

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 7 Volume 6

July 1999

## THE HOBNAILED BOOTS

© 1999 Coralie Welch, Bray Park Q.

His tired old feet rest quietly now  
Out where the grey owl hoots  
Through the tall gum trees the warm winds sough  
In the haunts of the bandicoots.

Now the old man's free from all pursuits  
That warrant the wearing of the hobnailed boots.

His wife sits quiet in the creaking chair  
On the porch in the hush of night  
And thinks of the years they laboured there  
As she rests in the stars dim light;  
The ways she has walked, the different routes  
With her steadfast man in his hobnailed boots.

The lustrous sky is filled with stars  
And a boobook calls somewhere  
Creek waters ripple on smooth rock bars  
And she sees the shadows of the old gray mare,  
While a fiery earthbound comet shoots  
And lights up the shape of his hobnailed boots.

With a cross to mark his place of rest  
He was buried neath tallow-woods tall.  
His sons from the city have no love for the West -  
No yen for the bush at all.

They make their living in cars and utes,  
Not for them the hobnailed boots.

Those boots replaced the College shoes  
And the football boots he wore,  
The running shoes that could not lose  
And made his winning sure.

But clearing land and grubbing roots  
For this he chose the hobnailed boots.

So now now the future she must face  
Can she keep the Bank at bay?

Is there any way to work the place  
And make the acres pay?

Must she join the destitutes?  
Or can she don the hobnailed boots?

She gave a fretful little sigh  
And went inside to sleep,  
It was hard for her to say good-bye,  
Loving dreams were very deep.  
Music of harps and sounds of flutes  
Now join the tempo of hobnailed boots.

## NEWS from NORTH PINE BUSH POETS' GROUP

Home of the **CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL - Fri. 20th - Sun. 22nd August**

In three years the North Pine Bush Poets group has proved to be a most successful starting ground for poets. This year's winner at Winton, Louise Dean, is still a member of our group even now that she is living at Karumba. Of course last year's Bronze Swagman winner Graham Fredriksen is one of our members and another well known member is Noel Stallard, while Wally Finch is a former member. Now our own Coralie Welch has been placed second in the Humorous Verse (female) Section of the Australian Bush Poetry Written Competition at Mulwala Murray Muster, and second for her collection of poems, "Down the Snowy and Other Verses" in the same event.

It just shows what good training it is entertaining the customers at Dad and Dave's Billy Tea and Damper while John Coutts swings the billy.

### CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL

This year the Camp Oven Festival will be held in the Country Music Hall at the North Pine Country Markets, just north of Brisbane, from Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd August.

We are already receiving entries from the written competition for which there is a trophy and \$150 First Prize. The Junior competition (17 years and under) has a First Prize of \$50 and entries close for both on 31st July.

On the Friday afternoon of the Festival Bobby Miller will hold a workshop, and we plan to have an informal campfire on the Friday Night.

The Junior, Novice, Original and Serious competitions will be held on the Saturday and there will be no finals.

On Saturday night we will share a camp oven dinner. Quality entertainment will be provided by professional poets at our

concert, followed by music and a bit of good old fashioned bush dancing led by an experienced bush dance caller, which you can join in or just sit back and relax.

Sunday will be a day for humour. Have you ever been to the "Longyard" Hotel in Tamworth and wished you had a quarter of an hour to try to emulate those masters of humour with their anecdotes and jokes as well as their poems?

Ten minutes was the longest time we could reasonably allocate, but here is a good chance to show how well you can entertain for that time. The first 25 entrants are guaranteed acceptance.

The presentation of prizes will begin at approximately 2pm to assist those who wish make an early get-away, but the day will continue in a light-hearted vein with duos and yarnspinning. Send for entry forms to Carol Stratford, P.O. Box 5105, Woodridge East, Q. 4114.

Camping is available for \$5.00 per site for the weekend. Also dormitory accommodation is available at the North Pine Lodge, surrounded by gum trees and overlooking Lake Kurwongbah. The cost is \$9.50 per person per night and you need to provide your own sleeping bag or blankets, sheets and pillow. Meals will be available in the hall which is about 100 metres from the Lodge. Other accommodation is listed on our entry forms.

It's going to be a lovely weekend with lots of fun as well as some excellent renditions of poetry. Hope to see you there.



*Anita Reed.*

Secretary.

North Pine  
Bush Poets'  
Group.

## QUEENSLAND DAY CELEBRATIONS

Queensland Day was celebrated on June 6th with local television Channel 7 hosting a "Picnic in the Park" at the City Botanical Gardens. Despite early morning showers, thousands turned out to enjoy sideshows, food, stage performances, and meet television personalities.

"Poet's Corner", a new venue in 1998, was hosted by Sandy Thorne, and saw local Bush Poets join with TV host Jason (Rupert) McCall and Michael Caton, star of "The Castle". The 1998 Female Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Zita Horton performed on this stage, as did her nine year old daughter Kelsey. Carmel Randle, twice winner of the Bronze Swagman was also very well received while Wally Finch amused the crowd with his stirring renditions of the works of C. J. Dennis. Trish Anderson and Bill Hay rounded out the day, demonstrating the wide range of people interested in Performance Bush Poetry.

## WANTED

Zita Horton needs words/author's name of "Bannerman of the Dandenongs". If you can help, please reply direct to 66 O'Grady Street, Mr. Gravatt, Q 4122 or email to [izhorton@hotmail.com](mailto:izhorton@hotmail.com)

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

**BUSH AND BRISBANE POETS** at Club Sangria,  
Mt. Gravatt Q., 1407 Logan Rd. Opp. Photo Continental  
7.30pm Wednesday 14th July, 1999

featuring Trish Anderson & George Lovejoy  
7.30pm Wednesday 8th September, 1999

featuring Graham Fredriksen and Anita Reed

**\*\* NOTE:** August will not be on due to Exhibition  
Entry \$6.50 - incl. glass of wine and something to eat  
Phone Anita Reed - 07 3343 7392

383 Nursery Road, Holland Park, Q. 4121

### BUSH POETRY AT CLONCURRY 16-18th July

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 '99

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 6582 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.

Entry fee for all events except Juniors \$5.00

Friday 6pm - Novice Categories

Saturday - Junior Events (Free Entry)

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  
or phone Nan Dwyer - Mobile 015 721 374

also BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCES DAILY IN

WOOL PAVILLION at 12.30pm and 4pm

Performance enquiries to Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624

## COUNTRY ON THE TWEED

7th - 15th August, 1999 - Tweed Heads Civic Centre (NSW)  
Open Perf. & Junior Written Competitions - Poets Breckys  
Standup Poets - Music - Drama - \$2,500 in Trophies & Cash  
Junior competition entries close on 12th July, 1999  
Performance competition entries close 4th August, 1999  
Further Info from Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

### POETS AND MATES

Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave., Kallangur Q.  
7.30pm Friday, 13th August, 1999

feat. MARK FELDMAN and MAUREEN MANNION

\$10 including supper. Please book for catering

Phone Wally Finch - 07 3886 0747

### SURAT BATTERED BUGLE

6th Annual Bush Verse Competition

12th - 15th August, 1999 in conjunction with Cobb & Co  
Festival of Lights (12th - 15th August, 1999)

ORIGINAL & TRADITIONAL PERF. POETRY

Entry free and nominations can be made on arrival at Surat  
Performance Concert & Poets Breakfast

Free Accomodation at "Newington" for poets

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 6106, Woodridge East, Qld 4114

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE CORRECT BOX NUMBER \*\*\*

### GYMPIE MUSTER 1999

Tuesday 24th - Sunday 29th August.

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION 27th & 28th

Traditional & Original Sections - Ent. Box 999, Warwick Q 4370  
or on the day - Good Cash Prizes

POETS BREAKFASTS EVERY DAY - POETS BRAWL Fri. 27th

NAKED POETS ALBUM LAUNCH and PERFORMANCE

Ticket Enquiries Phone 07 5482 2099

### Third Annual "BIG CITY MUSTER"

4th September, 1999

NSW Writer's Centre - Rozelle (NSW) Hospital Grounds

Guest Presenters: Geoffrey Graham, Milton Taylor, Adrian  
Bryden and Joye Dempsey.

10am - 1pm BUSH POETS BREKKIE

Original and Traditional Spoken Word Performance Comps.

1pm - Lunch (\$7.00) & Poets Brawl at Balmain Leagues Club

7pm - Book Launch by Brian Beesley at Writers' Centre

Enquiries to Joye Dempsey - Ph 02 9797 7575

### PALMA ROSA POETS

9 Queens Road, Hamilton. Q. 4007

6 pm, Sunday, 5th September, 1999

AN EVENING OF BUSH POETRY AND BBQ SUPPER

\$18.00 per head - including supper - BYO

Ring ESU 07 3262 3769 or Trisha 07 3268 3624

ATTENTION MEMBERS ... POETS ... PERFORMERS  
If you know "What's On", please advise The Editor

## THE BIG STINK © 1999 Greg Scott, Scone NSW.

A letter came the other day, sent by the local shire,  
A bureaucratic bombshell, sure to raise the locals ire,  
Some shiny-bummed Sir Humphrey in the city far away,  
Has moved to tax our septic tanks, the idea, user pay.

The rationale behind it is, of course, the public health,  
Disguising the real motive - i.e. Taxation by stealth,  
A thinly veiled hypocrisy, this bureaucratic push,  
To screw the likes of you and me, some targets in the bush.

Don't blame the local Council, (though they took it lying down,)  
This septic tank insanity evolved in Sydney Town,  
The Mafia in Macquarie Street, those urban control freaks,  
Have conjured up another place to jam their sticky beaks.

Your average septic outlet does nobody any harm,  
And it often represents the only green place on the farm,  
Sir Humphrey says it's dangerous, and it's sure to harbour germs,  
But whenever I go fishing, that's where I collect me worms.

Where do they dream their ideas up, these academic nobbs,  
It seems to me their main concern's to justify their jobs,  
They start off with a scare campaign, to prime the public fears,  
Then tax a septic system that's been working well for years.

They seem to think we can't survive without their guiding hand,  
Their legislative cancer which is crippling our great land,  
Come join us at the barricades, it's time to call their bluff,  
And let them know once and for all, this time we've had enough.

So rural residents unite, and fight 'til your last breath,  
These feeble minded parasites who govern us to death,  
And in the new millennium you'll know you've done your bit,  
By keeping Humphrey and his ilk, some distance from your pit.

### 42nd Grenfell HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL

12th - 14th June, 1999

Grenfell, the proud birthplace of Australia's favourite literary son, Henry Lawson, held it's 42nd Festival on the June long weekend. A huge bust of Lawson led the street parade on the Saturday morning and appropriately came to rest outside the Royal Hotel. He then cast his watchful eye over such diverse activities as wood chopping, pie-eating, craft demonstrations, fun runs and busking competitions to name a few. Art, photography and porcelain work was also judged on the weekend.

Performance poetry on the weekend came under the watchful eye of June Lal from Sydney. Saturday morning's recitation in Memorial Park were well attended by locals, both adult and junior, as well as some 'blow-ins' from down Sydney way in the shape of Graeme Johnson, Brian Bell and Brian Beesley. June also co-ordinated the recitations at the Exchange Hotel on the Sunday evening. Sunday morning also saw the readings of Henry's poetry at the Memorial Obelisk by local teachers John Hetherington and Bruce Roberts.

The Presentation Dinner on Saturday was peppered with visiting celebrities of stage and screen such as Sigrid Thornton and Judy Nunn who presented the following awards for poetry.

**Rhymed Verse: 1st** - Brian Beesley. **H. Comm.:** Geoff Allen, Brian Beesley, Beverley George, Brian Bell. **Comm.:** Graeme Johnson, John Bird, Brian Beesley, Len Green and Tony Hamill.

**Free Verse: 1st** - Norma Balzer. **H. C.:** Brian Beesley, Peter Hanbury. **C.:** John Ryan, Peter Hanbury, Brook Einery, Joan Timms.

**Verse by Writer Not Previously Won Prize: 1st** - M. L. Smith. **H. C.:** Ken Dean. **C.:** Gwen Goodman, Anne Atkins, L. Packman, Iris Green, John Peters.

**Verse Under 18 Yrs.: 1st** - Miranda Lello. **H. C.** Lauren Dulhunty. **C.:** Chloe Stapleton, Natalie Frankland.

Festival President Chris Lobb would like to thank those involved for their time and effort.

Your Festival Scribe,

Henry Albany.

## BUSH POETRY TREAT FOR KEMPSEY IN JULY

A treat is in store for NSW mid north coast Australian Bush Poetry lovers on Sunday 25th July when popular Bush Poet Warren "Arch" Bishop will host a Bush Poetry Soiree at historic Netherby House on the banks of the Macleay River in Kempsey, NSW

The Kempsey All Star Country Music Festival are conducting the afternoon's entertainment and have invited "Arch" to travel from his home base in Sydney for the event which will commence at 1.30pm to 4pm.

