

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 12 Volume 6

December 1999



## Wise Woman's Twelve Days of Christmas

(with apologies to the original poem)

© Pat Wise, Tolga, Qld



On the FIRST day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.  
I thought the gift unusual, but I was nonplused,  
I planted the tree in the garden, the bird I killed and plucked.

On the SECOND day of Christmas my dear love sent to me  
Two turtle doves.  
I wondered, "What's he getting at?" I really couldn't guess,  
But they made lovely canapés for additional Christmas guests.



On the THIRD day of Christmas my darling sent to me  
Three French hens.  
The difference from Australian hens I really could not see,  
But they provided eggs and then, some cold cuts for my tea.

On the FOURTH day of Christmas my .um.. true love sent to me  
Four Colley (calling) birds.  
These fellas were too small to eat, and their calling drove me nuts,  
So I shoed them from the window and quickly pulled it shut.

On the FIFTH day of Christmas my true love sent to me  
Five gold rings.  
"Now this", I said, "Is more like it. A gift that I can claim."  
But they were all wrong sizes so I wore them on a chain.

On the SIXTH day of Christmas my...well...sort of love sent to me  
Six geese a-laying.  
I have to tell you truly, I was getting tired of birds -  
Laying or whatever. It was time to have a word.



On the SEVENTH day of Christmas my now not-so-true love sent to me  
Seven swans a-swimming.  
Since with all the water restrictions my only water was in my bath  
This love of mine would shortly get a feeling of my wrath.

On the EIGHTH day of Christmas my declining love sent to me  
Eight maids a-milking.  
And because these milking maids had to have something to milk  
He thoughtfully sent eight cows as well and even sent the bill.

On the NINTH day of Christmas this lamebrain sent to me  
Nine ladies dancing.  
I said to them, "Thanks very much for this wonderful display,  
But I have an awful headache, please come back another day."

On the TENTH day of Christmas this idiot sent to me  
Ten lords a-leaping.  
If you can imagine all these guys prancing and leaping about  
In the space of my little sitting room, then sanity really is in doubt.

On the ELEVENTH day of Christmas, he really did his block  
Eleven pipers piping.  
The noise was so tremendous, the neighbours all complained.  
I said, "My love can't love me when he causes so much pain."

On the TWELFTH day of Christmas, he was my love no more.  
Twelve drummers drumming, lined up at my door.  
By this time I was exhausted, and not a little wild.  
WHAT ON EARTH HAS ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE  
HEAVENLY CHRIST CHILD?

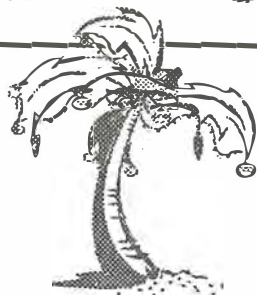
### An Aussie Christmas Card

Let's paint an Aussie Christmas card  
There'll be no glistening snow,  
For Christmas in Australia  
Is summer time you know.

Santa will wear a towelling hat,  
T shirt and boxer shorts;  
Winter flannel's far too hot  
For after dinner sports.

A native shrub with blossoms red,  
Plus bells and stars that shine,  
Will feature as our Christmas tree  
Instead of English pine.

Let's spread a pretty gingham cloth  
Beneath the gum tree's shade;  
Chicken, salad, ham we'll serve,  
Ice cream and lemonade.



Melon, corn and nuts we'll add,  
Have cold drinks in the esky,  
And keep a can of Aerogard  
Should the flies get pesky.

A special magic is in the air -  
Sweet sense of peace and love;  
As joyous carols sung by all  
Give thanks to God above.

As we enjoy Christmas Aussie style,  
Or any place on earth,  
I pray that none of us forget  
It honours our Saviour's birth.

© Flo Hart, Mt Tyson, Qld

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ABPA INC

WILL BE HELD AT  
ST. PETER'S HALL, VERA STREET,  
TAMWORTH, NSW  
ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2000  
AT 2.30PM SHARP.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A  
GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS.  
IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A  
PARTICULAR TOPIC DISCUSSED,  
PLEASE CONTACT OLIVE SHOOTER  
IN ADVANCE!



## Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

email: abpanews@hotmail.com  
http://home.westserv.net.au/~bushpoet

### President:

Ron Selby  
PO Box 77  
Drayton North Qld 4350  
Phone 07 4630 1106

### Vice Presidents:

RJ (Bob) Miller  
Lot 2 Pilerwa Road  
Mungar Qld 4650  
Phone/Fax 07 4129 6422  
Mobile 015 741 336

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Olive Shooter  
"Willow Bend" MS 765  
Talgai West Road  
Allora Qld 4362  
Phone/Fax 07 4666 3474

Elizabeth Ward  
PO Box 61  
Mt Perry Qld 4671  
Phone/Fax 07 4156 3178

**Editor:** Jennifer Priest PO Box 2343  
Mansfield BC Qld 4122 Fax 07 3849 5844

email: abpanews@hotmail.com

**DEADLINE: 20th of Each Month**

NOTICE: No part of this newsletter, either in part or in whole, may be reproduced, transmitted or utilised in any form or by any means, electronic, photographic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage system, without written permission from the Australian Bush Poets Association, Inc.

*Olive Shooter, Secretary*

**ABPA Membership - \$25 per annum January to December  
PLEASE SEND ALL MONEY TO SECRETARY/TREASURER**

### Silly Santa © John Harris, Bellingen, NSW

Santa Claus is hopeless,  
His memory's gone all rusty,  
I asked him for a fair-haired girl,  
All beautiful, and BUSTY,  
It's far too late, can't change it now,  
I've opened up my pressie,  
He's given me a Jersey cow  
And her name-tag says she's Jessie.



A Warning! A Warning! To all that can hear,  
Beware! Of the dangers at the end of the year,  
If you're not affected by that bug "Y2K",  
Beware Mullimbimby and that bloke called "Ray"

© "Skew Wiff" Watt, Kyabram, VIC

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The end of the year and this century is quickly drawing to a close and Australia is not a republic (yet!), but as the politicians will tell you tomorrow is another day!

I don't think we are quite finished on this subject as yet. But whether or not you agreed with the vote, we will still be voting for a president and a committee at the AGM in Tamworth in January. If you are attending Tamworth festivities next month please try to be at the meeting. This is YOUR Association and it needs your input to continue.

Remember, your association fees are due on the 1st of January and we hope you will stay with us for another year.

We have had an absolutely fabulous year and the growth of our association is nothing short of amazing since we began in 1994.

There has been a tremendous amount of competitions over the year and most of them have been very well supported by our members. The results and information on these competitions has been literally flowing into our magazine editors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their invaluable information and input over the whole year. It is time also to wish all members and their families the Compliments of the Season and hope you will be looking forward to a very prosperous New Year (or, rather, New Century!)

The Annual is well under way albeit slowly, and I hope I can get it finished in time to go to the publishers before Christmas so that it will be available for Tamworth. This will be our 6th Annual and even though the first issue is sold out there are still 4 Annuals available now. Wouldn't they make a great Christmas present for a relative? Or say, your local school library or any of your local Aged Care establishments, and would only cost you a measly \$12.00 or so --- That's FOUR books. (Most established poets sell ONE book for \$10 or more).

Well, that's about enough from me for the year.

*Merry Christmas to all!*

*Ron Selby, President*



### Dear Members

We come to another year's end. I thank you all for your friendly notes and help given to me. Don't forget the Annual Meeting - be there if you can. If at any time you do not receive your newsletter, or if it is wrongly addressed for you, please contact me at once so we can rectify it. We have had a few little glitches at times but it is easily fixed when we know.

Our member Mr Harry Bowers is the grand old age of 90 years and we wish you a happy birthday Harry and hope your health improves. If any member is having a big birthday like that, please let me know.

As I write, I have just been diagnosed with breast cancer and will be operated on in a few days. I have no reason to expect the worst, but I would appreciate your prayers. I feel that I have a lot of friends among you.

Merry Christmas. Happy, healthy New Year to you all. Have fun over the holidays. Couldn't let the chance go by to write a Christmas message.

**Christmas has a special magic to old as well as young,  
Let the child in you come out as songs of joy are sung.  
When love is shared together and joybells have been rung,  
Stay as close to friends and family as ivy has always clung.**

*My fond regards to each one, Olive Shooter*



AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

# RON SELBY



1. What would you do if you had \$1,000,000?

Firstly I would purchase some of the main essentials of life like a pub, a bottle shop, or the Bundy Factory, and then I'd chuck a party or three, and I'd probably sling the missus a bob or two.

2. Do you collect anything, and if so, what and why?

You gotta be joking! Our house is absolutely chock-a-block full of collected things like Records, Tea-Pots, Beer Coasters, Records, Coins, Poetry Books, Records, Videos, Records and more good stuff! Why? Why bloody not?!

3. What kind of car would you like to drive?

A Sherman Tank would probably be the best for all the mug drivers here in Queensland, but it would also have to be fitted with a AFDRD\*.

4. How many time have you tried to grow a beard?

What's a Beard?

5. What has been your most embarrassing moment?

We went to a party at a mates place and they talked me into 'skinny dipping' in their pool. I dived into the water and when I surfaced me two mates were either side of me and they grabbed me by the arms and lifted me out of the water and Jake's missus jumped up on the other side of the pool with a bloody camera! But she said the photo didn't turn out "cause it was UNDER DEVELOPED!"

