

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 9 Volume 5

September, 1998



## THE LAST OF THE SWAGGIES

© Corry de Haas, Helensvale, Q.

*Bronze Swagman  
Book of Verse 1998*

I met him many years ago at a Folkie's Festival,  
- One chance in a thousand maybe - if we were to meet at all.  
'Twas at a poet's breakfast where we'd gathered for a treat  
Of rhyming verse and laughter, while we had a bite to eat.  
They filled my glass with champers and we laughed till we could cry  
As each poet's new rendition sent our spirits souring high,  
And I scarcely could fathom all the comic yarns I heard ...  
But poets never lie, they say, so I didn't doubt their word.

Yet what I didn't realise, my turn would come around,  
Though shaking fierce from head to toe, I tried to stand my ground  
And recite a little poem about the creatures of this land  
And the need for conservation, for us all to understand.  
As this was a first for me, was I glad when it was done,  
But what I didn't know back then, the fun had just begun,  
For someone spoke the words I'm not likely to forget ...  
And boosted hopes - in days to come - I'd make a poet yet.

For at the end of the proceedings, when I left to find my way  
To yet another venue on this poets' holiday,  
He suddenly stood before me - one of whom you only read -  
In books of Lawson and the Banjo, as they are a dying breed.  
Raven hair hung to his shoulders in a thick unruly mass,  
His skin as dark as weathered wood, a native man, I guess,  
Akubra hat a mangled bit of felt through constant wear  
Sat on his head, and sheer determination kept it there.

He carried his possessions in a swag upon his back  
And his boots were telling stories of his life upon the track,  
But his smile was genuine, as he made himself known  
And said "My name is Campbell," in a quiet undertone.  
"It's nice to meet you here at last, for I love the verse you read,  
I've long memorised it's lines for the message that it spread,  
For I recite your poem in the camps way in the scrub,  
Or when I'm busking on the mall, in a park or roadside pub."

I've met him many times since then, reciting in the street  
Of yet another out-back town where poets tend to meet,  
To relive the old tradition of performing verse in rhyme  
And build the book-learned bridges which will span the space of time;  
But comes the morning after, you will find him thumb a ride  
On a truck or cattle-train ... just drifting on the tide  
His swag beside him on the ground, for he is travelling light,  
A vision from another age, a long-forgotten sight.

I don't know where he stems from, or whether he's True Blue  
Or if he drifted to these shores as some are wont to do,  
But one thing is for certain, in his simple swaggie's way  
He keeps alive the legends of the bards of yesterday;  
And when night-time closes in on a distant Western town  
He finds himself a place to sleep and often settles down  
Somewhere underneath a bridge, for he is living pretty rough ...  
Like true swaggie's did before him, and to me he's true enough.



## COBB & CO BATTERED BUGLE COMPETITION

The weather was perfect for the fifth annual bush verse competition held during Surat's Cobb & Co Festival.

On Friday 15th August, the Lion's Park proved to be a natural amphitheatre for both poets and spectators - "a very beautiful setting for some great verse".

The crowds then moved to the main street to be entertained by Bryan Nasons's "Grin and Tonic" Theatre Troupe, brought to the public by way of a grant from Festivals Australia. Originally from Surat and overjoyed to be back in his home town, Mr. Nason performed bush verse and song interpretations at sunset in front of the Cobb and Co Changing Complex.

The Poetry Competition continued at the Fishing Club's Park on the riverbank on Sunday 16th August. This years competition attracted poets from far and wide and was a huge success with Bill Glasson taking home the 'Battered Bugle'. Results are as follows:

<b>Open Original</b>	<b>Junior Original</b>
1st: Bill Glasson	1st: Jennifer Haig
2nd: Ron Selby	2nd: Carmel Dunn
3rd: Col Bentley	3rd: Jillian Moore
<b>Open Traditional</b>	<b>Junior Traditional</b>
1st: Bill Glasson	1st: Jennifer Haig
2nd: Col Bentley	2nd: Carmel Dunn
3rd: Janine Haig	3rd: Jillian Moore
<b>Open Battered Bugle</b>	<b>Junior Champion</b>
1st: Bill Glasson	1st: Jennifer Haig
2nd: Col Bentley	
3rd: Ron Selby	<b>Written Competition</b>
	<b>Year 4/5</b>
<b>Local Original</b>	1st: Edwina Raft
1st: Roy Barnes	2nd: Susannah McInn
2nd: Bob Nason	3rd: Brayden Fergus
3rd: Jim Gunn	
<b>Local Traditional</b>	<b>Written Competition</b>
1st: Bob Nason	<b>Year 6/7</b>
2nd: Jim Gunn	1st: Jillian Moore
<b>Local Battered Bugle</b>	2nd: Delyce Cooper
1st: Bob Nason	3rd: Lauren Itzstein
2nd: Jim Gunn	

*Congratulations !*

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### President's Report

Dear Members,

Due to the lack of folding stuff, (namely money), I was unable to go to Gympie or Camooweal so I am anxiously awaiting the reports. But I did go down to Tweed Heads for the event put on by Twin Towns Bush Poets, and what an event it was. They were expecting around 150 to 200 people and almost 300 turned up. Though the Breakfast started a little late there were a great many hands to lighten the load with the serving and such (they even had me dishing out tea and coffee). There were poets aplenty and the performances were appreciated by an audience hungry for more.

Accolades must go to Lorraine Richards and the members of Twin Towns Poets for a great morning.

I have just arrived home from another truly great event, The Rams Head Hotel Bush Poetry Performance Competition at Millmerran, ably handled by Kev Barnes and crew. There were a few very well deserved surprises in the results of the competition and quite a few dollars were raised for the Qld Cancer Fund. Congratulations to all the poets who attended and thank you to Kev Barnes, all of his wonderful sponsors, judges, the Rams Head Hotel and that culinary superstar Ned Winters (who just happens to cook the best curry in the west!).

In last months magazine, there was an item by Bob Miller, "Who Judges the Judges" and he raises quite a few relevant points and I hope we get some feedback from you the member so that something positive may come of it. There are a great many things said about the judges in some competitions in the past that are not very flattering to the judge or the organisers. But it is no good to go away from these events and whinge and moan after the deed is done. This Association and our magazine are for you the member and we always welcome any constructive criticism on any subject.

It is also good to see so many reports and most importantly results of competitions in our magazine. They give all who may not be able to attend these events a small insight into the way the poetry is going around the country.

Well, that's about all for this month, but remember - 'The world is full of willing people ... those willing to work ... and those willing to let them !'

*Ron Selby.*



### FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Dear Members,

My thanks to those of you who have contributed so much to make my job a relatively easy task. Your reports and results of competitions are vital to the continuation of good communication between us all. Please keep it up !!

I am forwarding some of the poetry which has been sent in to me to Ron Selby for use in the new annual. Please advise me immediately if you do not want your work to be included in the annual. Cheers, *Maureen Garner.*



### Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

We have to thank Liz Ward and the Bundy Mob for their donation of \$85 being proceeds from their raffle of a copy of "Saddle for a Throne", that had been on our hands for some time. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

While clubs are welcome to join our association, they can only get the benefits of one member, so if you belong to a club why not consider joining in your own right. You would then get a vote, and wouldn't have to share the magazine each month. It would be delivered to your mailbox.

Our President, Ron Selby tells me that he hasn't many suitable poems for the Annual. Keep them coming in.

By what I saw on poetry for Poetry Day, there is none to match Bush Poetry! Nice to see our members on ABC television, Bobbie Miller, Ray Essery, Helen Avery and Mark Kleinschmidt. They picked up what looked to me to



be a pretty ordinary show. Of course, others may see something that I can't in free verse and all it's obscure meaning.

Memberships have now reached 348 and that is great.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Tamworth in January and to find a suitable time is very difficult with so many of our poets performing. We would like to fit in with as many as possible but there has been a certain amount of discontent with the time over the last couple of years. As there are other things to be discussed while members are assembled, time gets away. If anyone has ideas to help constructively please be in touch.

My call for help with the venue of the Australian Championships, which have now been scheduled for 14th - 18th May, 1999, went unanswered, but I was told by a member that more should have had the chance to participate in that decision. The three others not on the committee were seconded by me to give a wider opinion.

Best wishes and find regards, *Olive Shooter.*

## THE LILY PATCH

© Bill Glasson, Clifton Q.



The house has been empty for many years,  
It is faded and old and worn,  
The locals avoid it, a ghost, they fear  
Is haunting it's one time, lawn.  
Dear old Mrs. Kelly lived there for years,  
Long after she lost old Kel;  
And her ghost, so the locals say, appears  
In the garden she loved so well.

Now I'm not quite sure if this tale is true  
Though our farms, side by side, abide;  
And I bought the farm from the Kelly crew  
After old Mrs. Kelly died.  
It is thirty years since her windows shone  
And her flowers topped all the shows.  
Her roses and fruit trees have now all gone,  
But her lily patch thrives and grows.

There is never a weed where the lilies bloom,  
Nor a snail, nor a grub to catch;  
And the window of old Mrs. Kelly's room  
Looks over her lily patch.  
For these were the flowers she loved the best,  
Their purity moved her so;  
And a bunch of lilies lay on her breast,  
When she went where we all must go.

There is never a drought where the lilies stand,  
Though the stock in the paddock fall.  
It is almost as if there's a hidden hand  
That waters the lilies tall.  
No, I'm not quite sure if the tale is true,  
And some thoughts are best left unsaid;  
But the lilies that old Mrs. Kelly grew,  
Bloom on, when all else is dead.

## THE SAPPHIRE'S CHILD

© 1998 Glen Muller, Toowoomba, Q.

The sapphires charm beckons you,  
With it's multitude of hue,  
And cut to oval as they do;

Or proud in dome to show a star,  
Shining out to shine afar  
it's show of grandure has no par.

Veils, or lace, or feathers bold,  
Help people know when they are told,  
How craftsman's hand it's beauty mould:

Now like that gem so rare and true,  
With a strong, perfect blue,  
The sapphire's child - will stand by you.

*The Sapphire  
is the  
Birthstone for those  
born in September.*



## MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL .. the eighth annual ..

Come September 26th and 27th and the verdant hills of Mapleton in Queensland's Sunshine Coast hinterland will ring with mingled sound of poets, comedians, storytellers, laughter and applause.

Astute followers of the Mapleton Yarn Festival will be quick to note that this year's event has been brought forward by a few weeks in the hope of better weather than that of the past few festivals. In any weather, though, the Yarn Festival has developed over the years as a friendly and supportive venue with some wonderful entertainers on tap. This year will be no exception.

Organiser Jacqueline Bridle (who also co-ordinates the spoken word at the Woodford Folk Festival) says the list of performers is a long one and includes favourites like Bobby Miller, Shirley Friend and the welcome return of Mark Gliori.

Special guest this year is S. Sorrenson from Northern NSW who is one of the most laid back comics you'll find anywhere and not to be missed. He will also present an inspiring workshop with a few tips for novice poets and those suffering from stage fright.

We also take great pride in introducing Mark Feldman. After emerging at this year's Woodford festival, Mark headed southward for the National Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter and returned home with the title of Australian Champion Reciter.

