

**The Australian
Bush Poets
Association Inc.**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER --- No.2. Vol 4. February 1997

NOTICE OF A.G.M.

**The ABPA AGM will
be held on 23 - 3 - 96
at the
Country Music Rush
Jondaryan QLD
FOLLOWING THE
FINALS OF
POETRY COMP.**

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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Bob Miller.

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Publicity Officers:

Qld. Robert Raftery.

073 271 2478

NSW. Frank Daniel

South Aust. Bob Magor.

085 582 036.

Victoria. Geoffrey Graham.

054 691 312.

John O'Brien Folk Festival

NARRANDERA NSW

March 21 - 22 - 23 1997

Bar Room Yarns and Poetry

Music - Song - Dance

Enq. 069 591 766 — 592 788

Poets Evening - 4pm - 6 pm

BUNDANOON HOTEL NSW

First Sunday each Month

Enq. Mrs. Nea Hayes

048 836 005

SPEND EASTER AT THE Snowy Mountains Country Music Festival

AT THE

**STATION RESORT
JINDABYNE NSW**

Sat. 30th and Sun. 31st March

POETS BREAKFASTS

Bush Poetry and Yarns

Poets Campfire

Enq. Christiana Kearn

064 562 895

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

JAMBEROO NSW

POETS BREAKFASTS

(Compered by Frank Daniel)

NEW VOICES - TALL TALES

(with Blue the Shearer)

Music - Dancing - Workshops

14-17 March 1997

National Folk Festival CANBERRA A.C.T.

**Good Friday to Easter Monday
1200 Performances over 4½ days**

Four Poets Breakfasts

Tall Tales - Workshops

Music and Dance

Overseas Artists

**Australia's Premier Folk Festival
EXHIBITION PARK CANBERRA**

Enq. Phone 06 249 7755

Presidents Letter

Dear members of the ABPA.

Here we are well into another new year of Bush Poetry — but how far have we progressed? How far will we go as an Association? I am beginning to wonder!

After the general meeting in Tamworth last month, I can honestly say that I was absolutely disgusted with the lack of physical and vocal support by many members present in Tamworth; some who didn't even bother to turn up for the meeting or tender an apology. Sure it was not the AGM that we would have preferred, but it was to me, and the ABPA, an important meeting.

Much criticism from Association members comes to hand only too often — mostly from the 'noise-makers' who always ask 'Why don't we?' These same people are never around when we ask 'Will you?'

During the past two months many people have contacted me expressing their deep concern over our own well-being as a united group of Bush Poets.

Concern is raised at the amount of pettiness, the conflicting of ideas, the bickering and the politicalness which is stuffing up a good idea.

When the ABPA Inc. was formed in 1994, the Inaugural President came up with a some visions splendid and some far reaching plans, far and beyond his own capabilities, but over-all, a terrific idea to bring the Bush Poets of Australia together in one big happy family - keeping them informed, encouraging them and others to keep the Australian in Australia aware of his own history through verse and prose.

I am not happy that so many have made the ABPA the meat in the sandwich when they have complaints. Our current Secretary tells us how we have so many letters of praise and admiration for our work - but he always manages to print letters or excerpts which create embarrassment to others from those who are not overly happy with certain aspects concerning festivals and poets. Most of these writers I find have in reality been poorly informed and in some instances emotionally stirred by others to write.

I feel that if we are to succeed, to keep our membership numbers healthy and attract new members, we must produce more equibly, a news-letter which will promote ourselves, our members, the various organisers of festivals and competitions, and, most of all, Bush Poetry — keeping our culture alive, hanging on to our Heritage.

As an incorporated body, there are a lot of rules that so many expect us to abide by, but as far as I am concerned there are no rules to enjoyment and good clean healthy fun. All this comes from good fellowship which I have

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always tried to promote, and I believe that I have done this to the best of my ability - but sadly, there is always someone who is not happy.

Letters of complaint regarding festivals and competitions and poets should not be made the subject of this newsletter. Too much is wasted in this regard. Too many readers are subjected to a lot of unwanted, un-necessary garbage in this respect.

Such letters I would welcome - but I would deal with them directly or pass them on to the person or persons concerned and not make an issue of them.

As an example, one of last years major concerns was over the performance of a non-member poet, of whom few of us had ever heard. We haven't seen nor heard of him since. It is plain to me that we won't hear from his like too often, and, if and when we do, we will not acknowledge them if their work is not up to scratch.

Those poets and organising committees that are genuinely trying to do the right thing are going ahead in leaps and bounds. Their success is measured by the increasing number of venues and functions at which they are performing — and by the ever increasing size of their audiences.

Those who have it will succeed. Those who need it will certainly have my whole-hearted support, and I wish them well in the coming year.

