

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 1 Volume 7

January 2000



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Matilda and Me

© Harry Bowers, Warragul Vic

*The first song my old Dad taught me was 'Waltzing Matilda'.
He taught me it was not a song about 'Cops and Robbers'.
It was a song about freedom - 'You'll never catch me alive said he'.
A man who would sooner drown than lose his liberty.
'The Australian Way' - that's what it's all about.
Bob Carr wants Matilda for the Olympics - 'Go for it mate!'
After reading C.J. Dennis's 'The Singing Soldiers'
I was inspired to write 'Matilda and Me'.*



They sang it at the stations, they sang it on the train;
On the troop ships and the beaches they sang the same refrain.
"Twas Matilda kept them going", so wrote 'Ginger Mick'
to his cobbler in Australia when the Turks gave them the stick.
"Twas a homeground situation, their terrain the Turksmen knew.
The devil was the umpire and his whistle never blew.
A brand new kind of ball game with rules we didn't know,
half our team was missing and the siren wouldn't blow.

Still they sang 'Matilda' and the guns above replied,
the Spirit of Matilda remains there where they died.
Just like them I can't describe this pride inside of me,
like the swaggie who would sooner drown than lose his liberty.
It's Eureka and the Southern Cross, this special kind of pride:
The handshake and the mateship and the woman by my side
to back me up when things were tough, with land burned up by drought;
that Spirit of Matilda was still there to help us out.

Im not into arguments on anthems right or wrong
Im just an Aussie bloke who likes to sing an Aussie song.
Those who built this nation never sang 'Australia Fair',
nor did our sixty thousand sons - buried over there.
It isn't my intention to degrade 'Australia Fair',
If there could be a fairer land we'd all be living there,
but some declare Matilda as condoning thievery
and cannot recognise it as an anthem of the free.

This verse may not be published, it's just my point of view
and it might get up the nostril of an Editor or two;
but Matilda is an issue that will never go away
it suits most real Australians in a real Australian way.
When it's sung by multitudes it's manna to the ear
From Gabba to the MCG where thousands stand to cheer.
Through the hole up in the ozone may it never cease to rise
till the Angels join the chorus at the gates of paradise.

If it never is our anthem, it will always be a part
of our people and our nation, when pride grabs us by the heart
and we feel a sudden urge to raise our voices to the sky,
to celebrate our birthright or some other reason why.
It's the Kookaburra's laughter, it the Magpie's morning song.
It's the sunshine and the freedom of this land where we belong.
Let them have 'Australia Fair' for functions of the State,
to celebrate Olympic Gold - let's hear 'Matilda' mate!

The Manager

© Brian Bell, Glenbrook, NSW

"I'd like to see the manager",
I heard a farmer say
while I was working in a bank,
out Oodnadatta way.
Silence, as the clerk in charge
respectfully replied
"He's recently been very sick
and yesterday, he died".



"Thank you", said the farmer,
as he calmly wandered out,
but next day he came back again,
and as he looked about
he said "I'd like to see the manager",
more quietly than before.
With practiced patience, reverently,
the clerk replied once more -

"The manager died Tuesday,
from a heart attack at dawn".
The farmer thanked him, went on home,
but strolled back in next morn.
"I'd like to see the manager"
made everybody stop.
So silent was that bank,
you could have heard a penny drop.

Until that clerk lost all control,
and really did his block.
"I told you Wednesday morning,
and on Thursday, three o'clock -
the manager has died", he said
"so why prolong our tears?"
The farmer said "To hear those words
is music to my ears".

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

ABPA INC

WILL BE HELD AT
ST. PETER'S HALL, VERA STREET,
TAMWORTH, NSW
ON 29TH 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!

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DEADLINE: 20th of Each Month

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Olive Shooter, Secretary

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the new century: makes a person feel a hell of a lot older when you remember you were born in the last century, doesn't it?

Anyhow, the Association has had a really good year and most things went ahead with a minimum of problems. As President, I personally did not put a lot into the running of the Association. The main work and all the problems were landed on the very broad shoulders of our fantastic Secretary, Olive Shooter. Olive will not be at the AGM this year, and I'm sure every member will wish her all the best and hope she recovers quickly. Olive has indicated that she will continue as Secretary if that is what members want, but if another member would like to accept this very demanding position, Olive would be grateful for the opportunity to take a well deserved rest.

Our magazine Editor is very ably handling the Newsletter, and capably filling the shoes of our past Editor, Maureen Stonham.

Bob Miller (*although not in the best of health himself*) and Liz Ward have put in a year of handling all the decisions made by the committee and I'm sure they will be backing up for another year.

I personally would like to thank all these members for the great work they have contributed in the past year. Contrary to some members' beliefs that an Association like ours 'flows along at an easy pace', it is always up to the hard work of dedicated members such as our executive committee and other hard working organisers of the various events that hold things together to the benefit of all. Because of the wide distribution of our members it is impossible to hold regular meetings where the member can have his or her say, so therefore the Newsletter is a vital link in our Association.

There have been a great many suggestions about the Association and many discussions on various topics via the Newsletter. But of the many many suggestions there have not been many who have said "we should do *so and so* and I will do it!" Have a think about what you want out of the Association or rather, what you can put into it, to benefit your fellow members and to keep this great Association leaping forward into the new century.

Ron Selby, President

MALE DRIVERS

Driving, driving, hour on hour
I need to use a loo.

But the bearded driver just says
"No can do."

The petrol gauge just isn't true
So when will we want fuel?

How will he know I ask you
When we're on no schedule.

I wiggle, squirm and hang on tight,
I reckon that I know

It's when that chauvenistic male
Finds that HE wants to go.

© Mavis Appleyard



Dear Members

Not a lot to report. My time has been taken up on medical pursuits. I have started radium therapy, had five treatments and 25 to go. I'm able to come home weekends, so that isn't too bad. I have been positively overwhelmed with the concern and good wishes of my poet mates. I thank you all very much for your thoughts and prayers. Some called it my extended ABPA family and that is how I regard you. No-one could be alone with Poet friends.

I won't be able to get to Tamworth this time and will miss it and all your company. My apologies, and best wishes for the Annual Meeting. If there is anyone who would be looking towards taking my job, please don't be afraid to come forward. I feel that it could now be separated into Secretary and Treasurer, and there would be enough to occupy two people in their spare time. At present I am willing to go on for another year, health permitting, and if I am needed. However, don't feel that I am a fixture here, and I would willingly pass on books and all to my successor and help in any way I could.

I can't help it! I have to mention the new 1999 ABPA Annual Poetry Book. Ron Selby has put a lot of work into its preparation. It is \$3 plus \$1.10 postage (by the way, that postage will post 4 books). We still have some books 2, 3, 4 and 5 available too, same price.

Memberships are due! \$25 to me please.

I wish you all a happy and entertaining time at Tamworth. Don't put your purse down! My thoughts will be with you.

May the New Year bring you all the joy your heart can hold. Thanks you all for your kindness to me. I appreciate it immensely.

Fond regards, Olive Shooter

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

MARY MEEHAN



Born and bred in the U.K. where a valiant attempt was made to educate her, Mary showed little regard for a wonderful opportunity and left school at the age of 17. After a couple of years in data processing Mary enlisted as a policewoman in the WRAF which is where she earned her claim to fame guarding the Queen's loo! (Immortalized in "Air Apparent!") She then had a short stint as a store detective, but after one old dear insisted on *showing* her why she had nicked a suspender for her corsets, Mary decided she'd go back to data processing! She applied to Kodak who employed her as a sensitometric calculator - apparently something to do with checking the density of film using a slide rule and logarithms. Mary now publicly apologises to any person who had the misfortune to purchase dud film in 1969!

