

The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No.4 Volume 4. April 1997

Jondaryan Country Music Rush

Sunday 27th. March once more saw a Bush Poetry competition incorporated into the Annual Jondaryan Country Music Rush.

The Committee at Jondaryan have always shown a willingness to listen to constructive criticism and make changes accordingly, and this years competition showed the result of these improvements.

The Judges Concert on Saturday night was compered by Chief Poetry Judge, Gary Fogarty and helped set the scene for the Sunday Morning activities.

The new venue, adjacent to the Cook House proved popular and helped swell the audience to well in excess of 100. Once again Bush Poetry was the winner with many 'new listeners' going away with a new perception of Bush Poetry.

Judges, Chris Jensen, Bill Glasson, Kelly Dixon and Gary Fogarty were faced with the task of sorting out over 60 entries and the resulting closeness of the performances saw placegetters separated by the narrowest of margins.

Ray Essary, Frank Daniel, Milton Taylor, Bobby Miller and Tracy Fogarty helped out with the compere duties and impromptu performances.

Congratulations to all the winners, especially 'Bluey' Bostock who, as Over-all Winner was asked to perform in front of a large crowd on the festivals main stage. All agreed that there was not one sub-standard performance on the day. The efforts of each and every competitor were equally as important as the prize-winners in promoting Bush Poetry to a new audience, and the organisers congratulate them on a job well done.

Thank you also to the organisers and the sponsors. It is now up to the Bush Poets to make an effort to support this festival again in 1998.

Here at Jondaryan stands the basis of what could become a very important event in the Bush Poetry Calendar. Competition results on page 4.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ABPA INC.

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc. was held at the historic Jondaryan Woolshed, mid-way between Toowoomba and Dalby in Queensland, on Sunday 23rd of March. The meeting followed the finals of the bush poetry competition held over the weekend.

Frank Daniel was returned as President of the Association for another term with a new Secretary-Treasurer in Mrs. Olive Shooter of Allora Qld.

First Vice President is R.J. (Bobby) Miller of Mungar Q. and Second Vice President Merv. 'Bluey' Bostock of Woodridge Q.

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Inc. presents the **AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL KIAMA NSW**

Friday 6th to Monday 9th. June 1997
A celebration of Australian folk music, dance,
culture & heritage.

Performers include Pat Drummond, Harvest Moon,
Guy Hall, Claire, Dennis O'Keefe, Dave Benuik,
Pamela Drysdale, Gerard Cafe, Wongawilli, Frank Daniel,
'Blue the Shearer', Graeme Johnson.

Pre festival tickets only \$20 til May 31.
Contact Bev (042) 360 701

Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

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Phone 07 3209 3200

Fireside Festival

- LONGYARD HOTEL -

TAMWORTH NSW

May 31 - June 1 - 1997

Poets Brawls - Breakfasts - Workshops

Galah Awards Night

The Best of the Bush

with

Jim Haynes

CHANGE OF DATE 'INTERLUDES'

SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

2pm. (2nd. Floor — above the Library) **2pm.**

ASHFIELD CIVIC CENTRE

260 LIVERPOOL RD. ASHFIELD NSW

Enquiries. Joye Dempsey (02) 9797 7575

THE NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH "THE OUTBACK MUSTER" LONGREACH QLD.

2nd, 3rd, 4th May, 1997

Contemporary and Traditional Poetry
Poet's Cup — Yarn Spinning — Music
Writing and Performance Workshops
Tuesday 29th. Wednesday 30th. April and
Thursday 1st. May.

Dinner, Verse and Song Evening
Sunday Evening 4th. May
NOPA, P.O. Box 518 Longreach Q 4730
Ph. (076) 581 718 - FAX (076) 583 198

CLONCURRY BUSH FESTIVAL

and

Mary Kathleen Reunion

Queens Birthday Weekend

Thur 5th to Mon 9th. June 1997

Written and Performance Poetry Challenge
Country Music Talent Quest
Inaugural Australasian

Performance Poetry Championship
Lynne Darby Memorial Award - \$1,000

Triathlon - Rodeo - Goat Racing - Go-karts
Line Dancing - Dog Trials - Buskers
Damper Feast - Fred Brophy's Boxing Tent
Whip-Cracking - Free camping

Free admittance to all major events
SSAE to Cloncurry Telecentre
P.O. Box 455 Cloncurry Q. 4824

Convener: Michael Darby
Ph. 077 422 366 - Fax 422 199

— WANTED —

BUSH POETS

MERRIWA NSW

Festival of the Fleece

Contact: Ros Stair (The Girl From Gungal)
(065) 476 075

June 6 — 9 1997

'ONLY YOKING'

Fair Dinkum Australian Poems and Songs
from

MAX JARROT and NOELENE MILLS

Cassette available from Max Jarrot
15 Palm Street Killarney Queensland 4373

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Ph. (076) 641 115 ah. (076) 641 606

Presidents Letter.....

Dear members of the ABPA,

Thank you to the many members who took time and trouble to write, fax, email and telephone their support for me, for their overwhelming encouragement and my resultant re-election as President. Thank you all for your confidence.

First of all I would like to introduce and welcome Mrs. Olive Shooter of Allora Qld. to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. I know that Mrs. Shooter has the required skills and the capabilities of carrying out her duties to the benefit of the Association.

She has some big shoes to fill after the retiring Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Selby who did not seek re-election.

My heartfelt thanks must also go to the hard working Ron who held this position for three years since the inception of the ABPA, devoting a lot of time and effort to his job and the monthly newsletter.

Bobby Miller of Mungar Qld. and 'Bluey' Bostock of Woodridge Qld. were returned as Vice-Presidents again and I welcome them back in those roles.

Welcome also to the first edition of the new look Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc. Newsletter, which is now being compiled and set up in Canowindra NSW.

Many willing hands have offered assistance and will be called on in time.

Hopefully more news and more poetry coupled with stories and contributions from members will make this letter more interesting.

Poems and letters can now be sent direct to my address or to Mrs. Shooter. I would also like to see suitable photo-graphs as well. As much as possible will be published.

News of coming events etc. will be welcomed by whatever means of transmission the sender so desires, postal, email or facsimile.

Committees organising written and or oral competitions are asked to submit details of their respective programmes, etc. as early as possible, remembering that it takes time to pass this valued news on to others who in turn need sufficient time to act.

Organisers are asked to send the results of their competitions and news of their festivals as soon as possible after the event for the information of our readers.

That is all we ask, we will advertise your function in return for news and poetry to share with others.

Check out the coming events in the Calendar on page 10. Make sure your festival or event gets a mention.

Share a bit of a yarn, some good advice and a brand new poem with Murray Hartin on pages 8 and 9.

Keep on writing and reciting,

Regards,

Frank Daniel

MERRIWA NSW

Festival of the Fleece

The annual Festival of the Fleece at Merriwa NSW will again be held on the long week-end in June.

And like all good festivals Merriwa is making way for a full on approach to Bush Poetry. On Friday night June 6th. the ABPA will launch the festival at 8pm at the Merriwa R.S.L Club to be run along the proven lines of the Longyard Hotel with invited poets and an open mic. session.

On the Saturday at 11am there will be a Poet's Lunch following the Grand Parade and the 'Running of the Sheep'. This will incorporate bush poetry, a children's school competition, an open mic. and a coo-ee contest.

Sunday will follow up with more verse recitals and a farewell.

For further enquiries contact Ros Stair at the Fireside Festival in Tamworth or by giving her a call on (065) 476 075.