I am sad to say that the past year has been a bit of a shambles in more ways than one, with many internal head-aches in the Association having been cleared up. I hope that 1997 will be a year to boost our comradery and our well-being by sticking together and having fun. We are off to a clean start, the 1997 Bush Poetry calendar is a full one with lots more to come.

Regrettably I wish to inform members that this will be my last contribution to the Newsletter as President of the Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc. Due to heavy work commitments this year, I will not have the available time to do the job to the best of my ability.

I hope that at the Annual General Meeting on the 22nd March members will put a lot of thought into who the new committee will be, and that they will give the necessary support to those elected.

Keep in touch — best wishes,

Regards,

Frank Daniel.

Footnote. With regard to Carmel Randles letter about our use of the Internet I would like to point out, as I have done to her, that no mention was ever made of including Bush Poetry on the Net which I have set up for the use of ABPA members at my own cost. So there is no danger of a writers work being 'lifted from the Net'. (Copy-right laws are so lax that they don't even stop people from using your work once it is published or recorded).

As was stated in the December issue, the Net will give Bush Poets, in time, a much wider and sought after audience — with opportunities for Poets to advertise their products — books, cassettes and CD's.

Committees organising festivals and so on are welcome to make use of this facility. I will give it a run for a year or so, with regular updates and Poet's Calendars, and see what comes out of it for those that are interested in it's use. Frank.

INTERNET ADDRESS
w w w . i x . n e t . a u / ~ b u s h p o e t /

ALBUM LAUNCH

Max Jarrott Recites

Noelene Mills Sings

ONLY YOKING

Fair Dinkum Australian Poems & Songs

KILLARNEY BOWLS CLUB

(near WARWICK QLD)

Saturday 15th MARCH 1997

8pm --10pm

Fully Videotaped

Ticket Entry

ADMIT ONE \$5

Only

Primary School Children Free

Thank you for coming

Tickets at Killarney Cafe or Max Jarrott
ph (076) 641115

DATE CLAIMER.

THE ROCKHAMPTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
will hold its

1 ST CENTRAL QUEENSLAND BUSH POETRY
CHAMPIONSHIP

To be held on FRIDAY 13TH JUNE 1997
at the ROCKHAMPTON SHOWGROUND.

FULL INFORMATION NEXT MONTH.

FROM THE WEST. Rusty Christensen from the fledgling Western Australian Bush Poets and Yarn-Spinners Association writes to inform us that after the Australia Day Finals of their competition, they can safely say that Bush Poetry and Yarn-spinning has definitely returned to Western Australia.

Three hundred and fifty enthusiasts turned up to Wireless Hill Park to witness and hear their Challenge Finals. 'Praise for the event was almost embarrassing' said Rusty. The name '*Challenge*' has been adopted as they now consider that the winners of the overall event can now challenge the best in the country.

Well established Bush Poet and Yarner, Keith Leithbridge won the Poetry section, after winning the inaugural contest last year, a measure of his ability.

Keith's prize is a trip to Winton in Queensland for the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships. Rusty assures us that he will be a worthy contender.

Jeff Swain won the Yarn-spinning which surprised many as he was tipped to take out the reciters section. Jeff will be off to Adelaide in early March for the Second Funny Business - Advertiser International Yarn Spinning Challenge against a host of invited guests including last years winner Kel Watkins of WA.

The standard of this years competition was so far greater than last years that it was almost impossible to separate the finalists, of ten poets and seven yarners.

Excellent media coverage gave the contest the impetus it needed and total support from the Local Authority saw the Deputy Mayor opening the proceedings.

Follow up news items have heralded a '*tiger on the loose in the west*', and Rusty and his mates have him by the tail.

Tenterfield

ORACLES OF THE BUSH

18th, 19th & 20th April 1997



Greetings from Victoria,

Tamworth is over for another year, and it served as a mecca for Bush poetry, as the poets came out in force. Venues coming out of the woodwork. The Imperial competitions were highly successful and better attended than ever. Congratulations to all the performers. The Oasis Hotel was busy again with competitions. The Longyard was as busy as ever and the awards gained a pile of interest. Congratulations to those nominated, and the winners. The Golf club saw three shows of the Naked poets and laid em in the aisles. The Glowe show was another show at a venue used for the first time and the Heritage Theatre featured poets and singers. The Poets in the Pub Gang, and Back to Weelabarabak were the main two poet shows which were quite successful. I presented The Man from Ironbark for another season, with people coming back for second, third & even fifth time.

I'm very pleased Tamworth was successful for so many people and I'm looking forward to Tamworth 1998.

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.

Keep smiling

Geoffrey Graham

GOLEN GUMLEAF BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS.

The second Annual Bush Laureate Awards were handed out at the famous Longyard Hotel in Tamworth on Tuesday 21st of January during the 1997 Country Music Festival.

