

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 5 Volume 6

May 1999

RESULTS - QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - Winton Q 22nd - 26th April, 1999

Our Junior Performed Festival was a record for entries, with over two hundred young people presenting individual Performances, and 26 Group Performances as well! Bob Miller and Bob Magor certainly had a tough day! The 1st and 2nd Medal Winners on that day became the Finalists in the Clover Nolan Awards.

Attendance of Poets at the Senior Festival was excellent! A new venue, "Mulga Bill's Shed", proved extremely satisfactory, and was packed to capacity most of the weekend. Ron Selby and Jay Randle are to be particularly thanked for their efforts and organisation of the Winton Festival this year.

The concert, "Laughs, Lies and More Larrikins" on Friday Night was a sell out, with entertainment from Bob Miller, Bob Magor, Carmel Randle, Dick Warwick, Guy McLean and the wonderful singing of Bob Burgess.

PERFORMED BUSH POETRY

Winners to perform in Elko, Nevada USA in 2000

MALE: Winner - Guy McLean, Maryborough Q.

Runner-up - Ken Dean, Marrangaroo, NSW.

FEMALE: Louise K. Dean, Karumba Q.

Runner-up - Zita Horton, Upper Mt. Gravatt, Q.

Clover Nolan Awards for Performed Poetry by School Students

Primary: Winner: Kelsey Horton, Upper Mt. Gravatt, Q.

Runner-up: Stuart Nivison, Cleveland Q

Secondary: Winner: Jennifer Haig, Cunnamulla, Q.

Runner-up: Sunny Mutton, Winton, Q.

Bronze Swagman Award for Written Bush Poetry

Winner: Carmel Randle, Preston Q for "Motherhood"

Runner-up: Lyle Arnold, Algester Q for "Big Red"

Little Swaggie Award for Junior Written Bush Poetry

Secondary:

Winner: Jennifer Arnold, Glennie School, Toowoomba "The Bushman"

2nd: Annaleise Alcorn, Dalby State High School Q "The Old Farmer"
3rd: Jennifer Haig, Fairholme Coll., Toowoomba, "Diamonds in the Heart"

Primary:

Winner: Dustin Kavanagh, St Patricks, Winton "The Bush Cricket Match"

2nd: Kelsey Horton: Christian Outreach, Mansfield "Koolie Kookaburra:"

3rd: Chelsea Fry, St. Saviors, Toowoomba, "Australia the Place For Me"

Christina Macpherson Novice Award for Performed Bush Poetry:

Male Winner: Dick Warwick, Oakesdale, WA USA

Runner-up: Ken Dean, Marrangaroo, NSW

Female Winner: Veronica Weal, Mt Isa, Q

Runner-up: Susan Schuster, Rochdale South, Q

The Larrikin Award - Best Perf. Original Humorous Poem

Winner: Bob Magor, Myponga, SA

Undara Award - Best Perf. A.B. Paterson Poem

Winner: Guy McLean, Maryborough Q.

Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships

Junior Division 20 - 50 years: Winner: Merv Webster, Bagara Q,

Runner-up: Louise K. Dean, Karumba Q, 3rd Jay Randle, Preston Q.

Senior Division 50 - 70 years: Winner: Milton Taylor, Portland NSW

Runner-up: Bob Magor, Myponga SA, 3rd Bruce Babe, New Z'land

Masters Division over 70 years: Winner: Bill Hay, Eight Mile Plain Q.

Runner-up: Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW, 3rd Kevin Woods, Woody Pt, Q

Outback Oscars:

Group Performances: Winners: "Him & Mo" ent. by Guy McLean

Runner-up: "Bad Habits" entered by Zita Horton

3rd - "Kindergarten geriatrics" entered by Milton Taylor.

Individual Oscars for Characterisation:

Chris Doyle "Woombe Wankas" as "Shiela" in "Spider by the Gwyder"

Stuart Nivison "Him & Me" as the "Gay Farnhand"

Sunny Mutton "Kindergarten Geriatrics" as 'Granny'

Kelsey Horton "Rochdale Rugrats" as 'The Spoiled Girl'

Encouragement Award: A special Award to encourage the performer to seek other employment, be it on the road or elsewhere (Terrible costume, body problems, poor acting etc.)

Merv Webster "Aussie Babies" as 'The Fairy'

Carmel Randle

BRING YOUR SWAG TO 'BEAU'

The idyllic country township of Beaudesert in Queensland extends a warm greeting and invitation to all, (poets, craft people and horse lovers) to take part in its popular annual Country and Horse Festival, on June 11 - 20. Highlights of the festival include a bush ball, trail ride, thoroughbred stud tours, stockmen's challenge and street parade of 1000 hooves.

Of special interest to writers is the ever popular Bush Poets Brekky on Sunday 13th June at 7am in Westerman Park, next to the delightful Arts and Information Centre.

While the billy boils and the damper cooks, enjoy the madcap antics of local champion Glenny Palmer and the highly acclaimed singer songwriter and poet Tom McIvor.

The winners of the written bush poetry competition, "The Golden Horse Shoe", will be announced and recited during brekky. This is a hugely popular festival, as Beaudesert is conveniently located within about an hour of the Gold Coast, Brisbane City, Ipswich and northern NSW.

So roll up your swag and head for a ton of fun, in Beaudesert. The festival runs from 11th June to 20th June. Please send an A5 envelope for entry forms for the written competition to PO Box 256, Beaudesert, Q 4285 or ring 07 5541 2444.

POETRY AND MUSIC AT CLONCURRY

A great weekend of Country Entertainment is in store for those who visit Cloncurry for 16th - 18th July. Country music artist and Bush Poets will provide entertainment at various venues around the township over the three day period.

Poetry competitions include Junior, Novice and Open sections for both Traditional and Original performance. There will also be Poets in the Pub and Yarnspinning.

Poets breakfasts will be held on Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Post Office Hotel with the usual one minute poem competition. Good prize money is up for grabs.

The Cloncurry Shire Council is offering a \$100 prize plus trophy for the best poem written about Cloncurry. Send SSAE to Nancy Butt, PO Box 79, Cloncurry, Q, 4824 for entry forms and brief notes on Cloncurry history.

Take advantage of Cloncurry's pleasant winter climate and spend some time in this delightful friendly Western Town.

WANTED - Volunteers for special committee to help select venue for Australian Championships 2000
Please see Secretary's Notes on Page 2.

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Olive Shooter, Secretary.

A.B.P.A. Membership - \$25 p. a.

Secretary's Notes

Dear Members,

Have fun at the Australian Championships. I will be thinking of you all.

As we have called for expressions of interest for the Championships 2000, we need to select a committee of up to five more than the Executive four. I am calling for volunteers from members who are not vitally involved with any of the applicants, or venues. a committee will be chosen from those offering.

Thank you to those who answered my query for copyright information. I appreciate you taking the trouble.

Keep warm. We've had 3 frosts so far. My fond regards,

Olive Shooter, Secretary.



New Members

Jim & J Angel Narrandera NSW Brian Beesley Cherrybrook NSW
Vic and Lexie Cornell Urunga NSW Angie Crosthwaite Wagga Wagga NSW
Gympie Golden Pen Poets Gympie Q Ross Hodge Kotara South NSW
John Hurst Echuca Vic. Kempsey Writers Group Kempsey NSW
Keith Rice Chinchilla Q Peter Schroder Hamilton Vic.
Corrine Whitman Townsville Q.

THE FARMER © Emma Bowen, Tenterfield NSW
Winner - Primary Section Tenterfield Junior Looming Legend

It's half past four, the crack of dawn.
The farmer's up with a stretch and a yawn.
It's time to milk Betsy the cow,
Then feed the chooks and the sow.
Onto his horse to muster the sheep,
Fetches his dog by yelling a heap.
He musters all day and brings them home.
Gets off his horse with a groan and a moan.
It's the end of the day and the sun's gone down,
Time to go to bed for tomorrow is town.

WE KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE !!!

Yes, you ! You talented, versatile, brilliant writers who make our written competitions so interesting.

You only have to the end of this month, May 31st, to get your entries in for the BUSH LANTERN AWARD.

Entry forms from Ross Keppel, 2 Anderson Street, Bundaberg, Q 4670. **DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE !!!!**



PRESIDENTS REPORT.

As you can see by the results on page 1 Winton has been run and won and a very popular and deserving win to Guy McLean & Loise Dean, who will be winging their way to Elko, Nevada next January.

Carmel Randle, the organiser and main driving force behind the event was in the hospital a week before the event and asked me to go to Winton in her place to get things started. What a mammoth task! I don't know how she handles the whole thing each year.

Carmel, in her very competent way, had most of the agenda organised with all relevant material and instructions set out. But I could not have handled it without the help and invaluable support from all the attending poets. I would like to particularly thank Loise & Graham Dean who handled the junior section on the Thursday and assisted me in overcoming other minor problems. The committee of Vision Winton who gave every assistance in the setting up of the event, all the comperes & judges who kept the ball rolling through some minor hiccups, and Bob Miller's daughter, Tammy, who handled all the points scoring and paper work. Congratulations also to young Jennifer Haig who did a great job of compering the open finals on Monday morning. And to our visiting overseas members, Dick Warwick (USA), (if you have never heard 'The Man From Ironbark with an American accent, you have missed an experience indeed!) & Bruce Babe (N.Z.) who were both exceptional.

Carmel is now back on her feet and although she still has some problems with her health and some more visits to the hospital she is attending to the details of winding up this years Matilda Championships and I don't doubt planning ahead for next year. I'm sure all ABPA members will wish her a speedy recovery and congratulations for her tireless effort in promoting our art of Bush Poetry.

I am off to Mulwala next week and I'm sure the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club have everything in hand for another great event on the calendar and will be supported by our members who can make it.

Our membership continues to grow. There have been many new members joining ABPA in the Sydney and Victoria areas this year and I'm sure Mulwala will see a lot of new faces. These competitions just seem to be getting harder and harder to win with the fantastic amount of talent that keeps cropping up in the form of new members.

On the grapevine lately we hear that our illustrious and good looking editor, Maureen Garner, is soon to be wedded to a very debonair bloke by the name of Tom Stoneham. Also in the air is a wedding for Mr Versatile, Guy McLean and the beautiful Melissa, maybe the winner of Winton will be planning his trip to America as a honeymoon? but after his performance of Neil McArthur's 'Gay Farmhand' at Winton I'm not too sure!

We, at ABPA, wish them all the very best for the future.

Ron Selby

SOUTH AUSSIE GROUP READY FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.A. Bush Poets Inc. are holding their heads up high in this year's 1999 South Australian Country Music Festival. As part of the festival we will be hosting the first SA Bush Poetry awards and a ten day program of Bush Poetry events which involves 5 towns (Barnera, Berri, Cobdogla, Renmark and Loxton) in the Murray Riverland.

The program will provide many opportunities for novices as well as showcasing some as SA's great Bush Poets such as Bob Magor, Jeff Cook, Tom Penna, Mary Meehan and Gaynor Bowden. Not to mention many more top poets just joining in the mayhem and we are pleased to welcome poets coming from interstate, especially Neil McArthur who has a strong reputation for being a very funny guy.

This will be the biggest gathering of Bush Poets in SA to date. A "Historic Event" and one we are sure many people will remember for a long time. Not bad, since our group, now incorporated, only started in February 1998 and we now have members right across the State.

