

The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 1 Volume 6

January, 1999

THE RULES OF BUSH POETRY

© Leo Keane, Hughesdale, Vic.

I asked a rural poet
The secrets of his craft
And wouldn't you just know it?
The beggar simply laughed.

"You manipulate the language
In a hundred different ways
To achieve a rhyming couplet
Or a memorable phrase."

"You use alliteration
And a metaphor or two
Your grammar must be perfect
Your rhyming patterns too."

"You can't be repetitious
You mustn't use clichés
Your adjectives descriptive
In so many different ways."

"The syllables in every line
Should be quite uniform
To assonance enjambment
You'll slavishly conform."

"You'll discover that your poem
Is considerably sweeter
If you keep close observance
Upon the strictest meter."

"Use some imagination
In the format of your verse
A pedestrian approach is bad
There's really nothing worse."

"These simple rules are helpful
I trust it's all made clear
And oft times it's a help to use
Some onomatopoeia."

The full depth of his wisdom
Had made a deep impression.
How many of his printed works
Had he in his possession?

Could he nominate a published work
I'd put upon my shelf?

"Good heavens, no, I only write
To please my bloody self!"

DAGWORTH STATION © John Harris, Kalang, NSW

Way back in the eighties
In the mighty shearer's strike
The shearers all swore vengeance
On those they didn't like.

So they came to Dagworth Station
Just to burn the woolshed down
and nobody was going to stop them
From burning it to the ground.

They loaded up their rifles
And each man took his mark,
But did they think of murder,
As they waited in the dark.

It was dark enough to hide them
As they started up the fight
And poured a deadly barrage
At any Station light.

They knew who they were firing at,
There wasn't any error,
That Station wives and children
Were subjects of their terror.

Even though outnumbered
The troopers stood their ground
And their courage never wavered
As they fired another round.

The battle raged deep in the night
As countless shots were fired
But not a shot would find it's mark
And trigger fingers tired.

Yet somehow in the thick of things
Someone lit the spark
And Dagworth Station's woolshed
Became a bonfire in the dark.

There at Dagworth Station
At the rising of the sun
Could be seen the awful damage
Where shearers came with guns.

The passions that had boiled,
Amongst those, the shearers damned,
Had served to create victims
Of a hundred and forty lambs.

The shearers claimed a victory
for the things that they had done,
But, they didn't hang around for praise
When morning's light had come.

There were questions when they found him
With a bullet in his head,
And no-one could really tell you
How Hoffmeister wound up dead?

They put it to the Coroner
To find out what was done
Was it suicide, or murder?
When death was by the gun.

It was not a certain answer
Of why, or how he died?
Just a dirty death, and history
Of nothing done with pride.



'BLUE THE SHEARER' FAN CLUB PERFORMS

The 'Blue the Shearer' Fan Club held their first Bush Poets night recently at the Bega Bank Hotel as the opening event for the Bega Festival.

The night was in the form of a Poets Dinner and was booked out well in advance. Unfortunately "Blue" could not attend, due to health problems, but sent us a special tape to begin the night.

Local poets plus a visitor from Tasmania took part and each table had to present one of Blue's poems plus write and present a poem on the night.

All were impressed with the night and more are planned for the New Year and the next Bega Festival. If any Bush Poets out there will be visiting the Bega Valley, let us know and we'll invite you to our Bush Poets Night. The next is planned for January, '99.

Also, I have a special request. As we are researching the history of Blue, especially his shearing exploits, and we are having some difficulty with this, as

Blue himself is very tight lipped about it. Jim Haynes has agreed to give us the details of his visit to Wheelabarraback, but we know there is much more out there. Please contact me, regardless of how unimportant you may think your information is and we will produce the full history of 'Blue the Shearer'. By the way, money we raise is used to supply schools with books and tapes etc of Australian Bush Poetry.

Ces Cox, Sec. Blue the Shearer Fan Club

Australian Bush Poets Assoc. Inc.

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**NOTICE TO MEMBERS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSN. INC.
2.30 pm, Sat., 23rd January, 1999
ST PETERS HALL, VERA STREET, TAMWORTH
Olive Shooter, Secretary, A.B.P.A. Inc.**

**ABPA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES
\$25.00 PER YEAR
DUE ON 1ST JANUARY, 1999
Remember, you must be financial to vote
at our Annual General Meeting 23.1.99**



Secretary's Notes

Dear Members

I have been overwhelmed by the sweet greetings I have received over the festive season from members who sent messages to the committee. We do appreciate your thoughts, and I thank you very much.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you a Happy New Year and may you all enjoy good health. I hope that those of you who have had health troubles in 1998 will go into 1999 feeling much better.

We wish to record our thanks to Maureen Garner for the untiring work she undertakes to put out and keep up the standard of our monthly newsletter. Only those who have done it can appreciate the time taken, and so cheerfully. Nothing is too much trouble.

We have clubs who are members of our association, and receive a copy of our newsletter. It makes us happy to know that members of those clubs are interested in our news, but we do not wish it copied for club members' information. People who want to receive a copy of their own or any part of it, should join the A.B.P.A. Inc., in fairness to the Association (See notice above).

Printing costs of this newsletter are a major worry. It may mean that the newsletter has to be condensed into 16 or 18 pages, but I don't think that this will detract from its interest.

I have had some pleasing orders for the forthcoming Annual Book of Verse. If you feel that you may be able to sell some or want to order in any quantity, I could take them to Tamworth to save postage. They could be picked up at the Annual Meeting or by arrangements somewhere in the week leading up to it. The

President's Report

1998 is now past and it is hard to believe that just four years ago, this Association was formed in Tamworth with just 22 members. Since 1994 we have grown from those 22 original members to almost 400 members dedicated to the spoken word.

I'd like to thank all members for their dedication and their input into this Association over the past year, and hope that it will continue on into 1999 and beyond.

I'd particularly like to thank Olive Shooter, Maureen Garner, Elizabeth Ward and Bob Miller for their assistance in bringing you the member, an association that, I feel, we can all be totally proud of. Thank you also to all the members who have sent in poems, information and reports.

Bush Poetry has had a few ups and downs in the past year, and like all other clubs or associations, it has had a few knockers but they have been totally outweighed by the supporters of this form of art that we have pursued. The old saying "The pen is mightier than the sword" has been vindicated by the phenomenal rise we have seen in the past few years of the amount of ordinary people, like you and me, who have received so much enjoyment from the spoken word and the great rise in membership of our Association.

In Tamworth, we will be holding our A.G.M. and it will be up to you, the member, to decide if this Association will continue to be such a great force in the world of the true Australian Bush Poetry. So, make an effort of attending the meeting and voting in a committee that will continue to uphold the high standards we have known in the past.

We have had a lot of comments and discussions through our magazine on subjects such as 'Judging' and 'Competitions' or definitions of 'Bush Poetry' and that is what the magazine is there for ... YOU ... the member can control the amount of input into the magazine and the type of material and poems that are printed that will interest you, or any other individual that happens to read our magazine.

The amount of feedback we have received concerning the various competitions around the country and the results of those competitions and the enquiries about where to obtain poets' books etc. is justification in supporting this Association and magazine. But it can only continue with the help and dedication of you the member. I hope that every member enjoyed a trouble free and enjoyable festive season and wish all a Prosperous and Happy Poetic New Year.

Ron Selby, President

second year Annual is almost sold out with about 40 copies left and the last two are still plentiful. We would love to get rid of the backlog. Still \$3.00 each.

Our President, Ron Selby has a book out, "A Born Loser Can Sometimes Win." I recommend it to you. He gave me a copy and I was in. I read to the end. A short review can be found on P12.

The Annual Meeting will start at 2.30pm sharp on Sat. 23rd at St Peters Church Hall, Vera Street, Tamworth. Please come if you can and bring your newsletters with the proposed changes to the Constitution (i.e. October and November).

If you need to contact me before I go to Tamworth, I expect to be going on about the 15th. I look forward to seeing any of you there. Come up and make yourself known to me.

All the excitement of a family Christmas is gone again. Now it is back to getting the books ready for the Auditor. My fond regards and best wishes to you all,

Olive Shooter.





WANTED

BUSH POETS TO PERFORM at O'MARA'S HIGH COUNTRY POETS

4pm, Saturday 13th February, 1999
at O'Mara's Hotel, Maryland Street, Stanthorpe, Q.
Good Prize Money in 4 Categories

- Section 1: **Novice Performance** - Original or Traditional
1st \$100.00, 2nd \$50.00, 3rd \$25.00
Sponsored by Hidden Creek Winery, Ballandean.
- Section 2: **Open Traditional Performance**
1st \$200.00, 2nd \$100.00, 3rd \$50.00.
Sponsored by Castlemaine Perkins.
- Section 3: **Junior Performance** for 16 years and under
Original or Traditional
1st \$100.00, 2nd \$50.00, 3rd \$25.00
Sponsored by Hidden Creek Winery, Ballandean.
- Section 4: **Open Original Performance**
1st \$1000, 2nd \$200.00, 3rd \$100.00.
Sponsored by O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe.

Entry forms are available from O'Mara's Hotel or Jack Drake, Ph 07 4683 7169, who will be compering.

There will be a Poets' Marketing Area and a Wine promotion by Hidden Creek winery. Senior judge of the panel of 3 judges will be Bruce Simpson of "Packhorse Drover" fame, author and poet.

Admission is free to the public and O'Mara's Dining Room will be serving their famous steaks plus a full range of menu choices.

This is the first event of it's kind to be held at Stanthorpe and is part of the Granite Belt Tourist Association's "Wine and Food Affair, 1999", during which a variety of activities start on Monday 8th February and go right through until Sunday 14th.

On the following day, Sunday 14th February, the winning poets will be performing at "Poets in the Park" at Weeroona Park in the middle of Stanthorpe from 10am onwards. There will be other activities there including "Breckkie with the Butcher", Billy Tea and Damper, horse drawn carriage rides and "Market in the Mountains" in the Civic Centre across the road.

There is a variety of accommodation available in Stanthorpe from camping grounds to home stay, B & B, or cabins in the bush, motels, country pubs etc. It would be wise to book accommodation ahead, as this "Wine and Food Affair" is a busy time. Lists of accommodation are available on request along with entry forms or by contacting Southern Downs Tourist Assoc. in Stanthorpe.

Further information on the "Wine and Food Affair" can be obtained from Jack Drake, 07 4683 7169.

Jack Drake

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

Early plans are underway for a special weekend, 13-15th August, 1999. Twin Towns Poets have advised that they will participate in the "Country on the Tweed" weekend, a fund raising event in the "Year of the Aged". The weekend will present Poets, Writers, Drama, Country Music, Singers, Fashion, Dancers, Buskers and Talent Quest. More information later or contact Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Dr., Bilambil Heights, NSW 2486.

TAMWORTH '99 ... See Pages 4, 5, 6, & 18



Country Geoffrey Graham at Tamworth

Veteran solo performer, Geoffrey Graham, fresh from his 12 day "Man from Ironbark" season at Victorian Trades Hall in Carlton, Victoria, will present three different one hour shows which will rotate over 9 days in Tamworth this year. Commencing at 2pm daily from Friday 15th through to Saturday 23rd January, the shows will be staged at the Australian Country Music Foundation (ACMF), located behind the Imperial Hotel. These shows, are 'must see' events for true blue bush poetry fans, will cover an extraordinary variety of traditional style works expertly presented by Geoff.