The awards recognise the growing importance of Bush Poetry in Australia. First presented in 1996, these awards have quickly become one of the premier goals for poets from around Australia. The Awards are presented in three sections. 1. The Book of the Year. 2. The Album of the year. 3. The Heritage Award.

For the second time in the two years, Bob Miller of Mungar Q. took out the Album of the Year with "The Larrikin Live" (Koala River Studio. Producer Chris Foley).

The Award for Book of the Year went to Carmel Randle of Preston Qld. for "Gone Bush". (Published by Carmel Randle).

The Heritage Award was won by Bruce Simpson of Caboolture Q. for "Packhorse Drover" (Published by ABC Books).

The presentations were hosted by radio personality, Nick Erby, and drew a large audience who enjoyed performances by Carmel Dunn, Jim Haynes, Bob Miller and Frank Daniel. Special guests were Ted Egan, Troy Cassar-Daly, Shanley Del, Felicity and Beccy Cole.

Spokesperson for the Judging Panel, Mr. Colin Munro said he was impressed by the scope and sensitivity of the entries, with the excellent standard making the judging very difficult.

A new trophy was introduced this year, designed by leading Goldsmith and designer, Ernst Pfenninger of Sydney.

The Bush Laureate Awards are sponsored by the Tenterfield Saddler.

BLACKENED BILLY AWARDS.

The seventh annual Blackened Billy Awards for Bush Verse were announced in Tamworth at a ceremony at the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, 25th of January.

Winner of the Golden Gumleaf Award for Book of the Year, Carmel Randle of Preston Q. was outright winner of the 1997 Blackened Billy for her Poem, "Just an Isolated Case".

The Blackened Billy Trophy is designed and crafted by Fred Hillier.

BLUE BOSTOCK BUSH POETRY COMPETITION
OASIS HOTEL ---- TAMWORTH.

Tamworth Country Music Festival, 23, 24, 25 JAN.

Following the previous year where Boulicia Bates who for the assistance of all poets who came to Tamworth wishing to try out their poems, and get experience from mixing with poets from all over parts of Australia, started a new venue at the Oasis Hotel and asked me if I would be his assistant. We held a successful competition and were well supported by poets. Sadly Boulicia's wife, Gloria, passed away late last year and the task of continuing this very important venue was left for me to continue.

I set about organising with the Oasis publican, times for poetry in between his guest artists and bands. we played it by ear for the first four days and for some 30 poets there was a chance to perform without the pressure of competition.

The promise of support from a sponsor after last years festival left the expenses begging for support and too late for anyone to capitalise on poetry popularity. I bore the cost of printing 200 road signs, painting banners and judging sheets, as I felt the importance of having an open forum for all poets who travelled to Tamworth, tantamount as all the other venues are closed shop.

At first the absence of most of the recognised poets for support, was a disappointment to me, however, be assured they weren't missed, for the standard of poets was as good as could be found anywhere. The few old friends who supported our venue get my gratitude. They haven't forgotten when we could hold our poetry in a phone box and have seats to spare, only a few short years ago.

The Oasis Beer Garden is the best setting you could find, it is a natural amphitheatre of grassy slopes, shade trees and adequit seating for thousands.

Next year I will have extended time for my show, giving more poets a forum to air their talents. With the assistance of sponsors advertising, this rural setting will be the spot to take in Australian Bush Poetry in comfort.

The popularity of our three day contest gave the organisers a trying time making sure everyone got a go, excess of forty poets in each category and finals.

In this rural setting our judges, Robbie Gough of Charters Towers, Bruce Simpson of Caboolture and Kelly Dixon from Camooweal could hane been excused for

thinking any minute 'Saltbush Bill' or 'The Man from Snowy River' might flash past the performers stage. Such was the standard of the Traditional Verse. While the Original section had the crowd holding their sides with laughter. I wish they all could have been winners.

Ron Selby, the backbone of our Association, came to my rescue by making exotic wood trophies. I cannot thank him enough for his invaluable assistance.

Michael Darby's free passes on Greyhound Coaches to The Cloncurry Festival were welcome awards for all the winners.