6. Who do your most admire?

I'd have to say me Missus! ('cause she's looking over me shoulder)

7. Who is your favourite Bush Poet?

Definitely that little Mungar Maggot.... Bobby Miller!

8. What advice would you give to someone starting out in Poetry Competitions?

Well! Being a world authority on this subject... I'd say that stamp collecting or amputation or castration sounds the better alternative!

9. What song do you never want to hear again?

"The colonel put the lickin' in the finger lickin' chicken but who put the roo in the stew?" or that fabulous example of truly intelligent lyrics, "Mashed Potato" by Billy Thorpe, or ANY Kamahl!

\* automatic female driver repelling device

Ron was born in a doctors surgery in a suburb of NSW called "Wellbank" near the Parramatta River, just outside of Burwood, in the year of 19\*\*.

When he was born the doctor smacked his Mum and his Dad threatened to leave home! Ron has one brother and five sisters (it was then that his Dad did leave home!)

He was never any good in school at Biography (he wouldn't know where any of the main cities belong or what country they belong to). Ron did go to school a few times, at Mortlake in NSW and he managed to keep a few steps in front of the truant officer. In his younger days (many years ago) Ron learned a hell of a lot about stock-taking, especially in Coles and Woolworths. He left school at 13 with the assistance of the judiciary system and the constabulary and spent a fairly normal life growing up in the 50s. Ron has won, lost or tried many many things in his life, from working as a dunny carter to being a company manager.

He tried a few recreational activities like Ice Skating, Golf, Fishing, Car Racing, Snooker or Pool, and now - Bush Poetry. He claims that all have been very enjoyable and a true learning experience, but supposes the most enjoyable thing in life now is being able to bring some enjoyment to others through charity and entertaining at the old folks homes with his poetry.

Having the love and respect of his wife, Joy, and family means a whole lot to Ron, and as they say, if he had his life to live over again there would not be one thing he would change! (except maybe his socks and undies!)

## REVIEW - The Born Loser .... Can Sometimes Win (Book)

Reading Ron's book, "The Born Loser..." gives a remarkable insight into the life of one of Bush Poetry's stalwarts. Ron is known, either personally or by reputation, to all ABPA members, as he was the inaugural Secretary, held the position of Editor for a while and is the current President of the Association.

His book, published in 1998, shows many facets of this 'rough diamond'. It contains several pieces of thought-provoking prose, and poetry covering a wide range of emotions. Gentle, romantic rhymes rub shoulders with unashamedly patriotic pieces; reflections on the past are juxtaposed with raw comments on people and the land. Interspersed amongst these are the sparkles of Ron's ability to share a joke, or poke fun at his mates.

The book comes across as strongly autobiographical, a theme backed up by the clever treatment of the title. The front cover says "A Born Loser", and shows a photo of a dejected Ron under a group of signposts to "everywhere", and the back cover reads "Can Sometimes Win" - with a lovely photograph of Ron with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Inside the cover, the entire book shows an evolutionary process, not just in Ron's life, but in his poetic progress. Just as his subjects and topics change and advance, so does his ability develop throughout the book.

Any poet who could pen the descriptive and distressing "Lisa" is no "loser". Ron has a winner with this book!

## A Good Mate

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

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

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



© Ron Selby, Drayton, QLD



# On My Soapbox



Your contributions to "On My Soapbox" are welcomed. Please keep to a maximum of 300 words, and include your full name. Preference will be given to short, neatly typed letters or emails.

To The Editor

As I am ninety next month, I thought I should make some comments to our Poets for a marvellous collection of poems and articles that our Editor rounds up and presents to us every month.

To those poets asking about bush poetry I would like to say - apart from rhyme and rhythm it needs no dressing up because "it is different". Just an old pair of Glenny Palmers slacks and a cotton shirt so to speak. As regards Royalties (what a time to mention the word) I believe when poetry performances can get a rating on Neilsens Television ratings, it will be time to worry about it. I am happy that some of my poems are being read on ABC and I lived to hear it. No royalties thank you. I have been a pensioner for twenty-five years. Profits from my books until they sold out went to the Fred Hollows Foundation. I write for other people to enjoy and my own enjoyment of course.

*Harry Bowers, Warragul, VIC*

Dear Editor

I have been reading with interest (and dismay) the ongoing saga of competitions and their rules. I, like Frank, don't like competitions at all. Sure, competitions create winners, but they also create many losers, and to try and compare poets and their performances is an exercise that will always bring animosity. Unfortunately that is human nature.

What is of greater concern to me is the right to perform another poets' work (whether it be traditional or contemporary, in competition or performance).

The way I see it, bush poems are nothing more than stories and yarns (albeit in rhyme) and were written to be retold over and over again. That is what creates tradition. Just look at our great yarnspinners of the past, Henry Lawson, C.J. Dennis, the wonderful Bill Harney, even the Aborigines tell us stories of their 'dreaming'. What a shame it would be if nobody ever retold a story just because somebody else wrote it. Each yarn would probably die with the author.

So if there is a story to be told, tell it if you wish, tell it well, but above all else, honour its source, then, in the course of time, all our stories (and their authors) will take their place in history beside the great storytellers of the past.

Continued camaraderie and success to all.

*Mick Coventry, Kyabram, VIC*

Dear Editor

While travelling around, I came across this letter in the Gold Coast Bulletin (Oct 20<sup>th</sup>?) and thought it would boost Bobby's spirits.

Tamworth is too hot and crowded for people like me to attend, but I hope the AGM is well attended. My view on living poets' royalties is the value to the writer is not in money but prestige and public airing - good PR.

*Mavis Appleyard, Warren, NSW*

Following letter is reprinted from the Gold Coast Bulletin - Ed

## We All Split Our Sides

We chanced a visit to Treasure Island Holiday Park after reading about the Bush Poetry Brekkie in the Sun.

The food was fine, the intro by an ex-Bullamakanka singer as one may expect, but the unexpected was a bloke called Bob Miller, a poet.

What a poet. His work is original, extremely clever, professionally recited and hilarious. I can't remember when I laughed so much.

I heard someone in the audience comment he would outshine Michael Crawford for laughs.

He certainly would. Why is such talent unrecognized? An Aussie, talented and clever, is picking up a dollar selling his tapes. Is there no one out there to give him the opportunity he so rightly deserves?

*M.A. BROOME, Helensvale*

Dear Editor

May I congratulate Joye Dempsey for taking the initiative to allocate a share of prize-money for a contemporary performance competition to the writer of the work performed. In my view the simplest and probably most effective way to ensure that writers receive a fair and just reward for material they created (when it is used by others, for the others' benefit), is for competition and festival organisers to follow Joye's lead. She has employed the old K.I.S.S. system (Keep It Simple Stupid).

We are a very diverse and widespread family in the Bush Poetry world, and like any family we sometimes squabble amongst ourselves, but quickly rise to the support of any of our mates if they hit troubled waters. Some don't want to be paid - so give it back, or to your favourite charity. But let's embrace this opportunity to establish better credibility for our writers, and ultimately to the general perception/reputation of our much loved craft.

In regards to Championship Competitions, may I suggest that to avoid the potentially ludicrous situation of a person who has never written a line of poetry becoming a "Champion Bush Poet" (e.g. a trained actor performing another's work) that the relevant competition offers the title of "Champion Bush Poet" ONLY to a person who has written the performed material, and offers the title of "Champion Bush Poet RECITER" to those using others' material. I realise there are complicated logistics behind this, but informed debate on the issue could thrash out a viable solution. I have always strongly believed that a competitor's foremost aim should be to foster improvement in the individual, and therefore advance the collective. I personally came very close to abandoning my writing when I first began submitting work and getting no placings. When I received a judge's score and comments sheet in the mail I realised I had potential, and followed their advice and studied my craft. I then began to progress.

I remain indebted to those organisers, as I came so close to missing out on the wonderful past few years and on the great mates we have made. We are all different people with different aims and different needs, but loving the one craft. What suits one, does not suit the other - but please keep a respect for each others views and suggestions. Having said that, may I ask Max Jarrott to quickly inform me of where I can get one of those \$500 a week gigs? - 'cause I can't afford to post you all a Christmas card, and we love you all so much.

Happy Christmas. *Alan & Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale, QLD*  
P.S. Look out for 'Big Al' in his black singlet with his smart alec reply poem to all that I dump on him. (A prettier sight than the pink tights)

Dear Editor

Wishing all our poetry friends a very Merry Christmas and a successfully rhyming New Year. We have had a great deal of pleasure listening to the increasingly large amount of great performing poets this year and look forward to catching up with you all at Tamworth and other festivals in the New Year.

Hopefully we will be attending even more festivals over the coming years on a regular basis and it is one of the most pleasurable life-styles we can imagine, watching great poets performing great original and traditional material.

So have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you all very soon. All our love and best wishes

*Lynn and Gordon Blogg, Ocean Grove, Vic.*



Dear Editor

Well, This Is How I Feel...

I've read, with some misgivings, in our magazine of late  
Of the competition judging and copyright debate;  
And I must admit I'm saddened that we're heading down this track  
For I agree with Flo Hart - "Let's bring the spirit back."

Neil wrote of Charlee Marshall and I recalled the time  
When we gathered out at Cania in comradeship and rhyme;  
Where as a fledgling writer who chased poetic word  
I learnt much from the Master through what I saw and heard.

There was no undue pressure - no stance was wrong or right -  
Yet the gorge echoed with laughter, long into the night,  
And I marvelled as some novice grew from stutter... stop.. and start  
To a confident performer - it was manna to my heart.