"The Best of Banjo"

offers some 'new' features from Banjo, plus some of the highlights from Geoffrey's acclaimed Banjo Paterson show, "The Man from Ironbark".

"Bush Masters"

Geoffrey, as 'Banjo', takes the audience through a tour of some of the older Masters of verse including Henry Lawson, C. J. Dennis, Thomas Spencer, Will Ogilvie, Adam Lindsay Gordon, John O'Brien and more, yes there's more!

"Modern Larrikins"

Take a dash of spice, some comedy, music and verse, and this blends into a show exploring a cheeky look at the more Modern Dinkum Australian. This show includes gems written by folk such as Charlee Marshall, Bruce Simpson, Tex Morton and Slim Dusty, including some from Geoffrey's own pen.

It is important to note, that in order to secure seating at these shows, it is advisable to book seats, as the ACMF venue has limited space. Tickets are available from ACMF, Ph 02 6766 9691. Also by booking, you may take a tour of the ACMF for no extra charge.

Geoffrey will also be appearing at the Leagues Club, Cattle Camp Kitchen, City Tavern, Grace Bros., Country Comfort Motel and the Longyard.

All enquiries should be directed to Geoffrey, Ph 03 5446 3739 or Mobile 015 425 470.

THANKYOU from the WEBSTERS

To all of you who have sincerely extended your friendship throughout the year, Merv Snr, Chris and myself would like to express our heartfelt thanks. We have enjoyed sharing our show 'Laughter & Tears from the Bush' with so many folk throughout the year and we hope we have played our part in keeping alive the spirit of bush verse.

To the organisers of the many bush poetry functions we attended throughout the year, thank you for your efforts in playing your part and we hope our presence whether as compere, co-ordinator or participants, we helped out in some way.

All three of us will be starting off the New Year by joining in the festivities in Tamworth and hope to catch up with many of you. Have a bush and safe New Year.

All the best, *Merv Snr, Chris and The Grey*

TAMWORTH '99 More Information P 3, 5, 6 & 18 TAMWORTH '99

BUSH POETS OF AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

**MICHAEL DARBY and FRIENDS - TAMWORTH CITY BOWLING CLUB (Napier Street)
Friday 15th - Sunday 24th January, 1999**

"Bush Poets of Australia" organiser, Michael Darby has indeed planned, what promises to be a very entertaining and busy program of Bush Poetry events to be presented during Country Music Week at the Tamworth City Bowling Club in Napier St., from Friday 15th to Sunday 24th January.

A schools poetry competition will be conducted on Friday 16th and will be judged by Liz Ward, Carol Reffold and Ron Bates. Tamworth district public and private schools have already nominated competitors to the primary and secondary categories, and late entries from individual school students will be accepted. Both competition entry and admittance are free.

A lineup of popular performance poets will present two Bush Poetry Charity Concerts to aid the Northcott Foundation and the Salvation Army on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th in the club dining room where good value meals will be available to enjoy. Concert entry is \$5.00. Tickets are available from the club, Salvation Army and the Northcott Foundation or phone 02 6766 6913.

From Monday 18th to Friday 22nd January inclusive, at noon each day Poetry Lunches will be staged. A star performer will comperere each day and again, admittance is free. Every poet in the audience is welcome to perform.

At 2pm each day, following the Poetry Lunches, and also on Saturday 23rd, a series of all-star concerts, with a different program each day will be presented. These concerts will be dedicated to the work of an individual famous Australian Poet and will be headed by a leading specialist in the work of the poet concerned, supported by at least half a dozen award-winning poets. Admittance is \$8 / \$5 conc.

Throughout the 10 days of events, Bush Poets of Australia will present Liz Ward, Milton Taylor, Carol Stratford, Ron Stevens, Noel Stallard, Ron Selby, Carol Reffold, Glenny Palmer, Guy McLean, George Lovejoy, Ken Hood, Bill Hay, Wally "The Bear" Finch, Carmel Dunn, Michael Darby, Ellis Campbell, Ron "Boulia" Bates and Trish Anderson. Enquiries to Michael Darby Ph 0414 666 226. More details page 19.

DATE	EVENT	COMMENT	POETS (Subject to change)
12 Noon Fri 15th Jan	Tamworth Dist Schools Comp.	Primary & Secondary Secs.	Judges: Multi-award winning poets Liz Ward, Carol Reffold and Ron Bates.
12 Noon Sat 16th Jan	Charity lunch and Poetry Concert \$5 entry	In aid of Salvation Army	Liz Ward, Milton Taylor, carol Stratford, Noel Stallard, Carol Reffold, Guy McLean, Wally Finch, Ken Hood, Bill Hay, Carmel Dunn, Michael Darby & Ron Bates.
12 Noon Sun 17th Jan	Charity lunch and Poetry Concert \$5 entry	In aid of Northcott Society	Liz Ward, Milton Taylor, carol Stratford, Noel Stallard, Carol Reffold, Guy McLean, Wally Finch, Ken Hood, Bill Hay, Carmel Dunn, Michael Darby & Ron Bates.
12 Noon Mon 18th - Fri 22nd	Bush Poetry Luncheon <i>Free for All</i>	Free Admittance, good value tucker available	Comperes: Mon - Milton Taylor; Tue - Carol Reffold; Wed - Trish Anderson; Thurs - Ron Selby; Fri - Ellis Campbell.
2pm - Mon 18th Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of P.J. Hartigan	Noel Stallard plus Liz ward, Wally Finch, Bill Hay, Carmel Dunn & Michael Darby.
2pm - Tues 19th Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of C. J. Dennis	Wally Finch plus Liz Ward, George Lovejoy, Ken Hood, Carmel Dunn, Michael Darby and Trish Anderson.
2pm - Wed 20th Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of Henry Lawson	Ken Hood plus Milton Taylor, Carol Reffold, Guy McLean, Michael Darby and Ellis Campbell.
2pm - Thurs 21st Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of Will Ogilvie	Liz Ward plus Carol Stratford, Ron Stevens, Ken Hood, Carmel Dunn, Ron Bates and Trish Anderson.
2pm - Fri 22nd Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of A. B. Paterson	Guy McLean plus Carol Stratford, Ron Selby, Ken Hood, Wally Finch, Michael Darby and Ron Bates.
2pm - Sat 23rd Jan	The Best of Bush Poetry \$8 / \$5 concession	Featuring the work of Charlee Marshall and the modern poets.	Carol Reffold plus Milton Taylor, Carol Stratford, Ron Stevens, Glenny Palmer, Carmel Dunn and Ellis Campbell.
12 noon Sun 24th Jan	One Minute Poetry Championship	Lunch avail. Free Admittance	Compere - Michael Darby.

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"LAUGHS, LARRIKINS & LOVELY LADIES" BOOK LAUNCH IN TAMWORTH

The best laugh yet is to hit or bookstands, when **Glenny Palmer's** newest book lands in Tamworth this month. "**Laughs, Larrikins and Lovely Ladies**" has everything from hilarious stories about her larrikin Dad, to award winning poems covering all subjects from "... the mongrel banks...", to proud grandmothers. Of course, it wouldn't be a Palmer offering if the boys didn't get a bit of a tongue in cheek beat up. There is even a section for the kids.

Glenny's book launch is set to take place at Kelly & Marion Dixon's exciting new "Cattle Camp Kitchen" venue, in Cross Park, Tamworth on Friday, 22nd January at 6pm. Her good mate, musician Stan Lenz, (composer of the popular "Wobbly Boot" song performed on Rolf Harris and Slim Dusty's new album), will be mixing it with Glenny on the night. Glenny's book will be available for sale for \$15.00.

So Mark it on your calendar ... you can have a top feed, a top show, and *still* get an early night. (Or you *could* party on afterwards?)

Glenny, who has collaborated with Stan Lenz will also make an appearance during the launch of his new Album "Following A Dream", scheduled for 7pm on Thursday 21st January at the Cattle Camp venue in Cross Park.

Word is out around the traps that Stan is appealing to all his supporters to come and sing to help drown her out.

This sure could be a night to remember - don't miss it.

SEX, LIES and POETRY

Despite the name, "Sex, Lies and Poetry" promises to provide over two hours of good family fun for bush poetry fans at Tamworth Golf Club this year. Shows are scheduled for Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Monday 18th January at 8pm.

Featuring in the show will be John Major, a traditional poet who will combine the great poems of the past with plenty of modern humorous material to send you home happy. Rupert McCall, Queensland's own world acclaimed sports poet will make his first appearance in Tamworth, so don't miss this opportunity to hear this talented and amicable young man.

Seasoned, veteran performer and Inaugural Australian Champion Poet, Gary Fogarty will assure the audience laughter aplenty, with his tales of Line Dancers and the Greenmount Ball, and more. Also appearing, Neil McArthur, who took Tamworth by storm last year will be working hard to keep you all on the edge of your seat or rolling in the aisles - great talent.

The fairer sex will be well represented by 1999 Bush Laureate Finalist, Joy Major who will perform on Monday 18th.

Mike Horswood, a multi award winning country singer from Chinchilla, Q will also appear to add a musical touch to the evening. You will indeed enjoy his talent. Beat the heat in this air conditioned club and enjoy this great show. Bookings 02 6765 9393.

BUSH POETRY AT THE HOCKEY FIELD

Lorraine & Jim Goodlet, of Cadillac Ranch Productions will conduct a series of free concerts on Tamworth's hockey fields throughout Country Music Week. They aim to provide a venue (using their mobile stage), for artists who may be just starting out in the public arena and therefore hopefully offer support to these newcomers who will gain valuable stage experience in their shows.

Any poets who would like to perform, please contact Jim or Lorraine Phone/Fax 07 5426 8348. Poets performing as follows -

Bob Miller: Sat 16th 5pm, Mon 18th 5pm.

The Webster Family: Sat 16th 4.30pm, Sat 16th 5pm.

Bill Lasham: Friday 22nd 5pm.

Guy McLean: Sun 17th 4.30pm, Tues 19th 3.30pm.

TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, to be held at the Imperial Hotel in Tamworth, 20th-23rd January is attracting entries like bush flies at a barbie. For those poets who are used to "entering on the day", please be warned. There may not be spots for you.

If you want to enter, send a stamped, self addressed envelope to Jan Morris, PO Box 1164, Tamworth NSW 2340 and get in it quickly !!

Jan Morris

BIG BUSH BREKKY

Tamworth, 1999 will see the return of the Jim Haynes' Big Bush Brekky shows at Wests Leagues Club, but in a new fully air-conditioned pavillion. The shows will have a terrific lineup of the best Bush Poets. Paddy Ryan, Shirley Friend and Bob Magor will have regular morning spots exclusive to the show and all your favourite poets too!

BUSH LAUREATE IN FOURTH YEAR

The Bush Laureate Awards have become so successful in four short years that they've forced West Tamworth Leagues club to hire a bigger Hokka. Unfortunately people had to be turned away last yer and the heat wave was at it's peak that day, so there are a new sound and air-conditioning systems for 1999 !!

The Awards will be held on Tuesday 19th January at 2pm. Nick Erby will again host a line up of guest performers and presenters, including slim Dusty and many stars of Bush Verse and Country Music.

Entries were up on last year and the quality of published and recorded verse has improved remarkably in recent years due to the success of this popular and prestigious event. This years finalists are as follows:

Performance of the Year

Col Wilson - "The Thong" (from Blue the Shearer)
Alli Ryan - "How Australian Are You" (from Rhymin' Verse for Aussie Kids)
Joy Major - "A Phone call From Home" (from Hand in Hand)
Paddy Ryan - "Down Boy" (from Blue the Shearer)
Keith McKenry - "The Play (From Bugger The Music - Give Us A Poem!)"

