

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 2 Volume 7

February 2000



Tamworth 2000 Results

Blackened Billy Awards



1st Neil McArthur
2nd Col Hadwell
3rd Richard Heatherington

Junior

1st Jodie Handley
2nd Jade Brischke
3rd Corrinne Whitman

One Minute Poetry Championships

1st **Tony Strauss**
"OBE"
2nd **Carol Reffold**
"Condominium at Eromanga"
3rd **Terry Regan**
"Postscript"

The Australian Bush Laureate Awards

Book Of The Year

From Under The Cross

Kelly Dixon

Single Recorded Performance of the Year

Turbulence

Murray Hartin

Album of the Year

The Best Of Songs & Stories Of Australia

Dobe Newton

Judith Hosier Heritage Award

Slim Dusty



Tamworth Poetry Reading Group Imperial Hotel Performance Competition

Established Poetry

1st Sally Mitchell
"The Riding of the Rebel" Will Ogilvie
2nd Milton Taylor
"Hey Banjo" Dennis Kevans
3rd Zita Horton
"Taking His Chance" Henry Lawson

Original Poetry

1st Rod Williams
"The Shearers"
2nd Neil McArthur
"Shopping Trolley Rage"
3rd Milton Taylor
"Queenie Lucinda O'Toole"

The Millennium Bug

"Beware" we heard the experts warn
"The computer bug on millennium morn"
"The planes won't fly, the banks may crash
Stock up with water, food and cash"
In a world so electronic
Words like these are quite draconic.
The threat too ugly to believe
Yet when it came to New Year's Eve
We partied on and raised our glass
Hoping 'twould not come to pass
And life continue on its way
Untouched by evil Y2K.
Around the world these warnings flew
All nations wondering what to do.
Would we all be neutralised
Because we're so computerised?
Came the day. The threat had vanished!
By man's perserverance banished.
In future we can all recall
The millennium bug meant bugger-all!

© Leo Keane, Hughesdale, VIC

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Olive Shooter, Secretary

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

**Will this be YOUR last issue
of the ABPA Newsletter???**

**It will if you don't get your
Annual Subscription
payment of \$25 to Olive
Shooter this month!**



As most of you would be aware, our Secretary, Olive Shooter, is not well at the moment, and was unable to submit a report

for this month's Newsletter. Olive has done a sterling job over the past year, and was re-elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer at the recent AGM. The presentation of the very healthy Financial Report at the AGM this year raised a round of applause for her efforts.

I know all members will join with me in wishing Olive a return to good health, and we would like to assure her that the thoughts and prayers of our members are with her at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Tamworth is over and done for another year and congratulations to the winners of the very highly contested competition at the Imperial Hotel. (Almost every entrant was a member of the ABPA.) The total professional quality of the performances in the finals showed that there is just no room for error and any minor stumble or hesitation would have cost the performer dearly. This competition could definitely be rated as one of the best in the country.

There were three Poets Breakfast shows each morning and all of the performances were of top quality and played to packed houses each day. Although I didn't get to any of the night-time shows I heard that these were also of first class standard.

The AGM as usual was held on the Saturday afternoon and started late, though it was well attended, and we managed to attend to most items on the agenda.

I was re-elected President and thank you to all for the vote of confidence in me. Olive Shooter was returned as Secretary and the two Vice Presidents elected were Elizabeth Ward and Wally Finch, who I'm sure will give their best for the Association.

Bob Miller, due to ill health, reluctantly stood down from the committee and I would like to personally extend my thanks to Bob for the great commitment he has made to our Association over the past years.

The General meeting as in past years was not very different, in as much as it went round and round like a 45rpm record and covered almost the same subjects it has in the past. Rules and regulations and laws concerning competitions and competitors were discussed endlessly. BUT! at last there was a committee of five members formed to sit down and finally come up with a solution (which will be passed on to the members via the Newsletter).

This committee will have its work cut out for them, but I'm sure will do their very best for our Association and Bush Poetry in general.

We started out as a very friendly group of poets with the main aim being to preserve our art of writing and performing bush poetry, and I'm sure all members would like to continue in this vein and keep the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. as it should be!

Ron Selby, President

The Dingo Didn't Do It

© Keith McKenry, Ainslie, ACT

A Darwin jury has refused to accept that a dingo may have been responsible for the death of baby Azaria Chamberlain, and has found Lindy Chamberlain guilty of murdering her daughter.

- News Item



The dingo didn't do it,
Forensic experts say;
It makes no sense for dingos
To behave that way.

The dingo had no motive,
And none of them confessed;
They haven't got a body
The scientists to test.

You can't condemn the dingo
Unless you can tell me why
It would want to kill a baby,
Beneath a desert sky.