Due to a bigger festival program than expected, we have decided not to hold a written competition this year, however it will certainly be considered next year.

We wish to apologise to those of our eastern mates wishing to enter the Performance Competition. One of the SA Bush Poets objectives is to really wake up Bush Poetry in SA, therefore we have made the competition an avenue for SA Bush Poets to come out and have a real go. However, any help from interstates to help infect this state with Bush Poetry will find our doors are open wide. In the future as our foundations are more established, we hope to throw open a wider format for competing poets from every state.

Our competition offers both Original and Traditional sections for Open and Junior entrants. In addition to the cash prizes offered, 1st prize winners in all sections will receive a beautifully presented book, the complete works of A.B. Paterson's "A Vision Splendid" mounted on a fine redgun stand which will be suitably inscribed. 2nd and 3rd place getters will receive books kindly donated by Bob Magor, Peter Chapman, Tom Penna, Mary Meehan and Jeff Cook. Our judges will be Bob Magor, Jeff Cook and Tom Penna. Our program is as follows -

Fri. 4th June - 10am - 3pm Hall of Fame Park, Bamera, Bush Poetry, Walkups etc.

Sat. 5th - 10am - 2.30pm - Hall of Fame Pk. Bush Poetry, Walkups etc.
- 8am at Coby Club Jump in Walkups

Sun. 6th - 11am - 2pm Hall of Fame Park, Bush Poetry & Walkups etc.
- 2.30 - 3.30 Gospel Poetry at Loxton Comb. Churches.

Mon. 7th - 9 - 10.30am Hall of Fame Park, Bush Poetry & Walkups etc.
- 10.30am Bonny Theatre, Barnera - Country Comedy, Bob Magor, Peter Chapman & Gaynor Bowden.
- 6 - 7pm Berri Resort H/M Tavern - SA Bush Poets Performance..

Tues. 8th - 9 - 10.30am Hall of Fame Park, Bush Poetry & Walkups etc.
- 6 - 6.30pm Berri Resort H/M Tavern - SA Bush Poets Performance.
- 6.30pm Cobdogla Station C/van Pk, Bob Magor, Peter Chapman & Poets.

Wed. 9th - 9 - 10am Hall of Fame Pk. Bush Poetry & Walkups etc.
- 6pm Berri Resort H/M Tavern - SA Bush Poets Performance.
- 7pm Cobdogla Club- SA Bush Poets Performance.

Thurs. 10th - 8am Berri Resort H/M Tavern, Poets Breakfast with Bob

Magor. Walkups welcome.

- 7.30 Renmark Riverfront Van Park, Bush Poetry Bonfire Night - BYO Grub.

Frid. 11th - 8am Berri Resort H/M Tavern, Poets Breakfast with Bob Magor. Walkups welcome.

- 10am Bush Poetry Workshop with Bob Magor.
- 7pm Riverland Greyhound Racing Club, Bruce Oval, Barnera. - Bush Poetry Show compered by Jeff Cook and Tom Penna - admission \$5.00.

Sat. 12th - 8am Berri Resort H/M Tavern, Poets Breakfast with Bob Magor. Walkups welcome.

- 12.30pm Riverland Greyhound Racing Club Poetry Section of Talent Quest

- 7.30pm Loxton Hotel Motel. SA Bush Poets Performance.

Sun. 13th 7.30am - 9am Bony Theatre Gospel Concert with Jeff Cook.
- 9am - 11am Bush Poetry Awards Riverland Greyhound Racing Club
- 9.30am Church Service, Loxton Hospital Day Care Centre, Jeff Cook, Peter Chapman & Gaynor Bowden.

- 4.30pm Hard Yacca Park - Molly Fowl Rest., Berri. Peter Chapman & friends.

Mon. 14th - 9.30am Final CM Concert., Berri Rodeo Grounds

Results - TENTERFIELD ORACLES of the BUSH

The Looming Legend Trophy categories were won by Junior: Primary - Emma Bowen, Tenterfield for "The Farmer" (P2) Secondary - Ned Cusack, Tenterfield for "Shearing at 'Garrabilla' (P15). Adult: Written - Joyce Alchin, Corrimal NSW for "Matabeelie" (below). Performance: - Max Strong, Kyogle, NSW

Congratulation to all competitors and winners !!!

MATABEELIE © Joyce Alchin, Corrimal NSW

*Winner - Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush
Looming Legends Written Poetry Competition*

A quiet Sunday morning, yet word had got around
That something big was happening on this country racing ground;
A crowd of people waiting there to see two horses race
For a challenge had been offered and a wager put in place.
Two owners quite determined that their horses were the best
So until this race was over, their minds just wouldn't rest;
Now with this expectation folks had gathered one and all
And though it was illegal, bets were cast, both big and small.

One owner was a bushie who was farming barren land,
With his love for horse flesh deeper than most folk would understand.

His son would be the jockey, just a lad of tender years;
He'd grown up in the saddle where hard riding held no fears.

The other man a townie and he felt he knew for sure
His horse was much the better, now to prove it, and what's more
He'd got the best of jockeys who would give him quite an edge;
To him to win was everything; to win, this was his pledge.

They stood against the starting line, a quietness filled the air,
Two horses eager for the race, and tension everywhere.

The boy on Matabeelie, little scrawney home-grown kid
Versus top hoop in the district, greatly known for what he did.

A father's comment to the lad, a 'from the heart' request,
"I know that you can do it, Boy - you'll do your very best".
And so the starter dropped his flag and firmly shouted, "Go!"
Three furlongs on, the briefest time to have a winner show.

Two horses' hooves resounded clear as dust flew from the track
While morning sun was glistening on the sweat upon each back.

And every nerve and muscle tensed within each rider's frame,
First one would gain advantage, and then the other came.

The battle raged on fiercely as they both rode for the prize
Of all the honour, glory; and so went up the cries

As round the fence they barracked and hoped the lad would win;
He drew his whip and by a head his plucky mare came in.

Excitement filled his body and a tingling up the spine
While through his head was ringing 'This race is mine, it's mine.'

They put him on their shoulders and lifted him up high
For him a glorious victory that no-one could deny;

The proudest moment of his life, his heart was filled with joy,
He'd won against the very best, what honour for a boy!

And Matabeelie, what a horse, his special little mare;
She'd done him proud, repaid his love, returned his constant care.

His father took the winning bet, the handsome fifty pound;
No simple word of 'thank you' came, no praise, not one small sound.

His son had only done his job, the task he'd trained him for,
He'd given what was asked of him, no less and yet no more.

So home they headed to their farm to face the daily grind
With wagon teams in drought and heat, whatever they could find
To make a living in those days when life was hard and rough;
They'd train their horses, battle on, and always do it tough.

And now a lifetime later on an old man sits and dreams,
He thinks back to the days gone by; not long ago it seems
Since he sat proudly on his mare and felt her willing stride
Responding to his hand and heels, and giving him a ride
That filled his heart with confidence and strength to battle through
And face the world ahead of him, to keep on winning too.

He won't forget the little mare and that eventful morn;
His Matabeelie, still his horse; and memories that were born.

**We look forward to your company for our celebration of
Australian Bush Poetry in South Australia, Peter Chapman**

IT MIGHT BE BEST

© Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW

1st Place - 1998 Will Ogilvie Poetry Prize

'It might be best - for the kids', Tom said
 'they'll be close to things they need,
 not chained and bound to the life we've led.
 I just hope and pray we can keep them fed
 through the change that's been decreed'.
 Jill turned to him with a tear-filled eye
 as she helped him lift the container high.

He saw the dream of his boyhood then,
 but her glow had been enhanced
 by the lines that time's slowly moving pen
 had allowed to form on his perfect 'ten'
 through the years that had advanced.
 'So far it's all working out OK',
 she replied, quite sure they would find a way.

'You're right,' said Tom 'but I can't help feel
 for the loss of wasted years'.
 His gentle tone let his voice reveal
 that his love for her was alive and real.
 'Come on darling, no more tears.
 There's just this one carton left to load.
 Once it's on the ute, we can hit the road'.

He cast his gaze over sun-baked earth
 as they stopped to catch their breath.
 'It goes to show that besides the birth
 of our kids, truth is that it's not been worth
 working heart and soul to death,
 but we had no way to foresee defeat
 when the world cried out for our bags of wheat'.

His memory flashed to his Mum and Dad
 as the box was dropped in place.
 They had both passed on, but ideals they had
 would abhor this scene - their old farm gone bad.
 Tom could feel the loss of face,
 but within his soul just the smallest tear
 felt his parents' strength lurking somewhere near.

Then he saw his Dad, with an old draft horse
 and a hand made ploughing tool,
 then his dear old Mum (in the house of course,
 making Sunday lunch with its lamb and sauce),
 then the next day's walk to school,
 not the smooth bus rides that his own kids took.
 These were now just part of the past's closed book,

For they'd lived near school, where he'd found rent cheap,
 'for a while', Tom told himself
 'till I find a job'. What a quantum leap!
 He could face each day after peaceful sleep.
 and have fruit to fill the shelf.
 Sadly, interviews shared a downward tone,
 turned the C.E.S. to a twilight zone.

'It's hard', said Jill 'for I still can't tell
 whether droughts or floods are worse,
 after years spent perched on the brink of hell,
 while our heart of hearts learned the grim truth well -
 Mother Nature's quite perverse'.
 though her words gave shape to his reverie,
 Tom was blind to now, as the past flowed free

To that awful year when the flash flood hit
 and a child was almost lost
 on a nearby farm. Tom had done his bit
 and retrieved the lad from that swirling pit.

When the winter's bitter frost
 couldn't cool the warmth local families shared,
 it was proof to all that the good Lord cared.
 Then a bushfire's roar filled his anguished mind
 as the tears worked hard to flow,
 knowing all too soon they must leave behind
 every coal black stump that could still remind
 of the not-too-long ago,
 with their house so close to that scorching threat.
 Should he curse or praise that it stood there yet?

Waves of heat then struck at his troubled heart,
 as the parching drought brought home
 how their peaceful lives had been ripped apart.
 What a crazy time for a brand new start,
 trading slowly built up loam,
 his enormous shed and those fine machines
 for a bankrupt's life, wearing pre-loved dreams.

Tears were tiny stones, yet to reach his eyes,
 as he laboured hard to prove
 he was in control. Then his thin disguise
 took a practiced look at the clear blue skies,
 as he answered 'Every move
 was designed 'round thoughts that we'd make it through
 IF the Bank held on just a year or two!'

'It's not much use having thoughts like that'
 spoke the wisdom deep within
 Jill's perceptive mind, as she placed the cat
 on the twin-cab's floor, on a tiny mat,
 and the children both climbed in.
 'Now it's time to leave, so let's wave goodbye
 to the farm and house. Come on kids, don't cry'.

'It might be best just to let things go,
 let the future find its course'.

Tom was driving now, and he took it slow
 past the farms of friends they had come to know.
 'How I've missed the dogs and horse
 since I phoned old Bob and he picked them up,
 but he said to stop for a farewell cup'.

'It might be best ...' over tea, Jill spoke
 as their neighbours sat perplexed.
 Bob cut in '... to watch while a damned fine bloke
 sees his dreams dissolve like a wisp of smoke
 makes you wonder who'll be next' ...
 His concluding words weighed a heartfelt ton.
 'Tom, we won't forget how you saved our son'.

