to know that Bush Poetry came second only to the cool waters of the Mundubbera pool. All students came from either Monogorilby, Bournemouth or Riverleigh State Schools and I can honestly say that receiving letters like these mean more to me than winning the biggest competition. It makes all this bitching relevant.

Yours in bush verse Bob Miller (President of Vice)

One for the Gliori s

Here's to Mark and Julie, now they've made it number three though why they carried on this way was really hard to see. But I figured out the reason, it's Marco's lifelong dream they've only got six more to go.....The Gliori Netball Team.

I regret the kerfuffle regarding alleged rude material at the Gympie Muster. However I must say I'm probably not the only one to squirm with shame hearing some public Bush recitations.

We need not be prude but neither do we need to be rude. We live in a society of collapsed values where artistic mediocrity and disgusting prurience often travel together. It seems to me we could advance the cause of bush verse by providing relief to this. Surely we can be funny or entertaining using material other than of the digestive canal or the reproductive process. So come on mates; we may have to sweat over our rhymes a bit more but let's do it.

As first cab of the rank I am resolved not to use my poem "I'm Elle McPhearsons Eyebrow" any more unless severely edited.

**' Rebuke a wise man and he will love thee,
Give instruction to a wise man and he will be yet wiser'
Proverbs 9 : 8,9.**

Ken Hood. BRISBANE QLD.

(Many replies on the subject were received by me but I hope this is the last. Though every member is entitled to his or her opinion and to air a subject in the magazine I think Ken's letter and quote say's it all.
Editor)

Letter from Tammy Muir.

...G'day you mob. Tammy Muir reporting in from travelling 'round Australia for the past 10 months or so. Back in the early part of the year, the Good Lady and myself had had enough of chasing our tail trying to eke an existence from farming, so we thought we'd take a peek at our wonderful country. We packed the 'billy-lids' (Thomas and Timon) into the 4WD & van and set off on the wallaby.

In that time we've swam with dolphins, fished with whales, climbed mountains and gorges, bathed in waterfalls and visited more National Parks and places of interest than you could poke a stick at.

You may be wondering why I haven't written before. Well my reticence is due to the fact of the last contact made with the A.B.P.A. For here we were in the far-flung reaches of Western Australia, fishing and swapping lies when you let the dogs loose and that mean money-hungry tracker, Ron Selby, collared us with a remittance, requiring my hard-earned dosh for the annual subscription. I pleaded for leniency, as the shirt was off me back. I was on me last pinch of 'baccy and thinking of passing my 'tit fer tat' around. I mentioned then he should be runnin' the country's treasury as he's as tight as a fat lady's sock. Even the fact that the kids might have to go short on the tucker didn't sway him, and he said if I didn't cough up, he'd get the heavies onto me. Now I reckoned I could handle Ron alright, but that tight-fisted no-hoper who couldn't lie straight in bed, Frank Daniel, was another matter altogether. So off went the stipend post-haste. We fled W.A. and snuck into the Northern Territory and was attempting to ply an elusive barramundi from the croc-infested waters of the Daly River, when we heard about the World Yarn-Spinning Championships in Darwin. Seeing as our funds were seriously depleted due to the A.B.P.A we decided to enter.

They'd flown contestants from all over Australia, including the likes of Mike Hayes (the Prickle farmer ABC), Kevin Naughton (ABC & title holder) and Richard McGoughin (Waltzing Matilda Hall of Fame) amongst others. I honestly didn't think I stood a snowballs chance in hell, but gave a good account of myself all the same.

When the Judges nominated me as the winner, you could've knocked me down with a feather and it was horribly close to the first time I was lost for words. The prize was a trophy, \$1000.00 cash, \$1500.00 air fare and return air-fare to next years competition.

So you can see why I haven't corresponded sooner, as I thought you blighters would all want a slice of the cake too. I can safely do so now as I've gone and spent the bloomin' lot and when I catch up to yerz — it's still your shout!

Yours

Tammy Muir

'On the Wallaby'

Australian Bush Poets to Elko, Nevada. USA.

