

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 2 Volume 6

February 1999

TAMWORTH 1999 - COMPETITION RESULTS



THE BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION - 1999

- 1st - COL HADWELL, Byron Bay, NSW -
"Our Youth Our Future"
2nd - Trevor Shaw, Thangool, Q -
"Garage Sale Addict"
3rd - Barbara Nelson, Briggenden, Q - "Silver Threads"

Highly Commended

- John Barclay, Narrabeen NSW - "The Derelict"
Greg Scott, Scone NSW - "The Neverknow Hotel"
Bill Lasham, North Rocks NSW - "Uncertainty"
Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "Come Off the Grass"
Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW -
"I Am Sap & Grain I Am Sweat & Blood"
Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW - "We Called Him Quilpie"
Peter Handbery, Alstonville NSW - "Frank and Ernest"
Bob Miller, Mungar Q - "My Elusive Dream"
Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW -
"The Wrath of Granite Fyson"
Hope Galvan, Cootamundra NSW - "Making Do"
Tony Hammill, Brisbane QLD - "Blood and Love"
Jody Handley (11 yrs), Thargomindah QLD - "Feral Cats"
Kathryn O'Sullivan (aged 14 yrs.) - Untitled

Encouragement Awards

- Erinn Whittley, (aged 14 yrs) Armidale NSW - "Isolation"
Kimberley Symonds, (aged 14 yrs); Parkes NSW - Untitled
Marissa Johnson, (aged 16 yrs.); Mittagong NSW -
"Nothing Matters Much"
Marissa Johnson, (aged 16 yrs.), Mittagong NSW -
"The Sunburnt Heart"

This year was the most challenging ever in terms of standards and subject matter. As it was last century and later, the poems have mirrored the author's feelings of national problems, personal thoughts and experiences, with a nice mixture of tongue-in-cheek humour as well. I was interested to note the decline in entries dealing with the old "dream" - the ghostly apparitions of yesterday. have given way to more realistic thoughts it seems.

I have given many poets a note to extend their poems. The overall quality is so good that a short poem is hard up to develop it's story and interest level when compared with the longer, more carefully structured work. I felt that many poets can easily write longer poems now that their standards have risen significantly.

1998 was a great year for the poets and that is particularly easy to see in the "Blackened Billy". Congratulations to winners, all participants and organisers alike.

Bill Gleeson, Judge.

TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMP.

Imperial Hotel - 20th - 23rd January, 1999

Traditional Section

- 1st - Guy McLean, Susan River Q.
2nd - Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW
3rd - Terry Regan, Blaxland NSW.

Original Section

- 1st - Roderick Williams, Murrurundi NSW.
2nd - Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW.
3rd - Terry Regan, Blaxland NSW.

Over 100 Bush Poets took the stage throughout the three days of keenly contested competition which employed a judging panel of 12 to determine the results.

Congratulations to both competition section winners, and to the event organisers, who have elevated this competition to become the most significant event of it's kind across the country.

OASIS HOTEL BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION - 1999

- Junior: 1st - Careen Whitman. 2nd - Stuart Niverson
Encouragement Award: Sera Bird
Novice: 1st - Joy Wheat. 2nd - Darren Scott
Open Original: 1st - Trevor Hargraves,
2nd - Terry Regan, 3rd - Guy McLean.
Open Trad: Equal 1st - Noel Stallard & Trish Anderson,
2nd - Terry Regan, 3rd - Anita Reed.



1999 - BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

Performance of the Year:

Alli Ryan - "How Australian Are You"
(from "Rhyming Verse for Aussie Kids")

Book of the Year: "Donkey Derby" - Bob Magor

Heritage Award: "Voices West" -

National Outback Performing Arts,

Album of the Year:

"Buggar the Music - Give Us a Poem." - Keith McKenry

HOPE © Glen G. Muller, Toowoomba Q.

That I might gaze upon your smile
To fill this crushing void,
And tarry in your company
Again, a little while.

For all the
Valentines



To feel your body warm
When I take you in my arms,
Renews my hope and strength
Again, to face the storm.

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Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

I'm settling in to work again after a wonderful 10 days in Tamworth. Wasn't the poetry great? It was impossible to see it all. I enjoyed meeting members who had been in contact with me but hadn't met personally. And the country music. We went to the awards in the new BIG Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre where they sat 5,200 people and we weren't crowded. Early in the week, I lost my purse and \$200 at the Oasis Hotel, being lucky enough to have it handed in to the hotel staff, and then unlucky enough that it wasn't there when I went to collect it. If any of you find anything, I advise you not to hand it in to the business, but to take it to the police. That way you will be contacted if it should be unclaimed.

The Annual meeting went off with a lot of rushing. We just do not have the time needed to conduct the meeting properly. Office bearers remained the same and I thank you for having me again. Our thanks to St. Peters Anglican Church for the use of their hall for our meeting.

Our members did well in a number of competitions and I congratulate you all, in fact anyone who competed, for you were all winners in placing our particular art before the public. I congratulate Bob Miller for his songwriting success.

All proposed alterations to the constitution were approved and I will print them up for you when I get time. I am receiving your annual subscriptions in the mail every day now and am kept busy processing them. Please keep them coming, because you will not receive a newsletter in March if you are not financial. Fees are \$25.00 annually. Please send to me please.

The Annual Book of Verse is now available and those of you who have them ordered will receive them soon. We need to sell a lot of them and the other back copies too. Please consider buying them. *Olive Shooter.*

President's Report

First of all, may I thank the members at the meeting, for their vote of confidence in re-electing me as President of the Association for another term.

We had a fairly trouble free year as far as the committee went but the main reason for the easy sailing lies with the terrific effort put into the Association by our very competent Secretary, Olive Shooter and the magnificent ability of Maureen Garner in bringing you, the member, up to date in the goings on around the country with the competitions and events. Remember, Maureen can only continue to bring you the latest up to date information, if you, the member, let us know of any event in your area.

Bob Miller and Elizabeth Ward were returned to the committee, and I am sure they will continue to assist in the smooth running of the Association.

Quite a few subjects were raised at the meeting in Tamworth. One in particular was the subject of 'The Code of Ethics'. I'm sure all members would not like to see the Association become a law enforcing body, even though, we as a united body of poet enthusiasts, could possibly persuade different organisations in their decisions relating to events and maybe contents, I feel we can and should not appear to lay down the laws to any other organisation, whatever the topic.

I'm sure all members are aware of our 'Code of Ethics', and basically, would follow the suggestions put forward. One of the main 'codes' is to always acknowledge the author of any poem that may be not your own work. This to me is simple common courtesy, particularly if the poem, for example starts with something such as 'I have done this or that' or "I was born way out in the mulga" or whatever, because this straight away conveys to the audience that you wrote the poem you are reciting ... OR, if a performer alters a poem to convey the 'first person', for example: Blue the Shearer wrote "The Poker Machine Addict" and the first line is; "A fella goes to the doctors and says 'Doctor, I'm in pain'; but I have heard the same poem start with "I went to the doctor and said 'Doctor, I'm in pain'. Straight away the poet is telling the audiences that this experience actually happened to them and not some other feller that another poet has written about.

I'm sure we would all like to receive acknowledgement for a poem worth reciting and would all like to see credit given where credit is due. It may be easier to include some 'Ethics' in the magazine from time to time as a 'Rule of Thumb' for all members to follow. But then again I reiterate that we should not or cannot lay down the law and say that all poets must follow these rules. The decision is entirely up to you!

Well, putting the soapbox away, I would like to congratulate all the performers, organisers and winners at this year's Tamworth. They have all done our art of Bush Poetry full credit. And, as it seems, some events were plagued with some hiccups, these have been taken into consideration and should be rectified in the future.

Another full year ahead is planned by the various groups organising competitions and events, and I urge our members to try to give them your full support and to keep other members up to date with the goings on via the magazine. Thank you, *Ron Selby, President*

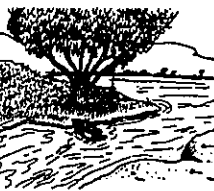
ATTENTION JUNIOR PERFORMANCE POETS

High Country Poets Performance Competition need more junior entrants - Ring Jack Drake. Details P 16

KYABRAM & DIST. BUSH POETS REPORT

The Christmas party meeting was held at the Ky Fauna Park Room on Monday 7th December. Over twenty people attended and the feature of the night was the Christmas verse presented.

Everyone in the room contributed to a great night. We had original verse for Christmas from Joan Hill, Betty Olle, Molly Sparks, Mick "The Bait Layer" Coventry, "Skew Wiff" Watt, and John Johanson's "End of a Legend" featured prime venison. The Christmas continued with verse from Herb McCrum, Des Ginnane, Thelma Kay and Denis Attwood. Les Parkinson, our secretary (sometimes Santa!) and Trevor Hargraves added to a happy night.



Our group is to hold a special "Back to the Bush" verse and yarns night on Wednesday 3rd March at the Kyabram Club. This is part of the "Back to Ky" week celebrations.

Our group meets on the first Monday of every second month, the next meeting scheduled for 5th April. Our group President is Mick Coventry and Secretary Treasurer is Les Parkinson are amongst members from Shepparton, Echuca, Namurkah, Bendigo and our own district.

Recently our group made a \$100.00 donation to the organisers of the Australian Championships. If you are in our area at that time, please drop in as everyone is welcome. See you later and have a great 1999. Your poetical pal,
Grahame Watt.