'It might be best,' Tom had almost cried
 'but it's much too hard for me',
 as they passed that bank where their hopes had died.
 Now the future loomed, Tom was petrified,
 but the walls refused to see
 that machines within, printing graphs and charts,
 were just closed accounts to these breaking hearts.

'It might be best ...' through his squinting lids
 Tom at last began to weep,
 for he'd faced hard facts. He was on the skids,
 and he thanked the Lord that his wife and kids,
 like the cat, were fast asleep.
 As the ute drove on, tears released their might,
 helping Tom work through such a painful night.

JUDGES COMMENTS WILL OGILVIE POETRY PRIZE

The writer of the winning verse has chosen a topical subject, and one that we are all too familiar with today. The format used is a rather complicated one, if the metre is not exact in this type of stanza scansion will suffer and the verse will not flow smoothly. There are a few rough lines in the poem, but overall the writer is to be congratulated.

In the second placed verse the writer has gone outside the nine dots as far a subject matter is concerned. However, a traditional rhyming verse form has been used and I applaud the originality of the topic.

The two poems placed third share a common theme, "In the City" treats the City versus Bush situation in a contemporary way, while "This Restless Bed" uses the more traditional style. Both are, however, excellent poems.

The four commended poems are very good, the authors should feel well justified with their respective efforts. It is particularly heartening to me that the majority of the bush verses listed for awards use contemporary subjects. As long as metre and rhyme are employed bush verse can only grow stronger by the portrayal of today's life style. Will Ogilvie would be doing exactly that if he were alive today.

My congratulations to all those who entered the competition.

*Bruce Simpson,
 Adjudicator*

CONGRATULATIONS

must go to A.B.P.A. member, Reid Begg of Forster, NSW who trounced a host of musicians and singers to win a Talent Quest which was recently held in conjunction with this years Wingham Agricultural Show.

Onya Reid!!

POETIC TRIFECTA

ABPA Member, Brian Bell of Glenbrook, NSW was awarded first, second and equal third prizes in the 6th Annual Will Ogilvie Poetry Competition, which was organised by the MacPhie Clan of Lockyer Valley in Qld.

Brian won the Henry Lawson Poetry Award in Gulgong in 1996, and has since had minor successes with his work, but says this extremely rare result beats the lot. The contest judge, Bruce Simpson, is considered one of the best bush poets in Australia today. Brian says that anyone writing any type of poetry ought not to be disheartened by the lack of results in competitions, indeed he says 'Keep trying for all you're worth. All three poems entered in the Ogilvie contest had been unsuccessful in other contests'.

The winning poem, "It Might Be Best", received no certificates in the Gulgong and Grenfell Henry Lawson contests, and did not qualify for inclusion in the Bronze Swagman Book in 1998.

VICTORIAN HAPPYNINGS

This year saw the first ever Bush Poets at Swan Hill Red Gum Festival. Four poetry shows were put on by a small band of Poets. A poets breakfast, opening of a Festival concert, a dedication to the Catalina war museum at Lake Boga and an impromptu show at the Lake Boga tea rooms were enjoyed by enthusiastic audiences.

The poets who made this festival a great success were Jim Angel, Noel Cutler, Geoffrey Graham, new poet Swan Hill local rope maker Bruce Mitchell, and myself, who compered the weekend of poetry.

Our performance which commenced the Festival concert was a great success with Noel, Geoffrey having only five minutes to plan our act. Following the show, we had people asking where and when they could see some more of this bush poetry 'stuff'.

Sunday 21st March saw the second year of bush poets at Toolern Vale Country Fair. Last year I worked alone for the day. This year however I was assisted by Neil McArthur, Doug Burns from Geelong and Lindsay Wilson from Kyneton. The show was received very well and we have been booked again for 2000. I would like to thank all poets who assisted me with these two shows.

Southern Bush Poets Register

Following the Toolern Vale event, the poets held a short discussion about trying to form a Bush Poets Register for Southern Poets, e.g. Victoria, South Australia and Southern NSW. The idea of this is to assist one another, if anyone wishes to run a show in their own area. Note, it is not to form any club or separate poets body. At present, there appears to be quite a few little groups all over the southern area, all doing little bits here and there. If we had a central register we may be able to help one another make bush poetry strong down south, and, in doing so, build up the Australian Bush Poets Association to an even stronger organisation. If anyone wishes to register their name, club or writers group, you can contact either -Peter Worthington 03 5436 1556, Neil McArthur 03 5332 8833 or Doug Burns 03 5224 1891.

Regards, *Peter 'Whipstick' Wortho'*

RESULTS - MURRUMBIGEE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The competition was held on Sat. 20th March, 1999 at Murrumbidgee Hotel and sponsored by licensee Trent Miller. It was conducted by the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club in conjunction with the John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera.

Winners were:- Equal 1st **Don Anderson**, Leeton NSW and **Jack Bridle**, Talbinga NSW, 3rd **Noel Stallard**, Brisbane Q.

THE PURPLE AND THE GOLD

© Liz Ward, Mount Perry, Q.

2nd Prize, John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize - Celtic Australian Theme

The thistles wave on Jeanie's grave
Where once her light feet trod,
Her voice is still and on the hill
The golden wattles nod.

Brave, Jeanie's heart had ever been, her spirit strong and free,
She sailed away from Aberdeen to cross the wild, wide sea;
For Rob had told of pastures wide, of sheep and crops that grew;
He'd built a home there for his bride 'neath Southern skies of blue.

He met her on the golden shore and straightway they were wed,
The road was steep to Elsinore' — the name of their homestead.
Round every turn new vistas showed and Jeanie's eyes were wide,
So proud and happy, Robert glowed as he rode by her side.

Exclaiming at the gums so tall, bright birds she'd never seen,
The kookaburra's laughing call, the wattles gold and green.
Then, round the shoulder of the hill, a Scottish sight she spied;
Tall purple thistles! She stood still. "They're just like home!" she cried.

"How wonderful that they grow here!" But Robert shook his head;
"We have to cut and burn them dear, They're noxious weeds," he said.
"You call those lovely thistles **weeds**?" She asked in some dismay,
"Well, in the garden I'll plant seeds. They won't be in your way."

The years rolled on, two sons were born, she sang from dawn to dark,
Rob whistled as the sheep were shorn, as happy as a lark.

In Jeanie's garden roses grew and lavender as well
and purple thistles, quite a few, and Canterbury bell.

So dearly Robert loved his wife, he'd not the heart to say
How oft those thistles caused him strife, as seed blew far away.
He chipped young thistles with his hoe, not once did he complain,
They brought glad thoughts of long ago, her memories to sustain.

She rode to town one windy day, she came not home for tea;
Next morn he found her where she lay, crushed by a fallen tree.
With breaking heart he brought her home, her broken body cold,
And laid her 'neath six feet of loam, beneath the wattle's gold.

He placed no lilies on her grave,
No lavender, no rose,
The flowers she loved the best he gave,
'Twas thistles that he chose.

The thistles wave on Jeanie's grave
Where once her light feet trod,
Her voice is still and on the hill
The golden wattles nod.

Judges Comment .."A rather beautiful story of a young Scottish immigrant's love for the thistle of her native land. It is well presented, the poetry is narrative in the vein of the bush tradition, and its story rather sad and very beautiful. Dr. Cath Filmer-Davis, Snr Lecturer in English, Uni. of Qld.

From THE NORTHERN RIVERS of NSW by 'Haddy'

We are all alive and kicking, here on the Richmond and Tweed.

Johnny Bird is proving to be the real dynamo in this area and has put a power of work into the Station Hotel at Lismore, where the third Sunday arvo of each month is devoted to Bush Poetry. Mine Host, Jeff, threw on a free sausage sizzle at the last gig!

It was good to see Murray Austin and Des Fulford performing again.

Martin O'Brien has also proved to be a great organiser (and singer of some note). He ran a great variety arvo for St Patricks Day again this year and kindly invited "The Mullumbimby Bloke" and myself to fill the gaps.

GOLDEN BELLS © 1999 Bob Kane, Rutherford NSW

Church bells are pealing, oh hail the new year,
Say a prayer for the future and the folks we hold dear,
A milestone achieved, along the highway of life,
Anniversary golden for a husband and wife!

Stars in the eyes of a happy young bride,
Pride in my heart as I stood by your side.

Together we've battled and toiled through the years,
Hand in hand through the sunshine, heartaches and tears.

You were there by my side when drought cursed the land,
When life didn't work out the way that we planned,
May we still be together, right through to the end,
You're my helpmate, my wife, and my very best friend.

It seems we can still hear our children at play,
But children grow older and choose their own way,
Yet the bonds that we forged then have never been broken,
The love that they give us a most precious token.

You may ponder the question, how have we survived?
My answer is, 'love keeps a marriage alive'.
Respect and devotion you must always display,
With God in your hearts as you welcome each day.

We are still young at heart, though there is snow in our hair.
May we always be able to show that we care,
With dear friends around us and the Lord by our side,
We will face life together, whatever betide.

MAN from the SNOWY RIVER FEST. 9th - 11th April. '99

In perfect weather they came from all over to Corryong, NSW to mix with the locals! Poets, yarnspinnings and songsters from America, Queensland, NSW, Victoria, SA. International Year of the Older Persons representatives abounding! Jean Payne, over 80, up there reciting poetry along with all other age groups at the best three Poet's Breakfasts ever seen at 'Banjo's Block'.

Friday and Saturday nights were fabulous - with performances running so thick and fast that the amplifier blew up during the competitions at the Brumby bar! But poets, being the resilient folk they are, handled all that and pulled through with the enthusiasm we know them for.

It was great to bring the poetry and horses together with Banjo's 'Man from Snowy River' poem competition at the showgrounds, but what a treat to see Leeton visitor Don Anderson's winning performance of the classic poem. There were added walkups from all over the world including Mary Bell from Louisiana, USA who told a great little poem about the 'Aussie Language'.

Other winners were Peter Klein from Bethanga, Vic. for his very entertaining performance in the Traditional or Established section "How McDougal Topped the Score".

Representing the local youth, Angelina Reiners showed us how well the juniors are coming up through the ranks with her own poem about the snake, while Brendan Lloyd sang his way to win the Junior song award. Last Year's Jack Riley Heritage Award winner, John Memery from Beechworth, V. thrilled us with 'Living on the Edge of the Land' to take the instrumental/song award.

Yarrowonga's Johnny Johanson had us in stitches with his winning 'Rairy Bird' verse and our Tintaladra, V. celebrity Betty Walton had us on the edge of our seats with 'Regret' which won the Original section and also won her the Jack Riley Heritage Award for the best original song, poem or yarn. You little beauty, Betty!

New this year was the 'Clancy's Choice Award' for the best overall music, yarn or poetry performer which was won by Johnny Johanson, who did the 'Rairy Bird' yarn again at the rider's presentation.

Many thanks to the other two judges, Dale O'Conner, Melb. and Merilyn Webster from Koetong. M.C.'s Peter Klein, Reg Phillips, Ron Blyton and our two special guests Geoffrey Graham and Campbell the Swaggie. Special thanks to the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Group and our sponsors. *Lawrie Sheridan*

JOHN O'BRIEN FESTIVAL REPORT

17th - 21st March, Narrandera NSW

The official opening of the Festival took place in the evening of Thursday 18th during an Art Exhibition at the Plaza Hall in Narrandera. During the evening, Geoffrey 'The Man From Ironbark' Graham compered the presentation of prizes for the Festival's written competition. The results were as follows:

Section 1 - Awards for Verse.**Open Class 1 Traditional.**

1st Don Adams, Paraparauma Bch., NZ, "*Small Towns Are Dying*"

H. Comm.: Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW - "*Roll Call*";

Jean Stubbings, Leeton NSW - "*Housewife's Holiday*";

Brian Beesley, Cherrybrook NSW - "*His Shearing Mate's Reply*"

Open Class 2 Contemporary.