TRADITIONAL

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|------------|-----|
| 1. | Liz WARD. | MT PERRY | QLD |
| 2. | Terry REGAN | BLACKHEATH | NSW |
| 3. | Carmel DUNN | WARWICK | QLD |

ORIGINAL.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. | Mark THOMPSON | COFFS HARBOUR | NSW |
| 2. | Maggie May GORDON | BUNDABERG | QLD |
| 3. | Greg SCOTT | PORT MACQUARIE | NSW |

ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

- | | | | |
|--|------------|--------|-----|
| | Rex HOCKEY | SYDNEY | NSW |
|--|------------|--------|-----|

JUNIOR.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Carmel DUNN | WARWICK | QLD |
|----|-------------|---------|-----|

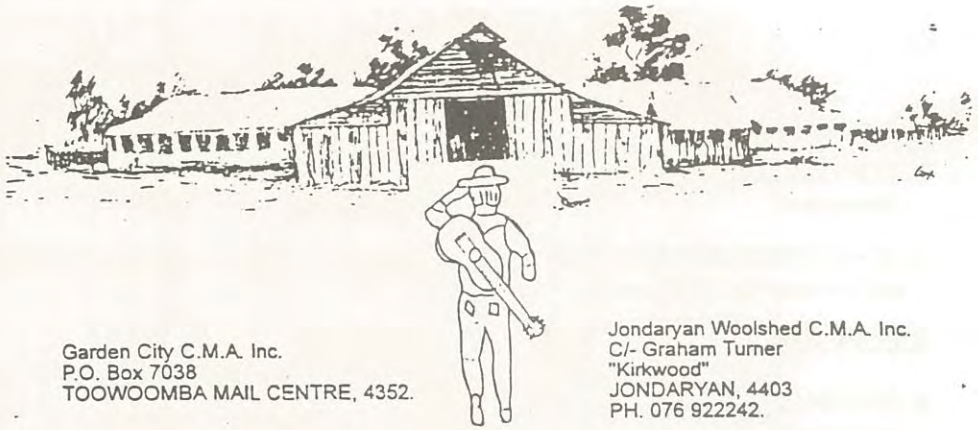
Yours in Verse.

Blue BOSTOCK.

"Enough for all and not too much for one "

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.



Garden City C.M.A. Inc.
P.O. Box 7038
TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE, 4352.

Jondaryan Woolshed C.M.A. Inc.
C/- Graham Turner
"Kirkwood"
JONDARYAN, 4403
PH. 076 922242.

COUNTRY MUSIC RUSH

FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC

JONDARYAN WOOLSHED

March 22nd - 23rd 1997

CONCERT
TALENT QUEST
BUSH POETRY
CAMPING

Shearing, Horses, Antique Machinery,
Blacksmith, History.

Supported by:
GARDEN CITY COUNTRY MUSIC ASSN. INC.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. **CONTENT:** This is an Australian Event. Poems must be by Australians about Australia/Australians.
 2. **COMPETITOR DEFINITIONS:** Competitors may enter more than one section. JUNIORS may not enter the OPEN sections.
 3. **COPY:** Competitors must supply a copy of the poem with the Poet's name.
 4. **ORIGINALITY:** In the ORIGINAL BUST POETRY SECTIONS, the work MUST BE performed by the AUTHOR.
 5. **SUITABILITY OF MATERIAL:** Judges will instantly disqualify any competitor whom they deem to be using objectionable material. Such a competitor must IMMEDIATELY VACATE THE PERFORMING AREA.
 6. **ENTRIES:**
 - a. One entry per participant per section.
 - b. An entry fee of \$5.00 per poem will apply to all sections.
 - c. Entry by mail, before 17th MARCH 1997. ONLY IF VACANCIES EXIST will entries be taken up to 24 hours before the start of the event.
 7. **TIME LIMITS:**
 - a. SEVEN (7) MINUTES INCLUDING PREAMBLE is the time allocation for a performance in the OPEN sections.
 - b. FIVE (5) MINUTES INCLUDING PREAMBLE is the time allocation for a performance in the JUNIOR sections.
 - c. Performance longer than the time allocation will be penalised.
 8. **COPYRIGHT:** The Organisers assume NO RESPONSIBILITY for any claims concerning infringement of copyright.
 9. **CONTROL:** All matters relating to the conduct of the Competition remain with the organising committee.
 10. **JUDGES' DECISION:** Judges' decisions on will be final and no discussion will be entered into.
 11. **ENTRY FEE:** Entries will not be accepted unless accompanied by the relevant fee. Cheques to be made payable to Country Music Rush.
 12. **CUTOUT (1 MINUTE POEM):**
 - a. Poem must be author's own work and have not been performed in public before.
 - b. Poem exceeding 1 minute time limit will be disqualified.
- NOTE: 1 minute poem could have a theme such as: Jondaryan Woolshed, Shearing, Mustering, Working dogs, etc.

BUSH POETRY ENTRY FORM

One Form per Artist - photocopies of this form are acceptable
CONDITIONS accompanying should be read.

ENTRIES CLOSE: 17th March 1997

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 per section

POST to: Jondaryan Woolshed Country Music Rush, P.O. Boc 7038,
TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE. 4352.

