

The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No. 9 Volume 4. September 1997



GYMPIE MUSTER BUSH POETRY HITS THE SPOT

The 1997 Hyundai National Country Music Muster, Gympie Qld., was by far the greatest ever. Crowds far and beyond the organisers expectations, converged on the Amamoor State Forest up to three weeks in advance settling in on their favourite camp-sites making ready for the 16th. Annual Gympie Muster.

This year's National Appeal was "Taking the World to Outback Kids". All the funds raised will support the youth of Australia. The kids in the bush are at very significant disadvantages in the field of education, as compared to children in the cities. It is hoped that the program of providing them with access to the internet and to tutors 'on-line' will serve a useful role in reducing the 'tyranny' of distance, and give these children greater educational opportunities in the future. Thanks must go to the Ballarat University for their support in this project.

Ian McNamara made his first appearance at the Gympie muster. His impact on the industry is legendary. 'Macca's' image was featured on a gold coin which was highly sought after as a Muster memory.

The atmosphere was absolutely wonderful, filled with lovely clear days, (some cold nights), good tucker, and top entertainment, with lots of new friends being made. It was an experience not to be missed.

The Bush Poets led by Jim Haynes took up the early morning challenge of entertaining the Muster early-birds with three two-hour poets breakfasts in the Musta Club on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings leading up to the muster programme.

From the Friday morning the venue was changed to the much larger Talent Search Theatre with capacity crowds attending each of the following four breakfasts.

According to the 'Miller-meter', there was 'bloody nilly 5,000' in the theatre each morning. The place was packed out. Surely the measure of the popularity of Australian Bush Verse.

Main performers at the Muster with Jim Haynes were Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Shirley Friend, Gary Fogarty, John and Joy Major and Frank Daniel who returned to Gympie after three years.

Heats of the Traditional and Original performance bush poetry competition were held in the 'Theatre' on Friday and Saturday with a good number of poets attending.

The finals hosted by Frank Daniel were held on Sunday morning after the poets breakfasts to another capacity crowd. Compliments to the poets were many.

The Traditional Bush Poetry was won by Guy McLean reciting 'In the Stable' by 'Banjo' Paterson. Guy has been showing a lot of talent in recent months and is a real new discovery for the bush poets. He comes from 'Susan River Homestead' in the Hervey Bay area. This homestead is a farm-stay place for city people to absorb some aspects of rural life.

Runner up was Bill Pawley of Narrabri with 'Warrego Jack's Galah'. Third place went to Ron Selby of Nth. Drayton with 'Only The Two of us Here'

The Original verse was taken out by Merv Webster of Bargarah with "Piccaninny Dawn". Second was Allan Taylor of Gunalda with 'Leave Me at Home'. Third place went to Col Hadwell of Byron Bay, reciting 'The Loser'.

Members of the ABPA assisted in compering during the long hours over three days of the Country Music Talent Search. A busy time for all.

NEW ALBUM RELEASE

AUSTALIAN POETS SERIES

On Saturday 30th August, the new Album 'Dispso Dan and other Silly Buggers' presented by Jim Haynes was launched in front of a capacity crowd at the Gympie Muster with John Nutting of ABC Country introducing the artists.

Sales of the new album got off to a ready start and sold very well over the next two days. Big sales were reported from the Product shop at the festival.

This is the first in a series of albums in The Austalian Poets Series being released by ABC EMI for distribution nationally.



Ray Essery — The Mullumbimby Bloke

Artists appearing with Jim on the Album are Shanley Del, Ray Essery and Frank Daniel. (Further details page 6).

*Australian Bush Poet's
Association Inc.*

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Merv 'Bluey' Bostock.

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BARDS OF BOWRA

Written Competition Junior and Senior
Entries close 1st. Sept. 1997

PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION

Sunday 5th. October 1997 10am

Traditional Poetry — Original Poetry

Judges: Warren Bishop - Jo Smyth - Brian Bell

Closing date for entries Sept. 20

SSAE To Mrs. Maureen Garner

2/8 Salamander Parade Nambucca Heads 2448

Ph/fax 065 685 369

The 7th MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL

for poets preachers and liars

Saturday 18th October 1997

7.00 - 12.00pm

In various venues in the village

Sunday 19th October 1997

9.00am — 5.00pm

The Lilyponds Park Mapleton

Enquiries: Jacqueline Bridle 075 5457760

JOHN PHILIPSON RECITES

TAPES 1, 2 and 3.

Limited number still available.

\$12.00 POST PAID

Mrs. Ellen Philipson

7 Brolga Way Tamworth 4320

Inaugural

BENDIGO FESTIVAL

24th - 26th OCTOBER 1997

Bush Poets Breakfast Sunday 26th

Prizes for traditional and original

Compere "Whipstick Wortho"

Grahame Watt - Johnny Johansson

Kyabram Bush Verse Group -The Bush Larrikin

MORE COMPETITORS WELCOME

Basement of the Historic Camp Hill School

Rosalind Park

Contact Peter Worthington

03 5436 1556

Mobile 0419 514 340

Brekkie by Bendigo SES

ITS ON AGAIN.....The

CAMP OVEN

BUSH POETRY

FESTIVAL

4TH - 5TH - OCTOBER 1997

AT THE

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL

NORTH PINE COUNTRY PARK

PETRIE QLD.

Performance Poetry Competitions

Juniors, Novice and Open Male and Female

Original - Traditional - established Australian

Rhyming Bush Verse

POETS BREAKFAST - CAMP OVEN DINNER

Entry forms.... SSAE to... The Organizer

Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival

Pine Rivers Shire Council

P.O. Box 5070 Strathpine Q. 4500

BOOROWA

NSW

WOOL FESTIVAL

SEE THE RUNNING OF THE SHEEP

STEAM AND TRACTION ENGINES

STREET PARADE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5TH

Followed by

BUSH POETRY and BULL YARNS

at 3pm. at the

CENTRAL HOTEL

WITH

COMPERE FRANK DANIEL

ALL WELCOME

PRIZES AND TROPHIES

Phone: Rod Moran 02 6385 3061

President's Letter....

Dear ABPA Members,

Here is the September issue. It only seems only a week since I posted the August newsletter. And in that space of time I have taken in the Bush Tucker Day at Trundle, NSW, a Probus dinner at Forbes, the Gympie Muster Qld. By the time most of you are reading this I will be, or will have been performing with the Bushwackers and the Vince Brophy Trio at Hawker in South Australia and at the Opera in the Outback. I will be in Grenfell on the 25th and then off to Bega on the far south coast with Milton Taylor for a concert and festival on the 27th. I'm not game to look at October.

Membership is steadily climbing and I am pleased to say that we now total 345 members. I welcome those many new members who have joined us in the last few months and hope you gain much pleasure from the newsletters and as members of the association.

Please pass the word on to friends and other interested people and ask them to join the ABPA.

One of the most common remarks made by new members and visitors to Bush Poetry venues is 'I never knew it existed' or 'why hadn't we known about this earlier. It is so much fun and great entertainment'. So, think of all the deprived human beings out there who still have not heard of the ABPA. Give them a nudge and a look at your newsletter and invite them to one of our outings. Better still, ask them to become a member.

The Poets Calendar is looking a bit sick at the moment — could be just that time of year, but I can't advertise it if I don't know about it.

Recently at the Gympie Muster I ran into three very interesting people, Dee, Clem and Ed from 2NVR FM Radio, Nambucca who interviewed other poets and taped bush verse for replay on their home station. Friends of Maureen Garner of course, who gives the bush poets a real plug all the time.

Rob Russett from 4CRM Community Radio Station Mackay also came to Gympie to get a first hand look at the Muster and Bush Poetry which he is promoting on his weekly broadcast .

ABC representatives were also present and the Bush Poetry did not go unnoticed by them either.

Again, more and more, it is coming to light that a lot of performers are reciting other works not written by themselves, and are failing to give the credit to the original authors. Surley it is not too much to ask performers, be they writers or non-writers, to acknowledge the authorship of the verse he or she is reciting. See the article by Keith McKenry on page 4.

This article is not designed to create any great debates, but we will welcome letters and ideas regarding a code of ethics from fellow members.