"Arch", or "Cardinal Sin" as he is often known, established himself well as a performance poet by winning the coveted "Reciter of the Year" award at the 1997 National Folk Festival held annually in Canberra, was subsequently invited back the following year to judge this prestigious event and has entertained at the festival each year since.

He is a regular performer at poetry and spoken word sections of many folk and country festivals and has also performed with the best of Australia's contemporary Bush Poets for the last two years at Tamworth's famous "Longyard" Hotel during Country Music Week.

No stranger to those who enjoy bush verse along the mid north coast, "Arch" in recent years has played an integral part in the popular "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry events when he judged both written and performance competitions and entertained throughout the time he was visiting the Nambucca Valley.

His powerful voice and stage presence will captivate and entertain you, whether it be with verse, yarns or storytelling in the popular Aussie humorous tradition or with his interpretations of, and empathy with his selections of work which will bring tears to your eyes. His 'down to earth' attitude is coupled with an off beat sense of humour and a knack of not looking at things in the traditional manner which will make you laugh, cry and think.

The beautiful Netherby House, originally built by a Macleay Valley family of timber merchants is a splendid, sprawling, red mahogany Federation home which has been vividly brought back to life in recent years. Its aristocratic credentials, including extensive cedar panelling and wide verandahs, are ideally suited to welcome you for the afternoons entertainment with a Devonshire Tea provided and prepared by hosts Jane and Allen for a very affordable \$5.00

"Arch" will also welcome to the microphone any local poets who may wish to come and share their work throughout the afternoon so bring your poetry along if you feel like "having a go". Juniors are also most welcome to attend for this great afternoon of family entertainment.

Netherby House is located on the southern approach to the Macleay River Bridge at 5 Little Rudder Street, Kempsey.

Enquiries to Maureen Stonham - Phone / Fax 02 6568 5269

## THEY HAVE PULLED THE OLD CHURCH DOWN

© Bill Glasson, Clifton Q.

As the town is slowly shrinking you can feel the sadness there,  
The old Draper's pulled his shutters and the Grocer's shelves are bare,

The Publican is busted and the Butcher wears a frown  
And just around the corner they have pulled the old Church down.

Bigger towns build supermarkets, Coles and Woolies branching out,  
Each new Supermarket wipes out fifty stores around about.

Bigger banks now have H.P., insurance, travel, on their plate,  
But try to borrow money at a reasonable rate.

Multi-millionaires control us and advise us what is best,

Two or three control television, three or four the press.

Grasping monsters buy competitors and strip them in their lair,  
And we don't like what they're doing, but it isn't our affair.

In a hundred years from now I'd love to come and see what's what;

I believe by then, one Head Sherang will own the jolly lot.

Governments will do his bidding, he'll be Master, King and God,  
Own the world and all that's in it, men will jump if he but nod.

The human race will vanish; Drugs? the river? who's to care?

Fun all gone, no sense to living, no one quite recalls a prayer.

Now I know you won't believe this but it started in your town,

When they strangled the small businessman and pulled the old Church down.

## THE RHYTHM OF THE RIG - *The Ballad of the Driller*

© Robert Raftery, 'Picture Writer', Brisbane Q 15.12.98

There's a lonely light out there tonight while the rest of the world is dreaming,  
And down below with its swirling blow, the drill bits hot and screaming.

The life is hard, the hours long, the isolation's killing,  
But there'd legends at the earthy heart of the mighty art of drilling.

Far away from friends and families and the perfumed oils of love,  
Hands encased in dirt and diesel ingrained in leather glove,  
Thoughts drift off to other places, other traces left in time,  
Burn with she wolf's dedication where an engine loses rhyme.  
Hell is hot and getting closer for the driller born to dig,  
Mud and clay and grinding gravel churning "Rhythm of the Rig".

Mighty quest for reef and fossilised rib for oil and gas and water,  
Stakes are high, strikes are low and yet they love her like a daughter.  
This branchline in the slipstream, hands on earth's almighty tiller,  
Matching matrix and her mantle regally titled under "Driller".  
In and out before the pipelines 'fore the postbox and the fig,  
You will hear the cryptic chorus of "The Rhythm of the Rig".

Learned to drink and swear in union, learned to read the minds of men,  
And if the chance presented, most would do it all again.  
And the mothers of their children, warrior wives and worn, reliant,  
Where hearts are ranked on merit, theirs would feature under 'Giant'.  
Let's grasp the water bottle and grab another swig,  
Weld the winning of the waters to "The Rhythm of the Rig".

Mild men then and wild men, noble masters of the game,  
Gentle men who fanned the embers of the drillers Hall of Fame.  
Some now sleep in simple gravesites, not a hint of white cement.  
They should warrant gold inscription and vaulting monument  
To rusty relics by the roadside fit the hitching chains and snig,  
Then restore them as an anthem to "The Rhythm of the Rig".

In our almanacs we've missed them 'cause they fought a private war.  
Their footprints track the fissures where few had gone before.  
Rarely conscious of the difference that their searching shafts had made,  
Just silent consequences of the unsung drilling trade,  
Science and art are represented in their geologic gig,  
Hearts and minds of nation builders log "The Rhythm of the Rig".

And I'd trade a great king's ransom for the pictures in their eyes  
When they steer her to the surface, buried treasure in disguise.  
Draped in whirling slurried oozes, more of ancient than of old,  
Clad in oily black and bubbling clears the oxide browns and gold,  
By the batholiths and breccias bid their partners for the jig,  
Dancing up the boreholed ballroom to the "Rhythm of the Rig".

Since those early shafts of fire hardened bamboo formed a drill  
The finders linked their knowledge to perfect the driller's skill.  
From the darkened arctic snowline to the bright artesian bore,  
Buttoned hammers probe the stratas to rock the devil's door.  
Kings of onsite innovation with their wondrous whirligig,  
Mighty maestros of the music of "The Rhythm of the Rig".

## BRUNSWICK HEADS BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Brunswick Heads will host the annual Festival of Fish and Chips and Woodchop Festival, 1st - 15th January, 2000.

Organisers of the festival have introduced several new events into the program, including an afternoon-twilight country concert, which is set down for Friday 7th January at 2pm.

In addition, a Bush Poets Breakfast, and performance poetry competition will be held at 8am on 6th January, 2000 hosted by singer-songwriter Greg Champion. Local poets, "The Mullumbimby Bloke", Ray Essery, "The Byron Bard" Col Hadwell and the 'Brunswick Babe' Judiann Schultz, together with Greg Champion will render a special performance, promising to have the audience rolling in laughter.

A written poetry competition is also included and entries for the competition close on 1st November, 1999 with all winners announced at the Poets Breakfast on Thursday 6th January, 1000.

With over \$3,000 in prize money up for grabs, organisers are expecting a large number of entries.

The Woodchop Festival caters for all family members with activities ranging from golf, bowls, football, a surf carnival, fishing competitions to housie, art and craft displays, fireworks, markets, exhibitions and numerous other events.

Enquiries to and entry forms from Judiann Schultz on 02 6685 1599 or email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au.

## POETS AND MATES

Friday the 13th of August is looming. So August's Poets and Mates being on that day will have a Black Friday theme. Our guest performers will be the spooky Mark Feldman and the bewitching Maureen Mannion. It's hard to believe almost a year has gone since they were on the last time. They gave us great performances then and we know you'll enjoy them again.

Mark is an energetic, dedicated performer equally skilled in drama and humour. He was the winner of Reciter of the Year at the National Folk Festival in Sydney last year and has gone from strength to strength since. Mark writes fine poetry himself but does not neglect the works of other great poets from either the past or the present.

Maureen is an equally energetic performer with a fine repertoire of original poetry drawn from her own life. Her friendly approach overflows into the audience. Maureen's expressive face and voice make her performance a joy to experience.

Two fine performers to keep ghosts and goblins at bay!  
Two fine performers to shatter the bad luck myth associated with Friday the Thirteenth. Further details on page 14

See you there. Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Q or phone 07 3886 0747. A light supper will be served and the all inclusive cost is a low \$10.00. Please book to help us with the catering

*Wally (The Bear) Finch*

## TRUNDLE (NSW) BUSH TUCKER DAY

One of the highlights of Central Western NSW is the Annual Trundle Bush Tucker Day.

Where is Trundle? You may well ask. Draw a straight line on your road map between Bourke and Bega and you will find Trundle about an inch to the west of Parkes.

Trundle is a great place with a pub, two clubs and lots of lovely people; a true-blue Aussie country town boasting the widest main street in the state. You need to take a cut lunch to cross it.

Camp-oven bush tucker is the order of the day with non-stop entertainment from 10am on Saturday 26th September through till late, with Lee Ann Rose, Owen Blundell, David Smyth and Broken Wheel, Pat Drummond and the mighty Wolverines on Saturday night.

Entertainment co-ordinator Frank Daniel has announced that \$1,000 prize money has been allocated for Performance Bush Poets in



the Inaugural Trundle Bush Poetry Stakes. Heats will be held on the Saturday 25th September from 11 am with sections for Ladies and Gentlemen. Finals will be held on Sunday 25th September from 9 am. Further information will be available in the next issue of the A.B.P.A. newsletter. It will be an informal venue and intending poets are simply asked to send their names and addresses, phone numbers etc. as soon as possible to

**Frank Daniel, Short Street Productions,  
PO Box 16 Canowindra, NSW 2804.**

## CHECK THE BOOKSHELF

The bookshelf is a free occasional service to members. Please check your details, and if you wish to change or add details or product please advise the Editor ASAP. Ta.

## THE BIG STINK © 1999 Greg Scott, Scone NSW.

A letter came the other day, sent by the local shire,  
A bureaucratic bombshell, sure to raise the locals ire,  
Some shiny-bummed Sir Humphrey in the city far away,  
Has moved to tax our septic tanks, the idea, user pay.

The rationale behind it is, of course, the public health,  
Disguising the real motive - i.e. Taxation by stealth,  
A thinly veiled hypocrisy, this bureaucratic push,  
To screw the likes of you and me, some targets in the bush.

Don't blame the local Council, (though they took it lying down,)  
This septic tank insanity evolved in Sydney Town,  
The Mafia in Macquarie Street, those urban control freaks,  
Have conjured up another place to jam their sticky beaks.

Your average septic outlet does nobody any harm,  
And it often represents the only green place on the farm,  
Sir Humphrey says it's dangerous, and it's sure to harbour germs,  
But whenever I go fishing, that's where I collect me worms.

Where do they dream their ideas up, these academic nobs,  
It seems to me their main concern's to justify their jobs,  
They start off with a scare campaign, to prime the public fears,  
Then tax a septic system that's been working well for years.

They seem to think we can't survive without their guiding hand,  
Their legislative cancer which is crippling our great land,  
Come join us at the barricades, it's time to call their bluff,  
And let them know once and for all, this time we've had enough.

So rural residents unite, and fight 'til your last breath,  
These feeble minded parasites who govern us to death,  
And in the new millennium you'll know you've done your bit,  
By keeping Humphrey and his ilk, some distance from your pit.

### 42nd Grenfell HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL

12th - 14th June, 1999

Grenfell, the proud birthplace of Australia's favourite literary son, Henry Lawson, held it's 42nd Festival on the June long weekend. A huge bust of Lawson led the street parade on the Saturday morning and appropriately came to rest outside the Royal Hotel. He then cast his watchful eye over such diverse activities as wood chopping, pie-eating, craft demonstrations, fun runs and busking competitions to name a few. Art, photography and porcelain work was also judged on the weekend.

Performance poetry on the weekend came under the watchful eye of June Lal from Sydney. Saturday morning's recitation in Memorial Park were well attended by locals, both adult and junior, as well as some 'blow-ins' from down Sydney way in the shape of Graeme Johnson, Brian Bell and Brian Beesley. June also co-ordinated the recitations at the Exchange Hotel on the Sunday evening. Sunday morning also saw the readings of Henry's poetry at the Memorial Obelisk by local teachers John Hetherington and Bruce Roberts.

The Presentation Dinner on Saturday was peppered with visiting celebrities of stage and screen such as Sigrid Thornton and Judy Nunn who presented the following awards for poetry.

**Rhymed Verse: 1st** - Brian Beesley. **H. Comm.:** Geoff Allen, Brian Beesley, Beverley George, Brian Bell. **Comm.:** Graeme Johnson, John Bird, Brian Beesley, Len Green and Tony Hamill.

**Free Verse: 1st** - Norma Balzer. **H. C.:** Brian Beesley, Peter Hanbury. **C.:** John Ryan, Peter Hanbury, Brook Emery, Joan Timms.

**Verse by Writer Not Previously Won Prize: 1st** - M. L. Smith. **H. C.:** Ken Dean. **C.:** Gwen Goodman, Anne Atkins, L. Packman, Iris Green, John Peters.

