

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 3 Volume 5

March 1998



WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS WINTON UPDATE

SEMINAR - Marketing and Distribution of Product

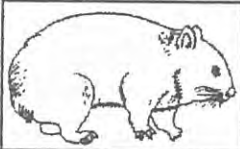
Festival organisers have announced a **NEW ADDITION** this year. A full day Seminar on Thursday 9th April - the subject will be **MARKETING and DISTRIBUTION of BOOKS, TAPES and C.D's**

Organisers feel that this subject is very relevant, not only to those Poets who already have their own product, but also to those who are considering publishing, so that they may be more knowledgeable about the avenues open to them in the Marketing and Distribution of their work.

The likely cost of the Seminar is about \$50.00, which will include Lunch and 2 Smokos.

Festival Information and entry forms can be obtained by writing to PO BOX 7714, TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE; Faxing 07 4657 1607; or by leaving your name and address at Phone 07 4657 1607 as soon as possible

BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOKS OF VERSE These books have been published every year since 1972. (1972 - 1981 have now SOLD OUT.) 1982 onwards are still available from **The Secretary, Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44, WINTON Q 4735. The 1997 Book costs \$10.00 plus \$1.50 p & p. Others cost \$9.50 plus \$1.50 p & p per book, OR 10 at \$7.00 each plus \$8.00 p & p.**



POETS and FOLK at WOMBAT

The fifth annual Wombat Folk Festival, held on the Australia Day long weekend (Jan 23-26th) attracted good crowds according to festival organisers, Pat and Barry Emmett.

The village came alive with the sounds of fiddles, concertinas, harmonicas, guitars and didgeridoos as folk music and poetry of every imaginable type was staged with vigour and flair throughout the various venues.

Workshops held throughout the weekend allowed the spectators a chance to learn and become involved with the artist's particular passions such as belly-dancing, story telling, drumming, juggling, mask making, poetry and voice and sound production.

Poetry was a prominent part of the Festival programme with a performance poetry workshop being delivered by our member Graeme Johnson who also hosted the Poet's Breakfast on the Sunday morning. There was also a lively "Poets in the Pub" session hosted by Graeme in conjunction with Richard Mills (from the Loaded Dog Folk Club in Sydney).

Graeme Johnson

THE BUSH POET

(C) Corrie de Haas, Helensvale. Q.

He is master of a kingdom that hopes and dreams have spun.
His realm wrested from a tract where only emus run;
A paradise of knotted trees and muddy water-hole
That sap his strength and drown the songs existing in his soul.

The country way-of-life he lives and founded long ago
Means more than empty luxury the modern times bestow;
He seeks his wealth in freedom, in a walk, unfettered land,
As he scans the ragged ridges where the mountain ranges stand.

But when the tiresome toil is done and daylight starts to pale,
The moon is on her nightly stroll along an outback trail.
His calloused hands will find a pen that writes of life in verse,
And speaks about a sacred plain where true emotion stirs.

And when he fights a bitter drought - ferocious at times -
He walks his cattle down the roads while dreaming up new rhymes;
And though the land is barren - not a sprig of life is seen
His eyes perceive mirages that are ever lush and green.

And through his songs he tells us of his firm belief in man
In simple words that reach beyond the wisdom of his pen;
And his friends will gather round him to be borne upon his strength
As he states his life's philosophy, not given to pretence.

Though at times he'll feel disheartened, almost driven to despair
He draws new fervour from his verse, and find fulfilment there,
For life is but a moment spent - and he must spend it well ...
Before he reaches higher planes where only angels dwell.

**Australian Bush Poets
Association Inc.**

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**MARTIS CANOWINDRA
HOT AIR BALLOON
FIESTA**

**26 - 29th March, 1998
POETS BREAKFAST**

8 - 10am Saturday, 26th March

Ring Frank Daniel

Ph 02 6344 1477 / Fax 02 6344 1962

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOC.
NOTICE OF MEETING**

**A GENERAL MEETING OF
MEMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT
JONDARYAN WOOLSHED
FOLLOWING THE COMPETITION
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH
QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION AS TIME
PERMITS - O.J. SHOOTER, SEC.**

PALMA ROSA POETS

9 Queens Rd, Hamilton, Bris.

7 pm, Wednesday 22nd April, 1998

BOB MAGOR, Multi Award Winning Poet

Phone Trisha Anderson

07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769

\$15.00 Inc supper - BYO drinks.

NOPA '98

National Outback

Performing Arts

APRIL 5 - 9 1998

Performances every day

incl. "Sunset and Stars"

POETS - Please nominate prior to 4th April.

Contact The Secretary, P.O. Box 518

LONGREACH Q. 4730

Ph. 076 581 718 Fax 076 583 1988



WARWICK BUSH WEEK 9-10th May '98

BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Sat. 9th. Performance Poetry Comp.

WARWICK TOWN HALL

Original: 1st \$1000 Holiday Package

Traditional, Junior and Novice Sections

Entries close April 30th. with the Daily News

50 Albion St Warwick 4370

Entry fee \$5.00

Sun. 10th. 8am. Poets in Leslie Park

WRITTEN COMP Entry fee \$5.00 per poem

Limit - 4 poems per person

Entries close 31-3-1998

Further information from Max Jarrott

07 4664 1115 or 07 4664 1606

QANTAS — WALTZING MATILDA

BUSH POETRY AWARDS

in conjunction with

The Official Opening of

The Waltzing Matilda Centre

Winton Qld.

8th — 13th April, 1998

The Australian Bush Poetry

Championships

SSAE: P.O. Box 7714

Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352

**** WALTZING MATILDA ****

BUSH POETRY

JUNIOR COMPETITION

Performance Poetry 8-13th April

Winton Outback Queensland

for Primary and Secondary Students

Entry Forms and Enquiries

PO Box 7714 Toowoomba MC Q 4352

**BUSH POETRY & PERFORMANCE
COMPETITION** as part of
**ORANA COUNTRY MUSIC EASTER FESTIVAL
DUBBO NSW 9-13th April, 1998**

Poetry commences at Railway Junction Hotel
on Sunday, 12th April from 10am,
then as part of 'walk up' non-competitive day
at Garden Hotel.

Entry forms to Secretary, (encl SSAE)
PO Box 1169 DUBBO NSW 2830
or if quota not filled, available on the day
Ph (02) 68828363/68873197/68818695/
68841537

WANTED

The **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS
ASSOCIATION**
is calling for expressions of interest,
in writing,
from clubs for the holding of the
**1999 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION
BUSH POET AWARDS**

Please apply to **THE SECRETARY,
OLIVE SHOOTER**
M.S. 765, ALLORA. QLD 4362

**NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL
BUSH POETRY**

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

9am - Sunday 12th April, 1998.

V WALL TAVERN

NAMBUCCA HEADS

Admission - \$10.00 (Includes Brunch)

Local non-competitive reciters welcome

Entry Forms Ph/Fax 0265 685 269

**THE BUNDABERG POETS SOC. INC.
BUSH LANTERN AWARDS**

Written Original Bush Verse to 100 lines
Usual conditions apply

Closing date for entries 31.5.1998

Entry fee \$3.00 per entry

Send to — Liz Ward

P.O. Box 61 Mount Perry Q. 4671

Ph/fax 07 4156 3178

Report on Page 10

ROWDY (C) Jack Gillis, HARRINGTON, NSW

He barks and wags his bushy tail the yellow eyes shine bright
As I sit and drink a bottle and watch the fading light,
As he grabs the worn out ball and drops it at my feet,
My thoughts race back through the years when he mustered sheep.

He had no equal in the paddock, was handy 'round the shed,
And didn't mind a scrap or two — there was none better bred.
When things were bad, with him around, we were never short of meat,
Just pick one out and let him go - this bloke was hard to beat.

His prowess as a breeder was well known, far and wide,
His pups still move the mobs today - out on West Darling side.
'Milpa' was his stamping ground with Jacky, Keith and Tim.
He knew every post and strainer — the main actor there was him!

He's been retired for some years now, his heart is not the best,
I watch his eyes go glassy, as he stares into the west.
Most of his teeth have fallen out, Arthritis cramps his legs,
A nice soft feed, three strong heart pills, then of he goes to bed.

When I awoke this morning, rolled out and hit my feet,
The dog chain didn't rattle — my heart — it skipped a beat.
He lay there, still and silent, his eyes back in his head,
And so I write to tell you, our old mate Rowdy's — dead.

I feel the last links broken in a chain of things we knew
His death has left me saddened, for mates like him — are few.
He's buried deep in my back yard, I'll tend his grave with care,
Wrapped in a 'Milpa' woolpack, but his spirits, back out there!

**THE BUNDY MOB'S
1998 BUSH POETS MUSTER
3rd, 4th & 5th JULY**

Across the Waves Sports Club
Miller Street, Bundaberg. Q.

**PERFORMANCE POETRY
COMPETITIONS**

Juniors, Novice, Open Traditional
and Original Classes

Duo Performance - Dark and Stormy One Minute
Cup

**OVERALL CHAMPION
NON - COMPETITIVE SECTIONS**

Friday night Free for All Concert
Saturday Night Concert.