Those suggested by Mr. McKenry are included as a guideline.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of one of our stauncher supporters, Betty Houston of Bundaberg. Betty had been a member for a number of years, had her own style and appreciation of bush poetry. She will be sadly missed by one and all, especially the Bundy Mob. On behalf of the ABPA I would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late Betty Houston.

Thank you once again to all those who contribute to the newsletter. I could still do with a lot more photographs — black and white or colour. Prints from newspapers or magazines are not suitable.

Keep on writing and keep on reciting,

Regards to all, *Frank Daniel*

Secretary's notes Dear members,

We have more than thirty new members from the Gympie Muster. Welcome to all newcomers.

I have had a few queries for names and addresses of members in certain areas and I have given them out. I hope there is no objection to this.

Your response for poems has been good and I still expect to receive more for the Fourth ABPA Annual.

Approval has been given for the Australian Championships to be held again in Winton Q in 1998.

The Annual meeting will be held in Tamworth on Saturday 24th. January 1998 at 2.30 pm. Sharp!

Anyone wishing to bring up a subject for discussion at the meeting could let me know so it can be put into the newsletters before January.

We will have to give consideration to the membership fees for Juniors. The \$10.00 fee does not cover the cost of producing an individual newsletter over the full year.

It has not affected us this time for we have only two junior members, both joining late in the year. While we do want to encourage the young people with an interest in bush poetry, their membership should cover cost of the newsletter.

Have fun with the bush poetry.

Best wishes to you all.

Olive Shooter. 12.9.97

NOW AVAILABLE
ALEC RAYMER'S
"VERSE STORIES OF AUSTRALIA"
on cassette

Featuring "The WOMBAT FLASH"

\$17.50 including postage

18 KOKOPO CLOSE

TRINITY BEACH Q. 4879

Ph. 070 556067 email: araymer@ozemail.com.au

Our Community of Bush Poets: Issues of Courtesy and Responsibility

Keith McKenry

Recently, I was able to escape temporarily the shackles of work and head up to the inaugural Australian Bush Festival in Rockhampton, where I renewed my acquaintance with my mates Mark Gliori and Bobby Miller, and met for the first time many other fine bush poets, such as Gary Fogarty, Glenn Palmer and John Major. A number of us got talking late one evening over beer and pizza, while watching on the motel TV Australia lose the first Test, and the subject turned to matters of ethics among bush poets. The discussion set me thinking, and I decided I should put pen to paper. So here it is. I would appreciate hearing what others think on the issues I raise.

Our community of Australian bush poets is now strong and able to look to the future with confidence. Some of us are able to make a living from our craft, and many others are able to command a fee for our services. We are a diverse mob, but share a love of Australia, and a love of Australian poetry. We believe in fair play, and a fair go.

One measure of our maturity and sense of fairness is the extent to which we support each other, and respect each other's rights. It is easy to slip up here, not through any intention to do the wrong thing, but rather through carelessness or a lack of regard for the interests and sensitivities of others.

I am aware for example that some of us have written poems which have been taken up by other performers, and on occasion the original poet has not been recognised. For example, Vicki Maree, who wrote *Rinderella*, Martin Pearson, who wrote *The Chook from Snowy River*, and Colin Wilson (Blue the Shearer) who wrote *The Cross-Eyed Bull*, are sometimes not known as the authors, while those of us who recite their work occasionally are thought to be.

When we recite another poet's work, and omit to mention the poet's name, our audience may conclude incorrectly that we are the author. This is especially so if we are known to perform our own verse. While we do not claim falsely to have written the piece, our failure to mention the author's name may lead some in our audience to this incorrect conclusion.

Generally speaking, the newer a poem is to its audience the greater its impact and appeal. This is especially so with humorous poems, which in a sense can often be likened to jokes in verse. When we perform another living poet's work we are to an extent limiting their opportunity to perform it successfully themselves. It is therefore a common courtesy to seek permission, wherever possible, before using another living poet's work, especially if they are likely to perform at some stage in the same area.

Those of us who receive payment when we perform other living poets' work have an obligation, both moral and legal, to respect their rights as owners of copyright in their work. We ought, at the very least, seek to gain their permission before using their work for profit, *especially* if we do so on a regular basis and/or for a substantial fee. If we don't then, quite simply, we are ripping off our colleagues.

As writers and performers we draw from - and influence - the world around us. We entertain, but also we help shape people's thinking. We have, I believe, an obligation to use our skills to assist in the development of a tolerant, harmonious Australian society. We ought not to rely on stereotypes, or to pander to prejudice. We don't need always to be "politically correct", but we do need always to show respect for others. It's easy to slip up here, and none of us are immune from error, but - as a single example - such things as references to "poofers" are demeaning, cheap, and immature. We don't need them.

One practical way to address these matters is for the Australian Bush Poets Association to adopt a simple *Code of Ethics*, which would apply to its members. Many societies and associations have such *Codes*, and they can be very helpful. To set the discussion rolling, I have produced a draft Code, and would welcome discussion from other members both on the idea of having a Code and on the draft presented here.

(See page 5)

KARAOKE POETRY

How does karaoke — with its associated images of smoky bars and less-than-professional performances — fit with comparable refinement of bush poetry?

Very well, according to the organisers of what was probably Australia's first 'Karaoke Night of Bush Poetry' held at the Cabarlah Farmer's Arms on Friday and Saturday nights, 29th. and 30th. August.

The karaoke was only part of the entertainment during the evenings, which celebrated the nostalgic memories of famous Australian poet Banjo Paterson.

The evenings started with a dinner where guests were entertained by international award-winning pianist Colin McDade. Following dinner, prominent ABPA member, Tom Clarke, and Crows Nest Shire Mayor Cr. Geoff Patch, presented 10 selected poems by 'Banjo' Paterson.

Cr. Patch later demonstrated the contrasting styles of the two great contemporaries, 'Banjo' Paterson and Henry Lawson.

NOTICE.

AUSTRALIAN
BUSH POET'S ASSOCIATION INC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24TH. JANUARY 1998 TAMWORTH

Australian Bush Poets Association:

A Draft Code of Ethics

- 1) I will encourage my colleagues and give assistance to emerging poets and performers.
- 2) I will always acknowledge authorship when I perform the work of other living poets. By so doing I will assist them to gain due recognition.
- 3) I will respect the economic rights of other poets. For this reason, wherever possible,
 - a) I will seek their agreement before performing their work for profit
 - b) I will seek their permission before recording their work
 - c) I will always offer a royalty payment to the owner of copyright in poems I record.
- 4) I will respect the right of other poets to have first usage of their own work. For this reason I will not perform their unpublished work without their permission.
- 5) I will not draw without acknowledgment upon the work of other poets in writing my own verse. If I adapt for performance another person's poem I will not claim co-authorship, except with their agreement.
- 6) I will use my skills as a poet and performer to foster community understanding and tolerance. For this reason I will avoid language which stereotypes or denigrates people on the basis of race, disability, gender or sexual preference.
- 7) I will have regard to the sensitivities of others in selecting material for performance, and not needlessly give offence. I accept however that I have a right to choose to challenge my audience, and to this extent retain the right to address topical issues and/or to express a social or political opinion.
- 8) In performance I will respect my audience and my colleagues. To this end I will keep to my allotted time and/or my specified number of poems.

TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY

The ever-increasing ranks of bush poets will be pleased to note that the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition will once again be run in Tamworth during the Country Music Festival. This prestigious competition has become so popular, the organisers have added an extra half hour to each day's heats to allow more people to compete.

The competition will again be sponsored by North Power and winners and place-getters will receive generous cash prizes as well as the much sought after trophy and medallions donated by the Imperial Hotel, who also provide the venue.

The competition will be run over the four days from 21st. to 24th January 1998, with heats on the Wednesday to Friday and finals on the Saturday. There are two sections: Original and Traditional, and three people are chosen from each section in each heat to participate in the Finals. There is no entry fee.

Entry forms are available from Jan Morris, Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth 2340. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

For the poets who wish to enter a written competition, there is once again the Blackened Billy Verse Competition. Quite separate from the above, this competition accepts written works not previously published. First prize is \$150 plus the unique 'Blackened Billy', a ceramic creation by well known artist Fred Hillier.