1st Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - "*Colours*"

H. Comm.: John Ryan, Bunyanvale, NSW "*Monaro Spring*";

Hylda Rolfe, Watsons Bay, NSW "*An Eromanga Duel*"

Open Class 3 Humorous.

Equal 1st - Brian Bell - "*Come Off the Grass*" and **Shirley Pearse**, Kingston, Tas. - "*Drama in the Shearing Shed*".

H. Comm.: Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga V, "*Satisfied*"

Section 2 - Awards for Prose.**Open Class 1 Short Story.**

1st - Helen Armstrong, Bundeena NSW "*Driving Crazy*"

H. Comm.: Marion Morgan, Bonnels Bay NSW "*Mrs. Morgan Daydreams*"

Liz Vincent, Picton NSW - "*One Makes All The Difference*"

Jim Horan Bush Poetry Award - Johnny Johanson

On Friday evening 19th, Neil Hulm from the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club compered a reciter's competition, and we heard from Dennis Attwood, Ray Halliday, Jan Lewis, Jim Angel, Johnny Johanson, Noel Stallard etc.

Saturday 20th saw a street scene of great colour and pageantry, poets and dancers, singers and musicians taking turns on stage, and a parade of course, with John O'Brien's bright red 1928 Chrysler coupe leading.

The finalist from Friday night's contest all appeared again on Saturday afternoon. The female section of the contest was won by Jan Lewis, the male section shared equally by two of Snowy Mountains group with Noel Stallard taking third.

Saturday night there were two main events - a poet's session at the local pub and a Hooley held 2 kms out of town. At the Hooley, again compered by Geoff Graham, 'John O'Brien' mixed it with the Irish dancers and Noel Cutler's whips. A local had written a superb piece about his days at school, with quite a bit of embarrassing name-dropping.

On Sunday morning, 21st Geoff Graham hosted a poets breakfast at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, an excellent venue filled with around 150 people. The poets were brilliant and really appreciated. The weekend finished for me with a barbecue celebration of 100 years of St. Joseph's Catholic School, where I said goodbye to John O'Brien till next time.

*"Ever since Noel has been seen as a priest,
at communion, he fears getting drunk.
I reckon his fears are about to increase*

*Brian Bell,
Glebrook, NSW*

New ABPA member **Dave Bartlett of Mollymook, NSW** writes

"We drove 600kms south to Narrandera. It was a wonderful experience, commencing with a St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Grong Grong on the evening of Wed. 17th. In true Irish fashion, the congregation seemed to be singing different verses of 'For God and St Patrick' simultaneously, or perhaps, those in front were singing in Erse. This was followed by a sumptuous dinner provided by the tiny community (150) at which I was invited to recite, choosing Charlee Marshall's "The Pontiff's Eyes", which brought the house down.

The highlight, for me was being in Father Hartigan's study on Sunday afternoon with Noel Stallard, reciting "The Little Irish Mother", "Josephine", "Ownerless" and other poems, while sitting at the desk and in the chair where they were written!"

COME OFF THE GRASS © Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW - 1st Prize Open Humorous Verse, John O'Brien Comp. 1999

As persistent Summer swelter turns to need for Winter shelter,
how a pile of glowing embers can impress.
How a slower pace relaxes, until calculating taxes
is the only thing that causes you distress,

But a season less demanding can obscure understanding
of forgotten jobs you've never wished to know,
until Spring had dimmed its glory to conclude your fairy story -
'Darling, don't you think the lawn could use a mow?'

'Can't it wait until tomorrow?' is a desperate bid to borrow
precious time, before your peace is blown apart.
'But you promised we'd go driving' sees the bitter truth reviving
Autumn memories of a mower, hard to start.

Still you wheel it out so proudly, as the distance echoes loudly
'Did you ever think to fill that can of fuel?'
Murphy's law becomes much plainer as you search for the container,
and you ask yourself why life can be so cruel.

Then you fill it, theorising, for your confidence is rising.
It may fire if you just pull the rope a bit.
Twenty minutes' huff and puffing is enough to knock the stuffing
out of anyone the Winter's left unfit.

But an hour's kind demeanour sees the plug and points come cleaner,
and a tug allows the engine to ignite.
As you shout 'Hooray, she's willing', little drops of petrol spilling
start a flame that gives your wife an awful fright.

But you tell her this is normal, as you drag a most informal
piece of rag across the top to put it out.
You detect her smile returning, once she's sure there's nothing burning,
but the pungent odour's all but knocked you out.

Now you start the actual mowing, but it's very heavy going.
When you check, you see the blades have worn away.
Well, that's twenty minutes driving and another business thriving,
'cause she badgered you to have it done today.

You return, as ever cheerful, but two minutes sees you tearful,
and you call the thing a dirty rotten crate.
Having opened up the packet, saying 'spares are such a racket',
you recall you've lent the spanners to a mate.

Murphy's law swings into action, heightens lack of satisfaction -
Neil had mentioned he was going on a hike,
but home is castle, palace, manor, for here's junior with a spanner
from a kit that Santa gave him for his bike.

He is loath to let you take it till you've promised not to break it,
so you do, but when you've loosened all the rest,
there's a nut that's rusting tightly. Thanking Murphy impolitely,
you decide to put your grinder to the test.

Blowing raspberries is forbidden, but you're sure that someone's hidden
the peculiar little tool to change the wheel.
That's just Murphy intervening once again, for you'd been meaning
to replace it, when you got it back from Neil.

You declare you must have lost it, though you're pretty sure she tossed it
during one of her attempts at cleaning up.
Since it's past, you can't erase it, so you might as well replace it,
and reduce the risk of sleeping with the pup.

At the hardware, you enquire through the salesman's look of ire.
He had almost closed the door as you got there.
Murphy's law's no longer funny when you've parted with your money
then to see the old tool, lying near your spare!

As you're plugging in the grinder, it emits a loud reminder
that whoever used it last has left it on.
Murphy knows how pain can travel. As you're working to unravel
twisted cord, you see a fingernail is gone.

Checking tourniquet position, you hear junior ask permission
to continue, once he sees you cannot work.
Underneath humiliation, you are hiding aggravation
as you guide him, trying not to go berserk.

Blades installed, and blood-flow stopping, now your anger level's dropping,
but you tell your wife you'll give the lawn a miss.
Sighing 'Dear, it's not a trouble', she starts mowing on the double,
and along the way she stops to blow a kiss.

With the morning traffic slowing, you are watching people mowing,
when you wife declares she thinks you've lost the plot.
Seems you talked while you were sleeping, and she swears she heard
you weeping over quotes for laying pavers on the lot.

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL - 1st - 5th April, 1999

The Spoken Word Programme at the National continued to grow this year under the guidance of Poetry Co-ordinator, Keith McKenry. Western Australia was featured and a large contingent of poets, songwriters and storytellers comprising Sir Ronald Wilson, Bob Rummery, Roger Montgomery, Bill Bunbury, Peter Cap and Dingo's Breakfast Oz Music and Poetry Band were representatives from our "Wildflower State".

They presented many themed events including - "Jack Sorenson - W.A.'s Forgotten Bard", "Scratchin' for a Crust" and "The Goldfields Poet's Brawl".

Other themed poetry events at the Festival included - "Words from the Land" from indigenous poets, "We'll All Be Rooned", songs and verse about our climate and "Cowboy Poetry and Songs" courtesy of Dick Warwick, our ABPA member from Washington State, USA.

Poets from all the far flung corners of the land gathered at the Exhibition Centre Showgrounds to be confronted with a dazzling array and variety of poetic fare. There were "Poetry Cabarets" (Trevor Brown and Edwina Blush), "Laughing Jackasses" (S. Sorrenson), "Bush Liars" (Campbell, Mark Feldman, Frank Daniel and Dick Warwick), "Poets Cocktails" (combining free and rhymed verse on the same bill), "Word Dancing Workshops" (Kathieilyn Job), "Stand Up Poets" and more.

The National Reciters Award was presented to Richard (Scritch) Leitch.

The ever popular Poet's Breakfasts were held over 4 mornings and featured, on average 28 different poets each day. Poets performing included Ron Brown, Maureen Burdette, 'Arch' Bishop, Doris Coats, Barry Cole, Mick Coventry, Barry Dunstan, Ann Edgeworth, Mark Feldman, Dianne Hickey, Arnie Haynes, Graeme Hume, Gail Jaffer, Graeme Johnson, Tan Lee, Jan Lewis, Gina and Laurie Langley, Mary Meehan, Don Morrison, Graham Muir, Mary Mann, Chris McGinty, Maureen McGuire, David Meyers, Penelope, David Peats, Rhymin' Simon, Bev Stuart, Jim Smith, Pauline Smith, Frank Schroeder, Campbell the Swaggie, Leon Tripp, Troy, Peter Willey, Col Wright, Brenda Williams, Joy Wheat and Yuri the Storyteller. Blue the Shearer and friends also had a very entertaining CD Launch.

All in all a very full 4 days of the best in poetic talent that Australia has to offer.

NARRANDERA 1999

© Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW

One day in 1917 saw history turn a page
when Patrick took his place as parish priest.
Who could foresee the way his aura dominates the stage,
though he's been gone for forty years at least.

But now it's nearly Y2K. It bugs us all to think
that poetry's today's forgotten art,
but heritage is heritage, and P. J. is a link
for all those who love remembering the past.

His vintage car still purrs along, to head the big parade,
before the Hooley brightens up the night.
Yes, here we are to celebrate the way that Patrick made
his name, while helping sinners see the light.

So listen to the poetry and have a lot of fun.
Here them ring the tired old school bell.
Time erases much, but Patrick Hartigan is one
remembered by the parish of St. Mels.

Your Festival Scribe. *Graeme Johnson*

POETS AT JAMBEROO (NSW)

The 14th Illawarra Folk Festival at Jamberoo, south of Wollongong, has been hailed as another of the great successes presented by the Illawarra Folk Club. All attempts to keep the Festival down to size have failed again with bigger and better crowds attending during the five days of the festivities.

The workload on the committee is tremendous and the support and generosity of artist and patrons alike has given them an accolade well deserved. The smooth running of this great event is well worth noting by other committees and organisers, a page from their book could benefit so many.

Undoubtedly the highlight of this year's festival was the People's Forest Exhibition, a tribute to our pioneers in the Timber Industry and the preservation of the environment. Displayed in the Municipal Hall, this exhibit made a fitting and comfortable venue for many of the performers to talk and sing about the forests, their past and their future.

Held within the bounds of the village, the focus of the festival was more and more centred on the marquees in the oval, along with the use of the local RSL Hall and the adjoining Bowling Club.

The setting is ideal for campers and camper-vanners who take advantage of the availability of the ground's facilities making a permanent site for the week's activities commencing with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, all venues being within easy walking distance.

The Main Marquee was the venue for the major concerts. These included Seniors Concerts and School Children's Concerts (1,500 kids attended) on the Thursday and Friday.