MY DAD AND THE DON

© Keith Ireland, Nth Rockhampton Q.

My Dad would talk about Bradman,
A cricketer set apart,
With a bat and ball against the wall
He learned his batting art

His cover drive, the pull to leg,
so many shots to name
And as a lad just like my Dad
I learned to love the game.

My Dad was no mean cricketer,
A rep player he had been
But with the war and his own store,
His skills were no more seen.

Except in our backyard some days
When he bowled on our rough wicket
For me to play, in the right way
To learn the finer points of cricket:

We'd practice cricket when e'er we could,
until the sun had gone
And Dad would say as we packed away
"Aim for the best, the Don."

Cricket filled my primary years
And secondary school as well.
I played the game and hoped for fame
But the enjoyment still was swell.

When new players came upon the scene,
My Dad remained unmoved
And I would try to show him why
The cricket had improved.

Dad would never disagree.
He'd often say, "That's true.
These blokes are good but so they should
They're in a test match too."

But Dad could turn the subject round,
In any conversation
To let me know how The Don would go
In such a situation.

That's the way it always was
Around the kitchen table.
More debate on who was great
Or who was just more able.

About this time the world was changed.
Television did arrive
With games relayed and shots replayed
And matches screening live.

When I married and moved away;
Had a family of my own.
I was always glad to visit Dad
When the cricket tests were shown.

And we'd compare the players
and who was the greatest of all
But no matter, who the batter
The Don would always stand tall

We'd sit and watch the Chappells bat.
The majesty and style,
Difference in stance, the elegant glance.
The runs they would compile.

But regardless of who saved the innings,
On wickets good or poor,
It always amazed me though never fazed me
That the Don had done that before.

My Dad has finished his innings now,
Watching cricket from above
And I feel sad 'cause I miss my Dad
And our talks of the game we love.

I wonder how he'd rate Border,
Or the Waughs' enthralling careers
With that of the Don and the others who've gone
Through the ensuing years.

My Dad was a kind of hero to me
For he was the style of The Don
Of the old school, he followed the rule
And this he instilled in his son.

I hope there's cricket up there for you Dad
And I want to say, "Thanks a lot".
For all that you taught me and how you'd support me.
It's something I never forgot.

I also want to say "Thanks" to the Don,
Truly a legend supreme.
For the hours of joy for a Dad and his boy:
I'd have loved to have played in your team.

Bitz 'n Pieces

Over the past few years an advertisement has appeared in various publications inviting amateur poets to enter an international poetry competition.

There is no entry fee but poets considering submitting material are advised to ponder upon whether or not this invitation is disguised vanity publishing.

Urunga "Poets in the Club" group have changed their regular meeting date to the second Saturday each month.

The group meet at the Urunga Golf Club's dining room from 1pm. Readers and reciters of verse, especially juniors, are very welcome to come and share their work.

The Groups meeting set down for Saturday 13th March will feature the work of junior poets who entered the recently held City of Coff's Harbour National Australian Bush Poetry Written Competition.

Enquiries:
Keith - 02 6655 6835
Maureen 02 6568 5269

THE MUSIC OF THE BUSH

© Joyce Alchin, Corrimal NSW

The ripple of a trout stream, a flowing waterfall,
Bark tumbling to the ground from old gum trees.
An early morning chorus of birds in joyful song,
The whisper of a gentle summer breeze.
There's raindrops falling softly upon a thirsty ground,
And humming in a busy hive of bees.
So many sounds around us, together they all bring
The music of the bush to you and me.

There's thunder crashing round us as storms bring wind and rain,
And branches twisting, groan and fall quite near.
The rush of flooding waters down creekbeds not long dry.
Then later, crackling bushfires create fear.
The mustering of the cattle, the beat of horses' hooves
A cracking whip which echoes loud and clear.
These are the sounds that greet us, the voice that is the land,
The music of the bush, it's ours to hear.

Machinery droning gently while working up the soil,
The shearing shed with noise and sound to spare.
Hear many sale yard voices, see farmers in the town,
They meet and have a yarn, their lives to share.
The ring of country music, the strumming sweet guitars
That blend with country singers everywhere.
All bringing songs that thrill us in perfect harmonies,
The music of the bush drifts on the air.

OVERSIGHT

© 1998 Pelican Stone, Albany WA

I found a fine old Muscat as I tidied up debris.
A distinctive bell shaped bottle on the shelf.

I picked it up to stroke it and then clutched it close to me,
Not forgetting I was standing by myself.

The glass was green and heavy, it shone gleaming in the light.
The dark label edged with crimson, writ with gold.

I turned to read it slowly, for my eyes blinded in delight.
Amongst the dozen dead marines, it stood bold.

A Baileys of Glenrowan, eighteen proof, half full, half gone.
A fine old Liqueur Muscat left for me.

What lucky chance befell me, this rich treasure stumbled on.
Still alone, bemused I pondered could this be?

If oversight did leave it and it isn't meant for me
Then you should travel back again, making haste.

We'll sit and drink together. Now hear this my honest plea,
Make your visit soon, for now I have the taste.

"Hipshot" is expecting two new additions to his grandkids, and he came up with the following:

The girls all danced in sheer delight
And gathered 'round their mother
when she announced the other night
"You're getting a little brother!"

"Let's all put on our thinking caps
and pick a name that fits!"
The Old Man rolled his eyes and said.
"I think we'll call it QUILTS!!"

CHILDREN OF THE STREET

© Bill Lasham, North Rocks NSW

They move as creatures of the night,
with a shuffle as they walk,
and they barely move their lips at all,
with their special kind of talk.
And when you look straight at them,
your eyes, they fail to meet.
For these are special children now,
They're the children of the street.

Some of them are runaways,
The hurt and the abused,
Their minds and bodies carry scars
that other people used.
Then when they finish with them,
Whether it be girl or boy
They threw that little child away,
like a baby does a toy.

So then the kid that never asked,
to be conceived, or born
lived on the street, an object,
of derision and of scorn.
And you see their bodies cower
in their eyes you see defeat,
And you know they've joined the "Brotherhood"
of the children of the street.

As adults we all criticise these
children of the street,
With baggy clothes, and unkept hair,
and dirty smelly feet.
And I know that these are modern times
But, have we changed so much?
to ignore these children of the street.
Or have we all lost touch?
with what the world is all about,
to care for one another,
because the child that walks those lonely streets,
is your sister or my brother!

POETS AND MATES

Our next Poets and Mates will be at 7.30, 12th March, featuring the talents of Michael Darby and Carol Stratford. Michael is a well-respected multi-award-winning poet, performer and judge of bush poetry. He was recently a finalist in the traditional and original sections of the performance poetry competition held at the Imperial Hotel Competition during Country Music Week in Tamworth. Carol is also very well represented in competitive performance poetry with both a dramatic and a bright breezy repertoire of traditional and modern poetry.

On Wednesday 3rd March at 9.30 am we invite you to join us on our new venture. It is designed to cater for those who don't like to travel at night. Our morning will take the form of a Devonshire tea served up with lashings of bush poetry. It will be called a "Poet's Cuppa" and we are looking forward to getting this one underway.

"Poets and Mates" and a "Poet's Cuppa" are held at the Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur. Q 4503.

For more information, please call Wally or Mary on 07 3886 0747.

See you there, *Wally (The Bear) Finch*



THE FROG

© Don Lloyd, Pillar Valley NSW

A hollow log in a gloomy bog...
was once the home of a fat young frog.
On a lily pad he would grumble and groan
And say "it's so sad to be all alone".

He felt his friends treated him like a dog.
He couldn't make friends with a lady frog.
So tears of pity came into his eyes,
And he sat in the sun and wished he could die.

Now the gloomy bog was fed by a creek,
And a big catfish with whiskers sleek,
Had cruised on down to the gloomy bog,
Because he wanted a meal of a fat young frog.

The catfish was looking and saw the frog there,
And said "I hope that chap is saying his prayers:

For I'm as crafty, as crafty can be,
And there's not many frogs get away from me.

But he leapt too soon and his jaws went crunch,
and he only just missed having frog for lunch.

The frog took off with a terrified leap,
And landed safely on the bank of the creek.

Now his head was spinning and he couldn't speak

And his heart beat faster for about a week.

He said "That would have been a tragedy,
If the old catfish had eaten me."

For he suddenly saw that the sky was blue.

There were places to go and things to do.

And he wondered why things looked so bright.

I guess you could say he'd seen the light.

So he put some bright paint on his old log,

And now says he lives in the happy bog.

He throws big parties and it's quite a sight
To see the frogs dancing on moonlight nights.

He wrote a book in his hollow log...

Called, "Hop Through Life", by B.A. Frog.
What does B.A. mean? I knew you'd enquire.
His name is Bertram Alexander Frog-Esquire.

Then he wrote another most learned tome
Called, "You Can Be Happy While Living Alone".

And this book was released to rave reviews
Now he's on the Tee Vee, and in the news.

But on lecture tours he's come into his own:

He flies around, has a mobile phone;

His agents make bookings for ten percent;
And his secretary knows just where he went.

His message is as simple as it can be,

And if frogs will listen he gives it for free.

He says "Enjoy your life, don't cry and moan,
For worse things can happen than being alone".

WHO JUDGES THE JUDGES?



