

# The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No. 11 Volume 4. November 1997



## GRAFTON LIVE POET'S SOCIETY

Another successful evening of bush verse was enjoyed recently when the Grafton Live Poet's Society staged their monthly "Poets in the Pub" at Roaches Family Hotel in Grafton on Tuesday 28th October.

The group was formed as a result of a Creative Writing Course offered by the Grafton Adult and Community Education Group. Otherwise known as ACE they conduct casual meetings each week at the ACE premises in Grafton. Tutor, Dorothy Hillis sets a weekly topic and writers are challenged to return the following week with their stories and poems relating to the topic.

Approximately 17 poets took to the mike providing a broad range of both traditional and original verse ranging from Don Bradman, Ginger Meggs and The Old Mail Run to Bill Kearns specially written Jacaranda Week poem, 'The Blossom Festival'.

Bill Kearns is the fifth generation of his family to live in the Clarence River area. He launched his first book "Bultitudes Dog and other verses" at the meeting. Bill's book revises memories of an era in farm life now passed and can be obtained for \$13.00 posted from 44 Kent St. Grafton 2560.

Another ACE performer is Don Lloyd, winner of the Bards of Bowra Performance Competition and resident of Grafton. Don's new book "Dogs Who Pee on Wheels and other Doggerel" can be obtained from the author at Wooli Rd. Pillar Valley NSW. \$13.00 pp.

Grafton "Live Poets" perform at Roaches Family Hotel, Victoria St Grafton on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

## NEW TAMWORTH FESTIVAL MORNING SHOW

A new venue for morning shows at the January Tamworth Country Music Festival will be the Big Bush Brekky Show at The Bushman's Billabong, a new West Tamworth Leagues Club venue.

Hosted by Jim Haynes it is specially designed to cater for all who wish to come — no queues, room for all, plenty of parking, just turn up, sit down, eat and laugh!

There will be all the old favourites, the best Bush Poets and Yarnspinners in Australia, plus a Real Aussie Bush Breakfast. Lots of new features too. The fair dinkum Chook Raffle with a showbag of prizes each morning, celebrity guests, giveaways and surprises. Brekky will be from 7am and the show starts at 8am every festival morning.

*"It's a chance to do what we've always wanted,"* said Jim, announcing the big move with club manager Rod Laing and Allied Artists boss Rob Potts. *"We'll have heaps of fun in a great atmosphere with plenty of room — we'll put a smile on everyone's face at the start of every day of the festival!!"*

Best of all — the Bush Kids (Paddy Ryan and Co.) will have a regular morning spot where they will preview material soon to be recorded on their own ABC 'Bush Verse for Kids' Album.

## MIDDAY WITH 'MUZZA'

It's brand spankin' new — Mid-day With 'Muzza' — nine days from Saturday 17th to Sunday January 25th inclusive in the Big Hokka at the West Tamworth Leagues Club from 12 noon to 2pm each day.

The five comperes sharing the nine days will be Marco Gliori, Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty, John Major and Murray Hartin. Each lunch will feature a main compere and a secondary compere, appearances by other MWM crew members, invited guest poets and special musical artists.

The MWM concerts are FREE and a lot of fun is guaranteed. As well as the Festival regulars, a number of new faces and surprise guests will be appearing, including the likes of Milton Taylor, George New, Shirley Friend, Ray Essery, Neil McArthur, Noel Cutler, Glennie Palmer, Carmel Dunn, Ellis Campbell, Frank Daniel, Col Hadwell and Tim McLoughlin.



Tim McLoughlin



*Australian Bush Poet's  
Association Inc.*

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3 Marlin St. Birkdale Qld 4159

Phone / fax.

**WINTON 1998**

**Australian Bush Poetry Championships**

**Opening of the Waltzing Matilda Centre**

**Poetry Olympics**

**Junior Bush Poetry**

**EASTER TIME**

**Plan ahead — Send A4 size SSAE to**

**The Organiser**

**P.O. Box 7714**

**Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352**

**NOPA '98**

**National Outback Performing Arts**

**LONGREACH**

**ARIL 5 - 9 1998**

**Contact. The Secretary,**

**National Outback Performing Arts,**

**P.O. Box 518**

**LONGREACH Q. 4730**

**Ph. 076 581 718 Fax 076 583 1988**

**LOOKING FOR  
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT  
CHECK OUT  
THE BOOK-SHELF  
ON THE BACK PAGE**

**The  
BLACKENED BILLY VERSE  
COMPETITION 1998**

**ORGANISED BY**

**THE TAMWORTH**

**POETRY READING GROUP**

**SUPPORTED BY**

**Seed and Grain Sales Tamworth**

**and**

**A.M. Printing Services**

**Closing date.... 30th November 1997**

**First Prize. \$150.00**

**and The Blackened Billy Trophy**

**Second Prize. \$100.00**

**Third Prize. \$ 50.00**

**Send entries with separate details to:  
The Blackened Billy Verse Competition  
Tamworth Bush Poetry Group  
P.O Box 1164 Tamworth NSW 2340**

**THE BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD**

**Worldwide competition for BUSH VERSE  
1998**

**AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE AWARD FOR  
TRADITIONAL BUSH VERSE**

**Prize.**

**BRONZE STATUETTE OF THE SWAGMAN**

**Designed and sculptured by Daphne Mayo**

**Value \$2500 Plus a Winton BoulderOpal, Value  
\$250**

**SSAE to**

**The Secretary**

**Winton Tourist Promotion Association**

**P.O. Box 44 Winton Q. 4735**

**Phone. 076 571 502**

**Fax. 076 571 322**

**Entries close on January 31st.**

**BRONZE SWAGMAN  
BOOKS OF VERSE**

**Published since 1972 — Back copies available from**

**The Secretary**

**P.O. Box 44 WINTON Q 4735**

**\$9.50 ea or 10 at \$7.00 ea.**

**PLAN AHEAD FOR HOLIDAYS**

**The Mt. Isa Writers Assoc and Mt. Isa Folk Club  
present**

**The Mt. ISA**

**INAUGURAL BUSH POETS FESTIVAL**

**Queens Birthday Weekend 1998**

**Mt. ISA'S 75th ANNIVERSARY**

**Ph. 077 435 201 Fax 077 433 386**

**BUSH POET'S  
BREAKFAST  
LONGYARD HOTEL  
TAMWORTH**

**17th — 26th January 1988**

With Hosts

Tim McLoughlin

Ray Essery and Frank Daniel

Guest poets and performers

8am to 10am — Free admission

**MIDDAY WITH MUZZA**

**BUSH POETS LUNCH**

**In the Big Hokka**

**12 NOON TO 2PM**

**WEST TAMWORTH**

**LEAGUES CLUB**

**17th - 25th January 1988**

Starring: John Major - Marco Gliori

Murray Hartin - Shirley Friend - Bobby Miller

and guest after guest after guest

**It's New! It's Big! It's Free! Don't Miss it!**

**THE  
BIG BUSH BREKKY SHOW**

At the

**Bushman's Billabong**

**WEST TAMWORTH**

**LEAGUES CLUB**

Breakfast at 7am — Show starts 8am  
with

**JIM HAYNES**

and a big roll up of

**Australia's Best**

**BUSHPOETS and YARNSPINNERS**

also

**THE BUSH KIDS**

WITH

**PADDY RYAN & CO**

In Tamworth in '98

**IMPERIAL HOTEL BUSH POETRY  
Competition**

**THE NAKED POETS**

West Tamworth Leagues Club

Noel Cutler's Presentation

**POETS IN THE PUB GANG**

North Tamworth Bowling Club

The **GEOFFREY GRAHAM SHOW**

'The Man from Ironbark'