Now you may ask "Who is this bird? What's she on about?  
I've not seen her on the circuit nor heard contesting sprout."  
And never will you find me there - I lack contesting streak -  
Nor does that make me lily-livered, orgulous or meek.

Though I'm a private person, I feel that it is time  
To tell of rich experiences gained through sharing rhyme.  
I'm not talking trophies - for them I have no call -  
As a tugging of the heartstrings is the finest prize of all.

I'm thrilled when poets ask if they can use a poem of mine -  
So long as they acknowledge me - "Yeah, go ahead. That's fine,"  
For a win in competition reflects back on myself,  
Though some may say, "Ya flamin' mug"... Well, I'll not die of wealth!

Since "Macca" read my "Wagtail" poem on his Sunday show,  
The letters, cards and 'phone calls have set my heart aglow.  
I freely sent them copies - one in a Western town  
Was chuffed that after two years, she'd finally tracked me down.

I'm unafraid of critics - I write to please myself,  
Though I've had some criticisms beneficial to my health!  
How to keep composure - why, it matters not a whit,  
When reciting at a respite centre, someone yells out - "Shit!"

A night out with the handicapped who greet me with a smile  
When we spend some time together and walk a country mile,  
Ends always on a high spot and I find it hard to sleep  
For the memory of their pure delight is freely mine to keep.

I was privileged to watch the children's faces fill with glee  
When they joined with Mark Gliori in reciting poetry;  
And there I witnessed Marco weave his magic special spell  
In lives of kids whose cancer sends them there and back from hell.

I've wept beside a roadside with a wife who'd lost her mate -  
He went diving in the sapphire depths and met an unknown fate.  
We'd never met until that day - she'd sought memorial poem,  
And I prayed a lighted "Candle" would lead him safely Home.

Some eulogies I've written, most in a lighter vein;  
How great to see that through the tears the humour still remains;  
And I'll not ask for recompense, should they choose to lend  
Their "special" source of comfort to another grieving friend.

It seems that nowadays we're urged, "Compete, compete, compete."  
Oh, how boring if we all should hasten down that well-worn street;  
For doubtless there's a ringer, far removed from all the fuss,  
Who reads his poems by firelight and outshines all of us.

Now I'm nobody's hero with halo bright and new  
And I know there's quite a few out there who feel the way I do;  
So let's hope that freely, down the track, our children may relay  
The works of our great laureates - our bards of "yesterday".



I'm adjusting to all sorts of things in this modern scene,  
From long hair through to skin heads and all cuts in between.  
The tattoo's coming back in vogue, but it's been round for years.  
Girls are piercing nipples, lips and up the sides of ears,  
Noses, navels, eyebrows, tongues and places I can't mention,  
Just to stir their Parents up or p'raps to get attention,  
But one thing I can't stomach, and - try hard as I can -  
I really can't get used to bloody earrings on a MAN!!!

© Harry Pickering, Kingaroy, Qld

#### A couple of messages from Kev Barnes:

Apparently ABPA member, Terry O'Grady ended up  
in hospital during the Glen Innes 'Land of the Beardies'  
festival. Glad to hear you're out now, Terry, and best  
wishes from all your fellow poets.

Kev also asks if any reader could tell him who wrote  
the poem "**A Soldier Died Today**"?  
He can be contacted on 07 4695 4209, or  
PO Box 64, Millmerran, Qld 4357.

Dear Editor

Another poem to throw into the melting pot of the competition comments:  
Conditions

Well I've read all the conditions that apply to written verse,  
But I have a little query which you may wish to disperse,  
My mind is mostly muddled, that's the way it's always been,  
I'm confused and disconcerted by the meaning of 'bush theme'.

We know that 'theme's' a topic or the subject of a dream,  
In less conventional language, is a lisper's word for seem,  
And it's slightly airy fairy, can be used in many texts,  
But 'bush' is more decisive and has really got me vexed.

Then the dictionary told me, it's a 'thicker sparse or dense',  
I suppose that means a patch of scrub that hasn't yet been fenced,  
Or 'the backwoods of Australia', as defined in one I read,  
Or 'a shrub with many branches', anyhow that's what it said.

Though the one that most confused me didn't mention any scrub,  
Just a piece of tube or metal as a bearing or a hub,  
'A lining of hard metal in the nave of any wheel',  
No wonder I am so perplexed, imagine how I feel.

When I think of C.J. Dennis and his writing of the push,  
Was this a city theme of verse or would you call it bush?  
And when Kendall wrote of bell birds in a coastal forest glade,  
Would that theme fit in this contest, was it just a bush charade?

Old Dorothy Mackellar when she wrote of sweeping plains,  
Did she mean you need a largish broom and very little brains?  
And Henry wrote with feeling from a very troubled life,  
But country life was not his style, he preferred the city strife.

But at least we know that Banjo, when he wrote of Mulga Bill  
And his ride so fraught with danger as he sped off down the hill,  
Was writing true bush poetry, so your system now reveals  
As he charged off through the thicket, a bush in both his wheels.

© Rhubarb, Braidwood, NSW



Origins undetermined  
 He visited one day;  
 I threw him scraps - from pity -  
 He wouldn't go away;  
 You'd only find his breeding  
 In the Mongrel Catalogue,  
 He was ugly, he was hairy  
 And I *think* he was a dog.

He settled uninvited  
 Though I never gave him cause,  
 And his talent was disaster  
 Left by clumsy giant paws;  
 "Dammit!" I would tell him,  
 "You idiotic pup!"  
 "Dammit! Quit your yapping!"  
 "Dammitall! Shut up!"

Although I never named him  
 He got to where he thought  
 His name was Shut Up Dammit -  
 Or Dammit, just for short;  
 He was always very friendly,  
 And I never saw him bite,  
 And I couldn't teach him manners  
 Cause he wasn't very bright.

## DAMMIT

© Janine Haig, Eulo, QLD



When someone came a-calling,  
 Dammit would be there,  
 Running round in circles,  
 Snapping in the air;  
 He'd terrorise the caller  
 'Til I'd yell to bring a halt,  
 With scraggy tail a-drooping,  
 Dammit, he would bolt.

He became a kind of legend  
 As a cunning master thief,  
 He would pay some folk a visit,  
 Though his stay was always brief;  
 And after his departure  
 They would check their homes with care  
 And find a snack gone missing,  
 Screeching "Dammit!" to the air.

He would disappear for ages,  
 Doing doggy things, I guess,  
 Return with jaws a-grinning,  
 His coat a tangled mess;  
 Where he went and what he did -  
 He kept that secret well,  
 But back he'd come and look for love  
 And Dammit, he would smell.

I lost him in the Summer;  
 I had cursed at him for years,  
 Yet when he breathed his last  
 I couldn't stop the tears;  
 Often I abused him:  
 "Dammit!" I had hissed  
 Each time he sinned at something  
 But, dammit, he is missed.

### AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,  
 do you realise the words that the caroller said?  
 A manger's a horse trough were animals drink  
 and there lies a new babe - it does make you think.

The cattle are lowing the baby awake,  
 no, "Hush or he'll wake up, for Heavens sake!"  
 No hope for the Mother, no choice for the Babe,  
 for he was born to die and the manger's a grave.

Shepherds are arriving, the Wise men may call,  
 the nursery conditions will really appal,  
 the start and the end of his life is so tryst  
 as he lay on the straw in the cold morning mist.

We know the beginning, we don't know the end,  
 we know that to save us God's son he did send.

We remember the stable, the cattle, the stall,  
 it's a wonder the Christ Child survived here at all.

© Joye Dempsey 1994

### Have a "Yabbie" Christmas

© Grahame Watt, Kyabram, Vic



I'm sick and tired of Christmas  
 With its reindeers all aglow,  
 Sleigh rides, and hot puddings,  
 And cards with ice and snow.

Let's hear it for Australia  
 As we swelter in the heat,  
 And give the Christmas story  
 A "fair dinkum" Aussie beat.

We'll have wombats and goannas  
 Out on the Christmas track,  
 Pulling dray loads full of presents  
 For everyone "outback".

There'll be wallabies and emus  
 To help along the way,  
 A jackass laughing loudly  
 To signal Christmas Day!

And as for Father Christmas  
 In his red suit with his beard,  
 Let's replace him with a "yabbie"  
 You say, "Well! That sounds weird!"

But I reckon that a "Yabbie"  
 Is Australia's pride and joy,  
 He has a special "feeling",  
 For every girl and boy.

He lives in creeks, and mud and sand,  
 He's survived the "hardship" test,  
 An icon of Australia,  
 The king of all the best.

So when on early Christmas morn  
 You open bedroom doors,  
 You will see that famous "yabbie",  
 It's good old "Sandy Claws!"

## Christmas Wishes

© Mary Meehan, Seaford, SA



I wish that I was small again  
 With a child's belief in Santa,  
 I could blame that hungover feeling  
 On too many lollies and Fanta!  
 I don't feel like singing carols  
 Or shouting "Ho, bloody Ho,"  
 When I'm knackered and broke from shopping  
 And spending too much dough!

I wish that I was small again  
 And believed in that jolly fellow,  
 Right now I couldn't give a monkey's  
 If his outfit's red or yellow -  
 This is Christmas in Australia, mate,  
 He'd wear T-shirt, short and thongs,  
 Yet we sing of 'Dashing Through the Snow',  
 And old 'White Christmas' songs.

