

# The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 4 Volume 5

April 1998



## THE MAN AND HIS DONKEY

(C) Robert Raftery,

Picture Writer, Brisbane, Q.



The snipers watched the soldier pass. They seemed to sense there was A "Christliness" about him, and indeed in God there was. With donkey, cross and canopied with smoke and Turkish lead, He worked among the living, in between, and with the dead.

Jack Simpson Kirkpatrick, just "Simmo" to his mates, An Englander and destined for the steel of Peter's Gates. The A.M.C. who signed him, 'neath the sober glow of pen, As "Stretcher Bearer Simpson", could scarcely know that then An immortal giant they'd taken from the ranks of mortal men.

By days and nights, they worked the heights to bring the red men down.

While the glazed Last Rites of blood stained Christ were tended all around.

"Stretcher Bearer! Stretcher Bearer!" the lead lined ridges cry. With his donkey christened "Duffy", Simmo couldn't let them die.

They worked through Shrapnel Gully, as their highway to the war, Fearless under fire, as they tended to the Corps. And the mouse grey donkey, Duffy, ran red from the wounded men, Through the gullies to the battle, to the beach and back again.

What's it take to stand alone in No Man's Land, unarmed? When the putrid air's exploding and life has lost command And Your Body's in the cross bars of a deadly snipers art, With a Rising Sun on a felt slouch hat and ANZAC in your heart.

I doubt the sniper centred on the blood red bearer's cross. When Simpson died .. Gallipoli cried .. The whole Front mourned the loss

"Simmo's dead," the trenches said, "They got him through the heart." His life and love have left us .. let the laws of legend start.

And the Indian contingent took Duffy as it's pet - For they loved Jack Simpson dearly - braver man they'd never met. And they found a name to give him and he took it to his grave. They called our Simmo "BAHADUR" .. The Bravest of the Brave.

## TOAST TO THE ANZACS

(C) George New, Coffs Harbor, NSW

Right across this magnificent land  
From coast to golden coast,  
Today we honor the legend  
And drink the ANZAC toast,

We raise our glasses to those men and women  
Who answered their country's call  
And pay homage to the memory  
Of those who gave their all.

With their Brothers and Sisters across the  
Tasman

They forged a link unbroken,  
Their contribution to the ANZAC cause  
Will never go unspoken.

From Gallipoli to the Jungle  
The Desert to the Sea,  
With courage and determination  
They've kept our homeland free.



That we don't bow in servitude  
Lash weals upon our backs  
Is something we can thank them for  
The men and women ANZACS

Your sacrifice has built this country  
And keeps it growing yet,  
Your fortitude has 'Advanced Australia Fair'  
Never let us forget.

So raise your glasses and drink a toast  
To those who didn't count the cost  
And sing in praise of those Sons and Daughters  
That this great country lost.



## RAM'S HEAD HOTEL BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

The Ram's Head Hotel Bush Poetry Performance Competition in Millmerran Qld, is scheduled for Fathers Day, 6th September this year. Kevin Barnes, organiser of the event, now in it's second year, promises poets and visitors alike a full and very entertaining day.

Activities will commence in the am with a Poets Breakfast, which will incorporate Yarnspinning and a Poets Brawl for which trophies will be awarded. Bacon and eggs brecky will be available for \$2.50. Lunch will be a most enjoyable mid winter Camp Oven 3 course meal for \$8.00

which will be prepared by the new host at the Rams Head, Bobby Miller, that's right - (there are two of them!!) Bobby is also generously sponsoring some of the prizes.

After lunch, there will be a "Poets in the Pub" session followed by the Performance Competition. Entry fees are \$5.00 per poet for the day, juniors are free. Funds raised will be donated to the Queensland Cancer Council. Kevin invites you to come along and partake of some special Darling Downs hospitality. Phone enquiries, Kevin Barnes - 07 4695 4209. See P 3



**Australian Bush Poet's  
Association Inc.**

email: bushpoet@lisp.net.au

**President: Ron Selby**

P.O. Box 77, Drayton North. QLD. 4350

Phone 07 4630 1106

**Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs. Olive Shooter**

"Willow Bend" M.S 765

Talgai West Road

Allora Qld. 4362

Phone / Fax. 07 4666 3474

**Vice Presidents:**

**\*\* R. J. (Bob) Miller**

Lot 2 Pilerwa Road, Mungar. QLD 4650

Phone / Fax 071 296 422

Mobile 015 741 336

**\*\* Elizabeth Ward,**

P.O. Box 61, Mt. Perry, QLD. 4671

Phone / Fax 07 4156 3178

**Editor: Maureen Garner**

2/8 Salamander Parade,

Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448

Phone / 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



**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 & Stormy 1 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

Phone Merv Webster 07 4159 1868

**NEWSLETTER COPY**

Please send copy by 10th day of each month  
**THE EARLIER - THE BETTER**

**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.

**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

**MONTO DAIRY FESTIVAL  
1998 CREAM CAN AWARDS  
WRITTEN 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 and  
Information

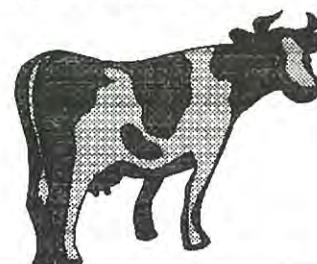
Monto Dairy Festival

Cream Can Awards

C/- B Chape,

13a Newton St.,

MONTO Q 4630





## AUSTRALIAN BUSH FESTIVAL

9-10th May, 1998  
Rockhampton Heritage Village

Bush Poets' Breakfasts  
and Performances by  
Geoffrey Graham - John & Joy Major  
Ray Essery - Bobby Miller

Phone 07 4936 3576 Fax 07 4936 2600



## INAUGURAL SOUTH COAST COUNTRY MUSIC ASSN FESTIVAL

30-31st May, 1998 at Kembla Grange  
POETS' BREAKFAST

8-10am Sunday, 31st May

Enq. Dianne O'Dwyer Ph/Fax 02 4237 7176



## TOP HALF FOLK & BUSH POETS FESTIVAL MT. ISA, QLD.

Sat. 6th & Sun 7th June 1998

Performance Competition  
Poets Breakfast - Bush Poetry Workshop  
Concerts

Venues - Folk Club Shack & Barkly Hotel

Details from Fay Sloman Ph 07 4743 5201



## ANNUAL DROVERS REUNION and FESTIVAL AT CAMOOWEAL

28th - 30th August 1998

BUSH POETRY - MUSIC

BRONCO BRANDING

COUNTRY MUSIC - STREET PARADE  
BUSKERS - CAMP OVEN MEALS & MORE

Camping Available

Enq. Ph 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153

## WANTED - BUSKING BUSH POETS COFFS HARBOUR MALL, NSW

During Heritage Week 1998

Friday, 1st May, 9am - 4pm

Period costume and Traditional Style  
Poetry is requested but not essential.

Phone Patricia Evans 02 6653 3976

## Nanango Sesquicentennial

### Poetry Competition

The Nanango Shire Council will be conducting a poetry competition as part of the shire's Sesquicentennial Celebrations -150 years!

Europeans first settled in the region as early as 1842 with the first hotel opening for business in 1848. Bushranger Alpin McPherson, or the "Wild Scotsman", twice held up the Royal Mail in 1865/66 on the outskirts of town and in the late 1800's McCallums Coaches conducted passenger and light freight services between Jondaryan and Gayndah via Nanango.

Pioneer history such as this should provide all poets with inspiration to write and share in this regions celebrations and judges will be looking for excellence in your chosen form of expression.



## NANAGO SESQUICENTENNIAL

### Poetry Competition

#### Sections -

Open	\$500.00
Secondary School	250.00
Primary School	100.00

#### Entry Fee

\$5.00 for one to three poems Open Section  
\$2.00 for one to three poems for Secondary  
and Primary School Sections.

Closing Date - 31st July, 1998.

Entry Forms and information from

Jim Mangan,

124 Drayton St. Nanango, Q., 4615

Phone 07 4163 1681

Winners will be announced at Poet's  
Breakfast on Thursday, 8th October, 1998  
at Nanango Belvedere Gallery

## RAMS HEAD HOTEL

### BUSH POETRY

#### PERFORMANCE COMPETITION



Fathers Day, Sunday, 6th September, '98  
Ram's Head Hotel, Millmerran, QLD

ENTRY FEE \$5.00 per poet for day - Juniors free.