Jim and Mary migrated to SA in 1970 and settled to raise two daughters. In '87 she returned to full time employment as a Customs Officer. After 8 years Mary was considered too valuable to be offered a redundancy package yet her talents were not suitable to warrant promotion, so she politely told them what they could do with their job and resigned to enjoy a life of leisure. Mary and Jim bought a caravan and joined the 'SKI' club - Spending Kids' Inheritance!

Mary started writing humorous verse in '95, and went along to the inaugural meeting of SA Bush Poets in February 1998. Previously she was under the misapprehension that bush poetry was written by, for and about people in country areas. Having no experience of shearing sheep or drover's dogs and never having had the misfortune to use a genuine outback dunny, Mary was unsure where her style of poetry would fit in. Although she still feels her Pommie accent (particularly as it's female!) is inappropriate for traditional Aussie verse, she was relieved to find that Bush poetry is simply rhyming, rhythmic verse and found a niche for her stuff!

On a limited budget Mary self-published her book "French Cuisine: Recipes for Humour!" - unable to afford a professional artist, she approached a local high school and offered a Year 12 student the opportunity to do the illustrations, all of which are her interpretations of Mary's work.

Over the last couple of years she's joined poets' breakfasts at Canberra, Maldon, and Victor Harbor Folk Festivals and performed at social functions, caravan parks, bowling clubs etc. Mary and Jim hope to hitch up the caravan and head East before too long. They look forward to attending some of the gatherings they have read about in the ABPA newsletter.

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

I'd travel the world looking for a 25 year old toy boy who could do the ironing and clean the bathroom as well! Well? I can dream can't I?

If you could live your life again, what would you change?

My date of birth! Oh to be 21 and know what I know now!

What was your most embarrassing moment?

My ??th birthday ...

The family threw a party and surprised me with a stripper - A living, breathing fantasy, oh boy, was he a ripper! He ripped his shirt off, then his jeans, he ripped the rest off too And as the guest of honour, I had the better view! Friends laughed at my embarrassment while they enjoyed the show, But I will have the last laugh as it's all on video!

Who do you admire most?

That would have to be my sister, eleven years my senior yet still manages to look younger! You could say it's a love-hate relationship!

If you were a flower, what kind of flower would you be?

I'd have to be a rose - someone reckons I've been a thorn in his side for years.

Why do you live where you live?

I live in Seaford, SA because we're close to the sea, the southern vales and wineries and I can do my weekly shopping without getting out of second gear!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

I would spend part of my \$1,000,000 touring Britain and Ireland at my leisure, taking in the kind of places the TV documentaries show. Although born in the UK and married to an Irishman I've not had the opportunity to explore either country.

Wonder Undies!



Bustles and bosoms used to be
In vogue for a night on the town,
That was long before the unisex look
For those built straight up and down,
Girls like boys and boys like girls.
You couldn't tell them apart,
Until someone designed the 'Wonder Bra'
To give flat chests a new start.

After starving themselves to skin and bone
Now to vital statistics they're adding,
With over-priced bits of ribbon and lace
And over-stuffed bits of padding.
When fashion predicts, it's always the girls
Who have to change shape and size,
It's time for someone to break the mould
And change the size of the guys!

I suggest a new style of undies for men,
To be known as 'Wonder Jocks'
(So weedy pop stars in tight trousers
Wouldn't need to roll their socks!)

I could market a range of sizes,
Though small ones wouldn't sell,
They'd have to be made in medium, large,
Extra large and ... Bloody Hell!

REVIEW French Cuisine: Recipes for Humour! (Book)

Mary Meehan's first book "French Cuisine: Recipes for Humour!" had this reviewer chuckling from cover to cover, with the occasional break for a good belly laugh! The wonderful illustrations by 'Anika' add to the fun, with the drawing for the "The State We're In" (about South Australia holding the Nude Olympics) an outright favourite.

Mary is English by birth, and an Australian by choice. Her poetry is also written very much from a female point of view. In writing these words, I realise I run the risk of all the Aussie males tuning out right here - after all, a Pommy sheilas' poems!

But Australian Bush Poetry has evolved and developed over the years, and amongst our best-loved works are

those written by immigrants, visitors and even women! Will Ogilvie was not Australian, and Dorothea MacKeller was certainly female. Both wrote fine poetry.

Sometimes, a British flavour shows through Mary's words and phrasing, but the subjects and the sentiments she covers are universal. The delightful saga of the manners you must use "When Grandma Comes Round For Tea", and the soft nostalgic wit of "Remember When" are of appeal to all.

Mary's poetry suits being read aloud, and lends itself well to performance. So, as a note to those women looking for good performance material, drop her a line.

This is Mary's first book, but it shouldn't be her last. This reviewer, for one, would be happy to read more!

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.



Dear Editor

Hi! My name is Jade Brischke and I have just recently become a member of the ABPA. I am 16 years old and have only started writing bush poetry this year. I am also part of the Gladstone Bush Poets Group.

Earlier this year Margy Mac held a competition that I heard about from school. The theme was "Ranges to the Reef" and I entered not thinking that I had a chance. I ended up winning! Soon after that I became involved in the group and I've been writing and entering competitions ever since. I love the Australian bush and I love writing poetry.

A few weekends ago a weekend was held at Tony Strauss' parents place. We had a great turnout and over two days enjoyed the company of each other, bush tucker, the solitude of the bush and of course the bush poetry. I met a lot of people who read my poetry and have helped me since then.

I only hope that more young people are willing to join and show off their talent to the rest of Australia. Email me at jbrischke@yahoo.com

Thanks, Jade Brischke

Ed Note: Jade's winning poem appears on Page 6

Hi Jennifer

I met Kay Stehn, from the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners and she lent me a copy of the October ABPA newsletter and it sure looks good to me. Congratulations.

We have had a good time here but have decided to turn east towards home on Saturday Nov 20th. This will get us home after Chrissy but just before New Year.

This is about two months earlier than first planned but we both are missing home and feeling a little jaded.

I mention in my report that there is a regular event held each month and you may like to add it to the newsletter list if space allows.

Regards, Ted Webber

Ed Note: Ted's report arrived just a smidgin too late to make the December 1999 issue of the Newsletter. Ted and June have kept the bush poetry community well informed of their experiences since April 1999, and I'd personally like to thank them both for their contributions to this Newsletter. I have heard from John Barclay of Narrabeen NSW, who indicates as he is travelling next year, he would be interested in taking on the job.

Thank you John, and we look forward to your contributions!

Dear Editor

As we're looking at setting up some sort of guidelines as to what constitutes a Bush Poem, I'd suggest it include that no word stronger than 'bloody' should be used - and that only where it's particularly relevant.

If writers can't emphasise their point poetically without resorting to coarse oaths, then perhaps they're far more in need of lessons than having their egos pandered to by seeing their efforts in print at other people's expense.

At the very least, I respectfully request that all such bad language be deleted from the pages of our distinguished new-letter - after all, no fair dinkum bushie would use such words where they risked offending others. It's just good manners.

Yours sincerely, Brian D. Lee, Cairns, Qld

Dear Fellow Members

Many thanks to all who sent their kind thoughts after my recent heart attack. I was overwhelmed by them and very much strengthened by the moral support of so many good friends.