Held in Conjunction with
BUSH LANTERN AWARD

Written Competition
(Entries close 31st. May)

Send SSAE to:

The Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster
8 Hawaii Court Bargara Qld 4670



**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING - SUNDAY 29TH MARCH AT
JONDARYAN WOOLSHED - SEE NOTICE PAGE 2**



Secretary's Notes

It has been a busy month with memberships coming in, and I am happy to say that we have more than 260 paid up members at this point in time and will get more as time goes by.

As there will be a gathering of poets at Jondaryan, we will be holding a *meeting* of those who wish to attend. It will *follow the competition on Sunday 29th March, 1998.*

We had a very nice letter from Beryl Marshall and she wishes to send all her poet mates a greeting.

If there are any poet groups around Woolongong area, please put a notice in the newsletter. We have a poet in that area who wishes to know.

We are selling our old computer to Ron Selby. It was still with him. The Association purchased a second-hand computer for the Secretary's use and I am trying to become friends with it. It cost \$750 with printer, and we are getting \$500 for the old one.

I won't take up too much space this month as I know the Editor is pushed for room. By the way, congratulations Maureen Garner on her first Newsletter, eh! Until next time, good writing and good health.

Regards, *Olive Shooter*

President's Report

Not much has been happening in the poetry scene for me since Tamworth on which I can report, although Carmel Randle and I were invited to perform at an Australia Day Luncheon for the Rotary Club in Toowoomba, and were very well received indeed.

Congratulations to Maureen Garner, our newly elected editor, for the fine magazine last month. Olive tells me the membership is steadily growing, although there are still a lot of regular members who still have not renewed. As President, I would like to welcome all new members to the Association this month.

Had a call from a 70 year old fella, who would like to obtain the words to a poem he learnt back in the forties, 'The Man from Goondiwindi' (Author unknown) which appeared in the 'Bulletin'.

*"He'd come from Goondiwindi for a holiday in town,
And his eyes were full of distance and his face was full
of brown,"* - Any member who knows the rest of this poem could you please forward it on to me at PO Box 77, Drayton North, Qld., 4350

I also received a letter from a very irate member, Mr. Jack Gillis, concerning his poem "Rowdy", included in this year's Annual. I condensed two lines into one to fit onto one page, and altered a few words that he was not very happy about. I sent him a copy for approval and he replied that he didn't want any of the changes which I had made. I then retyped his poem, exactly as he wrote

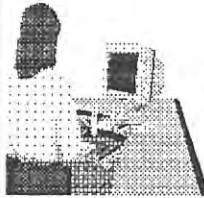
it, but somehow I forgot to change the master copy which went to the printers. I apologise sincerely to Jack and have included the correct poem in this month's magazine on page 3.

The whole concept of the Annual, is to produce an outlet for members to have their poetry printed in a book, and particularly to print long forgotten poems from members, whose parents or grandparents may have written. The Annual itself is in jeopardy of not being produced this year because of poor sales, BUT all copies of 1995 have now been sold, there are only a few copies of 1996 left, about 200 of 1997 and plenty of 1998 in hand. Personally, I think we should persevere with the Annual as a service to you, the member. So, if you would like to see the Annual continue, please drop me a line about it, or a poem to be included in this year's Annual.

That's about all for this month. There are lots of poetry events on the calendar in the near future, and I urge all members to give them your full support.

Sincerely, *Ron Selby*

From The Editors Desk



Firstly, my grateful thanks to those of you who have taken the time to send varying forms of correspondence throughout these last few weeks. I have received some great reports, all of which are in the newsletter this month. Thankyou !! I trust they provide you with the entertainment and information which you require.

To the many poets who have contributed their work, I must apologise that, at this time, I am unable to print as many as I would wish, due to the constraints of postage and printing costs, so be patient and I will use as much as I can in the ensuing months.

In order to streamline administrative operations, I would also ask that *any money*, for membership renewals, purchase of our Annuals etc., be *sent direct to our Secretary/Treasurer, Olive Shooter* for her attention.

Unfortunately, I am unable to access a scanner, thus precluding the use of photographs in the newsletter for the immediate future. I have however, been giving consideration to the use of caricature which will add to the graffic content of the newsletter.

Finally, please keep sending me as much information as you can, especially in regard to events, competitions, their results, reports and winning poems. If you know of, or have any information on any Bush Poetry "*happynings*", send it in and share it with your fellow members across the country.

My best regards to you all, *Maureen Garner*

COMMENTS ON SUGGESTED CODE OF ETHICS by MR. BILL SCOTT

Marco Gliori has suggested to me that I might comment on the code of ethics suggested by Keith McKenry (published ABPA Newsletter Sept. 1997) for adoption by the Australian Bush Poet's Association.

As one might expect, the items in the proposed code are apt and sensible, and in fact are those beliefs, customs and practices already followed by almost all members already. So far these customs have not been set out in print for member's guidance. Perhaps they ought to be, in case new and inexperienced members need information as to what is usual and polite practice amongst fellow practitioners of the craft of poetry.

Many of Keith's suggestions are already embodied in the Copyright Act and are actionable at law under that Act, but many of our members do not have access to the Act and it might be as well to have the facts set out simply for their guidance. This Code proposed by Keith certainly does that.

Many people seem not to be aware of the law as regards what is known as 'intellectual property'; which might be described as a poem, tune, lyric of a song or prose work composed by an individual writer. 'Copyright' is the author's right to own such work. By law, no one else is entitled to recite for public performance or to record such copyright work without the author's approval. Whether a permission fee is charged or not, the original work remains the copyright of the creator of the work. It is usual for a permission fee to be charged for the use of the work, especially if the performance or recording is intended for profit.

Another word which may need definition here is 'publication'. In law, it is not necessary for any work to be actually published in book or print form for it to

be a 'published' work. Six copies typed and printed out for the amusement or edification of ones friends and distributed to them is, legally speaking, 'publication'.

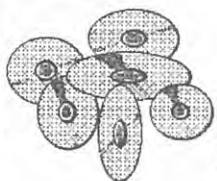
When I say that many people seem not to be aware of the law of copyright, let me say that in a recent poetry competition for schools, (more than 1000 schools entered work by their students), two judges, of whom I chanced to be one, found poems submitted as original by such poets as David Campbell, William Shakespeare, Douglas Stewart, E.C. Bentley and Sylvia Plath. I was delighted to discover one of my own poems amongst them, which was great for my vanity, but strictly against the rules of the competition! The point is, that while the children who entered the competition might not have been aware of the law as regards plagiarism, their teachers certainly should have been, yet in each case the teacher had signed the appropriate form to certify that the poem was the original work of the child concerned! This is inexcusable, and perhaps a comment not only of the teacher's ignorance of the law of copyright, but also on their knowledge of poetry generally.

In his 'Draft Code', Keith has covered most of the legal requirements for the public presentation of poetry, but he has also covered some of the politeness that we should all have toward the work of our colleagues. In my opinion, the adoption of this code would certainly help guide beginners towards both a legal and ethical approach to the work of their fellow poets.

Whether or not the Association adopts this suggestion by Keith officially as part of the constitution of the body, the various clauses should prove invaluable for members who have little knowledge of the intricacies of the legal aspects as a guide when publishing their own work or performing that of others.

Bill Scott

ADVERTISING OF PRODUCT



At the general meeting of our association held recently in Tamworth, it was resolved that advertisements for personal product (Books, tapes & CD's etc) would attract a small charge. A fee of \$5.00 will now be charged to place a 5cm x column width advertisement in our newsletter for **TWO CONSECUTIVE MONTHLY ISSUES**.

Commencing in our April newsletter, a new area called "**THE PRODUCT TABLE**" will be introduced for paid advertisements. Should you require a larger space than specified, please advise the editor.

Payment for advertisement should be sent to

The Secretary. Copy for advertising must be sent to the editor by 10th day each month.

Please note that *clubs or committees* who run poetry functions will still be *advertised free of charge*.

BOOK SHELF Our "Book Shelf" column will again appear in the April issue. This service will be available to *members only*, and will be *free of charge*. Because of the vast amount of product available, we will need to rotate entries to allow all members access to this service.

Please send brief details of your product (books, tapes, CD's) to the editor before deadline day which is 10th day each month.



KNOCKING DOWN THE GUN

Whipstick Wortho (C) 1997
Neilborough Vic.

Me old mate Slim was drinking,
At the Raywood Pub one day,
You can find him there most nights,
He said it helps to pass the time away.

As always, friendly and smiling,
A real top kind of bloke.
But on this night he upset a smarty,
And made him the butt of his joke.

It started with this young shearar,
Who claimed he was a gun.
As Slim listened to his stories,
He thought he would have some fun.

Slim said, "Where have you shorn Boy?",
And he said "All over New South Wales".

The more that young bloke said,
The taller became his tales.

Well as the Bulldust ebbed and flowed,
Slim sat with a smile on his face,
He said "What is your record Boy,
and what was the name of the place?"