and other new surprises

**OASIS BUSH POETRY**

Oasis Hotel

Further details in this issue  
More information next month

**The Third Annual  
Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate  
Awards**

**2pm Tuesday January 20th. 1998 2pm**

Hosted by Nick Erby

with a star studded line up of presenters  
and guest performers

**In the Big Hokka**

**WEST TAMWORTH LEAGUS CLUB**

**AUSTRALIAN  
BUSH POET'S ASSOCIATION INC  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TAMWORTH**

**Saturday 24TH. JANUARY 1998**

**2.30 pm sharp !!**

**St. Peter's Hall**

**THE  
"POETS IN THE PUB" GANG  
RIDES AGAIN**

**AN ALL NEW SHOW**

**FEATURING AGAIN**

**GARY FOGARTY - JOHN MAJOR**

**NOEL CUTLER**

**INTRODUCING NEW GANG MEMBER**

**FRANK DANIEL**

Lighting and sound by Ian Enders

**8PM NIGHTLY**

**Wednesday to Saturday**

**21st — 22nd — 23rd — 24th. January 1998**

**A TWO HOUR BALLADRAMA**

**NORTH TAMWORTH**

**BOWLING CLUB**



## Presidents letter. . .

One of the most pleasing aspects of my position as President and Editor is reading the mail from members far and wide. The poetry, the news, compliments, requests for help and the friendliness, contribute to making the job a lot easier. The fact that my efforts are appreciated is more than a bonus. Being unable to answer all correspondence, I say thank you to those many writers and ask them not to be disappointed should their poems fail to be included in the newsletter. We have so many.

Some concern has been raised by a number of poets as to the whereabouts of Campbell Irving. I have had a number of calls in the last few months.

'The Jolly Swagman' has been missed from a number of functions at which organisers anticipated his attendance. No doubt news in September of his 'untimely passing' caused a lot more anxiety.

However good news often follows bad and we now have four reported sightings of our elusive mate since his 'death'. One at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, one in Sydney, one 'definite' from 'Arch' Bishop stating that Campbell was at the Maldon Folk Festival. (Vic) plus a phone call he made to the Matilda Caravan Park in Winton at the end of October. Should you come across the Jolly Swagman please ask him to report in by reversing the charges to the President on 02 6341 1588 (all hours), so that I might sleep at night instead of doing all the worrying for others. (His annual subscription does not cover this).

Had a letter from Merv. Webster Snr. who says he is 'new to bush poetry and is limited to performing only, while struggling to write something worthwhile'. Being guided by 'Carmel Randle's Handbook for Writers and Performers of Rhymed Verse "HELP" (Sic) Merv. reads Carmel's words as "For PERFORMED COMPETITION, your presentation of the poem must be WORD PERFECT.....particularly if you didn't write the poem" (sic).

But as Merv. recites Banjo Paterson's 'Geebung Polo Club' he alters the line 'Now my readers can imagine how the contest ebbed and flowed' to 'Now you listeners can imagine . . . .'. He asks, 'Does this attract a penalty from the judges?' I would hope not Merv. I see no problem here at all and would not penalise a contestant for such a change. I myself and a number of others use the words "Now my listener can imagine ...." correctly or incorrectly — who knows?

In another instance Merv. was cited by a judge in a Bobby Miller poem, 'The True Australian', for the line

Spring is here the grass is riz  
I wonder where the flowers is  
Time for plants, and time for seeds  
And time for chippin' flamin' weeds!  
All winter long the ground's been fallow  
Except for clover and marshmallow.  
Spring is here, and she's a goer!  
Just try and start that bloody mower!!! © Hipshot.

'Should he ride a stallion stockhorse....' the judges comments on his assessment sheet being... 'there is no such thing as a stallion stockhorse'. Obviously not a livestock judge eh, Merv?

I know a lot of judges have never heard the words of many of the poems recited in competitions, including Paterson's and Lawson's and so base their assessment on delivery, entertainment value, choice of poem and so on. Here of course is one good reason why organisers ask so many times for a copy of the poem to be presented by the contestant at various competitions. By having a copy of the original, you can make your point, should such trivia matter.

I see no problems with reciters not being absolutely 'word perfect' in their deliveries, I have knowledge of many performers using their own variations of some of the great classics as well as more recent works of others. I do feel however that one should strive to be correct, and that the appointed judges should know what they are talking about. We must remember that a lot of bush poetry was handed down by word of mouth in the old days, and perhaps even so today, and many changes would have occurred, but it does not detract from the author or the poem itself. How many audience members are word perfect in their memory? Do they know when a performer 'goes wrong' or makes a change? I don't think it matters to them, as long as they are entertained, and isn't that what it's all about?

Another query from Keith Ireland of Nth. Rocky asks how he should differentiate between the headings listed in bush poetry competitions 'Bush Verse', 'Traditional Bush Verse', 'Australian Rhyming Poetry', 'Traditional Rhyming Verse', 'Traditional Australian Rhyming Bush Verse' and so on, when submitting entries.

'What are the rules for each?' asks Keith. Well mate! As far as I am concerned they are all one and the same. Many organisers vary the titles and headings of their competitions seeking some sort of originality or individuality in their own area. However I feel that the simplest explanation is that 'Bush Poetry' is poetry about Australia and Australians, written by Australians having good rhyme and meter.

Keep on writing and reciting,  
Regards,

*Frank Daniel.*

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTHS  
NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 10TH.**

## Secretary's notes...

Dear members,

Renewal of annual subscriptions are due at the end of December. The Annual fee remains at \$25.00 which should be forwarded to me before the 31st December.

At the Annual General Meeting you will not be able to vote unless you are a financial member. I will be in Tamworth for the week prior to the meeting and you can feel free to pay your membership to me personally. I will be around the different venues wearing a name tag.

A management committee has to be appointed at the AGM. This year we have only had the President, two Vice Presidents and myself. That has worked all right for we have to have meetings each month and with the distance between it would be difficult to make any more workable. I thought some of you would have made suggestions or comment. That is the way you get your say. Just write in to me.

Any new member who joins now will be enlisted for 1988. The membership numbers have been increasing each year and I thought it might interest you all to know the phenomenal growth of our Association.

1994 . . . 102 Financial members

1995 . . . 166 — 1996 . . . 275 — 1997 . . . 364

It was noted at the last monthly meeting that the main flush of new members during September was the product of the President's promotions at the Gympie Muster.

Congratulations to our members who are putting out books, cassettes and CD's. They are of a high standard and are good publicity for our association. 'Blue the Shearer' is wrong about Scorpio. I am a Scorpio and at least two of the things he says are incorrect.

Happy days, Regards..

*Olive Shooter.*

## Around the traps . . .

New ABPA member, Beth Bashford of Berrigan NSW was heard reciting 'The Drover's Wife', one of her many great poems on Australia All Over on Sunday 19th. October. Beth managed to slip in a free plug on "Macca" for her book which is listed in the book-shelf. (p18).

Noel Cutler, Glenn and Jo of Wangaratta, paid a flying visit to Canowindra on their way home from a round-about tour which took in Wentworth, Broken Hill, Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Moree, Goondiwindi and The Gums in Qld.

Noel joined with Frank Daniel entertaining the crowds at the Centenary Celebrations of Hays Sawmilling in the small Central Western town of Egowra. The big whip-cracker has some new tricks

## RUSTY

© Rhubard

I write this letter with a heart that is sad,  
The news that I bring I'm afraid is quite bad,  
Sit down and rest easy to hear what I say,  
I'm afraid the old Kingswood has just passed away.

Although we were ready it still comes as a shock,  
We are mourning its passing as we pause to take stock,  
We reflect on a vehicle that was sturdy and loyal  
Which carried us swiftly yet never would boil.