An entry fee of \$3. for each poem must be included with the official entry form, which may be obtained from Maureen Quickenden, The Blackened Billy Verse Competition, P.O. Box 1164, Tamworth 2340. Please send SSAE.

For further information on the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, phone Jan Morris on (02) 6765 7552 (h) or (02) 6768 5178 (w).

Or Maureen Quickenden on (02) 6765 6067

BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 1998

For work produced from Nov 1 1996 to Nov 1 1997

- FOUR SECTIONS:**
- 1. Book of the Year — Published Original Australian Rhymed Verse**
 - 2. Recorded Album of Australian Rhymed Verse** (on commercially produced cassette tape or C.D)
 - 3. Recorded Performance of the Year** (A single, or a single track from any album)
 - 4. Heritage Award.** (Publication in book form emphasising Australian Heritage; historical, geographical or social — Including a reasonable amount of original verse.)

Fee \$10 per entry — ENTRIES CLOSE 3rd. NOVEMBER 1997

Entry forms available — send SSAE to GOLDEN GUMLEAF ENTERPRISES

112 Crescent Road, Hamilton Qld. 4007

GEORGE NEW. 'The Bayldon Bard'

Performance poet, George New of Bayldon on the NSW Coast has been instrumental in his support of the bush poetry movement in and around the Nambucca Heads area, being very supportive of the recent Back to Bowra Festival in August.

George was born and raised in Sydney's Western Suburbs and began a life-long love affair with the bush when at an early age, he frequently visited his uncle's farm near Wongarbron, Central Western NSW.

He began penning his verse about ten years ago and in 1995 was encouraged by Performance Poet, Bobby "The Larrikin" Miller to consider taking his humour to the many Bush Poetry Performances across the country.

His first performance took place two years ago in Kempsey. Success followed in 1996 when he was placed in the Kempsey Country Music Festival's Bush Poetry Competition with his recitation of his own poem "The Shopper".

George subsequently performed the same poem in January this year during Country Music Week at the Imperial Hotel competition and was a finalist much to his delight and encouragement against the nations best.

A great effort in his first major contest.



George New

GRAFTON ARTSFEST

SO YOU WANT TO BE A POET ?

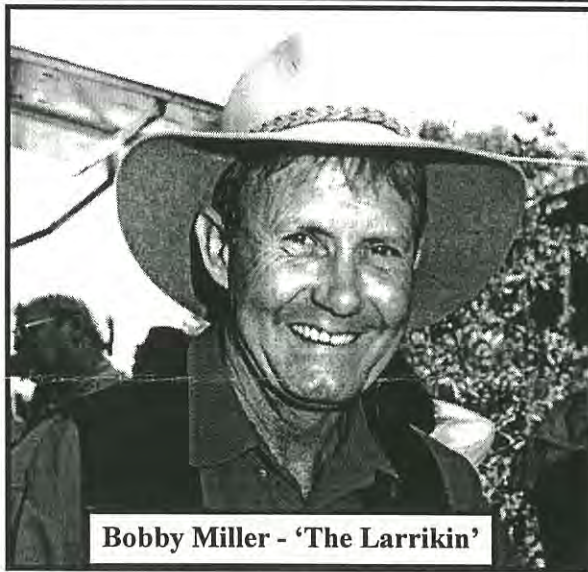
'The Larrikin' Bob Miller will show you how. Join Bob and some like-minded people at Grafton Artsfest at the end of September for his great poetry writing and performance workshop.

Winner of the Bush Laureate 'Album of the Year' at Tamworth in 1996 and 1997, Bob will be passing on to his students all the shortcuts, tricks of the trade, and easy methods of writing verse. You will learn the techniques of stage performance, and master the skills that will take you from a nervous amateur to a confident artist.

All ages will be catered for, from grade 5 to adult, and any level from beginner to experienced.

Grafton Artsfest is a great experience, with workshops and courses being offered in all aspects of the performing, visual and creative arts. Held from September 27th to October 2nd this year, Artsfest is 5 days of friendship and enjoyment. There are numerous evening events such as concerts, students and tutors performances and casual 'pub' nights — all great fun.

So, please join in at the Jacaranda city of Grafton where accommodation is available to suit all tastes and budgets. For more information on Bob Miller's course, or any aspects of Artsfest, please contact Artsfest President on 066 43 1528 or 0419 448 442. Cost of the 5 day course is - adult.\$155 — child \$100.



Bobby Miller - 'The Larrikin'

THE ACORN TREE

© Tim Scherf. Tenterfield.

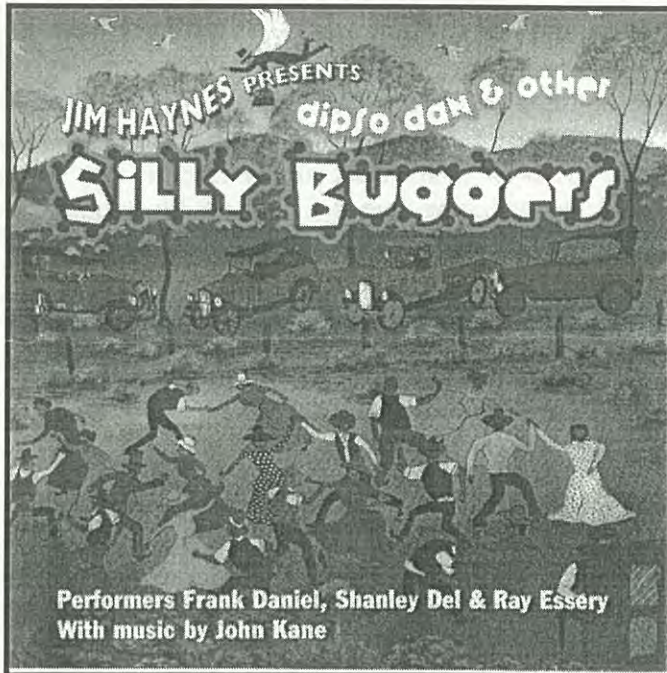
Little acorns into big trees grow
So I'll plant this tree and away she'll go
It came to me as a Christmas present
From our daughter Helen and family who sent it.

So I had to build this big tree guard
Which took up half of the old cow yard
I'll watch it grow as the years roll by
And it's limbs reach up towards the sky.

It will be the home for many birds
Who'll sing the sweetest songs you've heard
And then I'll think what a lucky me
To own a little Acorn tree.

But no more please, for one's enough
When you're growing old, and the digging's tough
So if you plan to buy more for me!
Make sure that it's a money tree.

ABC Music Proudly Presents
The Australian Poet's Series
 Available on CD or Cassette
Performers Include
Jim Haynes, Shanley Del,
Frank Daniel and Ray Essery
With Music by John Kane



The resurgence of Bush Verse as entertainment started some years ago when we began staging "Best of the Bush" shows at the Country Music Festival in Tamworth.

Since then, the growth of this form of entertainment and these kinds of shows has been nothing short of phenomenal.

This album is the first of a series which will showcase the best of these performances. As humorous character poems are the most popular with audiences we decided to make this album first.

There is a great tradition of this "Silly Buggers" style of verse going right back to colonial times, but these pieces are all relatively contemporary. They demonstrate typical Aussie humour as well as the variety of writing and performing which is part and parcel of the appeal of Bush Verse.

John Kane's music not only captures the mood of each piece, it brings a whole new dimension to each performance. So close your eyes and open your ears to the magic of words and music.

Available from:

Ray Essery.

270 Manse Rd.

Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Frank Daniel

P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804

CD. \$22.00 Cassettes \$17.00 (Post Paid)

HAVE YOU © Ron A. Munro. Kincumber

Have you smelt woodsmoke at twilight,
 From the campfire curling slow
 Up to the rustling treetops,
 In the fading afterglow?

Have you seen the moon rise golden,
 Through the snowgums by the lake,
 Where the alpine air seems colder,
 With every breath you take?

Have you tasted fresh made damper,
 All hot and crusty brown,
 Sliced thick, with golden syrup,
 Then, billy tea to wash it down?

Have you stroked the silken softness
 Of a tiny kitten's fur,
 While it's paws contract in rapture,
 To a loud contented purr?