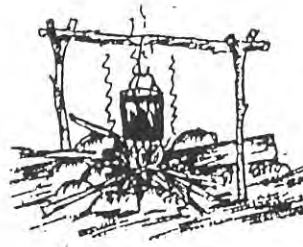
"It was a station named Koonawarah.
That was the first shed I rung.
We were shearin' fine merinos,
and I done eighty on every run."

Slim said, "320 a day boy,
That's a good job for a lad."
But with Slim's next little statement,
Left him lookin' a bit mad.

"It was way back in '58,
That's when I hit the news.
I was shearin' Border Lesters,
And done 430 ewes."

The gun with a look of hate,
Stood up and then he spat.
"And in what damn shed" he said,
"Did you do flamin' that?"

Slim just gave a smile,
With wrinkles on his brow.
Said "It was right there, on that bar stool,
Where you have been shearin' now."



BLACKENED BILLY 1998 JUDGE COMMENTS

This year I took up the judging cudgels again from Eric Scott, who filled in for me last year from this very onerous task. I was there last year and heard Eric's report and, although we had worked together many times on radio, I was surprised and delighted that his report was almost verbatim with mine of the year before. So the continuity is there and it still is pertinent for this year's judging

We are asked to look for the genuine bush poet's style, which, of course leaves the writer a vast choice of rhyming patterns and styles. There remains, however, the essential requirements of a meticulously careful 'beat' to the poem. Once the poet sets that 'beat' it must be adhered to right to the end, regardless of the actual style.

In the past, I found that essential quality often missing or hopelessly lost as the poem progressed. No excuses: Paterson, Lawson, Dennis etc. NEVER deviated AT ALL. This year, the vast majority of poems had that right ... although the editing process employed by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group members prior to my receiving the 60 plus poems MAY well have taken out the weaker ones to that point.

Interesting to note that two years ago, in the middle of the horrendous drought, many entries were of the plight of country people suffering at the hands of the elements, bank managers and rural closures. This time, in true blue bush poets' tradition, the issues changed to republicanism, nostalgia and reconciliation. Somewhat surprisingly, comedy was far surpassed by drama and depth of thought. I think it only fair to say, then, that the thoughts of the bush poets of last century, are being mirrored still in the efforts of the Blackened Billy Competition of 1998.

Bill Gleeson

The Larrikin and the Lady

Cassette Tape - \$15.00

(Includes Postage and Packing) from

Miss Carmel Dunn

M.S. 623 Ogilvie Rd Warwick Q. 4370

Ph. 07 4661 4400 or

Bob Miller - Poet's Corner

Mungah Q. 4650 Ph. 07 4129 6422

PT. Adv.

PROFILE - GEOFF FORTUNE

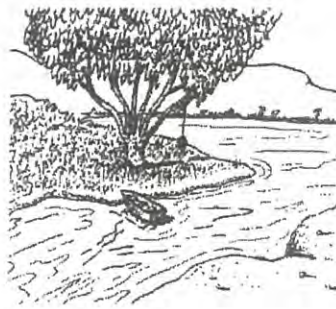
Geoff Fortune is a published author and has been writing articles, books, short stories, historical records, autobiographies, commercial writing and poetry for the past 50 years; beginning his career by writing a local newspaper at the age of 13. Because writing is his life, he still spends 8 hours a day writing.

He has been a 'Bush Balladeer' under the pseudonym of Terry Tucker and his own name for more years than he cares to remember, and writes in this genre as a hobby. This he inherited from a 'bush balladeer' father who was one of the Great Australian Bushmen, and one who WALKED from central Victoria to the south west of Western Australia looking for work in the early timber industry during the Great depression of the 1930's.

Geoff believes the Australia that Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson promoted in their writing, is dying fast or already dead, and bush poets of today have a sacred duty to 'carry the torch' in their memory. To revive ideals, the heritage and identity stolen from us by those in this nation who have made changes to our way of life purely for change sake. Through our writing, we must restore the 'Aussie' in the word Australia ! *Geoff Fortune*

THE RIVER GUMS

(C) Geoff Fortune at
Alice Springs 1987



It's a symbol of the outback, a totem of this land
With leafy bower abounding, on river bank it stands
So clean and smooth and virginal white with foliage so green
This is Australia's ghost gum in all its beauty seen.

On every northern river from days of long ago
The tiny seeds were so `wn and in time began to grow
They chose this place to nurture, for water was their need
To ensure the growth of nature's gift concealed within the seed.

They speak a language of their own for all to understand
Especially those who love these trees and know this wide brown land
When calm and still they stand serene imparting pride and beauty
And when the sun shines from above, with shade it does its duty.

In gentle breeze it sings a song, a welcome to a stranger
A lullaby from far outback that tells there is no danger
And when the river runs each year, filled by the season's wet
It laughs with mirth and sighs with joy when moisture it can get.

In winter storm and tempest wind it wails and cries in fright
It knows its strength cannot understand too much of nature's might
And when it sees a weary friend it's at its very best
With leafy hand it stretches out inviting them to rest

How many times has this fine tree been a model grand and lush
For years and years it poses there for painters and their brush
It stands so still and quite sedate when a camera it can see
And all of this imparts to us in the language of a tree.

All are not so lucky to have communed with such a friend
To have found a lifelong loyalty that nature will not end
And I know deep down within me and forever I will be
Grateful to my Maker that I have spoken with a tree.

POETRY AT ST ALBANS

Poetry will again be one of the prominent features of the St Albans Folk Festival to be held on Anzac Day long weekend in April (24-26th).

Featured poets for this year's Festival are Linda Pearce from Bathurst, Graeme Johnson from Ryde, and Warren "Arch" Bishop from Whalan, along with some invited guests. Two Poets' Breakfasts will be held in the usual "open mike" fashion as well as the Feature Artist Guest Spots that will be spread throughout the weekend.

Festival organiser, John Greninger would like to welcome readers and reciters alike to come along and join in the camaraderie of the Festival set in the idyllic village of St. Albans, NSW".

THE ORIGINAL AVOCADO TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN, Qld.

introduces an evening of Bush Poetry which is to be held on 3rd Saturday of each month. New Owners, Arthur & Myrtle Gosling invite you to join them in this great Australian family environment.

Enquiries - Phone 07 5545 3066

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
IS NOW
10TH DAY
OF EACH MONTH
SEND COPY NOW
THE EARLIER
THE BETTER !!!!**



TENTERFIELD JUNIOR BARDS KEEP JUDGES BUSY

On my first visit to Tenterfield last year for their annual 'Oracles of the Bush' event, I was impressed by the attitudes, of not only the organisers of this great Bush Poetry Event, but by the town folk in general. My first impression confirmed that this, was truly a Bush Poetry oriented town.

After all, Sir Henry Parkes, who was himself a poet, made his famous "Tenterfield Speech" in 1889 in the town's School of Arts, which subsequently sparked Australia's move to Federation and Banjo Paterson, while living in Tenterfield, met and married his wife, (who just happened to be a local) in St Stephens Church.

Two very good reasons, I thought for Bush Verse being historically significant in Tenterfield.

While attending the Poets Breakfast in the Park on Sunday, I met local Bush Poet, Mrs. June Milne, who decided that it might be good for poetry, if she were to arrange a competition for local school children in preparation for the 1998 Oracles of the Bush Event.

In September last year, she invited children from Tenterfield's two primary schools to participate, together with students from her own childhood school in Tomerong, near Nowra on the south coast of NSW.

June was overwhelmed with over 100 entries, and was amazed with the diversity of subjects which were chosen by the children, who submitted very good entries for their ages. Congratulations must go to June, for her foresight, generosity, hard work and for her belief that we must encourage the young to ensure the future of bush verse in our country.

Congratulations also to the teachers who encouraged such a high degree of student participation - and last but not least the winners -

1st - Christine May - Tomerong Public School
- "Sleepovers"

2nd - Tegan Mangold - Tomerong Public school
- "Tomerong Bush"

3rd - Leonie Baker - Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School Tenterfield - "Skinned Knees"

Highly Commended to Raymon Drysdale - Tomerong PS & Ashleigh Donges - S.H.P.M.S.

Maureen Garner



MY NATIVE LAND

Sir Henry Parkes, 1815 - 1896

*The moonlight of a milder clime
Is round me pour'd o'er scenes sublime;
But I would fly from all earth's light
And grandeur to behold to-night
My native land.*

*To-morrow's sun will beauteous rise
In Australasia's summer skies;
But more than beautiful to me
Would winter's wildest morning be
In that dear land.*

*And green woods wave which ne'er are sere
In this December summer here;
But I would turn from Eden's bloom,
To hail in winter's waste and gloom
My native land.*

*It may be here that Britons find
Scenes brighter than they leave behind;
But, oh! the counter-charm for home
Is found not yet where'er I roam,
O'er sea or land.*

SLEEPOVERS

by Christine May
Tomerong Public School, NSW

1st Prize - Primary Schools Poetry
Competition - Tenterfield



Laughing, games and lots of fun,
Yummy food for everyone.
Gummy bears and chocolate galore,
Fruit, lollies and lots more.