I wish that I was small again  
 Believing in Rudolph and reindeer -  
 Try telling the kids in the outback  
 'He'll arrive in a light plane dear',  
 Explain to all the city kids  
 There's no 'Ho, Ho, Ho,' or sleigh,  
 It's a white Toyota Hilux,  
 'Oh what a feeling kids, G'day!'

I wish that I was small again,  
 From the mantelpiece hanging a stocking,  
 Dangling it from the ceiling fan  
 Could prove to be quite shocking!  
 We don't even have a chimney,  
 So what do I tell the nipper?  
 That he comes down the air-conditioning vent  
 Like potatoes through a chipper?

Oh yes, if I were small again  
 I'd believe in 'Peace On Earth',  
 The real meaning of Christmas  
 And the reason for His Birth.  
 While I'm busy stuffing turkey,  
 Making puddings and mince pies,  
 It's sad to think the joy of Christmas  
 Is only seen through children's eyes.



## Palma Rosa Poets Report

On Wednesday 29th September, we were very honoured to have dual Australian Whipcracking Champion and Poet extraordinaire, Noel Cutler from Victoria, to entertain us. He was ably supported by the patriarch of Bush Poetry - Bill Hay. Noel and Bill entertained us well - lots of wonderful poems and yarns, and of course, Bill played his harmonica brilliantly as usual. At interval, on the front lawn, we were entertained by Noel with his whipcracking skills - it certainly was a "night to remember".

On Wednesday 3rd November, we held another great night when we launched Graham Fredriksen's second book "Paradise Revisited". Graham won the highest accolade in written Bush Poetry in 1998 when he won the Bronze Swagman award with his poem "The Battle of San Quentin Canal". He has gone from strength to strength, winning the Bundaberg Bush Lantern award and many other awards along the way. Graham was ably supported in his book launch by his fellow North Pine Bush Poets, Jill Perren, Anita Read, and Carol Stratford. Also supporting Graham on this night was Michael Darby - what an entertainer he is - another marvellous evening for the Palma Rosa Poets.

By the time this goes to print we will have held our final Palma Rosa Poets evening for the year. Because I know it will be a "sellout", we are holding two nights - Wednesday 1st December, and Thursday 2nd December. We have as our guests - The Larikin himself, Bobby Miller, the beautiful young Carmel Dunn, and our great singer/songwriter Mark Tempany.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported the Palma Rosa poets this year and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I would like to also thank you all for helping in the restoration of our beautiful "Palma Rosa" - headquarters of the English Speaking Union.

*Submitted by Trisha Anderson*

## Subjects for the Annual Meeting in Tamworth:

*To be moved by Milton Taylor, seconded by Terry Regan:*

"that this meeting of the ABPA formulates

- (1) A set of Judging criteria for competitions
- (2) A competition format under which Australian Championships will be held
- (3) the rights to the name of Australian Bush Poetry Championships for Written poetry be kept by the ABPA to insure that it is there for the time when we may need it.

*Moved by Wally Finch that:*

- (1) The ABPA amend its' mandate to include the drafting of a set of standard rules and guidelines for the conduct of Bush Poetry events for both written and performance competition
- (2) That once drafted and democratically approved by members the Standard rules and Guidelines be adopted by the ABBPA
- (3) That once a set of Standard Rules and Guidelines are adopted by the ABPA their use be encouraged by all who conduct Bush Poetry competitions.

*Definition of competitors:*

Junior, 16 years and under

Novice, a poet who has not previously won a first prize with any poem in any poetry competition

Established work, must be a poem written by poet other than the performer

Original, must be the performer's own work

*Please note that these are only suggestions from our members for discussions. From this list you will see that there is a lot of interest in coming to some conclusion on the Australian Bush Poetry Championships. REad CArefully. Com,e to the meeting prepared and bring your newsletter. Olive Shooter, Secretary*

### re Format of Australian Bush Poetry Championships

*Suggestions received from members, for discussion:*

Perhaps the successful applicant could formulate their own plan each time, and then send it to us for a snappy approval before advertisiing (*Secretary's note: That is the simplest solution*)

The 1999 Championships chose the Original and Traditional winners from heats. 15 competitor progressed to Mens finals, and 6 to Womens finals. Championship winners were determined by using the highest Aggregate score from all four sections.

Name should be Australian Champion Performance Bush Poet. Overall winners points should be aggregate of points scored in the competition heats of Open events of Original and Traditional or Modern.

Average of total points would ensure the best overall performer (*Not to include fun things like one minuter brawls or duo, etc*)

At least one professional show be included inthe calendar of events

List of proposed judges to be sent to the Executive as early as possible

A universal score sheet be adopted by the ABPA

*Suggested Categories:*

Modern Traditional (a poem written during the last 50 years)

Traditional (a poem written more that 50 years ago)

Original (own work performed byu the poet)

Humorous (a different poet from any used by the competitor in other sections)

Juniors, 16 years and under

Poems in all sections should be metered, rhyming verse.

A poet reaching the finals should be required to perform a different poem from that performed in the heat.

Each section to have a winner

The overall champion should be judged on an overall points system

Total time limit of 8 minutes for preamble and poem

Standard judging criteria should be adopted, Competitors should be required to be clean and neatly dressed, but costume dressing, eg, wearing stockmen type clothing etc. should not be one of the criteria.

Prompting be disallowed in this, the most prestigious poetry competition and that the audience be advised of this

Have competitors fully briefed on what is expected of them (Competitors are the most important element of the competition)

Poets should be supplied with an Application form. The rules of Competition, the judging criteria, the scoring system, details of venue, performance times and prizes.

Each entry form should include a definition of each category.

Method of judging should be made very clear to the contestants prior to the event.

A ruling needed on Traditional class poems.

A ruling on what constitutes "Bush Poetry". Rhyme, meter, and an Australian theme. Does it have to have the stockroute flavour, or can it be other forms of even Australian city living?

*Othe issues:*

Should Professionals pay for their advertisements in the newsletters advertising professional events?

Should non-members of the ABPA be allowed to advertise in the Newsletter?



### Old Poet's Rhyme

It really seems to be our fate  
To find we have a used by date  
That is when our bodies find  
Our performance is just in our mind.

© Mavis Appleyard, Warren, NSW



# TAMWORTH 2000 HAPPENINGS

Day	Time	Place	Event	Details
Fri 21st	11am	Tamworth City Bowling Club	School Children's Poetry Competition Primary and Secondary School Sections Telephone 07 3209 3720 or 0413 348 843	Judges: George Lovejoy, Trisha Anderson, Noel Stallard, Carmel Dunn
Sat 22	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Compere: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Sat 22	8am- 10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Sat 22	11am- 2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Charity Poetry Concert \$10 (\$8 concession) Compere: Michael Darby	In aid of Salvation Army. Good-value meals available
Sat 22	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Sat 22	7.30pm	Tamworth Golf Club	"Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry" Presented by Gary Fogarty	Meals and refreshments available in air- conditioned comfort.
Sun 23	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Compere: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts.
Sun 23	8am- 10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Sun 23	11am- 2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Charity Poetry Concert \$10 (\$8 concession) Compere: Michael Darby	In aid of the Northcott Society (formerly NSW Society for Crippled Children) Good-value meals available
Sun 23	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Sun 23	7.30pm	Tamworth Golf Club	"Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry" Presented by Gary Fogarty	Meals and refreshments available in air- conditioned comfort
Mon 24	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Compere: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Mon 24	8am- 10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Mon 24	11am- Noon	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Bush Poetry <i>Open Microphone for Poets</i>	Free admittance, good value tucker Sign up on Blackboard from 10.30am
Mon 24	Noon- 2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Old Masters and Living Masters Bush Poetry Concert \$10/\$8 (inc \$3 meal voucher)	The work of Henry Lawson, plus Ellis Campbell performing his own multi-award winning poetry
Mon 24	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Tue 25	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Compere: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Tue 25	8am- 10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Tue 25	9am- 11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Tue 25	11am- Noon	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Bush Poetry <i>Open Microphone for Poets</i>	Free admittance, good value tucker Sign up on Blackboard from 10.30am
Tue 25	Noon- 2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Old Masters and Living Masters Bush Poetry Concert \$10/\$8 (inc \$3 meal voucher)	The work of A.B. Paterson, plus current national champion Janine Haig performing her own poetry
Tue 25	2pm	Tamworth Town Hall	Presentation of The Australian Bush Laureate Awards 2000, Sponsored by Raine & Horne	Awards designed to recognise excellence in Australian Bush Verse
Tue 25	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Wed 26	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Compere: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Wed 26	8am- 10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Wed 26	9am- 11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Wed 26	11am- Noon	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Bush Poetry <i>Open Microphone for Poets</i>	Free admittance, good value tucker Sign up on Blackboard from 10.30am