The Ernie Setterfield Club Challenge is on again but note that this year the heats are on the Saturday afternoon to fit everything in. Two entries from each club or group, one serious, one humorous .. may be performed with either different people or the one person doing both. This event will be hosted by last year's winner Phil Morrison of Gympie.

"Charlee's Angels Poetry Awards" will be held on Saturday 26th, 1-3pm, to encourage the children under 13 years to recite. There will be two sections, "Original" and "Borrowed", and two age groups.

The "Can't Bowl for Laughing" show at the Bowl's club at 7pm on Saturday night will definitely be a highlight. In memory of the late Charlee Marshall, a long time festival friend, this show packs together a lot of performers and a few surprises.

Sunday's program includes a Poet's Breakfast, Yarnspinning, The Great Australian Whine, Finals of Charlee's Angels Competition and the Ernie Setterfield Contest.

There is no need to pre-register for any of the competitions, nor does it cost to enter them. Festival entry is \$3.00 for the Saturday night show, Sunday entry is \$7.00 adults and \$2.00 for kids for the whole day.

Although there is no accommodation at the festival itself, the Lilyponds Caravan Park is very close (cabins and camping ... ph 07 5445 7238) and a number of motels and guest houses operate along the range. For more information phone Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263 or, even better, get a program early by sending a SAE to Mapleton Yarn Festival, PO, Mapleton, Q 4560.

Hope to see you there, *Jan Mackay.*

## CAN YOU HELP ?????

I am writing to see if fellow poets might help out - there is a 6 year old boy here with an inoperable brainstem tumor and there is to be an auction to raise money for his care to make his short life a little easier, and I would like to ask for donations of autographed books for this auction. If anyone out there would like to help, I need contributions before the end of October, please send them to PO Box 6013, Kincumber, NSW 2251 ..... Thanks !!! **Sandra Binns.**

.....  
New member, **Bill Bennett** of MS 499, Toowoomba, Q 4350 is seeking the words of an old poem called "The Procession". If you can help, please contact him by mail.

**THE BRUSH OFF** © Leo Keane, Hughesdale, Vic.  
1997 *Blackened Billy Booklet*

Bill Harris had a property away out west of Bourke  
And all he did from dawn to dusk was work and work and work.  
He had a thousand acres that had come down from his dad  
But the place was unproductive, it was really, really bad.

It's dry out there, outback of Bourke, and Bill had not seen rain,  
For twenty years or maybe more, he'd worked his guts in vain  
His sheep were always starving and he had to shoot the pack  
No sending them to market for they wouldn't bring a zac.

He thought he'd get some cattle, a persistent kind of bloke  
But their ribs stuck out like hatpegs, and they almost sent him broke  
So at last resort, thought Bill, perhaps I'll grow some wheat  
He got the old plough out and started sowing in the heat.

Then he noticed the barometer was dropping like a brick,  
"Good God" he said, "it's gonna rain, let's get the crop in quick."  
He'd sown the final paddock and the rain came tumbling down.  
"Thank God" said Bill, "we'll get some cash" and off he went to town.

He brought a pair of brand new boots, a pair of moleskin pants  
A frock for Mum, some undies and he thought "Now here's me chance.  
A toilet brush reduced to clear. I should have one of those."  
And he packed it in the dusty ute along with all the clothes.

Weeks later in the local pub the talk was all about  
How the rain had saved the district when it broke the lengthy drought  
Then someone standing at the bar amid the boozy crush  
Asked Bill how he was faring with his bargain toilet brush

"No wonder it was bloody cheap" Bill started to explain  
"I don't believe I'll ever buy a toilet brush again"  
"I thought that Mum and I would have a real go at this caper"



**THE MORPETH  
MEDICINE RIDE 1998**

© Bob Skelton  
(aka)

The Minmi Magster



Round up ya finest horses  
Throw your saddles on  
We're riding down to Morpeth  
To aid the Telethon

We've done a lot of talkin'  
Now the big day has arrived  
There's nearly eight hundred horses  
On the Morpeth Medicine Ride

We'll ride along the levee banks  
Where the Paterson River flows  
Way out across the paddocks  
Where the spuds and lucerne grows

See the scenery stretch before ya  
As we ride across this land  
The mountains and the rivers  
Where the Weeping Willows stand

When our early settlers came here  
Times were hard back then  
They had no modern machinery  
On the horse they did depend

They faced all kinds of hardship  
As they battled drought and flood  
I feel their ghosts are watching us  
From somewhere up above

So if you like horseback riding  
Through this country old as time -  
Next year, come and join us  
On the Morpeth Medicine Ride

And when we reach old Morpeth Town  
It's dinkum I do declare  
We'll chuck the biggest party  
That they've ever seen up there.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

On the subject of "Who Judges the Judges?", I  
would suggest that the quality (or otherwise) of the  
judge's judging will sufficiently judge the judge.

Enclosed, my judgement of a recent judge's judging,

Love, *Glenny Palmer*



**MISS - JUDGED - © 1998 Glenny, Palmer  
or (The ABC of Judging ) or (I Just Called to Say I'm Judging)**

I've won some competitions  
and I've muddled quite a few,  
I bend to all conditions  
And I always take the view,  
that each one has an equal chance  
to make the prize his own,  
but it's just a wee bit harder  
when the judge is on the phone

We've got to be professional  
and learn to overcome  
helicopters, squawking kids, and  
Brophy's boxing drum,  
and a compere who is yapping  
while you stand there like a drone,  
poet-ing your heart out  
to a judge who's on the phone.

I've only travelled forty hours  
to reach this fine event,  
I started out with all me pay  
but now the buggar's spent.  
I need to win some cash  
so I can get meself back home,  
but I think I'll have to hitch-hike  
'cause the judge is on the phone.

I've lived for half a century and I've  
witnessed wierd events,  
but judging while you're on the phone?  
the buggar must be dense.  
I think I've got it figured out  
yes, in a jealous rage,  
the other poets rang the judge  
while ... I was on the stage

**NEWS FROM THE HUNTER**

Hunter District Bush Poet Bob Skelton  
recently participated, together with 800 other  
riders in the "Morpeth Medicine Charity Horse  
Ride" to raise funds for cancer research for  
children. Bob used his talents as a poet to assist  
in this fund raising endeavour by writing  
twenty short poems which praised various  
Hunter businesses and subsequently attracted  
\$2000 in sponsorship.

Last month he was presented with the  
"Dulcie Knight" Perpetual Trophy for his  
fundraising effort and has been celebrating in  
his "Bunya Den" ever since.

He has also been successful in  
obtaining a regular segment on Radio 2HD each  
Wednesday at 5.30pm in the popular "Moore at  
Four" program keeping Hunter district bush  
poetry fans informed. Well done Bob!



## BUSH XMAS IN JULY

Len Knight's inaugural 'Xmas in July' held at the Travellers rest Motel in Cessnock on 25th July was a great success, packing over 60 people into the beautifully appointed "Courtyard Restaurant". As the guests feasted on a sumptuous 3 course Xmas dinner they were entertained with genuine "Aussie Bush Poetry" provided by Gary Lowe, Ron Brown, Graeme Johnson and Len himself.

Len recited works by Ray Essery and Pat Drummond as well as an original piece over which there was some dispute on authenticity (courtesy of Gary Lowe - he reckoned it was his idea). Gary again had the crows in fits of laughter with his originals including the "Oriental Jackeroo", "Make-Up-Shake-Up" and "Wollum-Buy". Graeme showed us another side to his performance style by coming up with a rousing rendition of the classics, "A Bush Christening" and "Holy Dan" as well as works by Milton Taylor and Blue the Shearer. Ron Brown invoked much audience participation with "Smith's Elastic Brace" and moved them to tears on the other hand with "Ross's Farm". There was some audience participation with Gary Hamilton (a local) performing some original work.

Everybody was in the Xmas spirit/s and Len looks forward to an even bigger 'do' next Xmas, whenever that may be.

*Jack Cornstalk*

## HERITAGE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL AT THE LOADED DOG Annandale, NSW Saturday, November 28, 12pm-12am

Expressions of interest are being sought from performers, poets, sponsors, helpers, workshop tutors, and dancers etc to participate in this musically and folklorically satisfying acoustic event.

Current (shadow) plans include the downstairs room to be used for a Poet's Brunch (A Loaded Doggerel), from 12pm to 2pm, blackboard concerts, sessions and upstairs for the ongoing concert. I am hoping to get the back room for workshops and so on.

There is plenty of room outside, and I'd like to get some stalls and so on going, maybe a bit of Australia happening too, reminiscent of the old country town show. Food, tea, coffee etc - probably an Apex club or something.

Payment will be by division of the take after costs, so I don't think anyone's going to get very rich, but I do think we're going to have a great time and do something really worthwhile to preserve our true folk music heritage. If any poets would like to present a concert spot or workshop, or if you'd like to organise a session, blackboard concert or otherwise compere or just plain help please contact me on 02 9568 5596 or mob 0411 82 1286. (see page 17)

*Richard Mills*

## IN DEFENCE OF "THE BANJO"

© John Harris, Bellingen, NSW

It is with saddened heart that I've watched them take apart  
The greatest Aussie poem that I know  
And it does things to my liver when "The Man from Snowy River"  
Is vilified and cast as someone low

If "The Banjo" could be here he'd be furious, I fear  
For he was noted for his liking of the horse  
His work conveyed his pride in the way that Aussies ride  
He'd be appalled at any "cruelty", of course

But cast your mind to way back then, times were harsh for beasts and men  
And survival seemed a struggle and a test  
There was no place for the weak, in a land that scorned the meek  
Where hard men fought to rise above the rest

It's for certain (you could bet) that "The Colt from Old Regret"  
Would not succumb to riders meek and mild  
For he was full of running and so young to be so cunning  
In his bid to join the horses in the wild.

They didn't call for wimps and sissies, or Show Riders, oh so prissy  
Or callow youths not game to take a chance  
For most were riders with a name, who had earned a bit of fame  
With horses that deserved more than a glance

Oh how I hear you moan, that "The Man" was scarcely known  
And none had any envy of his steed  
But those Mountain Men had pride, so where any man could ride  
They'd be there, to help them do the deed

Sure, the whip and spur were used, and sometimes much abused  
But that was not unusual in those days  
For there was a lack of knowledge (very few had gone to College)  
And if told that they were "cruel", they'd be dismayed

Oh I see that you're just yearning to say "The Banjo" had some learning  
But things were so much tougher way back then  
They were harsh, you take my tip, in the way they used the whip  
But they didn't just flog horses, they flogged men!

And they'd know from here to Nundle, if a rider dropped his bundle,  
And failed to push himself, or push his horse  
You weren't thought of a mongrel cur, if you gladly used the spur  
But today, they do things differently of course.

Over years we've changed the rules on what's thought upon as cruel  
For everyone's a critic, as we know  
If what was done just doesn't suit, don't drag it into disrepute  
To let your lack of understanding show

I really think that we are blessed and "Banjo's" work has passed the test  
Since the glory of his Mountain Horseman's ride  
I think he'd earned his station, of Premier bard of this great nation  
So let's look at "Banjo's" poetry with pride.