Happy smiles and lit up eyes,
The Happiness just never dies.
Naughty tricks and lots of chatter,
Sleeping bags full of fish batter.

Loud music and party songs,
Sneakers, socks and pair of thongs.
Pillow fights and midnight snacks,
Throwing food at people's backs.



Running around the house wild,
Acting like a two year old child
Sleeping late and pigging out,
That is what a sleepover
party is all about.





LOOMING LEGENDS AND LEGENDARY YARNS FOR TENTERFIELD'S "Oracles of the Bush"

Tenterfield's "Oracles of the Bush" has received a major boost with the announcement of the expansion of the National Bush Poetry Competition.

The newly created "Looming Legend" Trophy for aspiring Bush Culture performers is a joint initiative of Tenterfield United Organisations, Tenterfield Star and Rotary Club of Tenterfield.

T.U.O. President, Carmel Rose said "It was our intention to find new ways to promote the Storytellers craft, while also finding different ways for the Tenterfield community to become involved in the "Oracles".

"The "Looming Legend" Trophy introduces a performance aspect which will be conducted through a series of heats across the "Oracles" weekend. Heat winners go on to compete for the "Looming Legend" Trophy on Sunday, April 19 in the Tenterfield Scout Hall. *Entries for the competition close on 28th March.*

A Junior Competition with Primary and Secondary divisions, has been introduced into this inaugural year of the "Looming Legends". It is limited to students of Tenterfield Shire and cash prizes are being offered, however, the real objective is to encourage children to simply participate and have fun.

"Oracles" Poetry highlights include, a Poets Concert with Mark Gliori, Blue the Shearer, Bob Magor and Dennis (Dingo) Dryden, an Under 14 Show called "Poets Never Lie", Writers Workshop, Over 50's Concert, Poets Brawl and Breakfast and lots more!

Programs, entry forms and more information is available from Tenterfield United Organisations, phone / fax 02 6736 2 900.



NATIONAL BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP

In conjunction with

TENTERFIELD

ORACLES OF THE BUSH '98

16th - 19th April, 1998

Introducing

"LOOMING LEGENDS TROPHY"

Closing Date 28th March, 1998

SECTION 1: Written - Prize \$500.00

Written entries to be submitted. Winning poems to be recited by Mark Gliori at heats.

Winners announced Sunday 19th April, 1998.

SECTION 2: Performance

Prize \$250 + Looming Legends Trophy.

Entrants must (1) submit entries on cassette and (2) be available to perform in Tenterfield on 17-19th April. Judges will select 15 entrants who will be notified of their inclusion in heats.

Winners announced Sunday, 19th April, 1998.

SECTION 3: Junior - \$100 ea. + Trophies

Verse in Australian Theme. *Rhyme not essential*

Primary School Section, 4 - 20 lines

Secondary School Section, 8 - 40 lines

Winners announced Friday, 17th April, 1998

For details write to

Oracles of the Bush

National Bush Poetry Competition

PO Box 372 - Tenterfield NSW 2372

Phone Enquiries - 02 6736 2900

KEEP OFF THE GRASS

(C) June Milne, Tenterfield - 22.4.97

There is nothing like a sing-along and a few jokes now and then
Ham it up like Babe or a good cackle like a hen
Tell me to get back in my stable, I am too old to go horsing around
The day I stop performing, I'll be six feet underground.

I think I've missed my vocation, I like to make people laugh,
Don't put a nosebag on me - I get hay-fever from chaff
If ever, I am a grass widow - I wonder how long it will last
I hope I don't finish like Maggie with a sign "keep off the grass".

TOMERONG PUBLIC SCHOOL

(C) June Milne, Tenterfield, 1997

Try to do your best in everything you do
Otherwise your full potential will not show up true
Many do not bother to take a challenge up
Everyone cannot be first and win a silver cup
Remember there is goodness, in the worst of us
Only small minds look for the bad and make a fuss
Never speak unkindly, never tell a lie
Greatness comes from good deeds, like your motto

AIM HIGH

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL - Home of the Spoken Word

The original and best *Come-all-ye* session or "Poet's Breakfasts" can be again enjoyed at the renowned National Folk Festival, being staged this year in Canberra's Exhibition Park from Thurs. 9th - Mon 13th April. It was at this festival, right through the 1980's that bush poetry, and poetry generally, first made it's impact on the folk scene.

The breakfasts are held daily at the Wine Bar from 8.30 am . Poets are invited to read or recite their own work or choose an established work to perform.

An open invitation is also issued to just come and listen, as renowned bards and novices take their turn to regale you with the muse.

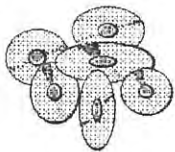
While the atmosphere is friendly, and never competitive, an *Annual Reciter's Award* is presented - a beautiful perpetual trophy crafted from Australian Ironbark - for the *best individual performance*. Presentation is usually made on the evening of the *Third World Poetry Debate*.

The Spoken Word events form a major part of the festival program and a highlight this year, will no doubt be "*The Third World Poetry Debate*", where poets from Oz will try and regain the perpetual trophy, "*The Fart*" which was lost to England in last years debate.

This year, the 'infamous' Roy Bailey, renowned all round folkie from UK will lead the 'Rest of the World' team. It will be up to the Aussie team of Martin Pearson (Capt), Ann Bermingham and John Dengate to ensure that "*The Fart*" returns to Australia's shores. Good Luck folks !! The irrepressible "Bernard Boland will moderate the debate on the topic, "*Poetry is Music*" - and it is !!

Further information about the performers on the Spoken Word Program can be made by calling Keith McKenry on 02 6247 9656. Festival enquiries should be made to the Festival Office on 02 6249 7755.

from report submitted by Keith McKenry



REVIEW "Buggar the Music, Give Us a Poem"

Keith McKenry

Described on the cover as being a "A Showcase of Classic Australian Ballads", this album is certainly that and would be an asset in any collection. The recording brings together a superb selection of traditional and contemporary pieces, beautifully delivered by Keith. Tracks include 'Singing Soldiers', 'The Play', 'The Stones of Gosh' and 'Ogs' by C.J. Dennis, 'Captain of the Push' by Henry Lawson and 'Said Hanrahan' by John O'Brien.

Included are three of Keith's own poems, 'The Battle at Mudflat Megs', the sketched-from-life 'Fatal Singabout' and his recent 'Last Gallipoli Veteran', relating to the Late Ted Matthews, Australia's last surviving veteran of the first landing at Gallipoli. Add to these and 'The Land' and 'The Map' by John Manifold, Victor Daley's poignant 'Ballad of Eureka' and others and one can really enjoy our tradition in rhyme.

The Cassette is available from ABC and the CD, being launched at the National Folk Festival, includes an illustrated booklet with backgrounds of poems, can be ordered for \$25.00, postage paid, from Fanged Wombat



BUSH LANTERN AWARD

The Inaugural Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse was held in Bundaberg in conjunction with the Bundy Poets' Muster in 1997 and attracted writers from an extensive field.

The trophy consists of a small chromed lantern, mounted on a decorative timber base.

The lantern was chosen as being representative of our pioneering days. Prior to the availability of electric power, lights powered by kerosene or carbide were used in homes, sheds, camps, on vehicles and in hotels and places of entertainment.

The hurricane lantern was aptly names; it could be taken out into the wildest storm and was often called 'the farmer's best friend'.

Poets wishing to enter the Bush Lantern competition for 1998 may obtain entry forms by sending a S.S.A.E. to Liz Ward, P.O. Box 61, Mount Perry, Qld. 4671. Phone/Fax 07 4156 3178.

Closing date for entries is 31.5.98.

Winning and commended entries were incorporated in an attractive anthology entitled, simply, The Bush Lantern, which is available from the above address at \$10.00.

Liz Ward

HELP

Mrs. Dorothy Grady of 18 Railway Parade, Grundle, NSW 2870 is seeking the words to a poem which her father used to recite called "Browns Mistake". Last line "For he had not hitched up the horse, but harnessed up the cow". If you can help, please respond direct to Mrs. Grady . Thanks, ED.

1998 NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL - SPOKEN WORD PROGRAM

Friday, 10th April

- 8.30 am **Poet's Breakfast**
- 11.30 am **Forests in Celtic Legend** - Storytelling with Anne E. Stewart and Singer Danny Spooner
- 12 noon **Poetry in the Raw** - Performance Poet Geoff Goodfellow featuring working class poems
- 2 pm **City Liars** - Tall stories with well known liars Arch Bishop, Jenni Cargill and guests
- 4.30 pm **Origins of the Aust Folk Revival** - Feature concert tracing the rediscovery of Aust Bush Song in the cold war days of the early 1950s. Documentary journey in prose and song presented by Keith McKenry supported by featured Festival artists.
- 6.30 pm **Venus Calling** - Solo presentation by storyteller Jenni Cargill
- 10.30 pm **Four Witches & a Full Moon** - Anne E Stewart, Linda Pearce, Jenni Cargill & Jacqui Bridle.