# TAMWORTH 2000 HAPPENINGS

Wed 26	11.30am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	Heats, contact Jan Morris 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)
Wed 26	Noon-2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Old Masters and Living Masters Bush Poetry Concert \$10/\$8 (inc \$3 meal voucher)	The work of P.J. Hartigan, plus 1998 national champion Milton Taylor performing his own poetry
Wed 26	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Wed 26	7.30pm	Tamworth Golf Club	"Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry" Presented by Gary Fogarty	Meals and refreshments available in air-conditioned comfort
Thu 27	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Comper: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Thu 27	8am-10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Thu 27	9am-11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Thu 27	11am-Noon	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Bush Poetry <i>Open Microphone for Poets</i>	Free admittance, good value tucker Sign up on Blackboard from 10.30am
Thu 27	11.30am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	Heats, contact Jan Morris 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)
Thu 27	Noon-2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Old Masters and Living Masters Bush Poetry Concert \$10/\$8 (inc \$3 meal voucher)	The work of Will Ogilvy and Charlee Marshall, plus Liz Ward performing her own multi-award winning poetry
Thu 27	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Fri 28	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Comper: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Fri 28	8am-10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Fri 28	9am-11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Fri 28	11am-Noon	Tamworth City Bowling Club	One Minute Poetry Championship	Buy a topic for \$2 on 21 Jan 99
Fri 28	11.30am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	Heats, contact Jan Morris 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)
Fri 28	Noon-2.30pm	Tamworth City Bowling Club	Old Masters and Living Masters Bush Poetry Concert \$10/\$8 (inc \$3 meal voucher)	The work of C.J. Dennis, plus Ron Stevens performing his own multi-award winning poetry
Fri 28	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Sat 29	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Comper: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Sat 29	8am-10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Sat 29	9am-11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Sat 29	11am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	FINALS
Sat 29	11-15	Imperial Hotel	Presentation of Blackened Billy Awards	To be presented after the Finals of the Bush Poetry Competition at this venue
Sat 29	2.30pm	St Peter's Hall,	Annual General Meeting of the ABPA	Followed by a general meeting of members All members encouraged to attend!
Sat 29	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Sun 30	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Comper: Frank Daniel	Join a long list of old favourites and a number of first-timers in these traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts
Sun 30	8am-10am	West Tamworth Leagues Club	The "Big Bush Brekky" Presented by Jim Haynes	Come and hear a long list of talented artists and special guests
Sun 30	9am-11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Gliori and Murray Hartin	
Sun 30	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	

Oasis Hotel is cancelled, but Country Artist Robbie Gough is happy to welcome walk-up poets between Country Acts.



## G'DAY FROM GIPPSLAND

The newest Bush Poetry Club on the block was formed at the historic Rosedale Hotel on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1999. The 'Gippsland Bush Poets' got off the mark with a meeting of 15 enthusiastic Poets who wholeheartedly endorsed the formation of the club. A committee was elected (names and phone numbers below) and the meeting considers that the promotion and encouragement of Bush Poetry are to be the aims and ideals of the club. There was much discussion about the best way to achieve these aims, and it was decided that the club would seek to perform at various Pubs, Clubs, Shows and Festivals around the district. It was also thought that taking our art into the primary schools would be advantageous to the future of Bush Poetry. Over half of our members have not performed in public before, and it was considered that a learning curve would be required before we reached the required level. As we are a new club with very little or no experience among the committee and members, any advice or information from the established clubs would be most appreciated. A guest Poet once or twice a year would also be of great value to the club. Any volunteers?

After the formalities and paperwork were over, the Poets got down to what Poets do best and some really great Bush Poetry was performed and read by the members, and enjoyed by all present. It was very interesting to note that those who had never performed in public before gained in confidence as the night progressed. It won't take long to get up to speed. Eddie Dalton made the trip down from Melbourne to lend his support to the club and his efforts were much appreciated.

Although of the 15 present only three were members of the "Australian Bush Poets Association", the monthly newsletters I had on hand were avidly read and discussed. The Australian Bush Poetry Championships to be held at Yarrowonga/Mulwala again next year also created a lot of interest. Expect some more ABPA members from this neck of the woods.

Our next meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 8pm again at the Rosedale Hotel. The main agenda at this meeting will be to discuss the Bush Poets night to be held at the Wellington Bushracing carnival on Friday night January 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information on this night, give me a ring.

At this stage it is expected that the "Gippsland Bush Poets" will meet bi-monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.

**The committee of the Gippsland Bush Poets are:**

President: Denis Carstairs 03 5145 6128 Vice President: Russell Heathcote 03 5199 2504

Secretary: Virginia Grace-Stuart 03 5146 3393 Treasurer: Jill Fidler 03 5167 1053

**The postal address of the club will be:** Gippsland Bush Poets, P.O. Box 159, Stratford VIC 3862 *Submitted by Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, VIC*

### A special note of change to all our friends in Australian Bush Heritage and Culture:

The word is certainly out and about regarding the hosting of the Australian Bush Poetry Championships - written and recitation, in Yarrowonga/Mulwala for 2000. We are extremely elated and proud to have been chosen again. The town is already buzzing with the news of the Championships and many groups within the community have been featuring our own local lads, Trevor Hargreaves and Johnny Johanson as guest performers during their meetings and gatherings. They are certainly keeping the Australian theme fresh and alive. Our young champion from last year, Guy McLean has also performed with his mate, Nugget, in the Auditorium on 23<sup>rd</sup> November on his return from Melbourne, where he was a guest performer at the biggest Equestrian Show ever staged in Australia. He is another great ambassador for the Australian Bush Poetry scene.

Thank you to many of you who have expressed congratulations and best wishes on our successful submission to host the Championships in 2000. We are thrilled that so many of you are returning to our towns to challenge the Title. The dates were all set for May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>. However a few of you are just a little more 'tuned' into the dales of special events throughout the year. Apparently we had chosen Mother's Day Weekend to hold the Championships and quite a number of our poets have said that they will not be able to come down for that, as Mums are far more important to be with on that occasion. There is no disputing that!

Our committee went into 'overdrive' in re-arranging the already booked venues, special artists, stall holders, etc. The Mulwala District Services Club was the most important of the venue changes, and in his usual supportive way, the C.E.O. Michael Mullarvey felt your requests were worthy of the major changes. He has agreed to the re-programming to fit in with your requests.

So the Australian Bush Poetry Championships **WILL NOW COMMENCE ON FRIDAY 5 MAY AND END ON TUESDAY 9 MAY**

We are conscious of upsetting other performer's plans but Bill Lasham assured us that many poets would thank us for the changes. Now just make sure that you do join us!

Just think, it will be even warmer and sunnier that weekend. Pack the swimmers!! Accommodation Packages with special discounts for the Championships, in Caravan Parks, Units, Houses, Motels, Hotels will be available this year and a listing of these will be forwarded to you when we send out your entry forms.

Entry Forms and Guidelines for Competitors are being worked on at the present time, using the information many of you left with us in the appraisal sheets after the Championships last year, together with direction from the Executive of the ABPA. We will try not to have any loose ends. We would also like to introduce the organising Committee from Yarrowonga Mulwala Tourism and Mulwala District Services Club hosting the Championships next year: Trevor Hargreaves, Johnny Johanson, Karen Bromley, Barb Macdermid. Phone: 03 5744 1989 03 5744 2331 Fax 03 5744 3149

I am certain we may co-opt some of you as we come closer to the Event and for special jobs throughout the Championships. Noel Cutler, Don Anderson, Geoffrey Graham, Reg Phillips, have already offered their support, and I know with the wonderfully friendly spirit experienced last year, these Championships, the first of the new millennium, will be even more memorable. Hope it solves some worries.

Please make special note of the new dates for the Championships: Friday 5

May - Tuesday 9 May 2000

Submitted by Barb Macdermid and Committee, Yarrowonga/Mulwala

### Greetings from Geoffrey Graham

Maldon festival once again had a great lineup of poets at several different functions including 2 Poets Breakfasts and a Poets Brunch. Some stirring poems were presented by Skreitch, Neil McArthur, Eddie Scott, Graeme Johnson, Campbell the Swaggie, Margaret Goff and many others.

A comment about the breakfasts. People wish to be entertained and the variety from 'say Neils' verse to the more traditional can encompass a lot of great entertainment, however inappropriate material can put a downer on a whole session. Eg I personally don't think a poem like McArthurs 'Fart' is really appropriate for a breakfast session. Also some poems are being done to death, folks so please let them go!

The St Arnaud festival has just been and gone with a variety of entertainment, a rodeo, rock music, pageant, dog in a Ute queue challenge, Opera concert, Vintage cars, Brass & pipes bands etc; something for everyone. 'The Man from Ironbark' show was received with great enthusiasm and the Poets Breakfast on the Sunday morning was small but most enjoyable. It's always a privilege to be involved with an inaugural Poets breakfast.

Even though a heavy storm hours earlier would have kept some people away, and pushed the event indoors, the atmosphere was great, with several total newcomers participating along with Wortho and Dennis Attwood.

A reminder to all Southerners Bush Poetry will once again be on at the Kyneton festival Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Also at Bealiba on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March. For more info please give me a ring on 03 5446 3739.

Lookin back over 1999, I'd like to extend my congratulations to the hardworking committee and new editor Jennifer Priest who is doing an admirable job. Congrats once again to Maureen for holding down the previous editor job and building it to such a great standard.

My warmest best wishes to all Bush Poets and their families for a terrific Xmas and an exciting start to the beginning of the next century.

Keep smiling, Geoffrey Graham  
Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739





## Poets On A High At Urunga

Urunga Bush Poets in the Club held a highly successful Australiana Dinner Concert at the Urunga Golf and Sports Club on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Feature poet and entertainer for the evening was Russell Churcher from Wauchope, NSW. His expertise, both as a songster and poet was rewarded throughout the evening by applause from an audience of over ninety who had just enjoyed a great meal courtesy of Rob's Bistro at the Club.

Russell was joined at the mike throughout the evening by eleven poets including ABPA member Paul Adams from Ipswich, QLD, who just happened to be rolling down Highway Number 1 in his rig when the show was on - just goes to show the power of the "Poet's Calendar".