Have you walked your dog at sunrise
 Along a sandy shore,
 Throwing sticks into the water,
 While he leaps and barks for more?

Have you gazed out of an aircraft,
 In your cosy window seat,
 Looking down on clouds like snowfields,
 From thirty thousand feet?

Have you stood in awestruck silence,
 And watched as in a dream,
 The sunset painting Uluru,
 That monolith supreme?

Have you known the love of Family
 Through the years of joy and strife,
 Shared the pleasures and the heartaches
 Of the tangled web of life?

Have you too, such precious moments
 That memory can unfold?
 Then you and I, my friend, have riches,
 More than any miser's gold!

PALMA ROSA POETS

A feast of Poetry at Palma Rosa, 9 Queens Road
 HAMILTON BRISBANE

*** FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR***

The unforgettable

BOBBY MILLER

and three times Aust. Junior Bush Poetry Champion,

CARMEL DUNN

Wenesday 3rd. December 1997

Shows start 7.30 pm. - \$ 15.00 includes supper - BYO

Phones 07 3262 3769 — 07 3268 3624

AROUND THE TRAPS.

Graham and Louise Dean, foundation members of the North Pine Bush Poets Group, Petrie Q. have made a bold career move to Kurumba in the Gulf country. They will be sadly missed as both contributed so much in time and effort and expertise in setting the course for the future good stead of the group.

New President of the group is now Wally Finch who has already instigated a newsletter for the Petrie mob.

Vice President is John Best; Secretary - John Coutts and Treasurer - Patti Coutts.

Henry Lawson Diamond Shears Competition.

To hand from Longreach Qld. are the results of the Diamond Shears written competition. First - Ellis Campbell of Dubbo. Second - Val Read of Bicton WA. Third - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo.

Bribie Island Community Arts Society,

Traditional verse competition results are as follows. First - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo. Second - Ron Stevens Dubbo. Highly commended — Patricia Austin, Ruth Stefano, Madge Potts and Deanne Wetton.

Congratulations to Sandra Binns of Kincumber for her successes, a first at Stradbroke Island with "I Thought I Was An Aussie" and a third at Chatswood with "McGee and Me"

Entry forms are now available for the Central Coast Poetry Society's Henry Kendall Poetry Competition — 1998. Send a SSAE to D. Theodore, Competition Secretary, C.C. Poetry Society, 37 Empire Bay Drive, Kincumber, 2251. Entries close on 28th. February 1998.

Billy Hay, Liz Ward and The Goondiwindi Grey headed off on Monday 8th. September, on a trip taking in Roma, Barcaldine, Cloncurry and Camooweal. They will then work their way back down to Winton for the Festival before returning home.

VIRGOAN LAMENT

© Sandra Binns. Kincumber NSW

I drive people crazy, straightening things,
— a trait that being a Virgo brings —
but I know my faults and try to beware;
but, no sense of humour? Aw, that's not fair!

With no sense of humour I wouldn't survive,
cause that's the only thing keeps me alive.
It's the same with us all, don't you think so, 'Blue'?
In this day and age, it's only too true.

But I can't help wondering —
what sign are you?

RULES FOR TEACHERS

1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, trim wicks and clean chimneys.
2. Each morning teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five pence per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

(Found at St. Francis School, Portland NSW.)

TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY GROUP COMPETITION

IMPERIAL HOTEL

TAMWORTH

21 - 24 JANUARY 1998

Traditional and Original - Heats and Finals

ENTRY FORMS: send SSAE to

JAN MORRIS — Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition

P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth NSW 2340

THE 'BLACKENED BILLY'

VERSE COMPETITION

Written COMPETITION for PREVIOUSLY

UNPUBLISHED WORK

ENTRY FORMS: send SSAE to

MAUREEN QUICKENDEN —

'BLACKENED BILLY' VERSE COMPETITION

P.O. Box 1164 TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Further enquiries...

Jan Morris. 02 6765 7552 (h) 6768 5178 (w)

NEW CATEGORY FOR BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

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

A new category (Recorded Performance of the Year) has been added to the Bush Laureate Awards for presentation in Tamworth next year. These awards are sponsored by the *Tenterfield Saddler*.

The four sections contained in the Awards are:

1. Published Original Australian Rhymed Verse in book form. (Book of the Year)
2. Recorded Album of Australian Rhymed Verse for commercially produced cassette tape or CD. These albums are or contain at least 80% spoken word, not songs. (Album of the Year).
3. Recorded Performance of a particular piece of Australian Rhymed Verse — a single or a single track from any album released between the specified dates. (Recorded Performance of the Year).
4. Heritage Award — for a publication in book form with an emphasis on Australian Heritage; Historical, Geographical, or social, which includes a reasonable amount of original verse.

To be eligible for the Bush Laureate Awards, product must be published/released between 1st. November 1996 and 1st. November 1997. Entries for all sections close on 3rd. November 1997.

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

1. The quality of the verse.
2. The entertainment value.
3. The presentation and production quality.
4. The 'Australianess' of the verse.
5. The variety of styles and moods.
6. The quality and appropriateness of illustrations, photos and or art work. (5 and 6 do not apply to category 3.)

Finalists will be selected for all sections and will be advised in writing and announced in the media during December.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at a special function during Country Music Week in Tamworth.

Four copies of each book or recording are required regardless of how many categories are entered or how many entries are made. (Recordings may be in either CD or cassette form).

FOR EACH ENTRY IN ANY CATEGORY AN ENTRY FEE OF \$10 IS REQUIRED.

Cheques should be made payable to Golden Gumleaf Enterprises and forwarded with entries to

**Golden Gumleaf Enterprises.
112 Crescent Rd. Hamilton Qld. 4007.**

DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES

© Don Cameron Beenleigh Qld.

You gave this world your beauty
in spite of what was said
that they should so untimely
announce that your were dead

A Princess is so Special
it's every man's held dream
to see in his companion
such beauty so esteemed

You were a loving Mother
a youthful devoted wife
where forces far beyond you
caused you so much strife

Caring was your nature
it came from your Royal heart
where the plight of those less fortunate
received your hope and start

Death! to one so youthful
reflects for one and all
the need to be together
regardless of those spoils

Diana leaves this troubled world
in Human form it's said
but her Spittit live's forever
Love exampled for a friend

There's very little difference between
this charming girl and Christ
one was woman, mother, friend,
a Prince's former wife

Those forces of indifference
took their own toll
Death claimed from each their beauty
kept youth from growing old

ENVOI

When the last rousing gallop is ended,
And the last post-and-rail has been jumped
And a cracked neck that cannot be mended
Shall have under the yew-tree been 'dumped'
Just you leave him alone — in God's acre —
And drink, in wine, whisky or beer:
"May the saints up above send 'The Breaker'
A horse like good old Cavalier!"

(Signed) His Nibs —

THE BREAKER



A CARVING SPELL

© Kevin Gilders. North Clayton V.

My schooling's in the dim dark past,
It has stood me in good stead.
The goodly Nuns and Brothers
Cramming learning in my head.

They taught science, maths and sport
With occasional thumps and yelling.
But the subject emphasized the most
Was in English — 'specially spelling'.

For many other parts of school
I could not give a damn.
But I'd take my daily spelling list
And learn it on the tram.

I left my schooling days behind
And knew that I'd do well.
I may have failed at plasticine
But crikey I could spell.

I used to be a clumsy kid
Overweight with wonky eyes,
But because I had a spelling bent,
Folks thought that I was wise.

When I'd grown to manhood
And joined the woody crew
Among their monosyllables
My reputation grew.

I learned the secret language
The village woodies spoke
Mastering words they struggled with
Like Elm and Gum and Oak.

Turners seem to battle through
The 'chippys' — they were fine
But the further into 'Art' they went
Their spelling did decline.

But carvers have no equal.
They're on the bottom rung.
For abuse of foreign language
They really should be hung.

Most would pass for normal
They're moderately loquacious
Though when it come to writing
The spelling is atrocious.

They'd try phonetic spelling
Writing down the way they spoke
But a common word like 'peetzah'
Bemused the average bloke.

They enlisted modern genies
To check on every line
With spell-check and computer
To make the words combine.