Winners of the the 1995 *QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA* Bush Poetry Awards - Glenn Palmer of Cedar Vale Qld. and Milton Taylor of Portland NSW, set off from Australia on January 18th. for Los Angeles via QANTAS. From L.A. they will motor to Las Vegas, The Grand Canyon and then to Elko for one week of shows performing with the cream of the American Cowboy Poets, as well as attending and partaking in a number of Workshops.

Both Glenn and Milton have been invited to work with American school children and will have a number of spot appearances at different times during the huge programme. The two Aussies will also be featured performers on the big finals show.

After Elko a little touring will take in Yosemite National Park, Lake Tahoe Monterey and San Francisco before returning to Los Angeles where they will appear in their own show at the 'Wells Fargo' Theatre in the Gene Autrey Museum of Western Heritage on February 8th.

Good luck and fare thee well to Glenn and Milton from all ABPA members.

POETRY IN THE PARK - LITHGOW NSW

Lithgow Mutual Credit Union sponsored the inaugural 'Poetry in the Park' as part of the Lithgow Festival of the Valley on November 16th.

The Poet's Breakfast kicked off the mornings proceedings giving spectators a glimpse of the talent which was to follow during the evenings competition.

Milton Taylor and Graham Johnson shared the M.C duties introducing many well known performers such as June Lal, Denis Kevans, 'Arch' Bishop and the 'Minmi Magster', Bob Skelton.

Heats of the Junior sections were held during the Breakfast with youngsters ranging in age from 6 years to 14years giving splendid performances to the delight of the crowd. Six Juniors were chosen for the afternoon's Finals in Elizabeth Park.

Junior winners were Anita Vergotis of Blackheath who recited 'Tangmalangaloo' by John O'Brien. Anita also won the Junior written Poetry Competition

Reid Begg of Forster NSW won the Novice section with his hilarious verse on following Doctors orders in abstaining from drink, cigarettes and sex. Rex Hockey came second followed by Graham Johnson.

Rex Hockey also won the Open Section with Lawson's 'Sweeney', while Joye Dempsey took second place and Terry Regan was third.

The Open Written contest was won by Ron Stevens of Dubbo, Frank Daniel, second; and Johnny Johanson of Yarrawonga Vic. third .

Lithgow is looking forward to a bigger and better Festival in 1997, all Bush Poets would be wise to make sure it is part of their New Year plans.

Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry.

Seventeen poets and story-tellers kept a crowd of over one hundred visitors highly amused and very happy at the Corryong Hotel-Motel on November 15th. last. During the three and a half hour burst, members of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club told stories ranging from Kosciusko to Birdsville. The Hotel Lounge was 'full to the brim' with both spectators and talent. The action was nothing short of great.

The show was opened with a recitation of 'The Man From Snowy River' by ABPA member Christiana Kearn of Jindabyne. Among the many performers were known ABPA members Jan Lewis, David Walker, Neil Hulm, Grahame Watt, Campbell the Swaggie, and a host of others from the newly formed Snowy Mountains Poetry Club.

Christiana is setting the wheels in motion for a bush poets gathering at Jindabyne next year over the Easter weekend. This will be held at 'The Station Resort' and will be in conjunction with a proposed Country Music Festival.

The *Queanbeyan Bush Poets* held a Christmas Get-together at St. Marys Hall in Bugendore (NSW) at the end of November and many a good yarn and tall-tale added to the Bush Poetry and singalongs.

Bungendore Country Muster — 1&2 Feb. '96

The NSW Southern Tablelands village of Bungendore will come alive for the Eleventh Country Muster on the above date with a Poets Breakfast and Competition in the gardens of historic 'Elmslea Homestead' on the outskirts of town on the Saturday morning.

Hard working hostess of the Poets, Toni Flanigan expects a great roll up of rhymesters for this event.

Guest Poets will be Blue the Shearer and Frank Daniel who will comper.

A Poets Breakfast will also be conducted on the Sunday morning at the Muster Grounds.

Open to all - 'phone enquiries to
Toni Flanigan 062 381 651



Laugh & Cry with

GLENNY PALMER

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION LADIES BUSH POET

More From the West

Rusty Christensen is pretty quick with 'follow ups' to his news. This update arrived before we could print news of the second heats of their competition.