A great night! Word has it that the club president wants the Bush Poets back - he says "the sooner the better!"

*Submitted by Maureen Stonham, Nambucca Heads, NSW*

## Gold Coast Poets Breakfast

A new venue for performing poets is proving very popular on the Gold Coast. Treasure Island Holiday Park at Biggera Waters stages a Bush Poets Breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 8am.

The event is widely promoted to the public and holidaying park guests alike, regularly attracting an audience of up to 180, many of whom are seeing Bush Poets for the first time.

Guest Poets Ray Essery, Shirley Friend, Bob Miller, Wally Finch, Milton Taylor, Gary Fogarty, John Major and Glenn Palmer have appeared, along with resident poet and compere Mark Thompson, supported by regular muso Paul Ensby.

The promoters are keen to hear from poets who may be visiting the Gold Coast over the holiday period and who wish to perform on 2nd and 16th January.

Please contact Treasure Island Holiday Park, Telephone 07 5537 1511 Fax 07 5537 4233.

*Submitted by Lester Atkinson*

## Land of the Beardies Festival 1999 Report

On behalf of the Land of the Beardies Festival 1999, I would like to say thank you very much to the many poets who attended our bush poets breakfast and the two competitions.

*Congratulations to the winners -*

### Traditional

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> Kev Barnes 3<sup>rd</sup> Ron Selby

### Original

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Drake 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Kearns

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and see you at Tamworth in January 2000.

*Submitted by Nell Perkins, Glen Innes, NSW*

## Kyabram and District Bush Poets Group Inc.

The Ky Group met in early October at the Fauna Park venue and, once again, enjoyed another great night of bush verse and yarns. Molly Sparks was as usual 'sparkling'. John Johansen told another great yarn. All in all, a good meeting.

On Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> of October, the Ky group along with the local Arts Group promoted the Jan Wositzky show "White Fella Learns To Dance", Jan was an original member of the Bushwacker band. His one man show presented yarns, characters, songs and music based on his experiences in Northern Australia. The crowd was disappointing but his show was first class and enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is our Christmas outing on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be a B.B.Q Show to be held at Joan Hills ranch. Any members of the ABPA who will be in the area at that time - contact our Secretary Les Parkinson on 5852 2281 and come along. A mud map will be provided.

As it is near the end of the year, we wish all members and supporters a Happy New Century as well as a Prosperous New Year. Hooroo!

*Submitted by Grahame Watt, Kyabram, VIC*

## The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival

Henry Lawson was born on the Grenfell goldfields in 1867 and later became one of Australia's most famous and best loved poets and short story writers. His love of the land and its people is very evident in all his works and the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival is an effort to celebrate his life by encouraging Australian poets, writers and composers.



The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Inc. invites your participation in the 2000 Verse, Short Story & Song Competitions. Prize money of \$2500 is being offered, along with 3 statuettes. Entries to this competition close on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000. Further enquiries may be directed to:

Verse, Song, Short Story Co-ordinator  
The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts  
P.O. Box 77, Grenfell NSW 2810

On the Saturday evening of the June long weekend a "Presentation Dinner" will be held, during which the winners of the various competitions will be announced and their Awards presented. First Prize winners will receive complimentary tickets to the Dinner.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD FOR WRITTEN TRADITIONAL BUSH VERSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY, VISION WINTON INCORPORATED, PO BOX 44, WINTON, QLD 4735. OR PHONE 07 4657 1502. ENTRIES CLOSE JANUARY 31, 2000.

**An Invitation to all Poets, Yarn Spinners, Songsters, Performers.  
Yarrawonga/Mulwala is proudly hosting the 2000 Australian Bush Poetry Championship  
from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May through to Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
Ph 03 5744 1989 03 5744 2331 Free Call 1800 062 260 Fax 03 5744 3149**



# POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



Dec 4	<b>Betty's Bush Banquet</b> , Tintaladra. Contact Betty Walton or Sue Gleeson Ph/Fax 02 6025 3847
Dec 11	<b>S.M.B.P.C. Inc 'Championships'</b> , Tumberumba. Details contact Sue Gleeson Ph/Fax 02 6025 3847
Dec 18	<b>Bard of the Outback</b> , Retreat Hotel, Rosevale, Q, from 9am. Contact Bob McPhee 07 5466 5269 P14
<b>2000</b>	
Jan 6	<b>Brunswick Heads Bush Poets Breakfast</b> , Ph 02 6685 1901 Fax 02 6685 1960
Jan 21	<b>Wellington Bushracing Carnival</b> (Gippsland) Bush Poetry Performance 7pm. One hour open mike. Details page 14
Jan 21	<b>Schools Poetry Competition</b> , 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St. Free admittance, refreshments available.
Jan 22	<b>Lunchtime Concert in aid of the Salvation Army</b> , 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club, \$10 Adt \$7 Pns, includes lunch.
Jan 23	<b>Lunchtime Concert in aid of the Northcott Foundation</b> , 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club. M Darby 0413 348 843
Jan 24-28	<b>Poetry Lunches and Concerts</b> , from 11am. Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St. Ph Michael Darby 0413 348 843
Jan 25	<b>Bush Laureate Awards</b> , 2pm Tamworth Town Hall For Bookings and Info Ph. 02 6766 1577 Fax 02 6766 7314 P14
Jan 26-29	<b>Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition</b> . Imperial Hotel Performance Competition. Details P14
Jan 26-28	<b>Bush Poetry Competition</b> . Oasis Hotel, Tamworth NSW. Ph Blue Bostock 07 3805 1942 P14
Jan 29	<b>Blackened Billy Presentation of Awards</b> , Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW P14
Jan 31	Closing Date <b>Bronze Swagman Award</b> . Entry forms available from Vision Winton Inc, PO Box 44, Winton Q 4735
Jan	<b>S.M.B.P.C. Inc at Eskdale Hotel</b> , details to be finalized. Contact Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508
Feb 11-13	<b>Kyneton Country Music Festival</b> , V. Poets Breakfasts and more. Contact Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739
Feb 12-13	<b>High Country Poets</b> , Stanthorpe Q Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069
Mar 1	Closing date <b>Grenfell 2000 Verse, Short Story &amp; Song Competitions</b> . Enquiries 02 6343 1779 or 02 6343 7120
Mar 6-8	<b>Redgum Festival</b> , Swan Hill, V. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585
Mar 11-12	<b>Bealiba Box &amp; Ironbark Festival V</b> . Poets Breakfast on Sunday. Enquiries Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739
Mar 15-19	<b>Jamberoo (NSW) Folk Festival. Breakfasts and Performances</b> . Phone Dave de Santi 02 4257 1788.
Mar 16-19	<b>John O'Brien Bush Festival</b> . Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672 392 or email <a href="mailto:tournsc@webfront.net.au">tournsc@webfront.net.au</a> P14
Mar 19	<b>Poets in the Pub</b> 1pm Fitzroy Hotel, Coff's Harbour. Open mike with Barry Jacka. Eng Ed Parmenter 02 6652 3716
Apr 13-16	<b>Oracles of the Bush</b> , Tenterfield NSW. Perf. & written comp. Patti Ainsworth Ph 02 6736 1082 Fax 02 6736 3388
Apr 19	<b>Waltzing Matilda Junior Bush Poetry Festival</b> , Winton Q
Apr 22-24	<b>QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships</b> , Winton. PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
	<b>Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships</b> , Winton Q P15
Apr 23	<b>Poets Breakfast</b> , 8am Nambucca Heads Bowling Club. Ph Maureen 02 6568 5269 P14
Apr 25-27	<b>Charters Towers Bush Poetry Competition</b> , Charters Towers Q
Apr 29-30	<b>Gatton Heritage Festival 2000</b> Bush Poetry Competition, contact Megan Bourne on <a href="mailto:rab@mailbox.uq.edu.au">rab@mailbox.uq.edu.au</a>
May 5-9	<b>Australian Bush Poetry Championships</b> , Yarrowonga/Mulwala Ph 03 5744 1989 or 1800 062260 Fax 03 5744 3149
Jul 7-9	<b>Bundy Muster</b> . Performance and written competitions. Enquiries Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy 07 4151 4631 P15
Aug 19	<b>Country on the Tweed Festival</b> Poetry from 8am. Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Heights, NSW 2486

## G'Day from S.A.

Been some time since we touched base with our Eastern Outlaws, but we've been flat chat, to say the least. I figured it would be better anyway if we fill you in with a good bit of news instead of little bits - that way I can give a better picture on our overall progress.

As you know, S.A. Bush Poets Inc. has been aiming at promoting our proud habit-forming art throughout South Australia. I am proud to say we are spreading this infection wide.

This year we have not only had our inaugural State Championships, but we have made new ground with other festivals in the State. The Victor Harbour Folk Festival, Port Pirie Country Music Festival, and the Riverland Country Music Festival all want our support and input into their programs for Bush Poetry. Then there have been many invites to events for S.A. Bush Poets to perform. From that, individuals have branched out on their own.

We have now secured four sponsors for next year's Riverland Festival for the Bush Poetry program.

Because of the success of the Riverland Festival, the South Australian Country Arts Association funded a Bush Poetry weekend in the Barmera district. This was very successful, and looks to turn into an annual thing. Bob Magor, (you may have heard of him) a local South Aussie, joined us at Barmera too. What is exciting is that people are now starting to go out of their way to have us perform.