But even modern genies
Don't speak vernacular
So simple words of Aussie slang
Just bugged up — 'spectacular.'

For our current carver writers
Everything is getting hairy
When writing in the idiom
Use MacQuaries dictionary.

Now there's reason scientific
For this educated state.
Seems among the genes and microbes
One gene will dominate.

The carving gene's a bruiser
The spelling gene — not so.
And when your spelling's failing
In the carving it will show.

If the carving's getting better
And the spelling's getting worse
Then you're groping for the wordage
In your letters, prose and verse.

If your spelling's getting better
Then your carving's in decline
And your education status
Soon will rival mine.

For I'm doing lots of carving
Using logs and the chainsaw
While the money's getting better
The spelling's going poor.

Now the writer's block's got to me
I'm sure that it's no myth
To make career decisions
Am I Woody or Wordsmith.

But Captains of our industry
Don't have to be so wary
They blame U-beaut technology
Or their private Secretary.



Kevin Gilders

CHAINSAW CARVER POET

Kevin Gilders of North Clayton V. has been a member of the ABPA since meeting up with the late John Philipson at Corryong in 1995 at the Man From Snowy River Centenary.

Kevin is a chainsaw sculptor and is famous for his work throughout Victoria and the Riverina districts of NSW.

Kevin has not submitted poetry to the newsletter before believing that his work is not appropriate enough — not 'bush Poetry'.

City born and bred, Kevin spent many of his younger days holidaying in the country with his grandfather, and has that little bit of bush in him from way back.

The enclosed poem is the result of a joust between Kevin and one of his wood carver mates via their fax machines.

It is a long held belief that wood carvers cannot spell, and in their exchange of faxes after finding errors in each others spelling, his mates wife got one back on Kevin.

"This poem is not about drovers or bushmen or distant mountain ranges but it is relevant to me...." says Kevin.

GRAFTON POETS

A 'Live Poets Society' has been formed in Grafton NSW through the A.C.E. (Adult Community Education) and has Poetry in the Pub at the Roches Family Hotel on a monthly basis.

This month's session will be held on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30 pm. Poets are invited to recite or perform bush poetry, free verse or short musical items.

Enquiries to Dorothy Hillis or Kath Whittingham
Ph.02 6642 7506 Fx 6642 7539

THE LIBRARY BURNED

© Col Hadwell Byron Bay NSWJUSITH AND SANDRA BINNS
(Highly Commended - Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1997)

"When an old man dies, a library burns," that's what they always said.
I never new quite what it meant,- 'till I heard that Ted was dead.
I used to see old Ted you know, just sitting down the beach,
Each morning with his paper there; they said he used to teach.
I never got to know you see, about his life and past.
He took that with him when he went, for I never thought to ask.

'Cause I was off and running round, I suppose a normal kid.
I never knew how he grew up, I doubt that many did.
I used to like him though you know, he used to know my name.
He'd ask me how I went at school; and when I'd played my game,
He always used to know the score, although he wasn't there,
It always used to have me tricked — (I guess he used to care).

He told me where to find the fish, he knew where they were on.
And even though he never went, he knew when they were gone.
He told me when a storm was due — he showed me 'Mackerel sky'
That comes two days before the rain, I never asked him why.

Lots of times I used to say, "I'll bet old Ted would know"
But then I'd always put it off, with somewhere else to go.
I thought that he'd be always there, 'till I had time for list'nin,
But when I finally had the time, I found that he was missing.

The funeral was only small, (his friends had mostly gone),
Since he had lived for ninety years, till he was called along.
The eulogy was written from, the papers that they found,
Among his modest private things, at the local camping ground.

He'd worked on farms along the coast when he was only ten.
Then two years on along the Somme, he fought with full grown men.
He survived two wars, saw droughts and floods, the Great Depression too.
He'd seen and done all sorts of things, - the tales he told were true.

The shame is that these blokes like Ted, are all around the Nation,
Reading books and taking time to store this information,
So they can pass along to us, some knowledge of their past,
And we could have it all for free — if we only thought to ask.

LIBRA

I'M A LAWYER. TRUST ME!!

Librans tend to harmony
Their star sign is the scales.
Justice is their watchword,
But more so with the males.
Introverted, moody,
They seek to compromise.
They're awfully judgemental
If they catch you telling lies.
Librans are a lazy bunch:
"To fight" they say "Ain't nice."
The motto on a Libran's wall, is:
"Peace at any price."



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Ask a friend to join The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc. \$ 8.00 from now till the end of the year.

DEADLINE FOR MONTHLY PUBLICATION: 15th. day of the month of issue.
Send copy to P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804 or Fax. (063) 441 962

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Thank you to the following contributors to this month's Newsletter: Ted Webber — Ron Munro
Maureen Garner — Olive Shooter — Tom Clarke — Colin Hadwell — Keith McKenry — Kevin Gilders
Grafton Arts Fest — Wally Finch — Judith Hosier — Sandra Binns — Heather Gillieatt — 'Blue the Shearer'
Noel Cutler — Merv Webster — Trisha Anderson — Ron Silflow — Carmel Dunn — Joe — Jim McDougall
Jan Morris — Rhubarb —

POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- October 4 - 5 **"Big Doo at Brymaroo"** Entries close Sept. 23rd. \$5.00 fee with entry. Performance Bush Poetry Competition. Must have rhyme and meter. Send details to G. Bowtell. Secretary. M.S. 444 Quinalow. Qld. 4403
- October 4 - 5 **North Pine Bush Poets Group — Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival** Country Music Hall North Pine Country Park Dayboro Rd. Petrie Qld. Enquiries to Patti Coutts (07) 3886 1552 Louise Dean (07) 3260 5506
- October 24 - 26 **Bendigo Festival. Breakfast with the Poets Competition. Traditional and Original** All poets welcome, competitors or just for fun. Enquiries to Peter Worthington - Ph. 03 5436 1556 Mobile 0419 514 340
- Nov. 3rd. Closing date for Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Awards. See article this issue.
- Dec. 3. **The Palma Rosa.** 9 Queens Rd. Hamilton Q. 7.30pm. Final performance of the year. Bobby Miller will bring the house down as usual with his brilliance and diversity. Sanity will prevail with the Australian Bush Poetry Junior Champion ('95, '96, '97) Carmel Dunn. Enquiries: Trisha Anderson. Ph..07 3268 3624 — Bookings: Palma Rosa 07 3262 3769
- January 31 Closing date. The Bronze Swagman Award for Australian Bush Verse. See article this issue.
- Feb. 28 1998 Closing date. Central Coast Poetry Society's Henry Kendall Poetry Competition — 1998 SSAE to D. Theodore, Competition Secretary, C.C. Poetry Society, 57 Empire Bay Drive, Kincumber. 2251

Regular monthly events. If you happen to be passing through these areas, tell 'em Joe sent ya!

- 1st. Sunday** *Poets Get-together*— Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolumb Qld. (074) 491 991
Bundanoon Hotel Bundanoon NSW Jennifer Compton (048) 836 005
Palm Beach-Currumbin Bowls Club. 9am. Poets Brekkie. Ph. Lorraine 07 5590 9395
Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q. Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 1st. Monday** *Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.* Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby (076) 301 106
- 2nd. Sunday** *'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Sydney* — Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd. Sunday** *Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q.* Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 3rd. Friday** *Poetic Folk — Rooty Hill School Of Arts.* Sydney — Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245
- 2nd. Friday** *The Monaro Leisure Club.* 7 pm. Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.
- 3rd. Thursday** *Queanbeyan Bush Poets.* Phone David Meyers 06 286 1891

ADVERTISE YOUR FESTIVAL OR OUTING — LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT IT



THE LOAN

© J.D. McDougall Cooroy Qld.

I was looking for a loan
 I was desperate for a quid
 And I thought the bank'd help me
 So this is what I did.

Threw on me rubber thongs
 And down the road I trod.
 Across the red hot pavement
 Like a blood hound on the prod.

I stopped outside the first Bank
 Took a casual look around,
 Walked up the marble staircase
 And me jaw near hit the ground.

Queues and queues of people
 Were all coming out the door,
 Muttering oaths and curses
 And words I'd never heard before.