Traditional and Original Sections in All Classes

JUNIOR MALE & FEMALE 8 -14 Yrs

NOVICE, OPEN - MALE & FEMALE

Enquiries - SSAE to Kev Barnes

PO Box 64, Millmerran, QLD 4357

or Phone 07 4695 4209 (More details P 1)



**CHARLEE MARSHALL  
BUSH POETRY  
WRITTEN COMPETITION**

Entries \$3.00 per poem  
Entries close 5th May, 1998

**OPEN - GOLDEN COCKATOO AWARD  
UNDER 16 - SILVER BUDGIE AWARD**

Entry forms and enquiries  
The Co-ordinator

Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Comp.  
PO Box, 754, BILOELA, Qld, 4715  
Ph 07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137

Awards will be presented and winning entries read at  
Biloela Country Music Festival 5th - 7th June, 1998



**3RD SETTLEMENT FESTIVAL  
TOONGABBIE, NSW**

23rd May, 1998 - All day

Bush poets will be performing  
throughout the main shopping area  
Ph. "Arch" 02 9625 7245

**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 REPLY BEFORE 30.6.98**

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



**ST ALBANS FOLK  
FESTIVAL**

20 Kms from Wisemans  
Ferry, NSW  
ANZAC WEEKEND

24TH - 26TH APRIL 1998

**POETS BREAKFASTS - Open Mike Style  
GUEST SPOTS - CONCERTS WORKSHOPS**

Poetry Enquiries Arch - 02 9625 7245  
or Graeme - 02 9874 7653



**CASINO BEEF WEEK**

28th - 31st May, 1998  
Cecil Hotel, Casino, NSW

Performances by  
Marco Gliori - Bobby Miller  
Neil McArthur - Ray Essery

Thurs 28 - Poets Breakfast 9.30 - 11am  
Thurs 28 - Bull Yarn Trophy 7.00 - 9pm  
Friday 29 - Poets Breakfast 8.00 - 10am  
Sat. 30 - Poets Breakfast 10.00 - 12pm  
Sun 31 - Open to All 9.30 - 11.30am  
Sun 31 - Bundy Rum New Voices -  
Major Trophy

Enquiries to Ray Essery - 02 6684 3817

**GATTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL**  
Gatton Historical Village, Lake Apex, Q.

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May, 1998

**BUSH POETRY AND YARNSPINNING  
COMPETITIONS - OPEN AND  
TRADITIONAL**

Musical Entertainment  
**CONTACT MEGAN BOURNE**

07 5462 3116 (See P 6)



**TENTERFIELD ORACLES of the BUSH  
and LOOMING LEGENDS EVENTS**

16th - 19th April, 1998

**Presentation of Awards**

Kids Concerts  
Over 50's Concert  
Writers Workshop  
Poets Breakfast  
Ph/fax 02 6736 2900



**POETRY AND FOLK NIGHT**

**CRICKETER'S ARMS HOTEL** Prospect NSW  
Old Great Western Hwy, behind Blacktown Drive In

Friday, 29th May '98 7.30pm  
Hosted by "Poetic Folk"

**SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS**  
Ring "Arch" - 02 9625 7245



**MAN from the SNOWY RIVER Festival**  
14th - 19th April, 1998 - Corryong Vic.

Poets Breakfast - Yarnspinning

Poets Party

Ring 02 6076 1992  
or 02 6076 2120  
or Ph/Fax 6076 2207





### Secretary's Notes

We had a successful meeting at Jondaryan with 13 present. It was decided to purchase a suitable printer for the Editor's use.

One expression of interest has been received for the running of the Australian Championships. See our notice on page 4 of this newsletter.

If you have an opinion on State Championships as a fore-runner to the National title or a practical suggestion of how it could work, send your ideas in. Distance makes it difficult to find an easy answer.

If any poets are camping, going through Nerang way and wish to stop off overnight, member Mr. Graham Brunckhorst would welcome you and offers power and water and room in his yard for a campsite.

Our president is at Winton at the time of writing and so are many other poets. The Australian Championships are being held there.

Again, I ask you, does anyone know F. Gleeson who paid his membership on the annual meeting day in Tamworth? We do not have the address for the newsletter so have a look in your telephone books and see if we can track him down please.

Not too much this time, Regards to all

*Olive Shooter*



### ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

The Thirteenth Illawarra Folk Festival held at Jamberoo, South of Wollongong, NSW, was again a resounding success with organisers allocating more space to the spoken word events and workshops.

The Friday Night Concert at the Bowling Club saw a packed house for the best show of the weekend with host "Blue the Shearer" aided by Milton Taylor, Pat Drummond, Dave de Hugard, Frank Daniel, Growlin' Dog, Jindi, Andrew Clermont and Wongawilli.

The Poets Breakfasts on both Saturday and Sunday mornings were extended by half an hour each, ensuring some twenty six poets sufficient time to strut their stuff to the large audiences; the "School of Arts" Marquee having been extended to cater for the growing number of bush poetry followers.

Col 'Blue the Shearer' Wilson of Wellington NSW hosted the Iambic Pneumatic Workshop in the Singing Room where some thirty "odd" enthusiasts combined their talents to come up with a brand new poem about hats. 'Blue' was also in charge of the 'New Voices' segments of the Festival as well as the 'Tall Tales' in the 'Pig and Whistle'.

Milton Taylor held a workshop, 'Doing it in Rhyme', which was well attended by some promising new writers and performers. Other workshops were covered by Keith McKenry dealing in the 'Origins of Australian Folk Revival' and the release of his 'Bugger the Music, Give us a Poem' album.

The 'Having a Go with Joe' workshop saw a new light on performance values conducted by Frank Daniel. Those attending gained valuable assistance and experience in the performance field, as the difference between poets and their individual deliveries was explained and demonstrated.

Another great year for the Illawarra mob and congratulations to the organisers who catered for over 200 individual performers from as far away as the USA and the UK.



### GOLDEN BELL POETRY AWARDS - Laidley QLD.

21st & 22nd March, 1998

The whole weekend was a great success for a first up event and was instigated by BoB McPhee and was run in conjunction with the National Heavy Horse Field Day. The comparing was ably handled by Ron Bates of Gatton and he kept the competition running steadily for the whole weekend and was assisted by the guest poet Bob Miller. Judging was handled in fine style by Merv Bostock, Shirley Pitt and Bruce Simpson. The Trophies were very impressive indeed.

#### Event 1 - Yarn Spinning

- 1st Bill Hay, Brisbane Qld.
- 2nd Ken Read, Charleville Qld
- 3rd Liz Ward, Mt. Perry, Qld

#### Event 2 - Verse With Horse Theme

- 1st Guy McLean, Susan River, Qld
- 2nd Bill Hay, Brisbane, Qld
- 3rd Trisha Anderson, Brisbane, Qld

#### Event 3 - Humorous Verse

- 1st Guy McLean, Susan River, Qld.
- 2nd Ken Read, Charleville Qld.
- 3rd Ron Selby, Drayton Qld.

### GOLDEN BELL AWARD

1st Prize  
Guy  
McLean  
& "Buddy"

2nd Prize  
Trisha  
Anderson

### BALANCE OF NATURE

(C) Graham Alcorn, Blue Mountain, NSW  
from his book 'The Bird Baths of Umbigumbi'

One day a Sitella, going down,  
Passed a Tree Creeper, going up  
"And how are the insects, up?"  
"And how are the insects, down?"  
"The insects up on which I sup  
Are juicy and divine."  
"The insects down on which I dine  
Are sweet as honey wine."  
And so they live in harmony  
Though they forage the bark of the selfsame tree.





## MONTO DAIRY FESTIVAL CREAM CAN AWARDS

The Monto Dairy Festival has been held every two years since the sixties, and the Cream Can Awards for bush verse, held in conjunction with the festival, began in 1994.

The instigator was the late Charlee Marshall, who, with local resident, Glenda Ostwald, and myself, decided the written verse competition would add some extra culture to the occasion.

Charlee quickly spread the word, organised the judging (I think he did it himself first time around) and before you could blink, we had a golf clubhouse full of people, and poet's from Bundaberg and all over, all enjoying a great night.

After Charlee's death, I enlisted the help of the Bundy Mob of poets for the 1996 Poets Dinner and Competition. Neil McArthur organised the judges for us, and compared the evening. The Bundaberg poets were joined by locals, and once again the club house was packed. Our function was so popular, the president of the festival committee arrived towards the end of the evening, trying to collect our crowd to go on to another function being held in town. Locals still talk about Neil's rendition of The Most Popular Bloke in the Bar!

This year, our Poets Dinner on 29th May is going to be popular again, as locals are already booking. Neil, even though he is far away in Victoria, is again helping out, by organising the judging of Cream Can Awards.