**Verse Under 18 Yrs.: 1st** - Miranda Lello. **H. C.** Lauren Dulhunty. **C.:** Chloe Stapleton, Natalie Frankland.

Festival President Chris Lobb would like to thank those involved for their time and effort.

*Your Festival Scribe, Henry Albany.*

## BUSH POETRY TREAT FOR KEMPSEY IN JULY

A treat is in store for NSW mid north coast Australian Bush Poetry lovers on Sunday 25th July when popular Bush Poet Warren "Arch" Bishop will host a Bush Poetry Soiree at historic Netherby House on the banks of the Macleay River in Kempsey, NSW

The Kempsey All Star Country Music Festival are conducting the afternoon's entertainment and have invited "Arch" to travel from his home base in Sydney for the event which will commence at 1.30pm to 4pm.

"Arch", or "Cardinal Sin" as he is often known, established himself well as a performance poet by winning the coveted "Reciter of the Year" award at the 1997 National Folk Festival held annually in Canberra, was subsequently invited back the following year to judge this prestigious event and has entertained at the festival each year since.

He is a regular performer at poetry and spoken word sections of many folk and country festivals and has also performed with the best of Australia's contemporary Bush Poets for the last two years at Tamworth's famous "Longyard" Hotel during Country Music Week.

No stranger to those who enjoy bush verse along the mid north coast, "Arch" in recent years has played an integral part in the popular "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry events when he judged both written and performance competitions and entertained throughout the time he was visiting the Nambucca Valley.

His powerful voice and stage presence will captivate and entertain you, whether it be with verse, yarns or storytelling in the popular Aussie humorous tradition or with his interpretations of, and empathy with his selections of work which will bring tears to your eyes. His 'down to earth' attitude is coupled with an off beat sense of humour and a knack of not looking at things in the traditional manner which will make you laugh, cry and think.

The beautiful Netherby House, originally built by a Macleay Valley family of timber merchants is a splendid, sprawling, red mahogany Federation home which has been vividly brought back to life in recent years. Its aristocratic credentials, including extensive cedar panelling and wide verandahs, are ideally suited to welcome you for the afternoons entertainment with a Devonshire Tea provided and prepared by hosts Jane and Allen for a very affordable \$5.00

"Arch" will also welcome to the microphone any local poets who may wish to come and share their work throughout the afternoon so bring your poetry along if you feel like "having a go". Juniors are also most welcome to attend for this great afternoon of family entertainment.

Netherby House is located on the southern approach to the Macleay River Bridge at 5 Little Rudder Street, Kempsey.

Enquiries to Maureen Stonham - Phone / Fax 02 6568 5269

## THEY HAVE PULLED THE OLD CHURCH DOWN

© Bill Glasson, Clifton Q.

As the town is slowly shrinking you can feel the sadness there,  
The old Draper's pulled his shutters and the Grocer's shelves are bare,  
The Publican is busted and the Butcher wears a frown  
And just around the corner they have pulled the old Church down.

Bigger towns build supermarkets, Coles and Woolies branching out,  
Each new Supermarket wipes out fifty stores around about.  
Bigger banks now have H.P., insurance, travel, on their plate,  
But try to borrow money at a reasonable rate.

Multi-millionaires control us and advise us what is best,  
Two or three control television, three or four the press.  
Grasping monsters buy competitors and strip them in their lair,  
And we don't like what they're doing, but it isn't our affair.

In a hundred years from now I'd love to come and see what's what,  
I believe by then, one Head Sherrang will own the jolly lot.  
Governments will do his bidding, he'll be Master, King and God,  
Own the world and all that's in it, men will jump if he but nod.

The human race will vanish; Drugs? the river? who's to care?  
Fun all gone, no sense to living, no one quite recalls a prayer.  
Now I know you won't believe this but it started in your town,  
When they strangled the small businessman and pulled the old Church down.

**DEAR BECKY** © February, 1999, Janine Haig, Eulo, Q. *1st - Ladies Encouragement Award, Yarrawonga-Mulwala Murray Muster*

I am writing you this letter in the middle of the night,  
It's 2 a.m. and 42 degrees;  
The cooler in the house is trying hard to do it's job  
And outside there's not the faintest touch of breeze.

I've been going through old photographs I've kept for many years,  
I found the ones I took when you were small -  
A chubby little baby, a determined little girl,  
I photographed each smile and every fall.

The one I took when you turned five has curled along the sides -  
A grinning child astride her pony, Bart;  
He carried you through Pony Club and waited when you fell,  
Such stumpy legs and such a great big heart.

Then, when you outgrew him, you wouldn't let him go,  
He's ancient now and looking very frail;  
And every day I groomed him and feed him at the gate,  
A pensioner, a friend and not for sale.

There's an action shot I took of you the day you learned to dive,  
Suspended 'tween the diving board and pool;  
And another on the motor bike while mustering with Dad,  
Pulling funny faces and acting like a fool.

A photograph of you with Jess when she was just a pup;  
A series of you growing side by side;  
The final one shows you, my sweet, your face awash with tears,  
Taken on the day your Jessie died.

When the time for high school came you really threw a fit:  
You belonged at home and had to stay;  
Boarding School a long way off? You didn't want to go,  
Insisted you would only run away.

The photographs were fewer then, you grew in leaps and bounds,  
My little girl had turned into a teen;  
You talked about an unknown world and boys and shops and clothes,  
Your friends were people I had never seen.

The woman who returned from school is framed there on the wall,  
Yet in her smile I glimpse again the child -  
The humour and an echo of her naughty, cheeky ways,  
An angel - yet at times a little wild.

You didn't stay too long, for you had a life to lead,  
The country couldn't hold you any more;  
Growing up brought changes and you wanted to move on,  
You had to spread your wings and learn to soar.

Proud you stand beside the car for which you scrimped and saved,  
You sent that snap from somewhere on the coast;  
You sometimes rang to say hello yet never told me much,  
But the photographs were what I loved the most.

When at last you came back home I knew you couldn't stay,  
You came for peace and comfort; just to rest;  
You didn't want more photographs, you said I had enough,  
With reluctance I gave in to your request.

I watched you fading day by day, a slow and ugly end;  
Helpless, love was all that I could give;  
And every time I close my eyes the picture is quite clear  
As you slowly lost your fight to heal and live.

The final photo shows you on the day before you died,  
By then you weren't aware of very much;  
And I needed that last memory to store with all the rest,  
A final part of you for me to touch.

Miracles do not exist, I've learned to live through pain  
For sometimes there's no answer to a prayer;  
I've learned that parents certainly should not outlive their child  
That far too often life is just not fair.

And often late at night, when I find I cannot sleep,  
I pace the floor and search for reasons why;  
Now this little box of photographs is all of you I have ...  
Plus the fact that you came home to say goodbye.

### THE MULWALA POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

© Beth Vinecombe-Bashford, "The Berrigan Bard", Berrigan NSW

Poets Breakfasts started each day off well, in a non-competitive frame,  
where the mood was relaxed and convivial, where poems and yarns were the game.  
Here the judges were able to dine before facing their challenging task  
of listening to verse and awarding points, (it proved a very big ask)

The venue was great, the atmosphere high, each entrant now strutting their stuff,  
poetry tore at your heartstrings and more, competition was proving so tough.

The sections provided the avenue for some personal reminiscing,  
Traditional poems held us all in awe, enthusiasm was never missing.

The nerves in the wings were evident now as each entrant stepped down from the stage,  
they breathed a sigh of relief from the strain, as the judges wrote points on their page.

However, we must congratulate both Guy and Janine on their wins,  
The Silver Brumby Trophies they won, must surely still cause them to grin.

I thought I knew poetry (for most of my life) and loving it's every word,  
but at the Bush Poets Championships, was the best I'd ever heard.  
To name a few and miss out on a lot, would possibly hurt and offend,  
So I'll say it was great to meet you all, and I feel I made many a friend.

### THE MAN FROM IRONBARK - Nambucca Heads Performance

News is just to hand that Geoffrey Graham will, as part of his tour in the  
northern parts of country, perform his show detailing the life and works of Andrew  
Barton "Banjo" Paterson at the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club. This  
wonderful show comes very highly recommended by those who have seen it.

The performance is scheduled for 6.30pm on Thursday 26th August.  
Admission will be \$15.00 and include dinner. Bookings for the show should be made  
at the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club, phone 02 6568 6132 or other  
enquiries to Maureen Stonham, phone/fax 02 6568 5269. See you at the show!

### A MESSAGE from YARRAWONGA - MULWALA

To all our poets, judges and visitors who came  
to the Yarrawonga /-Mulwala Murray Muster and  
brought absolute delight, appreciation of fine works,  
tremendous entertainment and a hunger for the next  
poetry event into our towns, we salute you and hope that  
you all arrived back safely at your destinations.

Our children in the schools are still motivated  
in their writings and dramas after the inspirational  
workshops and presentations from Geoffrey Graham.  
Young and old stock whip crackers are preparing for  
Noel Cutler's next competition and many locals have  
taken up the challenge of recitation and memory training.

Everyone is still excited after some weeks of  
our poetry and we all want you to return to our towns  
anytime. We are still sending out thankyou letters and  
certificates to our sponsors and competitors, so please  
bear with us.

We can only sing the praises of everyone who  
was involved in any way for the huge success of the  
Festival and Championships, and we look forward to  
many more events featuring this unique form of  
expression, storytelling, yarnspinning and recitation.

Well done to everyone and congratulations to  
all for being wonderful ambassadors in representing your  
towns and yourselves. Yarrawonga/Mulwala is so much  
richer in having met you. Please come back soon.  
Hugs from Barb, the Committees and all the town folk.

*Barb MacDermid*

**HEALYS HUNDRED** © Keith Ireland, North Rockhampton Q

You'd have to be a fanatic or mad to some degree  
To stay up through a winter's night, watching cricket on T.V.  
I love to watch a cricket test but when the clock hits ten  
The old head starts to nod a bit and I'm off to bed 'bout then.

But this night was a little different. I needed a drink to revive.  
Healy had just walked to the crease with the score at two-thirty five.  
The year was Nineteen Ninety-three, first test, Old Trafford, fourth day.  
Defeating the Poms was paramount with our second innings underway.

With Steve Waugh waiting by the pitch, it was time to have a cuppa  
And Healy was already off the mark by the time we finished supper.  
My wife decided it was late enough and headed off to bed.  
But Healy seemed to be on track so I decided to wait instead.

He zipped along to twenty, at a cavalier pace  
His trademark hook was going well, between the fieldsmen placed.  
By now I was feeling drowsy. I thought about sleep again.  
I was sure he would make it to fifty so I'd sit up till then.

He reached his fifty in dashing style with another well placed shot.  
I couldn't go to bed just yet. This game was getting very hot.  
"He hasn't made a hundred," I heard the commentator say  
"By the way he's massing up the runs, this could be the day."

That seemed to shake me up again, though late the hour be it,  
If the boy from Bilo could make a ton, I wanted to be there to see it.  
Steve Waugh was batting brilliantly. Healy was in full flight.  
Who could think of going to bed. I'd have to stay the night.

When he reached the nervous nineties, I got nervous too.  
I crossed my fingers and said, "Come On". Then made a quick trip to the loo.  
But I didn't have to worry. I bet the bowlers were fed up.  
He cracked two fours in rapid time and brought his hundred up.

I raised my arms in a mighty cheer. "You beauty," I loudly cried.  
You'd think I'd made the runs myself, I felt so full of pride.  
I thought of sending a telegram or maybe just a Fax  
But Healy cracked another shot so I settled back to relax.

The game went on. The batting flowed. I snuggled in the chair  
And somehow in the next ten runs, Old Trafford wasn't there.  
I roused again in the early light. My all night vigil shattered  
But I'd seen Healy's hundred and that was all that mattered.

**SOUTH AUSSIE COMPETITION REPORT**

South Australian Bush Poets at the Riverland Country Music Festival proved very successful. We tried many new ideas for the south including a Gospel Poetry Show, Bonfire Night and of course our showcase of our best poets and the Inaugural S.A. Bush Poets Competition.

As a result of a ripper of a bonfire night, the Renmark Riverfront Van Park want to make their park "Home of Bush Poets" during the Festival 2000.

The Renmark newspaper produced a commemorative lift out of information and events of the Festival. In full colour, taking up the entire front page was a photograph of Gaynor Bowden and myself promoting the festival. What a plug for Bush Poets !!!

I did a T.V. spot for the news and Gaynor and I received good air play on the Renmark ABC radio as well.

There are many new venues opening up for us and willing to give their support for 2000. Berri Resort Hotel, riverland Greyhound Racing Club and Renmark Riverfront Van Park.

However I must say we were truly honoured and overwhelmed by unpretentiousness and generosity of Neil McArthur and Marco Gliori to come along. They both came simply to join in and just be one of the mob. But they left leaving us with inspiration, gratification and many new people who simply want to hear Bush Poetry. We're pretty isolated here in S.A. so here's a truly heartfelt thanks to these two guys !! Bob Magor was right though, "Neil is truly a sick man!" More! More!