Book of the Year

"Stories For The Old Man" - Rupert McCall
"Vise-versa" - Reg Sylvester
"Voices West" - National Outback Performing Arts
"Donkey Derby" - Bob Magor
"Tales From Mosquito Gully" - Philip R. Rush

Heritage Award

"Aussie Comedy" - Neil Hulm
"Along the Track" - Tom Penna
"Stories for the Old Man" - Rupert McCall
"Aust. Bush Ballads & Poems - Bluey Francis
"Voices West" - National Outback Performing Arts

Album of the Year

"Blue the Shearer" - Col Wilson
"Gettoknowabloke" - Tom Penna
"Bugger The Music - Give Us A Poem" - Keith McKenry
"Tales from Mosquito Gully" - Philip R. Rush
"Rhymin' Verse for Aussie Kids" - Various Artists.

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CATTLE CAMP BALLADEERS SHOW - Cross Park, Tamworth - Fri. 15th - Sun. 24th January, 1999
CAMP OVEN LUNCH AVAILABLE 12.00 - 2.00 PM - DINNERS 4PM - 7PM.

PROGRAM - Subject to alteration

More details from Kelly & Marion Dixon PO Box 24 Camooweal Q 4828 Ph/fax 07 4748 2153

LUNCH SHOW	Fri. 15.1.99	Sat. 16.1.99	Sun. 17.1.99	Mon. 18.1.99	Tues. 19.1.99
12.00 - 12.15	Bill Hay	Ian Tarlington	Bill Hay	Glenn Jones	Geoff Graham
12.15 - 12.30	Jeff Brown	Charmain Pout	Bruce McMillan	Dean Perrett	Ellis Campbell
12.30 - 12.45	Charley Boyter	Bobby Miller	Gus Williams	CD Launch	Gus Williams
12.45 - 1.00	Graham Roager	Johnny Johansen	Guy McLean	Gus Williams	Guy McLean
1.00 - 1.15	Noel Stallard	Ray Essery	Charmaine Pout	Reg Poole	Rick Aitchison
1.15 - 1.30	Nell & Jim Brown	Charley Boyter	Noel Stallard	Tom Penna	Ray Essery

AFTERNOON SHOW

4.00 - 4.15	Rick Hopkins	John Bird	Rick Hopkins	David Smyth	Carmel Dunn
4.15 - 4.30	Carmel Dunn	Trevor Day	Ray Essery	Ellis Campbell	Bobby Miller
4.30 - 4.45	Andrew Clermont	Andrew Clermont	Reg Pool	Andrew Clermont	Andrew Clermont
4.45 - 5.00	and friends	and friends	Gary Lowe	and friends	and friends
5.00 - 5.15	Col Newsom	Ian Tarlington	Carmel Dunn	Col Newsome	Carmel Dunn
5.15 - 5.30	Noel Stallard	Bob Magor	Buddy Thompson	Ray Essery	Bushdrovers
5.30 - 5.45	Arch Bishop	Arch Bishop	Dusty Rankin	Bobby Miller	Gary Lowe
5.45 - 6.00	Tom McIvor	Ray Essery	Terry Regan	Terry Regan	Bob Magor
6.00 - 6.15	Ray Essery	Nell & Jim Brown	Liz Ward	Peter Coad	Tom Maxwell
6.15 - 6.30	Bill Lasham	Tom Maxwell	Jeff Brown	Dusty Rankin	Bruce McMillan
6.30 - 6.45	Buddy Thompson	Bushdrovers	Tom Penna	Glenny Palmer	Dean Perrett
6.45 - 7.00	Milton Taylor	Graham Rodger	Tom McIvor	Stan Lenz	Liz Ward
7.00 - Late	Trevor Day	Bill Lasham	Dean Perrett	Terry Regan	Graham Rodger
WALK UP	Tom McIvor	Bushdrovers	8pm Glenn Jones	Bushdrovers	John Bird
ARTISTS	AND MANY	Jeff Brown	Bary Thornton	Charley Boyter	Barry Thornton
WELCOME	MORE	Jeff Brown	Barry Thornton	& others	Barry Thornton
	Ian Quinn	Col Hadwell	Coad Sisters	Marco Gliori	

LUNCH SHOW	Wed. 20.1.99	Thurs. 21.1.99	Fri. 22.1.99	Sat. 23.1.99	Sun. 24.1.99
12.00 - 12.15	Ray Essery	Geoff Graham	Geoff Graham	Bushdrovers	Mark Tempany
12.15 - 12.30	Ernie Constance	Ernie Constance	Ernie Constance	Dean Perrett	Glenny Palmer
12.30 - 12.45	Liz Ward	Dean Perrett	Bruce McMillan	Johnny Johansen	Stan Lenz
12.45 - 1.00	Reg Pool	Ray Essery	Eric Watson	John Barclay	Bruce McMillan
1.00 - 1.15	Bruce McMillan	Rick Aitchison	Dean Perrett	Tom McIvor	Bushdrovers
1.15 - 1.30	Rich Aithison	Charmaine Pout	Ray Essery	Noel Stallard	Tom McIvor

AFTERNOON SHOW

4.00 - 4.15	Gary Lowe	Rick Hopkins	Ian Tarlington	Rick Hopkins	Bill Hay
4.15 - 4.30	Eric Watson	Dusty Rankin	Guy McLean	Eric Watson	Guy McLean
4.30 - 4.45	Guy McLean	Con Newsome	Gary Lowe	David Smyth	Liz Ward
4.45 - 5.00	Bob Magor	Andrew Clermont	Andrew Clermont	Carmel Dunn	Andrew Clermont
5.00 - 5.15	Don Anderson	and friends	and friends	Ray Essery	and friends
5.15 - 5.30	Andrew Clermont	and friends	and friends	Don Anderson	Don Anderson
5.30 - 5.45	and friends	Bill Hay	Bob Magor	Liz Ward	Col Newsom
5.45 - 6.00	Ian Tarlington	Mark Tempany	Trish Anderson	Mark Tempany	Noel Stallard
6.00 - 6.15	Deean Perrett	Carmel Dunn	Stan Lenz	Trish Anderson	Jeff Brown
6.15 - 6.30	Mark Tempany	Glenn Jones	Reg Poole	Bruce McMillan	Dean Perrett
6.30 - 6.45	Trish Anderson	Trish Anderson	Glenny Palmer}	Terry Regan	Gary Lowe
6.45 - 7.00	John Barclay	Tom Maxwell	Book Launch }	Jodie R	Mark Tempany
7.00 - Late	Jodie R	Dean Perrett	Marco Gliori	Milton Taylor	Trevor Day
WALK UP	Tracy Coster	Stan Lenz }	& Others	Pip Powell	Pip Powell
ARTISTS	8pm Glenn Jones	CD Launch }	Coad Sisters	Warren Mahoney	& Others
WELCOME	Charley Boyter	Pip Powell	Ian Quinn	Jan Crozer	Ian Quinn
		Ian Quinn			

POET PROFILE - CAROL REFFOLD

Born in the small village of Chilworth, Surrey in the UK, Carol began to write Bush Verse in the late '80s

Whilst watching her boys ride bulls at a rodeo at Dallamil, Queensland, Carol was enchanted with the performance of an entertainer at the event, who rode a penny farthing bicycle while a voice over the public address system recited Banjo Paterson's "Mulga Bill's Bicycle". Carol describes it as the most uniquely, crazy piece of Australiana which she has ever witnessed. Thus began her quest as a performer, to share her love of Australia and it's Bush Poetry with others.

She joined the "Bundy Mob", where she began performing her original poetry and the traditional works of Australia's great bards. She was elected to the executive of the group and currently is it's secretary. Carol is a regular performer at the many Bush Poetry events and festivals throughout the country - from Camooweal and Hungerford in the hot, dry North East of

Queensland, to Maldon in the cool greenness of Victoria, and many places in between.

Undoubtedly, her career highlight was at the Rams Head Hotel (Millmerran, Q) Bush Poetry Performance Competition in September, 1998, where she competed against a strong field of both male and female performers to win the "Overall Champion Poet". Her prize was accommodation and entry into the Nambucca Valley NSW "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry Competition where she performed, endearing herself to audiences at several events.

A recent cruise on the "Fair Princess", saw her performing her own full show, where her talents were well received by fellow passengers, many of whom often requested impromptu performances throughout the voyage.

Carol offers a charming and often humorous presentation on stage where she shows to perfection her obvious love of the craft. Her ambition is to perform Australian Bush Poetry to international audiences ... and she will !!!

PUNCTUATE OR PERISH? (or at least look pretty crook on the page.)

Reading words aloud, we use several effects to help convey the poet's exact **meaning** to the listener - long & short pauses, rising and falling inflections, varying tones and volumes, etcetera.

Likewise, punctuation has been developed for the same purpose - to make the writer's meaning clear to the reader. As poets, we fail our readers if we don't make effective use of the punctuation tools.

'All very well,' I hear you say, 'but some of us are confused about the rules. Besides, a lot of modern poems have no punctuation at all.'

Which is true, I admit. How many readers throw up their hands in disgust, unable to make sense of such poems, because lack of punctuation causes confusion and ambiguity? The effect is worsened if the poet has adopted another current fad - a refusal to use capital letters. As the late Charlee Marshall observed on this subject, 'If I want to be puzzled, I prefer to do a crossword.'

What are the rules? Most dictionaries, including the **Macquarie**, have sections devoted to punctuation. These rules apply to formal writing and increasingly are being relaxed in fictional prose and in verse. This article is written - so far - in a formal style, including complete grammatical sentences (I trust!) The majority of poems in traditional/bush-verse form would also follow this pattern. However a poem might also include passages in which the poet expresses his immediate thought processes or his spoken words; neither of which operates in a full sentence form. For example, consider the line:

No longer safe up here. That sound? A cat perhaps.

What this equals in formal prose terms is:

It is no longer safe up here. What is that sound? It's a cat perhaps.

In my view (others might disagree) the punctuation in the poetic version should follow what would be used in the prose form. In that way, the appropriate pauses would be retained. Some writers might prefer to use commas only between the three sections of the line and use lower case **what and it's**. I feel this would weaken the dramatic effect of the line.

Am I getting too complicated? Perhaps I should stick to some general principals:

(A) Use a full stop at the end of a sentence or at a completed short statement (as in the above **A cat perhaps.**) The following word should begin with a capital letter.

(B) Use a comma for short pauses within a sentence which are necessary to make the meaning clear or between items in a list. For example, with no punctuation the following is ambiguous - **He was not beaten mercifully.**

A comma after **beaten** resolves the paradox of there being such a thing as a **merciful beating**.

Similarly in a line, **She packed the sewing, books and tent**, without the comma the reader might imagine she had packed sewing books.

There are so many examples in this article where commas are used to mirror the way, in a spoken passage, we vary our tone of voice, delay subject words or shift emphasis. Commas carry a fair burden in most poems.

(C) Use a question mark at the end of an obvious question. Follow with a capital. There are some occasions when you have a choice. Some might prefer a question mark after **A cat perhaps**, in the above example. It depends upon whether a rising inflection is what is intended in the spoken version.

(D) Use an exclamation mark after - you've guessed it! - an exclamation. But a word of warning: don't overdo it! (as I have done.) It's a weapon to be used sparingly and loses its shock value if the poem is cluttered with random exclamations. A full stop is usually sufficient.