I Thought I Was An Aussie
(and More Aussie Verse)
by Sandra J. Queensborough Binns
Hard cover publication containing 56 poems
Read about 'Winning the Pools'-
'The Garage Sale' and
'Granny and the Mammogram'
Also available —
'Somewhere Beyond' and 'Full Circle'.
All three books priced at \$10.00 ea. Post paid.
From Sandra J. Binns
P.O. Box 13 Kincumber NSW 2251

JONDARYAN FESTIVAL (Results)

The combined efforts of the Jondaryan Woolshed Country Music Assn. Inc. and the Garden City Country Music Assn. Inc. of Toowoomba saw a pleasant weekend of Country Music, Bush Yarns and Poetry at the historic Jondaryan Woolshed situated some fifty kilometers from Toowoomba on the Dalby road.

The big programme kicked off on the Saturday at 9am with Senior and Junior Male and Female Bush Balladists, Variety and Comedy acts, Gospel, Instrumental and Country Rock competition heats.

Judging was kept at a hectic pace all day with a large number of entrants in each section.

Special guest for the festival was the overall winner for 1996, Sally Gentz.

Sunday morning saw a full catalogue of Poets lining up for the 7 am Breakfast and competition.

The results being as follows:

Male Traditional Bush Verse.

1. Ron 'Bouli' Bates. Gatton Q. 2. Max Jarrot. Killarney Q. 3. 'Bluey' Bostock. Woodridge.Q.

Ladies Traditional Bush Verse.

1. Liz Ward. Mt. Perry Q. 2. Carol Reffold Junior — 16 and under.

1. Carmel Dunn. Warwick Q.

2. Leisa Marie Jackwitz.

Original Male Section.

1. 'Bluey' Bostock. 2. Merv Webster. Bargara Q.

3. Ned Winter. Cecil Plains Q.

Original Female.

1. Liz Ward. 2. Jan Franklin. Eagle View.

3. Flo Hart Mt. Tyson Q.

Original Junior Section.

1. Carmel Dunn of Warwick. Q

Camp Fire Yarns.

1. Merv Webster. 2. Frank Daniel. Canowindra

3. 'Bluey' Bostock.

Ladies Yarn Spinning.

1. Liz Ward. 2. Olive Shooter. Allora Q.

3. Lyn Anderson.

Poets Cutout. (1 minute poetry).

1. Milton Taylor. Portland NSW. 2. Ron Selby.

Drayton Nth. Q. 3. Liz Ward.

Overall Bush Poet - 'Bluey' Bostock.

Kelly Dixon of Camooweal Qld. donated three of his books as encouragement awards to each of the following, Barb Erlanson, Barry Hoffer and Carol Reffold.

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL '97

The Annual Illawarra Folk Festival was another outstanding successful event with warm sunny mornings and misty evenings giving that little bit of 'Old Ireland' in Australia a brighter shade of green as the Guinness rounded off the stories, tales and lies at the local pub.

Poets were in their prime as they performed to full houses each morning at the School of Arts, with audiences exceeding three hundred delighting in the new found quality and standard of the poets.

Twenty five reciters lined up for the Saturday morning with twenty six again on the Sunday. Compere for the Breakfasts and the two Poet's Brawls in the pub was Frank Daniel.

Still more new poets were to be found as 'Blue the Shearer' conducted the new voices section in the afternoons at the Pub.

Russell Hannah took the tall-tale tellers in hand and after a long period of decision making by the judges, awarded the best yarn of the day to the 'Balmain Bug' — Bob Dever. Bob and his wife Carlene are well known followers of the poetry festivals since their first introduction to Bush Poetry at Glen Innes in 1993.

Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts — 40 Years Celebrating

The Central Western NSW town of Grenfell, birth-place of Henry Lawson, is this year holding its 40th. Annual Henry Lawson Festival of the Arts, which is held on the long weekend in June.

The programme for the weekend covers many aspects of the Arts including Poetry in Memorial Park starting from 11.00am on the Saturday morning.

This section is open to any person wishing to read or recite poetry. Co-ordinator for this is June Lal who can be contacted on 02 9625 8577 for further information. Poets in the Pub will be a feature on the Saturday night.

Around a camp-fire with damper and treacle on the Sunday at 10.30 am at the Henry Lawson Obelisk in Lawson Park there will be a reading of some of the poetry and prose of Henry Lawson and others by John Hetherington and Bruce Roberts.

The Festival Committee welcomes all to join them for a most enjoyable weekend and to experience the warmth of Grenfell and its people.

Grenfell Country — A poet's home —
A bushranger's haunt.

POETRY TRIUMPHANT AT THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL!

Canberra — Easter '97

This was a superb year the poets at the National. We had a fare of four days of come-all-ye Poet's Breakfasts, a concert for Bush Liars (most ably hosted by Terry Gleeson), another for Bush Poets and Yarnspinners (where Blue the Shearer held sway), and of course the Second World Debate!

Our International guest Les Barker from England, perpetrator of such classic recitations as *Cosmo the Fairly-Accurate Knife Thrower* and *Daschunds With Erections Can't Climb Stairs* captained most ably the winning Rest of the World Team. This is despite his getting the subject "Poetry is Truth" wrong, and instead holding forth on the subject "Pottery is Truth", upon which subject he was of course in a class of his own.

With his fellow team members Blue the Shearer and Bernard Bolan he swept all before him, the flow-over crowd so packing out the auditorium they were crammed onto the stairs outside. Their opponents, the Tasmanian Team (Tasmania being this year's Featured State at the Festival), led most ably by Margaret Scott, supported by Stan Gottschalk and Anne Edgeworth, fought gallantly. Moderator Martin Pearson had to call for a show of hands, the cheers for both sides being equally deafening, in order to reach a verdict.

I am obliged here to record that as Captain of the winning team, Les has become for the next year Keeper of the Fart, and is taking this hallowed Icon (captured in a Vegemite jar) with him back to Britain (via the United States). As has all Keepers over the last 15 years he has of course undertaken to ensure its return next year, as the prize for another joust.

This year also saw the unveiling of a magnificent new Ironbark and Huon Pine Trophy, the *National Folk Festival Reciters' Award*, crafted by last year's winner Terry Gleeson. This trophy replaced the worse-for-wear original, initiated in 1983. It bears of course the names of all the winners over the last 15 years. The Trophy is awarded for what is judged the best individual performance at the Festival Poets' Breakfasts. This year's winner is Warren 'Arch' Bishop, a splendid reciter and bush poet from Mt. Druitt.

The Festival seeks also to encourage emerging poets and reciters. To this end Blue the Shearer gave a workshop on *Writing for an Audience*, and

Margaret Scott one on *Writing Poetry*. Margaret, an eminent and widely anthologised Poet also gave a workshop on *The Poetry of Tasmania*, her adopted State. Margaret and Les Barker also appeared in major Festival concerts, alongside internationally acclaimed singers and musicians.

So popular, in fact, was Les that by halfway through the Festival he had sold his entire stock of over 300 books, which he had expected to last him not only for his Australian tour but also his forthcoming tour of the United States! He was, without doubt, the hit of the Festival.

As co-ordinator of the Festival's Spoken Word Program, I have in the past had to fight to ensure poetry is given its due prominence at the Festival. The success of this year's Program will, I am confident, ensure that fight will be a lot, lot easier in future. Put the 1998 National Folk Festival on your calendar *NOW!!!*
(Keith McHenry)

Mickety Mulga.