I grabbed a bloke as he rushed by
 And asked him, "What's the score?"
 "It's fees, it's fees, it's bloody fees
 They're charging more and more".

LEX

© Bill Glasson Clifton Q.

She is resting on the mountain
 Where her trees and flowers grow;
 Life had run it's course and she well knew
 The time has come to go.
 Time to move on to tomorrow
 Where we'll all begin again;
 So she quietly wandered off and left
 The world of mice and men.

In the days to come we'll follow
 Through the tunnel, to the light;
 Until then we have our memories
 Of a friend so dear and bright.
 True and faithful for a lifetime;
 In love right up to the end,
 And she made us better people
 Just because she was our friend.

Now when that place had emptied out
 And was as bare as my old home.
 I walked up to the counter
 And hit this drongo for a loan.

Well he eyed me for a minute
 Then he handed me a form,
 "Fill this out and sign it here
 And I'll pass it on to Norm".

Well I'd done what he had told me
 And went to hand it back,
 "Fifty bucks that loan will cost you".
 The words stopped me in my tracks.

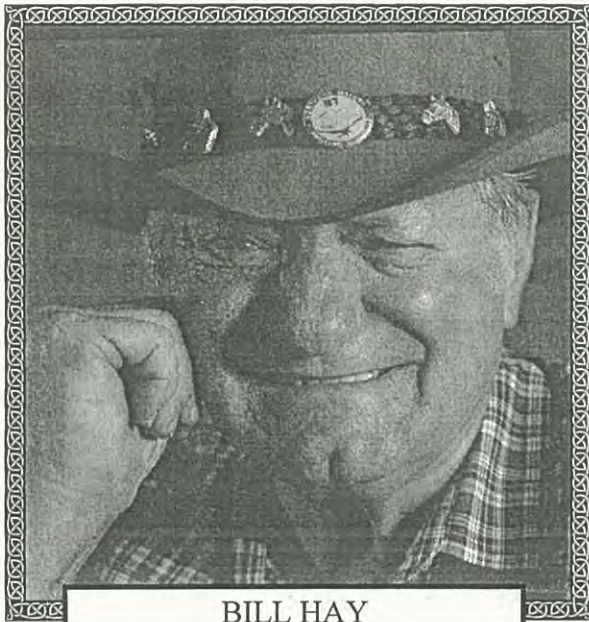
"Fifty bucks, this can't be right —"
 I was set to rant and roar,
 "If I had the bloody fifty mate,
 I'd have walked right past your door."

"Fees!" I said, "these bloody fees
 Are you sure you got this right?"
 Then he muttered "there's the interest"
 And I really got a fright.

I walked out empty handed
 You know I never got me quid.
 And I often sit and wonder
 What would happen if I did?

I would have had it for a minute
 Then those fees'd start rolling in,
 And with no cash to pay them back
 They'd have slammed me in the bin.

So if you're short and want a quid
 Just listen to me please.
 Keep right away from all those banks
 And all those bloody fees.



BILL HAY

Profile..... Bill Hay

Bill Hay was born in Charters Towers, Queensland in 1919 and was reared in Prairie (near Hughendon) where his father ran the mail coach to Muttaborra in the early 1920's. He can still recall riding that huge coach at five years of age — his father with six in hand to Muttaborra.

Bill spent much of his early life at Wattlevale, a sheep and cattle property near Prairie, owned by the Hay family. His schooling was at Prairie and his father who had trucks, racehorses and cattle, took over the Prairie Hotel in 1926.

At thirteen years of age Billy ran the Prairie — Vanda Mail Coach with a 30 hundredweight Chev. Truck. He would move out on the Monday's journey of 120 miles (200Ks) opening 37 gates. On Tuesdays he would make the return journey with a load of wool. Go to school on Thursday and Friday.

At fourteen years Bill went droving out onto the Diamantina Country.

At twenty Bill joined the railways at Hughendon and became a steam train driver. After four years in the RAAF he went back to the railways and spent time in Hughendon, Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry.

He drove trainloads of stock from Dajarra, Queensland between 1946 and 1948 considering Dajarra the cattle-trucking centre of the world.

Bill retired in 1977 but still finds time to travel and covers a lot of the outback in his trusty old campervan visiting old friends and making new again and again.

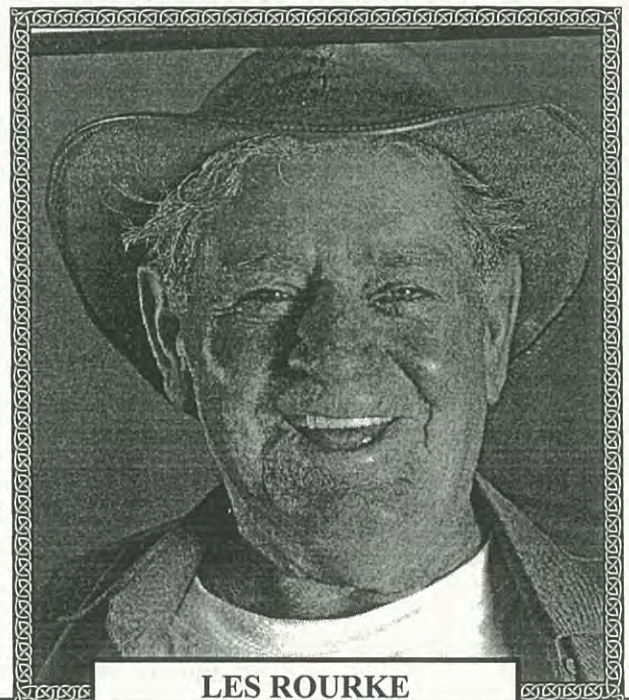
Billy has just returned from an overseas jaunt taking in parts of the USA and Canada. No sooner had he landed than he was off to visit his old droving mate and ABPA member Les Rourke who now lives at Tweed Heads.

Les Rourke was born at Inverell in 1914, and from an early age worked on sheep and cattle properties, including 'Blue Nobby', one of T.A Fields stations.

His main job on this property was guiding travelling mobs through the bottom end of the station.

On episode sticking in his mind is the occasion of a Tenterfield Drover who had his eye on a particularly good dog owned by Les. As would be expected, the youthful master's inseparable mate was traded for a six-plait green-hide whip. Three months later the dog returned and Les was then the proud owner of the whip and the dog. Les spent a lot of years mustering and droving but says that 'Banjo' Paterson could well say that 'A drover's life has pleasures that the townfolk never know', but he forgot to mention the heat, the flies, the crook water and the rough tucker.

Les still loves going out west on trips and hopes to just keep on doing that for as long as he can.



LES ROURKE

THE LIFE OF A DROVER © Anon.

Farewell and adieu, to you Brisbane ladies,
 Farewell and adieu to the girls at Toowong:
 We have sold all our cattle and cannot now linger,
 But we hope we shall see you again before long.

For we rant and we roar like true Queensland natives.
 We rant and we roar as onward we push
 Until we return "to the old cattle station"
 What joy and delight is the life in the bush.

Another great little verse from Australia's most prolific writer. Taken from a collection of favourite old bush ballads printed in *The Boomerang* in February 1891.

HERVEY BAY WHALE FESTIVAL

Yes, it did happen. And an outstanding success it was too. The Hervey Bay Whale Festival held its first Bush Poetry Competition on 10th August, and, after a false start, nearly a non-event, drew a large number of competitors from far afield.

Despite the unfortunate circumstances that caused the cancellation of the advertised event, later good news made it possible to carry on, leaving Heather Gillieatt to find as many poets as possible in a very short time.

The talent was excellent, the weather perfect and the enthusiastic and receptive audience, very appreciative.

Always ones to rally to a good cause, the 'Bundy Mob' turned out in force and gave wholehearted support to a fledgling enterprise.

The whale festival is held in Hervey Bay on the second week of August each year. The committee was so impressed with the success of the bush poetry for the first time at the festival and now plans to promote Bush Poetry as a draw card for the Whale Festival with promises of cash incentives for competitors.

From little seeds the mighty acorn grows, eh? Winners at Hervey Bay are as follows, Lorraine Lee (Traditional reading). Guy McLean (Traditional performance). Merv. Webster (Original Performance). Laree Chapman (Original Reading).