(E) Use a colon or semi-colon with caution and only if you are confident in its use and are sure a full stop or a comma will not do the job equally well. You will see I have used a colon a few times in this article; also I have used a dash; and a couple of semi-colons. Get the message? If still in doubt, I suggest you have a slow study of the dictionary, for the full range of occasions when these punctuations are appropriate.

(F) Use quotation marks at each end of a direct quote within a passage. You have a choice of single or double sets. The message is: be consistent throughout. If you choose **single**, which the **Macquarie** recommends, and you need to make a quote within a quote, this should be in **double**; and vice-versa if you start off with double. For example:

He said, 'I told him, "Go to hell!" and that was that.'

I am afraid punctuation, spelling and grammar are subjects which until recently have been neglected by many of our educational authorities, on the basis of their being 'picked up naturally' in later life. If this small effort has been of some help in redressing this neglect for bush poets, I will be well pleased. *Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW.*

BELTAIN FOLK & MYTH FESTIVAL Wilberforce NSW

Held in the grounds of the historic Hawkesbury Village farm at Windsor, the 2nd Folk and Myth Festival was held on 30th October and 1st November, 1998.

Festival organisers Lydia and Danielle successfully brought together both Celtic and Folk aficionados to enjoy a weekend that presented elements from both cultures.

An open air "Poets Breckie" was held underneath the gum trees amidst the old farming equipment giving the whole affair a very rustic nature. Warren "Arch" Bishop was the genial MC and was joined by Graeme Johnson, Bill Lasham, Richard Mills, Jenny



Carter and Yuri the Storyteller.

Warren and Graeme also presented their own shows during the Saturday in the "Oxboro Inn" a faithfully recreated turn of the century cottage.

Richard Mills shared his personal skills in a workshop "For Men Only", (sorry girls, no telling about this one) also giving further advice about "Finding your voice" during another meeting whilst Graeme Johnson held an informative "Poetry Writing" session attended by all ages (even a couple of school children eager to learn).

While only in its second year, this festival certainly kept the crowds busy with its wide range of activities and artists.

See you all next year *Henry Albany*

BUSH POETRY IN VICTORIA

We are making slow inroads into the entertainment scene in Victoria. This year I have worked with a few other poets like Neil McArthur Johnny Johanson, Geoffrey Graham and the Kyabram Bush Verse Group. Reception has been great at all venues, with most audiences saying that they never knew what to expect. They all claim that they will be back to watch Bush Poets again.

At the moment we find it best to use our bush poetry as a back up at a country music venue as our poetry does not appear to be a drawcard on it's own at present - but we're working on changing that situation.

Since coming home from Tamworth last year, I have been involved, performing at several festivals and fundraising events and have several bookings for this year. Examples are - Toolenvale country Fair, Kyneton Country Music Festival, Inglewood Blue Eucy Festival, Tarnagulla Gold Festival, Dunolly and Trentham Hospital Fund Raisers. Several venues at which I performed last year, had never seen Bush Poetry performances and they are looking forward to future performances.

Other existing venues that appear to be getting stronger are Charlton Bush Poets Breakfast run by Geoffrey Graham, Bendigo Bush Poets Brunch and the Maldon Folk Festival.

This year I have performed at a few corporate shows for DCNR, the Victorian Grasslands Society, Bendigo Arts Council, Passing Clouds Winery Spring Release, Balgownie Winery, Bendigo Writers Group and the Bendigo Country Song Writers Group. I regularly provide back up for the Bush Larrikin Band in the Central Victorian area, and for the Boorooban Hotel near Hay. Also for recent Chad Morgan and Craig Giles shows.

Pre Christmas performances at Bendigo Senior Citizens Christmas Party, Campase Pioneer Museum (the birthplace of the Sunshine Harvester) and New Years Eve at Romani Station in Hay, NSW were all well received.

The highlight of my year was when I was invited by the "Save Ironbark" Committee to assist in the protest to save the name of the suburb of Ironbark in Bendigo when the government wanted to remove it. I wrote a short protest poem that lead into Banjo's "The Man from Ironbark" and performed it at the hand over of petitions with approx. 3000 signatures.

This generated great media coverage - local TV, radio, newspapers as well as the Melbourne Sunday Sun Herald three weeks in a row, and the Aussie Post magazine.

I am pleased to say that we have Ironbark back on the new draft maps, as Ironbark was where I first lived when I shifted back to Bendigo way back in 1967.

Good luck to all and have a safe Festive Season,

Peter (Whipstick Wortho) Worthington

POET PROFILE

PETER WORTHINGTON - "Whipstick Wortho"

Peter was born in Melbourne in 1945 and his family moved in 1949 to Robinvale, a Murray River town in the Mallee.

He was invited to leave school on his 14th birthday and began work as a masonry tradesman with his father and grandfather where he worked as a brickie, concreter, stone mason etc. He worked between seven and eight months of the year because of the local seasonal work. He filled in time working on farms as a stockman, fencer, shearing shed worker, rabbit trapper, kangaroo shooter etc.

He joined the CMF, now the Army Reserve at age 17 and volunteered for national service in 1965 and as a corporal, was posted home to his own unit as a recruit training instructor.

He moved to the Bendigo suburb of Ironbark and in 1967 started a career with the PMG, later Telecom where he began work as a linesman and finished as a Senior Technical Instructor in 1988 following the closure of the depot.

Peter enjoys his family of four and this 2½ grandchildren.

He took up writing poetry in joke form for the Raywood Hotel near home, a series of poems called the "Wally of the Week". The best of these stories are soon to be printed as "Feral Fred from Feralborough".

Although his poetry career has been short, he is performing weekly at the local and has been well received at another 20 venues in the last year.



"MURDER, BLOODY MURDER"....



cried the residents of the small suburb of Bendigo known for many years as Ironbark when they found that in the redrawing of city maps their suburb was eliminated. Located in the western part of Bendigo near Eaglehawk, 160 kms north of Melbourne, Ironbark was one of the first suburbs established in what was then Sandhurst, back in 1851.

The City of Greater Bendigo was requested by the State Government to clarify names and boundaries within the city for the benefit of emergency services, the Electoral Commission, Australia Post and other authorities.

But the people of Ironbark were horrified to find their suburb had disappeared from the new map. Modern residents of the area, who number 400 these days, felt more than indignant when they read in the Bendigo Advertiser their suburb had been axed.

Ironbark, of course was made famous by Banjo Paterson in his poem "The Man from Ironbark"

Local resident, Judy Kidd organised more than 1000 signatures on a petition and orchestrated a letter writing campaign to reverse the decision.

Bush Poet, and long time past resident of Ironbark, Peter Worthington recited "The Man from Ironbark" at the handover of Mrs. Kidd's petition to council.

Peter commented that "the city bureaucrats thought Ironbark was so small it could be rubbed off the map with the stroke of a pen. They spend a fortune on heritage building. If they take our name away it makes them a bunch of hypocrites" he said.

Eventually the almighty force of "people power" prevailed and the City of Greater Bendigo have acceded to the residents request to retain the name of this historic area. They say clouds have a silver lining, but you have to be prepared to get up and polish the chrome. Congratulations to the residents of Ironbark for their success.



OUR LAND

© Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga Vic.

"Have you felt the silk caress of a gentle wind,
On a balmy summer's night?"

"Have you seen the brilliant reds of a western sky
As the sun slips out of sight?"

"Have you seen the glistening grass with it's pearls of dew,
Sparkle in a new born day?"

Washed of the dust from the day before,
"Nature" cleans her day this way!

"Have you seen the leaves that move to and fro,
As they're brushed by a morning breeze,
Like a billion fans swaying to the songs,
Of the birds singing in the trees?"

"Have you seen their stage, lit by an early sun,
As it peeps 'round the curve of earth?"
With those coloured hues of every kind,
Makes them sing for all their worth!



This beauty is nature's backdrop,
These colours no brush could hold,
For they move and change, as the light shines through,
Silhouettes; of the gums unfold!

"Have you heard the music, of this wonderous land?"

"Have you seen swallows dive and dart?"

For to see this play at the break of day
Does gladden the saddest heart!

"Have you seen tiny Wrens and Willy Wagtails,
On fence wires stretched so tight?"

"Have you seen them prance, jig their lively dance,
As birds herald the day's first light?"

"Have you seen, flocks of geese - rising to the sky,
At the start of an early morn?"

All these pleasures of Australia,
As our land gives birth to dawn?"



"Have you seen Roly-poly spin and twirl,
Like when Ballerina's play,
As a Willy-Willy hovers close,
Then they pirouette away?"

"Have you seen the silvery flash of a hungry fish,
as it leaps from waters deep?"

These joys are here for everyone,
Yet most of the people sleep!

"Have you seen a mother swan, drift quietly by,
On a gentle flowing stream?"

"Have you seen her chicks strung out behind,
Like some calm and peaceful dream?"

"Have you seen the silent wings of a gliding hawk,
With his sharp and evil stare,

Seen him drift on thermal currents,
Just a speck in the sky up there?"

"Have you seen a hawk plummet
like a rock,

From those heavens oh so high,
Then; snatch a chick from a
mother swan?"

For to live; so one must die!



MURRAY MOB WARM UP FOR MUSTER

On Sunday, 14th February, the Murray River Bush Poetry and Yarn Spinning Mob, in conjunction with the Mulwala Services Club, extend an open invitation to all poets etc., to attend a day of poetry and fun at one of the Mulwala Services Club's massive auditoriums.

All poets and yarn spinners are welcome, come and have a preliminary warm up at the venue that is holding the Australian Bush Poetry Championships during the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Murray Muster which will be held between 14th-18th May, 1999.

The Mulwala Services Club have offered a free lunch to all of the participants in their lavish bistro.

Plus a number of prizes to be presented at the shows end!

The Lunch starts at 12 noon and the show starts at 1pm.

Come and have a free lunch, recite your best poem or yarn to a great audience. A beaut day in a beaut club. All interested performers ring Johnny Johanson on 03 5744 2213.

If you're gunna come, give us a ring !!

We look after our lot - come and get spoilt by the Murray River Mob !!

NEW CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY PLAQUE

The Murray River Bush Poetry and Yarn Spinning Mob have also donated a one off, never to be found again,, Red Gum Burl, cut in the shape of the map of Australia which will be used as the Australian Bush Poetry Championship Plaque.

This plaque is roughly three feet by three feet. It has space for hundreds of engraved metal shields with past and future winners names, town and state and will most certainly be passed on to wherever the Championships will be held.

It would be nearly impossible to place a value on this unique slice of history which would most probably take at least a thousand years to grow, let alone in the shape of the Australian Map when finished. A conservative estimate of value would be around \$10,000.

A beautiful piece of art by mother nature, and a thousand hours of loving work and care to bring it to it's marvelous finish.

For all poets and lovers of fine art. *Johnny Johanson.*

LIVE POETS' SOCIETY MEETS

Jackie O'Neill writes that a small but enthusiastic group met in Tuncurry on 30th November for the second meeting of the Live Poets' Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley. The Society, formed only two months ago, received a surprise visit from roving poet, Bill MacClure who is based in Tin Can Bay, Q.

Touring poets are most welcome to drop in at future meetings where they can be assured of a warm reception. Meetings are held in the evening on the second last Monday of the month, at different homes each month. Next meeting is to be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 18th January, 1999 at the home of Johnny Walker, 11 Water Street, Forster, NSW, Phone 02 6555 8122. General enquiries about the group should be directed to Jackie O'Neill, Ph 02 6555 33720.