Since Bobby Miller first raised this question, heaps of constructive, healthy debate has been written on the subject, by people whose informed opinion is easy to respect. The quality and soundness of their comments brings only credit to the writers and the Association as a whole. As one who has judged in other disciplines far removed from bush poetry, I hope my two cents worth also adds something constructive.

So what is the answer to the question "who judges the judges?" In the final analysis this should be the competitors themselves. Judges who are good at what they do will attract entries, those who are not good will not attract entries. It's as simple as that.

Of course, this is of course dependent on publishing judges names on all advance publicity for the event. Admittedly, there are many reasons for not publishing such vital information, one of which is keeping options open right up to the last minute.

However, the issue of advance notice of judges must be seen from a competitors point of view. Without competitors there is no contest. Competitors like to know certain things - like by whom they are to be judged:

- someone they trust;
- someone who is fair;
- someone whose informed opinion is worth having;
- someone who gives constructive commentary;
- and so on.

Judges with a track record of competitor trust and respect will attract entries from near and far. Many serious competitors have already demonstrated a willingness to travel huge distances to take part in competitions. Who would go across the road to be judged by one whose competence is doubted for any reason

By publishing judges names in advance it will soon be obvious which judges attract large response from competitors in the form of entries. It will also be obvious which judges don't. Who'd risk running an event where judges don't attract respectable entries? In the process, one would hope, undesirable judges would be rejected and only the best judges will be left. What could be simpler than that?

Wally (The Bear) Finch

POETRY

The C. C. C. C. C. Formula

'Content' means subject matter.

Perfect 'Clarity' comes next.

Then 'Cadence' phrases, syllables
that rhyme/scan through the text ...

'Compression'; don't use twenty words
when ten or less would do.

Take great 'Care' writing poetry ...

YOUR EVERY WORD IS YOU.

© 1999 Tom Stonham, Kempsey NSW

"Bugger the Music, Give Us a Poem!" - A Note from Keith McKenry.

I was honoured to win the Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Award for 1999, Album of the Year at Tamworth, for *Bugger The Music, Give Us a Poem!* Unfortunately, I couldn't be there in person to accept the Award, but I was pleased my friends at Mulga Music were able to do so on my behalf. The album is available from ABC shops and outlets from Mulga Music, and direct from me at Fanged Wombat Prod.. It's price, including postage, is \$19.95. Our address is Fang Wombat, 5 Bonny St., Ainslie ACT 2602 or phone/fax 02 6247 9656. We are also on Email at FangedWombat@Bigpond.com.

Keith McKenry

A FLUSHING SUCCESS © Judy Trew, Gin Gin Q

In a little country town, folk were destitute and down.
For the loss of tourist trade had bitten hard -
Despondency ... depression ... from mercantile recession.
Caused the business folk concern in this regard.

So they called a chamber meeting, sent a raspberry to Keating
And invited all the dignitaries along,
To vocalise their theories, how the town could knock "The Drearies".
In eloquacious drivel, loud and long.

Now the slump that hit the township had caused a little hardship
to the Publican and all his drinkin' crew -
There was "Dutchie", Syd and "Jumbo", "Chuckie"; Dulce (The
Dag) and "Dumbo"
Who hadn't swilled a coldie, nigh on a week or two.

For the hard-pressed publican, the future days looked grim -
He could no longer keep up the charade -
He'd depleted "Carlton Cold", "Tooheys", "Powers", "XXXX Gold -
Was reduced to sellin' "Two Dog Lemonade".

Now "Blue" had had enough ... he knew that things were tough -
It was time for this "old dog" to have his day!
So he stormed into that meeting, without "by your leave" or greeting
And no bludger would evict him until he'd had his say.

"Look here ya bunch o' twits! It's givin' me the s...its
That ya can't see further than ya' flamin' noses!
In the middle of the street, a mine o' gold concrete
Is ready for the pickin' .. ya peerless pack o' posers!"

"Ya want the tourist dollar?" .. old "Blue" let out a holler,
"Well do any of youse know what the tourist do
When they pull up in the shade of our central esplanade?
That's right! They eat an' drink ... go to the loo!

I've never knowd a town that could boast o' such renown -
We've duplex dummies by the flamin' score -
In the middle o' the street you can pick ya regal seat.
From "Royal Doultons" ... mod or dinosaur...

If tourists wanta stay, then flamin' make 'em pay
For the privilege o' sittin' on a throne..
Once graced by upper classes with disproportioned arsenals
Of pompous perfumed petticoats and "Toilette de Cologne".

The Chairman cried, "We'll do it!" .. took off this hat and threw it,
Applauded "Blue" for showin' them the way
To keep the tourists busy ... set 'em in a tizzy -
Ensure that travellers spent another day.

The Publican used his noggin' .. "Southerners" are groggin'
On "Ero" boosted pots of "XXXX Draft" -
And the butcher's peppered steaks, castor-oiled with "Ford Pill" flakes
Have visitors a-goin' - fore and aft!

The township bakery is a sight for all to see
Where prune-an'-licorice cakes are "Fibre Gelled",
Topped with finely grated "Laxette" .. all know they are a sure bet
To keep those toilet lineups ever swelled.

The local grocery store was forced to close their door
When rolls of "Sorbert" paper petered out.
Now travellers are grapplin; over any newsy happenin' -
A cultured lot, of that there is no doubt.

The doctor's kept on hand, with his busy little band
Of nurses, giving "Granacol" injections.
The motel's got no bed 'cause the tourists lay outspread,
Stay for days .. (on end) - and cancel flight connections.

And from miles and miles around, they're queueing on the ground
Outside the public 'menities of late..
They gladly pay the fee - even go on bended knee.
To bribe that "Water Closet" delegate.

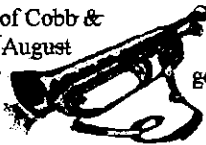
Townfolk learnt a lesson, from that "Have to have" recession
When flush from the success of toilet queues;
They built a hundred more with carpet door to door -
Then signed a lease and rented out the loos.

SURAT'S COBB & CO BATTERED BUGLE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

1999 sees the 75th Anniversary of the Last Run of Cobb & Co in Australia, which ran from Surat to Yuleba on 14th August 1924. Our Sixth Annual Battered Bugle Competition for Bush Verse will be held on 14th and 15th August as part of our 1999 Festival. Many of you were present for our first Festival held to celebrate the 70th Anniversary. Some of those activities will take place again, including a re-enactment with our Cobb & Co coach.

This year our theme will be Light (the Lights of Cobb & Co), and we will be conducting a Grand Parade of Lights on the Saturday night. We will be having our usual Battered Bugle Competition with Original and Traditional Poetry Sections over the weekend, with an emphasis on celebrating our past and looking to our future and the light. While we cannot dictate the content of the competitors' poems, we would like folk to be optimistic and positive with their selection of poems for competition, poems that are joyful and perhaps celebratory, as besides celebrating the Cobb and Co Anniversary, Surat is also celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the school and the 150th Anniversary of the naming of our town site as Surat.

The expanded Festival will be the four days of 12th to 15th August with lots of planned activities and entertainment. Poets will again be very welcome at Bob and Chesne Nason's shearing quarters at Newington and a tent city is planned around the quarters for the people who miss out on accommodation. As usual, non-local competing poets will be offered recompense to help defray



travelling costs. Some form of poetry, song and laughter entertainment is planned for the Friday night to get us all into a lighthearted mood.

We hope to catch up with many of you for our joyous 1999 celebrations and competition.

Contact Jan Ritchie, ph 07 4626 5103, fax 07 4626 5516 or email: villacoota@bigpond.com for more details.

Purple Deep

© Glen G. Muller, Toowoomba Q

Those born the second month of the year
Claim a beautiful birthstone, so we hear
Was created by a God and Goddess of old
And given it's color, proud and bold.

For when a nymph, the love of Bacchus spurned,
The Goddess Dianna to crystal turned,
To save her and her honour keep -
Bacchus then made it purple deep.

This gave the world your gem sublime
According to myth, from a distant time;
And so you see from this love tryst
There came the beautiful, Amethyst.

Amethyst is the birthstone for those born in February

A DEEPER LOOK © Roy Briggs, Esk Q.

Rip apart the rivers wide and see the heart inside.
 Look right thru' the rippling stream and see what makes it glide.
 Take apart your telephone and see what makes it ring.
 Pull apart your music box to see what makes it sing.
 Tear apart your wristlet watch to see what makes it tick.
 Strip apart your engine block to see how it goes quick,
 but remember deep within it all the exterior seldom shows,
 the heart that battles on thru' life while you think ev'rything glows.
 Look inside your partner's soul and search with all your might,
 and you may find within that soul, a tortured heart in flight.
 A tortured heart in search of peace and security that love gives.
 Try to see that inner side and how that lonely heart lives.
 Cast aside your problems now to help that heart in strife.
 Repair that heart and you may find, that it may help your life.
 Don't be quick to show no care for someone worse for wear.
 Don't be quick to think your woes are always worse than theirs.
 You may think you're all alone while all around you thrives.
 You may think they do not care, while life for them just strives.
 Someone out there may have helped when you just wouldn't give,
 then they probably lost their way. Oh, what a way to live.
 Do you think you have no faults cos we all have a lot.
 Give a thought to others too who suffer what they've got.
 You with all the powers within should think a little while.
 We are all equal as you know, and life is just a trial.
 Pierce that shell and dig inside and you may even find,
 a heart that's sad and vulnerable but one that's very kind.
 Never think you're on your own, until you learn to look,
 cos in that shell, you may just find, an interesting book.



GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL Dec./Jan. 1999

At the old gold mining site of Red Hill, Gulgong there stands a sturdy bronze statue of our great mentor Henry Lawson that, once a year (somehow, oddly enough at the same time as the Gulgong Folk Festival) undergoes a strange transformation. Could it be it's proximity to the "Folkies" campsite? Who Knows. Anyway this year "Henrietta", as she came to be known took on a very Mexican air, complete with sombrero, poncho and flowing skirt. Some of these arty types just can't be trusted.
 Apart from such shenanigans, Poetry was once again at the forefront of public entertainment. Sponsored by the Henry Lawson Centre, and held in the scenic grounds of the Stables Guesthouse, the Poets Breakfast (M'ed by Graeme Johnson) attracted a record crowd. Graeme (almost completely sans voice, courtesy of a very nasty flu virus), soldiered on and with his fellow poets, Fed Webber, Kathryn Job, Gary Boyd, Muriel, Decana, Ray & Nita Raine, Chez, & Gina Langly, kept the crowd on their toes with ditties about everything from teen love to trucks.
 Graeme also presented a very well attended workshop on poetry writing. (also held in the Henry Lawson Centre) Based on the success and popularity of this years poetry contingent, Festival organiser Virginia Nicholas said that she intends to considerably increase the poetry quotient for the Year 2000 Festival. Great news for poets everywhere.

Yours in drag, "Henrietta" Lawson

BUSH POETS TO MEET IN CHARTERS TOWERS, Q.

In recent years, the awareness and popularity of Bush Poetry has increased to the extent that there are many events scheduled throughout our eastern states.
 However there remains a reasonably wide area in the far north of Queensland still to be 'opened-up', even though some centres have given bush poetry a trial in conjunction with their country music festivals, with a promising degree of support.
 This year, a group in Charters Towers, Q. have taken up the challenge to go 'full-on' with a three day venture spread from Tuesday 27th April to Thursday 29th April.
 Part of the 'challenge' relates to two events - the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships at Winton, Q., 23rd -25th April, followed by the Annual Drivers Reunion at Longreach the next weekend.
 For a start, the Gold City Country Music Club have engaged the services of Milton Taylor and Helen Avery - two 'well-versed' persons to assist with their expertise, encompassing workshops, competitions and bush poets breakfasts - all expected to be scheduled from the Tuesday afternoon 27th to lunch time on Thursday 29th.
 The first meeting to formally discuss the proposed venture in the Towers has been greeted with the desired enthusiasm - and now the organising group will be 'full-on', finalising a format that should be appealing to all bush poets and enticing to attract a highly responsive audience for the Towers.
 The Gold City CM Club will be conducting their Annual All-Australian over the Anzac weekend, as in Winton - with the Charters Towers Country Music Festival 30th April -2nd May, as is Longreach - that is where the Bush Poetry is centred right in the mid-week between.
 Hopefully some of the Bush Poets going to Winton will make a track through Hughenden to the Towers, a shade over 460kms to help out and make the Towers bush poetry session a real success.
 The format for the three day program will be included in the March issue of this newsletter - or phone Julie 07 4787 1328 or Arthur 07 4787 2409.

Arthur Rehou

POETS BREAKFAST AT MT KEMBLA

A Bush Poets Breakfast will be held in conjunction with The South Coast Country Music Association's second Country Music Jamboree & Talent Quest, which is scheduled from 16th to 18th April, 1999. The breakfast will be held from 8am at the Kemplla Heights Community Hall and Park, Harry Graham Drive, Mt. Kemplla, via Woolongong NSW.
 Everyone is invited to join compere Frank Daniel for a feast of yarns, tall tales, poetry and fun. Bring a folding chair or rug along to this southern slice of Aussie entertainment. Proceeds of the day will go to charity.
 For further information please ring 02 4237 7176.

SUCCESS FOR POETS AT TAMWORTH CITY BOWLS CLUB

Tamworth City Bowls Club was a popular venue for devotees of Bush Poetry during country Music Week. The program got well under way on Friday 15th January with a Poetry Competition for schools. These young people delighted the audience and the judges with the high standard of their performance.

Emma Archibald of Ellerston Primary School won the Junior Section with 'A Groom's Tale' while Senior section prize was taken out by Ben Crowley of Oxley High, with a medley. Catherine Payne was Highly Commended while Shane Ross of Hillview Primary received an Encouragement Award.

Bush Poets of Australia under the leadership of Michael Daiby performed for two charity concerts, the proceeds going to the Salvation Army and the Northcott Society respectively.

Following these concerts, each day was devoted to the work of a traditional Australian poet.

Walk-up sessions each day produced some very

entertaining poetry. On Monday 18/1, Noel Stallard, in the guise of Father John O'Brien, featured the work of P.J. Hartigan. Tuesday 19/1 saw Wally Finch and his team of poets presenting the work of C.J. Dennis.

The work of Henry Lawson was presented on Wednesday 20/1 under the leadership of Ken Hood while on Thursday 21/1, Liz Ward showcased the verse of Will Ogilvie. Guy McLean led his team to present the poetry of A.B. Paterson on Friday 22nd.

Modern poetry was presented on Saturday 23rd by a team led by Carol Reffold.

A 'One Minute Poem Competition' was conducted on Sunday 24th and resulted in a tie for first place between Alan Palmer and Wally Finch.

All sessions were well attended by an enthusiastic public.

Plans are well in train for a bigger and better shows next year at this very pleasant venue and Dennis Price, manager of the Tamworth City Bowling Club is keen to have the Bush Poets back in 2000.

Liz Ward & Carol Reffold



NAKED POETS SHOW TAMWORTH '99

Hands of Fame,
Noses of Fame, and if the
Naked poets get their
way next year it could be Bums of
Fame.

What is it about this unique
Theatre Restaurant style show that
attracted four sellout shows at the
Tamworth Golf Club this year.

Some would say it is the fact
that audiences enjoy the 'intimacy' of
mixing with performers in a way that
is rarely seen at big festivals. The
'Fringe Theatre' style performances
of the Naked Poets are complimented
by the fact that the Poets stay long
after the show to mix with audience
members ranging in ages from
teenagers to pensioners.

With a mixture of
Pantomime, wicked song parodies
and consistently original stand-up
routines, the laugh-a-minute antics
of Shirley Friend, Bob Miller, Marco
Glori, Ray Essery and Murray
Hartin combined with the
songwriting talents of Pat
Drummond had some audience
members lining up for 2 and 3 nights
in a row ... to see the same show!

If you haven't seen the show
(at Tamworth) you should come
along. The atmosphere is unique and
the entertainment inspiring. Each
year is a completely NEW show, so
see you there in 2000. *Marco Glori.*

OUR YOUTH OUR FUTURE

© Col Hadwell, Byron Bay NSW

*Winner
1999 Blackened Billy
Verse Competition*

They claim all the benches and pathways,
Respecting no elder or straight,
They're offspring of us,
They're homeless and sus',
They're youth of the year ninety eight.

They're seen on the streets in the daytime.
- Kicking those skateboards they ride;
The unwashed parade
Of dreadlocks displayed,
- Flaunting their fashions with pride.

But daylight gives way to a darkness,
That dwells in a desperate soul;
And evil competes
For souls on the streets,
Fed up with a life on the dole.

After the darkness has risen,
We read of the toll of the night.
The drug overdose
The murders and thefts,
The callous cold killings for spite.

Poor pensioners bashed for a pittance
Mere boys with the blood on their hands.
And they bleat from the street,
"We've no place to meet -
We're bored and you don't understand."

Well who understands this dilemma?
Do Governments have any clue?
More cops for the beats,
More promise repeats,
"We'll tackle the problem anew!"

But is it the problem they tackle?
Or merely the mess at the end?

With millions for drugs
And millions for crime;
If only some time they could spend

Addressing the cause of the problem;
And look at prevention not aid.
It's hope that they need,
A chance to succeed,
Not lost like a sheep in the shade.

The youth of Australia are winners;
At sport they are second to none.
And ev'ry young soul
Has some modest role
To play, if they stand in the sun.

But what is the roll for a worker
In times when the dollar dictates, -
"Efficiency first
on the flat playing field
Will soon build Australia the Great,"

How great will we be with our surplus
And overseas balance intact;
While lives ev'ry day
Are left waste away
To show where our morals have lacked.

But can't we take hold of the future,
Of your kids and mine in our hand,
Just stand up and say
Right now from this day,
"We demand to have work in our land!"

And if we are smart like they tell us
We'll give all our children a chance,
We'll make sure our youth
Have hope in their lives,
Then watch, *all* Australians Advance.

Congratulations - Col Hadwell



PALMA ROSA POETS

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year - it was great to catch up with so many of you in Tamworth. What a busy time it was for the Bush Poets - so many new venues opening up. Kelly Dixon's "Cattle Camp Balladeers" in Cross Park and Michael Darby's "Bush Poets of Australia" at the Tamworth City Bowling Club, as well as all the other established venues at the Longyard, Imperial and Oasis hotels as well as Wests Leagues Club. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.