T. Ranken.

He worked wid us at Wantigong —
Old Mickety Mugla Jim.
We'd all a-gone blue mouldy if
It 'adn't bin for him.
He'd keep us yarnin' at the fire,
An' laughin' be the hour
At 'is amusin' anecdotes,
Be George, he 'ad a power.
'E told us up in Queensland, where
'Ed never go again,
He come to some dry water-'ole
Upon a ten-mile plain.
The tank was dry, and Jim was dry,
But be a 'appy thought,
He wrung 'is empty water-bag
An' got about a quart;
But couldn't find a stick o' wood
To bile his billy by,
So stuck a match into the grass,
Which then was pretty dry.
He 'eld the billy to the flame
Wid a bit of fencing wire,
But 'ad to go to foller it,
So rapid run the fire.
Five miles across the flamin' plain
He raced that fire, did he,
But when at last the billy biled,
He 'ad forgot the tea!

The Drover's Sorrow

A lonely grave past foothills that I think of every day.
He lies forever sleeping where the sighing she-oaks sway.
The sun shines on the sandstone midst the rocky cliff o'er head;
I mourn a million heart aches and the things I left unsaid.

I sat upon the sandstone and my thoughts free rein I gave
to years of wandering sadness and the lonely stockman's grave.
Though years may banish sorrow there's so much I can't forget;
in far flung camps on lonely nights my comrade is regret.

The words I've sadly spoken — alas, it's all too late —
could I have just a brief few said while I still had my mate.
A haunting presence ever flits that years are slow to hide;
a phantom horseman silent glides through shadows by my side.

There's beauty in the silence and the scent of wattle bloom.
All's tranquil and all's peaceful as the evening shadows loom.
Now I must follow my weary trail, my yearly rituals done;
that stockman's lonely grave-site bare secludes my only son.

'The Drover's Sorrow'
by Ellis Campbell took out third prize in the Australia Day Bush Verse Competition, Dubbo NSW, 1985.

Later set to music and won the Orana Music Festival Song Writing Competition, 1988.

(From **'Eye of the Beholder'**)

What a lot of Bull!!!

Those born under Taurus
Are known as 'down to earth.'
Pragmatic, organise quite well.
Not very strong on mirth.
Not terribly romantic,
Rather prone to rages,
Aggressive, argumentive,
Should be kept in cages.
Tauruses are stubborn,
Their manner, sometimes rough,
But there are redeeming features,
If you look hard enough.

Apr. 21- May 20. **'Blue the Shearer'**

New Release

'Eye Of The Beholder'

by

ELLIS CAMPBELL

A selection Prize Winning Poems, ranging from humorous Bush Verse and Ballads to more serious style Contemporary Poetry — entertaining and thought provoking.

\$12.00pp

Ellis Campbell 1 Lawson St Dubbo 2830

BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL WRITING COMPETITION

The Orange (NSW) Banjo Paterson Festival Committee is pleased to announce that their writing competition had a fantastic response with over 700 entries pouring in from all States of Australia. The Committee was particularly pleased with the high standard of the entries.

Part of the Annual Banjo Paterson Festival held in February each year celebrating the birth of this great author and poet, the competition was divided into three sections, Poetry, Prose and Comic Poetry.

The winners of the 1997 Competition were:

Poetry — 1st. David Astle. Thornbury Vic.

2nd. John Bird. Ocean Shores NSW. 3rd. Peter J. Hanbury. Alstonville NSW.

Prose — 1st. David Astle Thornbury Vic.

2nd. Garth Madsen. Frankston Heights Vic. 3rd. Helen C. Avery. Longreach Queensland.

Comic Poetry — Tug Dumbly. Glebe NSW.

LIMERICK WRITERS LAMENT

Old mate, if I wasn't 'alf dead,
The words would've flowed from me 'ead.
But the grog once again,
'as infected me brain (hic!)
So I'll scribble this dribble instead!

Marco.

PALMA ROSA POETS

Trisha Anderson of the Palma Rosa poets writes of yet another successful of poetry presented by our two Waltzing Matilda Australian Bush Poetry Champions, Milton Taylor or Portland NSW, and Glennie Palmer of Cedarvale, Qld.

Having just returned from their prize-winning trip to the Cowboy Poet's Gathering in Elko, Nevada, they were able to give a feast of poetry, stories and anecdotes about their trip.

The Palma Rosa is a beautiful heritage listed house owned by The English Speaking Union in Brisbane and is proving an excellent venue for followers of bush poetry.

Further late news from Palma Rosa on page 16.
Enquiries to Trisha Anderson (07) 3268 3624

**1997 POETRY COMPETITION
MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA**

Written Compositions - \$ 5.00 per entry.

Entries close 23rd. June 1997.

**1. John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize
(Entries to reflect a Celtic-Australian Theme)**

**2. Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize
(for Bush Verse)**

Recital Events (Free entry)

Entries close 26th. July 1997

**3. Open Will Ogilvie Poetry Recital
(Poem to be composed by Will Ogilvie)**

**4. Open Traditional or Established
Bush Verse.**

5. Open Original Bush Verse.

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST 1997

**Royal Mail Hotel
HUNGERFORD QLD.**

**Entry forms from
Bob McPhee**

**8 Jahn Drive Glenore Grove Qld. 4342
(07) 5466 5269**

Could We Know

By Edith Mary Loughnan - 1895

Could we know the loss and sorrow
That the days to come may bring,
Would we toil on bravely Darling
Could we ever care to sing.
Oh! I think our steps would falter
And our eyes with tears grow dim
When our voices catch the cadence,
Of a sad despairing him.

Could we see the thorns and briars
Growing tall about our road,
Hearts would lose their hope and courage
And sink down beneath their load.
Lo: the thorns will wound our feet
If we try to venture through them
We will surely find defeat.

Oh! Thank God! The clouds are hidden
That the coming days may bring
In the sunshine of the present
let us journey on and sing.
Help us pluck the flowers growing
In the grass about our feet
And forget about the briars
Till their thorns we chance to meet.

Let us bridge life's snares and pitfalls
With a faith that's brave and strong
And keep up our hearts by singing
One and all a cheerful song.
Many a voice will lose it's sadness
As it joins the cheerful strain
By remembering that the sunshine
Always follows after rain.

In 1894, Edith Mary Saunders, married Joseph Loughnan, and went to live at 'Kurrajong' Station, on the Narran River in Northern NSW.

Soon afterwards, Edith wrote this Poem which is reproduced from a compilation by Elaine Thompson for the Brewarrina Historical Society Inc.

Attention Aussie Bards.

From the Editor of the newsletter of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia comes news of the society's next poetry competition.

Four years ago they commenced with a single poetry competition for written compositions reflecting a Celtic-Australian theme, known as "*The John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize*".

Last year they included a new section for 'Bush Verse' named in honour of Will Ogilvie.

This year a recital competition has been included as well and will be conducted at the Royal Mail Hotel (1875) in the south west Queensland town of Hungerford, on Saturday 2nd. of August.

In september last year Paul Roe of the Bourke Tourist Information Centre conducted a poets 4WD tour in the Bourke District, and the tour stayed at the hotel in Hungerford overnight.

More news of this event will follow in later issues.



POET IN THE CITY. . . .

Dear Frank and ABPA members,

As a matter of courtesy I had better state who I am from the outset. My name is Murray Hartin. Some might know me as The Big Mouth Bastard who used to live in Tamworth who's now battling to stay alive in Sydney. Well, it's a war of attrition but, against the odds, I think I am getting the upper hand.

It was great to get back to the Country Music Festival in January and, while it's probably said every year, I believe this was the best Tamworth Festival for a long time - especially for the poets.

With verse being sprouted at the Longyard, Imperial, Oasis, Heritage Theatre, various tents, stages and supermarkets as well as the new venue for the Poets, Preachers and Liars. (alias the Naked Poets), the Tamworth Golf Club. If the punters couldn't find some decent poetry they weren't trying very hard.