I'm happy to say I had the good fortune to recognise the problem early enough to get treatment before it was too late to be effective. Fortunately no serious damage was done but I'll have some life style changes to face - some but not too many.

Your moral support was the best tonic I could have had at such a time. Thank you all. Mary and I are looking forward to your company for a long time into the next millennium.

Yours sincerely, Wally (The Bear) Finch

Dear Editor

Along with my annual subscription, I thought I might send a little news for fellow poets who may be interested.

We have made the big move, from Monto in Central Queensland, to Tasmania. We are presently house sitting, and the owners will retrieve their residence around March.

I am planning to continue selling my books, and even had a reprint of the first done before leaving Queensland.

I've made phone contact with poet Philip Rush, and hope to meet up with him one day soon. He is a very busy person, as he is also a pastor, teacher, and publisher, as well as a family man and prolific poet.

Brian and I are looking at buying a house down here, for a cool retirement. We hope our poet friends will keep us in mind if they venture this way on holidays. We'd love to catch up with you all.

Sincerely, Betsy Chape

Dear Editor

Inspired by Rhubard's "Conditions" -
Bush Verse?

I've always called it Aussie verse
- my poetry, I mean -
'cause it's both bush and city
and much of in between.

I write of what I see around
I write of how I feel
I write of what is happening,
some fantasy ... some real ...

But regardless of the content
of my poetry, you see,
I consider I'm an Aussie
- so it's Aussie poetry!

One of the really great things about getting the APBA newsletter is that it usually has something in it that gets the creative juices moving, which is beaut - especially when I'm suffering from "writer's block"!

On the subject of competitions, I enter to be a part of it, and to help support the groups that are working for the good of bush poetry, winning is secondary, because although it's a great feeling, you always know that to a degree it's a matter of preference and there's always another great poem entered that just didn't quite make it but deserved to win just as much. I wouldn't like to be a judge myself, I think it would be just too hard! My greatest thrill is when someone tells me they read a poem of mine and enjoyed it, or they heard me on the radio and I made them laugh/think/cry etc.

All the best for Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Sandra Binns, Kincumber, NSW

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.

Need For The Pill

I'm reading 'National Geographic' in the doctors waiting room,
as patiently I waited for the 'doc',
When I walked Mavis Johnson with her normal look of doom and gloom,
plus on her face a nasty state of shock.

Well I acted with politeness, when Mavis sat and took her place,
then couldn't help but notice how she sighed,
She put one hand to her forehead, to try to hide her stricken face,
though couldn't hide her anguish if she tried.

Curiosity I s'pose it was that turned my head to ask,
her reason for this seeming mental state,
At first she fumbled the she mumbled something 'bout she had to mask,
a predicament that can no longer wait.

And then she opens up and tells me now she never sleeps at night,
she takes panadol for headaches every day,
She's nauseous and anxious plus her bowels aren't working right,
and too her mind is always far away.

She thinks she might have stomach ulcers from the churning butterflies,
sometimes she gets an instant urge to kill,
So she's come to see the doctor in hoping that he'll realise,
there is a need for her to get the pill.

She must have seen my eyebrows lifting or at least my little grin,
'cos Mavis must be seventy or so,
She must have menopausal and even if she's 'gunna' live in sin,
there's little chance to have a baby grow.

Then I thought that I could kid her with some saucy connotation,
around the sexy nighties she must wear,
But she was really unimpressed with my style of conversation,
before she spoke she gave a vicious stare.

"The pill will surely be salvation once the 'doc' hears what I say,
I'm sure that he is going to agree,
I should place one in a bowl of weelies that I dish up each day,
for my grand-daughter living here with me".

© Lindsay Laurie, Irymple, Vic

Judges Comments

There's a sense of satisfaction
When your thoughts deep down within
Reach fruition and you know it
'Cause you sit there with a grin,
And you wonder if your peers,
For you welcome their critiques,
Would they praise the rhyme and rhythm,
But suggest the verse is weak.
There's a competition running
So you send your masterpiece
With the hope they'll treat you kindly,
But the butterflies increase,
For you've heard they can be brutal
Or just honest should I say
And your nerves are shot to pieces
When the posty comes each day.
Then amongst the mail one morning
Is the letter you await;
How you seem to be all fingers
'Cause you're in an anxious state.
Still you've torn the env'lope open
And you scan down through the text
Not quite knowing how to take aboard
The comments that come next.
"I have read your little poem
And this comment bears no grudge.
Put more fire into your poems
Or vice versa." Yours – the Judge.

© Merv Webster, Bargara, Qld



FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

NOVEMBER: June and I have had a great time whilst in Southwest WA going to poetry events, poetry BBQ's and an extra special poetry workshop; people have been so hospitable and kind to us. Special thanks to Kay Stehn and Lorelie Tacoma.

The WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners hold a regular event each month called a "Come ye all" which you should put in your diary if you are coming over this way. It's held at 7.30pm on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge, (about half way between Perth and Fremantle). Lorelie Tacoma 9310 1500 is the contact. As the name implies, visitors are most welcome to come to both listen and perform. Be prepared for some good poetry for the standard, particularly of the performances, is very high. On the night we were there, an audience of about 60/70 heard three hours of highly entertaining work including some heat entries in the Australia Day Challenge.

Unfortunately, June and I won't be able to attend the launch of WABPY in Albany on Sat Nov 20th, as we are heading east for home. However, if you are coming to WA on hollies, get down to the Albany area if you can and call Kay Stehn on 98441656. She will be pleased to fill you in on what's happening on the South Coast poetry scene.

However, the highlight of our visit to WA and possibly of our whole trip (in poetic terms), was the chance to attend a poetry workshop lead by Carmel Randle. The WABPY people had done a great job to put this event together, organizing funds and venues etc. The workshop was held at the Melville Community Centre. There were 4 x 2.5 hour sessions, a total of ten hours, of most interesting instruction. About twenty people enjoyed the workshop, at a cost of only \$10 total per head; now that's good value! June and I had heard of Carmel but had not previously met her and we were both taken not only by her wealth of knowledge but also her ability to get the message across and have fun at the same time. If ever you get the chance to attend one of Carmel's workshops, don't miss it!

The problem for me is to take that knowledge and apply it; let's see now, should I be writing my next piece in amphibrachic heptameter with some assonance or onomatopoeia thrown in on the side? If I'm not sure I can look for help in Carmel's book, entitled, strangely enough, "HELP".

We are heading off east next week through Corrigin and Merredin and have lined up some local poets in each place so will let you know how we get on there. Meanwhile, to all our friends, poetic and otherwise, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, bye for now.

DECEMBER: Isn't it nice to know that in this age of high tech and foolproof systems that there is still a chance for people like me to cause chaos and confusion? Last month I was so pleased to send my report in three days early but quite unaware, managed to "fat-finger" the email address. So instead of getting our editor's pat on the back I got a gentle rocket instead. Ah well such is life.

We left Fremantle on our home run armed with a list of contacts but only managed to touch base with two. At Corrigin, we met with Barry Clapp, and in Merredin with Joan Strange. In both cases the country hospitality was overwhelming and we happily shared poetry along with afternoon tea and evening meals.