Just a personal note: My Dad, who lives in Rockhampton, was pretty impressed with a Bush Poet performing at a conference. He sent me a photo and blow me down if it isn't Tony Strauss - an export from the South! He's currently working in Queensland, and is a traditionalist at heart. If you hear Tony's about, I encourage you to go and hear him. He does justice to our 'Greats'. Tony, drop us a line, mate!

If anyone wants to know more about the South, feel free to contact me. My new number is phone/fax 08 8557 7151 or mobile 0428 959 213. That goes for our association meetings too.

Well, wish I was rubbing shoulders with you guys there in the East, but I've got too much to do over here. We'll be see'n you some time.

*Submitted by Peter Chapman, Aldinga Beach, SA*

## Senior Citizens - Wodonga

Members of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc. attended a Melbourne Cup afternoon and entertained fifty people gathered at Wodonga's Senior Citizens Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1999.

After a beautiful luncheon, Neil Hulm spoke on the loss of Bill Toohey, an ex-jockey who passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1999. People interested in horse racing knew or knew of him, and those gathered observed a minute's respectful silence.

Snowy Poets Jim Angel, Reg Phillips, and Neil Hulm recited bush poetry of a mixture of styles to a very appreciative audience.

Quite a few local artists joined in and helped make the afternoon very successful. They included singers, piano and accordion players, and also a mouth organ player.

*Submitted by Neil Hulm, Lavington, NSW*



# REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

## QUEENSLAND

- 1st Monday** **Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Margaret St, Toowoomba Ron Selby 07 4630 1106  
**1st Thursday** **Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263  
**1st Saturday** **Poets & Musicians at Eumundi Markets** in courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Ph. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991  
**1st Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552  
**2nd Wednesday** **Bush and Brisbane Poets.** 7.30 pm Club Sangria, Mt. Gravatt Phone Anita Reed 07 3343 7392  
**2nd Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171  
**2nd Friday** **Poets & Mates** 7.30 pm Kallangur Com. Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave, Kallangur. Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747  
**2nd Saturday** **Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.** Contact Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631  
**3rd Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552  
**4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171  
**Last Wednesday** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group,** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.  
**Every Wed** **Writers in Townsville** 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Dr, Thuringowa. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223  
**1st & 3rd Sunday** Treasure Island Holiday Park at Biggera Waters Bush Poets Breakfast 8am Ph 07 5537 1511 Fax 07 5537 4233

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- 1st Tuesday** **Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group.** (except Jan) 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club, 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972  
**1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde. Ph Graeme Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690  
**1st Sunday** **Poets in the Making,** 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264  
**2nd Monday** **Parakeet's Poets,** Katoomba. Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119  
**2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel,** Anderson Dr, Tarro Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751  
**2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St, Sth Tamworth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067  
**2nd Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St Cooma Bush Poetry and Country Music. Mrs. Elaine Schofield "Green Hills" Jerangle, 2630 Ph 02 6454 3128  
**2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club,** Urunga Golf Club, 1-4pm March, May, July and September only. Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269  
**2nd Sunday** **"Interludes"** Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield - Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575  
**3rd Thursday** **Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers in the Pub** 7.30pm George Hotel, Old Pacific Hwy, Picton. Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilotto 02 4631 1419  
**3rd Friday** **Junee Bush Poetry Group** 7.30pm, Junee Com'ty Cntr, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, Junee 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317  
**4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02 6642 2772  
**4th Wednesday** **Inverell Wednesday Writers.** 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ph Ida Morse 02 6722 2425  
**4th Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Poets Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891  
**2nd Last Mon** **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley.** Meet at 7.30pm in private home Ring Jackie 02 6555 3720 or Reid 02 6554 9788 for details of venue each month. See poets calendar  
**Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Gee Kwong Restaurant, 197 Mann St, Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30 Phone Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590  
**Last Thursday** **Writers on the River,** 7pm Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh St, Penrith Phone Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219  
**Last Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621  
**Last Saturday** **Australian Christian Writers Fellowship,** Hunter Div. Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 - 4pm Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Park 2264  
**Every 2nd Friday** **Pheasants Hut Folk Club.** Bundeena Ph Yuri 02 9527 0955 or Mob 041 941 2093  
**Every 2 months on 2nd Saturday.** **Cornucopia Cafe.** Poets & Folkies Get Together. Old Gladesville Hospital Grounds, Punt Rd. Jenny - 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653. Check Poets Calendar for dates.  
**Every 3 months** **Poetic Folk,** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770. Ring "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245 Check Poets Calendar for nx mtg

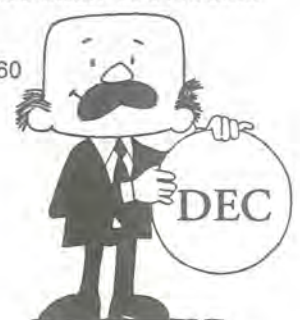
## VICTORIA

- 1st Monday** **Kyabram & Dist. Bush Verse Gr,** Every 2nd mth, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm Ph. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265  
**Every 2 months on 4th Thursday.** Gippsland Bush Poets. Ph Denis Carstairs 03 5145 6128 or Virginia Grace-Stuart 03 5146 3393

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 3rd Wednesday** **South Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460

**Editors Note:** Poets from TASMANIA, WEST AUSTRALIA, and THE NORTHERN TERRITORY are encouraged to let me know when any local poets gatherings may be occurring. If you have a regular get-together, why not advertise it here, FOR FREE!!!





# WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS



## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT FOR WORKSHOPS, CONCERTS AND PARTICIPATION

Richard Mills, 6/39 Herbert St., Dulwich Hill NSW 2203  
Phone/ Fax 02 9568 5596 or email: Ausfest@excite.com.

## PALMA ROSA POETS

Showcasing three of Australia's favourite performers  
The Larrikin - Bobby Miller, Carmel Dunn, and Mark Tempany  
on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
7pm for a 7.30 start at Palma Rosa, 9 Queens Rd, Hamilton, Q  
Bookings Essential  
Enquiries: Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624

## TOP OF THE MURRAY POETS AND STORYTELLERS

invite you to Bett's Bush Bash at Tintaladra Store  
on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 1999** 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
Meal (liquor license pending) Cost \$10.00  
Booking close on 27<sup>th</sup> November  
Ring Bett on 02 6077 9201 (phone/fax)

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB, INC

Championship Recitals to be held at Tumarumba Bowling Club  
**Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1999 starting at 7pm**  
Guest Judge - Tim Butler (ABC Radio)  
Enquiries to Sue Gleeson Phone/Fax 02 6025 3847

## BARD OF THE OUTBACK

To be held at the Rosevale Retreat Hotel (70 minutes west of  
Brisbane) from 9am on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December**.  
Trophies for Traditional, Original and Will Ogilvie sections.  
Enquiries to Bob McPhee, Phone 07 5466 5269

## POETS AND MATES "The sky is falling!" "Run and hide!"

Doomsday theories are everywhere but at Poets and Mates  
where the millennium won't get ya; where aircraft won't fall from  
the sky; or, lifts stop; or, computers crash. It's worse!  
In December we'll be bringing the millennium down with a crash.  
Don't miss the naughty humour of Shirley Friend and the fun  
filled bush music of the Hairy Nose Wombats. Mr S. Claus and  
Christmas Carol will be making guest appearances. So see you  
there! (Bring a friend or two!)

**7.30pm Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1999**

at Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Avenue, Kallangur  
A light supper will be served and the all-inclusive cost is a low \$10.  
Please book to help us with the catering. Contact Wally Finch

## WELLINGTON BUSHRACING CARNIVAL, Longford, Gippsland Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 7pm

Poetry performed by members of the Gippsland Bush Poets.  
One hour open mike for general public. M.C. Neil Hulm  
Phone Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

## BUSH POETS OF AUSTRALIA at Tamworth City Bowling Club

**21 January:** Schools Competition, 11am, Free entry  
**22 January:** Concert in aid of Salvation Army, 11am, \$10/\$7  
**23 Jan:** Concert in aid of Nothcott Foundation, 11am, \$10/\$7  
**24-28 January:** Poetry Lunch, 11am  
**24-28 January:** Poetry Concerts, 1-2pm

## TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW  
HEATS - **Wed. 26 - Fri. 28 Jan, 2000. FINALS: Sat. 29**  
Please send SSAE to Jan Morris, PO Box 1164, Tamworth NSW  
2340 or Phone 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)

## JOHN O'BRIEN POETRY AND PROSE COMPETITION

Sections for Verse (Traditional, Contemporary,  
Humorous) Short Stories and Bush Poetry  
**Closing Date 28<sup>th</sup> January 2000**

Enquiries: Freecall 1800 672 392  
Fax: 02 6959 2788 email: tournsc@webfront.net.au

**KYNETON COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL, Victoria**  
**February 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**, Bush Poets Breakfasts and More!  
Contact Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739

**BEALIBA BOX & IRONBARK FESTIVAL, Victoria**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**, Poets Breakfast on Sunday  
Contact Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739

## JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

**16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March, 2000, Narrandera**  
Celebrates the rural pioneering spirit and pays tribute to John  
O'Brien of "Around the Boree Log" fame.  
Writing awards Thursday night.  
Irish Luncheon & Poetry in the Bidgee Friday. Busking Satur-  
day. Poets brekkies Saturday and Sunday.  
Hooley Saturday Night.  
Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672 392  
or Narrandera Visitors Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera 2700  
email: tournsc@webfront.net.au

**POETS IN THE PUB** Hosted by the Portside Poets and Players  
1pm **19 March 2000** Fitzroy Hotel, Coff's Harbour.  
Featured poet - Barry Jacka. Open mike. Performers welcome  
Admission \$2 includes afternoon tea.  
Enquiries: Ed Parmenter 02 6652 3716