Merv Webster won the 'What Cheeses Me Off' section with Nuchelle Hanlon coming second.

Junior winners were Richard Cleeve and Annabel Williamson.

Poet of the Festival — Merv. Webster.

Well done Heather Gillieatt and committee.

ON THE BANKS OF THE BALONNE

Below stately gums on the bank of the Balonne River at Surat, poets once again contested the Battered Bugle Award. Drifting in from as far away as Dubbo in N.S.W., Bundaberg and many other towns and cities around Southern Queensland all enjoyed the mateship spirit that has become part of the Bush Poetry scene.

Bob and Chesne Nason were again excellent hosts, allowing the poets the use of their shearing quarters to doss down over the weekend. The opening of the Cobb & Co. Changeover Station housing the new art gallery, aquarium and historical display was the main highlight of Saturday's festivities, along with the traditional

section of the Battered Bugle being contested in the main street.

A campfire back at the Nason's property "Newington" on Saturday night saw many old faces sharing much of their more recent works of verse with each other. Faces such as Ellis & Maureen Campbell, Trisha Anderson, Bill Hay, Mark Thompson, Ron Selby, Merv Webster (The Goondiwindi Grey) Tom, Maureen and Carmel Dunn along with new faces, Merv Webster Snr, Chris Webster [The Grey's wife], Ian and Tora Tarlington and Maureen Mannix.

Sunday morning was on the bank of the Balonne with the poets contesting the Original section. Along with line dancers, billy boiling and just plain getting to know a lot of folks, it was a great day. The results of the Battered Bugle Competition are as follows:

Local Traditional : 1st Warren Butler. 2nd Janette Kelly. 3rd. Maureen Mannix.

Local Original. 1st. David Armstrong. 2nd. Jillian Moore. 3rd. Jill Ward.

Junior. Amelia Radford.

Open Traditional. 1st. Carmel Dunn, Warwick. 2nd. Max Jarrot, Killarney. 3rd. Merv Webster Snr. Margate.

Open Original. 1st. Ron Selby, Drayton North. 2nd. Merv Webster (The Goondiwindi Grey), Bargara. 3rd. Mark Thompson, Australia.

Battered Bugle Award.

Equal first went to Ron Selby and Merv Webster. 3rd to Carmel Dunn.

MULE OF A MISTAKE

© Ron Silflow. Pullman. Washington USA

Paid a compliment to my wife today.

But I seem to be misunderstood.

"Prettier 'n a matched pair of appaloosa mules,"

Wasn't perceived by her as good.

I tried to explain the analogy

Of perfect markings O so rare.

She seemed to think I meant *stubborn*

And come near her? I ought not dare!

I told her strong backs bear great burdens

Like her labor for the kids and I.

Sure-footed, balanced and steady

Were her attributes that caught my eye.

Understandin' women is mighty tough.

Not even ol' Barney and Jake,

Those beautiful long-eared mules, you see,

Can rescue me from my mistake.

BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD —

The Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse rolled its swag in 1972 and it has wandered all over Australia and overseas.

It was launched by the Winton Tourist Promotion Association as an annual competition. Entries have risen from 170 to nearly 700 yearly.

Winton (originally known as Pelican Water Hole) is a small bush town in Outback Queensland and it was here, at Dagworth Station, that Banjo Paterson wrote the words of the world famous ballad 'Waltzing Matilda' in 1885.

It was also at Winton that Australia's International Airline QANTAS formed in 1920.

The aim of the Award is to foster and encourage the writing of traditional Australian Bush Verse made famous by Paterson, Lawson and Ogilvie etc.

The Adjudicator for each year is a qualified authority on bush verse. Except for the winner and runner-up, the entries are returned to the organisers with entry forms unopened, and a selection panel then selects a limited number of verse from the hundreds of entries received for publication in the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse for the current year.

Help preserve Australia's Heritage by sending an entry into this unique competition.

Copies of previous years books are still available from the Tourist Association.

COWBOY POETRY

Opposite is a poem by Ron Silflow, President of the Palouse Country Cowboy Poetry Association

THE PRODUCT KING © Noel Cutler Wangaratta V.

I've got some real fantastic news, though I brag with tongue in cheek.
I topped the bloody Larrikin in product sales last week.
"Big deal," I hear the people say, that come in off the street;
While poets 'round Australia, gape in awe at such a feat.

The Larrikin's the master of all marketing techniques;
Selling fridges to the Eskimos and oil-wells to the Sheikhs.
Old ladies spend their pensions buying hat pins, tapes and books;
Young sheilas want their undies signed because of his good looks!

I'd be an instant millionaire (if I had just what it takes)
Supplying rubber bands he wraps around the dough he makes.
But now I claim distinction as the only one I know,
To make a bigger profit selling product at a show.

I brought him to Victoria, though somewhat on the whim
That somewhere there's an audience that's never heard of him.
But that was only fantasy and I near came unstuck;
Saved only by a desperate act which changed my flamin' luck!

When everyone departed and the barman swept the floor;
We'd both made forty dollars when we tallied up the score.
If I could make just one more sale, I'd be the product toff
That's when my plan unfolded and I eyed the barman off.

Although he's just a worker, making wages less than me,
He became my primal target and I wouldn't leave him be
Until I had convinced him (in the interest of his health)
He'd become a cultural guru for a small part of his wealth.

I grovelled 'round his ankles and I begged with all my might
If he would buy a book from me, he'd make me king tonight.
I said I'd buy twelve slabs of beer and mentioned more than twice:
I'd even lend my wife to him and sell my book half price.

He turned out both his pockets and I felt my blood go cold.
He only had a dollar, but I yelled out, "Mate! She's sold!"
I'd now become a legend. I'd be hailed by all my mates!!
There'd be a special place for me beyond the Pearly Gates.

But my ecstasy was shattered and my mouth dropped wide agape
As the barman drew a cheque book and picked up a Miller tape.
My lawyers claimed my actions were completely justified;
And the bar-stool that I hit him with, should not have been inside.

Now I'm sitting in this prison cell and doing five to ten.
Quite satisfied within myself, I'd do it all again.
It surely is a pittance for a mortal man to pay,
To claim he topped the Larrikin in product sales one day!

of P.O. Box 416 Pullman, Washington 99163. Ron has a wife Laura and children Jennifer (14), Caleb (12) and Zach (6). He was born and raised on a wheat and cattle ranch in Idaho. Has a B.S. in Animal Research (University of Idaho). M.S. in Veterinary Science. Ph.D. Animal Science and is a research Scientist, Bio tracking, Moscow, Idaho. Ron is now working on an 'in-the-field' pregnancy kit to market to Dairy farmers that is similar to what humans use. Ron says he is blessed to have worked all his life with animals — a true love of his.

His friends call him the "analytical cowboy" because they know that despite spending most of his life in school, he still can't shake his cowboy heritage. Cowboy poetry is a new found thrill for Ron who loves the tradition, the rhyme, and the metered flow that plucks deep chords in folks who can identify with cowboy history.

It gives him an avenue of expressing fond memories, and humour in creative, entertaining way.



Noel Cutler
The
Back-blocks
Bard.
Bush Poet
Two times
R.M
Williams
Australian
Whip-
Cracking
Champion.

Meet The Cheese And Kisses Mate

It would seem that the Balladrama is a very popular style of presentation for Bush Poetry. Following the introduction of a Balladrama in Victoria last year with the "Poets In The Pub Gang", bigger crowds flocked to see this year's show. With five performances throughout Victoria, including Mooroopna, Whitfield, Ocean Grove, Maldon and a gala conclusion at Milawa, audiences raved about the presentation and content of the latest show, Meet The Cheese And Kisses Mate.

The cast, including Bobby Miller, Milton Taylor, Glenny Palmer and Noel Cutler developed stage characters that really "lived" and had audiences hanging on every word of the fully scripted show. Producer and director, Noel Cutler, drafted the original script around the poems of the performers and then made modifications at the suggestion of each individual poet. Subtle improvements were made throughout the tour keeping the interest level high for the performers. A very big thankyou to each of the performers for a very professional approach and presentation. It was a real pleasure to work with them.