**GULGONG****HENRY LAWSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL****12th - 14th June 1999**

The Gulgong Heritage Festival was a weekend where the spectator could fully immerse themselves in true living traditions. As well as Traditional Verse, there was Gold Panning at "Red Hill", Street Theatre, self-made amusements of the "Gold Rush" days, the "stockman's challenge" and working dog trials to get you in the colonial mood.

On Sunday Gulgong's famous Opera House (rumoured to be where Henry Lawson saw his first theatrical production) held the presentations for the Henry Lawson Society of NSW Literary Awards.

On Monday in the newly refurbished Henry Lawson Centre Graeme Johnson ran the Poets Brunch where prize winners including himself, Brian Beesley, Roderick Williams and Len Green recited Lawson and other traditional works along with their winning entries. Newcomer Gail Collins presented some free-verse to even things up. The winners of the Poetry Sections were:

**Henry Lawson Adult Poetry Awards:** 1st - Len Green, 2nd - Graeme Johnson, 3rd - Jim Butler.

**Commended:** E. Clowes, K. Dean, J. Campbell, D. Ridgewell, B. Beesley, G. Baker.

**Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award:**

1st - Roderick Williams, 2nd - Ron Stevens, 3rd - Terry Regan. H. C. Graeme Johnson, Emily Pollard.

**Student Performance Awards:** 1st - Lauren Dalhunny, 2nd - William Rowles, 3rd - Daniel Warner.

**Junior Student Poetry Awards:** 1st - Owen Lodge, 2nd - Louise McBride, 3rd - Lauren Dulhunny.

**Senior Student Poetry Awards:** 1st - J. Riley-Masters, 2nd - Jacqueline Davis, 3rd - Michelle Laurie.

Your Festival Scribe,

Jack Connstalk

**CAN YOU HELP** Wally Finch with the words and author's name to the poem 'Along the Condamine' Two lines are -

*"Your delicate constitution love, ain't equal to mine  
And you couldn't eat damper down the Condamine."*

Reply to 56 Orchid Ave., Kallangur Q 4503 ph 07 3886 0747

I have no doubt that Bush Poetry in the Riverland CM Festival can only get better and bigger. We two historical events ... 1 - We saw the biggest gathering so far of Bush Poets in SA and 2 .... A first for Australia, the three Strauss brothers, Tony, Graham and Tim appearing on the one stage together in the tradition of our forefathers performing the Salt Bush Bill Trilogy and then tagged on "Salt Bush Bill, M.P."

These Strauss brothers were magnificent in all their renditions and I am sure they will be a recognised name in the Traditional forte of Bush Poetry events.

The Strauss family also scooped the pool in the competition. Tony Strauss winning both Traditional and Open Original sections. His daughter Crystal winning the Junior Traditional section. Graham Strauss came second in the Traditional with Jacqueline Cleery third.

Tony Strauss' nephew, Stephen came second in the junior traditional event. There were no junior original entrants.

I would just like to say thanks to the A.B.P.A. and their newsletter - what a wonderful source of networking of poets this has become. Finally, I'm absolutely tuckered in a very happy way. I've had a truly fantastic time, and thanks to all those S.A. poets that came and made it all the more a successful time.

Best regards, *Peter Chapman*, South Australian Bush Poets

**A.B.P.A. MEMBERSHIP JULY to DECEMBER  
NOW AVAILABLE TO NEW MEMBERS  
FOR \$13.00 - MONEY TO SECRETARY PLEASE**

## BUSH POETRY AT THE EKKA

Bush Poetry will again feature at this year's Royal National Show (Brisbane Exhibition). Twice daily performances will take place at the Wool Pavillion at 12.30 and 4pm from Thursday 5th August through to Sunday 15th August. Enquiries should be made to Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624.

In addition, the Show Society will be conducting a performance competition on Saturday 7th August which will feature both Original and Traditional sections. Competition information can be found on page 14 and phone enquiries should be directed to Nan Dwyer, mobile 015 721 374.

## MY BRUSH WITH THE GERMS

(or - A Fractured Fairy Tale)

© Jenny Carter, North Ryde NSW

I'm really not a coward,  
I'm not scared of many things.  
I can stare a redback spider down  
And cope with ants that sting.

I go out in the traffic,  
And attack those snarls with glee.  
And when I beat those trucks at lights,  
There are no flies on me!

But there is one thing that fills me  
With loathing and with dread -  
It's the germs that lurk in hospitals,  
For they can kill me dead!

You could say it is a phobia -  
But I've heard many tales of woe,  
Of the tiny savage beasties  
That can take you down below.

But on that sunny Thursday,  
Those thoughts were furthest from my mind,  
As I climbed upon a wobbly chair  
To prune that tree of mine.

And - oops! - the dead branch broke away,  
And I went tumbling over  
I landed on the ground  
Amidst the chair legs and the clover.

And, oh, the news it was not good,  
My ankle it was broke,  
And now I'm here amongst these germs.  
What terrors they evoke!

The Staphylococcus Aureus  
And the Pseudomonas too,  
And even Legionnaire's Disease  
Are hovering over you.

But I will fight these terrors  
And my sick bed I'll escape,  
By the time you read this poem,  
I'll be looking in good shape.

And next time I feel adventurous,  
Before climbing chairs and fences,  
I'll consider what I'm doing -  
And the dire consequences.

As I hobble on my crutches,  
I will quickly come to terms  
With how fragile all our lives are,  
When we brush with deadly germs!

## MILLMERRAN BUSH POETS ROUND-UP

The time is getting closer to **The Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up**. It's now July, only one Newsletter to go (Aug.) and it's on! So what can I say, everything is in readiness, only the things that can go wrong, will.

I can almost smell the sausages cooking for the Sausage Sizzle, lunch time on Saturday 4th September in Millmerran Lions Park. I can almost hear the voices of the **Juniors** as they compete in the Original, Traditional and Junior Group sections for Trophies, Certificates and some great prizes.

With some Country Music and a Line Dancing Demo the **Novice** competitors should have calmed down enough so their knees don't knock as they perform, like mine always do! They will contest Original and Traditional sections where trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Our concert, "**The Laughter Lives On**" featuring Bobby Miller, Gary Fogarty, Shirley Friend and Noel Stallard will take place in the Millmerran Cultural Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday 4th. Supper is organised and so too is the bar.

At 9am Sunday 5th (Fathers Day), "Arch" Bishop and "The Legend" will host a Poets Breakfast in the Beer Garden of the Ram's Head Hotel, the Lions are cooking for us again this year, only because they did such a fine job last year, well, no one died from food poisoning, did they?

The **Open** competition will follow the breakfast, and competitors will compete in Open Female Traditional and Original and Open Male Traditional and Original sections, a Yarn Spinning Contest, Due Performance and Poet's Brawl. Again some great prizes and trophies supplied by "Unique Wood" who supplied our trophies last year.

The **Overall Champion**, this year will be selected from the **Open sections only** and the poets **AVERAGE** score will be the method of selecting the winner, however points will only be counted from Traditional, Original and Yarn Spinning Sections.

Entry fees are: Junior & Brawl Sections are free. Other sections \$5.00 section entered / Max \$10.00. Entries close on 27th August, however late entries will be accepted if time permits. The order of competing will be decided on the day, prior to the event, all competitors names will go in "The Hat" and will be drawn out in order of performance.

"Laughter Lives On" tickets are available, and like entry forms, just send a SSAE to "The Legend", PO Box 64, Millmerran Q 4357. Concert tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 school student and \$25 family. All cheques and money orders should be made payable to Bush Poetry Competition.

I hope by now you have all booked accommodation, if not, do so soon, the place is filling fast! Well, that's IT. See you here in Millmerran on 4th and 5th September for the Round-Up, if not before.

*Ken Barnes, "The Legend"*

## PALMA ROSA POETS HAPPYNINGS

We are very excited to announce two great evenings of Poetry to be held in the coming months. As the finale to the **World Conference of the English Speaking Union**, the Brisbane Sector will be hosting an Evening of Bush Poetry and BBQ Supper to be held at Palma Rosa, 9 Queens Road, Hamilton, Brisbane on **Sunday 5th September at 6pm**. Reservations are required and can be made with Trisha Anderson, 07 3268 3624 or E.S.U. on 07 3262 3769.

On Wednesday 29th September, we are proud to welcome from Victoria, the multi-award winning poet, **Noel Cutler**.

Noel, whose cassette "**Around the Campfire**" was runner-up in the recorded verse section of the Golden Gum Leaf Poetry Awards in Tamworth 1997, is also the author of "**Whipcrackers Eat Humble Pie Too**", a very successful book of verse. Talking of whip cracking, Noel is also a **dual Australian Champion Whip Cracker** and he will also be giving a whip cracking demonstration at interval.

Supporting Noel on this memorable night will be the "**Patriarch of Bush Poetry**" - **Bill Hay**. Bill, who has won so many Awards for poetry, yarnspinning and harmonica playing will certainly have Palma Rosa's beautiful heritage-listed ballroom jumping.

We look forward to seeing you for a great night's entertainment at 7pm for 7.30 start. Admission is \$15 and includes supper. BYO if you wish. Bookings for this evening are essential to the phone numbers above.

*Trisha Anderson*

During the Festival of the Fisheries, at Brewarrina there was a crowd of keen anglers stationed along the bank near the Barwon Bridge, and they hadn't had a bite for hours.

A small boy walked to the bank, baited up, and using a bamboo stick with a length of line, landed a nice Yellowbelly in about two minutes flat.

His mother ran down to the water, and said "By Jove that's a lovely fish! What sort is it?" and the young feller said "I don't know, Mum, but one of these blokes said it was a bloody fluke !!!" © *Hipshot*.





# THE BOOK SHELF

Products Available from A.B.P.A Members

THE "BOOK SHELF" IS FREE INTERMITTENT SERVICE TO MEMBERS ONLY

Please check your details or send details of any new products to the Editor

"The Born Loser — Can Sometimes Win" Book \$7 pp, Ron Selby, PO Box 77, Drayton North, Qld. 4350.

"Winners in Rhyme" Tape, "Reversals", "Identity", "Lighter Touch of History", Books. All \$14.00 pp Ron Stevens, 14 Eden Park Ave, Dubbo, NSW 2830

"A Muster of Verse & Yarns", "Tales of Uncle Jim", "In Days Gone By", "Laughter and Tears from the Bush", 4 Books - \$12.00 pp, Chris and The Grey", Cassette \$17pp from Chris & Merv Webster, 8 Hawaii Court, Bargara, Q 4670.

"300 Funny Little Poems" Book \$12 pp, "City of Green - Green Ban Songs and Beyond" CD \$25 pp both from Denis Kevans, 63 Valley Rd. Wentworth Falls 2782

"Australian Colour-in Activity Book Series" \$1.00 ea "Along the Track", "A Bit Coasty" Books, "Gettoknowabloke Collection" Tape All 12.50 pp Tom Penna, 28 Leworthy Street, Victor Harbour, SA 5211.

"Thoughts Shared With a Lizard", "Say 'Cheese'" Books \$10 pp, Dawn de Rameriz, 23 Tallayang St. Bomaderry NSW 2541

"My First Book of Poems", "Living with Alcohol", "Small Matters", "The Shearing Shed Speaks", "Men Have Feelings Too", "Punch Lines", "The Little Red Recovery Book" Books \$5 ea + \$2.50 pp one or more, Brian Bell, PO Box 52, Glenbrook, NSW 2773

"Buggar the Music, Give Us A Poem" - CD by Keith Mc Kenry \$25 pp, 5 Bonney St., Ainslie ACT 2602

"Lend Me Your Ear ... Or I'll Steal It". Tape by Glenny Palmer, \$15pp, 43 Samantha Road, Cedar Vale, Q. 4285

"The First Bunch of Ballads from Byron Bay" - Book \$10 pp Col Hadwell, Hamiltons Lane, Byron Bay NSW 2481

"I Thought I Was an Aussie", "Full Circle", "Somewhere Beyond", 3 Books \$10 pp ea Sandra Binns, PO Box 6013, Kincumber NSW 2251

"The Ringers Note" Tape \$15 pp and "Westering" Book \$13 pp from Mark Kleinschmidt, 13 Emu St Longreach 4730

"Australian Bush Poetry" Tape \$15 pp "Hand in Hand" CD \$20 pp John & Joy Major, "Nonda" Baralabah Q 4702

"Verse You'll Agree With" Book \$5.50 pp, "More of the Same" Book \$7.50 pp. Maxine Ireland, 13 Opal Place, Murwillumbah, NSW 2484.

"Mates", Book \$10.00pp by Zita Horton & Carmel Randle. Zita Horton, 66 O'Grady Street, Upper Mt. Gravatt QLD 4122.