The third heat was held on Sept. 30th. at the Mundaring Forest Centre approximately 30km. from Perth. One hundred enthusiasts gathered for the event despite threatening rains, and an enjoyable time was had by all with lashings of billy-tea, johnny cakes and golden syrup.

'The standard of performers is continually improving' says Rusty, 'with two women and a bloke from the South-West coming up to perform.'

Two girls figured in the winners list — Ann Purdy of Pemberton WA won the Poets section from Bill McAtee and Leigh Matthews while Claudette Colburn of Northcliffe WA ran a creditable third to Peter Capp and George Duesbury. A very pleasing result.

Winners from the three heats will now contest the Finals to be held on Australia Day, Sunday 26th. January 1997 at Wireless Hill, Melville.

New Cassette:

LEND ME YOUR EAR ... OR I'LL STEAL IT

At long last - Glenny Palmer on tape. Laugh and cry with the Australian Ladies Champion Glenny Palmer as she takes you through a nostalgic, philosophical and memorable experience in verse as she recreates her *Granny and the Clamper*, the *1916 Clermont Flood Disaster*, through *Middle Age Blues* to *Stuttering Stewie* and *Rob's Reluctant Rooster*.

Take a trip with *Wifey* as she goes *Caravanning* through *An Aussie Summer* and go *Australian Dreaming* till you're *At the Edge* before making a *Homecoming*.

Written and performed by Glenny, the Cassette was recorded at Stan Lenz Productions at Manly West, Qld. Musical arrangements are by Stan Lenz and our favourite Bush Poet, **Billy Hay** of Brisbane handles the Harmonica section in grand old style. The Cover was produced by Alan Palmer.

Along with her book "Poems and Various Other Lies", "Lend Me Your Ear ... Or I'll Steal It" is obtainable from Glenny as a package deal for \$20 post-paid or separately, the book and or the cassette at \$12 each post-paid.

Yes! Glennie Palmer on tape - the only chance you'll ever have to turn her off. Don't miss it. Order now from *Glenny Palmer 43-49 Samantha Rd. Cedar Vale Qld. 4285. Phone 075 543 2606.*

GYMPIE GOLDEN PEN POETS

Written Competition closing.....7th FEBUARY 1997

For Info : C/- E. Esprester Ph (075) 4491991.

Doonan Rd EUMUNDI QLD. 4562.



Poetry Books from Carmel Randle

"Gone Bush!" - Bush Poetry including 1996 Major Award Winners:
"The Darkest Hour"; "Veteran"; "Seasons".

"Help!" - A Handbook for Writers and Performers of Rhymed Verse" --
An ideal Christmas Present for the aspiring Writer!

"Many Faces" -- Bush and Free Verse including earlier Award
Winners: "Magpie Mourning"; "Sick Child"; "The Song of The States".

\$10 each or 3 for \$25 (inc. p. & p.) Available from Carmel at
"Splendacrest" M.S. 852, Preston via Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld. 4352

Available January 1997 -- new Cassette

"There and Back!"

Bush Poetry from Carmel Randle and Friends

Order your copy now! \$15 (inc. p&p)

Interludes . . .

Should you be heading for Sydney in the future, the third Sunday of each month is the time to present yourself at *Joye Dempsey's Interludes . . .*

New Poets are encouraged and Joye endeavours to nurture their performance skills by exposing them to the talents of other more established poets in a non confronting way.

Should any readers be interested, they should write to P.O. Box 20 Croydon Park NSW 2133, or give Joye a call on 02 797 7575.

Joye has been very busy of late with her "*Taratara, Queen of the Irish Forest and Bush Faeries in Australia and the Whole of the Universe*" (- bit of a mouthful), which has taken off and sees her 'flying around' performing to her stories and poems to Primary Schools. Joye also performs from her publication "Of War and Other Things" for High Schools — "a nice contract!" says Joye.

Joye will also be conducting a workshop for children at the Sydney Writers' Festival and has also been engaged to comper the "Matilda Cruises" Poets at Sunset which goes over the three weeks of the Writers Festival.

SHIRLEY FRIEND BOOKS & TAPE.