Sandy Miller, Loveen Taylor and Glen Resuggan were magnificent in their support, operating curtains, house lights, program and product sales and generally running around organising meals and all those other little things that made the whole tour so much more comfortable for everyone. A very big thankyou to the girls.

The special sound and lighting effects were once again capably handled by Ian Enders of Wangaratta. Although radio microphones and special lighting add to the production cost, they are essential in the overall successful presentation of the show. Audiences certainly appreciated the extra effort.

The special effects used in the silhouetted presentation of Charlee Marshall's "Death Of A Kelly", required some fairly unique rigging techniques at the various venues. It was amazing what Bobby Miller was able to come up with using a combination of "out-of-sight" sky hooks and anchors.

Due to the success of the show, it is now planned to

take it to Queensland and NSW at some time in the near future. Keep your eye out for performance dates to be published in this magazine.

A big thank-you should also be made to those individuals who were the driving force behind the clubs and associations that had the courage and enthusiasm to present the show in their particular town.

POETS IN THE PUB GANG

This show will once again be presented in Tamworth at the 1998 Country Music Festival. With the very sad and unexpected passing of John Philipson, (one of the star members of the gang), the future of the show was uncertain. After discussion with Ellen Philipson, who is in full support of the show's continuation, Frank Daniel has been initiated into the gang, ensuring it's future. Naturally, due to the inclusion of a new gang member, the show will be a little different in content, but assuredly, it will be just as entertaining. Please keep it in mind.

THE PRINCESS

© Rhubard '97

The tears flowed in torrents
Through the streets of Old Dart,
When we buried our Princess,
The Queen of our Hearts.

Our eyes saw the vision,
Still we questioned belief,
With our minds full of sorrow
And our hearts full of grief.

We stood and we waited,
We prayed as we wept,
But somehow our being
Just felt so inept.

Her pathway was garland
By the people she touched,
Though he love will live on
We will miss her so much.

For the Princess of people
Had us under her spell
And we cried our good-byes
To the sound of the knell.

"ROUGH BUSHIES AT HEART"

42 BUSH POEMS

BY

TIM SCHERF

\$10.00 Post Paid

Tim Scherf 'Sandy Hills'

Tenterfield. NSW 2372

"ROUGH BUSHIES AT HEART"

PALMA ROSA NEWS

Once again the Palma Rosa had a fabulous evenings entertainment with Gary Fogarty, his lovely wife Tracy and their very talented daughter Kelly.

The Fogarty family entertained with poetry, ballads, duets and song.

Gary as usual kept the audience enthralled with his wonderful renditions of his own brand of bush poetry, that of his fathers, and some from the great 'Banjo' Paterson.

Tracy's beautiful voice accompanied a couple of Gary's poems and then she and Kelly teamed up for a couple of songs.

It was once again a wonderful mix of Aussie pride, pathos, and humour performed in the beautiful Palma Rosa's Art Gallery — the historic heritage listed home of the English Speaking Union.

All proceeds from these evenings go towards the restoration fund and the organisers thanks must go to Gary, Tracy and Kelly and all the audiences for helping to keep this wonderful building open.

Don't miss the final performance of the year on Dec. 3rd.
(See ad on page 7)

WITH YOU

© Carmel Dunn (13) Warwick Qld

I'd woken to bright smiling sunshine
Ready to work and to play
Then I turned on the T.V. in my lounge
And a cloud descended on day

For there in the images blinking
As we watch with widening eyes
A newsreader tells the sad story
Of Thredbo and of its demise

The people were ready for sleeping
Unaware of the danger so high
Till the land rolled like thunder in their ears
And the rubble blocked out the night sky

A disaster hit Thredbo that evening
And one miracle shone from defeat
A man's voice! He's alive! Came the chorus
As Stuart was helped to his feet

INAUGURAL SUCCESS —

MILLMERRIN RAMSHEAD HOTEL

The Inaugural Ram's Head Hotel Performance Bush Poetry Competition held in the beer-gardens of the Ramshead Hotel at Millmerrin Qld. was considered by one and all a rip-roaring success. Organiser Kevin Barnes was elated with the response to this first venture and the overall acceptance of the Bush Poets.

A crowd of over seventy witnessed a sample of really good bush poetry with many seeing the poets for the first time. Appetites now wetted they can't wait for more. And this is what they will get. With the sponsors now on side more than ever, the Millmerrin competition will only go from strength to strength, and the Perpetual Trophy for the most successful poet each year will be displayed in the Hotel for all to witness. The honours for the first name on this handsome wooden trophy go to three times Australian Junior Champion, Miss Carmel Dunn (13) of Warwick Q.

Carmel competed in the senior competitions and took out the first place followed by that grand old man of bush poetry, Bill Glasson of Clifton Q. with the inimitable Ron Selby bolting in for a third place.

The Novice Male section results were 1st. Les Peardon. 2nd. Wall Needer and 3rd. Alan May. Novice Ladies 1st. Laine Harth. 2nd. 'Beth'. 3rd. Wendy Harth. Mary Kemp won the Junior reciter of the day.

Overall Champion was Carmel Dunn.

Judges for the day, Cec Muir and Gary Fogarty of Millmerrin and Ray Mobbs of Pittsworth, were each presented with a bottle of Montrose Wines Poets Corner Wine with the convener Kevin Barnes receiving an honorable mention as well and a bottle of the same for celebratory purposes.

Prizes were presented by the Mayor of the Millmerrin Shire, Cr. George Ezzy, whose comments were none short of the highest praise for the organisers, the competitors and the great family atmosphere found only at a Bush Poets turnout.

The local Parish Priest and a few of the local front rowers were present and the word is out that next years competition will have a lot more parishioners and more than enough footy fans in the audience.

Congratulations to Kevin Barnes and his small band of helpers. Despite a few earlier set-backs, the support shown at the Inaugural Rams Head Hotel Performance Competition has ensured they will return. Wait for it!!

A single survivor from nineteen
And we're happy for his folks no doubt
But what about those who still cry in their sleep
For friends who did not get out?

Our thoughts are with those down in Thredbo
Whether longing for sounds that won't come
Or searching the infinite rubble
Ignoring their fingers are numb

We thank all those brave rescue workers
Who refused to give up or lose hope
Those who risked their lives as well
To find the lost end of the rope

Live will have now changed in Thredbo
But remember in all that you do
We admire your strength and your courage
And our thoughts are always with you.

POSTAGE
PAID



THE BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD
Worldwide competition for BUSH VERSE
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 AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AWARD FOR TRADITIONAL
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 Entries close January 1 1998

SPECIAL PLACE
 © Ted Webber Narellan Gardens NSW

The creeks been dry for many years now,
 Since ringbarkers axe and horsedrawn plough
 Have changed for ever the watercourse,
 Which wandered down through bush and gorse.

An old rock sits on the dry creek bank,
 Silent testimony to the rank
 Of ancient people who knew this place
 But have long since gone with little trace.

But the marks on the rock prove they were here
 Patiently sharpening stick and spear.
 While the women cooked on the fires nearby
 And the children played by the water side

As the sun goes down with darkening hues
 I sit on the rock and reflectively muse.
 Is it only my imagination, that makes me feel
 The power of this place, with images so real?

Or is it possible, that in this teeming human race
 One man can touch another, through time and space?
 And I wonder, if after I too am long gone
 Will a stranger sit somewhere, and hear my song?

EPITAPHS and Others.
 Here lies the body of Watty the Guy
 He cooked for ten shearers and nine of them died.

Technological progress has provided us with a
 more efficient means for going backwards.

During WW II an American and an Australian
 soldier, by some strange co-incidence, happened to
 be sharing the same trench, both facing a perilous
 onslaught by the Japanese.

"This is it Aussie" Cried the Yank. "Remember
 Pearl Harbour!"

"Bloody Hell mate!" Replied the little digger.
 "This is no bloody time to be talking about women!"

LOST ALONE TOGETHER
 © Frank Daniel

"I'm goin' home' said Dipso Dan
 "'n so am I", said his brother.
 "Where do ya live?" the first one asked
 "I forget!" came the words of the other.
 "'n so do I..." sobbed Dipso Dan
 "I'm just a bit under the weather..."
 "Sorrigh!" said his mate "No problem ...
 Let's both go home together!!"