Our next poetry experience was in South Australia with the Whyalla Writers Group; even though they had actually finished their year's program, they convened a special meeting for the purpose of making June and I welcome. This group is only a little over a year old but have already published their first anthology, which was launched complete with four minutes of local TV coverage. Draft plans for next year include another anthology, a poetic play for young people, poetry readings at an older person's residence, and a Poets' Breakfast. Quite a program for a small group! They welcome visitors to come to meetings held on the last Tuesday of the month, ring Colby Maddigan on 08 86451771 for venue details.

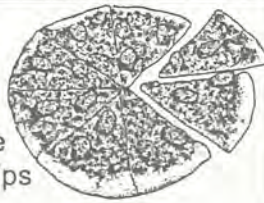
This will be our last report for this trip that has taken eight months and covered just over 30,000kms. From our experience any poet on the move should make contact with the locals, (we found most of our contacts through the local library), the hospitality is great and the range of work and talent is amazing.

June and Ted Webber

Phone 1414 844831 or Email juneted@yahoo.com

The Pizza Widow

© Glenn Palmer, Cedarvale, Qld



I wish I was a pizza
'cause then you'd look at me
with wild desire and licking lips
and heaps of energy ...

You'd never walk right past me
and say "Ay, what'd ya say?"
You'd never take your eyes off me
in case I slipped away ...

And we could watch the telly
together, you and me,
my great big hunk of hungry man
and pepperoni me...

And when you read the paper
you'd hold me like a queen,
and you'd be glad that I was there
spread over page eighteen...

But best of all I'll tell you,
it really would be neat,
you never could forget me
'cause on you I would repeat.

To a Peacekeeper in East Timor

You have heard the call, Grant Matthew,
To serve across the sea
Standing tall and proud beside your mates
That others might live free

People see a well trained soldier
In his combats with a gun,
But I look deep within your heart
And see your Mother's son



With his love of all things beautiful -
Of every living thing -
His love of life and family,
And this prayer to God I bring:

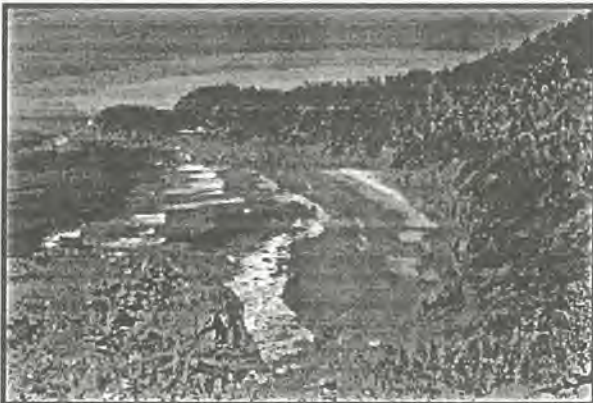
Spread sheltering wings
O'er all the boys and girls that leave our shore,
'Round those of every nation
'Til they're safely home once more.

Spread Your golden glow before their paths,
May Your love direct their way,
And guardian angels keep a vigil
O'er our loved ones night and day.

For every one that leaves to serve
Leaves an anxious heart to pray
For the safety of their loved ones,
Please God -- bless them on their way.

And, when the turmoil's over
And they're safe back in our care,
Every anxious heart will thank you God
For answering their prayer.

© Lee Miller



RANGES TO THE REEF

© Jade Brischke, Gladstone Q

From the ranges to the reef,
Across the rugged mountains high,
To the lapping of the water,
Under the cloudless bright blue sky.

From the sound of stockwhips cracking,
And the whispering of gum trees,
To the smell of salty air,
And the refreshing cool sea breeze.

From sitting 'round a fire,
To watching lightning flash.
From riding wild bush brumbies,
To hearing ocean waves crash.

All these things, are what we Aussies love,
From the range to the reef and the sky above.
This is Australia, home to me,
The land Down Under, a great place to be!

Caring Since 1835

Had a talk the other day, to a bloke called Dick Dale
Comes from over Myrtleford and he said to me this tale.
Been riding up these mountains for nigh on forty years
Seen summer droughts an winter rains, the good times and the tears.

And he spoke to me of 'ol Timers - most are dead, a few alive
How they've been caring for these mountains since 1935.
Yeah the likes of old Tom Madison, he had a vision and a need
The first to graze his hungry stock on the Bogongs summer feed.
The Arters, Howmans and Walsh, stood up and said "we cares"
Linnny Pritchard an Billy Hicks, the Coopers the Ryders an Blairs.
The Treasures from the Dargo Plains an Faithfulls from Omeo
They opened up the high plain runs, from Benambra to Buffalo.
Now these ol' Timers have passed away, but their spirit here will thrive
Cause they've been caring for these mountains since 1835.

*And on a balmy summer night can be heard a distant stockwhip crack
Is it the ghosts of pioneer cattlemen moving cattle down the track
And the stories still abound of the mysterious Bogong Jack
Was he a Butcher - or a Duffer, does his ghost still haunt the shack?*

"So" said Dick "we've had some characters an some of ill reputes
it was these early mountain families that opened up the mountain routes".
Twanga Hut, the Niggerhead the Fainter and Coopers Run
Names places and history passed on from Dad to Son.
And the Cattlemen of today have taken up the reins
These defenders of tradition will fight for there domains.
And the message is getting thru, in country towns 'n' rural seats
At get togethers, just like this an they've rode on Melbourne streets.
For Cattlemen are a hearty breed, their heritage will survive
Cause they've been caring for these mountains since 1835.

© Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, VIC, 1999

The Snowy Mountains Scheme

There was many a day we wagged from school,
Pinched our old Dad's smokes and played the fool.
As the sun sank low we'd race down the homeward trail
And make our plans for the following day,
To be out next morning and on our way,
Then wonder about those tests we'd sometimes fail.

And we would often dilly dally
By the creekbed where the sally
And the tall gum trees were reaching for the sun;
We'd hear on high the wild duck's call,
While the trout lurked 'neath the waterfall;
We would often stop and wonder, how things had begun.

How our thoughts sometimes went roving
To the days when we went droving
In the mountains from the undulating slopes
To our old dog that we thought best;
The touchy mare that gave no rest;
The saddles, bridles, spurs and greenhide ropes.

The mountain trails were long and steep,
But a paradise we hoped to keep,
From basalt red through mountain ash so tall;
And we'd hurry along through the swirling snow
Where the stunted, twisted snow gums grow.
But times can change the ways and lives of all.

For surveyors walked and led pack horses
As they came to change the water courses,
Every mile or two the drillers would appear;
The powder monkey paved the way,
'Dozers built the roads to stay,
And the Snowy Mountains Scheme was in top gear.

Heaps of tents like mushrooms grew
Camps were set in an hour or two,
Trucks rolled in with timber to the site,
As the builders set things growing,
Plumbers piped the water flowing
And another Snowy town grew overnight.

The 'dozers ripped the earth non-stop
While the 'geli' men blew out the rock,
And steep grades slowed the 'dumpers' to a crawl;
All the tunnel crews were drilling
While the tip trucks carted filling
To the gorges for the rock and earthen wall.



The battery man would shake his head
Then stir up life within the dead,
When the frozen 'dozer motors failed to wind,
Topsoil stood in enormous mounds,
Rippers tore rocks from the ground,
Snow falls drove engineers clear from their mind.

And the crew inside the batch plant
In the dust would cough and rant,
As the big wheels rolled out concrete by the ton,
They'd appear as the cast of an opera play,
With clothes, skin and hair of dirty grey
While they kept the elevators on the run.