The Poets Breakfasts in the School of Arts marquee was well attended on both the Saturday and Sunday mornings with audiences swelling to well over three hundred each day. Compered by the inimitable Frank Daniel, these are by and large the most popular spoken word sessions on the program. Along with the old stagers, a welcome number of new faces were encouraged this year, bringing more closet poets out into the open. A real feature on the Sunday morning was the 'Preamble Free' breakfast where the compere broke all records with a fast and furious show of 'Recite, don't skite' bush

poetry performances seeing 39 recitals within the two hour breakfast.

ABPA member, American Cowboy Poet and entertainer Dick Warwick of Oakesdale, Washington State, appeared at the Breakfasts and left a lasting memory with his 'Nancy of the Internet' and other humorous events in the life of a farmer. His own performances at the RSL hall saw his poetry and stories well received. Dick's skills as a singer were well and truly revealed in his delivery of the well known Sandy Scott song, "I've Been Everywhere", and Dick taking us to some of the most unlikely places throughout the USA (and Australia), rattling off the town names faster than a speeding bullet.

The able assistance of Bush Poets, 'Arch' Bishop, Graeme Johnson and Linda Pearce should be recognised as comperes at a good number of folk concerts, and 'Blue the Shearer' for his New Voices segments.

Pamela Drysdale led the way in the two hour 'Swagful of Humour' on the Sunday with yet another packed house for the likes of "Blue the Shearer", John Dengate, Frank Daniel, Peter Willey, Linda Pearce, Bernard Carney, Judy Small and Bernard Boland. This type of event has never been seen before and will surely be an attraction for many years to come.

"The Great Festival Tripe Night" conducted by Russell Hannah on the Thursday night, brought a sense of division into the ranks when a certain poet from Canowindra in NSW delivered a rhyming reply to the festival organiser's request for hints on improving the festival. All in good faith (of course) was his poem suggesting that 'Blue the Shearer' be deleted from the program at future festivals. This saw members of the 'Blue the Shearer' Fan Club, led by Ces Cox of Brogo NSW 'up in arms' whilst immediately a newly formed 'Save the Franklin' group defended the remarks of their 'hero'. 'Blue' was quick to respond the following morning with a plea for sympathy from the audience by condemning the 'unsavory remarks', putting his long-time mate 'down a little'. Interest in the 'rift' between these two characters caused quite a stir with late comers, not 'in the know', and was further intensified by Ted Egan adding that 'blood almost flowed'. A great time at Jamberoo. Don't miss it in 2000.

THE SLANDER

© Graeme Johnson, West Ryde NSW
Used in the Poets Brawl - Jamberoo '99

A furore has erupted,
in the town of Jamberoo.
And the festival committee,
has no idea of what to do.
It's all because Frank Daniel,
made a harsh critique of 'Blue'.
On the third page of their bulletin.
Let's all hope that it's not true.

He said, "Let's ban Col Wilson,
cause he's very well past seventy.
and he can't reverse a trailer,
without flattening the trees.
Let's ban poets who don't practise,
the forgetting of their lines.
And brag of being Macho,
after drinking beer and wine".

Now Len, the Fan Club President,
well he flew into a rage.
And he said, "You should not slander,
or write libel on a page.

Dear Frank we're gunna sue ya,
for this virulent attack.
So give us back your fan club badge,
cause you've been bloody sacked!"

RESULTS GYMPIE GOLDEN PEN

Primary: 1st & 2nd Jonnyele Shute, 3rd Grace Smith

Secondary:

Serious: 1st & 2nd Angie Dennien,
3rd Carl Diefenbach.

Romantic: 1st Makeeta Shute,
2nd Sara Swanson, 3rd Carl Diefenbach

Bush: 1st & 2nd Makeeta Shute.

Humorous:

1st, 2nd & 3rd Angie Dennien.

Encouragement Awards: Ruby Smith, Rosie Double, Saar Marie Koek, Connie Cruickshank.

Open: *Serious:* 1st & 2nd John Strano,
3rd Johnny Johanson, H.Comm: Graeme Johnson
(2) & Marguerite River(2), Comm: Graeme Johnson, Selwyn Steeley, Kevin Wilson, Johnny Johanson, Lee Mallett.

Romantic: 1st Greg Young, 2nd Ellis Campbell,
3rd Lynette Day.

Bush: 1st Ellis Campbell, Grahame Watt,
3rd Phillip Morrisson, H. Comm: Sue Nash.

Humorous: 1st Greg Young, 2nd Merv Webster,
3rd Grahame Watt, H. Comm: Lucille Tothill.

Golden Pen: Won by John Strano,

Open Very Highly Commended: Grahame Watt & Ellis Campbell.

Highly Commended: Greg Young.

Secondary Highly Commended: Angie Dennien,
Comm: Carl Diefenbach.

Primary Highly Commended: Jonnyele Shute.

If you were 'round when mini skirts were the go
you shouldn't be wearing them now you know!

© Hipshot 1999

SONG OF THE AXEMAN'S WOMAN

© Robert Raftery, "Picture Writer", Brisbane Q.

She caught my eye, and held it, and I lingered there awhile.
The battle flags of "knocking around" flashed broadly in her smile.
The gingham blouse, the weathered boots, the denim on her hips,
Spelled service in the cattle camps abroad their moaning ships.

She didn't speak, but watched him, as he loosened up the cogs
And ambled to his platform at the "Axemen! Stand to your logs!"
She winked a silent "Good Luck Jack" as six men took the line
To entrance a crowd converted, and electrify its spine.

She's drawn a seat on rigs that truck the city to the bush
And gladly strained at steerage when the natural course was push.
She's followed him through thick and thin, through struggle, strife and squalor.
She's followed him when things were grim, when the quid became a dollar.

And in the midst of a screaming night, by the edge of a blood stained bed,
She told her straight young axeman that their first born son was dead.
And they kept him warm, till the light of dawn, then they set young Jacob free,
To the old grey nurse and the long black hearse and the priest and the orderly.

Now the razored edges of the axes ring to the beat of a showman's drum.
In the woodchop rink the bright blades sink through the rounds of the tempered gum.
At a blazing pace the giant men race. Man and axe as one,
As six men battle with a throb and rattle like a burst from a Gatling gun.

Only inches left, while the deep vees cleft as the big square woodchips fly.
She felt Jack's rhythm ebb and flow and she kissed the cup good-bye.
In a second split, Jack caught a voice through the sweat blurring gallery,
'Come on Jack ... please, come on Jack ... just chop for Jake and me.'

The big man's speed, now master keyed - like lightning mechanised.
As his great log fell to the judge's bell, the crowd hushed mesmerised.
Then a mighty cheer erupted and the cryptic victory's key
Played "Come on Jack ... please, come on Jack ... just chop for Jake and me."

Straight and true their four boys grew .. you could tell that they were Jack's.
They each took the prize of their mother's eyes and each took a racing axe.
The heats were gone - young Luke was on to the whirl of the woodchop final,
But Luke was lost, as the big men crossed and the crowd was tingling spinal.

With style and science, the Tassie Giants dredged deep for the final dash,
As the axes boiled, old Sydney "Royalled", in a spume of salt and slash.
I watched as the Axeman's Woman stood, her clear voice pealed through the drums of wood,
And a young mind surged, like I knew it would, to "the Song of the Axeman's Woman".

Jack's heart sailed as his eyes regaled, near blind from his scaling tears,
In a vivid flash, through the mountain ash, his Luke reeled back the years
The champs now sensed, through the swirling pace, the perfect pitch of the teenage ace.
The giants were stunned by the youth. Outgunned! And the chant for his victory
Said, "Come on Luke .. please, come on Luke ...

PALMA ROSA HAPPYNINGS

What a great night we had at Palma Rosa on Wednesday 14th April when we were entertained by double Australian Champions, Milton Taylor and Glenn Palmer.

They both gave us such a great evening of laughter and tears with their particular brands of poetry, and we also had the pleasure of watching "The Fairy Wrestler" (alias Alan Palmer) strut his stuff !!

More fun and laughter is in store for us all at our next evening scheduled for Wednesday 30th June. We are very excited to be able to tell you that the inimitable "Mullumbimby Bloke", Ray Essery - from Mullumbimby, NSW will be joining us. Ray is one of the most popular poets on the circuit and in his own very special way always keeps us totally entertained.

To support Ray on this night we have the

wonderful Marion Fitzgerald whom we are thrilled to welcome from North Star, NSW. Marion has had an illustrious career in Bush Poetry since its revival in the Bicentennial year of 1988.

In 1990 she was invited - along with five other poets and singers - by the Stockmans Hall of Fame to perform at the cowboy poets gathering in Elko, Nevada in the United States to honour the Australian Stockman.

Since then she has performed her humorous poetry at many a bush venue and I am delighted that she will be able to join us on this special night.

We look forward to seeing you at our beautiful heritage-listed home, Palma Rosa, on Wednesday 30th June at 7pm for 7.30, 9 Queens Road, Hamilton, Q. 4007. Booking are essential. \$15.00 per head including supper and BYO. Enquiries to ESU, 07 3262 3769 or to me 07 3268 3624.

Trish Anderson

POET PROFILE

ROBERT RAFTERY "Picture Writer"

*"You've done the hard yards,
You're the cream of the crop,
You're a fighter, you're focused and
you'll pump till you drop!
Tomorrow you'll churn
and the water will boil
as you tear at the air
and you rip at the soil!
Now go out and blitz 'em
But be in no doubt
For Australia to win
Let the animal out!"*

© Robert Raftery

As the Aussie 'Superfish', Kieren Perkins, turned for home in his epic gold medal swim in Atlanta those words (above) from the pen of Robert Raftery may have been ringing in his ears.

Robert is a gifted poet, songwriter and philosopher who is involved in a varied range of business enterprises.

"Laurie Lawrence invited me to write a series of inspirational poems for the Australian Olympic Team after I met him in '96", says Robert, "I don't know if I can take too much credit for the team's great success in Atlanta, but I like to think my contribution helped a little".

Robert's main studio is an old railway carriage on a small acreage on the outskirts of Brisbane, where he lives with his wife Kathleen, and their four young children, Jasmine, Maggie Jade, Zachary and Jacob.

Under the moniker 'Picture Writer', Robert regularly performs his poems and ballads at private gatherings, seminars and conventions. He was finalist in the Australian Bicentennial Short Story competition in 1988. During the 1970's and early 80's Robert's odyssey included periods working in London and the United States to working underground as an opal miner in the Lightning Ridge gem fields, then on to manufacturing his own line of paints in Australia.

Eventually Robert succumbed to his greatest passion, and decided to devote as much time as he could to writing and performing.

"It really is so important to live your dream," says Robert ... "Learn to dance ... mind and spirit ... to the drum beats ... of the heart."

DEAR EDITOR,

A quick reply to Cliff Hathway's query "what would have happened if A.B. Paterson had been judged in a competition by H. Lawson."

Banjo would have won, of course. No one appreciates or understands a good poem like another good poet.

Ellis Campbell.

A WORTHY CAUSE

© 1999 Kev. J. Barnes, "The Legend", Millmerran Q.

Now I don't know how to put it, I guess I'm gettin' worse,
I used to live the 'Good Life', but now I live a 'Curse'!
It takes me now all day to do, what I could do all day,
And It doesn't matter what I try, I give up in dismay.