Saturday, 11th April

- 8.30 am **Poet's Breakfast**
- 12 noon **Sheilas - A Celebration of Aust. Women Writers** - Prose, song and verse by Jim Smith with Suzette Watins, Keryn Randall and Peter Maloney
- 2 pm **Poets With Attitude** - John Dengare, Keith McKenry and Geoff Goodfellow - Powerful Poetry
- 2 pm **Songs of Henry Lawson** - A splendid concert of musical settings of Lawson's verse by Chris Kemster and friends
- 3 pm **Bush Yarnspinnners** - Fest. Favourite. The best of the Bush - Jim Smith, Linda Pearce & guests.
- 9 pm **Songs, Poems and Stories** - Jenni Cargill, Jan Wositzky, Anne E. Stewart, John Thompson, Helen Wright, Arch Bishop and Linda Pearce.

Sunday, 12th April

- 8.30 am **Poet's Breakfast**
- 11.30 am **The Madman's Lady** - Special on poet John Shaw Neilson by Jim Smith & friends.
- 1 pm **Buggar the Music, Give Us a Poem** - CD launch with a difference. Keith McKenry presents a showcase of Classic Australian Ballads. For all lovers of Australian verse.
- 4 pm **How to Tell Stories** - A workshop by master story-teller Anne E. Stewart
- 7 pm **Third World Poetry Debate** - Festival highlight - be early !!
- 9 pm **Evening Comedy** - Tony Suttor presents a feast of laughter in verse, song and story.

Monday, 13th April

- 8.30 am **Poet's Breakfast** - Your last chance !!
- 11.30 am **Wizard's Cocktail** - Keith McKenry, Geoff Goodfellow & Dennis O'Keefe. Expect splendid chaos and fine verse
- 2 pm **Yapucha** - Master storyteller Jan Wozitzky with a wonderful show
- 5.30 pm **Creating Songs about Australian History** - Workshop with folk historian & singer Dennis O'Keefe about the art of creating songs about events in Australian History.



NORTHERN RIVERS BUSH POETS

Apologies for not reporting earlier, but we have been busy since our inception. Our group was formed shortly after the Lismore

Countrycama in March last year. Phil Johnson, after witnessing some bush poetry during the festival, put his head together with our local poet Murray Austin.

They recognised that there was bush on the coast as well as west of the ranges and therefore Bush Poetry should be booming here just the same, it just needed a bit of a shove.

Our first meeting attracted twelve members, and this has now grown to twenty five. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Rous Hotel in Lismore. We are keenly supported by the proprietors Darrell and Hanneka who have already promoted two successful poetry evenings, both being

compared by the multi talented Greg Champion who now lives in our area.

A further good fortune for the group has been the hospitality of country singing legend Marge Graham, who has welcomed us all to perform with her on the first Saturday of each month at the Station Hotel, South Lismore.

As a newly formed group, it was exciting to hear of the successful performances of our members in Tamworth. Lead by our father figure, Ray Essery, Martin O'Brien, Murray Austin, Col Hadwell, and junior Dominic Xavier and guest poet, Grafton's Don Lloyd, all performed well.

On the writing front, John Bird and Rosanne and Brian Stuart are continuing to turn out good quality poems which is very encouraging for our first year.

We hope to keep the good news coming. For any enquiries about our activities, please contact Phil Johnson - phone 02 6621 9196. *Col Hadwell*

POETS' CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- March 18-22 **Illawarra Folk Festival, Jamberoo NSW.** Bush Poets' Breakfasts, Brawls, Yarns. Presented by Illawarra Folk Club. Phone 02 4233 1073 Fax 02 4232 3848
- March 19-22 **John O'Brien Festival in Narrandera.** Poets' Brunch, readings and competitions. Phone Julia Briggs 1800 672 392 or Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845
- March 20 **Australian Woolshed Dinner and Bush Poetry** Booking essential. Enquiries to Ph 07 3351 5366 or 07 3268 3624 P14
- Mar 21-22 **Golden Bell Performance Poetry Awards** Laidley Show Ground Ph 07 5466 5269
- March 26 - 29 **Martis Canowindra Hot Air Balloon Fiesta.** Poets' Breakfast 8 - 10 am Saturday. Enq to Frank Daniel. Ah. 02 6344 1477. Fax 02 6344 1962. Biggest Hot-air Balloon festival in Australia. P 2
- March 28 Closing Date. **Tenterfield Nat. Bush Poetry Championship.** P 9
- Mar 28-29 **Jondaryan Woolshed & Country Music Weekend** Poet's Breakfast P 13
- Mar 29 **ABPA GENERAL MEETING AFTER COMPETITION AT JONDARYAN - SEE P 2**
- April 4-5 **Cattle Camp Muster Charleville, Q** Poetry & Brecky Phone 07 4654 2004 P 18
- April 5-9 **N.O.P.A. Longreach** Performance Poetry Enq National Outback Performing Arts, PO 518, Longreach 4730 Ph 07 4658 1718 Fax 07 4658 3198 P 2
- April 8 Closing Date. **Man from the Snowy River Competition** Ph 022 6025 3845 P 18
- April 8-13 **Quantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival** Performance Comps, Jnr, Novice & Open PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352 P 1 & 2
- April 9-13 **National Folk Festival** Poet's Breakfasts, Performance, Dinner & Debate. P 10 & 11
- April 12 **Bush Poetry Performance Competition and Concert. V Wall Tavern Nambucca Heads** Admission \$10.00 incl. Brunch. Contact Maureen Garner Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269 P3
- April 12 **Bush Poets' Breakfast & Perf. Comp.** Orana Country Music Easter Fest. - P3
- April 14-19 **Man from the Snowy River Festival, Corryong, VIC** Poets' Breakfast, Yarnspinning, Competition - Original, Traditional, Junior, Yarns & Song. Best Overall Ph 02 6025 3845. P 18
- April 16 - 19 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Event.** Junior, Written & Perf. Comp., **Closes 28.3.98**
- April 22 **Oracles of the Bush, Nat. Bush Poetry Comp.** Box 372 Tenterfield 2372 Ph 02 6736 2900 P 9
- April 22 **Palma Rosa.** 9 Queens Rd Hamilton Bris. Q. Bookings essential. P 14
Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769.
- April 24-25 **St Albans Folk Festival.** Poets' Breakfasts, Guest Performers - Ph John or Betty 02 9528 2193 P 7
- April 30 Closing Date **Monto Cream Can Bush Verse Comp.** P 14
- May 2-3 **Gatton Heritage Fest. Qld.** Bush Poetry & Yarnspinning Ph. Megan Bourne 07 5462 3116 P14
- May 8-10 **Australian Bush Festival. Rockhampton.** Music - Poetry - Yarns Ph. 07 4936 2600 P14
- May 9-10 **Warwick Bush Week Bush Poetry Competition.**
Sat. 9th. All day performance poetry competition Sun. 10th. 8am. Poets in the Park.
Written competition. Entries close 31-3-1998 Ph. Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115 or 07 4664 1606 P 2
- May 29 **Monto Dairy Fest Poets Dinner** Monto Golf Club 29th May, 1998 See P 14
- May 31 Closing Date **Bush Lantern Awards.** Written Verse Comp. Bundaberg Poets Soc Inc. P 10
- May 31 **Sth Coast Country Music Fest, Kembla Grange NSW** Poets' Breakfast 8-10am.
Ph / Fax Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176 P 20
- June 4-8 **Aust. Folk Festival Kiama.** Poets' Breakfast, Brawl, Dinner Ph 02 4236 0701 Fax 02 4257 1787
- June 6-7 **Beaudesert Country & Horse Fest.** Poets' Breakfast Ph Nancy Moss 07 5541 4222 BH only
- June 6-8 **Mt. Isa Writers Association and Mt. Isa Folk Club.** Mt. Isa, Q Inaugural Bush Poets Festival in conjunction with the Top Half Folk Festival Queens Birthday Weekend. Celebrating Mt. Isa's 75th Anniversary. Phone 07 4743 5201 Fax 07 4743 3386 P 15
- July 3 - 5 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster.** Perf. & Written Comp - 8 Hawaii Court, Bargara 4670 P 15
- July 31 **Nanango Sesquicentennial Poetry Comp** closes. Entry forms and details from Nanango Shire Council, PO Box 10 Nanango QLD 4615. P 3
- August 28-30 **Annual Drovers Reunion & Fest. Camooweal, Q.** Phone 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153
Bush Poetry, Music, Meals, Camping Sites. P 14
- Sept 27 **Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Perf. Comp., Bowraville, NSW** Phone 02 6568 5269
- Oct 8th **Poets' Breakfast at Nanango.** Nanango Shire Council, PO Box 10 Nanango QLD 4615

INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS



Competitors and patrons need time to prepare and plan ahead to patronise your events. In order to achieve the best possible result, it would therefore be advisable for you to take the time to send in details of your events as early as you can. Why not send in your information **several months prior to your event** and take advantage of our growing membership and interest in our monthly newsletter. This is also of great assistance in planning our monthly format. Event results and reports are also welcome and keep our membership informed, so **please** send them in as soon as possible Remember, the 'Early Bird' really does get the worm.