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

PHONE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: (Jnr. section) _____

Sunday 7 a.m. Poets' Breakfast

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Traditional Bush Verse Male | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 2. Traditional Bush Verse Female | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 3. Junior Traditional Bush Verse (M&F) | 16 yrs & under | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 4. Original Bush Verse Male | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 5. Original Bush Verse Female | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 6. Jnr Original Bush Verse (M&F) | 16 yrs & under | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 7. Camp Fire Yarns Male | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 8. Camp Fire Yarns Female | 17 yrs & over | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 9. Jnr Camp Fire Yarns (M&F) | 16 yrs & under | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| 10. POETS CUTOOT of 1 minute duration and never been performed in public before MUST have been written by the performer. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

STATUTORY DECLARATION: I/we have read and agree to abide by the conditions of entry included with this entry form and state that under these conditions I/we are NOT professional artists and therefore are entitled to enter the Jondaryan Woolshed Country Music Rush as an amateur artist.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*The Jondaryan Woolshed offers camping
and caravan sites within the grounds.*

ADMISSION FEES

ADULTS	\$6.00 PER DAY
ADULT COMPETITORS	\$5.00 PER DAY
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER	\$3.00 PER DAY
CHILDREN COMPETITORS	\$2.00 PER DAY
PENSIONERS	\$5.00 PER DAY

WEEKEND FAMILY GATE PASS

\$25.00 (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)
CAMPING EXTRA.

CAMPING

\$4.00 PER PERSON PER NIGHT
THIS INCLUDES FRIDAY NIGHT

BREAKFAST AVAILABLE BOTH SATURDAY
& SUNDAY MORNING AT \$3.00 PER HEAD

*Those wishing to participate in guided Tours
of the Complex may do so at a cost of \$4.00
per head, payable at the Office.*

GIVE THE KIDS A GO.

A lot of you won't know me, tho' I've been around a while
and eighty-seven years of time is written on my dial.
I've never left Australia and I have no wish to go,
I'm satisfied just living here with all the mates I know
In the twilight of my years I've wrote a poem or two,
I've won some competitions, amateur - professional too.
But I've come to the conclusion, when you run a family show
the Pro's should play a lesser part and give the kids a go.

It's nice to be important in a friendly kind of way
and meet fair dinkum Aussies who will stop and say G'day.
What sweeter sound can greet the ear in any Aussie state
than hearing some familiar voice say, "How ya' goin' mate?"
It gets you in the brisket! It tightens up your throat.
Four little words that beat the hell out of any Shakespear
wrote.
You turn to put your hand out feelin' taller where you stand.
Could they understand it if they're from some other land?

We've earned our recognition if they know us in the street
but we have to watch our egos or we could become 'elite';
Believe we're chosen people who should manage every show
and dominate the spotlight while the rest don't get a go.
It's not because we're upstarts, we'd believe we were the
best
and think that it might spoil the show to listen to the rest.
So let's forget the 'Oscars' and give our youth a hand
Till we hear them sing Matilda right across this ancient land.

We know we're multicultural - we have to face the facts
we can't build culture bridges with a crowbar and an axe.
We'll help the kids to understand just what Australia means
To misquote Charlee Marshall they need something in their
genes
From Bosnia to Belfast to any Arab State,
There's no-one there to say, "G'day! How ya' goin' mate?"
So right across Australia, in every kind of show
Let Bush Poets sing out loud, "GIVE THE KIDS A GO!"

Harry Bowers WARRAGUL VIC.

GETTING YOUR OWN BACK.

(plus someone elses. A true story.)

There was squawking in the chookhouse, you could hear it now and then.
It'll be that blasted wildcat trying to get another hen !
So he loaded up the shotgun and gave it double charge.
He'd seen this wildcat before, and knew 'twas pretty large.

Then he crept out in the garden where the spuds were growing well
He lay there waiting for it, he would give that big cat hell.
As the cat came from the henhouse with a chicken there in tow,
He carefully aimed along the sights and let both barrels go.

It demolished half the spud patch and the chicken went a-flying.
While there among the garden wreckage, the wildcat was lying.
So now he had to dig a hole to remove the evidence,
And bury that old chicken stealer, that was stretched out by the fence.

Now a country boy is pretty bright when it comes to dodging work.
For the toilet down the back was full, 'twas a job he couldn't shirk.
So then he thought a little while and knew what he would do.
He'd place them in the hole together, that would save him digging two !

The contents of the thunderbox was poured into the hole.
Then in went giant wildcat -- What hadn't yet turned cold !
But the big cat hadn't given up --- although his eyes were dimming,
"Twas not a place for one to be, and so he started swimming !

Well the country boy thought pretty fast, grabbed a shovel standing near
Now " When his head comes up again, I'll whack him on the ear ".
It's here, I'll add, the hole was full and level to the ground,
As that shovel swung down to the mess it splattered all around.

Well ! the contents of the thunderbox went flying everywhere,
It was on his clothes and on his boots, it was even in his hair !
Now the cat shot through, it'd had enough, no chickens worth this strife
But you can bet, he'll not forget the day, he nearly lost his life !!