We all had a wonderful evening of poetry and song on Wednesday 3rd February when we were entertained by a legend of Bush Poetry, Kelly Dixon from Camooweal and the wonderful poetry of Bruce Simpson, presented by Wally Finch, Trisha Anderson and Billy Hay. Kelly and Bruce are two great friends, former drovers and master poets.

They were ably supported by the fabulous Mark Tempary - in Kelly's words "The greatest singer/songwriter producing contemporary ballads in Australia today".

Our next poetry evening at Palma Rosa will be on Wednesday, April 14th when we will be entertained by the 1997/1998 Mens Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Milton Taylor from Portland NSW and the 1995/1996 Womens Australian Bush Poetry Champion Glenny Palmer from Cedarvale Qld.

Most of us know what great poets they both are and the rest of you are in for a wonderful evening of poetry and laughter.

We will also be doing two special Palma Rosa launches:- Milton Taylor has a new tape to be launched and Glenny Palmer has a new book.

I look forward to seeing you on Wed 14th April for our show. It commences at 7 pm for 7.30 pm and \$15.00 including supper (BYO). Bookings would be appreciated. Palma Rosa is located at 9 Queens Road, Hamilton Q. Ph Palma Rosa 07 3262 3769 or Trish Anderson 07 3268 3624. *Trish Anderson*

DINKUM AUSSIE AWARDS LOOKING FOR BOOKS

Organisers of the Yarrowonga-Mulwala Murray Muster are keen to attract entries to the Book Section 5 of the "Dinkum Aussie" Bush Poetry Awards.

The section, which carries first and second place, calls for books which were written in 1998 containing Bush Verse, Yarnspinning and illustrations. Entries will be judged for any humorous/serious content and presentation. Entries close on 31st March and should be accompanied by one copy of the publication which will be returned at the Muster.

Entry forms are available from Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641 or phone 02 6025 3845 or fax 6025 3847.

A.B.P.A. FEES NOW DUE!

\$25.00 pa - Please send to the Secretary!

THE MAN FROM THE SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

Spread over three days, from 9th - 11th April, this festival set in the heart of Snowy Country at Corryong, NSW, and offers to provide a feast of opportunities for both competitors and admirers of Australian Bush Verse.

Poets Breakfasts are scheduled each morning at 8.30am in a park, known to locals as "Banjo's Block". On Friday 9th April, a Family Food Feast at 5.30pm will include a hefty slice of verse and yarnspinning and like evening entertainment can enjoyed by all during the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club's Fun Night at the Corryong Hotel Motel.

Judging of the recital of A.B. Paterson's 'Man from Snowy River' will commence at 1pm on Saturday at 1pm at Corryong Showgrounds. During the afternoon Geoffrey Graham will perform his showcase of Banjo's work entitled "The Man From Ironbark" at the Church of England Hall in Hanson Street. This one man show, is highly recommended to all lovers of Bush Poetry and will commence at 4.30pm.

Bush Poetry Bush Music and Yarnspinning Competitions are scheduled for 7pm on Saturday evening at the Brumby Bar in Jardine Street.

A highlight of this festival is to pay tribute to a legend from the district, Jack Riley, who it is alleged, played a hand providing A.B. Paterson with the text of his now famous poem, after which this festival is named.

A major event of the festival is "The Man from the Snowy River Challenge", an endurance race to test the relationship between rider and horse which is spread over three days. It is designed to determine the most skilled mountain rider in the country.

Enquiries can be directed to Jan Lewis 02 6076 1179 or Neil Hulm 07 6025 3845.

Congratulations, Madam Secretary !!

Olive Shooter, Secretary of the Australian Bush Poetry Association Inc. was awarded the 1999 'Allora Community Service Award' for her voluntary contributions to the district. The award was presented by the Allora Action Association on Saturday 30th Jan. at the Allora Show Ball.

Olive has given freely of her time to the community in which she lives. In 1969 she became a founding member of the Allora Historical Society and has been President for some 20 years. She has given 35 years service to the Victoria Hills CWA where she held all executive positions at the branch and has also held all executive positions within the Border CWA Division which reaches from Wallangarra to Clifton and west from Karara to Killarney. She served 25 years on the Allora Hospital Auxiliary - 8 as President and served at the Allora & Clifton Shows as steward for 30 years. She has been associated with the Allora Anglican Church for 15 yrs as parish secretary and wrote their Centenary booklet in 1998.

Last but not least, Olive is of course a valuable asset to our Association, where she has been an integral part of our executive for three years. I am sure all members of the A.B.P.A. will join me in offering Olive our sincere congratulations for achieving this distinction.

Maureen Garner, Editor.

POET PROFILE - COL HADWELL



Col Hadwell was born in Bangalow and raised in Byron Bay. His school days were 'spent' at the local Primary and Mullumbimby High during the 1950's and '60's.

On leaving school he commenced work as a labourer at the local Norco factory. The knowledge he acquired there encouraged him towards a career in road design and town planning.

In 1979 he introduced his wife Anne to Byron Bay and he settled on a hobby farm at the edge of town. It was then that he realised that four children were enough.

When he turned 50, he discovered that he wanted to be an artist. This desire has now been equaled by his passion for poetry. One prime motivation for his poetry has been the great yarns he heard over the years from the characters of "The Bay".

Col has indeed received a favourable response to his first book, "The First Bunch of Ballads from Byron Bay" which was published in 1997.

During the past two years he has been entertaining with Bush Poetry for local charities and functions and has also worked at several venues to the south, along the Mid North Coast of NSW. Last year he accepted invitations to perform at the Longyard Hotel and Muzza's Midday Show in Tamworth and at Gympie Muster.

In competition he has been a finalist in both Traditional and Original performance sections at the Imperial Hotel, Tamworth and has been runner-up in both sections at the Gympie Muster.

He received a Highly Commended in the 1997 Blackened Billy. His poem "Our Youth Our Future" (see P 8) was awarded 1st place in the 1999 Blackened Billy.

His long term ambition is to combine poetry with song writing for country music.

G'day from Geoffrey Graham



Greetings,

Just a brief note this time to let you know about a function in Victoria, Kyneton Country Music Festival. At long last, Bush Poetry has arrived at Kyneton. A Poets Breakfast has been scheduled on Sunday, February 14th, 1999, from 8.30-10am. All

welcome to participate.

Besides the Bush Poetry there is a great lineup of Country artist at Kyneton for the weekend including Troy Cassar-Daley, The Wolverines, Tanya Self, Pat Drummond, Adam Harvey and many others.

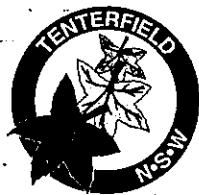
The location is 5 kms west of Kyneton at what is called the Lauriston Scout Camp. Just follow the signs.

If you would like to perform, please give me a call on 03 5446 3739 ASAP. Keep smiling. *Geoffrey Graham*

PO Box 36, Eaglehawk, Vic. 3556. Ph 03 5446 3739 - Mob 015 425 470
email: dinkumoz@bigpond.com

TENTERFIELD ORACLES of the BUSH 1999

Looming Legend Poetry Competition



This year's competition, sponsored by Montrose Wines - Poets Corner.

Sec. 1: Written poem with Australian Theme. Work to be recited at heats of Looming Legend. 1st Prize \$500 cash.

Copyright remains with the author, but Tenterfield United Organisations reserves the right to publish selected entries, use them for promotion purposes and to have them performed during the festival.

Sec. 2: Performance. All entries should be original work. To compete for the LOOMING LEGEND TROPHY contestants must:

1. Submit entries on cassette and,
2. be available to perform in Tenterfield on 16th, 17th and 18th April, 1999.

Judges will select 15 contestants and notify them of their inclusion in heats. 1st Prize \$250 cash and trophy.

Sec. 3: Junior. Open to students of Tenterfield Shire and includes Jennings/Wallangarra. Other students may enter open section.

Verse with Australian Spirit. Rhyme and rhythm may be attempted.

(a) Primary: 4 - 20 lines (b) Secondary 8 - 40 lines.

Prizes awarded at Childrens Concert Friday, 16th April.

Prizes - each category \$100.00 + Perpetual Trophy.

Entries close on 27th March, 1999 and forms or further information can be obtained from Tenterfield United Organisations, Oracles of the Bush, Looming Legends, PO Box 372, Tenterfield NSW 2372 Fax 02 6736 2900.



NORTH by NORTHWEST POETRY and FOLK CLUB

Once upon a time in December 1998, we had a Christmas afternoon at the Cornucopia Cafe. Santa rolled in with a large sack full of sweets, to the delight of the kids. "Arch" Bishop came along later - funny how those two are never in the same room together!

My brother Graham and his family were visiting from Paris and his wife Brigitte and daughter Sonia sang a delightful duet.

Others to entertain us included Rhymin' Simon (Clancy of the Party Cone), Campbell the Swaggie, Robert and Lois Lennard, Lol Osborne Tony Colechin and many others that I should remember - but this was many Christmas drinks and late nights ago! I do remember it was very good - watch out for another one on soon, maybe Saturday March 13th at 2pm. (to be confirmed)

On January 7th, while barely out of Nariel Creek mode, we had a BBQ and session at my place at North Ryde, led by Bob Campbell and Home Rule who entertained nearly 40 people, at a time of year when the folk scene is traditionally pretty quiet! By the time you read this, we will have had an (undoubtedly) great night with The Roaring Firties. Then on March 4th, due to popular demand we have invited back Us Not Them. They will bring with them their new CD "Songs of the Bush" Why not come along. Ring me on 02 9887 1856 or mob 015 227 479. *Jenny Carter*

COFFS HARBOUR COMPETITION RESULTS

The results of the Inaugural City of Coffs Harbour National Australian Bush Poetry Written Competition, sponsored by the City's Australia Day Committee, were announced during Coffs Harbour's Australia Day celebrations at Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club on Australia Day.