I should point out here, this is a written competition, not performance. The poets who perform on the night of the dinner, do so for the love of the craft, and to entertain a hugely appreciative crowd. I can't thank enough, the wonderful entertainers who travel, sometimes quite long distances, to help out. The Bundaberg poets have again indicated their willingness to be involved, and other poets are also welcome to take part should they be around our way at that time.

Entries for the Cream Can Awards close on 30th April, so there is still time to enter. Briefly, conditions are: Original rhyming bush verse in traditional style, limit of 100 lines. Name and address of poet on separate page, and entries must not have won first or a cash prize in any competition, nor been published. Entry fee is \$5.00 for up to three entries (Juniors \$2.00). Junior sections are 1-12 years and 13-17 years. Send to The Monto Dairy Festival Cream Can Awards, C/- B. Chape, 13a Newton Street, Monto, Q, 4630 Anyone requiring more information can ring me on 07 4166 1430 or 07 4166 1846

Incidentally, my first book *The Washing Up will have to Wait* was successfully launched at the first Poet's Dinner in 1994. I am in the mad throes of getting

my second book, *Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof*, ready for the printer, so it can be launched at our Poets Dinner.

*Betsy Chape*



## NEWS FROM KYABRAM

The Kyabram District Bush Verse Group has been granted a "Poets Corner" at the Kyabram Town Library. By agreement with the Campaspe Shire, the Group will inaugurate a contemporary bush poetry section. The books in this section will not leave the library, but will be available to the public to read within the library. The Kyabram Bush Verse Group will meet the cost of a photo copying service if required.

Two copies of books are required, one available to the public while the second copy will be catalogued and kept in storage for historical purposes. There is a lot of interest in bush poetry in the area and this is a great way to further the cause, already the local poets have each donated two books to this collection.

Now we are launching an appeal to the bush poets of Australia to help make this library worthwhile. The Kyabram District Bush Verse Group will gladly accept any donations of books from poets who would like their work included in our "Poets Corner". Group President, Mick Coventry is hoping this project will gain strength and as well as providing access to the local population to bush verse, it will act as a reference library for all poetry groups. The address is - "Poets Corner"

**Kyabram District Bush Verse Group**  
P.O. Box 331, KYABRAM VIC 3619

*Mick Coventry*



## CALLING ALL BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS

The Gatton Heritage Festival Inc. wishes to invite Bush Poets and Yarnspinners to participate in the inaugural open competition sections to be held at the **1998 Gatton Heritage Festival, 1st-2nd May.**

\*Bush Poets Open Poetry Comp. (Traditional, Established or Original)

\* Yarnspinning, Open comp. (tall, short, true, false)

Friday 1st May - Cultural night through local hotels  
Bush Poetry, Yarns, Music (props allowed)

Saturday 2nd May - Judging of Poetry and Yarns at  
Gatton Historical Village, Lake Apex.

Presentation of awards.

**Contact Megan Bourne - Ph. 07 5462 3116**



## PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL REPORT

from Beth Vinecombe-Bashford and Ray Essery

Port Fairy celebrated it's 22nd Folk Festival on 6-9th March, which, because of the increasing popularity, saw a complete sellout of all tickets in a record 8 days. Music abounded from Friday evening 'til 2pm Monday afternoon - music from both local and overseas artists, that had one reeling high on the euphoric atmosphere of this great weekend. Irish music made it's presence felt this year, more so than last, also displays of Irish dancing were well received.

We were a little disappointed there was not as much emphasis on Bush Poetry this year, however the "Poets Breakfasts" as conducted by Jim Haynes and Ray Essery, were something to look forward to each morning at 9 am. The Wine Bar Venue was always packed as we waited for Jim to appear. His light-hearted verse and songs were always a great hit, and Ray, "The Mullumbimby Bloke", had us all enraptured with his bush recitations.

The "Poet's Brawl" on the last morning, was, as always, an audience participation day, where all budding poets are allowed to recite a verse of their own making, time allowed is one minute. (I ran a little over this, but as I was last to appear, I finished it anyway!) The crowd was exposed to an entertaining selection of subjects and showed their appreciation accordingly - a great Labour Day Weekend!

Lismore Standup Poets were represented and performed during the festival. Amongst those who recited were David Hallet and Steve Sorrensen, won one of the most prestigious awards of the Festival, the Pat Glover Award for Storytelling at a very well supported venue.

Congratulations Steve.



### PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL '98

(C) Beth Vinecombe-Bashford, Berrigan NSW

This festivals great, the atmosphere high, you're given a smile at the gate,  
You're told where to go to pitch your tent and everyone says, "G'day Mate."  
"Follow that car as far as the culvert then swing round sharp to the right,  
You can't go wrong, just look for the showers, you're right beside them tonight."

Now setting up camp isn't always fun, sometimes it strikes a sour note,  
"Well don't stand there with your thumb up your nose, pull your finger out" - unquote.  
The hammer rang out as it clobbered a peg, the rope flung loose in the air,  
The tent collapsed in a three sided heap, but to laugh I didn't dare.

It took an hour to erect that damn thing, with a sigh we both sought a chair,  
Unfortunately Bill tripped over the rope and finished tail up in the air.  
The sun by this time had set low in the West and our friends came round with some tea,  
We laughed together and shared some jokes, my dear old Bill and me.

Up early this morning to take a shower then nibble a weet-bix or two,  
Its brush the old teeth and pick up the chairs then off to this breakfast with you.  
I smile at the title 'Poets Breakfast' be damned, that's quite an impossible task,  
For how can you eat at your morning meal, whilst shrieking with laughter I ask!



We owe it all to Jim\* and Ray\*,  
These two gentlemen of the day,  
Who entertain with great finesse,  
They really are two of the best.

\* Jim Haynes and Ray Essery



## LIZ BANTING

## PROFILE

## ROY BRIGGS

Liz was a Jillaroo on a North Queensland cattle station during part of her youth and her first taste of the bush was back in the mid forties when she was ten years old.

An accomplished young lady ringer, there were some aspects of cattle country and bush life that she did not personally encounter, but with her talents as a budding young writer, she was able to use the tales related to her by the other ringers and bushmen and quickly put them on paper. Her two books published are a credit to her talents and her personal knowledge of their authenticity.

Her books titled, *The Shadows and the Substance* and *From all Corners*, captivate the reader's mind into an authentic view of the real bush life.

Roy grew up in the cattle country of the western rivers and held his first headstockman position at the age of eighteen. He wrote his first poem titled *The Old Man's Memories*, at ten years of age and has been penning his vast experiences in cattle country novels and bush poems ever since.

His collection of poems are in print and titled *The Trackrider Bush Poems, Volumes 1 - 5*.

His cattle country novels of the *Neverending Series* have developed into a family saga thing, but with each book a story of it's own.

This ex ringer is bush and always will be. He is so much bush, that the western and Northern Territory folk have dubbed him *The Wandering Trackrider*, and Liz travels with him everywhere. He also has credentials as a judge.

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### THE BRUMBY'S CHALLENGE

(C) Liz Banting

from "The Shadows and the Substance"

The colt stood high upon the cliff,  
dark and sleek and proud,  
and watched as they approached him  
in a pall of dusty cloud

As he watched, where hidden there,  
unseen by those below,  
silhouetted, still as stone  
against the sunset's glow.



The leader of the brumby mob,  
a stallion, firey eyed,  
of muscled strength and tempered pride  
as the colt that he had sired.

The stallion slowed and raised his head,  
flared nostrils sniffed the air,  
He recognised the blood, his own  
upon the high cliff there.

His own that he had fought, and won,  
and chased far from the brood.  
With the mare he was so jealous of,  
no chance that colt had stood.

### THE TRACKRIDER

(C) Roy Briggs

from the book, "The Trackrider Poems Vol. 1"

Track riding is a pleasure,  
though often the work is hard,  
Many miles of wandering,  
and always on their guard.



The camps at night are heaven  
As heavenly as can be  
Alone with horse and camp fire.  
A picture true to see.

Have you ever felt the quiet  
of a water course at night.  
The birds at dusk all settle down.  
The splendour is a sight.

Reflections of the camp fire,  
across the waters, gleam.  
Illuminate and silhouette,  
just like a perfect dream.

Down through the limbs of river gums,  
the stars come out to glitter  
down upon you in your swag.  
So Clean, No Smell, No Litter.