"The Shadows & The Substance" and "From All Corners", Books by Liz Banting & "The Tracker Bush Poems Vol 1 - 5", Books by Roy Briggs, All \$15.50 pp available from PO Box 118 Esk, Q 4312

"Jesta Friend" Tape \$15 pp "Road Floozie" Book \$10 pp from Shirly Friend, 33 Mulberry Street, Morayfield, Q. 4506

"Ballads of a Bush Bride" Book and Tape \$10 ea pp Mavis Appleyard, 106 Thornton Avenue, Warren, NSW 2824

"Bush Poetry, You're Kidding", Tape \$15 pp from Murray Hartin, C/- 7 Mayo Place, Killarney Heights NSW 2807

"Our Bush Poetry Through Heritage" Double Tape \$25 pp from Noel Stallard, 11 Cestrum St, Arana Hills Q 4054

"Poems and Ballads by Marco" Tape for Primary School Age Children \$13 pp, "Legends Video" (Family Entertainment) \$23 pp, Other tapes and books available POA from Marco Gliori, Saddlesaw Productions, PO 999 Warwick Q 4370

"French Cuisine, Recipe for Humour" Book \$9.00pp Mary Meehan, 5 Willow Court, Seaford, SA 5169

"Pidling Pete", Tape \$15.00pp, "My Ute" - Book, \$10pp, "It Doesn't Get Much Verse" - Tape \$15pp - avail Jan '99 from Milton Taylor, 71 Ridge St, Portland, NSW 2847

"Aussie Bush Ballads & Poems" Book \$10pp Blue Francis, PO 410, White Cliffs, NSW 2836

"Bullitude's Dog" & "The Billy's On" Books \$11 pp by Bill Kearns, 44

Kent Street, Grafton NSW 2460

"Kangarooing the Seat" Tape \$12 pp from Terry Regan, 292 Railway Parade, Blaxland NSW 2774

"Blue Mountains Remembered" Book. Corry de Haas, 6 Riverstone Road, Helensvale Q 4210 \$10 pp

"Rhymes with Reasons" Book \$14 pp Bob Bush, 14/22 Queens Road, New Lambton NSW 2305

"Mischief, Memories, Mates" Book. Beth Vinecombe-Bashford, Box 18, Berrigan, NSW 2712 \$16 pp

"The Imaginary Menagerie" Book, Gordon Leeder, 9/14 Queen Street, Coloundra, Q 4551, \$11.00 pp

"The Love Thongs" Tape \$15 pp "Trouble at the Thong Factory" & "Tragic Tales from The Thong Factory" (new) Books \$10 pp. Book & Tape \$20pp Neil McArthur, 718 Norman St., Ballarat Nth V 3350

"Eye of the Beholder" Book \$12.00pp "Nostalia at the Boundary Gate" Book \$6.50 pp Ellis Campbell, 1 Lawson St. Dubbo NSW 2830

The Lowdown 1 & 2", Tapes. "The Lowdown in Print", Book. \$12pp ea or 3 for \$25pp. Gary Lowe, 11 Magnolia Pl., Chitaway Bay, NSW 2261

"The Mullumbimby Bloke" Book \$10 pp, "Along the Road to Bangalow" Tape \$12.00 pp Ray Essery, 270 Manse Rd, via Mullumbimby NSW 2482

"The Larrikin and the Lady" Tape, Carmel Dunn, M.S. 623 Ogilvie Road, Warwick, Q. 4370 \$15.00 pp

"Ten Feet Tall and Bulletproof" Book \$11 pp from Betsy Chape, MS 979 Monto, Qld 4630.

"Aussie Bush Ballads and Poems" Book \$10 pp from Bluey Francis, White Cliffs NSW 2836

"Live, But Only Just" Tape 12.50 pp from Harry Bowers, 46 Sutton Road, Warragul Vic 3820

"Only Yolking", Book \$10 pp & Tape \$20 pp from Max Jarrott, 15 Palm Street, Killarney Q 4373

"The Man From Ironbark", CD \$20pp, Book \$15pp, Geoffrey Graham, PO Box 36, Eaglehawk Vic 3556

"Around the Campfire", Tape, \$15.00pp, Noel Cutler, RMB 2925, Wangaratta. Vic. 3677

"The Larrikin" Series. 2 Books & 3 tapes, Bobby Miller, 3 Pilerwa Rd. Mungar, Q 4650

"No Dogs Aloud" Book \$7.00 pp, from Don Lloyd, Wooli Road, Pillar Valley, NSW 2462.

"Bush Yarns & Poetry" Book, Frank Daniel, PO Box 16, Canowindra, NSW 2804 \$12.00 pp

"Vice Verser", by Rhubard \$15 pp. Reg Silvester 35 Wallace Street Braidwood NSW 2622

"Aussie Bush Comedy" Book. Neil Hulm 361 Cheyenne Dr Lavington NSW 2641 \$10 pp

"Not Too Bad" Tape \$15 pp Tim McLouchlin, Yanolee, Ellerstone via Scone NSW 2337

"Look Before You Leap" Book by Jim O'Conner POA PO Box 289 Longreach, Q. 4730

"Legendary Stuff" Book \$7.50 pp. Kev Barnes, PO Box 64, Millmerran Q. 4357

"Duck for Cover" Book \$6.00 pp Jack Drake, PO Bos 414, Stanthorpe, Q. 4380

"It's Flo Again!" Book, \$10pp Flo Hart, "Hillside" MS150, Pittsworth, Q. 4356

"Character Kaleidoscope: Vol 1- Been There - Done That", Vol 2 - "A Funburnt Country" \$10pp,

"Small Stuff for Small Stuff" \$4 pp Books, Wally Finch, 56 Orchard Avenue, Kallangur Q 4503.

"Selected Poems and Bush Ballads" Volume 1 & 2. \$12 pp John Bird, Road Runner Caravan Villiage, South Lismore, NSW 2480.

"Around the Campfire" Tape \$15pp Noel Cutler, RMB 2925 Oxley Flats Road, Wangaratta, Vic. 3678

"Peter Coad Presents Bush Verse" CD \$20pp from Peter Coad, PO Box 7, Bundanoon NSW 2578

"Through A Womans Eyes", Book \$12pp Liz Ward, P.O. Box 61, Mt. Perry, QLD. 4671

"A Rural Woman and Her Mates", "A Rural Woman Moves On", Books, \$10pp from Jan Lewis, "Lowanna Park", Cudgewa, Vic. 3707

## THE RHYTHM OF THE RIG - *The Ballad of the Driller*

© Robert Raftery, 'Picture Writer', Brisbane Q 15.12.98

There's a lonely light out there tonight while the rest of the world is dreaming,  
And down below with its swirling blow, the drill bits hot and screaming.

The life is hard, the hours long, the isolation's killing,  
But there'd legends at the earthy heart of the mighty art of drilling.

Far away from friends and families and the perfumed oils of love,  
Hands encased in dirt and diesel ingrained in leather glove,  
Thoughts drift off to other places, other traces left in time,  
Burn with she wolf's dedication where an engine loses rhyme.  
Hell is hot and getting closer for the driller born to dig,  
Mud and clay and grinding gravel churning "Rhythm of the Rig".

Mighty quest for reef and fossilled rib for oil and gas and water,  
Stakes are high, strikes are low and yet they love her like a daughter.  
This branchline in the slipstream, hands on earth's almighty tiller,  
Matching matrix and her mantle regally titled under "Driller".  
In and out before the pipelines 'fore the postbox and the fig,  
You will hear the cryptic chorus of "The Rhythm of the Rig".

Learned to drink and swear in union, learned to read the minds of men,  
And if the chance presented, most would do it all again.  
And the mothers of their children, warrior wives and worn, reliant,  
Where hearts are ranked on merit, theirs would feature under 'Giant'.  
Lets grasp the water bottle and grab another swig,  
Weld the winning of the waters to "The Rhythm of the Rig".

Mild men then and wild men, noble masters of the game,  
Gentle men who fanned the embers of the drillers Hall of Fame.  
Some now sleep in simple gravesites, not a hint of white cement.  
They should warrant gold inscription and vaulting monument  
To rusty relics by the roadside fit the hitching chains and snig,  
Then restore them as an anthem to "The Rhythm of the Rig".

In our almanacs we've missed them 'cause they fought a private war.  
Their footprints track the fissures where few had gone before,  
Rarely conscious of the difference that their searching shafts had made,  
Just silent consequences of the unsung drilling trade,  
Science and art are represented in their geologic gig,  
Hearts and minds of nation builders log "The Rhythm of the Rig".

And I'd trade a great king's ransom for the pictures in their eyes  
When they steer her to the surface, buried treasure in disguise.  
Draped in whirling slurried oozes, more of ancient than of old,  
Clad in oily black and bubbling clears the oxide browns and gold,  
By the batholiths and breccias bid their partners for the jig,  
Dancing up the boreholed ballroom to the "Rhythm of the Rig".

Since those early shafts of fire hardened bamboo formed a drill  
The finders linked their knowledge to perfect the driller's skill.  
From the darkened arctic snowline to the bright artesian bore,  
Buttoned hammers probe the stratas to rock the devil's door.  
Kings of onsite innovation with their wondrous whirligig,  
Mighty maestros of the music of "The Rhythm of the Rig".

## BRUNSWICK HEADS BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

Brunswick Heads will host the annual Festival of Fish and Chips and Woodchop Festival, 1st - 15th January, 2000.

Organisers of the festival have introduced several new events into the program, including an afternoon-twilight country concert, which is set down for Friday 7th January at 2pm.

In addition, a Bush Poets Breakfast, and performance poetry competition will be held at 8am on 6th January, 2000 hosted by singer-songwriter Greg Champion. Local poets, "The Mullumbimby Bloke", Ray Essery, "The Byron Bard" Col Hadwell and the 'Brunswick Babe' Judiann Schultz, together with Greg Champion will render a special performance, promising to have the audience rolling in laughter.

A written poetry competition is also included and entries for the competition close on 1st November, 1999 with all winners announced at the Poets Breakfast on Thursday 6th January, 1000.

With over \$3,000 in prize money up for grabs, organisers are expecting a large number of entries.

The Woodchop Festival caters for all family members with activities ranging from golf, bowls, football, a surf carnival, fishing competitions to housie, art and craft displays, fireworks, markets, exhibitions and numerous other events.

Enquiries to and entry forms from Judiann Schultz on 02 6685 1599 or email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au.

## POETS AND MATES

Friday the 13th of August is looming. So August's Poets and Mates being on that day will have a Black Friday theme. Our guest performers will be the spooky Mark Feldman and the bewitching Maureen Mannion. It's hard to believe almost a year has gone since they were on the last time. They gave us great performances then and we know you'll enjoy them again.

Mark is an energetic, dedicated performer equally skilled in drama and humour. He was the winner of Reciter of the Year at the National Folk Festival in Sydney last year and has gone from strength to strength since. Mark writes fine poetry himself but does not neglect the works of other great poets from either the past or the present.

Maureen is an equally energetic performer with a fine repertoire of original poetry drawn from her own life. Her friendly approach overflows into the audience. Maureen's expressive face and voice make her performance a joy to experience.

Two fine performers to keep ghosts and goblins at bay!  
Two fine performers to shatter the bad luck myth associated with Friday the Thirteenth. Further details on page 14

See you there. Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur, Q or phone 07 3886 0747. A light supper will be served and the all inclusive cost is a low \$10.00. Please book to help us with the catering

*Wally (The Bear) Finch*

## TRUNDLE (NSW) BUSH TUCKER DAY

One of the highlights of Central Western NSW is the Annual Trundle Bush Tucker Day.

Where is Trundle? You may well ask. Draw a straight line on your road map between Bourke and Bega and you will find Trundle about an inch to the west of Parkes.

Trundle is a great place with a pub, two clubs and lots of lovely people; a true-blue Aussie country town boasting the widest main street in the state. You need to take a cut lunch to cross it.

Camp-oven bush tucker is the order of the day with non-stop entertainment from 10am on Saturday 26th September through till late, with Lee Ann Rose, Owen Blundell, David Smyth and Broken Wheel, Pat Drummond and the mighty Wolverines on Saturday night.

Entertainment co-ordinator Frank Daniel has announced that \$1,000 prize money has been allocated for Performance Bush Poets in



the Inaugural Trundle Bush Poetry Stakes. Heats will be held on the Saturday 25th September from 11 am with sections for Ladies and Gentlemen. Finals will be held on Sunday 25th September from 9 am. Further information will be available in the next issue of the A.B.P.A. newsletter. It will be an informal venue and intending poets are simply asked to send their names and addresses, phone numbers etc. as soon as possible to

**Frank Daniel, Short Street Productions,  
PO Box 16 Canowindra, NSW 2804.**

## CHECK THE BOOKSHELF

The bookshelf is a free occasional service to members. Please check your details, and if you wish to change or add details or product please advise the Editor ASAP. Ta.