Junior Section

Section 1 - Primary School

1st - **Claire Hardgrove**, Tyalla Primary - "The Closet Door"

Highly Commended - **Nikki Phillips**, Narranga Primary - "Bushrangers"

Equal Commended - **Madeline Rake**, Sandy Beach Primary - "Rainforest Animals"

Equal Commended - **Mia McKay**, Bowraville Central School - "Visions of the Bush"

Section 2 - High School

1st - **Kate Anderson**, Nambucca Heads High School - "Unleash"

Highly Commended - **Jenna McInerney**, Woolgoolga High - "Thinking of You"

Equal Commended - **Alyssa Ryan**, Woolgoolga High - "Home Comforts"

Equal Commended - **Alison Collier**, Woolgoolga High School - "Nature"

Junior Section Judge, Rosemary Nisted of Coffs Harbour commented that the overall standard of the competition was remarkably high, making choosing a winner very difficult and that while the entries varied in the extreme, both in length and content, they all displayed imagination and a sense of enjoyment.

Rosemary offered her congratulations to all competitors and encouraged all junior poets to keep enjoying the writing process and to continue writing.

Open Written Competition

Section 1 - Any Subject

1st - **Ellis Campbell**, Dubbo NSW - "Unknown"

2nd - **Ellis Campbell**, Dubbo NSW - "The Secret of Hugh McLeod"

3rd - **John Barclay**, Narrabeen NSW - "Papunya"

Section 2 - Local Subject

1st - **John Barclay**, Narrabeen NSW - "Mutton Birds"

2nd - **Tom Strickland**, Coffs Harbour NSW - "The Bullmania Club"

3rd - **Elizabeth Larkin**, Toormina NSW - "Jewel of the Coast"

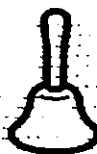
Awards for all sections of the Competition were presented by Coffs Harbour's Australia Day Ambassador, Liz Ellis.

The Coffs Harbour City Council and its efficient and dedicated Australia Day Committee is indeed to be congratulated for conducting this highly successful competition which can only continue to grow in future years.

"FACES TO NAMES"

For a first timer at Tamworth, it was good to put some names to faces. It was nice to meet Frank Daniel, Ray Essery, Bobby Miller (who was hamstrung with a bad throat), John Major 'Arch' Bishop and 'Whipstick Wortho'. Although I was pretty merry at the time, it was terrific to meet Olive Shooter at the Oasis Hotel. Now there is a pub full of characters!

I think the newsletter is a ripper and I'm keen to promote the Association in South Australia. **Tom Penna**, Victor Harbour SA



GOLDEN BELL POETRY COMPETITION

Now in it's second year, this competition conducted by the Queensland Clydesdale and Draught Horse Society Inc., will be held at Laidley (Qld.) Showground 12th -14th March.

Friday 6 pm - 7.30 pm 12.3.99, Hotel Laidley beer garden. Bush Barbecue and welcome to poets.

Event 1: Open poetry comp. Entries must have a hotel or pub theme or related in some manner to hotels. Perpetual trophy plus cash prizes.

Saturday 13th March, 12 noon - 5 pm, Main Pavilion, Laidley Showground.

Event 2: Novice Traditional Bush Poetry - Open to poets who have not previously won a Novice, Intermediate or Open Event. Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Must have horse theme.

Event 3: Intermediate Traditional Bush Poetry. Open to poets who have not won an Open Event - Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Must have horse theme.

Event 4: (Heats) Stan Coster Memorial Duo Poetry - \$200 1st prize and Stan Coster Memorial Medallions; sponsored by Boulia Bates. Open event - top 3 to final.

Event 5: 15 years and under Traditional Bush Poetry. Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Winner receives "Golden Bell" Perpetual Trophy for school he/she represents.

Saturday evening, showgrounds 7.30 - 10.30pm
Bush Concert in main pavilion including poets,
country/western singer, pipe band, etc.
featuring Glenn Jones

Event 6: Yarn spinners competition - Open event - Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

Final: Event 4 - Duo (as time permits)

Sunday, 14th March, Showground

Poets Breakfast 6 - 8 am

Event 7: 8.30am - Open Traditional or Original Bush Verse. Entries must have a horse theme. Top 3 to final.

Event 8: Open Humerous Traditional or Original Bush Verse. Top 3 into final.

FINAL: Event 7 - Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

FINAL: Event 8 - Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd.

Golden Bell Perpetual Trophies - Winner and Runner-up decided on highest combined scores in heats of Events 7 & 8, Presentation of trophies Events 7 & 8 and also Golden Bell Winner and Runner Up.

Enquires and entry details - Bob McPhee 07 5466 5269.

Bob McPhee, Convener

MULWALA MURRAY MUSTER FUNDRAISER

It is the aim of the Organisers of the Yarrowonga - Mulwala Murray Muster to support a charity by conducting a fundraiser throughout the duration of the event.

As it has in the past, The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Group will donate funds to Cancer Research from the proceeds of a Monster Raffle which will be drawn on the Gala Night planned for Saturday 15th May to be held at the Mulwala Services Club.

Spokesperson for the organising group, Neil Hulm is asking for bush poets to donate product - books, tapes, CD's etc to form part of a giant prize pool for the raffle.

Anyone wishing to assist can send goods to Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington, NSW 2641

I DIDN'T GET TO TAMWORTH

© Sandra J. Queensborough Binns, Kincumber NSW - Australia Day 1997

I didn't get to Tamworth -
missed out again this year;
too many home commitments,
too much to do round here.

It's a promise I keep making
to myself from year to year...
I'll get myself to Tamworth...
As Australia Day draws near.

Each year I swear I'll do it,
perform a verse or two,
join the poets breakfast,
and meet a friend or two.

It's a promise like the others
I make from time to time -
like ... I'll buy myself a guitar,
put music to my rhyme.

I'm a dreamer, chasing rainbows
around another bend ..
to find the pot of gold ..
but the rainbow has no end.

Well, I didn't get to Tamworth -
missed out again this year,
but I'm busy in my home town
- so much to do round here!

I'm busy on the radio...
(it's Australia Day here too!)
.. book promotion at the center,
.. newspaper interview.

I'm gaining recognition
on my home territory ..
don't need to chase these rainbows
seems they're coming here to me!

So, I didn't get to Tamworth?

Missed out again this year?

No I didn't get to Tamworth...
but I raised some dust round here!



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN....

Dear Olive,

Well damn it's come that time again,
Wouldn't just you now it?
I'll have to get my cheque book out,
And send one to the Poets.

The Annual Subscriptions
No kidding - it's for real,
Twenty five bucks per year,
At that price it's a steal.

If I send you thirty,
It's you I'll have to thank,
For posting me an Annual,
- Stick the extra in the bank.

But keep my fix a coming,
In the shape of your newsletter,
Though my prose is pretty awful,
With your help it could get better.

My twisted rhyming doggerel,
The wife thinks it's a curse,
But we married many years ago,
For better or for verse.

© Kevin Gilders, North Clayton Vic.

Dear Editor,

Having spent two weeks in Tamworth and my sixth
consecutive year, I have noticed a change which prompted me to
write this poem....

GENTLE POETS (Campbell & Others)

© Geraldine King, Jimboomba Q.

"How's it going?" I asked, as I looked in his eyes.

"No good at all", was his sad reply.

"For this is my living, I once did it so well.

But I can't compete with the noise, I cannot yell!"

His dark eyes were filled with utmost concern,

We knew that time, had a lesson to learn.

For gentle poets, the fiddler or soft balladeer

There's no streets in Tamworth, where we can hear.

We were full of bright talent, yes, I'll cop it sweet.

But the sounds of their music blast out 'cross the street.

These folk will move on to gigs big or small.

Careers changing; some succeed, some may fail.

But, the old stalwarts, who've busked here for years.

Will anyone miss them, anybody shed tears?"

For one by one they're leaving, no more to return

A quiet little corner is all they yearn.

To me their future seems at a loss.

No good saying you don't give a toss!

As time passes, the festival will proceed.

But swaggies and like don't carry a lead.

So gentle poets, the fiddler and soft balladeer

They'll be gone and I'll miss them no room for them here.

JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL - Narrandera NSW

The NSW country town of Narrandera in the
Riverina District of the State will host the John
O'Brien Festival 17th - 21st March, 1999.

The Festival celebrates the life of Fr Patrick
Hartigan who lived in the town for 27 years and was
Parish Priest of St. Mel's Church. As a writer of Bush Poetry Fr.
Hartigan assumed the non de plume of John O'Brien.

The festival boasts a variety of entertainment over its
four day duration, which will gladden the heart of those who
love all things Irish and Australian, especially Bush Poetry
enthusiasts. Activities programmed include the John O'Brien
Hooley (an Irish Australian dance Party)

Peppered throughout the program will be recitations of
John O'Brien's poetry, in many cases ably performed by Noel
Stallard who takes the guise of Fr John O'Brien, complete with
appropriate priestly garb and beretta.