**2 GREAT BOOKS from DON LLOYD - THE MONGREL from the MULGA**

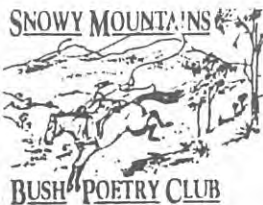
'A DOG THAT PEEES ON WHEELS AND OTHER DOGGEREL' - \$14.00 pp

'NO DOGS ALOUD' - \$7.00 pp

Don W. Lloyd, Woolli Road, Pillar Valley, NSW. 2460 Ph. 02 6644 8283

Pd. Adv.





## MURRUMBIDGEE BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP

In conjunction with the John O'Brien Bush Festival, held in Narrandera from 19th - 22nd March, The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club conducted the Murrumbidgee Championships.

Held at the Murrumbidgee Hotel on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, before audiences of over 50 people, both sessions were a great success.

The Open Championship was won by Johnny Johanson from Yarrawonga who presented "The Plumbers Mate". Second place went to Ron Stevens from Dubbo with "Westerly". The Ladies Championship was won by Chloe Stevens, Dubbo, and Junior Championship by Jane Weatherstone, Canberra. The Open Recital (any poem) was won by Don Anderson, Leeton, who really excelled with "the Fire at Ross's Farm". Johnny Johanson came second with Jim Weatherstone in third place.

Others to compete or just perform were Vic Budd, Griffith; Peter Connell, Grong Grong; Jim Angel, Narrandera; Noel Cutler, Wangaratta, Vic; Geoffrey Graham, Bealiba, Vic.; "Father" Noel Stallard, Brisbane; Nora Carroll, Brisbane; Neil Hulm, Lavington; Chris Middleton and Tim Sheed, Jerilderie and Jim Sibraa, Narrandera.

Noel Cutler, when called upon, obligingly launched Neil Hulm's book No. 10 entitled "Aussie Bush Comedy". Noel spoke on Neil's life in the high country with livestock and also his association with all types of farm work which has given Neil a great knowledge on which to write about the bush.

A special thank you to the sponsor Trent Miller of Murrumbidgee Hotel, to Julia Briggs and staff from the Narrandera Tourist Centre for their help and also to Tich Harmer, Chloe Stevens, Johnny Johansen and others who helped make the Bush Poetry "Get Togethers" a great success. The 200 Raffle was won by Sue Earl, Canberra.

### JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL - Narrandera

Prizes for the written John O'Brien Poetry and Prose Competition were presented at the Official Opening of the John O'Brien Bush Festival on Thursday 19th March. Ron Stevens, Kathleen McLennan, Vin Schiller and Jean Stubbings were present to pick up their awards and all were generous enough to recite something for us on the night.

All festivities this year featured *some* bush poetry (and some featured all bush poetry!). Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler, Noel Stallard and Johnny Johansen each added their special brand of entertainment to the mix. The formula worked wonderfully well!

The festival as a whole was an outstanding success. All the focus activities attracted capacity audiences and visitors travelled from as far away as Roma and Charters Towers in Qld., Bendigo, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong in the southern states specifically to attend the festival. Very positive feedback continues to come in from both visitors and locals, boding very well for future festivals.

### THE JOHN O'BRIEN POETRY AND PROSE COMPETITION, 1998 RESULTS

#### Section 1 - Awards for Verse

##### Open Class 1 - Traditional. Equal 1st Prize,

- Kathleen McLennan, Lake Boga, Vic. - "But Ivy Remembers"

- Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW - "Fancy"

Highly Commended. - Jean Stubbings, Leeton, NSW - "The Place Where A Hat Has Hung"

- Martin McKenna, Kyneton, Vic. - "Broken Windmills"

- Kathleen McLennan, - "An Australian Christmas"



##### Open Class 2 Contemporary. 1st Prize - Ron Stevens, Dubbo "Treadmilling at the Centre"

Highly Commended. - Ron Stevens - "Unprogrammed"

- Hylde Rolfe, Watsons Bay, NSW, "Lichen Love"

##### Open Class 3 Humorous. 1st Prize - Vin Schiller, Hay, NSW, "Shearing's Getting Near"

Highly Commended - Ron Stevens, "The Jinglestirrup Goings-On"

- Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW, "It Could Have Been Worse"

- Bonny Harrison, Euroa, Vic., "The Stretched Finger"



#### Section 2 Awards for Prose

##### Open Class 1 Short Story. 1st Prize - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW "The Crow Knows"

Congratulations to all winners and thank you for your interest in our competition. Entry forms for next year's competition will be sent to you in September this year with entries closing in January, 1999.

## THE LAST CHARGE (c) John Bird, Lismore NSW.

"What am I bid for the old tin trunk," the auctioneer sang out.  
Then pointed to a beat up box, "Suit someone, I've no doubt."  
"There's a pair of spats, an old slouch hat, some emu feathers too.  
Will someone give a price to me, cause I wouldn't have a clue."  
"Who will start with fifty cents?" Then he lifted the feathers high  
"Ten dollars I will bid for it," I heard my own voice cry.  
Then right before my very eyes there seemed a different scene.  
There were twenty thousand horsemen where the auction crowd had been.



The horses' flanks were quivering. Their flared nostrils blowing moist,  
And on the forward bearer, our Australian flag was hoist.  
It was October 31st, 1917.

This was the last great cavalry charge and the best the world had seen.

The "Whalers" they were prancing, impatient in their tread.  
Expectant young lighthorsemen ready, plumed hats upon their head.  
The notes of bugle sounding, charge vibrated to the sky,  
Beersheba, Beersheba, Beersheba became the battle cry.

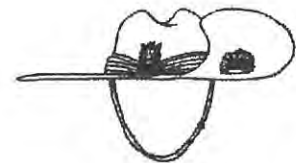


The horses galloped fiercely to echo Beersheba from their feet,  
And the feathers on the riders' hats waved wildly to the beat.  
They never faltered in their run, ever charging to the foe.  
Beersheba was the battle cry as onward they did go.

They cared not for the shrapnel that through their ranks did blast,  
Nor the whistle of the screeching shells that overhead flew past,  
They broke the siege of "Johnny Turk". Beersheba they did take,  
They made the last great cavalry charge and history they did make.

"Ten Dollars, I've got for the old tin trunk. Is there any further bid?"  
No more bids, so I got the box, beat up without it's lid.  
With its old slouch hat, it's pair of spats and crumpled feathers there,  
The sight did fill my heart with pride as I took them in my care.

Now as each Anzac Day comes round, I polish up each spat,  
I take the emu feathers out, to adorn the old slouch hat,  
I watch the thinning ranks of lighthorsemen on parade,  
In mind I see the last great charge in history they made.



## DAWN SERVICE ANZAC DAY (C) Ron A. Monro, Kincumber NSW

The wreaths are laid, the bugle stilled,  
The bowed heads search the past  
With thoughts of war, the blood long spilled,  
That bought the peace at last

They picture crosses on a lawn,  
Which might have been their own,  
While in the cold, wan light of dawn,  
Two bronze men guard that stone.

And there are names upon a wall,  
In graven bronze arrayed;  
The valiant ones, who gave their all,  
But then to rest are laid.



They did not seek for glory's fame,  
Nor to frame the peacetime plan,  
But proudly bore Australia's name  
From Lone Pine to Long Tan.

So Bow your head, in this grey dawn,  
And pray there'll be no call  
To place new crosses on a lawn,  
Or names upon a wall

*Lest we forget*





## THE LAST GALLIPOLI VETERAN

(C) Keith McKenry

The last Gallipoli veteran  
Is marching alone today;  
His comrades from the Great War  
Have fallen by the way.

Two hundred yards in his best suit,  
His medals, and his braid,  
He marches in a line of *one*  
Along ANZAC Parade.

The last line with Gallipoli,  
Cape Helles, and Lone Pine,  
He is Australian legend  
Going down the line.

He listens to the service  
And stand for the *Last Post*;  
The last of the ANZAC's he  
Is less a man ... than ghost.

On Remembrance Day, 11 November, 1996, Ted Matthews celebrated his 100th birthday. Ted, at that time was one of only a dozen original Anzacs still living, and of these the only one involved in the initial landing. These dozen Australians and New Zealanders are the last of 68,000 original Anzacs. When they are gone, an epoch will have passed in the Australian Legend.

*From McKenry's Curse and Other Verse.*

**Ted Matthews died in December, 1997.**

## ODE TO THE FALLEN

*They went with songs to the battle,  
They were young, straight of limb,  
true of eye, steady and aglow,  
They were staunch to the end  
against odds uncouthed  
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun,  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

## LEST WE FORGET

O. L. Binyon

## THE GATES OF FAREWELL

Arthur H. Adams - Circa 1922

Through these grim gates our grown-up babies filed,  
Mere boys debouching on the path of Death

And as they passed they drew an anguished breath,  
Lest tears should start when they so bravely smiled!