Brian. A. Gale MARGARET RIVER W.A.

Second place went to Glenny Palmer of Cedar Vale Q. for her entry, "The Bride of St. Claire".

Hope Galvin of Cootamundra NSW placed third with "A Little Bit of Scotland".

One hundred and sixty seven entries were received and the daunting task of selecting the winners went to Eric Scott of Hadley Records in Tamworth.

Highly Commended were; Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW; Bob Magor, Myponga SA; Mrs. Bobby Bennett, Manilla NSW; Harry Bowers, Warragul Vic; Graeme Philipson, Mangerton NSW; Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW; Col. Hadwell, Byron Bay NSW; Judith Eburn, Balmain NSW;

The encouragement award went to 13 year old Miss Tara Brown of Orange NSW, for her poem "Captive".

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD TO GLENNY PALMER —

'It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected to receive the 1997 Beaudesert Shire Australia Day "Cultural Award".'

The opening lines of a letter from the Mayor of the Beaudesert Shire Council, Cr. M.W.Fraser, to Glenny Palmer. News of this award reached Glenny only a few days before she was due to depart for America for the Cowboy Poets Gathering in Elko, Nevada, as winner of the Ladies section of the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Contest last year in Winton Qld.

This Award is provided by the Australia Day Council and is administered by Local Government Authorities throughout Queensland on behalf of the Australia Day Council.

The recipients of these awards were announced at an informal Australia Day Breakfast which was held in Jubilee Park, Beaudesert on Sunday 26th. January.

In his letter, the Mayor congratulated Glenny for her outstanding achievement in the field of Bush Poetry and for her contribution to recognition of a uniquely Australian identity.

On return Glenny has been invited to speak at the March 15th. meeting of the Federation of Australian Writers, Queensland.

Other Bush Poets interested in attending this meeting as readers and reciters are asked to contact Thea Bieshevel, 07 383 17404

Just an Isolated Case.

© Carmel Randle.

Help! Oh, someone, help me! Please! I think I've reached the end!
I cannot make it through another day!
The blasted clock hands show it's six, and time I must get up,
But — just for once — I WISH that I could stay!

I can't force my eyelids open! I can't think of what's to do!
I'm just so weary that I'd rather die!
If only I could lie here and forget about the World ...
Please God, don't let me hear my baby cry!

For four whole weeks he's been like this - he's fretful all the time -
Day or night he cannot settle down.
A runny nose, and cutting teeth - poor darling little mite!
If only we lived nearer to the town!

I took him to the Doctor but he said, "It's just the 'flu.
Here's a script to help him through the worst.
A day or two and he'll be right! He's quite a healthy lad!"...
He screamed that night like he was fit to burst!

I know antibiotics take a little time to work,
So I bore with sleepless nights and restless days.
A fortnight later, no improvement! What now should I do?
My options crystalised through weary haze.

It takes four hours to drive to town, and four more to drive back -
An ordeal I would gladly do again
If I thought the Doc. could help me out, but when I rang him up,
He said, "Don't worry! He'll be right as rain!"

'Right as rain!' Good Lord! That man just cannot understand
The sheer frustration that I feel out here
With not another woman who'd give practical advice,
Or p'raps a friend to share my ev'ry fear.

My other little boy was never like this! Never screamed
At night, or kept the household wide awake;
But my though husband's tried to help, four weeks of broken sleep
Have proved just three weeks more than he can take!

(Just an Isolated Case.. cont'd)

And, no! I cannot blame him! He's a good Dad to them, but
His work is with the stock and plant outside,
And he can be in trouble if his reflexes are bad
Because he's short of sleep, and overtired!

The baby must be dozing, but I hear young Fred awake.
I can't neglect him! He needs Breakfast too.
He's pretty good — but only three years old, so there's a limit
To what you can expect the lad to do.

Oh, no! That's not a vehicle that's coming down the track?
Visitors so early house a mess!
The dogs have started barking, and they'll wake the baby up!
I haven't even got the time to dress!

A woman ... by herself ... She only looks about my age ...
I'd better go and meet her ... Where's my gown?
She'll prob'ly need a cuppa and a chance to stretch her legs ...
Can't think of where she's come from ... maybe town?

Hello! How can I help you? You just called to say hello?
You've come to live on 'Watson Downs' you say!
Your husband's the new Manager, and you thought you'd drop by ...
You're only sixty-seven 'k' away!

The Doc. is an old friend of yours? You saw him yesterday...
You used to be a nurse before you wed!
He thought you should call in today and make your presence known...
'I think she needs a friend!' is what he said?

Yes, that's my baby crying! Yes, he cries all night and day ...
I'll put the kettle on, then pick him up.
You'll hold him while I make the tea? Oh, thanks!!!! — And this is Fred.
He's three. No, Fred! Don't feed that to the pup!