Those grease covered men in the workshop
Would rear up and growl, then stop
When told of a breakdown miles away in the rain,
Hop in a jeep with their box of tools,
Declare the bunch were a mob of fools,
And swear that the driver didn't have a brain.

So the work went on year by year
On opening days there was speech and cheer,
As the tunnels turned the waters far below.
Topsoil spread and neatly replaced,
The camps pulled down in modern haste.
Then all hands moved to start another show.

The work force left the mountain land
Behind them stayed a legend grand
Of the tunnels and the shining snowy lakes,
Of great power stations underground,
High lines that spit a crackling sound.
On a job where man had rarely made mistakes.

Right across Australia's rooftops
Above the ash and scrub of hops,
Where mats of snow grass hold the showers tight,
Signs have grown 'Bush Walkers Trail',
'No cars allowed beyond this rail',
'Please take care, don't leave that match alight!'

The big machines left a winding line,
A thick tarred road of quality fine
That joins the coastal highway to the plain.
And the stars still dance so close and bright
When frosts set hard in the clear cold night,
And we'll travel to the mountains many times again.

© Nell Hulm, Lavington, NSW. 1984

G'Day ... I'm King Old Mate

© Merv Webster, Bargara, Qld

Merv and Chris Webster write that sadly, Bush Poetry has lost a sincere supporter with the passing of Kingsley Head, owner of the Homestead Caravan Park in Barcaldine. Kingsley, who encouraged passing bush poets to perform their work, suffered a fatal heart attack in September.

We met him back in ninety eight
While touring in the bush.
He say "G'day! I'm King old mate
I've lived life 'round the push.
My handle was the Banking game,
But gave it all away,
You see I found there's more to life -
That's happiness each day."

"And now I work with Dawn all day -
The kids all lend a hand.
The Homestead is a fam'ly thing
And life is really grand.
I meet all kind of folk out here,
Made friends with quite a few;
And by the way old mate" he said,
"What is it that you do?"

"We like to stand around a fire
Of Gidyea coals" I said,
"And share with folk a verse or yarn
To show the bush ain't dead."
"That's right!" he said, "Sounds good to me,
Why don't you do it here
With damper and some billy tea,
Corn beef and all that gear?"

And that is how our friendship grew
From that day down to this;
And shar'in that old Kar key yarn
Is something that I'll miss.
You left us kind of sudden mate
Which blew us all away,
But ev'ry time the billy boils
We'll hear you say, "G'day!"

An Invitation to all Poets, Yarn Spinners, Songsters, Performers.

Yarrowonga/Mulwala is
proudly hosting the
**2000 Australian
Bush Poetry
Championship**

from Friday 5th May
to Tuesday 9th May
Ph 03 5744 1989
Free Call 1800 062 260
Fax 03 5744 3149

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 Comperer: 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) Comperer: Michael Darby	In aid of Salvation Army. Good-value meals available
Sat 22	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	
Sat 22	7.30pm	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Hall	"The Hunter River Road Show" featuring Tim McLoughlin, Greg Scott, Sally Mitchell & Tony Parry plus Country Band "The Renegades"	Enjoy a power packed night in air conditioning! Special guests Milton Taylor & Anita Hendrie \$10 per ticket, phone 02 6755 4305
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 Comperer: 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) Comperer: 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
Sun 23	7.30pm	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Hall	"The Hunter River Road Show" featuring Tim McLoughlin, Greg Scott, Sally Mitchell & Tony Parry plus Country Band "The Renegades"	Enjoy a power packed night in air conditioning! Special guests Milton Taylor & Anita Hendrie \$10 per ticket, phone 02 6755 4305
Mon 24	7.45am	Longyard Hotel	Bush Poets Breakfast hosted by the Longyard Hotel and Golden Gumleaf Enterprises Comperer: 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 Comperer: 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 Comperer: 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	9am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	Heats, contact Jan Morris 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)

TAMWORTH 2000 HAPPENINGS

Day	Time	Place	Event	Details
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
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
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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	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	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	Heats, contact Jan Morris 02 6765 7552 (h) 02 6768 5178 (wk)
Fri 28	9am-11am	Tamworth Golf Club	Bush Poets Breakfast Presented by Marco Giori 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	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	
Fri 28	7.30pm	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Hall	"The Hunter River Road Show" featuring Tim McLoughlin, Greg Scott, Sally Mitchell & Tony Parry plus Country Band "The Renegades"	Enjoy a power packed night in air conditioning! Special guests Milton Taylor & Anita Hendrie \$10 per ticket, phone 02 6755 4305
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 Giori and Murray Hartin	
Sat 29	11am	Imperial Hotel	Presentation of Blackened Billy Awards	To be presented before the Finals of the Bush Poetry Competition at this venue
Sat 29	11.15am	Imperial Hotel	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition	FINALS
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	
Sat 29	7.30pm	Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Hall	"The Hunter River Road Show" featuring Tim McLoughlin, Greg Scott, Sally Mitchell & Tony Parry plus Country Band "The Renegades"	Enjoy a power packed night in air conditioning! Special guests Milton Taylor & Anita Hendrie \$10 per ticket, phone 02 6755 4305
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
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Sun 30	2pm	ACMF Museum	Geoffrey Graham in Concert	

Maldon Folk Festival, 29/10/99 - 1/11/99

It was with great anticipation that I boarded the XPT Melbourne bound to head towards the little town of Maldon, Victoria, for my inaugural Maldon Folk Festival (now in its 26th year). National Folk Festival 'Reciter of the Year' and Maldon resident poet Richard 'Skreitch' Leitch hosted the poetry proceedings and was ably assisted in his duties by invited artists, Edmond Scott, Geoffrey Graham, Neil McArthur, Margaret Goff, and myself.

Three "Poet's Breakfasts" were held, two in the Troubadour Wine Tent (located at the 2nd Festival site within the majestic Butt Reserve) and one within the town limits itself at the Rugby Club.

All were well-attended by the crowds who were summarily entertained by the bardic skill of Campbell "The Swaggie", Mick Dwyer, Duncan Dunnage, Alex Rushino, Eddie Dalton, Martin Mulholland, Don Bannister, "Whipstick" Wortho, Peter McRandell, James Bailey, Christopher Tory, amongst others.

There was poetry in the cafes, on the streetcorners, in the parks, and Yarns aplenty in the Blacksmiths' shop to round out the weekend. It was great to finally put some faces to names that I'd only read about through the pages of the ABPA newsletter.

One thing for sure though, those "Mexicans" sure are a friendly bunch. *Submitted by Graeme Johnson, West Ryde, NSW*

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 2nd November, 1999.

After a beautiful luncheon, Neil Hulm spoke on the loss of Bill Toohey, an ex-jockey who passed away on 12th 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 include singers, piano and accordion players, and also a mouth organ player.

Submitted by Neil Hulm, Lavington, NSW

Palma Rosa Poets

Our last Palma Rosa Poets evenings for the millennium were an outstanding success - we featured three of Australia's favourite performers - the Lovable Larrikin, Bobby Miller, our dual Junior Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Carmel Dunn, and award winning singer / songwriter, Mark Tempany. Because we knew it would be such a popular trio we put the show on for two nights and had full houses both nights.

Our thanks to Bobby, Carmel and Mark for putting on such professional performances - they presented different shows each night and the audiences loved them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends for supporting Palma Rosa Poets and helping in the restoration of this beautiful heritage-listed building.