Besides, we have a culprit:
The mother of the child
- Her coolness has condemned her,
Her reaction was too mild.

She's guilty as all hell she is,
You can see it in her eyes;
With all Australia watching,
You'd think she would have cried.

No, the dingo didn't do it
And justice has been done;
The dingo had no motive,
Beneath the desert sun.

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

KEITH MCKENRY



1. What would you do if you had \$1 million?
Build a recording studio suitable to technological incompetents like me.

2. Who do you admire most?
Nugget Coombs, Nelson Mandela, Pete Seeger, Alan Scott.

3. If you could live my life again, what would you change?
Nothing.

4. What started you writing bush poetry?
My absolutely awful singing voice.

5. Why do you live where you live?
Canberra - we only elect four federal politicians, the other 219 are yours!

6. What words of wisdom would you write in someone else's autograph book?
All poets are liars - trust me!

7. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
The Northwest Passage from Iceland to the Bering Sea. Because of its challenge and history.

8. How have you adapted to the technological age?
@!#\$%^*~I

9. What age do you consider to be 'over the hill'?
Hill? What hill?

In the 1960s, Keith's inability to sing in tune led to his reciting bush verse around rock-climbing campfires, and as no-one could understand the intended tunes of his occasional original songs he took to reciting these as well. He hit the small time in 1980, when he presented a workshop at the 14th National Folk Festival in Alice Springs. Since that time he has performed frequently in concerts, festivals and folk clubs around Australia.

He is the only person to have recited 'McArthur's Fart' at a reception on the 30th floor of the United Nations Building in New York, 'The Spirit of the People' in the foyer of the Australian High Court, or 'A Study in Linguistics' in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House. In 1983 he hosted the Inaugural Poets' Dinner at the National Folk Festival, thereby establishing on festival programs an on-going toehold for reciters and poets. Over the years, with the emergence of new generations of reciters and bush poets, that toehold has grown exponentially. Singers, musicians and dancers have never forgiven him.

Keith has an unhealthy fascination with old, obscure Australian poetry books and periodicals, from which he has distilled material for his many festival workshops. These presentations have addressed such issues as racism in Australian folklore, the nature and origins of obscenity, and the democratic tradition in Australian verse.

In 1985 "Disgusted of Horsham" called for his permanent black banning from folk festivals, on account of the supposed unsuitability of his material for young children and grannies. No young children or grannies complained, however and so, sadly, the opportunity was not taken up.

In 1987, in Paris, Keith was elected Chairman of UNESCO's Committee of Technical and Legal Experts on the Safeguarding of Folklore. He also served as a member of the Commonwealth Committee of Inquiry into Folklife in Australia, and was co-author of its Report, *Folklife, Our Living Heritage*. He now is president of the organising committee of Australia's National Folk Festival.

Keith has published a number of books of verse, and with his friend the late Alan Scott (a wonderful bush singer) released two fine albums of Australian bush song and poetry performed in the traditional style. Keith's first solo album, *Bugger the Music, Give Us a Poem!* won the 1999 *Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Award* for Album of the Year. It is available both on Fanged Wombat CD and on ABC Audio cassette.

REVIEW - Keith McKenry (with Alan Scott)
Travelling Through The Storm (CD)

"Travelling through The Storm" is a collection of Australian Bush Songs and Poems by two exceptional artists. Alan Scott provides the musical and singing prowess, and Bush Poet, Keith McKenry, recites. It is the second album in the "Battler" series, recorded by the National Library of Australia.

One of the factors that makes this album stand out from the growing numbers of Bush Poetry recordings is its historical aspect. In just over one hour of listening, you can hear classic English ballads, poetry from the 1880's and 1890's, old-time dance tunes inherited from Irish and Scottish forebears, folk songs and bush tunes from the depression years, songs of Union men, and contemporary poetry. It is a wonderful blend of history, folk lore, and verse. Alan Scott's music is simple, yet genuine, and the lyrics clear.

However, this recording also owes some of its attraction to the quality of Keith McKenry's vocal tone and ability. This well-selected mix of original and traditional verse is recited proficiently and effectively. Keith's mellow voice and expressive interpretations are a pleasure to listen to, and add a unique quality to this performance.

Both performers have managed to capture a distinctly "Australian" feel, with all the idiosyncrasies and idioms of our language coming across easily, yet not taking centre stage.

This CD preserves an important part of our heritage, and does it very well. I regarded reviewing it as a privilege.

REVIEW - Keith McKenry
McKenry's Curse and Other Verse (Book)

Many facets of Keith McKenry are reflected in his book, "McKenry's Curse and Other Verse". There are wry observations on folk festivals, comments on world politics (after all, he lives in Canberra!), and heritage pieces. Some are in the traditional rhyming Bush Poetry format, others are more abstract word structures, and a couple are of visual interest only. Many times, he is recording current events with an awareness of their future historical importance.