We, being Marco Giori, Bobby Miller, Shirley Friend, Ray Essary, musical duo 'Scrubby Gully' (Fat Hardy and Dave Sims) and myself, had an absolute ball at the Golf Club with three sell-out shows and it looks like we'll be backing up with four shows there next year.

On the home front, I've been making some decent headway in the field of corporate entertainment to the extent where it is my sole source of income. I'm also doing plenty of sporting luncheons and dinners having performed for the Australian Cricket team, the Australian Rugby team as well as having a hack around various courses on charity golf days.

The response from city audiences is vastly different to that of festival-type audiences who know what to expect and are conditioned to this form of entertainment. Sometimes you feel you're performing to a school of dead fish, when in fact they are just soaking it all up, concentrating and absorbing all of the words. But what you quickly realise is that here is a largely untapped reservoir of people who, while they may not know it just yet, are screaming out for traditional-style Australian verse.

The reason I say "traditional-style" is that in a foreign/city/non-rural environment you have to be careful not to alienate your audiences. They must be able to relate in some way, even if only sympathetically, to what you're talking about. Look, I've died on stage a couple of times here in Sydney - it is not something you want to go through - so here's a few tips if you're about to do a city gig to minimize the risk of "Dig me a hole and get me out of here!"

* You're the entertainer, you dictate the terms and conditions.

Don't fall for the "We'll put you on at 10pm, they'll be drunk by then and they'll love you."

WRONG! If they're drunk they won't listen. Get on as early as you can.

* The sound must be good so get them to guarantee a quality sound system.

If sections of the audience can't hear you properly they will start talking. This spreads like wildfire and your performance can be shot to ribbons.

* The audience must be able to see you.

To hold an audience you must be in front of them with an ability to have eye contact with every single one. Roving mikes (for walking through an audience) aren't a good idea because once you walk past people, turn your backs on them, you've lost their attention and the talking starts.

*Material

The audience must be able to relate to your subject matter. Even if it's crocodile-wrestling, don't use terminologies and phrases that they won't understand. Layman's terms is the Golden Rule. I believe humour is important if you are to be on stage for a lengthy period of time (15-30 minutes). If they laugh with you, they'll cry with you. You can set up your serious poems with a couple of quick, funny pieces, even if they're jokes.

* Banter.

Often what makes a performance is the banter, the chit-chat in between poems. This gives you a chance to really win the audience. Just a couple of anecdotes from your private life, growing up or whatever and use them as a link to your next poem. It creates better flow and adds a bit of home-grown charm to the performance.

*Leave them wanting more.

Don't give them everything. Unless you're in a guest-speaking role, 20-30 minutes is more than enough time on stage. Less is more. Give them a good sharp bracket and they'll get you back next week, next month, next year and you'll have fresh material up your sleeve. This is your best form of advertising and your next potential 20 clients are probably in the audience. Do it right and you get their business too.

Some of that might sound a bit clinical, maybe it takes the fun out of performing. Not True! If everything's spot-on you'll feel better about it yourself. I get a great buzz out of performing and it's much better than feeling like you've been kicked in the guts when you're dying on stage and it's all because you're on too late and the sound's no good,

It's happened to me twice in Sydney and it's something you never forget. Take any steps you can to avoid it.

One last tip on that. If there are sound problems or a drunk audience, give it five minutes, 2 - 3 poems, and if it can't be fixed or doesn't get better, thank them very much for their attention and get off. There's no point flogging a dead horse. You can only do your best.

Thanks for your time. I hope these points might help a few people. They're a couple of lessons I learnt the hard way. I feel privileged to be able to make a living out of something I love doing. We've got a wonderful craft and there's no reasons why we shouldn't share it.

See you in Tamworth in '98 if not before.

Murray Hartin.

Pssst! — Wanna buy a book?

'A Few Quiet Words'

A SELECTION OF POEMS

by Murray Hartin

Including 'Fishin' for Cod' and 'The Big Mouth Awards'

Can't read eh? Well have a listen to a good cassette

'Bush Poetry. . . . You're Kiddin'!

by the same fulla.

Ten bucks for the book — Fifteen for the tape or cop the

lot for only \$20.00 pp.

MURRAY HARTIN c/- 7 Mayo Plce

Killarney Heights 2087 (014) 496 758

COLOURS

© Murray Hartin

What are the colours of Australia, are they simply green and gold
Or the grey that haunts a city in a winter wet and cold
Where the drizzle drowns the bitumen, its blackness oozing pain,
Before swirling down the gutters to find the sea again
A bitter sea that offers comfort when the weather's clear and warm
And the breakers crown an ocean that is every shade of blue
Crashing to a golden shore - that's Australia through and through
Where white zinc noses glisten under hair as black as coal
Or the light blonde locks of lifeguards on a Bondi Beach patrol
But has Australia more to offer than a world of sea and sand
The answer to the question lies within the rainbow land
For if you venture far away from the beach and city streets
You might see the golden splendour of a ripened field of wheat
Or a fresh-ploughed North-West paddock on an apparent endless plain
Where the dark brown earth turns darker when it's drenched by soothing rain
That sings songs upon a tin roof where underneath a homestead wife
Is laughing with her children as they drink the smell of life
And this brings a pearly smile to a sunburnt farmer's face
And he gives thanks to the heavens for another act of grace
Or wander to a valley where the magic fruit of vines
Is caressed by master vintners 'til it fills a glass with wine
Rich burgundies and Chardonnay's, each a colour in itself
All destined for the darkness of a dusty cellar shelf
But keep on heading westward across this wide brown land
Then you'll marvel at the Simpson with its shifting desert sands
Sunbleached gold and yellow as they struggle to escape
To an horizon which by heatwaves has been twisted out of shape
But push on to the centre to see what it holds for you
You'll stare in sheer amazement at the sight of Uluru
The red-hot rock at midday is a scene you won't forget
Then you'll watch its colour change as the sun begins to set
Those harsh and vivid visions that by day were burning bright
Take on softer pastel hues as they usher in the night
For nature is the artist and her canvas is the earth
And each day is a masterpiece transcending mortal worth
In her rich Australian gallery her paintings have no peer
From a jet-black moonless night to running water crystal clear
From a snow-capped Kosciusko to a forest charred by flame
Every worldly colour lies within Australia's earthy frame.

DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY PUBLICATION: 15th. day of the month of issue.

But please don't wait till that day. The early bird catches the worm!

Send copy to P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804 or Fax. (063) 441 962

Thank you to the following contributors to this month's Newsletter. Helen Avery — Trisha Anderson
Murray Hartin — Gary Fogarty — Bob Miller — Robert Raftery — Harry Bowers — Keith McHenry
Ros Stair — Bob McPhee — Bette Sheils — Milton Taylor — Ellis Campbell — Paul Mayes —
Christiana Kern — Henry Lawson Society, Grenfell — Geoffrey Graham — 'Blue the Shearer'.

POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- May
2 - 3 - 4. **National Outback Performing Arts & Outback Muster — NOPA Awards**
Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre — Longreach Qld.
Enquiries to the Secretary. (076) 581 718 Fax.(076) 583 198
- May 4 **Murray Hartin** live at the **Bundanoon Hotel — Bundanoon NSW 2pm**
Enq. Jennifer Compton. (048) 836 005
- May 5 Closing date for **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Competition 1997**
Traditional bush verse — to 100 lines. Open 'Golden Cockatoo Award' and Junior
'Silver Budgie Award' (under 16) Entry fee \$3.00 per poem.
The Co-ordinator. P.O. Box 4715 Biloela Q. 4715 (079) 929 521 Fax (079) 924 137
- May 30 - **Fireside Festival — Longyard Hotel — Tamworth.**
- June 1 Best of the Bush with Jim Haynes.
Friday 6pm. Poets in the Pub — Saturday. Poets Breakfast, Poets Brawl, Yarns and
Tall Tales. Galah Concert 7 PM. Wall of Renown Inductees.
Sunday. Poets Breakfast and grand Farewell.
- June 5 - 9 **Cloncurry Bush Festival and Mary Kathleen Reunion**
Country Music Talent Quest. Written and Performance Poetry Competitions
Line Dancing — Triathlon — Send SSAE to Cloncurry Telecentre P.O. Box 455
Cloncurry Qld. 4824 Convener Michael Darby. Ph. (077) 422 366 Fax (077) 422 199
- June 6 - 9 Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Inc presents the
Australian Folk Festival — Kiama NSW — A celebration of Australian Folk music,
songs, dance, poetry, yarnspinning, and heritage with Concerts - Poets Breakfasts -
Dancers — Masked Ball — workshops. Enquiries: Bev. (042) 360 701 Fax. 571 787
- June 6 - 9 **Merriwa NSW. Festival of the Fleece.** More news later.
- June 6 - 9 **Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc. Gulgong NSW**
Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award for recorded poem — Busking Comp.
Short Story and Verse writing competitions. Entries close 11.4.1997
Enquiries to P.O. Box 235 Gulgong NSW 2852 (063) 742 049 — 741 668.
- June 6 - 9 **The 40th. Annual Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Inc. (NSW)**
Poetry in the Park — Poets in the Pub — Poetry and Prose.
Co-ordinator: June Lal 02 9625 8577 Festival enquiries: (063) 431 003
- June 13 **Central Queensland Bush Poetry Championships — Rockhampton Qld.**
Performance Poetry only. Enq. Kath Ireland. 409 Peterson Ave. Rockhampton Qld 4701
- June 22nd. Twilight performance at **Palma Rosa. 5.00pm.** With the **N.O.P.A. Performance Poets.**
Palma Rosa. 9 Queens Rd. Hamilton Brisbane. Q. Enq. (07) 3268 3624 — 3262 3769
- June 30. **Palma Rosa. "The Geoffrey Graham Show"** 7.00pm. Enquiries as per above.
- July
4 - 5 - 6 **The Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster and Concert** Across the Waves Sports Club.
Presented by the Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.
Enq. Merv Webster Secretary. 8 Hawaii Court Bargara Qld. (071) 563 178
- August.
16 - 17 **The Cobb & Co. Battered Bugle Bush Verse Competition. Surat Qld.**
In conjunction with the opening of the Cobb & Co Change Station. More news later.
- October
4 - 5 **North Pine Bush Poets Group — Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival**
Pioneer Village Country Music Hall North Pine Country Park Dayboro Rd. Petrie Qld.
Enquiries to Patti Coutts (07) 3886 1552 Louise Dean (07) 3260 5506
- Regular Events. 1st. Sunday of each month.**
Poets Get-together— Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum Qld. (074) 491 991
Bundanoon Hotel Bundanoon NSW (048) 836 005
- First Monday of Month.**
Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Margaret St. Toowoomba Q.
Ron Selby (076) 301 106
- Second Sunday of Month**
'Interludes' **Ashfield Civic Centre** — 260 Liverpool Rd. Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- Third Friday of Month.**
Poetic Folk — **Rooty Hill School Of Arts.** Cnr. Barker St. & Rooty Hill Rd South.
Enquiries to Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245

Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Competition

The Banana Shire Council is running a written Bush Poetry Competition in recognition of Charlee Marshall who lived in the Banana Shire for many years.

Last year Marco Gliori and John Major and others inaugurated the Award with two poet's breakfasts at the Biloela Country Campout over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The Awards are being held in recognition of Charlee Marshall who was a major force behind the renewed interest in Australian bush verse and an influence on many writers and performers.

Charlee was born and raised in Central Queensland and for thirty years made his home at 'Yaparaba' near Thangool in the Banana Shire.

The usual condition of entry apply. Further information can be found in the Poet's Calendar on page 8. **Entries close on May 5th.** (So hurry!)

The awards will be presented at the Biloela Country Music Festival 6 - 8 June 1997.

BOOK LAUNCH

A new book of poems is set to be launched in Tenterfield at Bruxners Park in the main street on Saturday 10th. May 1997 at 10 am.

Written and published by June Milne of Tenterfield, this book is entitled "The Birthplace of Our Nation" and will be launched by Fred Hillier of the ABC in Tamworth.

One dollar of the receipts per book will be donated to the Helicopter Rescue Service which is sponsored by the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

The Quota Club will also receive a further one dollar per book sold in its quest for funding for the Diabetes Research.

Overseas Tour....

Well known and respected members of the ABPA, Ian and Tora Tarlington of Gayndah Qld. will be parking their much travelled four-wheel drive under a gum tree for the next four months as they tour the USA, England, Ireland and Scotland before spending a lengthy period with Tora's family in Denmark. Ian and Tora have covered a large number of Festivals throughout Queensland since discovering Bush Poetry at the Centenary Celebrations in Winton in 1995.



'SAUNTER TOPEE' ©Harry Bowers.

(Script for old-time sequence dance.)

I have seen some old time dancers
do some fancy stepping out,
they say Ogievie from Queensland
is as good as most about;
but I saw a bloke from Melbourne
who could beat Col Ogievie,
tho' where he got his script from
is a mystery to me.

He put his left foot forward,
swivelled right foot to the side,
then did a kind of forward square
as in the Palais Glide.
Side together, side and close
with angle to the wall,
some quick steps like a Chassis
and yet not quite that at all.

Then he did a reverse pivot,
stepped across to fall away,
four more quickies going forward —
promenade and rondelay.
Then three more quicks together
like some Tango-style Cha cha,
then he stopped and smiled — he'd made it
to the toilet from the bar.

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HAUNTING OF THE HILLS

© Bette Shiels

If you should stray down Gippsland way,
To a place in Eastern Victoria,
Where the grey dead trees, like statues freeze,
High hills, devoid of euphoria.

There are legends told by bushmen bold,
How those hills once stood majestic,
When late at night, drovers fled in fright
From Corroborees quite fantastic.

They were Spiritual blacks, who left no tracks
And their dance goes on forever.
In the dead of night, Oh, the ghostly sight,
Setting bushmen's hearts aquiver.

There are stories told of the deadly cold
At the setting of the winter sun.
As the eagle flies 'cross the darkened skies,
And the phantom cattle run.

But no drover's whip is heard to quip
When the red-eyed herds stampede
O'er the haunted ground, with awesome sound,
Lightning bolts soon supersede.

In more modern days, no cattle graze
On the fields of the Haunted Hills.
Still late at night there's a ghostly sight
Oft sensed with an aura that chills.

Brave men of cheer still witness the fear
On the ribbon of bitumen there.
Truck drivers who talk to the drovers who walk
In search of a long vanished mare.

In Traralgon town many folk will frown
At mention of the Haunted Hills.
They blame the coal in a burning hole
Subterranean fires time kills.

Turning mountain sides to a place that hides
Hollow channels, that cause sound to erupt,
And the mind askew, conjures ghostly hue,
In visions both diverse and abrupt.

So if you should dare to meander there,
And your common sense vision is sound,
Check out the site, but prepare to take flight
From the blackfellows' burial ground.

The accompanying poem was sent in by Bette Shiels, who, with husband Colin has just returned to live in sunny Queensland after a short recluse in their home state of Victoria.

Bette, of Bundaberg, writes that she had always been scared of the Haunted Hills, but after considerable research she says, 'this is the result'. (I think she means the poem - not her return to Queensland.)