We wish you all a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you on the 9th February when we showcase popular Australian singer / songwriter Ian Betteridge from Terrigal, and poet Kelly Dixon from Camooweal. Another exciting night to look forward to!

Submitted by Trisha Anderson

BETT'S BUSH BASH

Up here in the Upper Murray you often have to make your own fun and the 'Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers' are having a go. Our first event was 'Poets in the Park' and our second was Bett's Bush Bash on 4th December, using some local Shire funding that Betty Walton begged for.

36 people turned up for Jumbuck Stew, Damper & Cocky's Joy (golden syrup) in Bett's historic Tintalra Store. Nine people entertained with poetry and storytelling including Bett's daughter Di with her first performance, an ode to her mum, and Bill Murray a wanderer complete with dog, horse and cart who just happened to be passing through the area and got snapped up!

A few musical items and bush dancing completed the evening and we're all looking forward to some more practising before our Bush Festival in April. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Jan Lewis

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, 19 - 24 April, 2000, Winton, Qld

The Bronze Swagman Competition for WRITTEN Bush Poetry (*Australia's most prestigious Award for Bush Poetry*)

Entries close 31st January 2000. Entry forms available from PO Box 44, Winton Qld 4735

The Little Swaggies' Awards for Junior WRITTEN Bush Poetry (*Australia's most popular Junior Awards*)

Entries close 17th March 2000. Entry forms available from PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4350

- Wednesday 19th April Junior Performance Festival. Individual and Group Competitions for all School Grades 1-12
- Friday 21st April "Laughs, Lies and Even More Larrikins" Concert
- Saturday 22nd April Round 1 of Open and Novice Competitions (Male & Female)
Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships
Non-competitive Poetry
Poetry Novelty Team Events; etc.
- Sunday 23rd April Round 2 of Open and Novice Competitions (Male & Female)
Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships, Junior, Senior and Masters
Non-competitive Poetry
Poetry Novelty Team Events; etc.
- Monday 24th April "Laughs, Lies and Even More Larrikins" Concert
Finals of QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Male & Female Bush Poetry Championships
Finals of Christina Macpherson Male & Female Novice Competitions
Finals of Clover Nolan Primary and Secondary Performance Championships
Finals of Australian Bush Yarnspinning (Junior, Senior, Masters)
Finals of Novelty Team Awards
Trophy Presentations
- Tuesday 25th April ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Two-up, Parade etc.

The QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival is noted for its valuable prizes and trophies. The winners (Male & Female) of the Open Championship receive a trip to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, USA! To receive entry forms (*to be mailed out in February 2000*), send a business-sized stamped self-addressed envelope to Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4352 or Fax 07 4630 9998

Majors Creek Folk Festival (NSW) 5-7/11/1999

The 7th Annual Music at the Creek Festival once again drew huge crowds to the rustic hamlet of Majors Creek NSW for the 1999 event. Its isolated location on the verge of the Illawarra escarpment and the surrounding rolling countryside paints a perfect picture for folkies and ferals alike to revel in the talents of the assembled artists.

Festival organisers Peter Gillespie and Jim McQuarrie had gone to great lengths to see that fans of the spoken word were well catered for over the weekend by providing a feast of poetic happenings. As well as staging two poets breakfast in close proximity to the beer tent, the marquee size had been doubled to accommodate the swelling numbers of early morning devotees.

Featured poets Keith McKendry & Graeme Johnson staged Poetic Madness in the beautiful stone church, and between them ran the Poets Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday as well as wooing the crowds with various sets over the weekend. Graeme and fellow poet Grahame Hume also ran Poetry Workshops for the kids.

Other poets performing for the crowds' delight were Shirley Jennings, Jan Lewis, Grahame Hume, Jane Faulkner, Lorraine McCrimmon, Dave Myers, Helane, Greg Bull, Campbell, "The Towering Inferno" Big Jim Chapman, Julie Brennan, Lou Cassidy, Wally, Rhymin Simon, George Hoffsteters, Doug Nicholas, Louise Brown and many more.

On a weekend when everybody's minds were debating the pros and cons of the Republican Debate, you couldn't have had a more Australian gathering than this.

Submitted by your Festival Scribe, Jack Cornstark

Australia Day Bush Picnic 2000 Fagan Park Galston, Wednesday 26/1/2000

For anyone who's not going to Tamworth for the last two weeks of January, Fagan Park Galston on Australia Day is definitely the place to be to take part in and celebrate our great "Aussie" culture.

Once again the Park will come alive with the excitement of Hornsby Council's Annual Australia Day Bush Picnic.

The first Australia Day of the New Millennium will kick-off at 10.00 am with Bush Poetry in the Park held in the grounds of historic Netherby Cottage.

Special Guest Artist "Yuri the Poet and Storyteller" will weave his magic with the crowd through his masterful renditions of both poetry and yarns giving his interpretations of Australian life from both sides of the coin. (Yuri's a Russian born import).

Yuri will be ably assisted by supporting artists, John "The Larrikin" Dengate, Ron Brown, Brian Beesley, Terry Gleeson and myself in a two hour feast of Traditional/Comedic/ and Contemporary Verse.

Following the poets, the Park will be host to a number of family related activities including a Community Concert featuring a range of dynamic local performers, children's activities, musical entertainment and a bevy of scrumptious food. Come along and have some fun. Enquiries: 02 9874 7653

Submitted by Graeme Johnson, West Ryde, NSW

O'Mara's High Country Poets

Saturday 12th February 2000

Bob and Su Dellar of O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe are once again showing their commitment to the event and Bush Poetry in general, by putting up \$2000 for the prize pool. The section in the competition will be the same as last year, ie. Junior, Novice, Open Traditional, and Open Original. Once again, we have been fortunate to secure the services of Bruce Simpson, 'Boulia' Bates, Maureen Stonham, and Graham Murchie as Judges, plus two more to be arranged. Ray Essery "The Mullimbimby Bloke" will again be assisting me with the commentary.

A Poets' Breakfast is planned at O'Mara's for the morning of Sunday 13th February, and winners of all sections will be asked to perform there along with other selected poets. Again, poets will be performing in Weeroona Park at the Granite Belt Tourist Association's Brunch in the Park, and into the early afternoon. The weekend's activities are all part of "The Wine and Food Affair, 2000".

Enquiries (details and entry forms): 07 4683 7169 or PO Box 414, Stanthorpe, Qld, 4380.

Submitted by Jack Drake, Stanthorpe, Qld



Tracy

(I dedicate this poem to Tracy Simphin, a beautiful girl with Cerebral Palsy, whose zest for life inspired me to write this poem especially for her)

*A beautiful little girl
In a body twisted and bent
But the smile upon her face
Is truly heaven sent.*

*She's a trier and a doer
She's like a little dove
Her body is not perfect
But her heart is full of love.*

*On Tuesdays when I visit
Her school to give assistance
I am truly inspired by
Her smile and her persistence*

*She likes my little jokes
And I know that later or sooner
A big wide grin will cross her lips
And out jumps her sense of humour*

*She is a quiet achiever,
Nothing seems to faze her
And then out comes a real effort
And I know I have to praise her.*

© John "The Joker" Pampling, Margate, Qld



JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

16th-19th March, 2000, Narrandera

Narrandera's John O'Brien Bush Festival celebrates one of Australia's greatest bush bards. The author of great Australian poems such as "Said Hanrahan", "Tangmalangaloo" and "The Old Bush School" was an early advocate of all things Australian. He believed that Australians should move on from hankering for the "old country" and recognise the beauty and creations of a new nation. He argued that Australians should recognise their writers in order to understand themselves. C.J.Dennis said of his poems, "They are Australian first - bush Australian ... full of healthy humour and a capacity for enjoyment ..."