## THE PRICE OF FAME

© Milton Taylor, Portland NSW

I've gained some notoriety for a poem that I recited,  
I've touched the public's funnybone and interest's been ignited.  
The yarn describes a female thug far worse than any man,  
A most ferocious slab of spite called Martha Mulligan.

Mrs. Mulligan was mean, she bashed her husband Bill,  
The blokes were terrified of her 'cause she'd been known to kill!  
One night Bill's mates decided that they'd chaperone him home,  
And that action, with it's consequence, is written in that poem.

Twenty of them backed him up, and twenty hit the deck,  
Broken bones and busted heads and a fractured bloody neck!  
They ran or crawled or limped away, all sore and bruised and sick,  
The sad result of tangling with her bloody thrashing stick.

Though I'd never met the lady, I grabbed a slice of fame  
By describing her maneuvers in her drunkard bashing game,  
So when the people asked me "Were you really, truly there?"  
"Of course I was," I blandly said, "She tore out half me hair!"

Well that's the spiel I stuck with and it didn't do no harm,  
It never caused a problem or registered alarm,  
'Til one day, skiting in the pub, with the mob all laughing loud,  
I was half way through me bragging, when - a hush fell on the crowd!

Quite annoyed, I turned around to check this rude disruption,  
I did a flaming backflip at the cause of interruption.  
For standing like a public loo, as solid as a brick,  
Was this most enormous female - with a bloody thrashing stick!

She was huge and mean and ugly, with the cold eyes of a killer,  
"Oh God, who's this?" I screeched in shock. "The mother of Godzilla."  
Like an outsized Sumo wrestler, she inspired my legs to flight,  
'Cos thirty stone in bike pants is a far from pretty sight!

I tried to look anonymous and vanish in the crowd,  
But Satan's Bride came roaring like a raging thundercloud,  
Her voice would shatter concrete, malevolent and deep,  
"Come here, I want to talk to you - you gutless little creep!"

I hit the freak out button, for her mouth began to drool.  
"You've held me up to mockery and public ridicule!  
You and that McArthur!" said the grim apocalypse.  
I was packing death as foam was fairly flying off her lips.

"It wasn't me!" I gibbered. "McArthur made me do it!"  
"I don't give a stuff," she sneered, "you're gonna live to rue it!"  
She whacked me round the ear hole and grabbed me by the throat,  
Then shook me 'til I rattled and me brain began to float.

She slammed me on the carpet, so I tried to crawl away,  
But that mound of savage cellulite was standing in me way.  
Desperation crammed me as I filled with panic's pangs,  
As she grabbed me by the buttocks whilst sinking in her fangs.

She tossed me like a corn bag. "Death," I prayed, "come quick!"  
Like a rag doll, Martha flipped me - then - she grabbed her thrashing stick!  
A clout like lightning striking broke me jaw and smashed me teeth,  
She bruised me ribs and stomach - and that dangley bit beneath.

I crumpled in a quivering heap upon the poolroom floor.  
"I've had enough," I whimpered, "I can't take any more!"  
"I haven't started yet, you wimp, you cringing mongrel pup,  
I'm nowhere near fair dinkum - I was only warming up!

"But I'll let you off and call a truce if you'll co-operate,  
It isn't you I'm after, it's your slimy slanderous mate!  
I'll leave you be, I guarantee, as sure as my name's Martha,  
I want the butcher, not the block. - Now point out Neil McArthur !!!"

## MULLIGANS LAST STAND © Frank Daniel, Canowindra 6.6.99

Things have really altered down in Mulligan's home town.  
His missus finally kicked the bucket and the hat was passed around.  
His mates coughed up to bury her and shook old Billy's hand,  
Then took him to the pub again, and there he made his stand.

Midst tears and cheers and lots of beers he nearly choked to death,  
He was grasping as he swallowed, rarely taking of a breath.  
The more that Billy downed 'em, the more his mate agreed,  
That Bill would be a new man - now that he'd been freed.

He said no word against her, no condemnation would he hear,  
He 'couldn't fault the woman', as he downed another beer.  
The boys all laughed and rollicked as such funny tales he told,  
Bringing back fond memories of better days of old.

The ladies of the township were embarrassed by the show,  
They thought the pub a sinful place, where none of them should go.  
But a handful of them rallied round amid the fuss and noise  
And served a jolly supper - sausage rolls and 'little boys'.

In place of honour on the wall, perched high above the shelf,  
Was the thrashing stick his missus used 'defending of herself'.  
The boys all drank to victory, 'three cheers' one fellow cried;  
'Twas like a footy club re-union - no sign someone had died.

The celebrating carried on till very late into the night,  
Two fellows started arguing which ended in a fight.  
The scuffling and the tussling caused the old bar room to shake,  
Resembling the earth tremor that his missus used to make.

Poor Billy leaned against the wall to aid his failing stance,  
Without support of others he led a very merry dance.  
Un-noticed in the gaiety, the thrashing stick began to lean  
Until it fell on Billy's head, and wiped him from the scene.

They passed the hat around again. They buried him next day,  
They planted him beside his wife and, as they walked away,  
Darcy swore he heard her speak as in single file they passed,  
'You thought you'd do without me; well! I've got you back at last'.

## AUNT MARTHA © Frank Daniel, Canowindra NSW 28.6.99

Aunt Martha bought a bumper sticker from the local Christian store:  
"Honk if you love Jesus" was the message that it bore.  
Convinced the world would honk with her, and praise the Lord for sure,  
She stuck it on her bumper, and her face beamed with allure.

Midst traffic in the crowded streets, she stopped at an intersection.  
The lights were red; subconsciously, she lapsed into reflection.  
How proud she was to serve the Lord, 'a good servant she had been',  
Whilst dreaming on she didn't see the lights had changed to green.

Oblivious to the world around, her face filled with reverent awe  
Until awakened by horns honking, from fifty cars or more.  
The bloke behind was shouting loud, 'For God's sake, Go! Go! Go!'  
In the name of 'Jesus Christ' she heard some others start to blow.

Her horn she too honked loudly, just to show that she belonged,  
Whilst leaning out her window waving to the honking throng.  
A builder who was next in line, raised his middle finger way up high,  
She'd never seen the likes before, and then she wondered why?

She thought it was a good luck sign, and returned the gesture lightly,  
With smiling face, and sparkling eyes, assured she'd done it rightly.  
The folk aligned along the street were chanting words of 'wisdom',  
The news was spreading quickly now, about God's holy Kingdom.

Towards her strode a monstrous man, with tears welled in his eyes.  
A sinner she could tell at once, and for him sympathized.  
She knew that he had come to pray, as would others queued behind,  
She saw no anger in them, for her Faith had her so blind.

But as he reached her idling car, she saw the traffic lights had changed.  
She put her pedal to the metal left her converts disarranged.  
The lights turned red, as fast she sped, through the busy intersection,  
And proud she was she'd left behind a holier inflection.

Then sorrow flashed across her face, looking in her rear-view mirror,  
Observing others had to wait, which made her heart beat dearer.  
She propped her car, alighted, waved to those believers back in line,  
And raised her middle finger - and gave them all the good luck sign.



## NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

### POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

July 14	<b>Bush &amp; Brisbane Poets.</b> 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q - feat Trish Anderson & George Lovejoy P14
July 16-18	<b>Bush Poetry Performance Comp.</b> Cloncurry Q. Details P14
July 18	Closing date. <b>Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival.</b> Details P 14
July 23-25	<b>Brisbane Valley BP Annual Festival.</b> Perf. Comp, breakies, yarns, walkups RoyBriggs 07 5424 1584 P 7 & 14
July 24	Closing Date. <b>Hastings Regional FAW Literary Competition.</b> For details see P 14
July 25	<b>Bush Poetry Soiree by the River.</b> 1.30 - 4pm. Netherby House, Kempsey NSW. Maureen 02 6568 5269 P14
July 30	Closing date. <b>Camp Oven Festival Performance Competition.</b> Details P 14
July 31	Closing date. <b>Camp Oven Award Written Competition.</b> Details P 14
Aug 1	<b>North By Northwest Poetry &amp; Folk Club.</b> 7.30 featuring "The Creel". Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
Aug 4	Closing Date. <b>Country on the Tweed</b> Performance competition. Details P 11 & 14
Aug 5-15	<b>Bush Poetry Performances.</b> Wool Pavillion, Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Daily 12.30pm & 4pm. Details P8 & 14
Aug 7	<b>National Poetry Competition.</b> Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Performance Competition P 8 & 14
Aug 8	<b>Poets Breakfast.</b> Boyne Island, Q. Presentation of Jnr W. Comp. Awards and Guest, Gary Fogarty P14
Aug 7-15	<b>Country on the Tweed.</b> Poets Brekkies, Perf. Comp, Jnr Written comp. Details P 11 & 14
Aug 12-15	<b>Surat Battered Bugle.</b> Q. Perf. Comp., Concert & Breaky. Ph. Jan Ritchie, PO 45 Surat Q 4417, 07 4626 5103 P8 & 14
Aug 13	<b>Poets and Mates.</b> Kallangur Community Centre. 7.30pm feat. Mark Feldman & Maureen Manion 07 3886 0747 P 10 & 14
Aug 21-22	<b>Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.</b> North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552 P 14
Aug 24-29	<b>Gympie Muster.</b> Gympie Q. Perf. Comp., Poets Brekkies, Naked Poets Show. Ticket Enq 07 5482 2099 P8 & 14
Sept 2-4	<b>Bards of the Outback. Enngonia,</b> Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
Sept 4	<b>Big City Muster.</b> NSW Writers' Centre. Rozelle Hospital Grounds. Poets Brekkie, Comps & Brawl Details P 12 & 14
Sept 4-5	<b>Milmeran Bush Poets Round-Up.</b> Qld. Concert, BP Perf Comp, Brawl, Y'sning, Ph "The Legend" 07 4695 4209 P 15
Sept 5	<b>Palma Rosa Poets.</b> Evening of Bush Poetry and BBQ Supper. \$18.00 ea incl supper. Bookings required Details P 8 & 14
Sept 8	<b>Bush &amp; Brisbane Poets.</b> 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q - feat Graham Fredriksen & Anita Reed P14
Sept 11-12	<b>Gulgong CM &amp; Bush Poetry Festival.</b> Bush Poets Breakfast and Performance Comp 9am Sunday 12th. P 13 & 15
Sept 12	<b>Poets Breakfast.</b> 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 15
Sept 25-26	<b>Trundle Bush Tucker Day</b> Trundle NSW. Breaky & Performance Comp. \$1000 in prize money Details P 10 & 15
Sept 29	<b>Palma Rosa Poets.</b> 7 for 7.30pm feat. Noel Cutler & Bill Hay. \$15.00 per head incl supper. Bookings required. P 8 & 15
Oct 1	Entries Close. <b>Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition.</b> Details P15
Oct 1-3	<b>"Big Doo" at Brymaroo, Q.</b> Performance Comp. Entry forms from Gwen Bowtell Ph. 07 4692 1347 P4 & 15.
Oct 17	<b>Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition.</b> Details P 15
Oct 23	<b>Bush Poetry Perf. &amp; Concert.</b> Urunga NSW / Time and admission cost TBA Details P 15
Nov 1	Closing date. <b>Brunswick Heads Written Competition.</b> Details P 15
Jan '00 6th	<b>Bush Poetry Perf. &amp; Written Comp.</b> Brunswick Heads Fest of the Fish & Chips & Woodchop Festival. Contact Judiann Schults, Ph/fax 02 6685 1599 Email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au. Details P 10 & 15
Feb '00 12-13	<b>High Country Poets.</b> Stanthorpe Q. Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069
Mar '00 6-8	<b>Redgum Festival.</b> Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585.

### "BIG CITY MUSTER" IS ON AGAIN

Bush poetry, the literary language of late, great Australians like Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson, is undergoing a welcome revival. Now you won't have to travel to the bush to hear some of Australia's best authors - they will be in Sydney in September to compete in the third "Big City Muster".

The NSW Writers' Centre, *'A vision splendid'*, in the lovely, old, Rozelle Hospital grounds, will, at the start of the NSW Spring Writing festival on Saturday 4th September, host a Bush Poets Brekkie from 10am - 1pm where old hands will ride a piece to perfection and new ones will be broken in. There will be special guests, a "Poets Brawl" and traditional and original spoken word performance competitions.

The annual Writers' Festival is a colourful and varied writers' showcase. It features performances, workshops and book launches, of both Australian and International writers from diverse multicultural backgrounds. A major prize winner of the past two Musters, Brian Beesley, will launch his first book at 7pm on Saturday 4th September.

Muster organiser, Joye Dempsey said "It's one thing preaching to the converted, but try preaching to the unconverted!" To get it all happening she had the difficult task of raising the money for both prizes and presenters, but the Muster has proved to be a winner and the NSW Writers' centre now supports the presenters fees. It says a lot for the tenacity of the traditional "Bush" writers that they have

secured their place as a cornerstone of a major Sydney Writing event.