## SA BUSH POET LENDS A HAND

Senior South Australian bush poet Jeff Cook and I recently shared a stand at the Cleve Machinery Field Days where we performed and sold a swag of books and tapes. The ABC invited me to recite a poem at the close of each day's 'Country Hour' which prompted the opportunity to help a great bush character in his quest to raise funds for the Anti Cancer Council Foundation.

Things have moved along since then and we are putting together a nice poster with the poem and a sketch of the drover and horse and making it available to the public. Association members can help by ordering a copy from myself for \$2.50 with all profits going to Colin Springbett's cause. Colin is a man in his late sixties who has a wife with cancer, he's a lovely fella and a great bush character. He is a typically humble bushman who appreciates any help that comes his way. He and Tonto commenced their 1000k ride on 21st August. All the best,

*Tom Penna*



Tom Penna, Victor Harbour SA

## THE BUSHMAN'S FACE

© Tom Penna, Victor Harbour, SA

There is an old mate of mine  
And a bloke you all should know,  
Colin Springbett the bushman  
And his trusty steed, good old Tonto.

From Ceduna to Broken Hill  
He'll make his fundraising ride,  
Determined in resolve  
With the elements on his weathered hide.

With cancer as his foe,  
Colin needs a hand,  
So let's get behind him  
You people in the farming land.

Throw a dollar Col's way  
And help put cancer in it's place.  
Stop him and say, "Giddyay!"  
And put a smile on the bushman's face.

## NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA



July saw the South Australian Bush Poets participation in the Willunga Almond Blossom Festival.

This was the group's first public appearance and it proved to be most successful.

The performance, hosted by Tom Penna, saw a great delivery by Brad Mills of his poem "Bradley's Gift of Life" who drew the longest applause, with Max Renney, Les West and Ken Coates keeping the audience interested with the stranger facts of life. Mary Meehan, Nan Curnow and Jacquelyn Cleary showed that female poets are truly gifted with the pen with their renditions of realistic and humorous verse.

John Hill made it down from Mount Gambier and did a fine act as a swaggie shearer from "Nowareinparticula" with poetry and a squeeze box. Good on ya John!

Special thanks to those members who came early to help set up and also to Jeff Cook who rescued the group from a disfunctional speaker with one of his own, while the group was doing impromptu spots.

The Almond Blossom Festival organisation thanked the group for their effort and offered an invitation to return next year. Additionally, a welcome donation of \$100 was made to our group by the Festival. Well done!

Throughout the coming months we plan to hold various challenges and competitions within our group to encourage not only the writing of verse but it's performance.

Keep writing and all the best from South Australia

*Peter Chapman*

## POET PROFILE - NOEL STALLARD

Gympie born Noel has taught in Primary and Secondary schools for the past 34 years. In that time he has taught Drama to senior students for ten years, produced seven musicals including; "Annie Get your Gun", "The Boyfriend", "West Side Story", "The King and I", "The Misadventures of Snow White", "Oliver" and "Son of the Phantom".

He has a passion for performing the poems of John O'Brien and has been doing this for schools, Senior Citizen Groups, Service Clubs, Folk and Bush Poetry Festivals over the past fifteen years.

Noel's first contact with the O'Brien poetry was at Teachers College and his first teaching assignment was at Albury where Monsignor Hartigan, the author of the poems was a household name. Fascination with the poems grew because of the genuine humour, the pioneering characters and the turn-of-the-century culture they portrayed.

One of Noel's life long ambitions is to have the poems of "Around the Boree Log" and "The Parish of St Mel's" as popular with the Australian people as the poems of "Banjo" Paterson and Henry Lawson.

Noel takes a character Fr. O'Brien dressed in biretta, cassock, roman collar and speaking with an Irish accent. Noel's grandmother was Irish so the accent is not all that difficult. At times this character changes depending on the persons being presented in the poems.

Recently at a Bush Poet's Festival, Noel won three major awards - Open Male Humorous, Open Male Serious and Novice.

With Monsignor Hartigan's gift of writing poetry and Noel's dramatic talent of presenting the poems, he hopes that Australians of all ages will know better not only who they are and where they are going but who they were and where they came from.

## MONSIGNOR PATRICK HARTIGAN - (John O'Brien)

He was born at Yass in southern New South Wales in 1878. Both parents came from County Clare, Ireland. He spent most of his life as a parish priest in such towns as Albury and Berrigan and for 27 years in Narrandera. There was a milkman in Narrandera named O'Brien and rumour had it that he used to water down the milk. Fr Hartigan jokingly referred to his poetry as watered-down poetry and when he first published his poems under the title of 'Around the Boree Log' he used the pen name of John O'Brien. Fr. Hartigan once said, "We must recognise our literature in order that we recognise our own land. He died of cancer in Sydney in 1952.

## POET PROFILE - BRIAN BELL and BOOK REVIEW

After publishing eight statistical books about Top 40 music, Brian Bell started writing poetry in 1992 and subsequently won the Henry Lawson award at Gulgong in 1996 with a poem about the environment called 'Expedience (or YOU think I'm a cynic?)'

He is an extremely prolific writer, self-publishing seven books since then. He writes about seventy percent in rhyme and the rest in free verse. His work often reveals unexpected twists, and many poems have a depth of feeling that is not often seen in poetry with meaning.

Brian also convenes 'Writers on the River' which meets at Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh St., Penrith on the last Thursday of each month.

Brian's publications are:

'My First Book of Poems' is a collection of various works 1993 - 1996 including "Blue Mountains 1994" and "Australia's Unknown Soldier", both of which were Highly Commended in the 1994 Henry Lawson awards, and "Restoration", a light hearted look at the vintage car movement.

'Living With Alcohol' is poetry on alcoholic relationships. Brian, never a drinker, says he is amazed at the number of people who read the book and later ask how long he has been sober. "Don't worry Mum" is one of the many poems likely to have you running for the tissues. 'Small Matters' - is poetry about children people have lost, written from stories heard from people Brian has met, from miscarriage to late teenage and even adult children who have died. Hope shines through the book's validation of pain and it is likely to restore energy to anyone grieving such a loss. "Tuesday Night Quilters" is a fine example of the feeling throughout the book.

'The Shearing Shed Speaks' is a collection of bush verse, including the title poem, highly commended in the 1997 Bronze Swagman Competition and the 1996 Gulgong Henry Lawson winner 'Expedience'. It contains some powerful recollections of Vietnam and some humorous ones as well.

'Men Have Feelings II' mixes poetry about childhood humiliation with deep conceptual verses on relationships with women and children. The haunting 'Claire', 'Father Please' and 'The Song at the End' (a splendid and moving eulogy) are all well worth reading.

'Punch Lines' is a book of jokes made into poems, interspersed with four line verses all with a twist at the end. My favourites are 'Jesus the Healer', 'The Manager', and 'Clan Tartan', all of which Brian recites at poetry readings.

'The Little Red Recovery Book' consists of very deep and meaningful poems, and it's purpose is to allow people who have difficulty coping with life to see that they are not alone. 'Honeycomb Dreams' is an excellent poetry/monologue on childhood, and 'Ten Minutes Every Thursday' relates how a man feels when his marriage falls apart.

These books are available from Brian Bell, PO Box 52, Glenbrook NSW 2773. Cost per book is \$5.00 and postage of \$2.50 will post any number of books.

## CLANCY OF THE INTERNET

© March, 1998 Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW



I had done some clever copy on a mega-bitten floppy, which a courier set off with, and I thought I needn't fret, He returned it, undelivered, and it left me really livid.

The address was blotched with texta - 'Clancy's on the Internet'.

I'd had stitches on my stitches when I laughed at 286's back when 'Pearly' was the word you would associate with 'Gates' Now it's 'Bill' and MacIntoshes aren't connected to galoshes. When it's raining now, you surf the 'Net' or yuppie-phone your mates.

But the world will soon be sorry, 'cause those mobiles are a worry, with their crass communication now the talk of every town, and I've always hated faxes more than working out my taxes, but I won't let technophobia's frustrations get me down.

Fetching manuals for my modem, I was trying to decode 'em when a cobbler said he'd help me, and he'd used the net awhile. I declared 'Now, nothing fancy, I just want this sent to Clancy'. He said 'Simple! What's his website?', as he cracked a kindly smile.

From that moment I was stressing websites wildly have-a-guessing. Clancy's dodgy, so I knew he'd choose a code that's rather crude. In my mind, I had a vision - Clancy making his decision, and I tried to think of one that was particularly rude.

Many letters, dots and dashes (thank the 'Net we had no crashes), lines resembling those of monkeys seeking Shakespeare as they tapped, till an answer unexpected in my mailbox was detected 'Clancy's bought a faulty pentium, and yest'dy he got zapped!'

In my wild erotic fancy visions came to me of Clancy (sorry Banjo) in his current situation, nurses milling all around CPR'ing for good measure. He'd pretend, prolonging pleasure, with a dash of heavy breathing so they'd think they'd gained some ground.

Yes, that Clancy's quite a wanker. When he used to be a banker, he would find extremely clever ways of lengthening the queues. He'd be slowly counting money, gently chatting up some honey who'd express her expectation that he'd fix her EFTPOS dues.

Thoughts returning to my dingy little office, where that stingy landlord's notice of eviction sits and stares me in the eye, I'm reminded that the fancy work I tried to send to Clancy may not ever be delivered, but it doesn't make me cry.

For my thinking process races, as I dream of lonely places far away from all the bustle, and I know I have to change, pawn the laptop and the journal, hit the coast where dole's eternal where it's boards they use for surfing, and the mobile's out of range.



*Written for the "Great Aussie Re-write" Competition and used by ABC Radio 2BL*

## MEMBER'S COMMENT on 'WHO JUDGES THE JUDGES?'



Dear Editor,

Time has certainly come for such comment, thank you Bobby Miller. Not that it hasn't been said before, but it is now more apparent than ever that qualified, knowledgeable and experienced judges should be incorporated into a panel from which they can be drawn by organisers, ensuring success and satisfaction in their competitions.

It is well past the time when just any person can sit on a panel of judges and decide through some means of his own, the best and fairest on the day. The quality of Performance Bush Poetry today is very much higher than it was just three, four and five years ago. The standard is far greater and the new poets continually appearing are a credit to the association and themselves. These competitors need in the same vein, competitive, enthusiastic, qualified judges.

Notably the ABPA has a tendency to forget what it has done in the past. There is rarely any strong follow up to accepted rules or motions, much of which just fall by the way. Not enough people want to get involved, very few have the time.

At the 1996 AGM in Tamworth, I believe we adopted a set of rules drawn up by Carmel Randle. The same ideas, or variations there-of, have been used as the judging criteria ever since by so many festivals whether they adopted 'Carmel's Rules' or not. After all, they make the most sense. This accepted criteria is available from the ABPA on what is called an "ASSESSMENT SHEET" to which is attached "a brief explanation of the ASSESSMENT SHEETS for the information of adjudicators."

The set criteria is simple and basic, easy to follow, but the method of assessment was not accepted by some judges as a correct form of adjudicating.

This I found hard to believe, as the results of their findings could have been recorded on these sheets and then made available to scrutineers, competitors and concerned persons in an orderly and understandable manner.