THANK YOU

ABPA Member, Sandra Binns of Kincumber, NSW writes to thank poets who donated product for a recent auction to assist a local lad. The final count was 43 items, mostly books, some tapes and a video which raised \$1,400 (three times their retail value). Overall, the total auction proceeds amounted to \$20,000, so it was a tremendous success and everyone concerned sends their thanks to the Bush Poets who generously donated their products.

I'M NOT RIDING SIR

© Merv Webster "The Goondiwindi Grey"
Bundaberg, Q

*Dedicated to a great horseman and bushman
as well as a true blue Aussie character.*

While sitting in the Vic Hotel
Out Goondiwindi way,
This burnt out ringer and his horse
Reined in and said, "G'Day!"

We'd all been playing 301
He asked could he join in
"Sure thing old mate!" we all agreed
Which brought a toothless grin.

"The name is Paddy Melon boys -
I'll have a pot please love -
I feel I'm on a winning streak
Or there's no God above".

He sat there perched upon a stool
Between the pub's doorway,
And held the reins of his old horse,
It sensed he planned to stay.

The pot went down and time flashed by,
He won near ev'ry game,
But Paddy's knees were bowing fast,
His aim a bit the same.

By late that 'arve the wobbly boot
Had taken full control,
Old Paddy's winning streak had gone
And Nick had claimed his soul.

Poor Paddy's darts they missed their mark,
The grog had soaked his brains,
But Paddy he just blamed the horse.
"Stop pulling on the reins!"

The boys in blue had called in too
And warned him there and then,
"We catch you riding that horse drunk,
You'll see a cell ag'en.

Old Paddy broke and out of luck
Resigned to riding off
And as he rode into the night
He gave a smokers cough.

He'd only gone a block or two
When who should drive on past.
It was the boys in blue of course,
They turned around real fast.

But Paddy though had seen them too
And instinct then took hold,
He jumped behind the saddle quick,
His grin was brazen, bold.

The constable looked up at him,
He'd teach this ringer what.
"We told you not to ride that horse,
You poor old drunken sot!"

But Paddy said, "You've got it wrong,
I am not riding Sir,
You see on this old horse my friend
I'm just a passenger!"

"MUSIC AT THE CREEK" Majors Creek Folk Festival 6th-8th November, 1998

Once again the tiny village of Majors Creek (near Braidwood NSW) was enveloped by the swirling Sth Coast fogs and swamped by an influx of visitors for this years "Music at the Creek" Festival. The delightfully isolated location seems to enhance that feeling of togetherness that Festivals bring through the beauty of it's surrounding countryside and the friendly warmth of it's local population.

Poetry was once again at the fore as far as entertainment goes. The Poets Breakfasts held under the awning of the Beer Tent were hosted by master comedian, singer, songwriter and general all about rascal Martin Pearson as well as the ABPA'S 'Rhymer from Ryde' Graeme Johnson and were full to overflowing both days, (the audience, not the comperes).

Upwards of 24 poets went about their spruiking at each event stretching the time limit allotted as only poets can. As well as the hosts, Dave Meyers and Laurie McDonald

flew the Queanbeyan Bush Poets Banner. Festival organiser, Peter Gillespie made an appearance, as did Campbell the Swaggie No 3? and Rhymin' Simon. Campbell also held sway at the Food Court venue through the day.

Others to grace the floor were Gail Struthers, Laurie McCrimmon, Ralph Murphy, Delia Ossicker, Wally the Local, Tim Shirley, Col Wright, Steve Reed, Jan Lewis, Julie Brennan, Lou Gower, Jane Faulkner and Graham Hume amongst others.

Other highlights included the "Hour of Madness", a concert combining verse/song and 'double entendre' starring Bernard Boland, Martin, Graeme, Bruce Watson and Keith Leech. Graeme also appeared on the afternoon program with his own Poetry Performance space combining both original and traditional work from the masters of the past to the writers of today.

Festival organiser Peter went out of his way to express his thanks to all the poets who had travelled from far and wide to add their energy to that of the weekend.

Yours, *Cervus Wright*

MAN FROM THE SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL

CORRYONG, Victoria - Friday 9th to Sunday 11th April, 1999

Plans are now well underway for an exciting round of performance competition over Easter 1999.

Each of six sections will carry a first prize of \$200 cash and are expected to draw some fierce competition between poets from all areas.

Section 1 is for original work, both adult and junior sections are available, Section 2 for Traditional or Established Work, Section 3 or instrumental or song, Section 4 Yarnspinner, Section 5 best recitation of Banjo's 'Man From Snowy River' poem and Section 6 is the Jack Riley Heritage Award for the best overall performer which will be judged Friday and Saturday nights and at the Poets Breakfasts.

Entry into sections 1-5 is \$5.00 (except junior \$1.00) and automatically covers entry into section 6 or \$5.00 at the festival. Entries close on 26th March. Write to Corryong "Man From Snowy River" Festival (Bush Poetry Entries), Shire Offices, Corryong, Vic. 3707

WINTON C'SHIPS 1999 - IMPORTANT UPGRADE

The "Speewah Awards" listed in the current circular about the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships to be held in Winton Q 24-26th April 1999, have been upgraded to be the official **Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships**.

They will be held in three divisions Juniors (20-50 years), Seniors (50-70 years), Masters (Over 70 years). Further information is available from PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352.

DON'T FORGET !!!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE 1.1.99



SOUTH AUSSIE BUSH POETS REPORT

G'day and compliments of the season to all Bush Poets. Talk about being in a flat spin. Parts of December were like that!! However 1998 has been a very successful year for our first year - all our members deserve a pat on the back for a great effort throughout the year.

Talk about humble poets! With a little research, I found out that not only I, but Olive Gamble and Max Merckenschlager and 3 other South Aussies made the grade for "The Bronze Swagman Book of Verse". It was Olive's third year running and Max's poem was Highly Commended.

Here is a short list of SA Bronze Swaggy Poets.

Jessie Bate - "The Long Drought", Highly Commended

Gerard Houghey - "Soup de Jour"

Max Merckenschlager - "Re-Hearsed", Highly Commended

Olive Gamble - "Dreams"

Ray Jaenech - "Lou Spraggs Boxing Kangaroo"

Peter Chapman - "The Essence of Our Aussie Spirit"

Congratulations to all these people from the S.A. Bush Poets Association.

Gaynor Bowdon Has Been Given A Years Sentence

Gaynor has landed a spot on the ABC Radio Country Hour Show. She has been rostered on with Bob Magor, Tom Penna & Jeff Cook for the whole of 1999. Go Gaynor, (there's no stop'n' this lady) and May God Bless her cotton socks too!

Poetry in the Park

Despite competing with the Pageant, it was a relaxing afternoon. We had people come to listen and people come to read. One notable visitor, published poet George Jenkins, who then came and read again at our last meeting. I hope we all hear more of George!

Christmas Bush Poets

A fair crowd enjoyed our Christmas Dinner at the Alma Hotel where we enjoyed fairly flamboyant festive fun and frivolity. How's that for flirting feverishly and fastidiously with the finer facts of eF words?

Next Year, What's On ??

SA Bush Poets are booked into the whole program of the *Baramba-Berri Riverland Country Music Festival* with plenty to do and say. Don't miss this one if you're a dedicated SA Bush Poet. You will also have to book accommodation early.

The Stars of Willunga Poetry Festival - still unfolding, to be held in 1999 and we will be asked to help, host, organise and perform at various shows - we'll keep you posted.

The Willunga Almond Blossom Festival. After a very successful 1998, we look forward to a more improved program and an even better performance.

If any members of the Association are travelling over the holidays or at any other time please call so that we can get together.

My final task is to personally thank all those who donated elbow grease for this past year. Without the help of others, SA Bush Poets would not have been so successful in 1998. Best wishes to everyone for 1999,

Peter Chapman

POET PROFILE

PETER CHAPMAN - Aldinga, SA

Peter Chapman was born in Tamworth (Australia's Country Music Capital on 1st April (April Fools Day).

He grew up on farms in New South Wales. His schooling was troubled by dyslexia, a difficulty in reading and writing. Nevertheless, his love for literature developed his love for writing Bush Poetry.

After finishing his carpentry apprenticeship Peter travelled and worked across Australia.

Peter now works in Adelaide, running his own carpentry business and on the side does his best to keep Bush Poetry alive with the South Australian Bush Poets Group.

Peter's style throughout his poetry has a distinct brand of bush philosophy of the down to earth, realistic "Aussie".

OUTBACK PICTURE

© Peter Coad, Bundanoon NSW

Cattle round a squatters' tank, with patience, wait for rain.

Despondent desolation, of a windswept, one tree plain.

Scraggy stumps of salt bush, reaching, with a plea.

Sheet of tin waves in the breeze, where the out station used to be.

The windmill creaks, then pauses, for the wind to catch it's breath.

Old wedge tail undertaker, sits grows rich, waiting for a death.

The sand, that creeping sand, it builds against the troughs

The precious water in them lies beneath a film of dust.

The tortured land is dying the terrible death of thirst

Naked to the scorching sun, the abrasive shifting dirt.

Young stock in evening cool, search feed at paddocks end.

The old cows haven't the strength, to go there, and back again.

The price down at the markets has never been so high.

He should've culled the oldest at the beginning of the dry.

The summer rains just never came and the weeks turned into years

First the grass, then the bush, now the top soil disappears.

The manager came from somewhere east, didn't know the warning signs.

Never heeded neighbours, who'd learned from other times.

With cloud upon horizon line he shot five hundred head.

Once again he knew it all. "Dry weather clouds" he said.

The Barcoo and the Thompson flooded Coopers Creek

Lake Eyre became and inland sea, the cattle fat and sleek.

And down along the water course the grass was shoulder high,

He put his resignation in and the bush waved him goodbye.

FOR CONSISTANCY

© 1998 Glen G. Muller, Toowoomba Q.



In the Eighteenth Century
With Garnets prized well,
They adorned the jewellery
Of the Londoner swell.



When King George wedded Charlotte,	In their pinks through to reds
This gem he liked best, So, set in gold and inscribed,	Their charm's easy to see, For this Birthstone speaks boldly
He gave one to each guest.	of your admired, consistency.

Garnet is the Birthstone for those born in January

THE STORM

© Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW
Winner of Nimbin A & I Competition



I see the thunder clouds roll up, beyond the western range.
A muffled steaminess proclaims a sudden weather change.
A sultry sun beams fiercely down and makes the bush twigs crack;
my destination seems too far along the dusty track.

From darkened valleys rumbles swell, and echo distant hill -
reverberate and quaver like a vibrant whippoorwill.
The lightning darts - mischievous - among the scudding cloud;
illuminates the mountain's dome and sheens its peak unbowed.

The thunder growls its harsh discord, with warning undertones;
a sullen silence then before the fierce wind's whining groans.
A lurid glaring stains the sphere and rents the frowning sky;
a frenzied chain-like pattern blown, entangled and awry.

A shuddering explosion booms, vibration shakes the ground;
a shattered giant disintegrates - a lofty tree earthbound.
A vivid sight and awesome sound - transfixed I stand and stare;
no poet's pen or artist's brush can capture or compare.

The acrid smoke is drifting low, and mingling smell of rain;
the hail's onslaught looms turbulent and thunder growls again.
I quail before its fierce assault - a wimp without recourse -
and cower, stunned and powerless, beneath unyielding force.