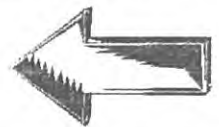
REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

---- If you happen to be passing through these areas, tell 'em Joe sent ya!

- 1st. Sunday** **Poets Get-together.** Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum Qld. (074) 491 991
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 07 4630 106
Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. 7 pm Beachcomber Hotel, Main Rd Toukley,
 Ph Laurie Nicholson 02 4390 8595
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde
 Ph Graham Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St. Sth T'worth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067
- 2nd. Sunday** **'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield** - Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd Tuesday** **Norther Rivers Bush Poets.** Rous Hotel, Lismore Ph. Phil Johnson 02 6621 9196
- 3rd Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.30 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.
The Original Avocado, Tamborine Mt. Q. Phone 07 5545 3066 P 7
- 3rd. Sunday** **Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q.** Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 3rd. Friday** **Poetic Folk** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770 Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245
Junee Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82,
 Junee, 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 2nd. Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.
 Mrs. Elaine Schofield "Green Hills" Jerangle, 2630 Ph 02 6454 3128
- 3rd. Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- Evry 2nd Tues** **Hunter Bush Poets** - 7pm - Taro Hotel, Anderson Dr. Taro - Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Tourist Cafe, Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30
 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590

ATTENTION

*Group or Club Organisers
 Your events belong here.*



VERSE OF A SNOWY KIND

Before an audience of more than 40, the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club held its championships at the Tumbarumba Bowling Club on Tuesday 30th December, 1997.

President Jim Lyons welcomed all to the event, after which Neil Hulm, Bob Skelton (Newcastle), Reg Phillips (Lavington) and the Cottrell family of Holbrook performed The Shooting of Dan McGraw, Hanrahan and Fun on the Kiandra Diggings. Col Daniel of Tumbarumba contributed Karate Dog and the Biggest Whinger on Earth, written by Neil. Arthur Webb of Humula recited some bush poems, to warm acclamation.

The open championship was won by Johnny Johanson of Yarrawonga, with second place falling to Milton Taylor of Portland. Third was Canowindra's Frank Daniel, and fourth place was divided between Graham Watt of Kyabram and Newcastle's Bob Skelton.

Adam Cottrell won the Junior Championship, with second place going to Samantha Cottrell.

Samantha also took out the women's championship with her mother Denise running a close second.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club do not continually group in any one place. They operate all around and through the Snow Mountains, holding "get-togethers" and a few competitions wherever, delegates from the various areas want a day or night out.

Members frequently entertain elderly people in hostels and help out in the local schools to encourage participation in Junior Competitions which are held from time to time.

The club was founded on 11th May, 1996 and now boasts 155 members.

Further information about the club and it's activities can be obtained from Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington, NSW 2641 or ring on 02 6025 3845, Fax 02 6025 3847.

JONDARYAN WOOLSHED & COUNTRY MUSIC WEEKEND

28-29th March, 1998

POETS' BREAKFAST on 29th March

Ring Graham Turner

07 4692 2242

ABPA GENERAL MEETING

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

**GENERAL MEETING
 AFTER COMPETITION**





THE AUSTRALIAN WOOLSHED

The Australian Woolshed at Ferny Hills, is holding an evening of Bush Verse at 6pm on Friday 20th March.

Special guest poet will be Bobby Miller, supported by bush poets Wally Finch, Trisha Anderson and featuring guest artist - Mark Tempamy.

This will be an unforgettable evening of poetry and song. Another highlight of the evening will be the unique Australian Woolshed Ram Show. A Spit Roast Dinner and Desert will be served. A night not to be missed.

Bookings are essential. Call Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624.



PALMA ROSA REPORT

A wonderful evening of Bush Poetry and music was enjoyed by 130 people at Palma Rosa in Brisbane on Wednesday, 18th February.

On a balmy summer night we sat in the gardens, with the beautiful heritage listed home of the English Speaking Union making a stunning backdrop for our performers. Ray Essery, "The Mullumbimby Bloke", gave us another faultless performance of his unique style of poetry - sometimes dear and meaningful, sometimes full of humor, but always entertaining.

Performing some wonderful poems, were our other two special guests, John & Joye Major from Baralaba. I was honored to launch their new CD, "Hand in Hand" and they both performed works from this CD, as well as some of their other favorites.

We were also delighted, that the very talented, multi award winning singer / songwriter Mark Tempamy was able to do a guest spot - we are really looking forward to having Mark back to do a show later in the year.

Our next Palma Rosa poetry show, on Wednesday, 22nd April, will feature Bob Magor, who will be supported by Ron Selby, President of the Australian Bush Poet's Association, and winner of many recent poetry competitions and festivals. What a great evening that will be. Bookings are essential - Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or English Speaking Union - 07 3268 3769. *Trisha Anderson*

THE BOOK

Rhubard bids you welcome,
He is the perfect host,
They use his personality
For boring strainer posts.

He put his thoughts on paper
With a pencil marked 2B,
Or not to be, more likely,
As the banker has the key.

The book is now completed
A task which he did dread,
His brain's completely empty
And his pencil's out of led.

If you chance to see him
And he has a vacant look,
That's because all leaded thoughts
Are in the bloody book.

(C) Rhubard. '98

VICE-VERSER

the ramblings, ravings & ribaldry of

Rhubard

Illustrated by: Nor' West

Paid Advt.

Now available from:

Reg Silvester

35 Wallace Street

Braidwood NSW 2622

Please send **cheque** or **money order**
for **\$15.00** (includes Postage)
together with your name and address

MONTO DAIRY FESTIVAL 1998 CREAM CAN BUSH VERSE COMPETITION

Open and Junior Sections
1st, 2nd & 3rd plus

CHARLEE MARSHALL

Encouragement Award

Entries Close 30th April, 1998

POETS' DINNER & AWARDS
Frid. 29th May, Monto Golf Club

Entry Forms & Information

Monto Dairy Festival
Cream Can Awards

C/- B Chape,
13a Newton St.,
MONTO Q 4630



WANTED
POETS AND YARNSPINNERS
to perform in scheduled events in the
GATTON
INAUGURAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL
2nd & 3rd May, 1998
Please ring Megan Bourne
ASAP - 07 5462 116



1998 BUNDY MOB'S BUSH POETS MUSTER

3-5th July, 1998

Dear Fellow Bards and Lovers of Bush Verse,

What a pleasure it was to see so many at Tamworth '98, and other festivals throughout 1997. Bush Verse brings so many fellow Aussies together who love to write or perform about our Australian way of life, or just plain enjoy listening to those who do it.

Last year various members of The Bundy Mob travelled from one end of Queensland to the other as well as sneaking across the border into N.S.W. to support other groups hosting venues. Thank you all for making us feel welcome.

We consider it a great privilege to take a turn at playing host, and from all reports, last years muster was seen as a great success. We would love to see as many Bush Poets and Bush Poetry lovers make the trip in '98 for our three day Muster. The venue is the Across the Waves Sports Club which is in an air-conditioned building with plenty of seating with meals and refreshments available.

Categories include Traditional, Modern and Original in both Novice and Open. These are contested throughout Friday and Saturday with a new category this year being a Duo Performance [Trophy and cash prizes]. The 'Free for All' on Friday night will give all an opportunity to join in the fun and Saturday morning will start with a Poets' Breakfast. Juniors under 12 yrs recitals and Juniors 12-17 competition follow.

Saturday night is our Bush Poets' Concert and some of Australia's top professionals will be entertaining us. Sunday morning kicks off with the 'Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup', followed by the Finals of the competition. Sunday afternoon concludes with trophy presentations including "The Bush Lantern Award" for written verse. There is no cover charge throughout the days and \$2.00 lunch meals are available. Entry fees will be \$5.00 per category or a maximum of \$10.00.

Sounds like 3 days of mateship and lots of fun. Your presence will ensure that, and we hope some of our mates from the other States will join us. Bagara Beach is a great place to stay, why not make a holiday of it. Send a S.A.S.E. for program/entry forms. For all your enquiries, please phone 07 4159 1868.

Yours in verse, **MERV WEBSTER**

THE GOONDIWINDI GREY - Co-ordinator.

New Member, Peter Buck, has recently moved to the Woollongong area and is anxious to make contact with any Bush Poet members in the area. He can be contacted on 02 4285 7333. Give him a call !

WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS



It must be time you heard from the West.

Not much activity yet though, by comparison to Tamworth which gets more entertaining every year.

We had our Australia Day Competition in Perth at Wireless Hill. A nice warm day. Quite a good crowd with many and various styles of entertaining yarns and poems.

The Boyup Brook Country Music and Bush Poetry was held over the weekend of Feb. 13-15th.

"Poets' in the Pub" is slowly gaining momentum. This is the second year we have had it, on Saturday mornings for 3 - 4 hours.

The Poets' Breakfast on The Oval Sunday morning went over very well with a good turnout who came early to watch, listen and participate.