Noel's passion for O'Brien's work is evidenced in a
statement made on his double cassette of the bards work "Our
Bush Heritage Through Poetry". His delivery of this loved verse
is second to none in its field.

Quality performances by Bush Poets, Noel Cutler,
"The Whip Cracking Bard" and Geoffrey Graham, "The Man
from Ironbark" will also be a 'not to be missed' feature of this
festival.

Again, the hardworking team from the Snowy
Mountains Bush Poetry Group will conduct a competition on
Saturday 20th March and a Poets Breakfast is programmed at
the Ex-servicemen's club for Sunday morning, complete with a
great hot meal available for to enjoy at a nominal charge.

Competition enquiries should be directed to Neil
Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641 Ph 02 6025
3845 or Festival enquiries and event bookings to Narrandera
Visitor's Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera NSW 2770 or
Freecall 1800 672 392 for a Festival program by mail.

See you all at the Hooley !!!



THE TEN MOST POWERFUL TWO-LETTER WORDS:

IF IT IS TO BE - IT IS UP TO ME



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- Feb 10 Closing Date. **High Country Poets Comp.** Stanthorpe Q. Details P16
- Feb 12 **Poets & Mates.** 7.30pm Kallangur Community Centre, Kallangur Q. Feat. Vince McLoughlin & Mark Feldman. \$10 incl supper. Please book - Wally Finch 07 3886 0747 P 4 & 16
- Feb 13-14 **High Country Poets Performance Competition.** Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 P 16.
- Feb 14 **Poets Breakfast.** Kyneton CM Festival, Kyneton Vic. Enq Geoff Graham 03 5446 3739 ASAP P10 & 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. P16
- Feb 15 **Live Poets' Soc. of Great Lakes & Manning Valley** 7.30pm 2/7 Bonventi Cl., Tuncurry. Ph 02 6555 3720
- Feb 27 **Bush Poetry & Yarnspinning Competition.** Shepparton Vic. Ring Paul Howard 03 5821 8457 P 17
- Mar 1 Closing Date. **Jondaryan Woolshed Written Competition.** Ph 07 4635 6429 P 16
- Mar 3 **Back to the Bush Night.** Kyabram Club, Kyabram Vic. Verse and Yarns evening. Ring Grahame Watt 03 5852 2084 or Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265 P 3
- Mar 7 **Poets Breakfast.** Swan Hill Red Gum Festival, Vic. Ring Peter Worthington 03 5037 2519 P 17
- Mar 10 Closing Date. **Jondaryan Woolshed Performance Competition.** Ph 07 4635 6429 P16
- Mar 12 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur Community Centre 7.30pm feat Michael Darby & Carol Stratford \$10 incl light supper Please book - Enq Wally Finch 07 3886 0747. P 4 & P16
- Mar 12-14 **Golden Bell Poetry Award,** Laidley, Q. Performance Poetry & Yarns - Ph Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269 or bh 5466 5407 P11 & 16
- Mar 17-21 **John O'Brien Bush Festival.** Narrandera, NSW Ph 1800 672392 P 12 & 16
- Mar 20-21 **Jondaryan Woolshed.** Jondaryan, Q. Written and Performance Bush Poetry Comp. P16
- April 4 **Nambucca Heads Bowling Club, NSW.** Poets Break open mike \$5.00 incl hot meal Ph 02 6568 5269 P16
- 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 9 & 16
- April 14 **Palma Rosa Poets.** Hamilton Q Featuring Kelly Dixon with Trish Anderson & Wally Finch P9 & 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 10 & 16
- April 18 **Poets Breakfast.** Mt. Kembla NSW in conj. CM Jamboree & Talent Quest. Ph Dianne O'Dwyer 02 43 37 7176 P 7 & 17
- April 22-26 **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships.** Details P16 -
- April 27-29 **Charters Towers Bush Poetry Events - Comp., Workshops Breakfasts.** Ph Julie 07 4787 1328 P7 & 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 P9, 11 & 16
- May 31 Closing Date. **Bronze Lantern Award.** Details - Ross Keppel, 2 Anderson St., Bundaberg Q 4760 P17
- July 2-4 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poetry Muster.** Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg, Q. Contact the Secretary, PO Box 248, Childers Q. 4660. P 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
- Aug 14-15 **Surat & Dist Battered Bugle.** Surat Q. Performance Competition. Jan Ritchie, PO Box 45 Surat Q 4417 on Phone 07 4626 5103 P5 & 17
- 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

RHYMERS-PARADE IN TAMWORTH

Led by Guy McLean riding his horse Nuggett, a small group of Bush Poets joined in the parade in Tamworth during Country Music Week to fly the flag on behalf of their mates and all fans of Australian Bush Verse.

This effort was hastily arranged by Michael Darby, who convened the "Bush Poets of Australia" series of events at Tamworth City Bowling Club which were held during the festival.

Despite the short notice, Michael managed to second the

help (and vehicle) from the volunteer staff of a Community Radio Station at Willow Tree, a small village near Tamworth.

Carol Stratford and Michael carried the banner along behind Guy while Graham Fredriksen drove the vehicle on which other poet rode. Fr. John O'Brien (alias Noel Stallard) blessed those who lined the streets to enjoy the parade.

Wait there's more Following the conclusion of the parade, the poets float came to an unscheduled stop (breakdown) in a very awkward place in busy traffic. Fr. John was seen to use his powers to clear the way. Great fun !!

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 5th April 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
- 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 Iloura 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
Poets & Mates 7.30 pm Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur Q.
 Contact Wally Finch ph 07 3886-0747
- 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 Pilotto 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*



They say a single Cane Toad lays
 a million eggs a day.
 I wonder just how many eggs
 a married one would lay !!!

MORE FROM "Hipshot" !!
 I must admit it's not my scene
 answering and answering machine !!!

My golfing mates all walk for miles
 and talk and site next day.
 If that's not Foot and Mouth Disease
 I'll give the game away !!!

UNDERSTANDING POETIC TERMS

by Ellis Campbell

At Tamworth our editor, Maureen asked me to forward the ABPA newsletter some poetic definitions. While I am sure there are many poets with more knowledge and understanding of these things than I have, I herewith accede to her request to the best of my ability. Rather than quote extracts from great poets of the past (which would be relatively easy) I have chosen examples from my own poetry. This, I hope, will at least partly convince readers that I do have some understanding of these poetic terms.

Alliteration is simply the repetition of the initial consonants in words, used for effect.

EXAMPLE: "Men can sail the seven seas in ships of steel so stout". Line 17 of my poem, 'Old Man Drought'.

EXAMPLE: "I smelled the sweaty equine stench that stained his satin skin." Line 36 of my poem 'Border Camp'.

NB. It is only coincidence that both these examples feature the letter 'S'. It can be any letter.

While I do not consciously strive to include alliteration in my verse lines such as these occasionally creep in. If used artistically, but unobtrusively, it can enhance your writing. A word of warning to those experimenting with alliteration. Over use, particularly by those not familiar with the art, can display your ignorance, and produce an effect of clumsiness.

Assonance is repetition of a vowel sound, used for effect. Assonance is something I do not consciously strive to produce, and in fact use so stringently that I cannot think off hand of a poem to use as an example, without searching through a number of poems. I make little use of assonance and I doubt you will find much need for it, either.

EXAMPLE: "The shark's teeth are sharp". "The weak sheep grazed on wheat". Assonance is not rhyme, though some writers use it as a substitute. A poor choice.

Enjambment is the running on of a sentence past the rhyming word to the next line. I, and most good poets regularly use enjambment.

EXAMPLE:

*"Sofala on the Turon and to Gympie's golden fields;
to Southern Ovens River and Hill End. And yet the yields
were all so disappointing. His reward for years of toil,
and ceaseless weary tramping lay elusive in the soil".*

Lines 3,4,5 & 6 of my poem "Gold Fever".

EXAMPLE:

*"When outlaw half-cast killers, Warrigal and Jimmy died,
by settler's rifles, it was claimed - by all the countryside -
that shepherds had been speared by them. A posse, heavily armed,
of settlers tracked the killers down because they were alarmed
at loss of stock by blacks. The outlaws later were revealed
as sons of Anne. The White Gin of Trial Bay could never shield
her boys from wrath of settlers or the blast of blazing guns -
and after twenty years of tribal life she'd lost her sons".*
Seventh stanza of my poem, 'Annie Shortus - Survivor'.

The old time poets regularly began each new line with a capital letter. However I, and many other modern poets, use lower case letters to begin all new lines until the sentence is complete. This is particularly so when using enjambment. The more natural it looks the easier it is to read. A word of warning to performance poets. When reciting poetry with enjambment do not 'clump' heavily on

the rhyming word. This interrupts the flow of the rhythm and sounds unnatural. Rather recite or past it to the next line as if reading the complete sentence. Astute judges and observant listeners will readily pick up the rhyming word. Ron Stevens is a great exponent of this art. Listen to Ron recite some of his fine poems, interlaced with enjambment, and you know what I mean.

Onomatopoeia is the use of words whose sounds echo the sense of what you wish to say.

EXAMPLE:

"A screech owl shrilled it's piercing scream, somewhere above my head". Line 21 of my poem 'Border Camp'.