It bore us in comfort through rain, hail or shine  
As it tore on regardless along the white line,  
It was never unfaithful or involved in a stack,  
It took us there safely then brought us straight back.

The mechanic was helpful and did what he could  
But he said it was over, I thought that he would,  
Though the motor was sturdy and had plenty of thrust,  
The body had cancer and was riddled with rust.

So he filled out this form that did say in effect,  
That he won't pass the car 'cause the thing is a wreck,  
I drove it straight home, knowing this was the end,  
And I kicked it's old tyres in respect of a friend.

It sits now and slumbers 'neath the shade of a tree  
And a far sadder man I forever will be,  
I think I'll re-name it, though I know that I shouldn't  
It once was a Kingswood but is now a Kingswoodn't.

## MISSING IN ACTION

(Some sightings have been reported).

## NO REWARD

Just tell him to ring  
the President.  
02 6341 1588

Answers to the name  
CAMPBELL



up his sleeve, plus a light show for future performances and is currently enjoying a lot of corporate functions in the Melbourne area.

Heard a whisper on the grape-vine that one 'Picture Writer' from Brisbane visited the Daydream Mine on the Silverton road west of Broken Hill..... could be another picture being penned at this very moment.

The wanderlust not only hits the 'swagman', but many other poets as well. Travelling 'regions vast' making good use of the Greyhound-Pioneer Aussie Pass won in the Bush Poetry Competition at the Cloncurry Festival in June was ABPA member Terry Regan and wife Dulcie, who have just returned home to Blaxland on the Blue Mountains after seven weeks touring the Centre and W.A.



## WINTON 1998

The Winton 'newsletter' is currently available for those poets and interested people wishing to go to Winton next year.

This newsletter informs and updates intending poets and competitors from time to time with the programme of events, general requirements, competition conditions, times and dates, accommodation details and includes application forms as well.

As the official opening of the Waltzing Matilda Centre is a gala event being promoted Australia-wide, other Bush Poetry Happenings will also be included in the programme.

Competitors can also be a part of the Poetry Commonwealth Games. Simply organise a team and go into training. Teams will consist of a minimum of four with a maximum of five poets and one Coach if needed. Medals will be awarded in true International Style to place-getters in each event. The winning 'Country' will be recorded on the Perpetual Trophy.

For further details on this exciting innovation, especially if you have not received a 'Winton Newsletter', send A4 sized SSAE to

The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards  
P.O. Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352  
(Fax available....076 309 998)

## AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Highlight of the Winton Celebrations is the Australian Bush Poetry Championships where the winners, male and female, will be awarded a trip to the American Cowboy Poets Gathering in Elko Nevada in January 1999.

The 1997 Australian Champions, Helen Avery and Mark Klienschmidt, both of Longreach Q. will be guests of the American Cowboy Poets departing from Sydney on 18th. January. We wish them well.

- \* Waiter: "How did you find the steak, Sir?"  
Diner: "I just lifted up a chip and there it was!"
- \* No one has ever climbed the ladder of success with his hands in his pockets.
- \* All that a milkman has he owes to udders.

## LATE NEWS FROM KY.

The Kyabram Agricultural Society is conducting a Campdrafting weekend on the 29th. and 30th. November. As part of the weekend the Kyabram Bush Verse Group will host a Poets Breakfast on Sunday the 30th. The venue is the Kyabram Showgrounds starting at 7am. The Breakfast will be compered by members of the Kyabram Bush Verse Group and there will be ample opportunity for any visiting poets. All welcome. Contact Watty on 03 5852 2084 or Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097

## BUSH BASH

### JIMBOOMBA R.S.L.

Laugh, sing along and dance  
With the hilarity of bush poets

**Bobby Miller — Glenny Palmer**

and the toe-tapping music of

**Garth Brand and Country Singer Stan Lenz**

Admission \$15.00

**JIMBOOMBA COMMUNITY HALL**

**29th. NOVEMBER**

Bar opens 6.30 Show starts 7.30

Phone bookings 07 5543 1747

## DICK WARWICK WRITES

American Cowboy Poet and ABPA Inc. member Dick Warwick of Oakesdale Washington USA wrote some time back to say 'Howdy'. Unfortunately his news didn't make it into the October Newsletter due to lack of space. (Sorry Dick).

At the time of writing Dick said that the Palouse Country Cowboy Poetry Gathering had just ended. For a second year event at a busy time of the year, it went well. 'Not hordes of attendees, but enough.' Some very good performers we are told.

Former Western Australian, Marie Smith gave our President a mention in her talks, and read a couple of selections from Carmel Randle's book.

Dick states that Sam Jackson, a sheepherder and cowboy poet, is one of the organisers of the first ever cowboy poetry competition in America. It will be in Utah in March 1998, with a number of mixed feelings in the air about it. Sadness in seeing the old officially non-competitive scene go; but on the other hand the competitions will hone their poets' skills and will keep them honest.

The big established names are against it of course, since they pretty much have a corner on the commercial market. It is expected that they will not deign to enter a competition.

Dick expects some fine material to issue forth as a result of competition. He believes that Australian competitions produce some great stuff, allowing anyone who can write and/or perform the chance to get famous without having to receive the imprimaturs from the biggies.

Dick's first introduction to bush poetry was in Western Australia during the early 1980's.

Dick is still hoping to get to Australia once more, attend a few festivals and so on and meet up with some of the bush poets. He should have time for a three weeks visit in the first quarter of 1998.

If any readers would like to drop him a line his address is

P.O. Box 111 Oakesdale Washington USA 99158  
Cop a gander at one of his poems on page 14.

## BUG ON THE ROAD

The 'Balmain Bug', Bob Dever and wife Carlene have reported in from the Northern Territory, to let us know that we are not forgotten, and that their newsletter is keeping up with them en route, delivering vital information about the poets as they travel.

Although they haven't taken in any festivals lately, Bob is doing well with his poetry 'in some pretty out of the way places' whilst Carlene remains a good source of inspiration to him in their travels.

Since leaving Sydney Bob has written a couple of 'newies', "The Navigator" and "The Backer Upper".

They are having a great time on the road taking in the Australian Bush and finding out just what us 'blokes have been writing about all these years'.

## PROPOSED NOPA PROGRAMME

In view of the changes in the established programme for the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards in Winton, and the Stockmen's Hall of Fame's Tenth Birthday Celebrations in Longreach — both now co-inciding with the Easter Weekend in 1998 — N.O.P.A has made adjustments to their normal programme.

On Sunday Evening, April 5th, a 'Sunset and Stars' event will be held on the lawn before the Hall of Fame — always a delightful programme in an inspiring setting.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Performance Sessions will be held at different venues, maintaining their non-competitive philosophy, and offering Performers who intend to compete in Winton an opportunity to hone their skills on the way through.

Poets, Musicians, Singers and Yarn Spinners will need to nominate prior to April 4th, if they wish to guarantee a performance spot at any of these sessions.

Enquiries are always welcomed, and as always, the NOPA Group looks forward to renewing old friendships and making new!

(Such early notice must be advantageous to those many travellers, poets and groupies alike, who find it hard to get timely notice of proposed events. Thank you NOPA. Ed.) See ad on page 2.

\* Tom was taking a photo of a girl in a high wind, so he was able to get an excellent 'clothes up' of her.

\* Did you hear about the bloke who crossed a snake with a rabbit and got an adder that multiplies.

\* Cross a Tom-cat with a seeing-eye dog and you get a peeping-tom.

## LIFE'S BALANCE

© Frank Daniel  
Canowindra. N.S.W.



Life has an uneven balance  
where the scales oft' do incline.  
There is health and wealth and happiness,  
hunger, pain, death and decline.

The rich get richer.  
And the poor? — Well we know.  
That's the way it's been forever,  
the way it will always go.