And Mothers watched with hearts unreconciled  
The children of their wombs that passed beneath

Upon the bars still hangs a faded wreath  
That tells of some dear first born far exiled!

Shall these harsh gates, whose closing was a knell  
In mothers' hearts reverberating, mock

Our memories with thoughts of Death and Fate -  
That last look back ... the locking of the gate!

Or shall a fountain gushing from the rock,  
The eternal miracle of Life re-tell?



This article and the above poem was submitted by Mrs. Pat Richardson of Nambucca Heads, NSW, and was published in the Sydney paper, "The Sun" on 22nd January, 1922, in support of Dame Margaret Davidson, who was appealing for funds for a Womens Memorial to the troops, who embarked from the Wharf at Woolloomooloo for the First World War. Mrs. Richardson's grandmother, Fanny Furner, J.P., began the custom of the women and children marching to the gates and putting wreaths on them on Anzac Day.

The memorial was opened on Anzac Day, 1922 and has written on it "Erected by the women of NSW under the auspices of the Centre for Soldiers, Wives and Mothers".

Fanny Furner ran the centre in Woolloomooloo during the First World War as a volunteer.

The memorial is a very lovely sandstone wall .. beautifully inscribed .. it has an eternal flame on the top and a drinking bubbler placed at a convenient height and is located outside the railing fence of Garden Island along from 'Harry's Cafe de Wheels', behind small trees on the seaward side of the busy road before you go up the hill to Potts Point.

## THE DOOR OF MEMORY

by Aust Serviceman Robert L. O'Donnell  
Written while he was a POW in Germany, 1940

If we are weary, depressed or dejected  
There is a door into Memory Lane  
And when it's opened, horizons grow brighter  
We walk in the light of the sunshine again.

Someone we love will be waiting to take us  
Far from the realms of despair and unrest  
In the quiet paths of remembrance to lead us  
Back to the scenes that were brightest and best

Just for a while to escape and to wander  
Down the green lane behind Memory's Door  
Living again, Happy Days, Golden Memories





**POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

- 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. P4
- April 16 - 19 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Event.** Junior, Written & Perf. Comp., **Closes 28.3.98**  
**Oracles of the Bush, Nat. Bush Poetry Comp.** Box 372 Tenterfield 2372 Ph 02 6736 2900 P4
- April 22 **Palma Rosa.** 9 Queens Rd Hamilton Bris. Q. Bookings essential.  
 Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769. P 2
- April 24-26 **St Albans Folk Festival.** Poets' Breakfasts, Guest Performers - Ph John or Betty 02 9528 2193 P4
- April 25 **Festival of the Falling Leaf, Tumut, NSW.** Bush Poets, Yarns, Music at Tourist Inf. Centre (Butter Factory) 7.pm. Everyone is welcome and gets a go!. Phone Janette 02 6947 6260
- April 30 Closing Date **Monto Cream Can Bush Verse Comp.** Pages 2 & 6
- May 1 **Coffs Harbour Heritage Wk.** Busking Bush Poets wanted Ph Patricia Evans 02 6653 3976 P3
- May 5 Closing Date. **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp.**  
 Ph 07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137 P4
- May 1-2 **Gatton Heritage Fest. Qld.** Bush Poetry & Yarnspinning Ph. Megan Bourne 07 5462 3116 P 6
- May 8-10 **Australian Bush Festival. Rockhampton.** Music - Poetry - Yarns Ph. 07 4936 3576 P3
- 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 21 Closing Date. **Beaudesert Country & Horse Fest Comp.** Ph 07 5541 4355 P 19
- May 23 **Toongabbie, NSW Third Settlement Festival.** Bush Poetry "al fresco" Ph Arch 02 9625 7254 P4
- May 28-31 **Casino Beef Week.** Casino, NSW. Poets' Breakfasts, New Voices Comp, Ph. 02 6684 3817 P4
- May 29 **Monto Dairy Fest Poets Dinner** Monto Golf Club Pages 2 & 6
- May 29 **Cricketer's Arms Hotel.** Prospect, NSW 7.30pm Poetry and Folk Night Ph 02 9625 7245 P4
- May 31 Closing Date **Bush Lantern Awards.** Written Verse Comp. Bundaberg Poets Soc Inc. P 2
- May 31 **Sth Coast Country Music Fest, Kembla Grange NSW** Poets' Breakfast 8-10am.  
 Ph / Fax Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176 P 3
- 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.** Comp & PoetsBreakfast Ph Nancy Moss 07 5541 4355 P19
- 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 3
- July 3 - 5 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster.** Perf. & Written Comp - 8 Hawaii Court, Bargara 4670 P 2
- July 31 **Nanango Sesquicentennial Poetry Comp** closes. Entry forms and details from Jim Mangan, 124 Drayton St., Nanango QLD 4615. Phone 07 4163 1681 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. P3
- Sept 6 **Rams Head Hotel Performance Bush Poetry Comp.** Perf. Comp., Yarns, Brawl, Meals available  
 Phone Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 Pages 1 & 3
- 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 P 3

**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, therefore it would 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. Monday** **Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106  
**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
- 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
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Parakeet Cafee at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba  
 Everyone welocme. 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. 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
- 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 Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460 P15
- 3rd Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 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
- 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
- 3rd. Sunday** **Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q.** Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02 6642 2772
- Evy 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
- Last Sat.** **Aust Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div.** Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 - 4pm  
 Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Pk. NSW 2264

**ATTENTION**

*Group or Club Organisers Your events belong here.  
 Send your details to the Editor*



### STANDARDS (C) Don Lloyd, Pillar Valley NSW

So only poetic masters publish,  
 Well there's few of them about.  
 And now we have some rules,  
 That will really sort them out.

I thought Bush Poetry was open,  
 So anyone could have a go,  
 But with new codes and ethics,  
 It seems that isn't so.

But who will set the standard,  
 For the banner that you fly?  
 Will there be a favoured few,  
 Who are allowed to raise it high?

So to all the perfect masters,  
 Who put in the literary boot,  
 As I would to any tyrant,  
 I raise one finger in salute.



Please don't waste your pity on me,  
 For what I write or do,  
 In the words of Henry Lawson,  
 I'm a prouder man than you.

For I'm used to being criticised,  
 I get plenty, that's a fact,  
 But it's not for you to answer,  
 As to how I dress or act.

Give the people some credit mate,  
 They're the ones who buy the books,  
 And won't spend hard earned money  
 If they don't like how it looks.

If I want to waste money publishing,  
 Well you didn't give or lend it,  
 It's my money after all,  
 So don't tell me how to spend it.

So while I'm willing to learn from you,  
 Don't try and send me packing,  
 For you'll find I'll still be there,  
 When the whips start crackin'.

## A GENERATION GAP (C) Milton Taylor 1997, Portland NSW

Sweet Granny Brown was strolling on a balmy April day,  
Basking in the warmth of Autumn's sun,  
She loved her daily walking tours, they swept her cares away,  
Few pleasures left in life - but this was one.  
And as she limped her way around she sang a little song,  
A favourite from her childhood, glad and gay,  
Her walking stick in tempo tapped as Granny hummed along,  
"Twenty one to-day", she sang, "twenty one to-day".



Fond recall to happy times, of pleasant scenes she dreamed,  
They filled the lonely corners of her mind  
With images of long ago, so real to her they seemed,  
Contentment in these memories she'd find,  
Returning her to fantasy of youth, bereft of care,  
With handsome men sweet compliments to pay,  
Offers too of wedded bliss, a life for two to share,  
"Twenty one to-day" she sang, "twenty one to-day".

Locked away in daydream's haze, old granny missed a turn  
And headed left at Murphy's corner store  
Proceeding to a district that most folk had come to learn  
To shun, where death and danger dwelt for sure.  
But, unaware of danger's breath she hobbled down the street  
Still thinking, as she ambled on her way  
Of parties, balls, and singalongs, when friends were true and sweet,  
"Twenty one to-day", she sang, "twenty one to-day".

Her reverie was shattered by a loud and hog-like grunt,  
She raised her head to seek the source of sound,  
A group of romper stompers with their caps on back to front,  
An awesome sight that poor old lady found.  
She sweetly smiled and stepped aside to let the stompers by,  
"How nice", she thought, "to see the children play."  
But they seemed a touch unfriendly, a scruffy lot, and sly,  
"Twenty one to-day", she sang, "twenty one to-day".