This criteria, as far as I am concerned needs very little alteration (if any) and should be accepted nationally by competition organisers which would avoid confusion. This form of assessment is still in my opinion the best and fairest method, providing the adjudicators understand the ruling.

The Judging criteria as set down is as follows; "Preamble, Start of Poem, Body of Poem, Conclusion, Audibility, Audience Rapport and Personal Assessment (of the Judge)." To this I add that a personal assessment should consider *Appearance and Performance Skills*.

This 'rule of thumb' could be adopted (again), need not be too greatly varied (if at all), and should be accepted nationally. During my term as President of the ABPA Inc., I distributed copies of same, plus "Hints for Groups and Organisations" on running poetry competitions and festivals etc. to a number of new organisations and interested persons. I never once received a complaint or a comment, so can only assume that the information was acceptable.

How does a judge see this? In many different ways no doubt. Do some of them see it at all? Ask yourself.

Consider, at a recent competition in Queensland where it was reported that a highly respected media personality of supposedly satisfactory qualifications to judge performance poets missed some of the "action" whilst attending to at least two mobile phone calls mid-performances. Not what I would call a fair crack of the whip for the poor competitors; it must have been very off-putting for the poets concerned.

Judging workshops are possibly the answer, as Mr. Miller suggests, but who will judge the judges I ask again. How many want to be told? Will they want to listen? It will not be an easy item to set up and bring into practice. Still the subject needs broaching within the association.

Regarding the *Code of Ethics*, I have seen a number of letters on the subject which was originally brought up some years ago by Marco Gliori and followed later by Keith McKenry, but again, all the letters are saying the same thing. "We should have a Code of Ethics." So what? Who wants it? Has anybody made a move as yet to set one up? It appears not. At the AGM in January this year, moves were made in this direction, but I'm not aware of any follow-up. It will take a lot of time and effort, will be of no avail unless it can be policed. Who wants to police such a matter?

If a Code of Ethics was established, would it make any difference. The Ten Commandments have been around for years and get broken every day. We are in a position now where, if we can't trust ourselves, who can we trust? The Code of Ethics basically comes back to doing the right thing, by yourself and your peers. (Read Rhubarb's Poem, page 18 August). That makes enough sense to me. I have just retired from a business where red tape and hooley ruled the roost. It made an enjoyable job a fair mongrel, believe me and I know I won't miss it. Let's just keep having fun and enjoy each others company and poetry by sharing and respecting.

Finally another continually arising subject is the terminology "*Bush Poetry*". During my term as President I had numerous letters on the subject. The most common complaint, if I may call it such, was that most of the scribes insisted that *it was not bush poetry if it was not about hobble chains and camp-wear*.

Bush Poetry was first termed in the 1880's, before any publication of "The Banjo" appeared in the Bulletin. Bush writing and verse came into being as Australian writers began to look at Australia, not through English eyes, but through Australian eyes, accounting themselves thus far to an account of the way of life of the Bush people. On the first of March 1881, what is often taken as the first bush ballad, 'Sam Hold' by Ironbark, appeared in the 'bushman's bible', the Bulletin.

Later that decade it was the likes of 'Banjo' and Lawson who set the ball rolling, but if you are an avid fan of Paterson or Lawson you will find that they had a lot more to write about than general bush life. Both wrote a great deal of topical and political poetry, poetry on love, war, republicanism, social comment and poetry of the day.

Had there been 'Bikies' and Harley Davidsons in Banjo's time I am sure he would have written about 'Hogs' and 'Fatboys' as well.

The modern day 'Bush Poets' as I see them,

Continued Page 9 .....



## IT WASN'T ON A MOUNTAIN

© 1998 Frank Daniel, Canowindra NSW  
aka "Joe the Poet"

Old Banjo wrote a lotta rot  
About a colt that did a bolt  
And up into the mountain flew.  
Not a single soul in history  
Knows the truth about the mystery;  
Not a flaming word he wrote is true.

He said that all the riders  
From the stations there-abouts  
Mustered at the homestead over-night.  
He forgot to make a mention  
Of the thirst they were aquenching;  
The brawling and the scuffling and the fights.

Still the onus was on thinking;  
Not on arguing and drinking;  
The colt was worth a coupla thousand dollars.  
So they swiftly crossed the clearing,  
Headaches pounding, sinus' searing,  
While frosted ears tucked beneath their collars.

No thoughts were e'er considered  
That the colt was only hidden  
In the bracken down by the flowing stream.  
And the men all changed the chase  
Into another deadly race,  
The prize was just another distant dream.

But the one who had a ball  
Was the calmest of them all,  
Left behind to do the dirty dishes.  
She later took a soothing stroll  
Where the foothills gently roll  
And realised the best of all her wishes.

There beneath a whispering she-oak  
Was the colt of which we spoke,  
With his halter tangled in the matted briar,  
She then took hold of the rope  
And led the youngster up the slope,  
Which goes to prove that 'Banjo' was a liar.

So it's here I'll end the saga  
Where the men were drunk on lager  
And leave you's with a little thought to think.  
With the 'Banjo' lies my deep respect,  
Not even would he half suspect  
The hero was a woman - left at the kitchen sink.



## TALL TALES at BARDS PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

The "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry celebrations will include a special "pre competition" Poets in the Pub evening at the home of Bush Poetry in Bowraville, the Bowra Hotel.

Scheduled for 7.30 pm on Saturday 26th September, the pub night will feature both Carol Raffold and Liz Ward, who will be travelling down to compete in the Bards Events. Carol, recent Overall Champion at the Rams Head Hotel Comp in Millmerran, Q. earned as her prize for Novice Original Section, 2 nights accommodation for two at "The Bottom Pub". There will be an open mike, so any visiting or local poets are welcome to contribute their work on the evening.

The "Bards" Performance Competition will be held one week earlier this year, on Sunday 27th September, the weekend prior to the "Back to Bowra" Festival. This decision was taken by organisers to cater for an expected strong showing of entrants and visitors who have indicated an interest in this year's competition.

Expressions of interest have also been received from several bush poets who are coming to perform as "Guest Reciters" on the day. Warren "Arch" Bishop. "Arch", who is no stranger to Bush Poetry fans in the Nambucca Valley, will also perform and assist with compering throughout the day. He will be joined by Kev Barnes, known throughout the Darling Downs of Queensland as "The Legend". Kevin, a seasoned bush poet who co-ordinates the "Rams Head Hotel Performance Competition in Millmerran, Q. will also launch his first book, "Legendary Stuff".

Additionally, this year will also see the introduction of a "Yarnspinning and Tall Tales" demonstration. This very Australian pursuit has long been an integral part of Australian culture, and has now been introduced as a very humorous form of entertainment at the many Bush Poetry events and festivals that are happening across the country. Locals are also encouraged to participate in this demonstration - and organisers suggest, some prior practice at the "local" should settle any nerves. If proved popular, Yarnspinning may be introduced as a future competition section.

The Performance Competition will have two sections. Section 1 is for Traditional or Established Poetry - poetry not written by the performer, and Section 2 for Original Work, written by the performer. These sections of the competition carry a collective prize pool of \$350.00 and entries close on 20th September, however entries will be accepted on the day of competition if time is available.

The days proceedings will also include the presentation of Awards for the "Junior Bards of Bowra" Written Bush Poetry Sections. Record entries were received this year from schools in the Valley as well as entries from interstate competitors. A special invitation has been sent to all "Junior Bards" entrants to come along and read their poetry and this will be followed by a celebration "Brunch" for these very special young poets.

The Back to Bowra Festival Committee, organisers of the "Bards" events, all of which have been extremely well supported, wish to sincerely thank the many poets who have aided us in our endeavours and our sponsors who have generously helped us to sustain Bush Poetry in the Nambucca Valley - The Bowra Hotel, The MidCoast Observer, Tallwood School and the Bowraville & District ExServices Club.

Enq. Maureen Garner - Ph/fax 02 6568 5269.

Continued from Page 8 ..... Who Judges the Judges?

whether urban oriented or rural, are doing exactly what the great masters did, writing about the things they see around them.

One other concern was the fact that some of my writers insisted that only an experienced person can write 'bush'. I don't believe this. Any skilled writer given the facts, followed up with suitable research can write on any subject he or she chooses, with varying results. Take for instance the Centenary Year of Waltzing Matilda (1995),

when in Winton Q., a written competition was held for rhyming bush verse on the subject of Waltzing Matilda. Some 2,600 entries were received on this one subject. Were they all written by experienced bushmen, drovers, ringers, swaggies, shearers, sheep stealers or what? Not at all. The winning author was a former Queensland Detective of Italian-Australian heritage. Thank you for your time.

*Frank Daniel,*  
Canowindra, NSW





## CITY OF COFFS HARBOUR NATIONAL WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

The Australia Day Committee of Coffs Harbour City Council proudly announce their Inaugural Written Bush Poetry Competition. Junior Sections are available for both primary and secondary school students and open entries are sought for Section 1 on any topic, with Section 2 asking for entries relating to any event, place or personality from within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area.

An entry fee of \$3.00 applies to open sections - Junior entries are free. Closing date is 30th November, 1998. The Awards will be presented on the evening of Australia Day, 1999 at the Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club, Coffs Harbour, NSW. Entry forms available from The Competition Co-ordinator, Coffs Harbour Written Competition, Maureen Garner, 2/8 Salamander Parade, Nambucca Heads, NSW, 2448, or Phone/Fax - 02 6568 5269. - More details page 18.



## RAM'S HEAD HOTEL COMPETITION REPORT

Millmerran, Q.

The Ram's Head Hotel, Millmerran was the venue, Fathers Day, 6th September, where under blue skies, (thank the Lord) the greatest Bush Poetry Performance Competition since the year "Dot" took place. Twenty six of Australia's best competed, they came from all over the country - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Warwick, Toowoomba, Gatton and even the Bundy Mob were there.

The day started off as organised chaos and ended in utter confusion but we all had lots of fun. The Millmerran Lions cooked breakfast for 60 or so starving people and the competition got under way with the Yarn Spinning. The crowd had swelled to over 100 and those tall but TRUE tales had the audience in fits of laughter. The Junior Competition followed and was contested by poets as young as 8 years old - the kids were great and it's so good to see them taking an interest at such an early age too.

The Novice Original and Traditional sections followed, and all I am going to say is that these poets will not be "Novice" very long going on their performances here. A "Poets Brawl", hotly contested by 14 poets finished off the morning, the topic given to them two hours before the event, Magic Stuff!

Ned Winter prepared a three course Camp Oven Lunch and assured us there was no "Road Kill" involved, I sometimes wonder about Ned, but he did a great job, even though no one would go and talk to him. During lunch, we were entertained by some local country music artists who also did a fine job.

Judges for the day were Bill Glasson, Chris Jenson, Ces Muir, Glenn and Alan Palmer and Ron Bates. My good friend and well known bush poet, Marco Giori could not get here, he arrived home from his tour a few days before the competition to find his wife and kids all down with the dreaded flu. I hope by now, Mark, that everyone is back on deck, and I thank you for your support.