Another 'Muster-go' is the short 'drove' up the road from the Writers' Centre to the Balmain 'Tigers' Leagues Club at 1pm, following the Muster. 'Cookie', the Club's chef, and his Jack and Jillarros - resplendent in Akubras and moleskins, muster up a Bonza Bush Tucker lunch at a low pre-GST cost of \$7.00. Everyone's invited, but better book your haystack early. We are always treated to a wonderful menu. Where else in Sydney would you get a menu like this and entertainment thrown in with a traditional Poets Brawl?

Ride along to the Writers' Centre at 10 am and support the Bush Poets at the "Third Big City Muster". This year audience admittance is free so come along and enjoy yourself. Last year's profits were donated to Bill Crews Soup Kitchen in Ashfield to buy soup bowls. This year any profits will go to cancer research and any donation towards a raffle would be appreciated.

Guest presenters are Whip Cracking "Man From Ironbark", Geoffrey Graham, whose theatre restaurant show featuring the life and works of Banjo Paterson will showcase at various local venues; Shearing sensation and past Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Milton Taylor; Adorable C.J. Denis devotee, Adrian Bryden, and Telstra Poet, Joye Dempsey as well as the talented competitors. You never know who'll be there mate! Further information from Joye Dempsey - phone 02 9797 7575.

**HEALYS HUNDRED** © Keith Ireland, North Rockhampton Q

You'd have to be a fanatic or mad to some degree  
To stay up through a winter's night, watching cricket on T.V.  
I love to watch a cricket test but when the clock hits ten  
The old head starts to nod a bit and I'm off to bed 'bout then.

But this night was a little different. I needed a drink to revive.  
Healy had just walked to the crease with the score at two-thirty five.  
The year was Nineteen Ninety-three, first test, Old Trafford, fourth day.  
Defeating the Poms was paramount with our second innings underway.

With Steve Waugh waiting by the pitch, it was time to have a cuppa  
And Healy was already off the mark by the time we finished supper.  
My wife decided it was late enough and headed off to bed.  
But Healy seemed to be on track so I decided to wait instead.

He zipped along to twenty, at a cavalier pace  
His trademark hook was going well, between the fieldsmen placed.  
By now I was feeling drowsy. I thought about sleep again.  
I was sure he would make it to fifty so I'd sit up till then.

He reached his fifty in dashing style with another well placed shot.  
I couldn't go to bed just yet. This game was getting very hot.  
"He hasn't made a hundred," I heard the commentator say  
"By the way he's massing up the runs, this could be the day."

That seemed to shake me up again, though late the hour be it,  
If the boy from Bilo could make a ton, I wanted to be there to see it.  
Steve Waugh was batting brilliantly. Healy was in full flight.  
Who could think of going to bed. I'd have to stay the night.

When he reached the nervous nineties, I got nervous too.  
I crossed my fingers and said, "Come On". Then made a quick trip to the loo.

But I didn't have to worry. I bet the bowlers were fed up.  
He cracked two fours in rapid time and brought his hundred up.

I raised my arms in a mighty cheer. "You beauty," I loudly cried.  
You'd think I'd made the runs myself, I felt so full of pride.

I thought of sending a telegram or maybe just a Fax  
But Healy cracked another shot so I settled back to relax.

The game went on. The batting flowed. I snuggled in the chair  
And somehow in the next ten runs, Old Trafford wasn't there.  
I roused again in the early light. My all night vigil shattered  
But I'd seen Healy's hundred and that was all that mattered.

**GULGONG****HENRY LAWSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL****12th - 14th June 1999**

The Gulgong Heritage Festival was a weekend where the spectator could fully immerse themselves in true living traditions. As well as Traditional Verse, there was Gold Panning at "Red Hill", Street Theatre, self-made amusements of the "Gold Rush" days, the "stockman's challenge" and working dog trials to get you in the colonial mood.

On Sunday Gulgong's famous Opera House (rumoured to be where Henry Lawson saw his first theatrical production) held the presentations for the Henry Lawson Society of NSW Literary Awards.

On Monday in the newly refurbished Henry Lawson Centre Graeme Johnson ran the Poets Brunch where prize winners including himself, Brian Beesley, Roderick Williams and Len Green recited Lawson and other traditional works along with their winning entries. Newcomer Gail Collins presented some free-verse to even things up. The winners of the Poetry Sections were:

**Henry Lawson Adult Poetry Awards:** 1st - Len Green,  
2nd - Graeme Johnson, 3rd - Jim Butler.

**Commended:** E. Clowes, K. Dean, J. Campbell, D. Ridgewell, B. Beesley, G. Baker.

**Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award:**

1st - Roderick Williams, 2nd - Ron Stevens, 3rd - Terry Regan. H. C. Graeme Johnson, Emily Pollard.

**Student Performance Awards:** 1st - Lauren Dalhunny,  
2nd - William Rowles, 3rd - Daniel Warner.

**Junior Student Poetry Awards:** 1st - Owen Lodge,  
2nd - Louise McBride, 3rd - Lauren Dulhunny.

**Senior Student Poetry Awards:** 1st - J. Riley-Masters,  
2nd - Jacqueline Davis, 3rd - Michelle Laurie.

Your Festival Scribe,

Jack Cornstalk

**CAN YOU HELP** Wally Finch with the words and author's name to the poem 'Along the Condamine' Two lines are -

*"Your delicate constitution love, ain't equal to mine  
And you couldn't eat damper down the Condamine."*

Reply to 56 Orchid Ave., Kallangur Q 4503 ph 07 3886 0747

**SOUTH AUSSIE COMPETITION REPORT**

South Australian Bush Poets at the Riverland Country Music Festival proved very successful. We tried many new ideas for the south including a Gospel Poetry Show, Bonfire Night and of course our showcase of our best poets and the Inaugural S.A. Bush Poets Competition.

As a result of a ripper of a bonfire night, the Renmark Riverfront Van Park want to make their park "Home of Bush Poets" during the Festival 2000.

The Renmark newspaper produced a commemorative lift out of information and events of the Festival. In full colour, taking up the entire front page was a photograph of Gaynor Bowden and myself promoting the festival. What a plug for Bush Poets !!!

I did a T.V. spot for the news and Gaynor and I received good air play on the Renmark ABC radio as well.

There are many new venues opening up for us and willing to give their support for 2000. Berri Resort Hotel, riverland Greyhound Racing Club and Renmark Riverfront Van Park.

However I must say we were truly honoured and overwhelmed by unpretentiousness and generosity of Neil McArthur and Marco Gliori to come along. They both came simply to join in and just be one of the mob. But they left leaving us with inspiration, gratification and many new people who simply want to hear Bush Poetry. We're pretty isolated here in S.A. so here's a truly heartfelt thanks to these two guys !! Bob Magor was right though, "Neil is truly a sick man!" More! More!

I have no doubt that Bush Poetry in the Riverland CM Festival can only get better and bigger. We two historical events ... 1 - We saw the biggest gathering so far of Bush Poets in SA and 2 .... A first for Australia, the three Strauss brothers, Tony, Graham and Tim appearing on the one stage together in the tradition of our forefathers performing the Salt Bush Bill Trilogy and then tagged on "Salt Bush Bill, M.P.".

These Strauss brothers were magnificent in all their renditions and I am sure they will be a recognised name in the Traditional forte of Bush Poetry events.

The Strauss family also scooped the pool in the competition. Tony Strauss winning both Traditional and Open Original sections. His daughter Crystal winning the Junior Traditional section. Graham Strauss came second in the Traditional with Jacqueline Cleery third.

Tony Strauss' nephew, Stephen came second in the junior traditional event. There were no junior original entrants.

I would just like to say thanks to the A.B.P.A. and their newsletter - what a wonderful source of networking of poets this has become. Finally, I'm absolutely tuckered in a very happy way. I've had a truly fantastic time, and thanks to all those S.A. poets that came and made it all the more a successful time.

Best regards, *Peter Chapman*, South Australian Bush Poets

**A.B.P.A. MEMBERSHIP JULY to DECEMBER  
NOW AVAILABLE TO NEW MEMBERS  
FOR \$13.00 - MONEY TO SECRETARY PLEASE**



## NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 1ST DAY EA MONTH

### POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

July 14	<b>Bush &amp; Brisbane Poets.</b> 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q - feat Trish Anderson & George Lovejoy P14
July 16-18	<b>Bush Poetry Performance Comp.</b> Cloncurry Q. Details P14
July 18	Closing date. <b>Brisbane Valley Bush Poets Annual Festival.</b> Details P 14
July 23-25	<b>Brisbane Valley BP Annual Festival.</b> Perf. Comp, breakies, yarns, walkups RoyBriggs 07 5424 1584 P 7 & 14
July 24	Closing Date. <b>Hastings Regional FAW Literary Competition.</b> For details see P 14
July 25	<b>Bush Poetry Soiree by the River.</b> 1.30 - 4pm. Netherby House, Kempsey NSW. Maureen 02 6568 5269 P14
July 30	Closing date. <b>Camp Oven Festival Performance Competition.</b> Details P 14
July 31	Closing date. <b>Camp Oven Award Written Competition.</b> Details P 14
Aug 1	<b>North By Northwest Poetry &amp; Folk Club.</b> 7.30 featuring "The Creel". Uniting Church North Ryde Jenny 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653
Aug 4	Closing Date. <b>Country on the Tweed</b> Performance competition. Details P 11 & 14
Aug 5-15	<b>Bush Poetry Performances.</b> Wool Pavillion, Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Daily 12.30pm & 4pm. Details P8 & 14
Aug 7	<b>National Poetry Competition.</b> Qld Show Exhibition Grounds. Performance Competition P 8 & 14
Aug 8	<b>Poets Breakfast.</b> Boyne Island, Q. Presentation of Jnr W. Comp. Awards and Guest, Gary Fogarty P14
Aug 7-15	<b>Country on the Tweed.</b> Poets Brekkies, Perf. Comp, Jnr Written comp. Details P 11 & 14
Aug 12-15	<b>Surat Battered Bugle.</b> Q. Perf. Comp., Concert & Breaky. Ph. Jan Ritchie, PO 45 Surat Q 4417, 07 4626 5103 P8 & 14
Aug 13	<b>Poets and Mates.</b> Kallangur Community Centre. 7.30pm feat. Mark Feldman & Maureen Manion 07 3886 0747 P 10 & 14
Aug 21-22	<b>Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.</b> North Pine Country Park. Written & Perf. Comp 07 3886 1552 P 14
Aug 24-29	<b>Gympie Muster.</b> Gympie Q. Perf. Comp., Poets Brekkies, Naked Poets Show. Ticket Enq 07 5482 2099 P8 & 14
Sept 2-4	<b>Bards of the Outback. Enngonia,</b> Qld. Performance Comp and Yarnspinning. Accom & Transport available. Contact Bob McPhee ah 07 5466 5269
Sept 4	<b>Big City Muster.</b> NSW Writers' Centre. Rozelle Hospital Grounds. Poets Brekkie, Comps & Brawl Details P 12 & 14
Sept 4-5	<b>Milmerran Bush Poets Round-Up.</b> Qld. Concert, BP Perf Comp, Brawl, Y'sning, Ph "The Legend" 07-4695-4209 P 15
Sept 5	<b>Palma Rosa Poets.</b> Evening of Bush Poetry and BBQ Supper. \$18.00 ea incl supper. Bookings required Details P 8 & 14
Sept 8	<b>Bush &amp; Brisbane Poets.</b> 7.30pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Q - feat Graham Fredriksen & Anita Reed P14
Sept 11-12	<b>Gulgong CM &amp; Bush Poetry Festival.</b> Bush Poets Breakfast and Performance Comp 9am Sunday 12th. P 13 & 15
Sept 12	<b>Poets Breakfast.</b> 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 15
Sept 25-26	<b>Trundle Bush Tucker Day</b> Trundle NSW. Breaky & Performance Comp. \$1000 in prize money Details P 10 & 15
Sept 29	<b>Palma Rosa Poets.</b> 7 for 7.30pm feat. Noel Cutler & Bill Hay. \$15.00 per head incl supper. Bookings required. P 8 & 15
Oct 1	Entries Close. <b>Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition.</b> Details P15
Oct 1-3	<b>"Big Doo" at Brymaroo,</b> Q. Performance Comp. Entry forms from Gwen Bowtell Ph. 07 4692 1347 P4 & 15.
Oct 17	<b>Calliope (Q) CM Fest. Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition.</b> Details P 15
Oct 23	<b>Bush Poetry Perf. &amp; Concert.</b> Urunga NSW / Time and admission cost TBA Details P 15
Nov 1	Closing date. <b>Brunswick Heads Written Competition.</b> Details P 15
Jan '00 6th	<b>Bush Poetry Perf. &amp; Written Comp.</b> Brunswick Heads Fest of the Fish & Chips & Woodchop Festival. Contact Judiann Schults, Ph/fax 02 6685 1599 Email: woodchop@nor.com.au OR journo@linknet.com.au. Details P 10 & 15
Feb '00 12-13	<b>High Country Poets.</b> Stanthorpe Q. Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069
Mar '00 6-8	<b>Redgum Festival.</b> Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585.