JESTA FRIEND (Tape)	\$15.00
ROAD FLOOZIE (BOOK)	\$12.00
ANOTHER DOSE FROM FLOOZIE (BOOK)	\$12.00
or 1 Book & 1 Tape	\$25.00

All prices include postage.

FROM: Shirley Friend 33 Mullberry Street
MARAYFIELD QLD 4506
Ph. (07) 8867016.

REMEMBER YOUR FRIEND AT CHRISTMAS.....

NOTICE OF MEETING

A general meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.
Sat. 25th January 1997 at 2pm
St Peters Anglican Church Hall cnr. Vera and Kathleen Streets
TAMWORTH NSW

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL

Uppa Gum Tree Productions

Presents

BACK TO WEELABARABAK!

Where men are scarce and women are desperate with celebrated bush poets

Heritage Theatre

Carthage St. Tamworth

5.30 pm - - - - - Daily from 21st - 26th. January - - - - - 5.30 pm

*** Produced by Phillipa Powell * Directed by Linda Scott ***



**Shirley Friend - Phillipa Powell - Linda Scott - Marion
Fitzgerald - Gary Fogarty**

The Firefly

© Dale Leard Charleville Qld.

A lady once came up to me and said, "I loved your poem,
I've never heard it performed before, though I have the book at home."
As quick as any firefly she fluttered to and fro,
With her shiny eyes and busy ways she somehow seemed to glow
With light that comes from love of life, a happy little spark,
Good friends she'd meet, and strangers greet,
A glimmer in the dark.

Then news came by the telephone, "Lynne Darby passed away,"
I shook my head in disbelief, and said, "What did you say?"
Not Lynne, not lively lynne, with eyes so shiny bright,
The spark is gone, the night is dark, without the Firefly's light

WANTED

POETS IN THE PUB GANG



NOEL CUTLER
(Milawa, Vic.)

"GANG LEADER" for aiding & abetting
hilarious felons from interstate. (3rd Offence)

FULLY SCRIPTED.
2 ½ Hr SHOW
SOUND AND
LIGHTING



JOHN MAJOR
(Baralaba - Qld.)

"THE PUNTING POET" for telling lies & absurd yarns
throughout Queensland (Dangerously Funny)



JOHN PHILIPSON
(Tamworth - N.S.W)

"THE PENSIONER POET" for leaving NSW in a
state of emotional chaos. (Takes No Prisoners)

MAYHEM & DRAMA
IN A PUB SETTING



GARY FOGARTY
(Millmerran - Qld.)

"AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION BUSH POET" for laughing
Queenslander's to death (Ruthlessly Mirthful)

Catch them all at the Heritage Theatre

CARTHAGE ST, TAMWORTH at: 7.30pm
Fri 17th Jan Sun 19th Jan Mon 20th Jan
Wed 22nd Jan Fri 24th Jan Sat 25th

BOOKINGS FROM DREW'S NEWSAGENCY 306 PEEL ST
PH (067) 662364 OR AT THE DOOR

THE FINAL QUARTPOT GATHERING FOR 1996

On the evening of the day after Saintly won the cup, a large crowd crammed into the marquee beside The Kiosk in New Farm Park Brisbane for the final Quartpot gathering.

A Queensland deluge that afternoon had rinsed clean the leaves of trees and plants and the Jacaranda trees which line the circular road within the park were wreathed in blossom, some of which had dropped to create a carpet of blue beneath. It was a lovely welcome for members of the audience who came to the Jim Haynes Best of the Bush Show.

Jim Haynes led the performers and Milton Taylor, Grahame Watt and the cream of the young performers from Tamworth, Paddy and Alli Ryan, completed the line up. With the exception of Jim Haynes, it was a first time at the Kiosk for all the performers and they were given a warm and enthusiastic reception.

It was a first time also for Des & Doris Lee, of Tenterfield, who are great fans of the performing poets in general and Jim Haynes in particular. They brought with them a tribe of Lee's and finished celebrating Doris' seventieth birthday at the Quartpot gathering.

There have been three Quartpot Gatherings in 1996 and they will continue in 1997, provided the Brisbane City Council renews Gaby Hamad's lease. Our mailing list continues to grow and interest in Bush Poetry increases every year.