EXAMPLE:

"Their mournful moaning rents the air, at break of blood-red morn." Line 5 of my poem, 'West Without Water'.

EXAMPLE: "Carking crows in cruel refrain all day anticipate." Line 10 of my poem 'The Spreading Blight'.

Comics rely heavily on onomatopoeia to get their point across. "Pow! Bang! Zipp! Clang! Wheeeee---!" etc.

Imagery is painting pictures with words. Good imagery can enable a reader to visualize a scene through well chosen words. EXAMPLE:

*"Summer has faded and autumn's extolling
all of its virtues through downs ever rolling.
Tanned with the colours that patiently mellow -
tinting the dales with a tawny and yellow.
Plodding serenely through life's irksome byways -
feeling a freedom that's blown on the skyways.
Blessing my fortune, a pathway that's golden;
free now of debt, and no longer beholden
Tamed to commitment - accepting the boring -
watching the grace of an eagle-hawk soaring."*
Third stanza of my poem, 'Fall Of The Seasons'.

All of these are effective tools in the hands of a skilled crafts person. Beginners beware of over-use. The less obtrusive their insertion, the more effective their influence. Sometimes something that appears almost as a casual afterthought can have tremendous impact. This casualness is of course deceptive. Like most things we do in life the more effort expended, the greater the result. Hoping something I have said is of help to someone.

THE SHEARER'S PRAYER

© Tom Penna, Victor Harbour S.A.

Turn off the shears boys, it's half past ten,
Bring on the bickies, it's smoko time again.
Sweep up the locks and pull up a chair
Wipe away the sweat and comb ya' hair.

Lie on the floor with your old dog near
Forget about the world and the global fear,
Read the paper and learn somthin' new
While we wait for the billy to flavour a brew.

Let me sing in a voice learned and strong
For I've no use for vices, evil and wrong.
Let me forget about temptations near
And think of you my far away dear.

Give me the simple life where things go well
And keep me from heading to a place called Hell,
'Cos I don't need pills or a synthetic upper
Just give me scones and a shearing shed cuppa.



POETS & MATES

Kallangur Community Centre
1480 Anzac Ave., Kallangur Q 4503
\$10 Including Light Supper
7.30 Friday 12th February, 1999

featuring VINCE McLOUGHLIN & MARK FELDMAN

7.30pm Friday 12th March 1999

featuring MICHAEL DARBY & CAROL STRATFORD

Please book to assist with catering - Ph 07 3886 0747

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 4583 7169

"BACK TO THE BUSH" NIGHT

Kyabram Club, Kyabram Vic.

Wednesday, 3rd March, 1999

Everyone welcome for great evening of Verse & Yarns
Ring Grahame Watt 03 5852 2084 / Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265



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 - 12th - 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

MAN from the SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

SNOWY MOUNTAINS



BUSH POETRY CLUB

Corryong, Vic.

9th - 11th April, 1999

For information please ring

Jan Lewis 02 6076 1179 or

Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845



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

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



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

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)

MURRAY MUSTER

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

ACCOMMODATION ENQ TO THE ABOVE NUMBER

POETS BREAKFAST in conjunction with
KYNETON COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL
 Lauriston Scout Camp (5km west of Kyneton)
 8.30 - 10 am Sunday 14th February, 1999
 If you would like to perform ring:
 Geoffrey Graham - 03 5446 3739 ASAP

URGENT - WANTED NOW !!
BUSH POETS AND YARN SPINNERS
 TO ENTER COMPETITIONS - 27TH February, 1999
 to be held in conjunction with
SHEPPARTON BUSH FESTIVAL (Vic.)
\$600 PRIZE MONEY
 Contact - Liz Dobson
 Economic Development of Greater Shepparton,
 Locked Bag 1000, Shepparton, Vic. 3632
 or phone Paul Howard - 03 5821 8457

POETS BREAKFAST
 8.15 am Sun. 7th March, 1999 in conjunction with
SWAN HILL RED GUM FESTIVAL
 Venue to be advised
 Ring Kathleen McLennan - 03 5037 2519
 or Peter Worthington - 03 5436 1556



POETS BREAFAST
 Compered by **FRANK DANIEL**
 in conjunction with
 Country Music Jamboree & Talent Quest
 8 am - Sunday 18th April, 1999
 Kembla Heights Community Hall & Park
 Harry Graham Drive, Mt. Kembla NSW
 Enquiries Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176

WANTED!! BUSH POETS at **CHARTERS TOWERS**
 For a **MIDWEEK ADVENTURE**
 Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th April, 1999
 Poets Breakfasts - Workshops - Competitions
 Enq. - Julie 07 4787 1328 or Arthur 07 4787 2409
 or The Sec. PO Box 797, Charters Towers Q. 4820

SURAT BATTERED BUGLE
 6th Annual Bush Verse Competition
 14th 15th August, 1999 in conjunction with
 Cobb & Co Festival of Lights (12th - 15th August, 1999)
 ORIGINAL & TRADITIONAL
 PERFORMANCE POETRY
 Contact Jan Ritchie,
 PO Box 45, Surat Q 4417
 or Phone 07 4626 5103



BUNDY MOB'S 1999 BUSH POETS MUSTER
 3rd - 5th July, 1999 - Across the Waves Sports Club
 Miller Street, Bundaberg, Q.
PERFORMANCE COMP. - Juniors, Novice Open
 Traditional and Original Sections
DUO PERFORMANCE - DARK & STORMY 1 MIN. CUP
FRIDAY NIGHT FREE-FOR-ALL and SATURDAY CONCERT
 Further Information from the Secretary,
 PO 248, Childers, Qld. 4660

THE PRODUCT SHELF

PRODUCT SHELF ADVERTISEMENTS



\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY
 NEWSLETTER SPOTS !!



ABPA ANNUAL BOOKS OF VERSE

1995, 1996, 1997 - 1998 NOW AVAILABLE

Members Price - \$3.00ea

Post - \$1.10 for up to 4 Books,

12+ Post Free

PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY

THE NEW LOOK 1998

Bronze Swagman Book of Verse

is now available \$12.50 pp

from The Secretary,

Vision Winton Inc.

PO Box 44, Winton, Qld. 4735



"A RURAL ♀ & HER MATES"

"A RURAL ♀ MOVES ON"

Two books by **JAN LEWIS**, Rural Poet
 which portray rural life in Rhyming Verse
 A description of village life on the
 Murray River in Victoria.

\$10.00 pp per book

Jan Lewis, "Lowanna Park", CUDGEWA Vic. 3707

WANTED

The **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION**
 is calling for expressions of interest, in writing,
 from clubs for the holding of the
 Year 2000 **AUST. CHAMPION BUSH POET AWARDS**
PLEASE REPLY BEFORE 30.6.99 to
 THE SECRETARY, A.B.P.A, OLIVE SHOOTER
 M.S. 765, ALLORA, QLD 4362



PALMA ROSA POETS

7.30 pm Wed. 14th April, 1999

KELLY DIXON plus

Wally Finch and **Trish Anderson**

who will feature the work of **Bruce Forbes Simpson**

\$15.00 - Bookings essential. **BYO**

Phone 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 33769

Bandaberg Poets' Society Inc.
 presents
1999 BUSH LANTERN AWARDS
 Limit 100 lines - Entry Fee: \$3.00 - Max 3
 Closing Date 31st May, 1999
 Details and entry forms from
Ross Koppel, Co-ordinator, Bush Lantern Awards
 2 Anderson Street, Bundaberg Q 4670

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

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February, 1999

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

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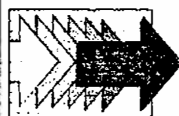
Thank You to Our Contributors

Patti Ainsworth	Bill Lasham
Trish Anderson	Jan Lewis
Joyce Alchin	Don Lloyd
Sandra Binns	Keith McKenry
Bluey Bostock	Bob McPhee
Roy Briggs	Jan Morris
Ellis Campbell	Glen G. Muller
Neil Carroll	Tom Penna
Jenny Carter	Maureen Quickenden
Wally Finch	Carol Reffold
Kevin Gilders	Arthur Rekow
Marco Giori	Jan Ritchie
Geoffrey Graham	Ron Selby
Col Hadwell	Olive Shooter
Judith Hosier	Kay Stehn
Neil Hulm	Tom Stonham
Keith Ireland	Judy Trew
Graeme Johnson	Liz Ward
Geraldine King	Grahame Watt

New Members

Ray Brown - Bradbury NSW
Julie Drew - Doncaster East Vic.
Kath Druitt - Morundah NSW
Catherine Gemmil - Tongala Vic.
Tony Gunter - Maroochydore Q
Jennifer Haig - Toowoomba Q
Jean Hill - Kyabram Vic.
Bryce Katte - Muswellbrook NSW
Jan Lewis - Cudgewa Vic.

Live Poets Society
of Great Lakes and Manning Valley
Peter Maher - Mermaid Waters Q
Lee Miller - Oakwood, Bundaberg Q
Philip Rush - Glen Huon Tas.
Tom Stonham - Nambucca Heads NSW
Tony Strauss - Tannum Sands Q
Laurence Webb - Alphington Vic.
Rod Williams - Murrurundi NSW



SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 31.12.98 !
PLEASE RENEW WITH THE SECRETARY ASAP -
Due to financial constraints we will be unable to
send March Newsletter to unfinancial Members.