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

News from Winton Queensland indicates that the scene has been well and truly set for another great battle of the Bush Bards in an endeavour to find two more Australian Champion Bush Poets to send to the Cowboy Poet's Gathering in Elko, Nevada in 1998.

Judges for the Championships are Veronica Weal of Mt. Isa, David Willis of Croydon NW Qld. and Lou Amiet.

Veronica Weal lives in the Mt. Isa area of far North-West Queensland.

She has been writing for as long as she can remember and was published in the Hoofs and Horns at age fourteen

Concentrating on writing since 1982, Veronica has established herself as one of Australia's top Bush Poets with placings in many of the major writing competitions in the country.

David Mills has lived in the North-West of Queensland for the past twenty five years.

He and his brother own a cattle property near Croydon in the Gulf Country (managed by his brother).

David is presently Librarian at Longreach High School, but has spent many years 'Pub Crawling' for the Department of Education throughout the West and North-West of the State gleaning information, poems, stories and yarns for preservation.

Lou Amiet was a practising Teacher for the Department of Education having had thirty two years experience in Rural and Outback Australia.

He was a Principal for fourteen years, specialised in teaching English at all year levels.

Presently employed as a Wordsmith, Lou is interested in all forms of poetry, is an avid collector of Anthologies, Bush Poetry and Ballads. He is a Poet, short story writer and professional Yarn Spinner, collecting material from Outback Pubs and Towns.

Profile.... Bill Glasson

Bill Glasson was born in 1924 and was educated at the Brisbane Boys College.

He grew up with the rhyme and metre of Paterson and Lawson in his ears, and it was to be expected that should a verse ever flow from his pen it would be in the vein of those old time greats.

He was a jackaroo on 'Lara Downs' Julia Creek Qld. for two years and at eighteen joined the Army, later re-mustering to the R.A.A.F.

Bill married Del Lister in 1947 and they have two sons, two daughters and eleven grandchildren.

It was no surprise that when Bill began to write verse in the early seventies, his stories were mainly of the bush and of those who lived in it.

There are tales of people and places he has known throughout western Queensland over the past sixty years, with an occasional tale told to him as a boy on his father's knee, which go back a further fifty years.

He has a deep love of the land and it's people and history, and this is apparent in many of his verses. Forty-one years of his life were spent on properties at Roma, Richmond, Narangba, Moonie and Pilton.

These days he runs a few cattle, plays bowls with the Clifton Bowls Club and writes in his spare time.

His home, which is described in 'The New Farm' in his book, looks over the very pretty Pilton Valley to the Great Dividing Range away in the east. 'It is a lovely spot', says Bill, who hopes it will inspire him to write more ballads and verses over the next few years.

Some of Bill's credits are notably, "The New Farm" winner of 'The Bronze Swagman Award', 1979.

'A Child Shall Lead Them', winner of the 'The Henry Lawson Diamond Shears Poetry Competition', 1985.

'The Diggers', third in the 'Gympie Gold Rush Festival Literary Awards', 1987.

Much of Bill's verse has appeared in the many journals and rural newspapers throughout Queensland. Drop a line to Bill Glasson at 'Springfield' M.S. 544 Clifton Qld. 4361

Middle Age

Bill Glasson ©

When you reach the half a hundred
It deserves a special toast,
Though it's not quite time to think about
Retiring to the coast.
And it isn't unexpected
If you've worked and knocked about,
That the joints begin to wobble
And the parts start wearing out.

I find now that when I wrestle
A big 'mickey' in the crush,
That the flush of youth is gone,
It's just my face that has the flush.
I am pretty good till smoko,
Then I go half pace till three,
But by five o'clock I know I'm not
The boy I used to be.

So I come home looking forward
To a rum before I sup;
Down I sit — whoops — take it easy,
For the piles are playing up;
Still I battle on so bravely
Limping noisily about.
"Not to worry Mother darling,
Just a little touch of gout."

There's no need at all to panic,
I'm on every kind of pill.
Zyloprim and salacylic, epsom salts,
They cure or kill.
With Pluravit each morning,
Zinc and lots of Multi B,
And the liniment, for Mother
To get down and rub my knee.

There's a bit of fun left in me
So I'll steady down a bit;
Have a round of golf each Sunday,
Slice or hook each ball I hit.
I'll go fishing in the Moonie,
Take up Bowls, I'll have a ball;
I might live to be a hundred,
Wobbly joints, worn parts and all.

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COWBOY POETS GATHERING ELKO NEVADA USA

Glenny Palmer and Milton Taylor were very much impressed by events which they were part of at Elko Nevada during their recent trip to the Cowboy Poets Gathering.

The hospitality of the locals was overwhelming, making performance at the festival an easy task.

The genuine friendliness and acceptance by the Cowboy Poets they met was also a highlight.

The talent and the expertise of the American reciters was wonderful, and their presentations complimented the Aussies' whenever they shared a stage.

Glenny and Milton were allotted seven schools to perform at in the Elko district, and were gratified by the positive response from the kids. Wherever you go, kids are kids, and Bush Poetry is proof of this. The school workshops also featured 'Cowboy Celtic', a talented Folk group from Canada whose music was fabulous. The combination of Bush Poetry and music proved a winning formula.

The main venue was a performance hall of 2,000 capacity, which for the three main days of the festival, held full house shows for up to five shows per day. Adjacent to the main hall were smaller concert rooms of 140 seat capacity, which were also fully utilised for the poetry concerts, workshops and displays.

Night time shows at other venues throughout the city (Casinos, schools halls, clubs etc) were also fully used. At the conclusion of the nights events a jam session took place at the Stockman's Casino and it was possible to recite or sing or yarn with other people until 3am.

The Western Folklife Centre held a saddlery display which was remarkable. Art in leather!

The Folklife Centre also hosted concerts, Glenny and Milton performed there on closing night. Tickets for this show were sold out 15 minutes after went on sale in November. This indicates the interest which Aussie Bush Poetry holds in America. As with their other concerts the Aussies' were greatly appreciated and the feedback indicated that USA audiences fully understood Australian poetry.

The Aussie duo held a concert at the Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles prior to returning home. Once again, they were given a marvellous reception, city people enjoyed their work as much as the country people in Elko did.

Milton and Glenny would like to thank so many Australian poets, past and present, whose work they performed in addition to their own, to make their performances the success they proved to be.

They extend their heartfelt thanks also to their fellow poets and poetry lovers for the expressions of good wishes for their tour. Having the thoughts of their friends with them made their journey a breeze.

They also wish to thank Qantas and the Winton Tourist Promotion Association for their generosity and congratulate them for their commitment to Australian Bush Poetry.

NOPA — LONGREACH 1997

News to hand from the organisers of the National Outback Performing Arts and The Outback Muster at the Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach Qld. takes a very positive note.

Preparations for this big event are looking good and the many nominations have been received for the different sections. Many more are however expected at the last minute.

Longreach is experiencing a wonderful season — the countryside looks magnificent — everyone is enthusiastic and open to pleasure and this will surely make NOPA another great event on the Poets Calendar. A successful weekend is assured.

There will be plenty to do! The Ringers Muster, Wicketty Wak, A Footy Carnival, NOPA, Australian Marionette Theatre — in all, enough to give local organisers a stroke, but should ensure a great weekend for visitors.

NOPA's format remains much the same — Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening performances. Poets Breakfasts on the Saturday and the ever popular Sunday lunchtime cruise on the longreach of the Thomson River.

The NOPA committee is delighted that their non-competitive philosophy still has the appeal for both professional and amateur. Much stimulation and inspiration is gained by their visitors and they hope the trip to Longreach can give visitors the same in return.