The rain's deluge comes streaming down, the final whim of *Thor*.
I'm saturated, chilled and tired - yet still engrossed with awe.
The trickling water's icy pang sends shivers down my spine;
my squelching boots are oozing mud and sloshing creeper vine.

Fragmental patch of skittish cloud diffracts - disintegrates;
a censured sun creeps shyly out where misty fog cloud waits.
A smoke-like vapour rises slow, from moisturised, brown earth;
the storm has spent its passion and the parched soil known rebirth.

The brain is a wonderful thing.

It never stops from the time you are born until the moment
you stand up to make a speech (or recite on stage).

The future always arrives a little before you are ready to give
up the past and even the future is not what it used to be.

BOOK REVIEW "A BORN LOSER CAN SOMETIMES WIN"



by Ron Selby,
Toowoomba Q.

President of the A.B.P.A., Ron Selby has published his first book. It is a book with a difference and a refreshing originality about it.

The poet and author is not a very big man, but he is all guts, I can tell you.

His poems are written with a good sense of rhythm and rhyme. They are not the ballad type but are poems with a purpose. His strong opinions are expressed well and are in no case offensive. They give an insight into his life. And his prose - Well! I'll let you decide on that You won't stop reading half way.

Forward written by Carmel Randle. The book is well put together and features Ron's picture on the front and a delightful photo of his lovely family on the back. It also has a nice glossy cover.

I urge you to see Ron in Tamworth to buy a copy, or contact him at home.

Olive Shooter.

BREAKFAST AT GLENGALLEN

The fog was still quite thick when I left home at 5.30am on Sunday, 13th November, '98 to go to the Glengallen Festival Poets Breakfast and Competition at Allora on Queensland's Darling Downs.

By the time I arrived the skies had cleared to the normal sunshine us Queenslanders usually enjoy. I had never been to Allora before and what a pretty little place it is. I now understand why Olive lives there!

I was talking with 'Boulia' Bates and Bill Hay when Ron Selby arrived and we ventured inside the hall. We were soon joined by Olive Shooter and the Dunn family and young Jennifer Haig. Merv and Chris Webster shared a table with me and some of my friends who had come along to give me some moral support, Tom Clark and his wife.

The competition started a bit late but that's nothing unusual. It consisted of Open Traditional, Original and Humorous with no apparent time limit, in fact the entry form made no mention of 'rules'. I guess I'm still learning about performance competitions !! There was also a Junior Competition with the same categories as the Open, and of course an Overall Champion (the poet with the most points scored). The following are the results:

Junior Traditional: 1st Jennifer Haig, 2nd Leisa Marie Jactwitz.

Junior Original: 1st Jennifer Haig, 2nd Leisa Marie Jactwitz.

Junior Humorous: 1st Jennifer Haig, 2nd Leisa Marie Jactwitz.

Open Trad.: 1st Carmel Dunn, 2nd Bill Hay, 3rd Merv Webster

Open Orig: 1st Ron Bates, 2nd Merv Webster, 3rd Carmel Dunn

Open Humorous: 1st Carmel Dunn, 2nd Chris Webster,

3rd .. Dead Heat - Bill Hay and Ron Bates.

Overall Champion - Jennifer Haig

Some very nice trophies were presented to the winners and place getters, and I missed out again !!! Oh well, next time ??? The judges included Olive Shooter and Ron Selby and I didn't envy their tasks and of course as they always do, they did a great job. I guess if the Festival is on again next year, I'll wind up the old alarm clock and head off at some unholy hour on a Sunday morning and once again visit Allora and maybe next time I'll win something
Se ya 'round the 'traps' - have a great New Year.

Ken J. Barnes. 'The Legend'

A GOOD MATE

© Ron Selby, Toowoomba Q.

Life sometimes may get you down —
Make you feel like giving in.
Problems hassles causing your frown?
You feel you cannot win?

So you're on the losing end
And no-one gives a damn?
Worries send you round the bend?
You're really in a jam.

You can't go on feeling blue
And blame it all on fate.
You'll find two heads are better than one
When you have a real good mate!

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

© Bill Glasson, Clifton Q.

There are Jacarandas blooming up above the traffic lights;
I can see them from my window as I watch the city sights;
And I wonder how such beauty can exist here, side by side
With the Cancer Clinic, where the sad and very sick reside.

There are faces burnt and blistered, there are lungs that aren't the best;
There are voices you can barely hear; there's cancer of the breast.
Many men with prostrate cancer feeling slightly woebegone,
Come and have a radiation course and hope their battle's won.

It's a sad and pain filled section but it's seldom they complain.

They prefer to quietly take a pill to dissipate the pain.
And you'll find there's much more to them when you get to know them well,
For they have a fearless spirit that will see them to the bell.

At the Wesley Cancer Centre where this saga's taking place,
Things are handled by a team that works with dignity and grace.
There's always a friendly greeting, every day a happy smile,
And I'd say they're much like Angels, only Angels aren't my style.

Now the Jacaranda blossoms are all falling from the trees,
And colouring the parkland where they're carried by the breeze.
But next spring they'll reappear and thrill us with their gorgeous hue;
And I hope our patients, like the trees, are once more, blooming too.

MOMENTS TRAPPED IN TIME

© John Harris, Kalang NSW

The poet has to photograph these things inside his head
Then use his craft to spell it out the way it should be said.
You've got to sit and think of it and sort it in your mind,
Sift the words through carefully, until at last you find
The words that paint it perfectly, that tell the story right

Then find a pen and paper and find a spot to write
The words that paint the blackest black and sheer clear dazzling white
That lead you from the heat of day into the gloom of night.

That focus on an urchin's stare, or a hostile face of crowd
The emptiness of cemeteries, the soft white down of clouds,
The lightning's flash and thunder crash in the fearsome might of storms
Or the softest, palest tinge of pink that lights the sky at dawn.
The football crowd that burns the seats, their anger on display,
Or the contrast of the little tots, who laugh and run and play.
The dog who sits and chews his bone, as happy as can be
Or the dog who's lost, and sits and waits in abject misery.

The beauty of the butterfly, as it sits and dries it's wings,
Or the rapture of a young, pure face, when the Luton Choir sings.
The softness of a fluffy duck, when first it takes to water,
Or the twisted bloated bodies of the victims of some slaughter.

These are the things the poets see, to commit to verse and rhyme
To make a lasting memory of a moment trapped in time.

SAVAGE GARDEN FURNITURE

© Judy Osborne, Cheepie Q.

The horse was grazing on the lawn,
Contented, quiet and calm;
There was nothing in the garden
To do her any harm
But she must have got her tail caught
In an old cane garden chair -
It took a hold and chased around
A very startled mare!
She galloped past us in a tizz,
The dogs and I, we scattered -
She had to lose that blasted chair
And that was all that mattered.
She bucked and thrashed and galloped,
But all to no avail;
The bloody chair kept following -
It had her by the tail.
There was only one solution -
The chair would have to die ...
So she gave it double-barreled hooves
And kicked that chair sky-high.

POETRY IN GULGONG, NSW

On Saturday, 12th December, Sue & I set out for a Poets Breakfast at Gulgong, having to leave at the early hour of 2.30am.

Arriving at about 6.45 am we were greeted by five barbecues running full blast, and on each, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, steak, mince hamburgers and sausages and an old iron bathtub full of every can of soft drink you can name.

We make our own sandwiches (meaning one or five of bacon and anything else we wished). As much as we could eat as often as we wanted - all available until 11am and amazingly, everything was free !!

The venue was a large area beside the Shell garage at Gulgong. The sound system was perfect, loaned by a local rock band's owner, Brett Hollyoak. Brett also was kind enough to operate the system and did a top notch job for the entire time.

The host was a gentleman named Dave Morrison who owned the Shell garage and throughout the entire morning, made certain we never went without. He doesn't write or perform, he just loves to listen to good traditional poetry - What a groupie !!!

Sadly, Dave wasn't able to advertise the venue because of time

commitments, but will be doing an extensive advertising program next year.

I have personally promised a good line-up of poets next year.

There was a small line up of poets, and a singer, Jim Westwood who recited his songs - most impressive, especially a piece called "True Facts".

My son Bruce, a new member of our Association also performed a very moving original called "Tears of Despair", a story of the rape and pillage of the land in which we live. Bruce is a newcomer and I'm sure, at his steady rate of improvement we will see more of him on stage in the future. I also contributed my own poetry on the day.

This was a great venue, to which I will definitely return next year, and I recommend it to all poets worth their salt to support this group of people for the enthusiasm and zeal they put into the show. *Bill Lasham, North Rocks, NSW.*

PALMA ROSA HAPPYNINGS

from Trish Anderson

In October we were entertained by the poets from North Pine - what a talented group of people! Led by their president, Graham Fredericksen, who was joined by Amita Reid, Carol Stratford, Tony Dale and John Best, we were taken through a whole world of bush poetry, the poets reciting gems from Lawson, Paterson and other masters - to many poems of their own and the contemporary poets such as Milton Taylor.

December saw us showcase singer/songwriter Mark Tempany who has gone from strength to strength. He was joined by the great poet from Susan River Homestead Guy McLean (and of course) his faithful steed, "Nuggett". This man and his horse are something to be seen - the "Horse Whisperer" had nothing compared with Guy!

"Nuggett" came up on the stage - Guy delivered his beautiful sensitive poems and then "Nuggett" happily stepped off the stage amidst amazing applause - he is completely at home as long as Guy is with him.

We had a beautiful night - the weather was kind and 120 happy people sat out on the back lawn under the stars (and a full moon) with our beautiful heritage listed "Palma Rosa" as the back drop - a truly wonderful night.

Many thanks to everyone for supporting the Palma Rosa Poets and Palma Rosa - we hope you have a wonderful

festive season and I look forward to seeing many of you in Tamworth.

NEW YEAR PRESENTATION

On Wed. Feb. 3rd at 7pm, we are fortunate to be able to present to you the one and only legendary poet, author and lyricist Kelly Dixon from Camooweal in Queensland - well known to many of us for his wonderful ballads made famous by the likes of Slim Dusty and Lee Kernaghan - one of the better known being "Leave him in the Longyard".

We are hoping we will be joined by Kelly's great friend and fellow poet **Bruce Forbes-Simpson**, the only Australian Poet to have won two Bronze Swagman Awards.

They will be backed by singer/songwriter Mark Tempany who has entertained us so often at Palma Rosa.

Kelly Dixon, beside being the author of so many wonderful poems and songs has also produced two novels, one book of verse and a cassette of his poetry. He began writing poetry at 12 years of age and has gone on to become one of our greatest poets, performing to audiences all over Australia. Earlier this year he and Bruce Forbes-Simpson, were two of four poets invited to perform at the Royal Melbourne Show. He is also one of the most respected judges of Bush Poetry in Australia.

In Kelly's words, Bruce Forbes-Simpson is "the greatest writer of Bush Verse in Australia today - not only does he write about it - he has done it all!" He has produced three books - "The Territory

Rouseabout", "The Packhorse Drover" and "In the Steps of Leichhardt" and a CD released by ABC in conjunction with Ted Egan. He is currently writing his fourth book as well as being a technical advisor for Ted Egan in the production of his magnificent film "The Drovers Boy".

These three men are all incredibly talented - what brilliant entertainment it will be.

"From the dust of the camps to the stockyards
To the glare of the city and town
I have threaded these stories together
And in verse I have jotted them down.

I have mustered my forests of memories
They are drafted - some fiction, some true
Now, to share with my readers, my
memories -
I offer these verses to you."

"From a Drifters Pen" by Kelly Dixon, © 1997.