Any person wanting more information or tickets for shows, please contact Judith Hosier on (07) 3268 2812.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and thankyou to all our supporters and performers through 1996 and we hope to see you at the Quartpot in 1997.

Judith Hosier. BRISBANE QLD.

ANNUAL FEES DUE. \$25.00

Membership is from 1st January to 31st December
Members who joined mid year are entitled to a reduced fee for 1997 and will be advised via the newsletter. For enquiries regarding fee please call Ron Selby Secretary on (076) 301106 after 7.00 pm.

THE PALMA ROSA POETS.

The year is drawing to a close and we're all very happy with the three performances we've had at Palma Rosa.

The inaugural 'Palma Rosa Poets' evening was a great success -- In July we featured Glenny Palmer, Robert Raftery, Trevor Kuchel and Trisha Anderson then in early October we were lucky enough to be entertained by Sydney actor / poet John Derum, who performed the wonderful C. J. Dennis classic 'The Glugs of Gosh'. John performed his show for two nights and also held a very succesful work-shop.

In late October we were entertained by John Philipson, Ray Essery and Bill Hay -- What a great night that was! voted by Ray as "one of the best he had performed at!".

The first performance next year will feature Milton Taylor, fresh from his wonderful trip to Elko, Nevada -- this will be held sometime in March. Watch this publication for dates.

We'll be holding poetry evenings at Palma Rosa every two months or so throughout 1997 -- If you need any information please contact Trisha Anderson on (07) 3268 3624.

In the meantime I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to catching up with you all in Tamworth in January 1997.

Trisha Anderson BRISBANE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Special greetings from ; Milton & Loveen Taylor. Beryl Marshall, Ron & Joy Selby, The North Pine Bush Poets Group, Allen & Glenny Palmer

"1996 Bronze Swagman Book of Verse"

NOW AVAILABLE

\$10 + \$1.50 p&p. from P.O. Box 44 Winton Q 4735

Back Copies of this Annual collection of the best Bush Verse submitted to the "Bronze Swagman" Competition also available. \$9 inc p&p. or 10 for \$70.

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OASIS HOTEL BUSH POETRY COMPETITION.
TAMWORTH.

January 18th to 26th 4.00pm to 6.00pm

We invite every poet to come along and recite your own poems or get to-gether with another poet and present some good Bush entertainment. All poets will recieve equal stage time. The stage is open to all and will be an opportunity to gain experience for the novice as well as the more experienced. We will also be looking for the budding compere's and there will be ample time for all to try out your talents in this field. The Oasis will be a show case for Tamworth with the support of all. Our motto will be 'Enough for Everybody and Not Too Much for One'

Pre Festival bookings will be accepted by contacting :
Bluey Bostock on mobile (018) 699176
or BRISBANE (07) 3803 3027

SECRETARY REPORT.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all poets for the input for the magazine over the past year and although not all letters, poems or comments may have made it to the magazine pages they were greatly appreciated. Thirty five poems from thirty one poets were selected for this years Annual. A variety of poems from a variety of people but with one thing in common A distinct Australian way of life in verse.

I have recieved many letters over the year and I am sorry I cannot answer all the letters, (I spend more time in the study than I do in bed!) but I try to pass on the comments via the magazine. The Association reached 280 members this year, if every member sent in one poem each and we printed three a month in the magazine it would take 8 years to clear the backlog! so please don't feel rejected or down hearted because your poem has not been in the magazine.

The positive comments about the magazine have far outweighed the negative by about 200 to 1, such as: "I read my mag before I read any other mail"--- " My magazine is like a lifeline to me"--- " I would be lost without my monthly mag."---" My monthly Mag is eagerly awaited" etc etc. Adverse comments such as: "You have spelt my name wrong"-- "You made a mistake in my poem"--for these and others I humbly apologize. A greater man than me once said---" You can please some of the people some of the time but you can't please all of the people all of the time!"

Ron Selby Sec /Treas./ Editor.

Poets Calendar. Events and Competitions.