Further details available from advertisement on page 2.

They met when the soldiers assembled with kitbag and cordite, and wore
The khakis, the brass and the bayonets and the cerebral trappings of war
They were crack shots and rode like the devil with a humour that rattled like Morse
As Infantry mounted and tempered to mateship, slouch hat and the horse.

They firmed up their friendship in training, their mateship was sealed on the Front
'Mid deadly cross-fire and septic pariah and the brutal constraints of "the stunt"
The battle had raged and consumed them, the fighting intense in their zone
That night to the tents came a warhorse, Ben's blood splattered "Ajax", alone.

And Tom to the C.O. petitioned. The Captain he listened and said
"That sector's baptised son, and christened, and consigned to the dying and dead."
"And soldier, permission is censured, I can't spare another young life",
"Deny me a further slim Scripture filed under 'Letters to Wife'."

Tom snapped his heels and saluted, "I'm sorry Sir, I've just got to go".
And the captian remembered a mission on a bleak veldt a lifetime ago.
A certain sad smile claimed the captain as the lantern light bled from the fray
He wished Tom a speedy recovery, with his blessings Pip cantered away.

The moon checker flecked on the corpses and mottled the bronzed armaments
All twisted and still and distorted and smelted in grim monuments
Soon faces presented familiar, then changed into faces of friends
Tom's heart stopped for ages the second he found the pale face that was Ben's.

He felt through Ben's greatcoat and stiffend then hauled his mate's weight on Pip's back
And the enemy sensed in that moment, two heroes at work on the track
Tom entered the tent of the captain and eased the dead body to ground
A general and staff were assembled and acknowledged the moment profound.

And the captain he offered condolence and tendered a solemn refrain
On the noble bequeath of the rescue and Tom's action that ended in vain.
"In vain, Sir?" intoned the young soldier. His statement slit canvas and corps
And washed out amongst the stark faces and the trenches that led to war.

"Ben was alive when I found him. His gallant heart stopped on the way,"
"And in your note home to his Mum Sir, there's something I'd like you to say,"
"Tell her his last thoughts were with her, that Tom Turner will bury her son,"
"And tell her his last words to me Sir, were ... 'Mate, I just knew that you'd come'."

The above poem was written and submitted by Robert Raftery, the Picture Writer
of Brisbane Qld.

In remembering our brave and gallant heroes of the war years this is a fitting tribute for
the Anzac period.

STOP PRESS: — NOPA POETS AND GEOFFREY GRAHAM FOR PALMA ROSA

The Palma Rosa Poets' will be presenting two more shows in the next couple of months at the English Speaking Union 9 Queens Rd. Hamilton Brisbane on Sunday 22nd of June.

The organisers are proud to announce that the National Outback Performing Arts (NOPA) Poets from Longreach and surrounding districts will be appearing at the Palma Rosa.

At time of printing the visiting artists will be Helen Avery, Milton Taylor, Jim O'Connor, Quentin Scott and Elaine Britten.

They will be performing in and around Brisbane promoting the N.O.P.A. Festival and Outback Muster which is held each at the Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre in Longreach.

These poets have a great wealth of experience between them and all have had their works published.

This will be a Poet's Gathering with a difference; a twilight performance at 5pm on the 22nd of June.

Palma Rosa is a beautiful

Bookings are essential and enquiries may be directed to Palma Rosa (07) 3262 3769 or to Trisha Anderson (07) 3268 3624.

.... BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE....

Victorian Poet, actor, singer and writer, Geoffrey Graham will be passing through Brisbane on Wednesday 30th. July and perform his outstandingly entertaining Geoffrey Graham Show, 'Ratbags and Romantics'.

Geoffrey is a brilliant actor and performer and a very funny man. His 'two and a bit hours' show will encompass all his amazing talents and will surely keep the audience enthralled with a dash of Banjo, Henry and Dennis, plus some contemporary material, some of Geoffrey's gems and a blend of poems and songs and yarns that will have the audience yearning for more.

Geoffrey has appeared at the Palma Rosa on two previous occasions with his very successful show "The Man From Ironbark", which is still touring Australia.

The Geoffrey Graham Show will be another night of Aussie mirth to remember at the Palma Rosa on Wednesday 30th July at 7pm.

1997 BEAUDESERT COUNTRY & HORSE FESTIVAL

Aspiring poets will have the opportunity to perform with award-winning writer and bush poet Glenny Palmer at the Beaudesert Country and Horse Festival Bush Poet's Breakfast on Sunday 15th. June.

Australian Ladies Champion Bush Poet Glenny Palmer has performed at many festivals throughout Queensland and along with Milton Taylor represented Australia at the Cowboy Poets Gathering in Elko, Nevada in January this year.

Glenny said her aim when performing her poetry was to make people laugh, cry and think.

"In my show people can identify with the experience and sit back and have a bit of a laugh" she said.

In addition, Tom McIvor, a renowned bush balladeer, singer and song-writer, will be compering the days competition. Tom is a winner top song writing awards and has written wongs for many well-known singers such as Slim Dusty and Col Elliott.

Local residents will have the chance to see Glenny Palmer and perform with her at this festival, in Brayford Park, Beaudesert Qld. at the 8.30 am breakfast, part of the Chamber of Commerce Family Day.

Adults and children are welcome to enter the Bush Poetry competition.

Enquiries regarding the written competition may be made by calling the Festival Co-ordinator, Paul Mayes (07) 5541 4355.



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CASINO — BEEF WEEK

Four ABPA members are in for some much needed spiritual enlightenment when they travel to Casino NSW for the Beef Week Festival in May.

Ray Essary and Bob Miller will team up with those wild west, rootin' tootin' cattle barons, Joye and John Major to provide entertainment to the expected crowd of about ten thousand meat eaters at various events such as the Butcher's Breakfasts and the Bull-yarn Competition.

Publican of the Cecil Hotel, Mr. Thomas George is one of the greatest fans of Bush verse around and was instrumental in bringing the now famous Best of the Bush show to Casino three years ago.

The first breakfast starts at 9.30 on May 29th. with the final show on Sunday June 1st. with a special segment for new voices.

On Saturday 31st. May a fantastic street parade will be held with performers giving live renditions during the morning. Standing room only is expected for the Bull-yarn competition on the Thursday night from 7.30 to 11.00pm.

The spiritual connection is by courtesy of Father Rex Hackett who has agreed to billet the troops for the entire four days. Will Miller dare to recite the 'Bachelor' poems on hallowed ground?

Will Father Hackett use divine intervention to teach Essary how to rhyme? Stay tuned for the next episode.

Rumours.... that Shirley Friend has joined the mile high club were sadly denied by Shirley after a sellout performance by Shirley and Bob Miller at Maroochy Aero Club on 4th. April 1997.

After a mad day's loop the looping in Bob Tait's Pitt Special and then declining to go nude sky diving because the parachute was a bit small, Shirley was so full of adrenaline that she and the 'Maggot' carried the show on until Mid-night.

A whole bus load of poet fanciers travelled from Caboolture for the show and they went home full of praise for the evening's entertainment.

...AND.. After five long years of incessant drought and severall cancellations the Koorinya Picnic Races will be held at the track mid-way between Hughendon and Muttaborra in Outback Queensland from 16th - 18th. May. The track springs to life each year for this historic event providing rain falls early the year as the horses must be grass fed under the local rules.

Bob Miller will be leading several poets including Carmel Randle and the 'Father of Bush Poetry' Billy Hay, who spent most of his thirty years on Queensland Rail in this very area.

The hospitality of the Outback people at these events must be seen to be believed.