So you are Linda and I'm Anne. You have no children yet?
But hope one day a fam'ly comes along?
How quickly has your friendly face brought sunshine to my day!
I thought that I was weak — but now I'm strong!

BUNGENDORE COUNTRY MUSTER... Feb. 1 - 2.

Australian Bush Poetry has gained another spot in it's rapidly growing list of audiences and this year stepped forward into another of the great Country Music festivals with it's acceptance on the Southern Tablelands of NSW at the Bungendore Country Muster.

The Bungendore Muster is based purely and simply on Australian Country Music and Ballads and the addition of the Bush Poetry was welcomed by the huge crowd attending.

Organisers of the event were more than pleased with the result and have indicated already that even more Bush Poetry will be included in the 1998 programme.

The Royal Hotel Talent Quest on the Friday night was a roaring success with many new and talented performers vieing for honours.

The biggest surprise of all, and most unexpected in a music festival, was the third place awarded to ABPA member, Gary Lowe of Wyong NSW with his 'Oriental Jackeroo'. Good on ya, Lowie!

A three hour long Bush Poetry Competition and Breakfast was held in the beautiful grounds of 'Elmslea' Homestead, home of Myles and Toni Flanagan, on the outskirts of the town. Thirty eight poets contested in the single go round which was judged by Kelly Dixon of Camooweal Q., Reg Sylvester of Braidwood NSW and Keith McHenry of Canberra.

Leigh Brown of Yass won the ladies section with her poem 'The Gift'. The junior section was won by a Bungendore lass Erin Smith with a poem about the local swimming pool

Winner in the mens section was Rex Hockey of Punchbowl NSW with a splendid rendition of 'Sweeney' by Henry Lawson.

Compere for the breakfast was Frank Daniel of Canowindra NSW with 'Blue the Shearer', (Col Wilson) of Wellington NSW as guest poet.

Performances during the Saturday night programme saw Keith McHendry, Gary Lowe, Blue the Shearer and Frank Daniel adding to the entertainment.

A Poets Brawl was conducted on Sunday morning and the battle of the one-minute poems was won by Warren 'Arch' Bishop of Mt. Druitt NSW.

Dear Sir,

While sending off my annual sub,I cannot pass up the opportunity to tell you how much I've enjoyed the monthly newsletter over the last few months since joining.

THOSE OLD MONARO DAYS

I have trod the plains of Heaven,
Here on our green Earth,
Where the mountains of Monaro
Grace this land that gave me birth.

I have wandered through the snowgrass
Decked' with frost at break of day;
Disturbed the lumbering wombat,
Watched the platypus at play.

I have ski-ed the snows of Winter,
Scaled the heights where rivers rise,
On the rooftop of Australia,
'Neath those wide Monaro skies.

I have fished those sylvan waters
Where the pools run deep and dark,
On the 'Bidgee, below Tantangara,
In the Kosciusko Park.

I have cast my flies at twilight,
From Eucumbene's bleak shore,
With old comrades of the angle,
Who, alas, I see no more.

I have marvelled at the wonders
Of the Snowy Mountains Scheme,
How those engineering triumphs
Brought to life our grandsires' dream.

I have ever loved those mountains,
Which I now have bid adieu,
But I cling to alpine friendships,
That will last my whole life through.

I have pitched my camp at sundown,
In a land of urban ways,
Yet I often feel a yearning
For those old Monaro days.



Ron.A.Munro
Kincumber

Winton Report

Arrangements for the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards which will be held from 24 - 27 April 1997 at Winton, Queensland, and which will incorporate the Australian Bush Poetry Championships, are progressing well.

The organisers are pleased to report that not only have they been able to secure the services of Lee Kernaghan for a Drought Buster Concert on Friday, 25 April, but have also been able to secure sponsorship from Channel Ten, Mt. Isa, which will provide substantial media exposure. A large crowd is expected to attend this year's Festival.

A Channel Ten news crew will be in Winton for the whole of the Festival, as well as top travel writers from all over Australia. This will ensure that the Winners who will go to Elko, Nevada USA as Australian Champions will be given Australia-wide Media coverage immediately the results are announced.

QANTAS has again generously provided sponsorship, and this should ensure a good standard of entries for the Competition. Enquiries from Poets from West Australia, South Australia, New Zealand, and even one from USA clearly indicates that our reputation for holding a well organised competition is being widely recognised.

Interest in the Novice Competition and Junior Competition also indicates a high standard of entry this year.

Other activities at the Waltzing Matilda Festival, such as..... the Waltzing Matilda Art Show which will be judged by Hugh Sawrey; the Rough Stock Night Rodeo; the North Gregory Turf Club Race Meeting; the Waltzing Matilda Photographic Competition; the Rugby League Challenge Cup; the Motorama and Motorcycle Enduro Events; the Craft Market and Garden Expo; and the announcement of the Bronze Swagman Award Winner..... all promise to make the Festival bigger and better than last year.