The poor man sees the wealthy  
through polished lenses standing tall.  
With lens reversed, the rich man  
sees the poor man — rather small.

Charity? It begins at home,  
too oft' that's where it stays.  
The generous give with love and care,  
to ease the plight of strays.

Lifes roulette wheel keeps spinning,  
we are here for just one ride,  
and when the wheel stops turning,  
to the bottom we all slide.

There'll be no rich, there'll be no poor,  
when life's gamble is the past.  
In Heavens rest, may all be blessed,  
scales balanced — an even keel at last.

## BENDIGO BUSH POETRY

Held as part of the Bendigo Festival, the first ever Bush Poets Breakfast held in Bendigo was a resounding success according to reports from the organisers. Fifteen poets from Victoria and South Australia made up the card for the day.

Officiating judges, Allan Russ of Bendigo and Rob Leetham from Strathfieldsaye said that the competitors were great but claim that they had the toughest job of all. Trophies were donated by Rassies Gift Ware.

### Book and Cassette

## BALLADS OF A BUSH BRIDE

MAVIS APPLEYARD  
106 Thornton St.  
WARREN NSW 2824  
Ph. 02 6847 4498

Book — \$10 PP.  
Cassette — \$12.00 pp



## Profile . . . Neil Carroll

Neil Carroll hardly fits the image of a bush poet. There's none of the look of the horseman, so obvious in 'Banjo' Paterson, nor the haunting gaze of a Henry Lawson.

Indeed Neil Carroll doesn't even live in the bush... he and his wife Judy, who hails from the far western town of Brewarrina, are enjoying their retirement in Dubbo, City of the Plains, in Central New South Wales.

Neil spent many years in the back country as a young man working on such well-known stations as 'Wongalea', 'Oakleigh' and 'Lynrae', and he writes about the bush with all the feeling of a Paterson or a Lawson.

His efforts have won him recognition in many of the bush verse competitions throughout Australia, including Tamworth's famous Blackened Billy in 1992 and the Rural Press sponsored National Bush Poet of the Year in 1990.

*"The old year went and the new returned  
With it's worries and cares and frowns.  
As we watched the sky where the fires burned  
at Wodalla, and Widgee Downs.  
Then He saw fit to send reprieve  
to this great, wide withering plain.  
Then we watched the sky for a Southerly breeze  
and relief . . . from the torrential rain!!"*

Neil remembers the droughts, bushfires and floods from his days in the fifties, when he battled with a mate who had drawn a Soldier Settler's block near Brewarrina.

Times were tough in those days of the horses and hurricane lamps, but people of the bush would always band together and help each other.

Neil started writing for the Brewarrina News with a column called 'Heard in the Bar' by 'Hipshot' which contained local gossip, anecdotes about the bush and it's people, and plenty of bush verse about the land that was so unforgiving to those who settled on it. One minute it was awash with water — the next, dry as a bone!

*"There's a dried-up tank with a dozen wethers  
bogged to their ears in mud.  
at the very spot where we rowed and shot  
a dozen ducks, in the flood!  
Where millions of gallons of water lay  
out there on the old stock route,  
there's hardly a gallon of mud today  
and all we can talk is drought!"*

One can hardly do justice to a poem by quoting less than forty per. cent, but it was a heart rending decision for Neil and Judy to bring their five children to Dubbo in the seventies for the sake of a good education.

Neil was manager of the Brewarrina Bowling club and regularly entertained with his sketches and country songs and imported many top line country artists

In Dubbo Neil remained in the pub and club game for many years, often compering shows for well-known entertainers. On retirement he decided to try one of his poems in Tamworth's Imperial Hotel Performance section, but, in his

## THE UGLIEST BLOKE

© Mick Coventry Kyabram V.

I saw a bloke before me  
with a face so ugly and mean.  
I reckon this bloke was about  
as ugly as I had seen.

He reminded me of a flower  
(A dried-up and wilted Nasturtion)  
He was so ugly he made Chad Morgan  
look more like Elle McPherson.

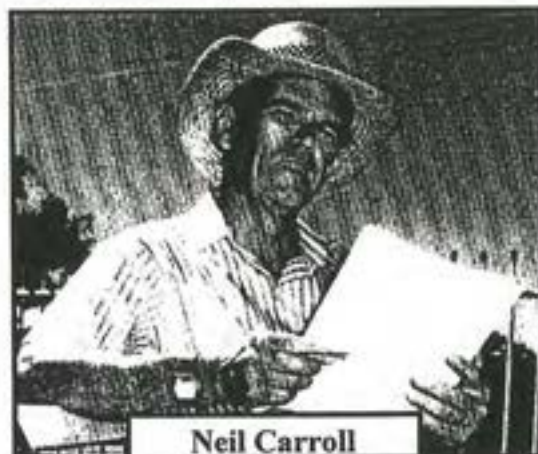
His face was twisted and mangled  
and seemed to be racked with pain,  
and his hair was matted and windswept  
like he'd been through a hurricane.

And he looked sort of dopey and stupid  
like he'd been on the grog for a week.  
And I'd hate to say how old he was  
although he'd qualify as an "antique".

But there was something strangely familiar  
I knew him to the 'nth degree.  
For it was seven o'clock in the mornin'  
and that face, in the mirror, was me.

own words, "They were too bloody hot for this little black duck!" Neil was amazed at the talents of ABPA members like Bobby Miller, Milton Taylor, Frank Daniel and their mates at the Imperial, and Jim Haynes and crew at the Longyard Hotel, and would not miss this popular week in January for quids.

Neil has formed a firm friendship in Dubbo with Ellis Campbell and Ron Stevens, two of the most prolific writers of bush verse and competition winners. Back in June this trio, along with Malcolm Tink enjoyed the long trek to Cloncurry's Festival and now Neil is looking forward to many more enjoyable trips, and getting to know many more of the Bush Poets Association fraternity.



Neil Carroll



## NEW METROPOLITAN FOLK CLUB

A new Folk Club will be starting this month (November) in the Sydney Metropolitan Area organised by poets Jenny Carter and Graeme Johnson. This club hopes to cater for all types of poetry (including Bush Poetry as well) and other associated Folk activities.

Known as the North by Northwest Poetry and Folk Club, the group will meet at the North Ryde Community Aid and Information Centre, Cutler Parade Nth. Ryde.

The first meeting was on Thursday 13th. November and will be held every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. A small cover charge of \$5.00 includes supper.

Generally the format will be Poetry, Music and all things Folk with an open mike.

This new evening should be of interest to some of our Sydney poets and other members visiting the City will be more than welcome. Phone Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653.

## CHANGES AT THE LONGYARD

A number of changes have taken place for the coming Tamworth Country Music Festival in January and more so at The Longyard Hotel.

In 1998 the Longyard Poets Breakfasts will be in the capable hands of Frank Daniel, Ray Essery and Tim McLoughlin.

Among the many guests, a number of new faces will be joining the troupe as well as some performers who have appeared at the Longyard from time to time over the years.

At the end of the week a special award will be presented to the best performer over the ten days.

## WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

'It's like a different world!' some people say, 'A totally different experience!'

A festival that will challenge, amuse, educate, entertain, but most of all expand you.

Woodford is many festivals within a festival. Spoken word, international music and culture, murri culture and custom food, environment, medicine, politics, arts and crafts.

For poets there are daily Poet's Breakfasts, the one-minute Poet's Brawl. (Be warned! Last year's winner, 6 year old Chloe Fryar from Sydney will be back). Workshops, Shows and even a Kid's Little Poet's Lunch with Shirley Friend and Ian Mackay.

Co-ordinator, Jacqueline Bridle has a diverse group of poets who cover a wide spectrum of styles and subjects. If you've never been to Woodford, then it is a must over the Christmas-New-Year period.