Me lungs are stuffed, me heart is crook, I've got diabetes too,
Blood pressure's high, an' I got this thing, that keeps me on the loo!
An oxy bottle for a mate, with me each day and night,
Then I look around at others, an' I know that I'm all right.

I went to see me doctor, 'cause I wasn't feelin' well,
He said to me, "Ya got a choice, it's Heaven or it's Hell!"
I said "Now come on Doc, there's so much to be done,
You've got to keep me on me feet, so's I can have some fun!"

He wrote some 'scripts' for me to get, to fill me up with drugs,
You see this is the 'System', and I'm just one of it's Mugs.
And then I saw those others, that are all worse off than me,
It made me get up off me bum, and raise money for 'em, see!

A real good mate has had a stroke, an' now sits in a chair,
Chemotherapy for another, and he's lost all his hair.
And now I hear another mate will face the surgeon's knife,
He needs a triple by-pass, well, that's accordin' to his wife!

Then the news that hit me hard, came from one phone call,
Me brother's got the CANCER, and he ain't too good at all.
To me it seems it's so unfair that he should bet his way,
He'll leave a wife an' family, and' we'll miss him every day.

Why is it that the Cancer has attacked my young, kid brother?
It didn't get me Father, me Sister or me Mother!
Why is it he should suffer, an be in so much pain?
Why is it that his family should be under such a strain?

Our government, it does it's best, but ya see, it's not enough,
'Cause the researchers need money, to keep workin' on the stuff.
So if everyone would give a little, even once a week,
It would help those scientists find, the answers that they seek.

So come join me at the ROUND-UP, early in September,
The **MILLMERRAN BUSH POETS ROUND-UP** should be on your agenda.
Australia's best Bush Poets will compete and entertain,
While we try to raise some money to ease the 'CANCER' pain.

CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL AT NORTH PINE Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd August, 1999

The smoky fragrance of a camp fire and the camaraderie and friendship that develop around it are an integral part of bush poetry for many poets. Last year at the Camp Oven Festival an informal camp fire was enjoyed on the Friday night, and of course it's on again this year.

If you're not a camper but would like reasonably priced accommodation within 100 metres of the performance venue, you may be interested in the \$9.50 per night per head, dormitory style accommodation available in the newly built North Pine Lodge.

Naturally, there will be a camp oven dinner on the Saturday night before the concert.

Sunday will be a fun day with lots of 10 minute humorous segments, and light hearted yarn spinning and duos. The first 25 entrants in the humorous section will be guaranteed acceptance. There will of course be junior, novice, serious and original sections.

Performance entries close on 30th July and forms are from Carol Stratford, P.O. Box 6105, Woodridge East Q 4114. Please note correct box number as it was misprinted in our April Newsletter

Don't forget to enter the 1999 Camp Oven Award for **Written Bush Verse** which offers an open and junior section. Prize money this year totals \$275.00. Entries close on 31st July and forms are from Mary Hodgson, Diamond Valley Rd., Mooloolah, Q 4553 or ph. 07 5494 7260. Hope to see you there, *Anita Reed, Secretary.*

MILLMERRAN BUSH POETS ROUNDUP

Saturday, 4th and Sunday 5th September, the Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up is on.

Junior and Novice Competition on Saturday in the Millmerran Lions Park, starting at NOON with a sausage sizzle. There will also be some country music artists and a line dancing demo. Leanne Sondergeld of the Qld Cancer Fund, Toowoomba will present the Juniors with their trophies and prizes, "Arch" Bishop will comper. Junior entry is FREE, and categories are Traditional and Original, as per the 'Rules' and School Group (max. 6 students) as per rules that have been sent to most local schools, or are available, as are entry forms by sending SSAE to "The Legend", PO Box 64 Millmerran Q 4357. Novice fees are \$5.00 per category entered.

At 7.30 Saturday night, our concert, 'The Laughter Lives On' will be held in the Millmerran Cultural Centre, and will feature Bob Miller, Shirley Friend, Gary Fogarty and Noel Stallard. A supper will be available and the bar will be open.

On Sunday at 9 am 'Arch' and 'The Legend' will host a Poets Breakfast in the Beer Garden of Millmerran's Ram's Head Hotel. A hot breakfast of Bacon, sausages, eggs, tomatoes, toast with coffee or tea will be available for just \$3.00. Don't miss out!

The Open competition will follow offering Original, Traditional, Yarnspinning, Duo and Brawl sections. Entry fees are \$5.00 per section entered except Duo, \$5.00 per couple and the Brawl is free.

Trophies and cash prizes for the Overall Champion will be presented by the Shire Mayor, Cr. George Ezzy.

HELP !! Anyone with books, tapes, anything (no Mothers-in-law please) that can be used for raffles, prizes etc., to help raise money for the Cancer Fund, could you please send same to The Legend at the above address, and God will love you!

Don't forget entries close on 27th August. See you all at the Round-Up and remember, BUSH POETRY'S FINE IN '99.

Kev. J. Barnes. "The Legend"

POETS AND MATES & Murrumba Symposium

What a weekend for writers! It's too good to miss. Three full days of learning, comparing and discussions with others - beginners and experts alike. It's all happening at the inaugural **Murrumba Symposium** to be launched at Kallangur on the Queens Birthday W'end.

The aim of the weekend will be to bring writers together in friendship for workshops and performance of their work. Workshops include: Bush Poetry and Performance; conventions of Crime; editing; Professional Approach; Landscape of Writing; Character Imaging; Publishing and Printing. Writers are encouraged to perform their work, both poetry and short stories under ten minutes.

June's Poets and Mates will launch the Symposium with our best show yet. Our special guest will be the lovely lady from Beaudesert, Glenny Palmer and the ever popular Mark Tempany will fit us in between showing the Americans how to sing and doing the same for the Europeans.

Glenny is a comedienne extraordinaire. Her wit and charm have made her a multi award winner which includes Australian Champion Ladies Bush Poet twice. Her credentials as a writer and performer alike make her work much appreciated here and similarly in America where she did us proud when she represented Australia in the U.S.A.

Mark is also a multi award winner in his own right. His recent trip to the U.S.A. was part of a prize in a competition in which he came second out of over 4,000 entries from twenty-seven countries. When you hear him sing, you'll know why he is a great ambassador for Australia.

Give yourself a treat! Come to Poets and Mates and stay for the Symposium from 7.30pm, Friday 11th June at Kallangur community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur Q. A light supper will be served and the all inclusive cost is a low \$15.00. Please book to help us with the catering. For further information please call Wally or Mary on 07 3886 0747. Please note: Work at the Symposium involves separate fees. The Symposium Convenor is Pauline Reckentin and can be contacted direct on 07 3285 2887 or email: pauliner@powerup.com.au.

Wally 'The Bear' Finch



NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- May 12 **Bush and Brisbane Poets.** 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt Gravatt Q. Guests Anita Hendrie & Alan Nolan. P13
- May 14 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur Comm. Centre. 7.30 pm Carmel Dunn & Jennifer Haig. 07 3886 0747 P13
- May 14-18 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships.** Mulwala Services Club, NSW Details P 13
- May 18 **Closing Date. Warwick Bushweek Perf. Comp.** Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P 13
- May 22 **Bush Poetry 6-9pm** Norman Lindsay Gallery, Springwood NSW Enq. Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884 P13
- May 22-23 **Town of 1770 Fest. Poets in Pk, Perf. Comp. Orig. Snrs. & Jnrs.** Ph 07 4974 9263 P13
- May 29 **Poetric Folk.** 7.30pm 24 Finesterre Ave. Whalen Poetry/folk music, bring a plate ph Arch 02 9625 7245 P13
- May 21 **Closing date. Injune IN JUNE Weekend Written competition.** P 13
- May 21-23 **Warwick Bushweek.** Warwick Q. Perf. Comp & concerts Ring 07 4661 5046 Program info P 13
- May 27-30 **Casino Beef Week.** NSW Poets Breakfasts, Perf. Comp., New Voices. Enq. Ray Essery 02 6684 3817 P 13
- May 28 **Closing Date. Beaudesert Country & Horse Written Comp.** Details P1 & 14
- May 31 **Closing Date. Bush Lantern Award.** Details - Ross Keppel, 2 Anderson St., Bundaberg Q 4670 P 2 & 13
- June 3 **North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 featuring "Pastance". Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- June 5-6 **Injune IN JUNE Weekend.** Performance & Written Conps. P 13
- June 5-8 **Aust. Folk Festival.** Kiama Showground NSW. Breakfasts & concerts. Ph Bev Murray 02 4236 0701 P 13
- June 6 **Poets Breakfast.** Oxley Creek Water Festival, Graceville Q. Ring Joscelyn Clarkson 07 3379 6021 P13
- June 9 **Bush and Brisbane Poets.** 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt Gravatt Q. Guests Bill McClure & Arcadia P13
- June 4-14 **SA Bush Poetry C'ships.** Barmera SA. Comps, breakfasts etc. Ring Peter 08 8557 7151 P 13
- June 11 **Poets & Mates.** Kallangur Comm. Centre. 7.30 pm Glenny Palmer & Mark Tempany. 07 3886 0747 P 13
- June 11 **Murrumba Symposium.** Writers workshops & performances. Contact Pauline Reckentin 07 3285 2887 P10,13
- June 11-14 **Hentry Lawson Heritage Cele'btn.** Gulgong NSW Leonard Teale Perf. Awd Chris 02 6374 2049 P 13
- June 13 **Poets Breakfast.** Beaudesert, Q. from 7am Contact Nancy Moss, 07 5541 2444. P1 & 14
- June 13 **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Written Comp. Awards.** Biloela Showground, Q. P13
- June 30 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7pm for 7.30pm. Ray Essery & Marion Fitzgerald. Bookings essential. See P 14
- July 1 **North By Northwest Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 featuring Denis Kevans. Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- July 1 **Closing Date. Wollondilly Regional FAW Literary Competition.** For details see Page 14
- July 2-4 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poetry Muster.** Across the Waves Sports Club, Bundaberg, Q. . P 14
- July 10 **Poets & Folkies Get Together at Cornucopia Cafe,** 2pm, Old Gladesville Hosp Grnds, Punt Rd. Enq Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
- July 12 **Closing Date. Country on the Tweed Junior written competition.** Details P 14
- July 16-18 **Bush Poetry Performance Comp.** Cloncurry Q. Details P1 & 14
- July 18 **Closing date. Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival.** Details P 14
- July 23-25 **Brisbane Valley BP Annual Festival.** Perf. Comp, breakies, yarns, walkups RoyBriggs 07 5424 1584 P 14
- July 24 **Closing Date. Hastings Regional FAW Literary Competition.** For details see P 14
- July 25 **Bush Poetry Soiree by the River.** 1.30 - 4pm. Netherby House, Kempsey NSW. Featuring "Arch" Bishop. Open mike session, all welcome. Enquiries Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269 or "Arch" 02 9625 7245. P 14
- July 30 **Closing date. Camp Oven Festival Performance Competition.** Details P 10 & 14
- July 31 **Closing date. Camp Oven Award Written Competition.** Details P 10 & 14
- Aug 5-7 **Bards of the Outback.** Hungerford, Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
- Aug 7 **National Poetry Competition.** Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Performance Competition P. 14
- Aug 7-15 **Country on the Tweed.** Poets Brekkies, Perf. Comp, Jnr Written comp. Details P 14 & 15
- Aug 14-15 **Surat Battered Bugle.** Surat Q. Perf. Competition. Jan Ritchie, PO 45 Surat Q 4417, 07 4626 5103 P 14
- Aug 21-22 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552 P 14
- Sept 4-5 **Milmerran Bush Poets Round-Up.** Qld Concert, BP Performance Comp, Brawl, Yarnspinning, Ring "The Legend" 07 4695 4209 P 10 & 14
- Sept 13 **Poets Breakfast.** in conj. with CM Fest. Kempsey NSW at Netherby House featuring Ray Essery and Russell Churcher. Walk up poets welcome. Ring Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269 P 14
- Jan '00 6th **Bush Poetry Perf. & Written Comp.** Brunswick Heads Fest of the Fish & Chips. Contact Judiann Schults PO Box 41 Brunswick Heads NSW 2483. Ph/fax 02 6685 1599 Email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au.