December 27 to January 1. **Woodford Folk Festival. Qld.**

(Formerly Maleny Festival) Phone 074 760 600

1st January 1997— Closing date **Henry Stuart Russell Poetry Competition.**

Written Competition. . Ph. C. Elbourne P.O. Box 32 Millmerran Qld. 4357

January 21 - 22 -23 - 24 - 25 - 26 **'Back to Weelabarrabak'** — 5.30pm - daily

Heritage Theatre Tamworth - A show not to be missed.

Marion Fitzgerald - Shirley Friend - Philippa Powell - Linda Scott.

January 20 - 27 **Best of the Bush** — **Longyard Hotel** Tamworth January 1997

State of Origin - Qld vs. NSW. Poets Brawls - Bush Lureate Awards.

January 22 - 25. **The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition - Imperial Hotel**

Heats and Finals Entry forms — send S.S.A.E to — Jan Morris -

Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340

January 26. **Wireless Hill - City of Melville - Perth WA.** Finals of the big Western Australian Bush Poetry and Yarn Spinning Competition.

Enquiries to Rusty Christensen 09 364 4491

January 20 to 24 - **'The Glowe Show'** Tamworth City Bowling and Leagues Club.

3pm and 8 pm daily - Garry Lowe Leigh Brown - Bush Poets extraordinaire with Steve Boughton and Rowley Rushbrook - Ph. 067 662 804

Jan 18 - 26 **Oasis Hotel Bush Poetry** - Tamworth NSW - 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm daily.

January 31 — Closing date — Written Poetry **"The Bronze Swagman Awards"**

Contact Winton Tourist Promotion Association P.O. Box 44 Winton Q. 4735

February 1 - 2 1997 - **Bungendore Country Muster.** (NSW) 'Blue the Shearer'

Sat. 8 am - Poets Breakfast and competition - - Compere- Frank Daniel

Sunday 2nd - Poet's Breakfast at the Muster. Enq. Toni Flanigan 062 381 651

February 21 - 23 1997 - **Yuin Folk Festival** — A weekend of Poetry - Music -

Song and Dance in the Historic Working Village — **Cobargo NSW.**

Frank Daniel - Blue the Shearer - Early - bird tickets \$20 close 31-1-97

Enq. Yuin Folk Club Inc. Ph. Cec 064 927 258 — Jim 044 735 464

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

March 21 - 23 1997. **JOHN O'BRIEN FOLK FESTIVAL** Narrandera NSW

Ph 069 591 766 — 069 592 788- -

March 20 — Closing date — **"Little Swaggies' Awards"** Written Poetry

Primary and Secondary School Students. Entry forms from Organiser:

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

April 24 - 27. Winton Qld. Competitive Performance Poetry-

'Junior Bush Poetry Festival' Years 1 - 12 Individuals and Groups

'QANTAS -Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships'

Entries close March 24. - Organiser P.O. Box 7714 Toowoomba Qld. 4352

Profile . . . Philippa Powell

Phillipa Powell's great, great, great grandfather Edward Powell came to Australia with the Second Fleet on the "Lady Juliana" in 1790.

He later returned on the "Bellona" in 1793, as one of the first five free settlers in the colony. Since then the Powell family have maintained a strong attachment to the land and much of Philippa's writing reflects her own sensitivity towards it.

Philippa began writing when she was twenty-one, a few months after her father died. She considers this to be the trigger to her writing. Her school days began at Blackville, a small two teacher school west of Quirindi in north-west NSW. She then attended P.L.C. Pymble in Sydney as a boarder for seven years, and afterwards trained as a teacher at Sydney Kindergarten Teacher's College. From there she went back to the country and worked as a pre-school director in Gunnedah.

During subsequent years Philippa has enjoyed two years back-packing and touring around Europe, America, Canada, New Zealand and the Pacific. She has also worked as a part-time TAFE and Infants teacher and on her family property at Blackville. Currently Philippa works as a pre-school director in Tamworth.

Phillipa participates in performance poetry and has been a finalist three times at the Imperial Hotel Bush Poetry Competition in Tamworth during the Country Music Festival in January each year.

More recently Philippa has concentrated on developing her musical interests and has started composing music as a background to her poetry.

Philippa also composed the music for the Logie Winning Best Regional Documentary, "No Time For Frailty", judged at the Australian Film and Television Awards in Melbourne this year.