Two poets came from Fremantle. They were very good, with their own brand of humor, Peter Capp and Jeff Swain. A lady from Northcliffe, (in the Sth West), Claudette Mountjoy, with yarns and verse, and a newcomer who just appeared from the audience with a number of Banjo's poems, Ron Evans from Wooroloo.

Nearly two hours of non stop entertainment, plus a few songs written and sung by Brett Gale with myself as compare for both shows for the weekend.

Brian Gale

TOP HALF FOLK and BUSH POETS FESTIVAL



The Top Folk Club and the Mt. Isa Writers Association are combining on the Queens Birthday week-end in June, to present the Top Half Folk Festival and Bush Poets' Festival.

The Writers will present Bush Poets' Breakfast on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June.

A Performance Poetry Competition will be staged and visiting poets will also present workshops.

Demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend of whip cracking by the talented Maher Family of four children ranging in ages from 5 - 15, who have succeeded in winning many competitions including a Queensland Championship.

Various concerts will be held at the Folk Club Shack and The Irish Club and children's events and workshops have also been scheduled. For further details ring Fay Sloman on 07 4743 5201

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR CRAFT



Have you ever analysed the works of Lawson, Paterson, Ogilvie and the likes; and asked yourself why these writers of bush verse are hailed as the “masters”? Have you looked at the popularity of contemporary writers such as Charlee Marshall, Ellis Campbell, Bob Magor, Carmel Randle and many more; and asked yourself why they win so many awards for writing? These people, (and this is only a sample) are craftspersons (bloody political correctness !!!!) within our ranks.

I was listening to one of the “new” bush poets proudly reciting some of his work around the camp at Tamworth, when I decided to bite the bullet instead of my tongue. The content was great, but there was little regard for the art of correct meter and rhyme. At the risk of offending the author, (the usual reason for biting my tongue), I decided that, instead of hedging around the point with some vague but discretionary comments, I would point out his lack of understanding of meter. To my great relief, he was not only surprised to hear about this new thing called “meter”, but he was also grateful that someone had drawn his attention to it. I remember a similar lesson I received from Bobby Miller in the early part of my career. I purchased one of the many books available on the subject of meter in verse, and since, having a greater understanding, I have attempted, to aspire to a standard similar to that used by the masters. A similar lesson on the use of proper and improper rhyme would also benefit many of our budding writers of bush verse.

In no way am I trying to set myself up as an expert in the field, for I have a long way to go myself, but it is much easier when one is aware of the skills of the craft. So often, I shudder at the apparent lack of understanding that so many supposed bush poets have of the skills in meter and rhyme. Very often, a poem with poor meter *can* be successfully performed without showing its literary weakness. However, the same poem, when published, is laid bare for scrutiny. This is

when I feel embarrassed for such authors. There are so many brilliant writers about, who have a wonderful sense of creativity, poetic phraseology and feeling for their subject, but who are letting themselves down as writers because they don't know the technical skills that are required. Conversely, I have also read many poems written by those who have the technical skills but lacked the creativity, phraseology and sensitivity. If you seek to have your work published, take pride in what you do, and strive for higher standards. An architect/builder, with poor building skills, will soon end up with a crumpled pile of creative bits that no one will want to look at. Like wise, a builder/architect with poor imagination, may build an eyesore that people don't want to look at. However, the sound, palatial structure of a master builder/architect, will be viewed in awe by thousands for centuries! But take heart all you creative geniuses. The technical skills are a lot more easily learned, and with practice, applied; than are those creative skills, with which the rest of us eternally struggle !!

Bush poetry written specifically for performance does not necessarily have to aspire to the same high literary standards required for published work. However, if you are a performer at the higher level, and you have published work for sale, I feel you have a duty to the public to demonstrate a higher skill level in writing than the reciter of dirty ditties at the local pub.

There are a good few bush poets who are brilliant performers: there are a good few who are brilliant writers; but there are very few who are brilliant writer/performers. Whatever your personal aspirations, learn as much as you can about your craft, always be prepared to learn more, and work hard at improvement. Respect from your peers is the greatest accolade !!!

Noel Cutler



“.....BUT I REMEMBER HOW”

(C) 1997 Glenny Palmer, Cedarvale, Qld.

(to adult children everywhere, who are sometimes wont to forget)

My eyes are misty now,
from tears or age, it matters not,
but I remember how
they sparkled once, my little tot.

My hands are shaky now,
from fear or fault, they seldom rest,
but I remember how
they held you to my tender breast.



My fingers tremble now,
from twisted pained arthritic shocks,
but I remember how
they idly stroked your golden locks.

My heart is hollow now,
it echoes with your infant glee
but I remember how
you cherished well, the gift of me.

My world is different now,
a mother's quest has no esteem
yet I remember how
you loved me, in my youthful dream.



**AUSTRALIAN
BUSH
FESTIVAL
ROCKHAMPTON
9-10th May, 1998**

**Rockhampton
Heritage Village
Bush Poets' Breakfasts
Throughout the festival
you will see
Geoffrey Graham
John & Joy Major
Ray Essery
Bobby Miller**

**Phone 07 44936 3576
Fax 07 4936 2600**



**LOOKING
BACK ON
WOODFORD
FESTIVAL**

Poets' Breakfasts this year were at capacity throughout - both in terms of audience and performers. An what a diverse lot of performers! Local lad Mark Feldman could more than hold his own at any gathering of bush poets, George New - taking in his first Woodford - was pretty impressive. An innovation this year was the comedy session.

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN DREAM

(c) Robert Raftery, Picture Writer, Brisbane - 30.1.98

There were many things I thought of on the winding drive back home,
Since the kilns were capped in Tamworth and she "fired" her final poem.
Our ranks had split for reasons that were better left unsaid,
And the hopes of many members fled where truce and fairness led.

There were poets at the Longyard who we'd never seen before,
Who took the stage with style and grace and made us cheer for more.
But some major links were missing, center stage seemed understaffed,
Of the legends of revival of our timeless art and craft.

But the split had spread our footprint and we catered for demand,
As we lurched and searched and centered under strains of new command.
In the pubs and clubs we plied our lines 'neath cloth and canvas sail,
To some a glimpse down memory lane, to others holy grail.

Then with punctual precision we collide on Vera Street,
The little church where God will share our Annual General Meet.
Versifiers and reciters juggling pews and gigs, compete,
While the bloke at Tamworth's furnace turns the dial and ups the heat.

A senior scribe with sad eyes searching, seeks a space to make a point,
A man who earned his writer's stripes with an ethos to anoint
With stealth and staid emotion he stood to put his case,
Said some verse we birthed was septic, not in tune and out of place.

He spun his resignation, turned his back and walked away,
And our listing in the Longyard fell accordingly that day.
We'll miss his stature dearly, his judgment, skill and feel,
And the verse he forged from foundries 'round his kingdom, Camooweal.

For some the circuit's all about the sale of books and discs,
And investment in the marketing to nullify the risks.
Some write for entertainment and the laughs that light the stage
While others lift the lyrics that electrify the page.

There's room for all to flourish be they artist, sage or scribe,
Everyone unique and precious in our great Australian tribe,
With respect for forms that fashioned a tradition and a stream
That preserves the noble notions of "Our Great Australian Dream"

Organiser, Jacqueline Bridel managed, as always to pull together a diverse band of poets - from the Bush Ambassadors, Bobby Miller and Ray Essery, to the ever popular Nimbin poets, S, Christine Strelan and David Hallett to the irrepressible (almost un-classifiable) Shirly Friend, Lisa Plucknett, Mark Both and Campbell the Swaggie. As well as this, she sneaked in some new faces for Woodford - like Cathoel Jorss, Richard Tipping, Arcadia Burrows, Lynda Pearce, Ross Dawson and Bob Wittholz.

The Poet's Brawl had nearly 40 contestants with the final winner being Frank Hodgkinson of Nanango, narrowly ahead of Angela Mitten from Melbourne.

A big feature this year was the increased profile of storytelling, and with performers like Brian Hungerford, Julie Perrin, Jan Wositzky, Herb Wharton, Uncle Tex Chapman and Debbie Sonneberg, we were treated to a delightful display of this very special craft.

Cathoel Jorss and I hosted a delightful, full house, Poets' Little Lunch at the Children's Festival - following inspiration given by Charlee Marshall at the first Woodford.

And speaking of Charlee, Jacqui also introduced the inaugural Dead Poet's Society where we honored poets and performers who, though no longer with us in person, still live on through their verse. This year we featured Charlee Marshall, John Philipson and Claude Morris, and hope to expand this tribute as the years go by.

Regular B.P. newsletter readers will be pleased to note that we were successful in arranging Woodford's first resurrection - as we managed to provide a totally living, in the flesh, Campbell the Swaggie, so reliably speculated as being deceased just a month or two previously.

IAN MACKAY



OASIS HOTEL COMPETITION REPORT

Bush Poetry again this year proved its popularity with all the venues being well supported by poets and spectators. The Imperial Hotel, again hosted a terrific competition with insufficient time to cater for those who wished to enter. The Imperial hotel gave poets the stage when we needed it and poets should always respect this venue as hallowed ground.