A young girl ran an advertisement in a Sydney daily, for a partner to accompany her on a three week hiking trip.

I rang the number, and asked if she had had many replies, and she said:

"To my surprise, I got heaps of replies, some good, and others quiet bad.

But the worst one of course, nearly caused a divorce when we found it came from Dad !!" © Hipshot.

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

- 1st. Monday** **Don Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Margaret St., Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106
Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group, Meet every second month at Kyabram Fauna Park at 7.30 pm
 Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
- 1st Tuesday** **Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. (except January)** 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club, 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy stantonn 02 4388 5972
- 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 Saturday** **Poets & Musicians at Eumundi Markets (Q)** in courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Ph. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 1st. 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
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 Wed'day** **Bush and Brisbane Poets.** 7.30 pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q. Phone Anita Reed 07 3343 7392
- 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
Poets & Mates 7.30 pm Kallangur Com. Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave, Kallangur Q Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- 2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.00 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.
- 2nd Sunday** **'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield -** Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- 3rd Thursday** **Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers in the Pub** 7.30pm George Hotel, Old Pacific Hwy, Picton. Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilotos 02 4631 1419
- 3rd Friday** **June Bush Poetry Group.** 7.30pm, June Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, June, 2663
 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 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 Monday** **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. See poets calendar
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Gee Kwong Restaurant, 197 Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30
 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Wed.** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group Q.** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- Last Thurs.** **Writers on the River,** 7pm Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh St, Penrith, NSW. Everyone welcome, come and recite, read or just listen to the poets. Ph. Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- Last Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Sat.** **Aust Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div.** Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 - 4pm . Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Pk. NSW 2264
- EVERY 3 MTHS - Poetic Folk** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770. Ring "Arch" Bishop (02) 9625 7245
 Check Poets Calendar for next meeting.
- EVERY 2 MTHS on 2nd Saturday. Cornucopia Cafe.** Poets & Folkies Get Together. Old Gladesville Hosp Grnds, Punt Rd. Enq Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479, or Graeme 02 9874 7653. Check Poets Calendar for dates.

HAVE VAN, WILL TRAVEL from Ted and June Webber

June and I enjoyed a great visit to and welcome from the Inverell Wednesday writers group. They meet every 4th Wednesday at the Empire Hotel at 7.30pm. Any other travelling bush poets and writers would be made most welcome and enjoy the repartee. This group is busily organising a Poetry competition and will be pleased to field any enquiries. Contact Ida Morse on 02 6722 2425.

We then moved on to the Tenterfield "Oracles of the Bush". What a great event, we really recommend it to all poets. Alas, I was torpedoed in the heats despite a valiant attempt to bribe the judges.

Bob Magor did his caravanning piece at the concert and happened to be staying in the same park as June and I. Boy, did we and the other park residents give him the razz as he hooked up to move out.

Now to do some fishing at Glenlyon Dam and then on to Gatton for their events early May.

ATTENTION POETS AND BUSKERS

On the first Saturday morning of each month from 8am till noon we invite you, to come to Eumundi town (Q) and participate in entertaining the market folk and visitors alike in the courtyard outside Rob's Bakery, opposite the Commercial Hotel. Bring your guitar, poetry or story and have a good time.

For further information please call Elizabeth on 07 5449 1991.

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

BUSH AND BRISBANE POETS at Club Sangria,
Mt. Gravatt Q., 1407 Logan Rd. Opp. Photo Continental
- 7.30pm Wed 12th May

Feat. ANITA HENDRY AND ALAN NOLAN + Open ses'n
7.30pm Wednesday 9th June.

BILL McCLURE AND ARCADIA + Open Session
Entry \$6.50 - incl. Glass of wine and something to eat.
Phone Anita Reed - 07 3343 7392
383 Nursery Road, Holland Park, Q 4121

POETS & MATES

Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave. Kallangur Q
7.30 Fri. 14th May - CARMEL DUNN & JENNIFER HAIG
7.30pm Fri. 11th June GLENNY PALMER & MARK TEMPANY
\$10 incl. supper. Please book to assist with catering - 07 3886 0747

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CH'SHIPS

Yarrowonga (vic) - Mulwala (NSW) MURRAY MUSTER
Conducted by the SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB
14th - 18th May, 1999

MULWALA SERVICES CLUB, Mulwala NSW
Mulwala T'ism FREE CALL 1800 062 260 / 03 5744 1989 Fax 5744 3149
or contact Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2841
Phone 02 6025 3845 or Fax 02 6025 3847

TOWN OF 1770 FEST. Sat 22 & Sun 23rd May, '99
at Agnes Waters, Q (Just north of Bundy on the Coast)
Sat Night : Poets in the Park with Chris, 'The Grey' & the
'Cunnamulla Fella'

Sun. Perf. Bush Poetry Comp. Original Senior & Junior.
Ph Ann Lightfoot, PO Box 253 Agnes Waters Q 4677, 07 4974 9263

WARWICK BUSH WEEK 21st -23rd May '99

TALL TALES SPEECH CONTEST - 7.30pm Mon 17th May at
Warwick RSL - Enjoy some Aussie Wit - laughs guaranteed!
BUSINESS BREAKFAST - 7am at Warwick RSL with Marco Giori &
Bobby Miller, Queensland's best! Breakfast just \$12.00

POETS IN THE PUB - 7.30 pm Fri 21st May at Warwick RSL. Poet's
Brawl to follow. Win \$150 plus the inaugural "Bushie's Boot"
Trophy (a pig on the spit and music to follow) - free entry.

PERFORMANCE COMP. - Total Prize money \$950
9am Saturday, 22nd May, Warwick Town Hall.
Categories: Junior, Novice (original and trad), Open (original,
modern, traditional (ie 50yrs old). Entries close 18th May '99.

COUNTRY CLUB COMEDY NIGHT 7.30 pm Sat. 22nd May at
Warwick Golf Club featuring Marco Giori, Shirley Friend, Bob
Miller and Ray Essery. Music from Random Selection Cost \$10.
Light meals available - book 07 4661 5905.

POETS BREAKFAST (all welcome) - 8am Sun 23rd May in Queens
Park by the river - free entry.

Info & Forms: The Secretary, Bushweek Poetry Competition,
PO Box 737, Warwick, Q 4370. Accom. Enquiries - 07 4661 5046

BUSH POETRY IN SPRINGWOOD

6 - 9pm Sat. 22nd May, 1999 - Norman Lindsay Gallery
Denis Kevans, "Arch" Bishop, Brian Bell, Terry Regan
& Sonia Bennett. Enq. to Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884

CASINO BEEF WEEK

Thurs 27th - Sun. 30th May, 1999 - Cecil Hotel
Bush Poets Breakfast Every Morning at 9 - 11am
Thurs. 27th till late - BULL YARN COMP with Murray Hartin
Sun. 30th - Recovery Breakfast incl. Bundy Rum New Voices
GREAT PRIZES - ENTER ON THE DAY - BRING THE CAT !!
Compere Ray Essery - Guest Poets - Murray Hartin,
Glenny Palmer and Bobby Miller
Enquiries Ray Essery Ph 02 6684 3817

POETIC FOLK 24 Finesterre Rd., Whalan NSW
7.30pm Friday 29th May, 1999 - Everyone Welcome
Come along and share your poetry and music
Bring a Plate - Phone "Arch" 02 9626 7245

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. presents 1999 BUSH LANTERN AWARDS

Limit 100 lines - Entry Fee: \$3.00 - Max 3
Closing Date 31st May, 1999 Details & entry forms from
Ross Keppel, Co-ordinator, Bush Lantern Awards
2 Anderson Street, Bundaberg Q 4670

COME TO INJUNE (Q) IN JUNE! WEEKEND

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June, 1999
Sat. 5th June - Bush Poetry Festival & Market Day

PERFORMANCE POETRY COMP. - JNR & OPEN
Humorous Category - Prize incl Injune Goon Award
Traditional Category - Prize includes wooden trophy

WRITTEN POETRY COMP. - CLOSES 21st May, 1999
Theme is Queensland - Best entries displayed on Qld Day
at Injune Madcap Olympics - Entry \$5.00
Theme for Junior Written Comp is Qld with focus on environment

SAT. EVENING - SOCIAL POETRY & YARNS

Sunday - INJUNE MADCAP OLYMPICS
Poetic War Cry (Team of 4), dummy-spitting comp, thong fling, cow-
dung toss and team tug-o-war.
Enq. & entry form from Gay Torney, PO Box 29, Injune, Q 4454
or Phone 07 4626 1188 bh / 07 4626 1061 ah
Events are being held to raise funds for the Injune Hospital Auxillary,
Qld Ambulance Service and Injune Blue Nursing Serv.

S. A. BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

4th - 14th June, 1999 - Barmera SA - Program Page 3
in conj with Riverland CM Festival
All bush poetry enquiries to Peter Chapman - phone / fax 08 8557 7151.
Full details on Page 3.

AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Kiama Showground - 5th - 8th June, 1999
Bush Poets Breckys and Concerts
For more information ring Bev Murray 02 4236 0701

POETS BREAKFAST in conjunction with
3RD ANNUAL OXLEY CREEK WATER FESTIVAL
7 am -8.30 am 6th June, 1999
Pamphlett Sea Scouts Hut, Simpsons Playground,
Graceville Avenue, Graceville. Q
Admission \$7.00 - includes breakfast
Details from Jocelyn Clarkson - Phone 07 3379 6021

LEONARD TEALE MEMORIAL PERFORMANCE POETRY AWARD

In conj. with Henry Lawson Heritage Celebration
11th - 14th June, 1999 - Gulgong NSW
Final and Awards Presentation - Sun. 6th June 1999
Enq. Chris Cook 02 6374 2049 or M. Higgins 02 6374 1792

CHARLEE MARSHALL BUSH POETRY
WRITTEN COMP - Presentation of Awards
GOLDEN COCKATOO & SILVER BUDGIE AWARD
Sun. Morn 13th June, at Biloela Country Music Fest.
Enq., The Co-ordinator Box, 754, BILOELA, Qld, 4715
Ph 07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

BUSH POETRY WRITTEN COMPETITION

in conj. with Beaudesert Country & Horse Fest., Beaudesert Q
***** ENTRIES CLOSE 28TH MAY, 1999 *****

BUSH POETS BREAKFAST 7 am, Sun. 13th June, 1999

Westerman Park Beaudesert (next to Arts & Info Centre)
Featuring GLENNY PALMER & TOM McIVOR
Winning entries read at Poets Breakfast.
For entry forms, send SSAE to Nancy Moss,
PO Box 256 Beaudesert or Phone 07 5541 2444

PALMA ROSA POETS

9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Brisbane Q. 4007
7.30 pm Wednesday, 30th June, 1999

Featuring Ray Essery & Marion Fitzgerald

\$15.00 per head - incl Supper - BYO

Ring ESU 07 3262 3769 or Trisha 07 3268 3624

WOLLONDILLY REGIONAL FAW LITERARY COMP 1999

OPEN: Short Story Awd, Feature Article for
Non-fiction Awd and Rhyming Poetry Award

REGIONAL: Short Story Awd & Rhyming Poetry Awd

Entries close 1st July, 1999 - Entry fee \$3.00

Winners announced on Sunday 3rd October at Wollondilly
FAW Literary Weekend in Picton NSW.

for conditions please send business size SSAE to
Comp co-ord. Any & Mary Renella, PO Box 47, Bargo, NSW
2574 or phone 02 4684 2806 or ph Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044

BUNDY MOB'S 1999 BUSH POETRY MUSTER

2nd - 5th July, 1999 - Across the Waves Sports Club
Miller Street, Bundaberg, Q.