Phillipa is delighted with the upsurge of interest in poetry and the increasing number of people putting pen to paper to record current Australian cultural trends, ideas and experiences. Poetry associated with the character and nature of the bush, and the traditions of the great Australian Bush Poets are of particular interest to her. Philippa's book "Come With Me" was published in 1995 and is available from her at 76 Hill St. Tamworth 2340 — \$12.00 post paid.

CHARLEVILLE BUSH BALLADEERS

Written Competition closing31 St MARCH 1997

Performance Competition.....19th & 20th APRIL 1997

For Info: President... Col BentleyPh (076) 541293

Secretary...Marion Moore..... Ph (076) 541658

P.O. Box 146 CHARLEVILLE QLD 4470

They had met out on the burnished plain
The old black gin and the pioneer's wife,
They transcended the hate of their cultures,
And love was born between black and white.

In secret they met in the future
When all around them was fighting and strife,
But they kept their understanding,
The old black gin and the pioneer's wife.

For they learnt of each other's cultures
And searched out each other's heart,
Found there the good and the loving
The knowledge each one could impart.

The pioneer's wife called her new friend Anne
And Annie simply called her Missus,
She knew there was respect in the name,
Though slight was her grasp of English.

Now the pioneer's wife was with child
And the hour for birth had arrived,
But she could not be delivered,
And she and the child would die.

There was only one who could comfort her now
She cried out for her in pain.
And through the dark and lonely night,
On the scent of the wind Annie heard her name.

She journeyed through the pale moonlight
Sensing the pain and the fear,
She sent out her spirit to her missus,
Saying Annie will soon be here.

She reached the door of the pioneer's hut
And like a shadow, she crossed the floor,
Nobody moved or bade her stop,
She was the answer they were praying for.

For they sensed in their frightened troubled hearts
She knew things that they knew not of,
And to this their hope now clung,
To something in the realm of God.

There was silence now in the pioneer's hut
Annie stroked her missus with fingers long,
And calmed the terror in her mind.
Found her spirit and made it strong.

With a triumphant cry her missus half rose,
And she pushed the baby forth,
Then with the strain of the struggle she slept
And rested from the battle she'd fought.

Annie took the baby smiling,
Spoke to her with love,
Brought the man his child, then left
As the moon rose high above.

The patrols were out on that lonely night
Searching for straying blacks,
And in the pale moonlight they found
The imprint of Annie's tracks.

They followed her through the timber
And onto the burnished plain,
And there they caught and shot her,
But her spirit felt no pain.

She had answered the call of a faithful friend
Knowing she would pay the price,
But in the glory of the dawn
Nature honoured her sacrifice.

And a young girl grew in stature and grace,
Her spirit reached out to many,
In her there was love and a healing hand,
People simply called her Annie.

Festival of Sydney

Matilda Cruises

"POETS AT SUNSET"

Original - "Nautical Theme" - Poetry Competition

Wednesday 8th January - Saturday 25th. January

5.30 PM.

Aboard the luxury Matilda Catamaran

5.30PM.

Pier 26 Darling Harbour - Sydney Aquarium

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - Phone Jeannie or Sunita 02 9264 7377

Entries close January 1st. 1997.

December 1996



**Geoffrey Graham's
HERITAGE SHOWCASE**
Carthage St Heritage Theatre
**TAMWORTH MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

{Cnr Carthage and Bourke St} **Featuring:**

The best in Australian Entertainment in 1997.

Pat Drummond
Singer/songwriter



**Bruce McCumstie
& Friends**



**Poets in the
Pub Gang**
Noel Cutler, John Major, John
Philipson, Gary Fogarty

Wayne Horner
"Freedom on the
Wallaby"



Back to Weelabarabak Marion Fitzgerald, Shirley Friend,
Linda Scott, Philippa Powell & Gary Fogarty

Evelyn Bury & Barry Thornton "Travellin' Hobnail Express"
Glenn Jones & Charley Boyter "East of the Scrub"

Geoffrey Graham in the "Banjo" Paterson Extravaganza
"The Man from Ironbark"

All Bookings Drews Newsagency
PH 662 364 or at the Door.
(See Festival Programme for final details)