Admittance to the evening is \$15 (incl. supper BYO) and we would appreciate you booking ahead. Please ring Trish Anderson 07 3268 3624



AMBROSE

© 1998 Dorothy Carmody, Warrell Creek,

To Adelaide they came in droves.
They came from far and wide.
One can tell the country folk
By the swag of their backside.



Then there's the hats, all practical
With back and front turned down
That lets the rain run off real well,
Not like those mugs in town.

All came to see the Windies play.
To watch young Ambrose have a go.
He may straighten out Border's men,
But how much they didn't know.

This Ambrose with his whiskered chin.
Ambrose with his monkey grin.
Ambrose with his cricket charms.
Ambrose with his deadly arms.

He bowls them hard, he bowls them fast.
The batters blink as they go past.
They sometimes duck and straighten out.
Anything, to avoid that dreaded clout.

If the batter dares to make a stroke
He forgets the wicket and hits the bloke.
There's more than one way to win the game,
Just line them up and take good aim.

Now Boon was out for a golden duck,
And had plenty of mates to follow.
With seven down for seventy-seven
Caused the Aussies tears and sorrow.

Why! Langer was a novice,
An untried bat against the Windies.
And McDermott much preferred the ball
In these serious kinda shindies.

While Ambrose wore a winning smile
That split his face a country mile.
McDermott wore a stuck out chin,
A sign that heels were digging in.

The Windies misjudged Aussie blood.
Stressed - it flows as thick as mud.
The should have learned in times of yore,
Just what is bred on Australia's shore.

Ball by ball the battle raged.
Agog, the audience was quiet dazed.
This tale was strong and how it wagged
In a game that Ambrose thought was bagged.

One seventy one, three, four, five,
The match had certainly come alive.
Pressure was Ambrose's worry now.
Sweat dripped from McDermott's brow.

One more to go for a series win,
When the crowd roared a deafening din.
The umpire's finger went up high.
"That's not out" the fans all cry.



McDermott walked, straight and tall.
He knew his bat never hit that ball.
His victory, he had conquered fears
Of Windies' demon all those years.

Ambrose with his magic ball.
Ambrose stands two metres tall.
Ambrose's arms are long and thick
and reach half way down the cricket pitch.



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

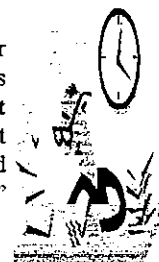
POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- Jan 7 **BBQ & Session**, North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. Venue & Details
- January **Poetry on Hockey Fields**. Jim Goodlet of Cadillac Ranch Productions will be organising The Stage in the Park and MAY have spots for some poets. Please call Jim or Lorraine (Tell 'em Bob sent you) on 07 54268348 to check details.
- Jan 12-22 **Oasis Hotel, Tamworth 12th 18th 4-6pm** Bush Poetry open mike sessions - **19th -21st 4-6pm** Bush Poetry Performance Comp Entry \$3.00, **22nd 7pm** Concert featuring invited Bush Poets . Details Merv "Bluey" Bostock P/F 07 3822 5366 P18
- Jan 15,16,18 **Sex, Lies and Poetry**. 8pm Tamworth Golf Club. Bookings 02 6765 9393 See P 5
- Jan 15-23 **Geoffrey Graham in Tamworth** 2pm daily at Australian Country Music Foundation (behind Imperial Hotel) Bookings 02 6766 9691 or Enquiries 03 5446 3739 or Mob 015 425 470 P 3 & 18
- Jan 15-24 **Cattle Camp Balladeers Show in Cross Park**. Tamworth. Noon & Mid afternoon daily, Family entertainment. Camp Oven Meals. Enquiries Kelly & Marion Dixon Ph/fax 07 4748 2153. P 6 & 18
- Jan 15-24 **Bush Poets of Aust.** Bush Poetry Free for All, Performance Concerts & Junior Competition. Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St. Daily at noon & 2pm pres. by Michael Darby. Details P18.full prog P 4
- Jan 16-24 **Tamworth Bush Poets Breakfasts:** Goonoo Goonoo Room, Longyard Hotel, Tamworth. P 18
- Jan 16-24 **Big Bush Brecky.** 8am-10am Jim Haynes and a host of stars. West Tamworth Leagues Club. P18
- Jan 18 **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes and Manning Valley Meeting, 7.30pm 11 Water Street, Forster NSW** Phone Johnny Walker 02 6555 8122
- Jan 19 **Bush Laureate Awards Presentation.** 2pm at West Tamworth Leagues Club. P5 & 18
- Jan 20-23 **Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition.** Imperial Hotel, Tamworth, NSW. Performance Comp. P 5 & 18
- Jan 23 **ABPA Annual General Meeting.** 2.30pm St Peter's Hall, Vera Street, Tamworth P2 & 18
- Jan 23 **Blackened Billy Verse Comp. Presentations,** Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW
- Jan 29 **Closing Date. John O'Brien Poetry & Prose Comp.** Phone 1800 672392 P17
- Jan 31 **Closing Date. Bronze Swagman Award Written Competition.** Phone 07 4657 1502 P17
- Feb 3 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. Kelly Dixon & Bruce Forbes-Simpson. \$15 per head incl supper. BYO Bookings essential Ph 07 32668 36244 or 07 3262 3769 P14 & 17
- Feb 10 **Closing Date. High Country Poets Comp.** Stanthorpe Q. Details P17
- Feb 13-14 **High Country Poets Performance Competition.** Ph. Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 P 3 & 17
- Feb 14 **Murray Mob Bush Poetry and Yarnspinning Day.** Mulwala Services Club at 1 pm - Ring Johnny Johanson 03 5744 2213. Poets invited to perform. P9 & 17
- Mar 1 **Closing Date. Jondaryan Woolshed Written Competition.** Ph 07 4635 6429 P 17
- Mar 10 **Closing Date. Jondaryan Woolshed Performance Competition** Ph 07 4635 6429 P17
- Mar 13-14 **Golden Bell Poetry Award, Laidley, Q.** Performance Poetry & Yarns - Ph Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269 or bh 5466 5407 P17
- Mar 17-21 **John O'Brien Bush Festival.** Narrandera, NSW Ph 1800 672392 P17
- Mar 20-21 **Jondaryan Woolshed.** Jondaryan, Q. Written and Performance Bush Poetry Comp. P17
- April 4 **Nambucca Heads Bowling Club, NSW.** Poets Breaky open mike \$5.00 incl hot meal Ph 02 6568 5269 P17
- April 9-11 **Man from the Snowy River Bush Festival** Corryong, Vic Ph Jan Lewis 02 6076 1179 or Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845 P 10 & 17
- April 15-18 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Legendary Tales.** Tenterfield NSW Performance and Written Competition. Ph Patti Ainsworth 02 6736 1082 or fax 02 6736 3388 P 17
- April 22-26 **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships.** Details P 17
- May 1-2 **Gatton Heritage Festival.** Gatton, Qld. Performance Comp. Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 6269
- May 14-18 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships.** Mulwala Services Club, NSW Details P 8 & 17
- Aug 5-7 **Bards of the Outback.** Hungerford, Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
- Aug 13-15 **Country on the Tweed.** Includes Poetry and other entertainment. Contact Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Hts. NSW 2486 P3
- Aug 21-22 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552

INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS

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

Maureen Garner, Editor



P.S. ATTENTION TAMWORTH EVENT ORGANISERS

Early submission of your event reports would be appreciated - Thank you.

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
Tuggerah 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 7th December Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde
 Ph Graeme 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
Poets & Mates 8 pm Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur Q
 Contact Wally Finch ph 07 3886 0747
- 1st Friday** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group Q.** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend"
 Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- 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 Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.30 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.
- 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 Pilotos 02 4631 1419
- 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
Junee Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82,
 Junee, 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 3rd Saturday** **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
- 2nd Last** **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley.** Meet at 7.30pm in private home - Ring
 Jackie 02 6555 3720 or Reid 02 6554 9788 for details of venue each month.
- Monday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Tourist Cafe, Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30
 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Tuesday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Friday** **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 Thurs.** **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*



*COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ALL MEMBERS
 from Milton Taylor, Harry Bowers, Glenny & Alan Palmer, Geoffrey Graham,
 Frank Daniel & Richard Mills*



COPY DEADLINE IS 1st DAY OF EACH MONTH

PALMA ROSA POETS

Wed. 3rd February, 1999 - 7pm for 7.30pm
9 Queens Road, Hamilton, Bris. Q

KELLY DIXON &

BRUCE FORBES - SIMPSON

\$15.00 - Bookings essential. BYO
Ph 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769



PRE CHAMPIONSHIP WARM UP MURRAY RIVER BUSH POETRY & YARN SPINNING MOB

Sunday, 14th February, 1999 - 1 pm.
Mulwala Services Club, Mulwala, NSW.

All performers invited to participate in a fun day !!
Ring Johnny Johanson and let him know you're
coming - 03 5744 2213

Free lunch for all performers !!!!



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 Traditional & Original + Novice & Junior Sections

Total Prize Money - \$2,000 + Encouragement Award

POETS IN THE PARK - Sun., 14th February from 10am

Entries Close 10.2.99 - Enquiries and Entry Forms available from
Jack Drake - PO 414 Stanthorpe, Q. 4380 or Ph - 07 4683 7169



GOLDEN BELL POETRY AWARD

Performance Poetry Recitals & Yarnspinning
Conducted by the

Queensland Clydesdale & Draft Horse Society
in conjunction with National Heavy Horse Field Days

Laidly Showground - 13-14th March, 1999

More Info from Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269

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, 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



JONDARYAN WOOLSHED WRITTEN & PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Sunday 21st March, 1999

Performance Sections - Junior, Male & Female
Original And Traditional

Closing on 10th March, 1999

Written Sections - Junior High & Primary
& Senior - All close on 1st March, 1999

Entry Details Jondaryan Woolshed Country Music Rush
PO Box 7038, Toowoomba Mail C. Q 4352

CLOSING VERY SOON!!!!

THE 1999 BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD COMPETITION FOR BUSH VERSE

Verse in Traditional Australian Form

Closes 31st January, 1999 - Limit 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



BUSH POETS BREAKFAST HOLIDAY COAST HOEDOWN

Nambucca Heads Bowling Club

Featuring 'THE MULLUMBIMBY BLOKE'

RAY ESSERY

8.00 am on Easter Sunday, 4th April, 1999

Open Mike Session - All welcome to participate

Entry \$5.00 includes a great hot breakfast

Enquiries Maureen Garner - Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269

TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH LEGENDARY TALES

15th - 18th April, 1999

WRITTEN & PERFORMANCE COMPS.

Details from Patti Ainsworth

Phone 02 6736 1082 or

Fax 02 6736 3388



MAN FROM THE SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL - Corryong, Vic.

9th - 11th April, 1999

For information please ring

Jan Lewis 02 6076 1179 or Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845

WALTZING MATILDA

BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Bush Poetry Festival - Thurs. 22nd April, 1999

Senior Competitions Sat 24th - Mon. 26th April 1999

Prizes - including a trip to Elko, Nevada etc
will be offered to Open Winners.

** MORE INFORMATION LATER **

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarrowonga (Vic) - Mulwala (NSW)

Conducted by the SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB

14th - 18th May, 1999

MULWALA SERVICES CLUB, Mulwala NSW

ENTRY FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

***** STOP PRESS *****

EXTRA SECTION ADDED TO WRITTEN COMP

Please note Junior Entrants sections are
Under 12 years & Under 16 years !!!!