PERF. COMP. - Juniors, Novice Open Traditional & Original Secs.

DUO PERFORMANCE - DARK & STORMY 1 MIN. CUP

FRIDAY NIGHT FREE-FOR-ALL and SATURDAY CONCERT

Enq to The Secretary, PO 248, Childers, Qld. 4660

BUSH POETRY AT CLONCURRY 16-18th July, '99

Performance Competitions - Junior & Open -
Traditional & Original, Poets in the Pub, Yarnspinning,
Poets Breakfasts

Cloncurry Shire Council Written Competition for
Poem about Cloncurry

Send SSAE to Nancy Butt, PO Box 79, Cloncurry Q 4824

HASTINGS REGIONAL FAW LITERARY COMP 1999

SECTIONS: Short Story, Mini Story, Article, Poetry
Traditional, Poetry Contemporary, Poetry Australian Bush.

Entries close 24th July, 1999 - Entry Fee \$3.00

Details from the Competition Secretary,
Joan Packham, 13 Magnolia Pl., Port Macquarie NSW 2444
or Phone 02 6682 2472

INAUGURAL BRISBANE VALLEY BUSH POETS FEST.

Esk Caravan Park, Esk Q. Fri. 23th - Sun. 25th July, 1999

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

Yarnspinning, Poets Breakfasts, Walk up Poetry,
Spectators free - All entries must have bush flavour.

Friday 6pm - Junior and Novice Categories

Saturday - Open Original, Traditional & Humorous

OVERALL POINTS WINNER

receives Brisbane Valley Bush Deer Annual Award

Entry Fee \$5.00 - Jnrs Free. - Closing 18th July, 1999

Roy Briggs or Liz Banting PO Box 118, Esk Q. 4212 - Ph/fax
07 5424 1584 mob 1419 785 317

BUSH POETRY SOIREE - Kempsey NSW

Sunday, 25th July 1999 1.30 - 4pm

Historic Netherby House on the Banks of the Macleay River -
Little Rudder Street, Kempsey NSW

FEATURE ARTIST - WARREN ARCH BISHOP

COME AND ENJOY OR SHARE YOUR POETRY

Entry \$5.00 (includes Devonshire Tea)

Enq. Maureen 02 6568 5269 or "Arch" 02 9625 7245

NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

Saturday 7th August, 1999 - Royal Queensland Show
Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

"Original" & "Traditional or Established Work" Sections

Entry Forms and conditions from

National Poetry Competition, Royal Queensland Show,
Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terr., Fortitude Valley 4006

More information later

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

7th - 15th August, 1999 - Tweed Heads Civic Centre (NSW)

Open Perf. & Junior Written Competitions - Poets Breckys

Standup Poets - Music - Drama - Trophies & Cash Prizes

Junior competition Entries close on 12th July, 1999

Further Info from Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

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 PERF. POETRY

Enq. Jan Ritchie, PO Box 45, Surat Q 4417 or Phone 07 4626 5103

NORTH PINE BUSH POETS CAMP OVEN FEST.

Sat 21st & Sun. 22nd August, 1999

WRITTEN COMPETITION Closes 31st July, 1999

1st Prize - \$150 plus trophy

Junior (17 and under) Encouragement Award + \$50

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION - Junior, Novice, Original,

Serious, 10 minute Humorous, Duo and Yarns

For Entry Forms write to Carol Stratford

PO Box 6105, Woodridge East, Qld 4114

*** PLEASE NOTE CORRECT BOX NUMBER ***

MILLMERRAN BUSH POETRY ROUND-UP (Qld)

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th September 1999

Concert featuring Bob Miller, Gary Fogarty, Shirley Friend, Noel
Stallard - Entry \$10.00

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION: Junior, Novice and Open

Sections, Poets Brawl and Yarnspinning

Proceeds to Aid Qld Cancer Fund

Enquiries and Entry Forms form "The Legend", Kev Barnes.

PO Box 64 Millmerran Q 4357 or Ph 07 4696 4209

BUSH POETS BREAKFAST - KEMPSEY NSW

in conjunction with Kempsey Country Music Festival

9 am - 11.30 am, Sunday, 12th September, 1999

at Historic Netherby House on the banks of the Macleay River

FEATURING RAY ESSERY AND RUSSELL CHURCHER

Everyone welcome to participate Entry \$10 incl. Hot Breakfast

Enquiries Maureen Garner - 02 6568 5269

WANTED - Poet or other interested person

to share two bedroom unit in Mulwala

14 - 18th May inclusive. Reasonable rates.

Ring Liz Ward 07 4156 3178

G'day from Geoffrey Graham

Greetings,

The Man from Snowy River Festival brightened up the little town of Corryong recently and even the weather was glorious.

A combination of Bush Poetry, music and a Man from Snowy River Challenge, created the basis for the festival.

The Challenge involves riders going through some gruelling activities, including catching a brumby and riding a buckjumper. This year won by a 63 year old Ron Connley for the second year in a row. A great feat when buckjumping is usually considered a young mans occupation!

Bush poetry was evident every morning at a Poets Breakfast, at a little spot appropriately named Banjo's Corner, an outside do, lovely at this time of year. It meant passers by could see exactly what goes on at these events. There were lots of competitions in the area of yarns, poetry and songs, with Johnny Johanson taking the major prize. Don Anderson took out honours for the best rendition of 'The Man from Snowy River'. Lots of new faces who no doubt will be present at the Big Yarrowonga celebrations next month.

Besides performing my "Man from Ironbark" show, I was privileged to perform "The Man from Snowy River" at a graveside ceremony in honour of Jack Riley, the man who locals insist was the 'man'. I also read a tribute to Jack. A very stirring ceremony with some 50 riders on horseback at the rear, audience in the front, and the Snowy mountains in the distance.

Top marks to the organisers including Faith Damm and our very own bush poet Jan Lewis, author of some great works including 'the Gran from Snowy River'.

Keep smiling, see you in Yarrowonga. *Geoffrey Graham*

COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

This inaugural event will be held at Tweed Heads. Most events will be at the Civic Centre in Wharf Street, the same venue as we used last year for our successful poets breakfast when over 300 folk attended. We are forging ahead with our festival plans which include a full program of bush poetry events, line dancing, Family Fund Day, the launch of the Tweed Theatre Company, Country Concert, Open Songwriters Competition, and Battle of the Bands. Our poetry program is as follows -

Sun. 8th August: 8am Family Fun Day - stand up poets & yarnspillers, music, markets. (send in your names if you like)
Sat 14 & Sun 15: Poets Brekky & C. M (incl comps) Adults \$5.50, Kids \$4.50
 - **Performance Comp.** "Country on the Tweed Champions", Male & Female - Two prizes. Highest aggregate score, traditional and original. 50 lines or under. Camphor-laurel Trophies and generous cash prizes. 17 yrs or older. Entry fee \$10.00
 - **Most Humorous Performance, Male or Female**, one trophy, fee etc as above.

Presentation of all awards will be made on the afternoon of Sunday, 15th and we invite everyone to attend.

We will also be conducting "Country on the Tweed" written competition for primary schools which will be judged by 'Poets on the Tweed Society'. The cash prize, together with the perpetual trophy will be given to the school of the competition winner. We are asking competitors for two poems, with a country and a humorous theme. Highest aggregate score determines the winner. Entry is free and closing date is 12th July. Entry forms and details for all events from "Country on the Tweed", 20 Scenic Dr., Bilambil Hts, NSW 2486. *Lorraine Richards*

SHEARING AT GARRABILLA © Ned Cusask, Tenterfield NSW

*Winning
Poem
Secondary
Section*

*Tenterfield
Junior
Looming
Legend*

The dogs are straining on their chains
They sense it in the air.
The sheep are penned and shuffling
The shearers inspect their gear.
There is idle chat and a belly laugh.
As someone tells a joke,
And Scotty the left-hander
Roles himself a smoke.
The clock ticks to seven thirty
The shearing has begun.
The shearers barge into their pens
All desperate to be the gun !

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is now available \$12.50 pp from The Secretary
Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44, Winton, Qld. 4735



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This book offers many a rhyme to which you everyone will relate - short and sweet humour about today.

"CITY OF GREEN - GREEN BAN SONGS &
BEYOND" - CD only \$25.00 pp

Poetry and songs from the pen of

Denis Kevans and friends

featuring Milton Taylor, reciting Denis' poem "Hey Banjo, Have You Heard Mate?" Milton won the Traditional Section - Queensland Show Comp. 1998 reciting this brilliant poem.

from D. Kevans, 63 Valley Rd., Wentworth Falls 2782

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

BUSH VERSE by LIZ WARD

'Through a Womans Eyes' ~ Bush Poems

'The Ashes of My Campfire' ~ Bush Poems

'Camp Oven Classics' ~ Bush Poems & Yarns

All \$11.00 pp or 3 for \$25.00pp

Available from Liz Ward, PO Box 61,

Mount Perry Q. 4671 or Phone 07 4156 3178

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A Book of poetry and Short Stories

Only a few left at the special price of \$7.50 pp

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6 Riverstone Road, Helensvale, Q 4210

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

ATTENTION PERFORMERS/EVENT ORGANISERS

If you know of a competition, written or performance, event or festival which contains a Bush Poetry event please advise The Editor. Remember the early bird

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

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

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May, 1999

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**POSTAGE
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Thank You to Our Contributors

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| Patti Ainsworth | Bob Kane |
| Joyce Alchin | Jan Lewis |
| Trish Anderson | Glenny Palmer |
| Kevin J. Barnes | Carmel Randle |
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| Ned Cusask | Liz Ward |
| Frank Daniel | Ted Webber |
| Wally Finch | Whipstick Wortho |
| Geoffrey Graham | |
| Col Hadwell | |
| Neil Hulm | |
| Graeme Johnson | |

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members,

By the time this magazine reaches you, many of our number will be on route to Mulwala for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships. I would like to wish all those who are competing the best of luck for this important event on our calendar. My congratulations must also go to the organisers of this event, who, despite many problems along the way, have prepared a fine series of events and competitions for all of us to enjoy and they have poured many hours of unpaid work into it's organisation.

Also on the personal side, I am soon to be married and so, keep your eyes peeled for my new name - it will be Stonham, with an 'aitch' so my financee, Tom tells me. We will be away for a short time, and so you may find your June issue just a little late!

Please continue your valued support for our newsletter.

Marueen Garner, Editor