"Where ya' think ya' goin' Gran?" their leader blurted out,  
"Whatcha want in this here part of town?  
We hate old people, go back home," that ugly, pimply lout  
Snarled sullenly at dear old Granny Brown.  
"I'll give ya' twenty seconds, turn around and don't come back";  
He sneered through spurts of filthy spittle spray.  
But Granny shuffled onward and resumed her forward track,  
"Twenty one to-day", she sang, "twenty one to-day".

"I'll give ya' 'twenty one to-day', ya; wrinkly bag of bones,  
We'll knock ya' down and take off with ya' dough!  
And while ya' down we'll kick ya', then pelt some bricks and stones,  
You should' a gone when you was told to go.  
You stupid geriatric cow! Ya' crazy mad old bat!  
I hate ya', 'cause you're stupid singin' rot, I just can't handle that!"  
"Twenty one to-day", she sang, "twenty one to-day".

"I've warned ya', now ya' gunna die!", the romper stomper cried  
And lunging, launched at Granny's feeble frame,  
But lithely as a leopards leap, old Granny sprang aside,  
Nimble on her feet that ancient dame.  
Spluttering loud, in fury blind, the leader wheeled about,  
Prepared to shred his foe in disarray.  
Gran watched his frantic antics, then gave a gleeful shout.  
"Twenty one to-day", she cried, "twenty one to-day".

Her walking stick described an arc and fetched a clouting crack,  
The hoodlum held an ear, now dripping blood,  
Then screamed as blows descended, raining down on head and back,  
Granny's vengeance flowing in a flood  
Her strokes fell systematically, the hoon, a moaning wreck  
Watched his gang in terror run away.  
Then Granny kneed him in the groin and judo chopped his neck.  
"That's TWENTY TWO to-day", she sang, "TWENTY TWO to-day!!"

## The Editors Reply to Members Correspondence



### Thankyou to .....

**Tom Dunn**, Warwick, Q. - Your suggestion re possible reviews of tapes and books was implemented in our February Newsletter!

**Bob Kane**, Rutherford, NSW - requests members comments on a Code of Ethics. A good example of one members opinion submitted in verse is on page 10 this month - 'Ode to the Code' by Sandra Binns of Kincumber, NSW. *I would certainly welcome further comments from members.*

**Harry Bowers**, Warragul, Vic. - agrees with Noel Cutler, and Bill Gleeson, "Blackened Billy" judge, that a "meticulously careful 'beat', continued throughout a poem", is essential.

**Jill Jessen**, Carlton, NSW - via Milton Taylor, - requesting "A Generation Gap"

**Bruce Reineker**, Casino, NSW  
need to locate a poem he thinks is called  
"The Skite"

which contain the following lines ....  
*"Rear kick and bite, strike if they like,  
When I'm up on top, I'm up here to stop,  
There's no falling off about me"*

also  
*"Catch that brown nag, put its head in a bag  
the last man to ride him is dead."*

If you can help, reply direct to Bruce,  
11 Aspley Street, Casino, NSW 2470.

**DONT' FORGET !!!**  
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**cost incl. postage to the Editor.**

## S.A. NEW GROUP UP & RUNNING

ABPA Member, Peter Chapman from Aldinga Beach, SA (near Myponga) writes to tell us that, with some encouragement from Carmel Randle, he and Bob Magor have launched a monthly get together of SA Bush Poets.

The group, has to date met twice with encouraging results, both from the local community and poets, 30 of whom have so far registered.

The aim of the group is to encourage bush poets to come out of the closet and stretch themselves, and as Peter says, "Closets can be pretty cramped!).

As the group develops, it will provide a great opportunity for the novice to try their poetry in the public forum, and, hopefully infect S.A. like N.S.W. and QLD.

Peter hopes that by having meetings which are open for people to come for fun and entertainment, the group will quickly establish itself and lead to the formation of a committee and has high hopes and dreams for it's future.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Alma Pub Long Room in Willunga, SA at 7.30pm. If you are travelling in the area, call in and enjoy the fun. Enquiries to Peter Chapman, PO Box 1119 Aldinga Beach, SA, 5173 or Phone / Fax 08 8370 2460



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
and **BEST WISHES** to

**Peter Chapman & his Fiancee**

who are to be **MARRIED**

on **18th April 1998**

From all members of the **A.B.P.A.**



## GROUSE SHOW AT THE ROUSE

**Northern Rivers  
Bush Poets**

The Rouse Hotel in Lismore presented another great show on Saturday, 14th March, in conjunction with the Lismore Countrycama. Feature artist was Greg Champion who was supported by a star studded line up of Bush Poetry Performers, including Ray Essery, Max and Helga, John and Des, Bill Kearns from Grafton and many more.

The crowd was also fortunate to be entertained by nationally acclaimed harpist, Tony Clifford who now resides in our area.

Preceding the Saturday Night Show, Poets Breakfasts were held on Friday and Saturday mornings at the Oaks Hotel. Star performers Bobby (Maggot) Miller, Ray (A.I.) Essery and guest poet "Haddy" played to attentive audiences. Hotel owner and host Thomas George is confident that next year the crowd will double. Great musical support came from Chris Cook Bluegrass Band, Denis (Dingo) Dryden and Tony Clifford.

Special mention of a great effort by Martin O'Brian in organising a highly successful St Patrick's Day celebration for his small community of Uki, situated in the shade of Mt. Warning in the Tweed Valley.

You wouldn't believe the line up which included a Celtic Band, Irish dancers, a gumleaf player, harp and flute recitals, and naturally, Bush Poets. A great success - congratulations Martin !!

*Col Hadwell*



## PROFILE GRAHAM ACORN

Graham Alcorn was for many years head ranger for the nature reserves and walking tracks controlled by the Blue Mountains City Council. He has a keen interest in nature, particularly birds and has been a member of the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union for 24 years and of the NSW Field Ornithologists Club since it's inception. He is past president of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society and for many years edited it's newsletter. He has worked as a farm worker, station hand, harbour worker, waterfront rigger and gardener. Now retired, aged 85, he lives in the Blue Mountains.

Two books of his poetry are - "The Bird Baths of Umbigumbi" and "Romantic and Unashamed".

## JOURNEY TO DUMBLEYUNG

(C) Graham Alcorn

From Jerramungup to Ongerup  
And through Lake Grace to Dumbleyung  
We travelled in our campervan  
Through wheatfields golden in the sun.  
We saw three Regent Parrots there,  
We saw Calamanthus Wren,  
But mostly we saw fields of wheat  
And wondered what it was like when  
All the land was clothed in bush  
And the black people walked along  
From Jerramungup to Ongerup  
And through Lake Grace to Dumbleyung.





## BOWRA FEAST OF BUSH VERSE

Wauchope's popular Bush Poet and folk singer, Russell Churcher again proved a popular attraction when he appeared at the Country Music Festival's 'Poets in the Pub' night at the Bowra Hotel on Saturday, 28th February.

Throughout the evening, Russell was joined on stage by 13 other poets, including Peter Duggan from Blaxland who is holidaying on the Nambucca. Peter, who is heavily involved with the Blaxland Folk Club in the Blue Mountains, NSW, sang several unaccompanied traditional style folk songs, impressing the audience with the richness, not only of his material, but his beautiful deep voice.

Visiting Bush Poets travelled considerable distances to share their work. Those appearing were Don Lloyd - Pillar Valley, Reid Begg - Forster, Col Hadwell - Byron Bay, Janette Lewis - Mullaway, Bill MacClure - Tin Can Bay, QLD and Sue Mayne - Clybucca. The Bellinger Valley was well represented by Keith Haycraft from Urunga and Bellinger resident Phil Wadick, who recited publicly for the first time. Nambucca Valley locals performing were Barry Jacka, Marj Trotter, Rex Tape and Tony Fuller who also made his debut.

The very appreciative audience was well entertained with a very humorous range of verse until almost midnight - and is looking forward to future performances. The Country Music Festival Committee wishes to express their thanks to all and to the Bowra Hotel who sponsored the cost of the evening.

## POETS IN THE CLUB AT URUNGA

An extremely successful afternoon of Australian Bush Poetry was held on Saturday, 21st March at the Urunga Golf Club when the "Poets in the Club" was held for the first time. Urunga is situated about 30 minutes drive south of Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Attended by over fifty people, this casual afternoon was held in the club's dining room and produced some very humorous moments, which were provided by twelve Bush Poets who came to ply their wares.

Those who performed included Bellinger Valley representatives Keith Haycraft, David Spier, Maree Dent, Richard Woodward, Matthew Sincock, Graftonian bards Don Lloyd and Bill Kearns, while the Nambucca Valley was well represented by Barry Jacka from Yarranbella and Tony Fuller from Bowraville. Coffs Harbour residents Rosemary Dorrell and Tom Strickland also gave a good account of themselves. Jeanette Brook from Mirrabooka, NSW, who is holidaying in the area, came along and also delighted the audience with her verse.