## "Hand in Hand"

Hand in Hand is the title of the new album of bush verse on cassette and CD presented by **John and Joy Major** of Baralaba Q.

This tape of Australian Bush Poetry will be a must following the success of John's first recording two years ago. Poems on

the album are by various artists from the well known Anon. to Australia's greatest ever 'Banjo' Paterson with works from Karen Emmett, Rupert McCall, Noel Cutler, Flo Hart, John Angus, Tom Geddes, Robert Raftery, Dale Wimbrow, Frank Daniel, Pat Watson, Roger Allen, John O'Neill and Carmel Randle.

Recorded at 4AAA Yeerongpilly Qld., the Album has been skilfully engineered and produced by Hedley Johnson. Sound and Music comes from Kevin Stanton who featured on the album of the late Fred Hollows. Excellent photography by Auda Maclean adds impressively to the cover jacket, indicating more detail involved in production skills. John and Joy intend launching 'Hand in Hand' at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in January at the West Tamworth Leagues Club.

Orders with payment to:

**John and Joy Major**

**P.O. Box 58 BARALABA Q. 4702**

**CD \$20.00 p.p. Cassette \$15.00 p.p.**



## SQUATTERS REST PRIVATE MUSEUM TUCABIA

(20 minutes NE of Grafton)

**22nd NOVEMBER**

**BUSH POET'S NIGHT**

WITH

**RAY ESSERY - GEORGE NEW**

**DON LLOYD - BILL KEARNS**

**KATHLEEN WHITTINGTON - ALLEN HINTON**

**FEATURING THREE TIMES WINNER OF THE  
R.M. WILLIAMS AUSTRALIAN LADIES  
WHIP-CRACKING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**FIONA WILKS**

**CAMP OVEN MEALS — BILLY TEA — DESSERT**

**PH. 02 6644 8076**



## THE NAKED POETS — (Close your eyes)

"We've gone bigger and better for 1998!" says Murray Hartin. After three sell-out shows in 1997, the same 'mad five' are returning with a double dose in 1998 — six evening shows at the Tamworth Golf Club with Marco Gliori, Shirley Friend, Bobby Miller, Murray Hartin and Ray Essery. All have been working hard preparing new material.

The big news for Naked Poet's fans for '98 is the inclusion of the musical talents of Pat Drummond. Pat is a wonderful entertainer whose style and sense of humour will blend in well with the rest of the show.

The Naked Poets will appear on Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th of January. Shows begin at 7.45 pm, tickets are \$10.00 and you can enjoy a meal and a few nice cold drinks from the bar.

Bookings can be made through the Golf Club on 02 6765 9393 and, going on last years attendances, poetry enthusiasts are advised to book early.

## GOLDEN GUMLEAF AWARDS

The Golden Gumleaf Awards have become such a success in three short years that they will be moving to a new venue also in 1998. Unfortunately 200 people had to be turned away last year so a new home has been found in The Big Hokka at West Tamworth Leagues Club. This venue is air-conditioned and seats 1000 in concert-style comfort.

The awards will be held on Tuesday 20th. January at 2pm. Nick Erby will again host a star-studded line up of guest performers and presenters.

Entries for the 1998 awards came tumbling in thick and fast during October.

A new Bush Laureate category has been added for 1998 and this 'Track of the Year' section has attracted the most entries. It is an award for 'Performance of the Year' which will make it possible for artists who put one piece of verse on an album, like Tex Morton, Stan Coster and others in the past, to win an award. It also means a poet may win this award even though he or she does not win 'Album of the Year'.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB

CHRISTMAS

"GET TOGETHER"

WOOMARGAMA HOTEL

(Hume Highway North of Albury)

11.00 am Sunday November 30 11.00am

Barbeque Lunch

R.S.V.P by Nov. 25. Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845

## MAPLETON DOES IT AGAIN

You really wouldn't believe it!

There might be a drought. There might be heaps of worried people muttering foreign phrases like 'El Nino' but the Mapleton Yarn Festival managed once again to bring the rain. Four years out of the last five!

Organisers, Jacqueline Bridle and Ian MacKay have been seriously giving thought to taking the show on the road as a drought-breaking tour but have opted instead to bring next years festival forward by a few weeks.

As usual though it was a great 'day and a bit'. The wind and the rain and the swirling clouds only seemed to make people settle in all the more for an absolute feast of pertry, yarns and light-hearted competitions, not to mention the eventual promise of wonderful Poet's Corner Wines.

It began on Saturday night at the Bowls Club when Ian MacKay hosted a show called appropriately, 'Cant Bowl For Laughing' — a tribute to the late Charlee Marshall — a long time friend of the festival.

The show — opened by Maroochy Shire Deputy Mayor and festival supporter, Hermann Schwake, included performances by the 'Larrikin' Bob Miller, Bill Hay, Trish Anderson, Jacqui Bridle, Wally Finch, Merv and Chris Webster, Ron Selby and others.

With low clouds and more rain on the Sunday, spirits refused to be dampened as the Poet's Breakfast began in the marquee at the Lillyponds. It was clear that visitors were in for a treat. Overnight the poet's ranks swelled with the arrival of Shirley Friend, Carmel Dunn, Lisa Plucknett and Carmel Randle.

The Ernie Setterfield Competition — a challenge between poets groups — was hotly contested. Last years winner Merv Webster from Bagara hosted the event in which each group presents one serious and one humorous poem (performed by either one or two members). Eventual winner was Phil Morrison from Cooloola Golden Pen Poets (Gympie) with Peter Auty (Woodford Poets) second and Maleny's Celtic Tea Room Poets third.

Peter Auty hosted the R.M. Williams King of the Liars Contest. From stiff opposition, Merv Webster emerged victorious, winning himself an R.M. Williams coat.

The two Martins took over the afternoon, with Martin Pearson (author of the Chook from Snowy River) a hilarious comic songster, and Martin Wyndham-Read, a wonderful musician and yarn-spinner enticed to Mapleton from the U.K.

Ian and Jacqui, after closely analysing Mapleton's rainfall figures for the last 20 years now reckon that September is a better bet for dry weather and they have claimed the weekend of September 26 and 27 for next years festival. Put this in your calendar of events for 1998 and make Mapleton an even bigger success.



## THE SHEARING SHED

© Bob Kane Rutherford NSW

The rising sun dispels the ghostly shadows  
From deserted shearing shed and empty yards,  
A creaking gate invades the silence,  
Where the gnarled and riven peppers stand on guard.

A warped and faded shutter on a window  
On broken hinges hails the day, askew,  
Roofing iron so loose in breezes rising,  
Would surely welcome there a nail or two.

Open catching pens, the gates are swinging,  
No Kelpie sounds, no woolies to be seen.  
Just ghostly figures when the day has ended,  
Spirit forms to survey the lonely scene.

Cold and silent now the chatter of the 'Wolsleys,'  
Discarded combs and cutters strew the floor.  
An empty oil-can on a ledge, forgotten,  
A ringer's tally crowds a dusty door.

Sit awhile, and you may hear the voices,  
It's "Wool away!" and "Tar-boy, hurry here!"  
But no more the cleanskins through the shutes descending,  
Overhead, no more the whirr of running gear!

Empty woolpress brooding in the silence,  
Pins and wool hooks hanging, have lost their shine,  
Stenciled names, the dusty walls adorning  
The names are those old shearing mates of mine.

Where are my mates, The men who toiled here?  
Winds of time have scattered them afar,  
Perhaps they're sleeping in some lonely graveyard,  
Or resting, contented, in a city bar.

As I leave this scene of desolation,  
With its memories so vivid and so clear,  
I vow never more to be returning,  
Those days are gone, there is nothing for me here!