Enjoyment is to be had at the festival named after the poet. It takes place from 16th to 19th March 2000 and is a multi-venue festival. Activities take place in pubs, clubs and of course, that wide main street of the old river town that Henry Lawson described as "that pretty, solid, green-clad, cool, cleanly, drowsy, boozy and honest town ..."

This year local poets Jim Angel and Don Anderson will be joined by Frank Daniel, Graeme Johnson, Shirley Friend and Gary Lowe. Noel Stallard will also be with us sharing his love of John O'Brien's work. The aforementioned Jim and Don will organize a Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Get-together. With two Poets Brekkies, and two sessions of the Get-togethers, poets will have a number of opportunities to strut their stuff.

We at Narrandera look forward to another great festival and to giving the growth of bush poetry and the recognition of Aussie culture a boost in this part of the country.

Submitted by Julie Briggs, Festival Coordinator, Narrandera, NSW

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



2000

- Jan 6 **Brunswick Heads Bush Poets Breakfast**, Ph 02 6685 1901 Fax 02 6685 1960
- Jan 21 **Wellington Bushracing Carnival** (Gippsland) Bush Poetry Performance 7pm. One hour open mike. Details P14
- Jan 21 **Schools Poetry Competition**, 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St. Free admittance, refreshments avail.
- Jan 22, 23, 28, 29 **"The Hunter River Road Show"** 7.30pm at Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School Hall, Tamworth
- Jan 22 **Lunchtime Concert in aid of the Salvation Army**. 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club, \$10 Adt \$7 Pns, incl lunch.
- Jan 23 **Lunchtime Concert in aid of the Northcott Foundation**. 11am Tamworth City Bowling Club Ph 0413 348 843
- Jan 24-28 **Poetry Lunches and Concerts**, from 11am. Tamworth City Bowling Club, Napier St. Ph M Darby 0413 348 843
- Jan 25 **Bush Laureate Awards**. 2pm Tamworth Town Hall For Bookings and Info Ph. 02 6766 1577 Fax 02 6766 7314 P14
- Jan 26-29 **Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition**. Imperial Hotel Performance Competition. Details P14
- Jan 26 **Australia Day Bush Picnic**, Fagan Park, Galston NSW Enquiries to Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653 P11
- Jan 26 **South Bank Parklands Bush Poetry Competition**. Contact Jenny Ford 07 3867 2040 Fax 07 3844 9436 P14
- Jan 29 **Blackened Billy Presentation of Awards**. Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW P14
- Jan 31 Closing Date **Bronze Swagman Award**. Entry forms available from Vision Winton Inc, PO Box 44, Winton Q 4735
- Jan **S.M.B.P.C. Inc at Eskdale Hotel**, details to be finalized. Contact Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508
- Feb 12-13 **High Country Poets**. Stanthorpe Q Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069 P11
- Mar 1 Closing date **Grenfell 2000 Verse, Short Story & Song Competitions**. Enquiries 02 6343 1779 or 02 6343 7120
- Mar 6-8 **Redgum Festival**. Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585.
- Mar 15-19 **Jamberoo (NSW) Folk Festival. Breakfasts and Performances**. Phone Dave de Santi 02 4257 1788.
- Mar 16-19 **John O'Brien Bush Festival**. Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672 392 or email tournsc@webfront.net.au P14
- Apr 13-16 **Oracles of the Bush**. Tenterfield NSW. Perf. & written comp. Patti Ainsworth Ph 02 6736 1082 Fax 02 6736 3388
- Apr 14-16 **Man From Snowy River Bush Festival**. Contact Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332 P14
- Apr 19 **Waltzing Matilda Junior Bush Poetry Festival**, Winton Q
- Apr 22-24 **QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships**, Winton. PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- Apr 23 **Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships**, Winton Q P10
- Apr 23 **Poets Breakfast**, 8am Nambucca Heads Bowling Club. Ph Maureen 02 6568 5269 P14
- Apr 25-27 **Charters Towers Bush Poetry Competition**, Charters Towers Q
- Apr 29-30 **Gatton Heritage Festival 2000 Bush Poetry Competition**, Megan Bourne rab@mailbox.uq.edu.au or 07 54623116
- May 5-9 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships**, Yarrowonga/Mulwala Ph 03 5744 1989 or 1800 062260 Fax 03 5744 3149
- Jul 7-9 **Bundy Muster weekend** Performance and written competitions. Enq Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy 07 4151 4631 P15
- Aug 19 **Country on the Tweed Festival** Poetry from 8am. Lorraine Richards, 20 Scenic Drive, Bilambil Heights, NSW 2486

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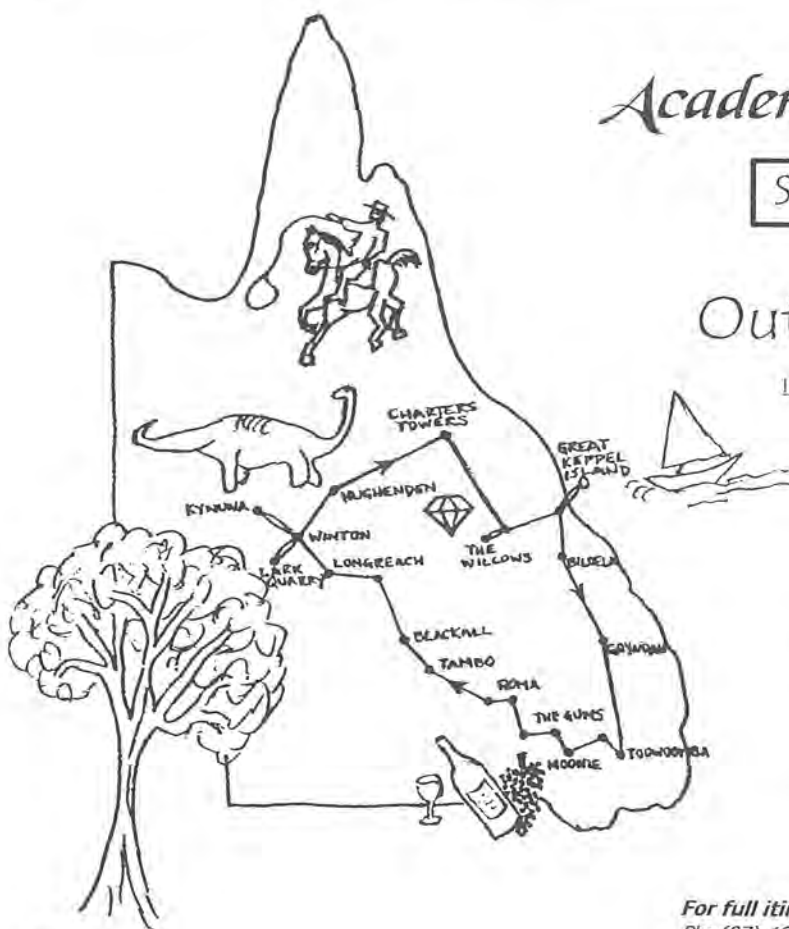
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 Kynuna Day Trip
 Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
 Carisbrooke Station, Winton
 Gem Fossicking, The Willows
 Island Cruise, Great Keppel Island