Comperes were Liz Ward, Merv Webster, Bill Glasson and occasionally Yours Truly, I thank them for the great job they did, even though we were all beaten, stunned and made to roar with laughter at the "Auctioneer" Mr. Alan Gregory, what a performer!!

The shire Mayor, Cr. George Ezzy presented prizes and trophies and then, to Leanne Sondergeld, of the Qld. Cancer Fund, he presented a cheque for \$850, most of which was raised on the day. Following are the results -

**Yarnspinning:** 1st - Merv Webster, Runner Up - Douglas Broad.  
**Jnr. Traditional:** 1st - Jennifer Haig, 2nd - Nichole Pheffer, 3rd - Kristy Chelo.  
**Jnr. Original:** 1st - Jennifer Haig, 2nd - Nichole Pheffer, 3rd - Nicki Gibson.  
**Junior Group:** 1st - Jennifer Haig & Carmel Dunn.  
**Novie Traditional:** 1st - Carol Reffold, 2nd - Carol Stratford, 3rd - Bill MacChune.  
**Novice Original:** 1st - Carol Reffold, 2nd - Darren Scott, 3rd - Beth Mowlan.  
**Poets Brawl:** 1st - Trish Anderson, 2nd - Liz Ward, 3rd - Carmel Dunn.  
**Open Female Traditional:** 1st - Trish Anderson, 2nd - Carmel Dunn, 3rd - Chris Webster.  
**Open Female Original:** 1st - Liz Ward, 2nd - Carmel Dunn, 3rd - Trisha Anderson.  
**Open Male Traditional:** 1st - Wally Finch, 2nd - Ron Bates, 3rd - Billy Hay.  
**Open Male Original:** 1st - Bill Hay, 2nd - Douglas Broad, 3rd - Wally Finch.  
**OVERALL CHAMPION - Carol Raffold.**

The only thing left for me to say is .... See ya at the Ram's Head next year and tell ya mates to come along too! Thank you all .....

*Ken J. Barnes - "The Legend"*

## A TRIP TO MILLMERRAN

© Trisha Anderson, Hendra, Q  
 Winner, Poet's Brawl,  
 Rams Head Hotel Comp.

They truned out in force  
 (All the poets, of course)  
 for their weekend away in Millmerran  
 They drove from afar  
 In a truck or a car -  
 Liz came - and Billy - and Kerryn,

They drove half the day  
 From some distance away  
 For their weekend away in Millmerran.  
 The rain - it poured down  
 They hoped they'd not drown  
 Did Lizzie - and Billy - and Kerryn.

Now the yarnspinning's over,  
 And the poets begin,  
 Here they are - all at Millmerran  
 So let's have some fun,  
 Have a laugh - see the sun  
 With Lizzie - and Billy - and Kerryn.

### Postscript

*Who's Kerryn, you ask,  
 Now you'll take me to task  
 On our weekend away in Millmerran  
 We needed a rhyme  
 We had no more time  
 So Lizzy and Billy brought Kerryn!*

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

**BILL & BEV BENNETT** - Toowoomba, Q.  
**CHRISTINE BENNETT** - Kenmore, Q  
**DOUG BURNS** - Geelong, Vic  
**JOHN HARRIS** - Kalang, NSW  
**CATHERINE GEMMILL** - Tongala, Vic.  
**EDNA & KEVIN FINCH**, Roma, Q  
**WENDY HALL** - Coffs Harbour, NSW  
**CARRIE LOCK** - Bourke, NSW  
**MARTIN O'BRIEN** - Murwillumbah  
**ARTHUR PEARSON** - Biloela Q.  
**SHARON PIGNER** - Shell Harbour, NSW  
**BARRY ROSS** - Raby Bay, Q.  
**LYNETTE SLATTERY** - Kingscliffe, NSW  
**KELLIE SPENCER** - Bowraville, NSW  
**EVELYN VINCETT** - Llundum, Q.



## MERIMBULA FESTIVAL



A feature of the 8th Annual Merimbula Country Music Festival will be the emphasis placed on the spoken word. Leader in this field will be none other than Frank Daniel who will be hosting the Bush Poet's Breakfast and making appearances alongside such greats of Country Music as Grant Luhrs Lee-Ann Rose, Mathew Kimber, Kym and Trish Freeman, Ray and Tania Kernagan. Ray and Tania will be appearing at the Sunday Concert.

Bush Poetry Competitions will be held at the Sunday morning breakfast at Shorts Point Caravan Park from 7.30 am, with Adult, Junior and Sub Junior sections.

Talent quests will be conducted in the Sapphire Coast Country Music Awards with winners qualifying for the National Capital Music Awards.

For a feast of Busy Poetry and Yarn Spinning, make sure that you attend the Merimbula Festival from 23rd to 25th October. All bush poets are welcome. For further information phone Rosalie Smith on 02 6495 6115.



## BOOROWA WOOL FESTIVAL

The Boorowa NSW Hotel will be hosting the Bush Poetry side of the Annual Wool Festival in it's spacious beer garden on Sunday morning, October 4th at 10am. Frank Daniel of Canowindra, NSW will compere the morning and add to the flavour of the yarn spinning and bush poetry.

Interested poets can contact Frank as per the advertisements. All welcome to this famous wool producing centre just north of Yass not far off the Hume Highway. It's a must !!

NEWSLETTER COPY Deadline 10th of Month  
From December - 1st Day of Each Month



## PALMA ROSA POETS

The Palma Rosa Poets are looking forward to their next evening of verse when they showcase the talents of the North Pine Bush Poets - the billing is very impressive.

Their president, **Graham Fredricksen** who won the 1998 Bronze Swagman Award for written verse in Winton and first prize in the Bundaberg Bush Lantern Award for written verse, **Tony Dale**, **Anita Reid**, **John Best** and **Carol Stratford** - all very talented poets.

This great line up can be seen on Wednesday, 14th October at "Palma Rosa", the beautiful heritage listed headquarters of The English Speaking Union at 9 Queens Road, Hamilton, (Brisbane). Cost is \$15.00 (including supper), BYO and bookings are essential. Enquiries - phone Trisha Anderson - 07 3268 3624 - a night not to be missed.

*The Palma Rosa Poets - © Robert Rastery*

*The call was out on the Brisbane side from the heart of Palma Rosa  
Through the city's svelte and the gidgee belt as writer and composer*

*We'll muster in the "grand house" ply our literary communion,  
For the greats and the mates and the membership of the English Speaking Union.*

*"We're the "Palma Rosa Poets" and we'll chant for the bush and city  
Versifiers and reciters and we're suave and neat and pretty  
We'll entertain, we'll make you laugh, we'll have you think and cry  
And before we part we'll win your heart and fill your memory's eye,  
The "Palma Rosa Poets" at Hamilton ... on high ...*

## GYMPIE MUSTER 1998



Six days of Bush Poets Breakfasts were one of the highlights of another hugely successful Gympie Country Muster. From Tuesday on, the tents were packed with a keen and obviously well-educated audience, demanding encores and shouting requests. The first three days astounded organisers as they were the biggest pre-muster crowds on record.

Glenny Palmer and Guy McLean were popular hitting their straps early in the week along with newcomer Neil McArthur fresh from his sellout Casino Nursing Home tour. Guy's fourlegged companion, Nugget was never the same after the Mullumbimby Bloke hitched a ride during one of Guy's performances.

Thank God Ellis Campbell was there to add some respectability to the show along with the typically wonderful performances of Carmel Dunn.

Of course these gatherings are always let down by the presence of the usual yobbos like Miller Hartin, Fogarty and Friend, who once again all performed dismally and probably should be blackbanned by the organisers of all such events (if this is your first copy of the ABPA newsletter .. I'm joking).

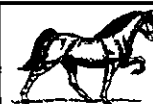
For those of you who have complained in the past about the 'non-bush' poetry, I'm sorry to advise you that 'The Naked Poets Show' was well supported and there was nakedness on stage ... sorry ... we couldn't help it...

With impromptu performances by Col Hadwell Anita Hendrie Bob Lewis and a yobbo called Oogie Oogie ... the week had a down to earth and informal feel to it and the crowd reaction was very warm and appreciative.

### Competition Results:

**Original:** 1st - Guy McLean, 2nd Col Hadwell  
**Traditional:** 1st - Guy McLean, 2nd Anita Hendrie

*Marco Gliori*



## PINE LODGE BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Bookings are coming in for the inaugural Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival.

This will be a great day commencing with a Poets Breakfast on the lawns with a tasty breakfast provided (if required) and then the commencement of the competition.

There will be entertainment, stalls and food available throughout the day at this beautiful venue, finishing with a concert and awards evening program featuring the very talented Mark Tempany and his music.

Entries close on 25th September for both the written and performance competitions, however late entries for the performance competition only will be accepted if we have sufficient time to accommodate them.

Entry fees for the day are as follows -  
\$10.00 for performance poets incl. admission  
\$5.00 entry for written competition  
\$10.00 entry for spectators  
\$5.00 entry for spectators under 18 years  
Enquiries - Phone 07 3206 4492

**1999 AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**Yarrowonga Vic. / Mulwala NSW**  
**14th - 18th May, 1999**

We the committee, have put together some of the benefits that members - and - audiences will find at the coming Australian Bush Poetry Championships which will be held at Yarrowonga-Mulwala on 14th - 18th May, 1999.

Firstly, let me explain exactly where we are. Mulwala and Yarrowonga are situated on either side of the Murray River, Mulwala on the NSW side and Yarrowonga on the Victorian side, "sister towns", being only separated by a few minutes walk across the bridge to either side.

Poetry heats and finals will be held in the huge auditorium at the Mulwala Services Club, where there is plenty of room for all, which incidentally gives one of the greatest views of the Lake Mulwala one could ever wish for.

This area is reasonably central to Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Tasmania, with Queensland and Western Australia not much difference in distance as to Winton is to those members!

We are still getting organised, so if any members wish to contribute some personal attraction, please get in touch with me on 03 5744 2213 as soon as possible.

We will also be holding a written competition as well as the "Aus" Championships (the Dinkum Aussie Awards) so bung on yer finkin' caps an' git writin'. First, second and third prizes to be won!

We intend to make this a gala attraction, so get behind us one and all, this way nobody will be left wanting.

Stay nice an' live ferever, Sincerely, *Johnny Johanson.*

**BRONZE SPUR AWARDS - Camooweal, Q.**

Overall 12 poets competed while 14 attended and entertained a crowd of 500 at the Drovers Reunion recently held at Camooweal, Q. Unfortunately, crowds were down a little owing to clashes with other events.