### "BIG CITY MUSTER" IS ON AGAIN

Bush poetry, the literary language of late, great Australians like Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson, is undergoing a welcome revival. Now you won't have to travel to the bush to hear some of Australia's best authors - they will be in Sydney in September to compete in the third "Big City Muster".

The NSW Writers' Centre, *'A vision splendid'*, in the lovely, old, Rozelle Hospital grounds, will, at the start of the NSW Spring Writing festival on Saturday 4th September, host a Bush Poets Brekkie from 10am - 1pm where old hands will ride a piece to perfection and new ones will be broken in. There will be special guests, a "Poets Brawl" and traditional and original spoken word performance competitions.

The annual Writers' Festival is a colourful and varied writers' showcase. It features performances, workshops and book launches, of both Australian and international writers from diverse multicultural backgrounds. A major prize winner of the past two Musters, Brian Beesley, will launch his first book at 7pm on Saturday 4th September.

Muster organiser, Joye Dempsey said "It's one thing preaching to the converted, but try preaching to the unconverted!" To get it all happening she had the difficult task of raising the money for both prizes and presenters, but the Muster has proved to be a winner and the NSW Writers' centre now supports the presenters fees. It says a lot for the tenacity of the traditional "Bush" writers that they have

secured their place as a cornerstone of a major Sydney Writing event.

Another 'Muster-go' is the short 'drove' up the road from the Writers' Centre to the Balmain 'Tigers' Leagues Club at 1pm, following the Muster. 'Cookie', the Club's chef, and his Jack and Jillaroos - resplendent in Akubras and moleskins, muster up a Bonza Bush Tucker lunch at a low pre-GST cost of \$7.00. Everyone's invited, but better book your haystack early. We are always treated to a wonderful menu. Where else in Sydney would you get a menu like this and entertainment thrown in with a traditional Poets Brawl?

Ride along to the Writers' Centre at 10 am and support the Bush Poets at the "Third Big City Muster". This year audience admittance is free so come along and enjoy yourself. Last year's profits were donated to Bill Crews Soup Kitchen in Ashfield to buy soup bowls. This year any profits will go to cancer research and any donation towards a raffle would be appreciated.

Guest presenters are **Whip Cracking "Man From Ironbark"**, **Geoffrey Graham**, whose theatre restaurant show featuring the life and works of Banjo Paterson will showcase at various local venues; Shearing sensation and past Australian Bush Poetry Champion, **Milton Taylor**; Adorable C.J. Denis devotee, **Adrian Bryden**, and Telstra Poet, **Joye Dempsey** as well as the talented competitors. You never know who'll be there mate! Further information from Joye Dempsey - phone 02 9797 7575.

## EIGHTY GOING ON 53 !!! © 5.6.99 Trisha Anderson, Hendra, Q.

The birthday boy is here today  
We wish him all the best -  
He's lived - and played - for 80 years  
That's put him to the test!

A busy life our Billy's had -  
He left school to be a drover  
He mustered cattle, horses, sheep  
He's travelled Australia over.

Then, on the trains - a driver tops  
All over did he travel  
He knows Australia backwards  
Each state he could unravel

A very funny yarnspinner  
An entertaining poet  
He still keeps us all enthralled  
And crikey! - Does he know it!

A travelling encyclopedia  
His knowledge - hard to measure  
He knows so much about our land  
He is our National Treasure!

He's our musical virtuoso  
He plays so many tunes  
His talents are so boundless  
We'll listen for many moons.

I've travelled over this fair land  
with Billy - in his truck -  
I've learned so much from this great man  
I've been blessed by "Lady Luck"!

We've been to Winton many times  
To Longreach - "Elabe" too  
We've had such fun along the way  
I'm so lucky to be his "crew"!

This latest trip to Winton  
With Billy, me and Wally -  
Was, as usual, all good fun  
But "partying" was our folly!

I drove from Winton home again  
We only had a week  
Then off to Yarrowonga  
God! So tired we could hardly speak.

Our latest jaunt to Mulwala  
Down Victoria way  
We took Janine along this time  
We couldn't help but play!

The two "Delinquent Teenagers"  
Billy and "The Kids" -  
We tried so hard to all be good  
But - we finished up on the skids!

I drove the truck on these two trips -  
I feel so very lucky  
But - I think I've missed my calling  
As - I should have been a truckie!

Megan then takes over  
She tidies, cooks and cleans  
We know how grateful Billy is -  
And to him - how much she means.

He is a living legend -  
On that we'll all agree  
He has so many stories  
Of the outback - wide and free.

So - now that he is 80  
We're all there to celebrate  
We're looking forward to the next,  
To your 90th - we can't wait!



## JUST for you .... *Bill*

© Noel Cutler, Wangaratta, Vic.

Proudly in front of legends  
The Master comes loping along;  
Defying the Reaper to catch him;  
At eighty and still going strong.

No journey has ever yet beat you,  
No labour too heavy or hard.  
You're King of the Bush Poets' Muster,  
And pride of the yarn-spinning bard.

I've listened to all that you've told me,  
Attentively right to the end,  
And proudly consider I'm honoured  
To know that you call me a friend.

Best wishes to you on your birthday,  
Old clobber as you're standing tall.  
Will Ogilvie won't even argue ....  
Bill Hay, you're the Pearl of Them All.

## BILL HAY'S 80th BIRTHDAY

What a celebration! Our patriarch of bush poetry, Bill Hay turned 80 on 28th May and all his family, friends and 'the poets' gathered recently at 'Boulia' Bates home in Gatton to wish him well.

Bill arrived in spectacular fashion in a Queen Victoria buggy drawn by an Andalucian horse and driven by Marnie Bunting, and attended by a footman - Bill, dressed in top hat and tails looked charming and was accompanied by Liz Ward looking fabulous in her crinoline. They were piped in by Bob McPhee and his bagpipes.

Once the formalities were completed, the party began in earnest!

All the wonderful food was supplied by a 'hard core' group of caterers with Bill's daughter, Megan being the 'clerk of the course' and in charge of planning and management of the day.

Peter and Rosemary Baguley did a tremendous job helping to set up the "Birthday Party Shed" and all the seating, stage and associated preparations.

The cake, made by Carol Reffold and decorated by Marion Laffin was magnificent and delicious.

The music was supplied by Rick Hopkins plus "The Cowboy" and "Quinnie" - most of the poets performed, some of them with poems dedicated to the Birthday Boy.

During the festivities Bill was awarded the O.B.E. (Over Bloody Eighty) award which was designed and made by Peter Baguley and he was featured on the front page of the local newspaper, 'The Gatton Herald'.

He must have really enjoyed his Eightieth Birthday Party because he didn't come home until Thursday !!

*Trisha Anderson*

## HEY, HEY! IT'S BILL'S BIRTHDAY © Carmel Randle, Preston Q.

Ah, Bill! You're turning eighty! And we're here to celebrate  
That special rare occasion! And we really think it's great  
That your friends and family gathered to give you a mighty cheer,  
And to help to wind the clock back and remember yesteryear!

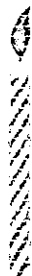
Now some of us are Poets, and we've only got to know  
That lovely bloke we call Bill Hay these last six years or so,  
So we can but imagine the exploits of YOUNG Bill Hay ....  
Can see him as a five-year-old, and off to school one day,

Then playing hookey — took a look, then hid inside the barn,  
And when his Teacher caught him, well — that's where Bill learned to 'yarn'!  
H prob'ly told her 'whoppers', and convinced her with a grin  
That everything he said had happened! Yarning's not a sin!

And when he got much older, can you think of all the lies  
He told those little girlies, just to see their sparkling eyes?  
Now he's polished to perfection his great 'yarn-ability' —  
He's the 'Masters Champion of Australia'! All the World can see!

But, underneath this Storyteller, other talents lie.  
Mouth Organ Player? He's the best! No matter how you try  
You can't get those 'accompany-notes' Bill's instrument can play.  
I think he practised long and hard to make it sound that way!

But, best of all, our Bill's a friend, a clobber, and a mate,  
And that is why we're here tonight to say, "Hey, Bill! You're great!  
So now you've reached your Eighty! For a start, that's NOT TOO BAD!"  
So let's say "Happy Birthday!" to the grand old "Poets' Dad"!



## MORE TO THE POINT © Hipshot



The porcupine was a lonely bloke  
but things turned out alright  
when he bumped into a cactus plant  
and proposed to her one night.



He brought her a diamond ring to wear  
and wasted his last quid on 'er.  
And heres the point! Did he really care  
do you think? ... Or was echidna ???



*Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

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

Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

July, 1999

SURFACE  
MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID

I N D E X

**Reports & Reviews**

A Message from Yarrawonga/Mulwala	6
Big City Muster Is On Again	12
"Big Doo" at Brymaroo	4
Bill Hay's 80th Birthday Party	3
Brunswick Heads Bush Poetry Competitions	10
Bush Poetry at the Ekka	8
Bush Poetry Treat for Kempsey in July	5
Can You Help	7
Can You Help, Please	2
Check the Bookshelf	10
42nd Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival	5
Gulgong: Country Music and Bush Poetry	13
Gulgong Henry Lawson Heritage Festival	7
Have Van, Will Travel	4
Last Word from The Editor	16
Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up	8
New Members	15
News from North Pine Bush Poets	1
Palma Rosa Happynings	8
Poets and Mates	10
Presidents Report	2
Queensland Day Celebration	1
Secretary's Notes	2
South Aussie Competition Report	7

The Book Shelf	9
The Man from Ironbark Performance	6
Trundle Bush Tucker Day	10
Vale: Vina Oehm	13
Voluntary Position Available	2
Wanted	1

**Poetry**

Aunt Martha	11
Becky	6
Done Cartin'	4
Eighty - Going on 53 !!	3
Father of the Bride	4
Healy's Hundred	7
Hey, Hey! It's Bill's Birthday!	3
Just for you ... Bill	3
More to the Point	3
Mulligans Last Stand	11
My Brush With The Germs	8
The Big Stink	5
The Price of Fame	11
The Rhythm of the Rig	10
The Mulwala Poetry Championships	6
They Have Pulled the Old Church Down	5
More to the Point	3

The Hobnailed Boots	1
---------------------	---

**Events**

Big City Muster	14
Big Doo at Brymaroo	15
Brisbane Valley BP Annual Festival	14
Brunswick Heads BP Competitions	15
Bush Poetry Perf. & Concert - Urunga NSW	15
Bush Poetry Soiree- Kempsey NSW	14
Bush and Brisbane Poets	14
Calliope CM Festival Breakfast & P. Comp	15
Cloncurry Perf. & Written Comp	14
Country on the Tweed	14
Gulgong CM & Bush Poetry Festival	15
Gympie Muster 1999	14
Hasting FAW Literary Competition	14
Millmerran Bush Poets Roundup	15
National Poetry Competition	14
North Pine Camp Oven Festival	14
Palma Rosa Poets	14 & 15
Poets & Mates	14
Poets Breakfast - Kempsey NSW	15
Surat Battered Bugle	14
Trundle Bush Tucker Day	15

*Thank You to Our Contributors*

Trisha Anderson	Zita Horton
Kev Barnes	Keith Ireland
Beth Vinecombe-	Graeme Johnson
Bashford	Barb MacDermid
Gwen Bowtell	Robert Raffrey
Neil Carroll	Carmel Randle
Jenny Carter	Anita Reed
Peter Chapman	Greg Scott
Noel Cutler	Ron Selby
Frank Daniel	Olive Shooter
Joye Dempsey	Judiann Schultz
Wally Finch	Milton Taylor
Bill Glasson	Ted & June Webber
Geoffrey Graham	Coralie Welch
Janine Haig	

**THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Members,

Whilst every editorial effort is made to avoid typographical errors in the newsletter, it remains the responsibility of contributors to ensure that their submissions are grammatically correct and the actual text crystal-clear.

Poetry will be printed *exactly* as received, with the exception of spelling errors, and punctuation, rhyme and scansion will not be altered in any way. In other words, poems will be (and are) printed exactly as you send them.

Notices or advertisements promoting events should be fully informative, showing all details of the event and should be submitted as soon possible. You may think that the Editor is aware of an event, but I can assure you that is often *not* the case. Remember, your early advise will maximise the benefits that our newsletter provides to the Bush Poetry fraternity.

If reports or poetry is faxed, use large size print to maximise legibility. Your co-operation and valued assistance re the above will, as they say ..... make my day.

I would also like to draw your attention to my impending resignation as Editor of our newsletter. You will find details on page 2 of this issue. If you feel you may be able to help, I can assure you that every assistance will be given to anyone who may wish to accept this rewarding position. See you 'round the traps,

*Morueen Stanham, Editor*