Any person or persons wishing to perform their
own functions throughout the Championships
please contact Yarrowonga - Mulwala Tourism

FREE CALL 1800 062 260

ACCOMODATION ENQ TO THE ABOVE NUMBER

TAMWORTH '99 ... More Information P 3, 4, 5 & 6 ... TAMWORTH '99

LONGYARD HOTEL - TAMWORTH NSW
BUSH POETS BREAKFASTS
 8am Sat. 16th - Sun. 24th January, 1999
 Compered by FRANK DANIELS & TIM McLOUGHLIN
 Featuring all your favourite Bush Poets

TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION
IMPERIAL HOTEL, Tamworth NSW
 Performance Comp. 20th - 23rd January, 1999
 Entry Forms from Jan Morris,
 PO Box 1164, Tamworth, 2340
 or ph 07 6765 7552 (H) or 02 6768 5178 (W)

OASIS HOTEL BUSH POETRY Tamworth
 4 - 6 pm Tues. 12th - Mon 18th January, 1999
OPEN MIKE SESSIONS - Open to Everyone
 4 - 6 pm Tues. 19th - Thur. 21st
PERFORMANCE COMPETITION
 Sections- Junior, Original, Traditional (over 50 yrs)
ENTRY FEE \$3.00 per Section - Enter at venue or
phone/fax Bluey Bostock 07 3822 5366
BUSH BALLADS CONCERT 7pm Fri. 22nd Jan.

THE NAKED POETS SHOW Tamworth Golf Club
 Wednesday 20th - Saturday 23rd January 1999
 4 Evening Shows featuring
 Marco Gliori, Bobby Miller, Shirley Friend
 and Ray Essery - Bookings can be made.
 Ring Tamworth Golf Club - 02 6765 9393

CATTLE CAMP BALLADEERS SHOW
Cross Park, Tamworth - Beside Toyota Display
 Fri. 15th - Sun. 24th January, 1999
 2 Concerts each day - Noon & 4pm
 Australian Style Family Entertainment featuring
 Invited Bush Poets and Bush Balladeers
CATTLE CAMP KITCHEN CAMP OVEN MEALS
 Enquiries Marion & Kelly Dixon
 PO Box 24 Camooweal Q 4828 Ph/fax 07 4748 2153

BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 1999
 for Published / Recorded Australian Rhymed Verse
Presentation - Tues. 19th Jan. 2pm
WEST TAMWORTH LEAGUES CLUB

THE BIG BUSH BRECKY
 featuring JIM HAYNES and a myriad of guests.
 Daily at 8am Sat. 16th - Sun. 24th January, '99
 at WEST TAMWORTH LEAGUES CLUB

SEX, LIES AND POETRY
TAMWORTH GOLF CLUB
 8 pm Fri 15th, Sat. 16th, Mon 18th January, 1999
 GARY FOGARTY, RUPERT McCALL, JOHN MAJOR,
 NEIL McARTHUR, JOY MAJOR (18th) AND MIKE
 HORSWOOD - Bookings 02 6765 9393



Geoffrey Graham in Tamworth
 2pm, Fri. 15th - Sat. 23rd January, 1999
Aust. Country Music Foundation
 (behind Imperial Hotel)
 'The Best of Banjo' - 'Bush Masters' -
 'Modern Larrikins'
 Shows presented on a rotating basis.
 Bookings advisable - 02 6766 9691
 Enquiries 03 5446 3739 or mobile 015 425470

BUSH POETS OF AUSTRALIA - Michael Darby & Friends
Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St., Tamworth

Fri 15th	Noon. Tamworth Dist. Schools Comp. Primary and Secondary School Sections
Sat 16th	Noon. Poetry Lunch for Salvation Army \$5.00
Sun 17th	Noon. Poetry Lunch for Northcott Soc. \$5.00
Mon 18th-Fri 22nd	Noon Poetry Free For All, Admittance Free
Mon 18th-Sat 23rd	2pm Poetry Concert featuring the works of one poet each day - P.J. Hartigan, C.J. Dennis, Henry Lawson, Will Oglvie, A.B. Paterson and Charlee Marshall Entry \$8.00 Concess. \$5.00
Sun 24th	Noon. One Minute Poetry Championship - Free Entry

PERFORMERS: Liz Ward, Carol Stratford, Ron Stevens,
 Noel Stallard, Carol Reffold, Guy McLean, Wally Finch, Ken Hood,
 Ken Hay, Carmel Dunn, Michael Darby, Ron Bates,
 Ellis Campbell and Trish Anderson.

TICKETS: Tamworth City Bowling Club. Entry \$8.00. \$3.00 cash
 rebate at the door to pensioners & students.

Tamworth Enq. - 02 6766 6913 or Michael Darby Ph 0414 666 226
 email- bushpoet@hotmail.com or
<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/8881/Tamworth.html>

VISUAL IMPACT TELEVISION AND VIDEO PRODUCTION

Visual Impact Television and Video a production house formed by Bernie Stahl Management and Greg Davidson Marketing have come up with a package that enables all artists to have that much needed broadcast quality video clip at an affordable price. Securing the services of Paul Spinks, Transworld Media winners of the coveted "Gold Award for Cinematography" and Neil Johnson "Empire Pictures" Award winning director.

This package provides a cost effective medium for producing music clips in a relaxed studio like environment with the support of a live audience. Under the guidance of these accredited facilities including a professional makeup artist, performers at the Tamworth festival have a service tailored to their industry.

This year's venue for video clip production is Tamworth RSL, Monday 18th January from 8am to 11pm, Tuesday 19th 8am to 1.30pm, Wednesday 20th 8am to 12 noon. The Production crew will be available throughout Tamworth until Sunday 24th January.

Clients can leave Tamworth with a VHS or BETACAM master, complete and ready for presentation to their targeted market. Post production facilities can be arranged for those extra special requirements that the client may wish to include.

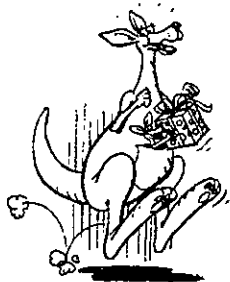
Visual Impact Television and Video have plans to visit all major Australian Country Music Festivals to provide this excellent service for performers and festival organisers.

For information and reservations contact Visual Impact Information, Bernie Stahl Management, PO Box 1189, Mudgeeraba, QLD 4213 or Ph 07 5578 1133 Fax 07 5578 3422

**DON'T FORGET THE AGM
 IN TAMWORTH - DETAILS PAGE 2**

THE PRODUCT SHELF

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growing up in the
country.



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THE PRODUCT SHELF

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A Great CD of Peter's Traditional Style
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Available for \$20.00 pp
from Peter Coad,
PO Box 7, Bundanoon, NSW 2578



AN INVITATION to the AUSSIE CHAMPIONSHIPS

C ALLING ALL POETS, CALLING ALL POETS
H OW ABOUT SENDING THOSE ENTRIES IN EARLY,
A ND TO BE SURE, YOU'LL BE HELPING THE ORGANISERS
M ULWALA ON THE MURRAY - WHAT A SIGHT - THE WEST COAST OF NSW MATE.
P RETTY AND A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE AND
I AM READY TO EMPTY A FULL MAIL BOX EVERY DAY
O VER AND OVER AGAIN, OR DAY AFTER DAY.
N UMBER ONE ENTRY WAS FROM CHARTERS TOWERS, THANK YOU SALLY-ANN
S O FIRST OF ALL, WRITE, RING OR FAX
H OME AND I'LL SEND YOUR ENTRY FORMS.
I THANK YOU ALL AND WISH YOU A HAPPY AND
P ROSPOROUS NEW YEAR, FROM THE
S ECRETARY, SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB INC.

Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641
Phone 02 6025 33845 or Fax 02 6025 3847

NEW MEMBERS

Bob Malloy - Adelaide SA
John Hart - Toowoomba Q
Bruce Lasham - Mudgee NSW
Joyce Alchin - Corrimal NSW
Kevin Campbell - Hartley NSW
Judy Osbourne - Cheepie Q
Mr & Mrs LW Macleod -
Narromine NSW
Pat Whyte -
Farmborough Heights NSW
*Welcome to the Australian Bush
Poets Association Inc.*

MAURICE SAGOFF

1909 - 1998

A master of terse verse
Maurice Sagoff has died at a
hospital near his home in
Massachusetts. He was 88 and
author of *Shrinklits*.

Subtitled *70 of the World's
Towering Classics Cut down to
Size*, the book abbreviated
great literature into short verse.
Here is Sagoff's version of
Crime and Punishment.

Up-tight student
Axes pair.
Fearful, with the
Cops aware.
Yet vainglorious,
He won't chicken

Till by Saintly
Sonia stricken;
Then confession
Trial and sentence:
Eight Siberian years
Repentance
Floods his spirit,
Hang-us cease
She will join him
Seeking peace ...
In that bleak
Siberian hovel,
Watch him, Sonia
With that shovel.

For much of his life
Sagoff had been content with
Dostoyevsky's original. Then
he read about universities
cutting funds for libraries and

it set him to thinking - a
process that for Sagoff
frequently veered into the
absurd. He came up with the
idea that if library space was at
a premium, the world needed a
three-centimetre shelf of great
literature.

Sagoff shared his view
in a tongue in cheek 1968
article for *Mademoiselle*
magazine, which included an
abbreviated *Alice in
Wonderland*:

Holed up With bunny
Pre-teen Acts funny
Aberrations Hallucinations
Wild scenes Tarts, Queens,
Clearly, she Needs therapy.

For Sagoff, who for
years dashed off doggerel to
celebrate special occasions,
the excursion into mock
literature might mercifully
have ended there if the verse
had not caught the eye of a
New York book editor who
commissioned that book.

It was a huge success
and is still in print with new
classics.

Sagoff's first wife died
in 1969. He is survived by his
second wife, Charlotte, and
two children, Sarah and Mark.

New York Times



Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

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January 1999

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

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Thank You to Our Contributors

Trish Anderson	Graeme Johnson
Kev J. Barnes	Leo Keane
Sandra Binns	Bill Lasham
Ellis Campbell	John Major
Dorothy Carmody	Jan Morris
Peter Chapman	Glen G. Muller
Peter Coad	Jackie O'Neill
Ces Cox	Judy Osborne
Michael Darby	Glenny Palmer
Kelly Dixon	Carmel Randle
Jack Drake	Carol Reffold
Bill Glasson	Lorraine Richards
Geoffrey Graham	Ron Selby
John Harris	Olive Shooter
Judith Hosier	Ron Stevens
Neil Hulm	Merv Webster
Johnny Johanson	Peter Worthington

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity, to wish all poets who will be on stage in Tamworth, the very best of luck for their respective appearances throughout the festival. This year, we have a wonderful choice of Festival venues and competitions which will display the enormous talent of our Bush Poetry performers, many of whom will be performing for the first time.

While preparing the information relative to the Festival, I felt justly proud that Bush Poetry indeed provides a great drawcard for this, and many other such festivals, offering a uniquely Australian form of entertainment to the many thousands who attend specifically to enjoy the spoken word. Along the way we will continue to attract new interest, due in no small way to the talents of our wonderful poets.

A special note of thanks must go to someone who has been of great assistance to me, as Editor throughout the last year. The lady of whom I speak is my proof reader and BP groupie, Heather Heywood who does a great job in helping to bring to you a quality publication. Thanks Heather, you're a "Champion". Take care everyone and I'll hopefully see many of you at our AGM,

Mawren Garner, Editor