The above photograph seemed fitting for Bob Kane's poem. It is of the 'Tooralle' Station shearing shed, situated in the junction of the Warrego and Darling Rivers 40 miles South West of Bourke. It was here that Henry Lawson was employed as a shed-hand for a time during 1892. 'Tooralle' Station is also a part of the annual trek taken by bush-poets from Bourke when they follow in the steps of Henry Lawson's long walk from 'Tooralle' via Fords Bridge and Lake Eliza to Hungerford on the Queensland Border, and the Paroo River.

## Sagittarius

### Half Horse. Half Arse!!

I'm not a Sagittarian.  
I'm delighted not to be.  
Those born to that star sign  
Get no argument from me.  
For they are single-minded,  
Not open to advice,  
Though other Sagittarians  
Say they find them nice.  
You'll know one when you meet one.  
There is no other kind,  
Born under any star sign  
With such a one-track mind.

(Nov 23 — Dec 22)

**"Blue the Shearer"**

Whenever a woman starts weeping,  
it's part of a definite plan,  
To get something out of her system,  
Or, to get something out of her man!

*Many who talk like big wheels  
merely turn out to be spokesmen*

Ask a friend to join  
**The Australian  
Bush Poet's Association Inc.**

**\$ 25.00 per annum  
1st January - 31 December**

and  
while your at it  
**REMEMBER THAT YOUR  
SUBS  
ARE DUE AT THE END OF  
DECEMBER**

Prompt payment would be  
appreciated in order to assist with  
the book-keeping and submission  
of returns to the relevant  
authorities.

(Guvamint stuff - you know!)

Thank you to the following contributors to this month's Newsletter: Murray Hartin, Bob Kane, Anon., Judith Hosier, Allied Artists, 'Blue the Shearer', Mick Coventry, Graeme Johnson, Dick Warwick, Winton Tourist Promotion Ass., NOPA, Maureen Garner, Olive Shooter, Bob Dever, Joe, Graeme Watt, John and Joy Major, Ian MacKay, Hipshot, Bob Miller, Norma Jeffries, Jennifer Compton, Tim McLoughlin, Rhubarb, Merv Webster Snr., Keith Ireland, Peter Worthington.



## POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- Nov. 30 Closing Date. **The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1998.** Written Australian Bush Verse. Entry fee \$3.00 per entry. Limit of 3 entries per person. Send with separate details to Tamworth Poetry Reading Group. P.O. Box 1164 Tamworth NSW 2340
- Nov. 29 **Bush Bash — Jimboomba Qld.** Starts 7.30pm Jimboomba Community Hall  
Bobby Miller and Glenny Palmer Enquiries 07 5543 1747
- Nov. 30 Closing date for **Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Junior Championships Written Competition Under 16 Years.** Free entry. Place name address etc on back of entry.  
Post of Neil Hulm. Sec. 361 Cheyenne Drv. Lavington NSW 2641
- 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
- Dec. 30 **Tumbarumba Bowling Club.** Tumbarumba NSW. Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Championship Recitals.
- January 22 - 24 **Tamworth Poetry Group Bush Verse Competition. Imperial Hotel Tamworth**  
Entry forms from Tamworth Poetry Group P.O. BOX 1164 Tamworth 2340
- January 24 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — AUSTRALIAN BUSH POET'S ASSOCIATION INC.**  
St. PETERS SCHOOL TAMWORTH. 2.30 PM SHARP.
- January 31 Closing date. The Bronze Swagman Award for Australian Bush Verse. See article this issue.
- Jan 31 **Bungendore NSW Country Muster.** Elmsleigh Homestead — Bush Poets Breakfasts, Workshops  
Feb 1. All welcome. Frank Daniel — Blue the Shearer — Bobby Miller. Ph. Toni Flanagan. 02 6238 1651
- Feb. 28 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
- Easter 98 **Winton Celebrations** See ad. page 2.
- Easter 98 **N.O.P.A. Longreach Q.** See ad. Page 2
- May 9-10 **Warwick Bush Week Bush Poetry Competition.**  
Sat. 9th. All day performance poetry competition — Sun. 10th. Poets in the Park.  
Written competition. Entries close 31-3-1998 Ph. Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115 or 07 4664 1606
- June 1998 Mt. Isa Writers Association and Mt. Isa Folk Club. Mt. Isa Inaugural Bush Poets Festival in conjunction with the Top Half Folk Festival Queens Birthday Weekend. Celebrating Mt. Isa's 75th Anniversary. Phone 077 435 201 Fax 077 433 386

### 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  
Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q. Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552  
Victoria Hall. 179 High St. Fremantle WA. Ph. 9431 7270
- 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
- 2nd Sunday **North by Northwest Poetry and Folk Club.** North Ryde. Ph. 02 9887 1856 — 02 9874 7653
- 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.
- 4th Tuesday. **Grafton 'Live Poets' 7.30 pm.** Roaches Family Hotel. Victoria St Grafton.
- 3rd. Thursday **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Phone David Meyers  
Ph. 06 286 1891

**ADVERTISE YOUR FESTIVAL  
OR OUTING —  
LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT IT**

**PLEASE NOTE. . .**



**DEADLINE  
FOR COPY FOR  
NEXT MONTHS  
ISSUE WIL BE  
10TH DECEMBER**

Gruesome two-some  
from the Awesome  
Foursome  
Greg Scott  
on the left and  
Tim McLoughlin,  
will be appearing at  
the Longyard in  
1998.





## WHAT WILL BE

© Frank Daniel Canowindra NSW (Oct 1997)

Mum and Dad were proud of son  
Who was barely three years old.  
They took him to a Gypsy where  
They might have his fortune told.

Not being up to understanding  
They found the lad a trifle shy.  
The seer placed three objects down  
In an attempt to prophecy.

She placed a reddish bank-note  
Then a Bible full of script,  
And a bottle full of whisky,  
To see what he thought of it.

'Should he take the money,  
Banking will be his future life.  
Take the Bible — be a preacher,  
Or the whisky — nought but strife'.

Son put the money in his pocket,  
Grabbed the bottle by the neck,  
Took the Bible in his free hand....  
His folks thought 'what the heck?'

'What can this mean, what does it say?  
Then came the 'tellers quick decision.  
'He's shown a rarity of genius —  
Your son will be a Politician!'

\* Did you hear about the wino who drank a bottle of shellac to get a shine on. He had a glorious finish.



Old time drover, bush poet, author, larrikin and near new ABPA member Tim Scherf of Tenterfield (He's the one on the left patting the dog) Good luck with the book, Tim, welcome to bush poetry.

## AWESOME FOURSOME AT THE LONGYARD

When Judith Hosier asked Tim McLoughlin to get a group together for appearances at the famous Longyard Hotel Bush Poet's Breakfasts in '98, his choice was clear. It had to be his group of friends now dubbed 'The Awesome Foursome from Scone'. The group is made up of Tim, his long-time partner in crime Greg Scott, debutante Sally Mitchell and the Thoroughbred man Tony Parry.

These poets have all appeared at the 'Fireside Festival' in the past and attract a lot of attention in their own areas as entertainers. More next month.

## BOOK LAUNCH

## THANKS FOR COMING

Murray Hartin launched his new book *Thanks For Coming* at the Rugby Club, Sydney, on Tuesday November 11th. The new book features 36 poems, four from the first book, half a dozen from the tape, and a 'heap of new stuff', including some of the poems recited by Muzza on the John Laws morning show.

John Laws has written the foreword to the book and also contributed a two-page poem about the author.

During the past few months Murray has been kept pretty busy, which is good. He performed at the Mark Taylor Tribute Lunch with the PM, Steve Waugh, Alan Jones and even got to meet Kerry Packer.