Glenn Jones and Tom McIvor sang frequently during a fabulous weekend and it would appear that the "Bronze Spur Awards" are here to stay. Judges were Bruce Simpson and Kelly Dixon for events. Results are as follows:

**Original:** 1st - Bob Magor, 2nd - Chris Webster, 3rd - Liz Ward.

**Traditional:** 1st - John Major, 2nd - Liz Ward, 3rd - Chris Webster.

**Humorous:** 1st - Bob Magor, 2nd - Chris Webster, 3rd - Liz Ward.

**Country Music Talent Quest:** 1st - Bill Bedford, 2nd - Wall Brummell, 3rd - Denise Baldwin.

**Yarnspinning:** 1st - Bill Hay, 2nd Glenn Jones, 3rd - "Boulia" Bates.

**Written Section:** 1st - Milton Taylor, 2nd - Veronica Weal, 3rd - Mark Kleinschmidt.



**KORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING  
 KYABRAM KARACTERS**

You may have noticed that Bush Poets tend to perform at strange venues in strange surroundings at times. The Ky and District Poets were invited to perform at the "Revel" festival in Echuca recently. The function was in the beer garden of the Bridge Hotel. The Bridge is an old restored pub down by the wharf. Actually the pub was used in the filming of "All The Rivers Run".

To make the day even more interesting, the poets were allocated 3 segments in between an "a capella" choir and a team of African drummers. Aply led by Mick "Dry-as-a bone" Coventrey, "Skew-Wiff" Watt, Bev Williams and Des Ginnane the poets battled on. As a result of the day, Bev is keen to join a choir (any choir) and Wattie and Des have priced a set of "Bongo" drums. Actually, Mick Coventrey tried to throw himself in front of a paddle steamer but lucky for him the tide was out! What a day! But I'm happy to report that the poets won the day (again).

More news next month about our "Around the Campfire" night.

**THE LADY WITH THE LAMP**

© Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga, Vic.

I felt the hot breath of the Devil  
 In the darkness of the night  
 And the down of Angel feathers;  
 Not to see a new dawns light!



Through a haze of drugs and tablets,  
 Above the tubes of blood and drips  
 Were this Demon and a Beauty,  
 Fighting for my final trip.

In a ward of patients sleeping,  
 Just above my deathly bed  
 Waged this war of good and evil  
 For my soul - when I was dead!



First they had this war of diction  
 Which no doubt, the Devil won  
 For his language was appalling,  
 Yet the Angel wasn't done.

"Speak no more, you lowly mongrel,"  
 Said the Angel with all grace,  
 As her hand it flashed like lightning  
 And she slapped the Devils face.

"Get you back to fire and brimstone,  
 To the place you love so well,  
 For the soul of this departed;  
 Goes to Heaven not to Hell!"

I watched on like a movie,  
 As they battled to and fro,  
 It appeared, I had no choice at all,  
 With whom I wished to go!

The Demon roared, spat smoke and fire,  
 Which seared the Angels wings,  
 She stood her ground, then doused his form,  
 With snow and rain and things.

"Unfair, unfair," the Devil cried,  
 "You've quenched my only tool,"  
 Then pulled back from her flashing eyes  
 Screamed, "keep the stupid fool!"

The Demon quickly left the scene,  
 Then: the winner beckoned me,  
 But the gentle voice, from a kindly nurse,  
 Asked; "was it you that called for me?"

So even with Old Satan's fire  
 And Heavens icy damp;  
 they had both forgot; the healing powers,  
 Of the Lady, with the lamp!

Best regards, *Grahame Watt.*

## MORE ON THE KODE

from Neil McArthur, Ballarat, Vic.



Dear Fellow Bards,

I have keenly following the discussion on the proposed Code of Ethics and feel it is too soft and would like to offer an alternative 10 point plan. I would welcome any debate on my proposal.

1. Any poet who fails to give due credit to the author of the poem they have recited shall have the aforementioned author's name branded on their forehead with a hot poker.
2. Any poet who changes the words of another author's work shall have their tongue amputated and be banned from performing until they offer a formal "spoken" apology.
3. If a poet's work shows any resemblance to that of another poet, then the copyright shall be sold to the highest bidder with all funds raised going to a reputable charity (e.g. "Help Neil McArthur Pay Next Month's Rent Fund").

4. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any cost (less than \$100 per judge).
5. No poet will be allowed to write on a subject previously used by another author (e.g. The Bush, Horses, Australia etc.).
6. Swear words will not be tolerated during a performance unless they are short and of no more than four letters.
7. Any poet found guilty of failing to rhyme their poetry will be excommunicated to Nimbin.
8. No poet may appear on stage naked before 8 pm unless drunk.
9. Bobby Miller, Ray Essery and Marco Gliori shall be horsewhipped on a monthly basis (this has nothing to do with ethics but would be loads of fun !!).
10. As formulator of this Code of Ethics Neil McArthur shall remain as the only poet exempted from the above rules.

.....  
Editors Note: Here, Here !!



## POETS AND MATES

"Poets and Mates" is off and running and we thought you might like to know about it. We kicked off at our home back in March this year. While the homely atmosphere was great, it was not really a suitable venue. So we moved to the Kallangur Community Centre in August. Local poets Tony

Dale and Barbara Lavelle were a great choice to launch the new venue and they did themselves and the audience proud. The September performance was just as exciting thanks to the talents of Mark Feldman and Maureen Mannion.

With "Poets and Mates", we are trying to achieve a regular performance venue for enthusiasts of this great facet of fair dinkum Australian culture. Aims are for the benefit of poets and audience alike. Promising and established poets will have a venue for performance and audiences get quality performances with variety as we put on a new show every month. That's right, "Poets and Mates" is a monthly show.

For October, yours truly and Noel Stallard will come together as C.J. Dennis and Father John O'Brien. This has already proven a successful combination as the works of two great Australian poets are performed to audiences who sometimes haven't heard of either. I'm sure Noel joins me with enthusiasm in finding new "converts". Those who know and love the work of Dennis and O'Brien won't be disappointed as the well loved, familiar pieces will be performed along with a few surprises.

This one is on at 8 pm, Thursday 1st October at Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Q 4503. You might have noticed it's the day before North Pine Bush Poets Camp Oven Festival. Why not come a day early and join us for some light hearted Australiana. Cost for the evening is \$10.00 and includes a light supper. We'd love the pleasure of your company. Please book to assist with catering. Phone Wally (The Bear) Finch on 07 3886 0747.

See you there, *Wally Finch*

## BUSH POETRY ON THE AIRWAVES

New member, Doug Burns is involved with "Country FM", a Community Radio station in Geelong, Vic. He has a half hour "Poets Corner" program Thursday evenings which has gained a good following.

He is seeking promo material from bush poets to enhance his program format and would appreciate any recorded material which poets may care to send.

He also invites travelling poets to phone when passing through with the view to arranging interviews etc.

He can be contacted by mail, PO Box 202, Geelong, Vic. 3219 or phone him on 03 5222 1074 (bh) or after hours on 03 5243 4055.

## NORTH BY NORTHWEST POETRY & FOLK CLUB

In August despite wild wind and record rainfalls, 20 hardy folks turned out for a warm night of fun, music and poetry. An abundance of excellent poetry came from Graeme Johnson, Penelope Grace, Brian Bell, Lyn Jones, Jennifer Lane, "Arch" Bishop and Rhymin' Simon. Musically, highlights were Ken Cooper our featured artist Greg Dimmock with his amazing array of musical instruments and Nigel Walters and Clive McFarland whose new band "Running Amok" will be featured in November.

At our next regular meeting on October 1st at 7.30pm at 2 Cutler Parade, North Ryde, our featured artist is Richard Mills, from "The Loaded Dog Folk Club".

Meanwhile, don't miss our special Poets and Folkies Get Together on Saturday afternoon, 19th September at 2pm at the Cornucopia Cafe in the grounds of the old Gladesville Hospital - entrance in Punt Rd. Come and sip on a cappuccino and do your thing - BYO's are allowed and entry is FREE. Ring Jenny on 02 9887 1856 or Graeme on 02 9874 7653 for more details.

*Jenny Carter*



## POETS & MATES PERFORMANCE

8 pm Thursday,  
1st October, 1998  
Kallangur Community  
Centre  
1480 Anzac Avenue,  
KALLANGUR, Q.

Feat. Wally Finch & Noel  
Stallard as Fr John O'Brien

Entry: \$10 incl.  
supper.  
Enq. Wally Finch  
07 3886 0747





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

- Sept 19 **Hunter Botanical Gardens Spring Fair.** Performance Poetry. Ph / fax 02 4953 2751
- Sept 19 **Cornucopia Cafe Poets and Folkies Get-together.** Ring Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or Mob 015 227 479 P 16
- Sept 19-20 **Gulgong Country Music Fest. Poets Breakfast** Enq. Frank Daniel Ph ah 02 6344 1477 P16
- Sept 23 **Bush Poetry Performance by Noel Stallard.** Selections from John O'Brien. Mt Maria Senior College Auditorium, 67-69 Osborne Rd. Michelton. Q. P16
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival Performance Competition P17**
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Big Doo at Brymaroo.** Brymaroo, Q. Performance Competition Ph 07 4692 1347 P16
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Warnervale Performance Competition.** P 16
- Sept 25 **Norman Lindsay Gallery.** Springwood NSW. Perf Comp. Ph Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884 P16
- Sept 26 **Thunderbolt Fest.** Uralla, NSW - Performance Comp & Breakfast Details P 18
- Sept 26-27 **Mapleton Yarn Festival.** Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263 Pages 3 & 16
- Sept 26 **Bards of Bowra Poets in the Pub.** Pre comp performance Bowra Hotel, Bowraville at 7.30 P 9 & 16
- Sept 27 **Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Perf. Comp., Bowraville, NSW** Phone 02 6568 5269 Pages 9 & 16
- Sept 27 **Newcastle Fringe Festival.** Civic Centre, Newcastle, NSW. Performance Poetry 02 4953 2751
- Sept 25-27 **Wollombi Folk Festival.** Wollombi NSW. Poets Breakfasts, Yarn/ Storytelling Ph 02 4951 6186 P16
- Oct 1 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur (Q) Community Centre, Ph 07 3886 0747 P 13
- Oct 1-5 **Spring Poetry Fest.** Canberra, ACT. Gorman House Arts Centre. P 17
- Oct 2-10 **Bourke Mateship Festival & Poet's Trek.** Bourke, NSW Bourke Tourist Info. Centre P16
- Oct 3 **Victor Harbour Folk Fest Poetry Writing Awards** Ph. K & M Edgecombe 08 8271 0524 P 16
- Oct 3-4 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** Written and Performance Comp. Ph J 07 3886 1552 P 16
- Oct 3 **Poets in the Pub.** Moonan Flat, NSW. Moonans Victoria Hotel. P18
- Oct 3-5 **Boorowa Wool Festival.** Poets Breakfast Ph Frank Daniel ah 02 6344 1477 P 12 & 16
- Oct 2-5 **Warnervale, NSW - Country Music Fest. Bush Poetry Comp. & Performances.** P 16
- Oct 4 **Big Doo at Brymaroo, Q.** Performance Poetry Comp & Performances. G. Bowtell 07 4692 1347 P16
- Oct 5 **Wollondilly Waratah Fest.** Poets Breakfast 9am Imperial Hotel, Menangle St, Picton. NSW Please phone and book in Liz Vincent, 02 4677 2044. Pages 16
- Oct 8 **Poets' Breakfast at Nanango.** Nanango Shire Council, PO Box 10 Nanango QLD 4615 P 17
- Oct 8 **Bush Poetry Performance** Yamba Bowling Club, NSW 7.30pm Bob Miller & Noel Stallard P17
- Oct 9 **Bush Poetry Performance** Sawtell RSL Club, NSW 7.30pm Bob Miller & Noel Stallard P17
- Oct 10-11 **Charleville Bush Balladeers Performance Comp & Family Fun Day.** Details P 18
- Oct 11 **Poets Brunch & Comp.** Allies Hotel, Myers Flat. Vic. Ring Peter Worthington 03 5436 1556 P17
- Oct 14 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris. Q, North Pine Bush Poets. \$15 per head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769 P 12 & 17
- Oct 17-18 **Dungog Heritage W'end.** Dungog Bush Poetry Conc & Comp. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751 P17
- Oct 23-25 **Merimbula Country Music Fest.** Merimbula NSW Poets Breakfast & Performance P 12 & 17
- Oct 25 **Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival.** Thomlands Q. Written & Performance Comp, Concert P17
- Oct 30-Nov 2 **Maldon Folk Festival.** Maldon, Vic. Vintage Verse, Yarn Event, Breakfast. Details P18
- Oct 31-Nov 8 **Land of the Beardies Festival.** Breakfast & Performance Comp. Nell Perkins, 3/125 Church Street, Glen Innes, NSW 2370 P17
- Nov 1 **Beltaine Festival.** Wilberforce NSW. Poets Breakfast 8.30am Ph 02 4572 6128 P18
- Nov 13 **Snowy Mountains Championships.** Tumbarumba, NSW Details P 18
- Nov 30 **Closing Date. 1998 Bush Laureate Awd.** Golden Gumleaf Enterprises, See Pages 17
- Nov 13-14 **Glengallen Fest.** Warwick, Q Concert & Perf. Comp. P. 17
- Nov 28 **Heritage Aust Music Fest.** Annandale NSW, Poets Brunch 12 -2pm. Pages 5 & 17
- Nov 30 **Closing Date. Blackened Billy Verse Competition.** Written Competition. P17
- Nov 30 **Closing Date. Coffs Harbour City Council Written Competition** Details Pages 10 & 18
- Dec 2 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. Guy McLean & "Nugget" and Mark Tempany - \$15 per head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769 P17
- Jan 20-23 **Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition.** Imperial Hotel, Tamworth, NSW. Performance Comp. P18
- Jan 23 '99 **Blackened Billy Verse Comp. Presentations,** Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW P17
- Jan 29 **Closing Date. John O'Brien Poetry & Prose Comp.** Phone 1800 672392
- Jan 31 **Closing Date. Bronze Swagman Award Written Competition.** Phone 07 4657 1502 P18
- Feb 13 '99 **High Country Poets Performance Competition.** Ph. Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 P18
- Mar 17-22 **John O'Brien Bush Festival.** Narrandera, NSW Ph 1800 672392 P18
- Mar 20-21 **Jondaryan Woolshed.** Jondaryan, Q. Written and Performance Bush Poetry Comp. Details later.
- May 14-18 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships.** Mulwala Services Club, NSW Details P 12 & 18