## POETS BREAKFAST - OPEN MIKE

8am, Easter **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2000**. Nambucca Heads  
Bowling and Recreation Club, Nelson Street, Nambucca Heads  
NSW. Feature Poet "The Legend" Kevin Barnes.  
Admission \$5.00 includes Hot Breakfast.  
Enquiries - Maureen Phone/fax 02 6568 5269

## THE GRENFELL HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL OF ARTS INC.

Invites your participation in the 2000 Verse, Short Story &  
Song Competitions. Prize money \$2500, 3 statuettes  
Entries close **1<sup>st</sup> March 2000**

Enquiries to Verse, Song, Short Story Co-ordinator  
The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts  
P.O. Box 77  
Grenfell NSW 2810  
e-mail [www.grenfest@westserv.net.au](mailto:www.grenfest@westserv.net.au)  
Phone 02 6343 1779 or 02 6343 7120 or 02 6343 1313

## WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL, Winton Q Wednesday 19 April to Monday 24 April

For more information contact:  
The Organiser, PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre, Q 4352

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY

### NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS

in conjunction with Outback Muster and Drover's Reunion  
at the Stockmans' Hall of Fame  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2000**  
Bush Style Entertainment - Poetry, Music, Yarn Spinning  
Enquiries: The Secretary, NOPA, PO Box 518  
Longreach QLD 4730 Phone 07 4658 3969



## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

### AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Invitation to all Poets, Yarn Spinners, Songsters, Performers,  
to come to Yarrawonga/Mulwala  
from **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May till Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2000**  
Ph: 03 5744 1989 Free Call 1800 062 260 Fax 03 5744 3149

### BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

Muster Week-end: **July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000**  
Performance Competitions: All Sections  
Written Competition: Bush Lantern Award  
Trophies, Prize Money, Certificates  
Concerts on Friday & Saturday nights  
Entries close for written competition on May 31st 2000  
Entry form available soon  
Enquiries: Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy 07 4151 4631

## Roy Briggs and Liz Banting

### Bush Poets, Authors, and Book Builders.

We build spinal or stapled books for Bush  
Poets or Novelists. We even supply ISBN's  
for new books. Reasonable costs.

We ain't rich but we keep the brain alive.

We each have a new 144 page

bush poetry book out for the new year.

Liz's Beyond the Boundaries and  
Roy's Aussie Bush Verse Past & Present

\$15 each plus p/p \$1.50

PO Box 118 Esk Qld 4312

Ph/Fax 0754 241584 Mobile 0419 785317

*Christmas time is coming round*

*Friends deserve a little spoilin*

*Put a smile across their dial*

*With a Christmas gift of... Keep the Billy Boilin'*

Keep The Billy Boilin'

A collection of Tall Tales, Yarns and Verse

Bob Skelton, aka The Minmi Magster

\$12.00 - Postage Paid

Bob Skelton, 196 Woodford St, Minmi NSW 2287

## Of War & Other Things

A book of poetry  
from **Joye Dempsey**

\$14.95 postage paid, from  
**Interludes**

PO Box 20

Croydon Park NSW 2133

## A VALID EXCUSE

Bush Poems and Other Verses  
by **Trevor Shaw**

\$15.00 pp. PO Box 61, Thangool Qld 4716



## THE PRODUCT SHELF

Product Shelf Advertisements  
\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER SPOTS!

### *Laughs, Larrikins & Lovely Ladies (book)*

A witty collection of stories, yarns and rhyming verse from twice  
Australian Female Champion Bush Poet, **Glenny Palmer**. \$12 pp  
New cassette tape by the same name as the book to be released in  
*Tamworth* - includes a few words from *Big Al* doing his poem  
"Strained Relations" \$15 pp

### *Lend Me Your Ear ... Or I'll Steal It (tape)*

Humorous and serious verse including "Stuttering Stewie" and  
"Middle Age Blues" \$15 pp

Contact **Glenny Palmer**, "Fairymeade Cottage" 43-49  
Samantha Road, Cedarvale, Qld 4285 Ph 07 5543 2606

### LAUGHTER & TEARS

#### FROM THE BUSH

by Merv Webster

#### "The Goondiwindi Grey"

A Book of Bush Verse incl.

- \* The Curing of Young Fred McAlpine
- \* I'll Not forget That Day Old Mate
- \* Sarah ..... plus
- \* Let's Keep alive the Drover's Day
- \* Sweet Madeline
- \* The Ballad of the Blowfly
- \* Waltzing Matilda - An Allegory
- Yarns & Many More

### CHRIS & THE GREY

present

A Cassette of Bush Verse incl.

- \* Basher Brogan's Pride
- \* For I've His Blood In Me
- \* An Ethereal Encounter
- \* Reminiscing With Henry
- \* Crazy Kate \* Racing Widows
- \* The Wife's Revenge
- \* The Tragedy of Emma's Dream
- \* Bush Justice \* Bitter Sweets
- \* The Curing of Young Fred McAlpine
- \* To Have Loved a Friend

Book - \$12 pp, Cassette - \$17 pp, Both \$22 pp avail. from  
Chris & Merv Webster, 8 Hawaii Court, Barga Q. 4670

## "I Hope Yer Sheep Get Flyblown"

## "Always Wear Clean Knickers"

Books available from

**Janine Haig** (current Australian Champion)

"Moama" Cunnamulla 2ld 4490

\$12 each pp, or \$22 for both, pp.

### GOODBYE GUNSYND

A BOOK OF AWARD WINNING BUSH POEMS  
AND AUSSIE BUSH BALLADS

BY STEWART HOPPER

"THE BARD OF THE COW BALES FROM BELL"

FULL COLOUR COVER PHOTO OF GUNSYND

WELL ILLUSTRATED BOOK PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PRICE - \$10 PP (CHEQUES OR MO PLEASE - NO BANKCARD)

FROM STEWART HOPPER, MS 360, BELL, Q. 4408 OR

HELEN CAMERON, PO BOX 143, KINGAROY, Q. 4610

### "Chuckin' Rocks" - The Book

Original Australian Bush Poetry and Yarns

From **Frank (Joe) Daniel**

"Chuckin' Rocks" - The Album - CD & Cassette

13 of Joe's most requested poems

Book \$15.00 - CD \$20.00 - Tape \$15.00 (Posted)

From Truthful Publications

PO Box 16, CANOWINDRA NSW 2804



**Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**

PO Box 2343 Mansfield BC Qld 4122 Fax 07 3849 5844

Email abpanews@hotmail.com

Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

December 1999

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID**



## Annual Subscriptions Now Due

It's that time again, God save us,  
 seems like only yesterday  
 that I sent my last subscription  
 to the Aussie Bush Poets away.  
 But I've received a kind reminder,  
 that my fees are overdue.  
 I scratched my head, thought a bit,  
 said, "That's a nice howdy-do."  
 But it's no wonder that I missed it  
 Time is flying past too fast.  
 'Cause when you pass the fifty mark,  
 There's just no time to park.  
 Not that I've done so very much,  
 Since sending my last fee,  
 Apart from building a rammed earth house  
 And teaching. Woe is me!

It doesn't seem so long ago  
 that Bluey Bostock schemed and planned  
 At Charlee Marshall's poem night  
 suggesting all poets should stand  
 together as a friendly group  
 To keep bush verse alive.  
 And soon each poet's muster  
 made the poet's voice survive.  
 With dedication and persistence,  
 our friendly force is really strong,  
 And to forget one's annual subscription  
 is nothing short of wrong.  
 So, dear Olive, find enclosed within,  
 my cheque for the coming year,  
 If I forget again in the future,  
 You can remind me again, no fear.

© Bette Shiels, Bundaberg, QLD

### Thank you to our Contributors

Trisha Anderson	Neil Hulm
Mavis Appleyard	Sandy Lees
Lester Atkinson	Barb Macdermid
Kev Barnes	Mary Meehan
Lynn & Gordon	Alan & Glenny
Blogg	Palmer
Harry Bowers	Nell Perkins
Dennis Carstairs	Harry Pickering
Peter Chapman	Rhubard
Mick Coventry	Ron Selby
Frank Daniel	Bette Shiels
Joye Dempsey	Olive Shooter
Geoffrey Graham	Maureen Stonham
Janine Haig	Judy Trew
John Harris	Grahame Watt
Flo Hart	Pat Wise

### THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

*Dear Members*

This month has gone so fast for me, and I find it truly amazing that the Newsletter has appeared on time! The new deadline is working well for most, however there are still some members who are submitting items after the 20th and expecting them to get in. It is essential that you get your news to me earlier! A special note for anyone involved in one-off or regular events that are scheduled for the first few days of any month... basically you will need to get your information to me at least 6 weeks or so prior to your event, as otherwise your event will not get the publicity it deserves. I am sure that event organisers should be able to do this!

The bad news is that our respected Secretary, Olive Shooter, is not in very good health at the moment, and our best wishes go out to her!

For those of you who are now communicating with me via email (isn't it fabulous!), could you please send all files and attachments to me as RTF or Word documents ONLY! Although I can read many file formats, for ease of inserting them into the Newsletter, these formats are the best. Please don't send Publisher files!

Remember to get your 2000 subscriptions into Olive Shooter as soon as possible. You must be a financial member in order to be able to vote at the AGM in Tamworth in January!

Until next month.....

*Best regards, Jennifer Priest*