His itinerary so far has included a trip to Auckland NZ where he was guest of the Auckland Rugby Supporters; he appeared in Melbourne for the National Australian Bank Chairman, Griffith, Wollongong, Newcastle a couple of times, Gunnedah, Tamworth, Blackville, Cowra and many shows in Sydney.

During September Mark Gliori was guest speaker at the Sydney Rugby Club and as can well be imagined, the two had a rowing few days together.

Some of the excitement in the air for 'Muzza' is the up-coming Paralympians Awards Dinner and the Australian Cycling Awards. Equally he is looking forward to a big January in Tamworth with the Naked Poets and the new Mid-day With Muzza at the West's Leagues Club.

In Moses day the Pharaoh's daughter  
Was a real financial crank  
She got a little prophet from  
The rushes on the bank! © Hipshot



## "ROUGH BUSHIES AT HEART"

42 BUSH POEMS

BY

TIM SCHERF

\$10.00 Post Paid

Tim Scherf 'Sandy Hills'

Tenterfield. NSW 2372

Sally Mitchell began her career reciting to school children on a weekly basis. Unlike many who start off 'weakly' and get worse, Sally is becoming a big star on local radio, at various outdoor functions, pubs and clubs. See her at the Longyard in 1998



Sally Mitchell



## A DREAM COME TRUE



Finally realising a long time dream and bowing to the wishes of her family, Norma Jeffries has published a book of Australian Verse.

Norma is a true blue bush girl, born in Coolah NSW in 1937. She was reared in the bush and on properties around the Bonshaw area, just over the border from her present home in Texas.

Norma only ever had six months schooling at the tiny Atholwood school where now only a church remains. Her father taught her all she needed to know in reading and writing and educated her to the best of his knowledge.

Learning from there on was totally experience, with hard work, caring and sharing dominating her attitude towards life.

Norma's father was a property manager for many years in the Bonshaw region. She saw and loved many aspects of rural life, has worked in the shearing sheds, worked among cattle and sheep, and on many occasions assisted her brother in his trade as a horse breaker.

Purely writing for her own satisfaction, Norma believes that if you can write or recite, you owe it to others, to share and express your feelings.

She started writing about eleven years ago and has had several poems published in the Bronze Swagman books of bush verse.

Norma went to Tamworth in January 1994 and was one of the founding members of the Australian Bush Poet's Association and is also a founding member of the Laidley Writers Circle.

Norma's book is available from her at \$8.00 posted. Slip her a postal note to 26 St. John St. Texas Qld. 4385

## THE BIOTECHNOLOGY BLUES

I find that I am fearing genetic engineering  
Combining forms of life once quite distinct  
When Man is the Creator I suspect sooner or later  
We'll find a way to make ourselves extinct.

Meanwhile we'll advance the development of plants  
And jump-start evolution for the fauna  
We'll design new DNA for creatures recherche'  
And modernise mosquito and iguana.

We'll make meat that will not rot and fruit without a spot  
And crops that spread themselves like tumbleweeds  
We'll have dogs that cannot bark . . . a toothless Great White Shark  
And chickens you can grow from little seeds.

We'll have carrots six feet long and correct me if I'm wrong  
New germs designed to work for good of all  
Why, the very code of life we'll dissect as with a knife  
And build some brand new creatures great and small.

We'll breed a super race of rats on which we will keep stats  
And none will run away into the wild  
We'll implant into our genes a chromosome from beans  
And in a pod we'll grow our perfect child.

And pirhanas! — we will blend 'em with starlings. Then we'll send 'em  
To countries that we currently dislike  
We'll re-invent Godzilla and downsize the gorilla  
And make a trout that decimates the pike.

We'll implant from kangaroo right into kinkajou  
The gene that gives the former all its spring  
And we'll grow rare rhino horn on stalks, like ears of corn  
And show the crow and Kiwi how to sing.

NEXT  
MONTHS  
DEADLINE  
IS  
DECEMBER  
10TH.

DON'T  
FORGET



The month  
after will be  
January 8th.

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BUSH POET'S BREAKFASTS  
**ELMSLEA HOMESTEAD**

BUNGENDORE NSW

Sat. 31st January and Sun. 1st February 1998

plus

POETRY WORKSHOPS

Saturday 2pm

WITH

'Blue the Shearer' - Bobby Miller - Frank Daniel

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© Dick Warwick Oakesdale Washington USA

We'll improve and re-combine a quill-less porcupine  
Pigs with wings and a darling mouse-sized moose  
To heck with all things native — we're creative and mutative  
We'll immitate, then out-do Dr. Suess!

Oh, the things we will conceive, the tapestry we'll weave  
Our dominion over life will reach a peak  
Now God can be dismissed — if she ever did exist  
Our line of life will be designer chic!

But our crowning tour de force will be ourselves of course  
On humankind we'll focus all our talents  
With the help of a computer we'll embellish and accoutre  
'Til our beings burst with brilliancy and balance.

And we'll all end up identical right down to hoof and tentacle  
We'll be all things rolled into one  
With progress exponential we will reach our full potential  
Our brave new world will be a lot of fun!

So mix and mould, stir, stew, combine and clone, contrive, construe  
We'll be whatever we decide to be  
And we'll have no further use for things that reproduce  
Except, perhaps the rose and honey-bee.

So I guess I'll not be cheering genetic engineering  
But go ahead and bio-tech at will  
To heck with consequences; we'll not come to our senses  
'Til Mother Nature hand us all the bill.

And if we by chance devise the means for our demise  
By a virus virulent or fatal flaw  
You will no doubt be consoled by this fact you'll now be told —  
Gene tampering is not against the law!

**WORD PROCESSED  
MANUSCRIPTS  
TYPED AND PRINTED**

by

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**\$2.00 per A4 PAGE**

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**The Balmain Bug**

## **BALMAIN BUG — an "Urban Bloke"**

It's a well know fact that poor Bob had been institutionalised for 38 years in the one Government instrumentality.

In order to survive the beaucroatic bungling for so long, it is understandable then, that he has developed his rather warped sense of humour. This is very evident in his work.

His life before poetry revolved around competing in sports such as Rugby League, motor-bike racing, diving, surfing, fishing, sky diving and getting out into the bush.

This then resulted in him hanging around bars and bragging about it.

But alas! The ravages of time, women and sports injuries have now caught up with the bug.

He now suffers from old timers disease, and has been reduced to hanging around bars and folk festivals, drinkin' Poets Corner Wine, and not being able to remember what it was he used to brag about.

You can find out more about Bob from his book "Urban Blokes". We'll tell you how to get a copy when he gets home from his 'round A'stralia tour.

*If you've ever been on this emotional roller coaster ride . . . then you'll understand.*

## **REDUNDANCY**

© Bob Dever....The Balmain Bug.

Have you ever been told that your redundant  
That you've reached your use by date  
All those years of loyalty mean nothing  
Try to control those feelings of hate

No amount of soul searching will help you  
Others made the decision, it's your fate  
What you've gotta do is pick up the pieces  
And get on with your life for your own sake

Make the best with whatever you've got  
Show that true blue spirit and strong will  
Have a go mate, that's the Aussie way  
And prove to 'em, that you're not over the hill.



## A CHILD OF THE BUSH

© Norma Jeffries Texas Q

A child of the bush I avoided the push  
Of the cities that move oh so fast  
As I leaf through this book and backwards I look  
It's with love I remember the past.

I remember the day of the horse and dray  
Of droving when I was a child  
The smell by the way of feshly raked hay  
And horses that used to run wild.

I remember each story of infamous glory  
As told on my Grandfather's knee  
Of bushrangers bold and men seeking gold  
Passed on from my Grandpa to me.