Organisers wish to thank the Urunga Golf Club for the use of their facilities, those who performed during the afternoon, and the audience who came along to enjoy a great afternoon of Australian Entertainment.

The next "Poets in the Club" will be held on Saturday, 18th April, commencing at 1.30pm, and will continue to be held on the third Saturday of each month, 1.30-4pm at the Urunga Golf Club. Enquiries should be directed to Keith on 02 6655 6835 after hours, or Maureen on 02 6568 5269.



## ODE TO THE CODE

(C) Sandra Binns, Kincumber NSW *with due respect to Keith McKenry*



We need a Code of Ethics  
by which we should abide;  
a Code of Conduct guiding us,  
fair dinkum, bona fide.  
So we'll draft ourselves this code  
for better or for worse,  
and what is more, I here propose,  
it should be writ in verse !

"I will encourage colleagues,  
give assistance to them all,  
help emerging poets  
and performers, one and all.  
I will acknowledge authorship  
when performing others' work  
thus assisting them to gain due  
recognition. I won't shirk!

I'll respect the economic rights  
of other poets too -  
ask for their permission  
to record, perform, review;  
respect their right to claim first use  
of their own work, it's only right,  
and I'll always offer royalties  
to the owner of copyright.

"I will not draw on others' work  
without acknowledgment  
or adapt it for performance  
without obtaining their agreement.  
As a poet and performer, I will  
always use my skills  
to foster understanding in  
the world, to cure it's ills.

"I'll avoid the kind of language  
which 'puts down', which  
degenerates,  
which stereotypes by gender,  
disability, or race.  
I'll regard the sensitivities  
of others, when I choose  
what I use in my performances -  
will not offend, will not abuse.

"Which doesn't mean, I must avow,  
I'll not use my position  
to challenge them, the audience,  
on social or political remission!  
And finally, I here agree  
to respect colleagues and audience,  
to keep to my allotted time,





## JONDARYAN WOOLSHED BUSH POETRY REPORT

A few small white clouds drifted across an otherwise blue sky, and at 7.30am the temperature was nudging 20 degrees, a slight breeze was blowing which promised to prevent the day from becoming too hot. The smell of bacon, eggs and toast cooking wafted through the air. This was Sunday 29th March and the Poets Breakfast at the Jondaryan Woolshed, just a "click of the shears" from Oakey on the Darling Downs.

The poetry had started when I arrived, I was late, but what can you expect, I had two women with me !!! I glanced towards the judges table and saw the "Millmerran Mongrel", "Bluey" Bostock and Bill Glasson, all scribbling on their judging sheets. I had a quick word with Tracy Fogarty, Ron Selby and Merv Webster before I registered. There were 22 poets in all, competing, including five juniors, one of whom (Rebecca McIntyre) performed with a suspected broken shoulder and was taken to hospital shortly after the event.

Compares for the day were Tracy Fogarty (Millmerran), Liz Ward (The Bundy Mob), Merv Webster (Another One), and Gary Fogarty. After the Traditional Open (Male) event, Chris Janson of ABC Radio took over from Merv "Bluey" Bostock who had

been filling in for Chris.

Now I'm not saying this because I was a competitor, but the standard of bush poetry was extremely high. The results are printed below for your perusal.

The Inaugural Written Competition Trophy was named "The Silver Comb" and the perpetual Trophy (and one to keep) for the Open Section was presented by Graham Turner, of the Woolshed to Mr. Les Hill, who recited his winning poem "The Fighting Breed". The Junior Section of the written competition was won by Nicolle Pfeffer, from the great little country town, *Millmerran*, Good on Ya Nicolle!

The compares recited the odd poem and told a few lies, I mean, yarns, except for Tracey, she said she didn't know any! Tom Clarke recited a couple of Banjo's in his usual manner to the applause of the crowd of about 75.

The Competition over, ABPA members adjourned to a General Meeting, all sorts of things discussed, but I'm sure that Ron, Liz and Olive will keep everyone informed. The Country Music Festival (now into day two) was well under way when I arrived. The Steak burgers smelt good and the BEER was COLD, a good time was had by all.

See ya all on "Farvers Day" at Millmerran (see P 1), if not before.

*"The Legend"* Kev Barnes

## JONDARYAN WOOLSHED COMPETITION RESULTS



### Traditional Bush Verse. Male Over 17yrs.

1st - Merv Webster, 2nd - Mark Thompson, 3rd - Ron Selby

### Traditional Bush Verse. Female Over 17 years

1st - Chris Webster, 2nd - Liz Ward, 3rd - Carol Reefold

### Original Bush Verse. Male Over 17 yrs.

1st - Mark Thompson, 2nd - Merv Webster, 3rd - Ron Selby

### Original Bush Verse. Female Over 17yrs

1st - Liz Ward, 2nd - Olive Shooter, 3rd - Carol Reefold

### Junior Novice Bush Verse. Male or Female 16yrs & U

1st - Phillip Stringer, 2nd - Rebecca McIntyre, 3rd - Kate Cudmore

### Junior Original Bush Verse. Male or Female 16yrs & U

1st - Carmel Dunn

### Junior Traditional Bush Verse. Male or Female 16yrs & U

1st - Carmel Dunn, 2nd - Leisa Marie Jackwitz

### Poets Cut Out

1st - Merv Webster, 2nd - Carmel Dunn, 3rd - Harry Pickering.

### BEST OVERALL POET

MIKE WILLIAMS

COUNTRY CLOTHING

TROPHY

*Merv Webster*

PERPETUAL TROPHY

WRITTEN COMPETITION

SENIOR SILVER COMB

*Les Hill*

JUNIOR SILVER COMB

*Nicolle Pfeffer*

### "Mischief, Memories, Mates"

Humorous recollections, in verse, of growing up in the country, back in the mid '30's. Follow the author's footsteps - relive her life right through 'til today - retirement! A book both young and old can relate to. \$16.00, p & p incl. - Write or phone Beth Vincombe-Bashford, PO Box 18, Berrigan NSW, 2712 - Ph/Fax 03 5885 2275

## THE INVITATION

G'day old mate, I'm writing  
Just to let you know I'm here.  
Why don't you come and visit,  
Where it's hot, and — have a beer.

We can catch ourselves a wild pig,  
Or hunt a 'roo or two,  
It ain't hard to find my joint,  
You just can't make a blue.

I live up north in Lightning Ridge,  
Well, that's up Walgett way.  
You just can't miss the place old mate,  
Just swing off the Castlereagh.

Just follow tar, a can or two,  
You'll see the Bobby Shop,  
The Diggers Rest is straight across,  
Keep going, just don't stop.

You take a right just there old mate,  
Head straight on out of town,  
Then off the tar into the dirt,  
Don't leave your windows down.

For the bulldust rises pretty quick,  
It will get into your car,  
So don't forget to wind them up  
When you reach the end of tar.

Now up the hill you'll see a turn,  
It pulls off to the right,  
Slow up a tick, and, have a look.  
The town is out of sight



(c) Johnny Johansen, Yarrawonga, Vic

You're going great, so don't despair,  
Just read this and you'll know,  
If you follow my directions  
You'll find just where to go.

This road, she twists and turns a bit,  
Corrugations! That kind of stuff,  
So take your time, don't go too fast,  
This track's a little rough.

Now just about this time, old mate,  
You'll see an old wrecked car.  
Swing around behind Bob Duncans shed,  
Why mate, well, here you are.

I live a little to the left.  
The first one on the right.  
But come along in daytime  
'Cos it's hard to find at night.

My joint's behind a mining show  
'Er's Kasta is me camp.  
I boundary on the Airport fence,  
Don't cross the cattle ramp.



Now, if you end up near a mullock heap  
Like many others did,  
All tangled up in bush and trees,  
You've gone across the grid.

So, do a completely turn about.  
Now behind you is the scrub,  
ARR! Ya stupid dopey bastard!  
I better meetcha at the pub!

## CATTLE MOVING - AKA Bullshifting

(C) 1997 Keith Haycraft, Urunga NSW

When you are among a bunch of blokes  
And the alcohol is flowing,  
It is amazing just how much alike  
Truth and tall tales start growing.

There is always someone else  
Who can top your best tale  
And as the night goes on,  
Truth can grow quite pale.

Nothing can quite equate  
When all is totaled up  
For someone is always striving  
To be the one on top.

No tale that is told  
Is ever as good as the next,  
For every bloke wants to relate  
The tale that is the best.