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** **Tugarah 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** **June Bush Poetry Group** 7.30pm, June Com'ty Cntr, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, June 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
- Monthly** **Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers.** Contact Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
- 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
- Monthly, Thursdays, dates vary.** **Gippsland Bush Poets.** Rosedale Hotel, Rosedale, 7.30pm Ph Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 3rd Wednesday** **South Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- Last Tuesday** **Whyalla Writers Group.** Phone Colby Maddigan 08 86451771

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- 2nd Friday** **WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners.** 7.30pm Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Ph Lorelie Tacoma 9310 1500

Editors Note: Poets from all states and territories 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



WELLINGTON BUSHRACING CARNIVAL, Longford, Gippsland
Friday 21st 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**
Send SSAE to Jan Morris, PO Box 1164, Tamworth NSW 2340

SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Wednesday 26 January 2000 - Australia Day Celebrations
From 2pm at the Formal Gardens area, South Bank, Brisbane
Junior, Male Humorous and Female Humorous
Contact Jenny Ford Ph 07 3867 2040 Fax 07 3844 9436

JOHN O'BRIEN POETRY AND PROSE COMPETITION

Sections for Verse (Traditional, Contemporary, Humorous)
Short Stories and Bush Poetry
Closing Date 28th January 2000
Enquiries: Freecall 1800 672 392 Fax: 02 6959 2788
email: tournsc@webfront.net.au

PALMA ROSA POETS

The first Palma Rosa Poets evening for 2000 will feature Ian Betteridge from Terrigal, NSW, and Kelly Dixon from Camooweal, Qld on **Wednesday 9th February.**
7pm for 7.30pm, \$15 (incl supper), BYO Drinks.
Bookings Essential, Ph Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624

O'MARA'S HIGH COUNTRY POETS

12 February 2000, 4 Competitions with \$2000 prize money!
Junior, Novice, Open Traditional, Open Original
13 February 2000, Breakfast with the Poets, 8am
O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe
Entry forms from PO Box 414, Stanthorpe Q 4380
Enquiries to Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Details Page 11

JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

16th-19th 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 Saturday. 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 Details Page 11

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 **1st March**
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
Phone 02 6343 1779 or 02 6343 7120 or 02 6343 1313

THE CENTRAL COAST POETS competition closes on **3rd March 2000**, and entry forms are available from: The Convenor, Henry Kendall Poetry Award, Central Coast Poets Inc., P.O. Box 403, Ourimbah NSW 2258

MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL presented by the Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers
Friday 14 - Sunday 16 April 2000

1. \$200 Original Poem (own work)
2. \$200 Traditional (50 years)
3. \$200 Instrumental (original or other, solo or group)
4. \$200 Song (original, solo or group)
5. \$200 Yarn (original)
6. \$50 Juniors - Under 17 years Entry \$1
7. \$300 Jack Riley Heritage Award for best original Bush Poetry/Yarn/Music

8. \$300 Clancy's Choice Award for best overall Entry for all sections \$5 (except Junior), due by 24 March
9. \$200 Banjo Paterson's 'Man From Snowy River' Entry \$5 ON TAPE ONLY by 17th March
3 finalists notified by 31st March to perform at Festival
WRITTEN SECTION (Judged prior to Festival)

10. \$200 Open ORIGINAL Entry \$5 by 17 March
11. \$50 Junior (u/17) ORIGINAL Entry \$1 by 17 Mar

All work to be based on Man From Snowy River or Bush theme.
Entry Forms and Festival Flyer available from PO Box 144 (76 Hanson St), Corryong Vic. 3707
Phone 0260761992 or email mfsrbf@corryong.albury.net.au

QANTAS-WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL JUNIOR BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Wednesday 19 April

CONCERTS

Friday 21 April and Sunday 23 April

QANTAS-WALTZING MATILDA CHAMPIONSHIPS & CHRISTINA MACPHERSON NOVICE AWARDS

Saturday 22 April - ROUND ONE

Sunday 23 April - ROUND TWO

Monday 24 April - FINALS

CLOVER NOLAN JUNIOR FINALS

Monday 24 April

AUSTRALIAN BUSH YARN SPINNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday 22 - Monday 24 April

Other novelty poetry events and non-competitive bush poetry

Saturday 22 - Monday 24 April

For more information contact:

The Organiser, PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre, Q 4352

POETS BREAKFAST - OPEN MIKE

8am, **Easter Sunday 23rd 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

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS

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

GOLD CITY FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY

25 - 27 April 2000, Charters Towers

Guests: Bob Miller and Helen Avery

Phone Sandra 07 4787 2944 or Arthur 07 4787 2409

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarrawonga/Mulwala Friday 5 May till Tuesday 9 May, 2000
Ph: 03 5744 1989 Free Call 1800 062 260 Fax 03 5744 3149

BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

Bundy Muster Week-end: July 7th, 8th and 9th, 2000
Competitions: Open, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & Under 12's
N.B. Intermediate Category: Any poet who has not been placed first in any open competition.

Entry forms available from: Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.,
P.O. Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670

Enquiries: Joan 07 41529624 or Sandy 07 41514631

Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse 2000

Entry Forms available from: Mr. Ross Keppel, address as above
Entries close for written competition on **May 31st, 2000.**

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"Middle Age Blues" \$15 pp

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

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* Let's Keep alive the Drover's Day

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* The Ballad of the Blowfly

* Waltzing Matilda - An Allegory

Yarns & Many More

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* 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
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"Always Wear Clean Knickers"

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January 2000

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So many people all over the world would love to receive their very own copy of this Newsletter each month! What about purchasing an annual subscription for them? What better present could you give? Wish your friends and relatives a Happy 2000 with the gift of the ABPA Newsletter. Send \$25 with their name and address to the Secretary, and feel secure in the thought that you are passing along the fellowship of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc!

*Thank you to our
Contributors*

Trisha Anderson	Graeme Johnson
Mavis Appleyard	Lindsay Laurie
Brian Bell	Brian D Lee
Sandra Binns	Jan Lewis
Harry Bowers	Mary Meehan
Julie Briggs	Lee Miller
Jade Brischke	Glenny Palmer
Dennis Carstairs	John Pampling
Betsy Chape	Jay Randle
Jack Cornstalk	Ron Selby
Jack Drake	Olive Shooter
Wally Finch	Ted and June Webber
Neil Hulm	Merv Webster

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

The big event this month is, of course, Tamworth, and you will find an updated schedule of events listed on pages 8 and 9 of this issue of the Newsletter. Please forgive me if I've left anything out, or if anything is incorrect, however I can only print what is sent to me. So, if you didn't send me anything, your details are not included!

Please support our poets who advertise in the Newsletter, as they support our Association by doing so! And to our advertisers: a big thank you, and remember to get your advertisement payments into Olive Shooter as soon as possible! There are still a few outstanding - you know who you are!

If you would like to advertise in the Newsletter, you must send the payment to Olive, but please send all details directly to me. Please include the product name, the price, your name and address and any other details you would like included in the advertisement. All advertisements are roughly business-card sized ONLY, and larger advertisements can not be accommodated. As of next month there will be some advertising spots opening up, so send your ads in now!

Remember that I welcome any news, views, rumour or innuendo, and particularly love to receive reports from Poetry Events and Festivals.

All the very best to our members for 2000 - I hope the year ahead brings good fortune and health to all! *Best regards, Jennifer Priest*