I remember jam making the smell of bread baking  
And damper cooked out on the coals  
Milk in a pail the Dingo's loud wail  
When they cry as if searching for souls.

I remember the mud when cut off by the flood  
We had to ride out for the mail  
I remember true mates, and those homemade gates  
Consisting of wire and rail.

With all due regard at times life was hard  
Still I don't see myself as a failure  
I've watched them shoot roos and play didgeridoos  
Out back of beyond in Australia.

Though the bush of today is a cry far away  
From the bush that I knew as a child  
It's by far the best place to retire from the race  
In my dreams still the horses run wild.



You haven't heard Pam Ayres until you've heard Sally Mitchell. Sally is one of the Awesome Foursome appearing at the Longyard Poets Breakfasts in 1998.

Only part of more than 160 hours of Bush Poetry at Tamworth's Country Music Festival in January.

## THE LARRIKIN & The Lady

Carmel Dunn and Bob Miller released their first joint album entitled 'The Larrikin and The Lady' at Warwick Town Hall on Friday 14th November 1997.

Warwick Mayor Cr Bruce Green officially launched the album at The Aussie Bush Concert



sponsored by Radio station Rainbow FM. Featured performers at the concert included The Mullumbimby Bloke (Ray Essery), Gary Fogarty and Glenn Palmer with music throughout the night supplied by The Travelling Country Music Club of Warwick.

'The Larrikin and The Lady' was recorded at Koala River Studios Maryborough and was produced and engineered by Chris Foley, who's excellence has helped Bob to win two previous Bush Laureate Awards for 'Album of the Year' in Tamworth in 1996 and 1997. It features 19 tracks, 8 of which are Carmel's own originals including 'The Sunset', winner of the Little Swaggies Award and also Will Ogilvie's classic tale of 'The Pearl of Them All'. Bob recorded 9 original works, which are already receiving rave reviews at live performance shows.

Bob and Carmel will present a special Christmas Show at the Palma Rosa on the 3rd of December and will perform together in King George Square and Queen Street Mall in Brisbane on Saturday 20th of December 1997.

### The Larrikin and the Lady

\$15.00 posted from:

Miss Carmel Dunn M.S. 623 Ogilvie Rd  
Warwick Q. 4370 Ph. 074 661 4400

Bob Miller - Poet's Corner

MUNGAR Q. 4650

Ph. 07 4129 6422

\* We can all learn something from the parrot, which is content to repeat what it hears without trying to make a good story out of it.

\* Sometimes a majority simply means that all the fools are on the one side.

\* Only the still pool reflects the stars. (Chinese proverb)



## COMPENSATION

It was a Court-of-petty sessions day  
In the town of Bungaree,  
And 'Mick Malone' was up in court  
For a compensation plea.

The Court was called to order,  
Judge Beacon, wiggled and all,  
Looked down his nose at poor ol' Mick,  
And made him feel quite small.

"The case you've brought is damages,  
For injuries incurred,  
Whilst driving your old mode 'T'  
A collision has occurred.

You say that you want damages,  
Compensation for your hurt,  
but by the evidence before me,  
It's really quite absurd.

For the Police report it noted  
(Here in this official letter),  
At the scene you made this strange remark,  
You said, "I've never felt better!"

Well, Mick stood up, his full five feet,  
saying, "Beg your pardon Sir!  
I'll tell you how it happened,  
Exactly as it were.

I was travellin' home from Ryan's pub,  
And I steered a rugged course,  
When unbeknowns in darkest night,  
I ran into a horse.

© Graeme Watt Kyabram V.

Well! Up it went, and out I flew,  
Like a rocket in the air,  
Knocked out I was completely,  
On the roadside lyin' there.

Eventually the Police arrived,  
Young constable McBean.  
He looked at me, he saw me move,  
Then walked onward to the scene.

The poor ol' horse was badly hurt,  
He was lookin' very sick,  
So the constable took out his gun  
And put him down real quick.

And then he saw me dog knocked out,  
He was lookin' near half dead.  
So he took his gun and sent him off,  
One shot right through the head.

He headed back towards my way,  
The pistol smokin' still,  
And here was me, all blood and bruised,  
And 'lyin' very still.

He said to me, "How are you Mick!"  
I could tell I was in great strife,  
So I leapt as high as I possibly could  
And shouted -

"Never felt better in me life!"

Watty has a book and tape for sale.  
Find them and many others on page 18.

## POSITION VACANT ??

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Jennifer Compton will be relinquishing her unenviable task of facilitating, or moderating, or perhaps more accurately bossing, poets of all persuasions the first Sunday of each month in the Guest Lounge of the Bundanoon Hotel.

Word has gone out for someone else to take over and there are no expressions of interest as yet.

Are there any takers out there?

The first Sunday in December will be the last for 1997.

Les Murray was their special guest in September and Matthew O'Sullivan (Jennifer's husband) performed a short programme of his favourites. (A lot of Shakespeare 'plus a bit of the other').

Martin Langford will be the guest poet in December.

A grant from the NSW Writer's centre made all the visiting poets possible.

Enquiries may be made to Jennifer Compton. —

02 4884 4368

## THE RECORD

**LOAD — 150 Bales**  
17 tons 12cwt. 3qrs. 15lbs.  
(17.927 tonnes)

This reproduction of what is probably the biggest load of wool ever carried on four wheels, has been taken from a photograph found by Mrs Charlie Wright, of Young Street, Brewarrina.



The team was owned by Tom Bywater, for whom Mrs Wright's father Bill Fletcher worked as a driver.

The wool was loaded at the wool scour of Hayes Brothers, and was transported a distance of two miles to the Brewarrina railway station.

Previous to this the biggest load in the district was claimed by Tom McAnnally on his wagon 'The Mary Jane'. A photograph of the wagon loaded with 124 bales appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald, at the time.

Between the two teamsters there existed a friendly

rivalry, culminating in a joint decision that they were 'both fools!' to strain their teams, their wagons, and their great draught horses by attempting to transport such high loads.

This photograph, and information was handed on, many years ago to Neil Carroll of Dubbo by Sonnie McKenzie...himself a woolcarter of renown in the Brewarrina district.

(Ed. note; A legal load on a modern flat-top semi-trailer with a total of 22 wheels is 24 to 25 tonnes. Capacity wise — 125 to 135 wool bales)



*Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.*

P.O. Box 16 CANOWINDRA NSW 2804

Print post PP 242018 — 001 — 0013

Ph. 063 441 477

NOVEMBER 1997

POSTAGE  
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— The Book Shelf —

- Ballads of a Bush Bride** Book & Tape Mavis Appleyard 106 Thornton St. Warren 2824 \$10.00 pp  
**The Washing Up Will Have To Wait** Betsy Chape M.S. 979 Monto Q. 4630 \$11.00 Post Paid  
**Bush Verse from a Wanderers Pen** Don Pender. 11/13 Mudlo St Redlands Bay 4165 \$5.00 P.P.  
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Cassette \$12.00 ea. posted Milton Taylor. 71 Ridge St. Portland NSW.2847  
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Murray Hartin 7 Mayo Plce Killarney Heights 2087 \$10 and \$15 or cop the lot for \$20.00 pp  
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CD \$22.00 Cassette \$17.00 pp from Frank Daniel or Ray Essery (Addresses can be found above)  
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**Westering** (Book) \$13.00 **The Ringers Note** (Cassette) \$15.00 by Mark Klienschmidt  
136 Emu St. Longreach Q. 4730  
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**The Larrikin Live** 2 books. 3 Cassettes Bob Miller Lot 2 Pilerwa Rd Mungar Q. 4650  
**Snakes Alive - Blood on the Board - Blasted Crows** 3 books by Bob Magor P.O. Myponga SA 5202 \$11ea. \$28 for 3pp