**ABPA Annual Memberships Due on 1.1.99 - 31.12.99 - \$25.00 PER YEAR**

## 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  
**Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group,** Meet every second month at Kyabram Fauna Park  
 at 7.30 pm - next meeting 3rd October Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 3365
- 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  
**Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton, Q. 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music.  
 Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st. Sunday** **Poets Get-together.** Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum Qld. (074) 491 991  
**North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea  
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552  
**Gold Coast Poets,** 10 am Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Q. All welcome, audience participation  
 Recite or sing a song. Graham Brunckhorst, 07 5579 4816  
**Poets in the Making,** 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula  
 Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba, NSW  
 Everyone welcome. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr., Tarro NSW.** Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St. Sth T'worth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067  
**Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- 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**  
**Wollondilly Regional FAW.** 1.30pm Community Rooms, Menangle Street, Picton. Phone  
 Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilottos 02 4631 1419
- 3rd Tuesday** **Norther Rivers Bush Poets.** Rous Hotel, Lismore Ph. Col Hadwell 02 6685 7064
- 3rd Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- 3rd. Friday** **Poetic Folk** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770 Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245  
**June Bush Poetry Group.** 7.30pm, June Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82,  
 June, 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** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea  
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02 6642 2772
- 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171  
**Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Poets Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 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 Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Thurs.** **Writers on the River, Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith, NSW.** Everyone  
 welcome, come and recite, read or just listen to the poets. Ph. Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- 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*



**ABPA MEMBERSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO NEW MEMBERS FOR THE  
 REST OF 1998 FOR JUST \$13.00 - ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN NOW !!**



## MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL 26th - 27th September 1998

Childrens Poetry Competition  
Bush Bards at Mapleton Bowls Club  
King & Queen of Liars - Music  
Novice Poets Workshops -  
Poetry, Yarnspinning, Storytelling  
Light Hearted Competitions

Appearing are The Larrikin - Bob Miller, Mark Gillori, Billy Hay,  
Rebecca Hood, Mark Feldman, Shirley Friend, Steve Sorrensen

Enq. to Jacqueline Bridle - 07 5478 6263

## BARDS of BOWRA

Part of the Back to  
Bowra Festival"  
BOWRAVILLE NSW



Bowraville Ex-Services Club - 10am - 27.9.98  
Pre Comp Poets in the Bowra Pub - 26.7.98 7.30pm  
Performance Comp. & Presentation of Awards  
Bards of Bowra Written Comp., Junior & Open Sections

Enq. Maureen Garner - Ph / Fax 02 6568 5269

## GULGONG Country Music Festival

Bush Poets Breakfast - Trophies & Prize Money  
19th & 20th September 1998



Compere - Frank Daniel Ph. AH 02 6344 1477

## CORNUCOPIA CAFE

### POETS & FOLKIES GET-TOGETHER

Saturday 19th September, 1998 - 2pm

Gladesville Hospital - Cnr Victoria  
& Punt Rd, Gladesville

(Use Punt Rd. Entrance)

Enquiries - Jenny Carter

Ph. 02 9887 1856 or Mob 015 227 479



## WOLLOMBI FOLK FESTIVAL - NSW

25th - 27th September, 1998

Poets Breakfasts - Champions of Verse

Storytellers Supper

Feature Poets - Gary Lowe

Graeme Johnson - Bob Skelton and more.

Entry Forms and Enquiries to

Ron Brown Ph 02 4951 6186

## BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE

Wed. 23rd September, 1998 7.30pm - 10 pm

Mt. MARIA SENIOR COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

67- 69 Osborne Rd., Michelton, Q. 4053

(Beside Brookside Shopping Centre)

NOEL STALLARD as Fr. John O'Brien

Presenting selections from

"Around the Boree Log" and

"The Parish of St. Mel's"

Adults \$10.00 Pensioners/Students \$7.00  
Supper - 8.30 - 9pm



## BUSH POETRY in Springwood, NSW

Norman Lindsay Gallery

7.30pm, Friday 25th September, 1998.

Enquiries to Jean Reynolds - 02 4751 4884



## NORTH PINE BUSH POETS

3rd ANNUAL CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FEST.

North Pine Country Park, Petrie, Q.

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October, '98

PERFORMANCE COMP. & CONCERT

Enquiries to John & Patti Coutts

Phone / Fax 07 3886 1552



## 1998 VICTOR HARBOUR FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday 2nd - Monday 5th October, 1998

Poets Breakfasts Every Day at 9am

Presentation of Awards - Saturday 3rd

Poets Cocktail Hour - Saturday 3rd 6pm

Storytellers Cup - Saturday Monday 5th



Program Details and Information from K & M Edgecombe  
12 Lochness Ave., TORRENS PARK SA 5062 Phone 08 8271 0524

## WOLLONDILLY WARATAH FESTIVAL

POETS BREAKFAST - 9am Mon., 5th Oct., 1998

Imperial Hotel Menangle St. Picton NSW (opp. railway)

Cost \$5.00 incl Entry Fee, Sausage Sandwich, Coffee

Please Book In - Ring Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044 Fax 02 4677 3289



## BOOROWA WOOL FESTIVAL

3rd - 5th October, 1998

Bush Poetry Sunday 4th Oct., 10am - Boorowa Hotel

Compere - Frank Daniel Ph. AH 02 6344 1477

## BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMP.

Country Music Weekend WARNERVALE NSW

2nd - 5th October, 1998

Bush Poetry Perf. Comp. & Performances

Sections - Traditional (Over 50 Yrs), Bush (Under 50 Yrs),

General Poetry & Original General - Prizes: Trophies & Certs.

Winner to appear at Tamworth 1999. Entries \$5.00 per section.

Closes 25.9.98 - Enquiries to Bob Sennett,

48 Donnison St., West Gosford. 2250

## "BIG DOO" at Brymaroo

Brymaroo Rodeo Grounds - 3/4.10.1998

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

7.30 am - Sunday 4th October, 1998

Original and Traditional Sections.

Entry \$5.00 per section - Closes 25.9.98

Details from G. Bowtell, MS 444,

Quinalow, Q 4403- Ph 07 4692 1347



## BOURKE MATESHIP FESTIVAL and POETS TRECK

Back to Bourke Week, 2nd - 10th October, 1998

Trek in the steps of Henry Lawson from Bourke on the Darling to

Hungerford on the Queensland Border and cross the wide plains

of stations ridden by Will Ogilvie and Harry 'Breaker' Morant

Poetry Readings - Talks - Photographic Exhibition

Yarns & Music - Plenty of Bush Hospitality!

Poets Night at Nth Bourke Riverview Hotel - 2.10.98 7pm

Bourke Tourist Information Centre

Old Railway Building, Anson St, Bourke NSW 2840 - 02 6872 1222



**NORTHERN NSW BUSH POETRY**

NOEL STALLARD as Fr. John O'Brien  
**BOB MILLER** - The Larrikin Bush Poet  
 8.10.98 - 7.30pm, Yamba Bowling Club, NSW  
 9.10.98 - 7.30pm, Sawtell RSL Club, NSW  
 Enq. Ph. 02 6652 8266 - Fax 02 6651 5496

**MERIMBULA'S COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

(Just South of Bega, NSW) - 23rd - 25th October 1998  
 Sapphire Coast Country Music Awards  
**Bush Poets Breakfast - Bush Poetry Competition**  
 Lies, Yarns & Tall Tales with Frank Daniel  
 Phone Rosalie Smith - 02 6495 6115

**NANANGO SESQUICENTENNIAL**

Written Poetry Comp Awards &  
 Poet's Breakfast on Thursday, 8.10.98  
 at Nanango Belvedere Gallery, Q  
 Jim Mangan - Phone 07 4163 1681

**DUNGOG HERITAGE WEEKEND - NSW**

17th & 18th October, 1998  
**Bush Poetry and Tall Yarns**  
**Concert and Performance Competition**  
 Contact Bob Skelton, Old School Hill, Minmi NSW 2287  
 Phone 02 4953 2751 or Mob 018 668 795

**POETS BRUNCH - Allies Hotel, Myers Flat, V.**

3kms North of Eaglehawk on the Bendigo Kerang Rd.  
 Sunday 11th October, 1998, 10.30 - 3pm  
 6 Competition Sections  
 Best Original & Traditional Sections  
 for both Open and Novice  
 Best Overall Perf & Encouragement Award  
 Ring "Whipstick Wortho" - 03 5438 1556

**BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 1998**

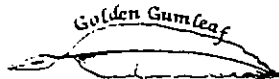
For work produced from 1.11.97 to 1.11.98  
**Four Sections**

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

Fee \$10 per entry - Closes 3.11.98

Send SAAE for Entry Forms to  
**GOLDEN GUMLEAF ENTERPRISES**  
 112 Crescent Rd. Hamilton Q 4007

Golden Gumleaf

**PALMA ROSA PERFORMANCES**

Wed. 14th October, 1998 at 7.30 pm  
 7.30 pm - North Pine Bush Poets

Wed. 2nd December, 1998 7.30 pm  
 Guy McLean & "Nugget" - with Mark Tempary  
 See Poets Calendar for further details

**LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL**

31.10.98 - 8.11.98 — GLEN INNES NSW  
 7pm, Fri. 2nd Nov. - OPEN MIKE BUSH  
 POETRY SESSION at the Heritage Cafe,  
 Grey St.