Their spouses sit in the background  
And scoff at what they hear,  
As they listen to the bulldust  
Of those they hold so dear.

The women awake clear headed  
While their menfolk are in pain  
And the women rub salt into  
A hangover befuddled brain.

Next night the men relive their glory  
As the bulldust begins again  
And the women laugh in certainty  
Of more hangover induced pain.



"When the rain tumbles down  
On this drought stricken land  
The big summer storms will be rippers  
The cows will have calves  
The ewes will have lambs  
The crayfish will even have nippers !!

(C) Hipshot





## NEWS FROM THE WAR

(C) Frank Daniel,  
Canowindra NSW

Grandmother stood on the verandah,  
her eyes gazing out to the west.  
Somewhere out there in a faraway land  
were her sons with Australia's best.

Daring young men who answered the call —  
with their mates they rallied to war.  
Young boys ever keen; one, just seventeen  
who had not left the old home before.

Daily she watched and she waited.  
She knew the days would be long,  
and her prayers were never failing —  
she prayed they both would be strong.

The road from the town was a hard one  
where gravel and stone paved the way.  
Daily she trudged that mile for the mail  
to help fill in her long day.

Tragic news finally came in the figure  
of the Preacher who walked out from town  
She saw him from her kitchen window  
and slowly on a chair she sat down.

Mrs. Lees saw him passing her cottage.  
She too, read the sign, oh, so well!  
She hurried along to Grandmother's house  
to comfort Grandma for a spell.

The message he bore was bad news —  
he had no reason to call otherwise.  
'Twas news of the death of John Joseph  
that bought heavy tears to her eyes.

Now the view from the old front verandah  
sees a grave in a far foreign land,  
and the grieving hearts in the family  
are proud of this great Aussie man.

**Australia Remembers.** In 1995 Australians celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The above poem was written in memory of all those who served and died for this great country.

*John Joseph Daniel was the uncle of the author.  
from "Bush Yarns and Poetry" by Frank Daniel*

## GALLIPOLI ECHOES

Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW



Back then  
guns, cannon,  
orders shouted in the heat of battle  
gave way  
as young blood lubricated death carts'  
performing their thankless ritual  
before sorted tags allocated telegrams

As a tired century breathes  
dust memory of young soldiers  
whose bones find their way to eternity,  
trenches echo half-forgotten war  
through ebbing life's silent belated gift  
of carefree weeds.

They send healthier wisdom  
to less frantic days,  
as their wildflowers wave a truce  
that asks 'Why?'

Where greed-stains  
blemished nature's serenity,  
the mechanical thunder of  
the importance of a particular hill  
lies motionless,  
it's urgent cost  
now just a failed one-liner  
on the ledger of war's cold laughter.  
Blood memory of the costly lesson  
still works it's way  
through soil's hard surface,  
hoping its own growth will enrich a more cautious future

Nearby, scanning dish poppies  
collect the old world's fragmented tears,  
the last river of which  
will run dry when time,  
the great leveller,  
has filled mankind's most futile trench.



## BEAUDESERT COUNTRY & HORSE FESTIVAL

'Hitching Rail', Kooralbyn Valley, Q.  
Written Comp. and Poets Breakfast  
Monday, 8th June, 1998 at 8am



Entries are being called for the Beaudesert Country & Horse Festival's Bush Poets Competition in June. Come and join Australia's famous bush poets, Glenny Palmer, Tom McIvor and Ray Essery for a very entertaining morning.

The Poets Breakfast this year will be held in conjunction with the Picnic Race Meeting in the picturesque Kooralbyn Valley. Entrants are asked to submit 3 written copies as well as 3 audio tapes of their entries. Finalists will be invited to perform at the Bush Poets Breakfast. Prizes include a week for two at Kooralbyn Resort, pottery, painting and books of poetry. Categories are Theme or Kooralbyn or Hitching Rail, Children - school age and Open. Entry fee \$5 for one entry, \$10 for two or more, children free and close 21.5.98. Contact Nancy Moss on 07 5541 2444 or festival office 07 5541 4355 for details or write to the Secretary, P.O Box 256, Beaudesert, Q. 4285.

SURFACE  
MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID

### Reports & Reviews

Beaudesert Country & Horse	19
Book Shelf	20
Bowra Feast of Bush Verse	16
Editors Reply to Members	14
Gatton Heritage Festival	6
Illawarra Folk Festival	5
Kyabrym Group, Vic	6
Laidley Golden Bell	5
Monto Cream Can Awards	6
Murrumbidgee BP Championships	9
Johndaryan Woolshed Comp	17
John O'Brien Bush Fest & Comp.	9
Northern Rivers Bush Poets	15
Poets Calendar of Events	12
Poets in the Club - Urunga	16
Port Fairy Folk Festival	7
Profile - Graham Alcorn	15
Profile Liz Banting & Roy Briggs	8
Rams Head Hotel Comp	1
Regular Monthly Events	13
Secretary's Notes	5
S.A. Group	15

### I N D E X

#### Poetry

A Generation Gap	14
Balance of Nature	5
Cattle Moving	18
Dawn Service Anzac Day	10
Gallipoli Echoes	19
Journey to Dumbleyung	15
News from the War	19
Ode to the Code	16
Port Fairy Folk Festival '98	7
Standards	13
The Door of Memory	11
The Gates of Farewell	11
The Invitation	18
The Ode to the Fallen	11
The Last Charge	10
The Last Gallipoli Veteran	11
The Man and His Donkey	1
The Shadows and the Substance	8
The Trackrider	8
Toast to the Anzacs	1

#### Events

Bundy Mob Muster	2
Bush Lantern - Bundaberg	2
Casino Beef Week	4
Carnooewal Drovers Reunion	3
Coffs Harbour Heritage Week	3
Cricketers Arms - Prospect	4
Gatton Heritage Festival	4
Man from Snowy River Festival	4
Charlee Marshall Written Comp	4
Monto Cream Can Awards	2
Mt. Isa - Top Half Festival	3
Nanango Sesquicentennial	3
Palma Rosa	2
Poets Calendar of Events	12
Rams Head Hotel Comp	3
Regular Monthly Events	13
Rockhampton Bush Festival	3
St Albans Folk Festival	4
Sth Coast Country Music Fest	3
Tenterfield Oracles	4
Toongabbie 3rd Settlement Fest	4
Warwick Bush Week	2

#### Thank You to Our Contributors

Graham Alcorn	Julie Gordon
Liz Banting	Col Hadwell
Kevin Barnes	Keith Haycraft
Beth Bashford	Neil Hulm
Brian Bell	Johnny Johansen
Sandra Binns	Bob Kane
John Bird	Don Lloyd
Warren Bishop	Keith McKenry
Megan Bourne	Ron A. Monro
Harry Bowers	George New
Julie Briggs	Robert O'Donnell
Roy Briggs	Robert Raftery
Betsy Chape	Bruce Reineker
Peter Chapman	Pat Richardson
Mic Coventry	Ron Selby
Frank Daniel	Trevor Shaw
Tom Dunn	Olive Shooter
Ray Essery	Milton Taylor

#### THE BOOK SHELF

"Aussie Bush Comedy" Book. Neil Hulm 361 Cheyenne Dr Lavington Vic 2641 \$10 pp  
"Winners in Rhyme" Tape, "Reversals", "Identity", "Lighter Touch of History",  
Books. All \$14.00 pp Ron Stevens, 14 Eden Park Ave, Dubbo, NSW 2830  
"Blue Mountains Remembered" Book. Corry de Haas, 6 Riverstone Road,  
Helensvale Q 4210 \$10.00 pp  
"Mischief, Memories, Mates" Book. Beth Vincombe-Bashford, Box 18,  
Berrigan, NSW 2712 \$16.00 pp  
"The Larrikin" Series. 2 Books & 3 tapes Bobby Miller, 3 Pilerwa Rd. Mungar, Q 4650  
"Dogs That Pee on Wheels and Other Doggerel" Book \$14 pp & "No Dogs Aloud"  
Book \$7.00 pp, both from Don Lloyd, Wooli Road, Pillar Valley, NSW 2460.  
"The Imaginary Menagerie" Book, Gordon Leeder, 9/14 Queen Street,  
Coloundra, Q 4551, \$11.00 pp  
"The Larrikin and the Lady" Tape, Carmel Dunn, M.S. 623 Ogilvie Road,  
Warwick, Q. 4370 \$15.00 pp  
"Bush Yarns & Poetry" Frank Daniel, PO Box 16, Canowindra, NSW 2804 \$12.00 pp  
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is \$1.10 for two books. If you buy 12 or more, postage is free. Contact the Sec.**