If you want a good time with the traditional western Queensland hospitality thrown in for free, then make your plans now to be a part of it.

Further information regarding the Festival can be obtained from Cathy Cooper, phone (076) 571 544. For information regarding entries for the Poetry Competitions, write to The Organiser, P.O. Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4352

Meet me there and say G'day mate!

Bert Swindell, Co-organiser

Waltzing Matilda Festival

URGENT!

Entry Forms and Final Information about the

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Australian Bush Poetry Championships

The Christina Macpherson Novice Awards
and **The Clover Nolan Junior Awards**

ALL FOR PERFORMANCE POETRY

will be posted to those on the Mailing List NEXT WEEK
*If you do not regularly receive Circulars from the Waltzing Matilda Bush
Poetry Awards, and would like this information, please send*

S.S.A.E. IMMEDIATELY to....

The Organiser,

P.O. Box 7714,

Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352

CHINCHILLA COUNTRY MUSIC

P.O. BOX 513 CHINCHILLA QLD 4413

15th & 16th march 1997

OPEN BUSH POETRY

SATURDAY MORNING

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

JAN HOLT (076) 654132 or (076) 627312

PIONEER VILLAGE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

PIONEER VILLAGE

NORTH PINE COUNTRY PARK

DAYBOROUGH RD PETRIE QLD

POETS WANTED

for a **BUSH POETS BREAKFAST**

on **SATURDAY 8th MARCH 1997**

Contact GARY FOGARTY on (076) 951838

or GARTH POCOCK on (07) 32846441.

Poets Calendar. Events and Competitions.

- Feb 27th. March 2nd. **Harden Murrumburrah — Best of the Bush Weekend**
Featuring Jim Haynes and Lawrie Minson with Champion Bush Poets and
Yarnspinners Ray Essary and Grahame Watt.
Enq. Mandy Sachs - 063 863 713 or Barbara Sargent - 063 862 522
- March 1. Wongawilli Bush Band at **Tuena Pub. Near Goulburn NSW.** — plus >
- March 2nd. 2pm. **Abercrombie Caves NSW.** Concert in the Caves
Wongawilli Bush Band - Wongawilli Colonial dancers -
Folk duo - Us Not Them and Bush Poet - Frank Daniel.
Enq. to Caves Manager. 063 68 8603.
- March 2nd. 1997 **Charlton Vic. Country and Bush Music Festival -**
Poets Breakfast etc. Contact Geoffrey Graham. 054 691 312
- March 12 - 16 — 1997 **Illawarra Folk Festival — Jamberoo NSW** — The largest
celebration of Folk Music, Song, Dance, Tall Tales and Poetry in NSW.
Enquiries - to Ted or Cheryl — 042 83 7826
- March 21 - 23 1997. **John O'Brien Folk Festival.** Narrandera NSW
Bar Room Yarns and Recitals — Murrumbidgee Hotel. 21st & 22nd 8pm
Enq. Julia Briggs - 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
- March 23. **Annual General Meeting. ABPA Inc.** [See inside newsletter].
- March 29 - 30 **Jindabyne Country Music Festival and Bush Poetry Gathering**
The Station Resort - Jindabyne NSW — Poets Breakfasts Tall Tales and
Camp fire yarns. Enq. Christiana Kern 064 562 895
- March 27 - 31 **The National Folk Festival** - Australia's premier Folk Festival -
Folk Music, Dance, Stories and Poetry. Four Poets Breakfasts - 8am Daily.
Exhibition Park Canberra - - - - Early bookings - - - Enq. 06 249 7755
- March 31 — Closing date. **Charleville Bush Balladeers** written competition
- April 19 - 20 **Charleville Q.** Bush Poetry Performance Competition
Enq. Marion Moore P.O. Box 146 Charleville Qld. 4470 Ph. 076 541 658
- April 19 - 20 **Tenterfield. NSW**
- 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
- May 2 - 3 - 4 **Longreach Q.** NOPA Awards Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame.
Enq. Sec. 075 581 718 Fax 076 583 198 P.O.Box 518 Longreach Q 4730
- May 31 - June 1 **Fireside Festival.** Longyard Hotel Tamworth.
- June 5th - 9th. **Cloncurry Bush Festival & Mary Kathleen Reunion**
Country Music Talent Quest. Written & Performance Poetry Competition,
Line Dancing and the Muldoon Linehaul Triathlon — please send SSAE
to Cloncurry Telecentre, P.O. Box 455 Cloncurry Q. 4824
Convenor: Michael Darby. Ph. 077 422 366 Fax 077 422 199