Please advise Nell if you would like come come along!!

**POETS BREAKFAST AND COMPETITION**

7.30am, 1st November in King Edward Park  
 2 Sections - Traditional or Established and Original Works  
 Prizes: Per Section 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$100.  
 Enquiries and any information re accomodation.  
 to Nell Perkins 3/125 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW

**BUSH POETRY CONCERT & COMPETITION**

Friday 13.11.98 - 7.30pm Bush Poets Concert - Warwick Town Hall  
 Saturday 14.11.98 - Glengallan Bush Poetry - Country Music - Line  
 Dancing Festival.

7.30am Breakfast - 8am Poetry Competition

Classes: Junior, Open Traditional, Open Original,  
 Open Humourous - ENTRIES \$5.00  
 Please send to Brenda Moscrop  
 154 McEvoy Street, Warwick. Q. 4370

**PINE LODGE BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL**

Pine Lodge Equestrian Centre, Taylor Rd.,  
 Thornlands, Q 4164 - Sunday 25th October, 1998  
 Written and Performance Competitions  
 Poets Breakfast, Evening Awards &  
 Concert - Public Admission \$10.00  
 Performance entries close 25.9.98 - Entry later if time allows  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO ROYAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**  
 Entry enquiries to Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival  
 as above or Phone 07 3206 4492 Fax 07 3803 4549

**HERITAGE AUSTRALIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Saturday 28th November, 1998 12pm - 12am

The Loaded Dog - Neighbourhood Centre  
 79 Johnston Street, Annandale, NSW 2203

POETS BRUNCH - "A Loaded Doggerel" 12 - 2pm

YARNSPINNING - WORKSHOPS -

CONCERTS Enquiries to Richard Mills

6/39 Herbert Street, Dulwich Hill, NSW 2203  
 or Phone 02 9568 5596 / Mob 0411 821 286

**SPRING POETRY FESTIVAL**

Gorman House Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT  
 1st - 5th October, 1998 during Floriade  
**Queanbeyan Bush Poets**

will be hosting the following sessions on Sun. 4th

9am - 10.30am: Poets Breakfast - Open Readings for all poets

5.30pm - 7pm: Guest Bush Poets in Performance - Joye

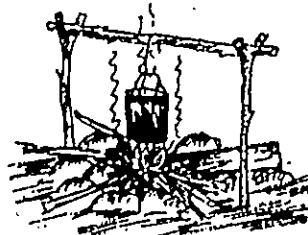
Dempsey - Warren "Arch" Bishop and "Black" Jack McCracken

Enquiries re above to David Meyers 02 6286 1891

or for Spring Poetry Festival enquiries

Phone 02 6921 2416 or 02 6254 0430 ah

Fax 02 6210 5300 - Email poetry@comserver.canberra.edu.au

**BLACKENED BILLY  
VERSE COMP. 1999**

Closing 30.11.98

Written Aust. Bush Verse

Entry Fee \$3.00

Limit of 3 entries pp

Presentation of Winner and Highly Commended -  
 Imperial Hotel, Tamworth

Saturday 23rd January, 1999

Entry Forms from Maureen Quickenden, PO Box 1164,  
 Tamworth 2340 or Phone 02 6765 6067

**POETS IN THE PUB - Moonan Flat, NSW**

Moonans Victoria Hotel

Sat 3rd October, 1998 at 1pm

followed by Jazz Dance at Old Moonan Flat Hall - 8pm  
in conjunction with 10th JAZZ BY THE RIVER  
More info from Peter Scott ph/fax 02 6546 3115

**POETS BREAKFAST & PERFORMANCE COMP**

in Uralla Memorial Hall, Salisbury St., Uralla, NSW

8am on Saturday, 26th September, 1998

Cost \$7.00, Concess \$5.00 - incl breakfast and entry fee

Australian Bush Theme - Enter on the Day

Open Original and Traditional Sections

1st Prize - \$100 each section + Certificate

Enquiries to Craig Bendle, Uralla Shire Council

Ph. 02 6778 4606 - Fax 02 6778 5073

(in conj. with THUNDERBOLT FESTIVAL IN SPRING 25-27.9.98)

**CHARLEVILLE BUSH BALLADEERS**

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMP. &amp; FUN DAY

Sat. 10th &amp; Sun. 11th October, 1998

Graham Andrews Parklands / Tourist Info. Centre

Saturday: Traditional Poetry - Free Billy Tea &amp; Damper.

Sunday: Original/Contemporary. Open/Junior

to be followed by Family Fun Day

Sections will depend on number of nominations received

**CASH PRIZES - NO NOMINATION FEES**

\*\*\* Fuel Rebates will be given to travelling poets !!!!!

Contact for further details

Dale Leard Ph 07 4654 2004, Fax 07542265

Col Bentley 07 4654 1293 or Joan Everitt 07 4654 2509

**BELTAIN FESTIVAL, Wilberforce NSW**

30/10 - 1/11/98 - Heritage Farm, 5kms from Windsor

POETS BREAKFAST - 8.30am Sun. 1st November

featuring Warren "Arch" Bishop

Everyone Welcome

Call Lydia 02 4572 6128

**MALDON FOLK FESTIVAL - Vic.**

30th October - 2nd November 1998

Sat 31st October and Sun. 1st November

"Vintage Verse" at the Troubadour Wine Tent

Sat. 31st Oct: "The Yarn Event" - Blacksmiths Shop

Sunday 1st Nov. Poets Breakfast

Feature Poets this year: Ed Scott, Richard Leitch, Geoffry Graham and Campbell the Swaggie

Enquiries to Maldon Folk Festival PO Box 135, MALDON VIC 3463

**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL****WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMP.**

Closes 30.11.98 - Limit 5 entries \$2.00ea

Open Sections: 1 - Any Topic, 2 - Coffs Harbour Topic

Junior Sections: 1 - Primary, 2 - Secondary School

Awards presented on Australia Day, 1999 at

Coffs Harbour ExServices Club, Vernon St. - 7pm

Entry Forms from The Competition Co-Ordinator

2/8 Salamander Pde., Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448

Phone / Fax 02 6568 5269

**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Yarrowonga (Vic) - Mulwala (NSW)

14th - 18th May, 1999

Ph Johnny Johanson 03 5744 2213 - Details on page 11

**BUSH POETRY AT THE "EKKA"**

Winners of the Royal Queensland Show Society Bush Poetry

Performance Competition held on Saturday, 15th August were:

Novice Traditional: 1st - Anita Hendry.

Open Traditional: 1st - Milton Taylor, 2nd - Bluey Bostock,  
3rd - Wally Finch.

Novice Original: 1st - Tony Gunter

Open Original: 1st - Guy McLean, 2nd - Bob Burgess,  
3rd - Bluey Bostock.**LEETON EISTEDDFOD ANNUAL FEST. RESULTS**

Brian Maguire Memorial Competition - Rhymed and unrhymed poetry

1st Ellis Campbell

**EASTWOOD HILLS FAW COMP. Traditional Poetry**

1st - Beverley George, 2nd - Ellis Campbell,

Highly Commended: John Bird, Commended - Ellis Campbell

Short Listed: Peter Brown, Grahame Barrett, Liz Vincent, Steve

Durham &amp; Margo Shugg

**1998 SNOWY MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIP**

in conjunction with "BAR ROOM YARNS &amp; RECITALS"

8 pm, Friday 13th November - Tumbarumba Bowling Club

Enter on the Night - No Entry Fee

Open Championship - Traditional Recital

Ladies Championship - Junior Championship

Details from Neil Hulm - 02 6025 3845

**JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL**

17th-21st March, 1999 - Narrandera, NSW

**JOHN O'BRIEN POETRY & PROSE COMP.**

Section 1 - Awards for Verse:

Classes for Traditional, Contemporary &amp; Humorous

Section 2 - Awards for Prose

Open Class 1 - Short Story to 3,000 words

Entries Close 29th January, 1999 - Entry Fee - \$1.00

Entries must be typewritten and on entry coupon

Enquiries to PO Box 89, Narrandera, NSW 2700

or Phone 1800 672392

**THE 1999 BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD  
COMPETITION FOR BUSH VERSE**

Verse in Traditional Australian Form

Closes 31st January, 1999 - Limited to 1300 Words

Entry Fee: 1 - 3 entries \$5.00, Limit 3 entries per form

The Secretary, Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44, Winton Q. 4735

Phone 07 4657 1502 Fax 07 4657 1322

**TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION  
IMPERIAL HOTEL, Tamworth NSW**

Performance Comp. - 20th - 23rd January, 1999

Entry Forms from Jan Morris, PO Box 1164, Tamworth, 2340

**HIGH COUNTRY POETS**

in conjunction with the Granite Belt Tourist Assn's

WINE AND FOOD AFFAIR, 8th-14th Feb. 1999

Bush Poetry Perf. Comp. Sat 13th Feb., 1999, 4pm

O'Mara's Hotel, Maryland St, Stanthorpe Q

Open &amp; Novice Original &amp; Traditional Sections

POETS IN THE PARK - Sunday, 14th February.

Enquiries - Jack Drake - Ph - 07 4683 7169

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G. Fredriksen, C/- P.O. Kilcoy, Q 4515

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Show Comp. 1998 reciting this brilliant poem.

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63 Valley Rd., Wentworth Falls 2782

Ph 02 4757 3119 - Make cheques out to Vinegar Hill Bush Band

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LAVINGTON NSW 2641

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### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Deadline day will be changed, to the  
FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH,  
commencing with the  
DECEMBER ISSUE

*Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

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

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September, 1998

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**Thank You to Our Contributors**

Trisha Anderson	Leo Keane
Kevin Barnes	Dale Leard
Brian Bell	Neil McArthur
Sandra Binns	Ian Mackay
'Arch' Bishop	Brenda Moscop
Doug Burns	Jan Morris
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Kelly Dixon	Ed Scott
Wally Finch	Ron Selby
Marco Gliori	Olive Shooter
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**The Man From Ironbark**, CD \$25pp, Book \$15pp, Geoffrey Graham, PO, Bealiba Vic 3475

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