During the nine days walk up sessions at the Oasis this year, from 15th - 23rd January, over 30 hours of verse was recited to a full lounge with an eager audience who wanted more. In all, over 130 poets were on stage, some of them every day, all getting plenty of stage experience. Amongst the stalwarts were Nell Perkins, Les Hillet, Johnny Johansen and Tim O'Conner. It was wonderful to see poets, many of whom had travelled many hundreds of miles, have the opportunity to perform. We will always maintain a policy of "everyone gets a turn" and have some exciting new concepts for Bush Poetry planned for next year.

Our competition this year at the Oasis was held in honor of the late John Phillipson. It was a marathon over three days with some 113 entrants in five categories and was supported by an audience eagerly hanging on every verse. I was thankful for such efficient support from Merv Webster, Ron Selby, Carol Raffold and Liz Ward organising every detail. Our judges did a marathon job and should be recognised for their contribution to our chosen art. They were Robie Gough, Kelly Dixon, Michael Darby, Ron Selby and myself. Our thanks also go to our guest compares for each section. We thank Greyhound Pioneer for their support in sponsoring our prizes in the form of bus passes, courtesy of Michael Darby. I am also appreciative for the help of the "QUIET ACHIEVER", Ron Selby, who once again made 15 beautiful exotic wooden trophies and to Tom Hasman, owner of the Australian Coat Company who is always willing to support Bush Poetry. In future newsletters, I will cover at length, changes which are proposed for the Beer Garden at the Oasis.

Blucy Bostock



POETRY IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Third Annual Blue Mountains Folk Festival was held at Katoomba on 20 - 22nd February and included Poets' Breakfasts on the Saturday and Sunday. There was a good roll up of poets, both local and from as far afield as Forster, Central Coast and Dubbo.

An appreciative audience was treated to high class performances of humorous and serious poetry. The compare for the Saturday show was John Derum and Sunday compare was Denis Kevans who launched his new C.D, "Green Ban Songs and Beyond" in a one hour show the previous day.

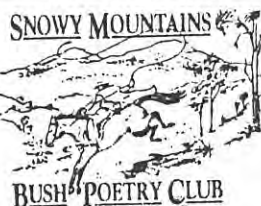
BUSH POETS IN COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW FUND RAISER

A.B.P.A. member, June Lal, organised a charity Country Music Show at Rooty Hill R.S.L., on 15th February, with proceeds going to the Palliative Care Unit at the Mt. Druitt Hospital.

The show, which ran for over 5 hours, included poetry performances by June, Warren 'Arch' Bishop and Terry Regan.

The Poets were well received by the audience who showed considerable appreciation of their performances. Approximately \$1,100 was raised - Congratulations to all who participated.

With thanks to *Terry Regan.*



THE MAN FROM THE SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL

The Inaugural Man from the Snowy River Festival will be held in Corryong, Victoria from 14th - 19th April and offers a very interesting and varied program which will include competitions, poets' breakfasts, recitals, yarn spinning and tall tales and a Poets' Party at the Corryong Hotel.

Prize money of over \$1,000 will be offered in the competitions which will be held throughout the festival. Sections for entry are - Original Piece, Recital of Banjo Paterson's "The Man from Snowy River", Best Traditional Recital, Musical/Song Piece, Best Yarn, and Junior Sections for Under 17 and 12 years. Special awards will be presented for Best Overall Performance/Presentation.

Entries close on Wednesday, 8th April with results being announced and presented at a Poets' Brunch on Sunday, 19th April, forms and information from Neil Hulm - Phone 02 6025 3845.

CHARLEVILLE BUSH BALLADEERS

invite you to attend

CATTLE CAMP MUSTER

7pm Sat. 4th April - Poetry & Music

Sunday, 5th April, 1998

Poets' Breakfast

One Minute Competition

Ph 07 4654 2004 or 07 4654 2509





NORTH BY NORTH WEST POETRY and FOLK CLUB

When I started this club last year, I had already been having poetry nights at my place for years, and was continually amazed and delighted at the poetic talents of people who had never been near a folk club.

In order to see more folk music and bush poetry, both of which I enjoy, I needed to travel long distances, so the formation of our club did something to change that situation for everyone.

We try to maintain a good balance of both poetry and music, occasionally combining both, with results ranging from beautiful to hilarious, which seems to be working, because everybody laughs a lot and keeps coming back!

Our March meeting was no exception, as we started off with *June Redmond*, whose real-life, down to earth poems always tickle the funny bone. *Ron and Pat Warner*, who originally started out at "Poetic Folk" at Rooty Hill as an audience, also entertained. For many of us, just being around performers

WHEEZE 'N' SUCK ON THE RAMPAGE AT NORTH BY NORTH WEST

(C) Mal Graham 1997

By chance I came to Sydney and to put myself at ease
a friend suggested I expose myself to a new folk music scene,
so by hand I pulled my pride and joy from beneath its straining zipper
and pointed that compass nor nor west and then proceeded hither.

The featured group that evening was a concertina band
I was told they played old English songs, I thought how quaint and bland.
"They call themselves the Wheeze and Suck, their name a revelation"
It's not often I get caught out but this time I was taken.

When I saw them in the flesh, as they made a staggered entrance,
I sat aghast at what I seen ..., my head bowed in remembrance.
A motley lot, a rag tag crew they all were an offender
one looked like an undertaker and they all looked on a bender.

One nasty piece of work was their drummer, I recall
not only did he beat the time he nigh near beat us all.
In a peak of high emotion he put his cymbal in a spin
it levitated from its stand causing pan-de-mon-ium.

It streaked towards the audience, spinning like a top
it decapitated those in front then disemboweled a lot.
Blood and gore engulfed the floor and mortified we prayed
they had us at their mercy, oh how could we be saved?

In a plea of desperation we each agreed to buy their tape
thinking that the offer would secure our escape,
not satisfied with that, one more condition would bring peace
they made us sign IOU'S for their new CD release!

Now I'm back up country at my little place called home
where life is slow and peaceful and I'm bored out to the bone.
It's then I crave for an evening full of life and verse
you could find me back in Sydney, I guess I could do worse.



brings out the 'ham' in you, and you end up finding hidden talents you didn't know you had.

Graeme Johnson performed a Pat Drummond poem and one of his own, 'Yuri', *The Storyteller*, "The Highwayman" and *Warren 'Arch' Bishop* also entertained us in fine style.

Representing the fairer sex, singer/songwriter *Sue Chalmers* and her friend *Tina Antico* took us through a tapestry of songs and poetry on the theme of women, in celebration of International Women's Day, starting with "Who are the Witches". Then a group of poems about the different faces of women, including the story of a lost wallet, the internet, "Mary Reiby" and "Bread and Roses". Other ladies who also entertained us throughout the evening were, *Penelope Grace, Penelope and Jennifer Lane and Jennifer Lees*.

Mal Graham, who usually sings, produced a poem which he wrote about the recent visit of the 'Wheeze 'n Suck Band', which contain a slight element of truth - and a lot of poetic licence!

Our club meets on the *first Thursday of each month*. Our next evening will be held on *Thursday, 2nd April*, and will feature *popular Celtic group, "The Ragged Band"*. On that evening, we will take up residence in our new, larger premises, the Uniting Church Hall at 2 Cutler Parade, North Ryde at 7.30 pm. To gain access to the venue, park in the Community Centre Car Park, walk through the gate, following the path to the second hall with green doors.

We will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month in the church hall, so bring along your poetry - somebody might put a tune to it! If you bring a song, somebody may write a poem about you - it's like that here! Anyway, you are guaranteed a good night in our friendly club - we also have the best supper in town - *all for only \$5.00. Ring Jenny Carter on 02 9887 1856 or Graeme Johnson on 02 9874 7653 for more details.*

See you there, *Jenny Carter*

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

2/8 Salamander Pde., Nambucca Heads NSW 2448 Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269

Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

March, 1998

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Thank You to Our Contributors This Month

Patti Ainsworth
Trisha Anderson
Bluey Bostock
Jenny Carter
Noel Cutler
Geoff Fortune
Fan Franklin
Brian Gale
Jack Gillis
Mal Graham
Bill Gleeson
Corry de Hass
Col Hadwell
Neil Hulm
Graeme Johnson
Ian Mackay

Keith McKenry
Christine May
June Milne
Glenny Palmer
Sir Henry Parkes
Robert Raftery
Carmel Randle
Terry Regan
Rhubard
Bill Scott
Ron Selby
Olive Shooter
Fay Sloman
Liz Ward
Merv Webster
Peter "Whipstick" Worthington

**INAUGURAL
SOUTH COAST
COUNTRY MUSIC
ASSOCIATION
FESTIVAL**

**30-31st May, 1998
at Kembla Grange
POETS' BREAKFAST
8-10am Sunday, 31st May
Enq. Dianne O'Dwyer
Phone / Fax 02 4237 7176**