POETS GATHERING JINDABYNE NSW

The Poet's Gathering at The Station Resort in Jindabyne for the first 'Snowy Mountains Country Music Festival' at Easter attracted appreciative audiences for each of the three sessions on both Saturday and Sunday.

Cool mornings whetted appetites for the the Poet's Breakfasts in both food and poetry in the open Courtyard, which turned out to be an ideal setting for bush poetry.

The Yarn-Spinning at lunch time on Saturday in Happy Jack's Bar competed with a non-attentive audience and so was moved to the Courtyard on the Sunday for a much better result and to the appreciation of those interested.

Among the Poets and Yarn-spinners were noted versifiers Reg Philips of Albury, Neil Hulm of Lavington, Lorraine McCrimmon of Bungendore, David Myers of Queanbeyan Bush Poets, Christiana Kern of Jindabyne and Terry Regan from the Blue Mountains.

The Camp-fire sessions were by far the most popular, attracting listeners who were truly interested in the spoken word, never fearing the chilly evenings under beautiful starry skies.

Audience participation was the rule around the camp-fire, and many original items were contributed.

Bush Poetry MC for the weekend was ABPA President Frank Daniel who did a terrific job in keeping the audience amused.

Terry Regan of Blaxland NSW received the Station Resort Cow-pat Trophy in recognition of his excellence in writing and reciting. The Cow-pat Trophy was designed in order to put some of the Poo back on the poets who so generously serve it up to their audiences.

For an inaugural Festival the Jindabyne Gathering was a marvellous success and certainly one to look forward to, in the light of the many festivals cropping up throughout the country.

VICTORIAN POETRY ON A ROLL

Bush Poetry is slowly growing in Victoria. Hopefully this slow growth and good root system may mean a more stable foundation from which to develop into a strong straight tree.

On March 2nd. the Charlton Country and Bush Music Festival was held. Once again the weather and venue were superb and the calibre of acts second to none.

More Bush Poets turned up than ever before, so next years programme may include a bush poets night on the Saturday, thus giving travelling poets a better chance to perform more than the one poem which is becoming a common problem.

JOHN O'BRIEN FESTIVAL NARRANDERA NSW

March 21st. & 22nd. saw another successful Bush Poetry event at the John O'Brien Festival in Narrandera NSW.

The whip-cracking demonstrations by Noel Cutler of Wangaratta Vic. was one of the highlights of the programme. Noel's polished performance now keeps audiences entranced as he steps through the various segments of his performance.

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club ran a yarns and recital night. A Poets Brunch was held at the Star Lodge. Cosy and Informal, with a touch of difference when one lady asked Geoffrey Graham to read one of John O'Brien's poems which was written about her parents!

Noted among the visiting poets were some well known characters in Campbell 'The Jolly Swagman' Irving, Mark Thompson, Neil Hulm, John Philipson, Johnny Johannson who now resides in Wangaratta Vic.

Geoffrey Graham's 'Man From Ironbark Show' in the local R.S.L Club was also another feature of the Festival.

As with Charlton and a lot of other venues there is not enough scope for performance poets travelling long distances.

Catching his breath at home after an exciting tour around Wagga Wagga and Albury is Geoffrey Graham. Geoffrey will be touring extensively throughout NSW and Queensland over the next few months.

Persons interested in his itinerary may contact him on (015) 425 470 or ring his good wife Rose on (054) 691 312.

BUSH POETRY IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

From the Snowy Mountains to the Monaro Plains, Bush Poets are dusting off traditional poems and adding verse of their own to share their adventures in the land of 'Banjo' Paterson's "Man from Snowy River".

Over the Easter weekend the inaugural Poets Gathering at The Station Resort in Jindabyne was a great success.

Bush Poetry also featured at Cooma's Man from Snowy River Festival which was held from the 11th. to 14th. April.

This was a first for Cooma and was brought about by local poet Elaine Schofield from Jerangle who has been instrumental in starting a monthly country music and bush poetry session in Cooma which has attracted quite a following.

During the festival, poetry sessions were held each day, with a very successful Friday night walk-up concert.

The Sunday morning session at the Ti-Tree Racecourse, preceding the major country music concert, was a little short on audience, but brought some very talented bush poetry writers and reciters together.

Elaine was joined by writers Ross Thompson from Bungarby (whose poem about emergency toilet arrangements on a farm inspection tour of China brought the house down), Henry Rose from Nimmitabel and Gay Nester of Tumut.

Being surrounded by so many original and imaginative writers has encouraged Christiana Kern to consider taking up the pen and writing some of her own work.

Christiana is noted for her traditional recitals of the masters.

The small crowd was pleased with the the efforts of the poets and the committee is confident that with some more advertising and some re-scheduling for next year's festival they will make the poetry sessions an annual feature.

Travellers passing through the Snowy Mountains or on Monaro Plains on the second Friday of each month, may join members of the Monaro Leisure Club in Vale St. Cooma from 7pm onwards.

Call Christiana for further details between 9am and 9pm on (064) 562 895.

FIRESIDE FESTIVAL

'BLUE THE SHEARER'S GREATEST HITS'

The Fireside Festival will again be held a week before the June Long-Weekend, May 30 to June 1, at the Longyard Hotel, Tamworth. This year some new ideas will be tried out as well as the Fireside Favourites like the 'Poet's Brawl', 'Yarn Event' and 'New Voices'.

Special guest for this year will be Col Wilson, better known as 'Blue the Shearer'. Col has a fantastic track record for consistently writing the best and most performed Bush Verse in Australia - with many poets performing his classics such as 'The Cross-eyed Bull', 'The Poker Machine', 'The Chainsaw', 'The Mower' and 'The Trailer'.

The concert will be called 'Blue the Shearer's Greatest Hits' and will feature Col himself along with Paddy Ryan, John Philipson, Frank Daniel and Jim Haynes. Many of 'Blue's' newer poems and not so often heard old favourites will be featured.

The second half of the concert night will feature the Wall of Renown Awards with performances by the new faces on the wall.

Once again the only cost for the festival concerts will be the Saturday night show — keeping all other concerts free and avoiding weekend passes. Tickets for the concert will cost \$20.00 per head.

Two workshops will be conducted in the Pioneer room of the Longyard. From 9.30am to 11.00am on Saturday May 31, Jim Haynes will explain the process and preparation of '**Recording and Performing Your Work**'. Cost is \$5.00.

A workshop on '**Publishing Your Work**' will be held on Sunday morning, 9.30am to 11am with Col Wilson, Frank Daniel and Grahame Watt, three successful self-published poets explaining the process. Cost is \$5.00.

New Voices will again be held for those genuine new voices at the Longyard and for those many not so new performers there will be two new sessions of '**Get Up and Have a Go**' at 11am on the Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The successes of the many young performers has brought about another new show, **The Best of the Bush Kids** on Saturday afternoon.

It is essential to book early for the Awards night concert due to the huge demand for tickets.

Don't miss out. Please remit your \$20 per seat to:

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THE JOYS OF COMING HOME

'Badge'

When the sulky wheels are turning
With a gravel crunching sound,
And the horse's shoes are firing
On the rocky sunburnt ground,
And the shadows ride before me,
Through the horses legs, that pass
The sulky lamplight, shining
On the dried up brittle grass.

When the ghost-gums in the moonlight,
Gleam against the shadows cast,
Where I drive down to the crossing,
I'll know I'm home at last.
And the sandy bottomed shallows
Drag the horses belly low,
And a blue dog barks a welcome
Running with me as I go.

When the moonlight shows the slip-rails
And a bread box on a stump,
When the horse's stride grows longer
And my heart begins to thump. . .
When the kitchen door is opened,
I can end this little poem,
For the night will ring with laughter
And the joys of coming home.

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