Keith has a strong grasp of language, enabling him to use and manipulate words well. The subjects covered in his poetry range from the profound to the comical. But Keith's poetry is never a light read, as most of his verse is thought-provoking. This is not a book to skim through, but a volume to be read at leisure in pensive moments.

Dear Editor

Last month, with Flo Hart and Ron Selby, I went to the Jondaryan State School, where, with pupils from Acland, Kaimkillenbun, Goombungee, and Kulpi, we started off the youngsters writing verse. It was a lovely day and was shared with author and playwright Joyce Sissons.

We all enjoyed it and so did the children and their literary efforts have been put into a small booklet by Janet Hamilton, Principal of Jondaryan.

A week later Flo Hart sent me the enclosed cuttings from the local (Oakey) paper, and the photographers sent me a couple of copies of the photo.

Congrats on the Newsletter since you have taken over. You are doing a great job.

Bill Glasson, Clifton, Qld

Ed Note: Bill's photo appears on Page 8

Dear Editor

My apologies for not replying sooner to Glenny Palmer, who I presume compiled the letter in the December issue of the magazine.

Regarding my reference to poets "raking in \$500 every week", if Glenny had read letters in previous issue, she would know that a certain poet had made the claim that reciters could use another poet's work and win \$500 a week in competitions. (See Sept 1999, Editor) In my letter, I was simply asking the same question that Glenny asked me.

Another modern Bush Poetry trend that needs attention is the practice of converting jokes to poems and calling them Bush Poems. For example, some drunk falling into a grave and shortly afterwards another drunk falls in to join him, could hardly be called a Bush Poem in the traditional sense. Yet I have seen poets win competitions using that poem. Now, depending on the theme, some jokes may convert to a believable Bush Poem.

Perhaps there should be a separate event for jokes turned into poems. True Bush Poems should be about real people, places and events.

Also, how about a Gospel section for Bush Poets! What's sauce for the Country Singers, should be sauce for Bush Poets.

Max Jarrott, Killarney, Qld

Hello!

Congratulations Tamworth on your absolutely magnificent program of exciting events, venues, acts, performers, musical brilliance and poets of incredible talents. I had the good fortune of being able to experience some of the artists and shows with a group of our own bush poets from Yarrawonga/Mulwala, who by the way, did themselves proud in many performances throughout the festival.

It was also brilliant to meet up with so many of you whom we had the pleasure of meeting last May at the Australian Championships.

Looking forward to your interest and applications to compete in the next Championships - May 5th until May 9th. Many activities have been planned, and the town is looking forward to everyone's return and performances. You have all established quite a cult following in our community.

Please feel free to call us or write to us for your entry forms for the written and Recitation sections for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships. We have run them past the ABPA Committee, who are more than happy with the forms. Thanks to everyone for contributing suggestions with entry forms and Judges' criteria.

Information kits for the Championships and accommodation ideas and special packages have been made available by many of the accommodation places. Please let us know if we may assist you with that aspect or with anything else you may require.

Free call 1800 062 260. Ph 03 5744 1989 or 0409 441 989 or write to Karen/Barb PO Box 190, Yarrawonga 3730

Happy writing, reciting and safe travels. We can't wait to see you all in May.

Cheers! Barb and the team at Yarrawonga/Mulwala

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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

The Bush Poets Breakfast at Brunswick Heads for Festival 2000 was a tremendous success

Greg Champion was just fantastic, Ray Essery and Col Hadwell were really good and Campbell the Swaggie came along as well and so did Ray Halliday (I think that is what his name was).

The whole morning was really exciting that we are going to have another one with the Festival of the Fish and Chips in January 2001.

Thank you for all your help and I will let you know after we set our programme for 2001 all the details of the Bush Poets Breakfast.

Margaret Mitchell
Honorary Secretary

Brunswick Valley Woodchop & Entertainment Committee Inc.

Bush Poets of Australia

We're the Bush Poets of Australia
Recording on these humble pages
Our stories penned in rhyming verse
From city street to mountain ranges

We'll tell of the teamsters and the drovers
And their women who battled on
Opening up this great wide country
From our coast to the back o' beyond

We'll recapture scenes from our turbulent past
Bushrangers on the run
The likes of the notorious 'Jew Boy'
Marched in leg irons down, to Sydney town
And there in the gallows hung

We'll write of long forgotten miners
Who toiled in damp rat holes
The axeman and the bullockies
Who snigged their logs and poles

We'll recite our old bush ballads
And poems of modern time
That tell of life in the Australian bush
Slowly diminishing with the march of time

We'll recall our gallant diggers
Who answered the bugle call
And fought to keep this country free
Many dying as they gave their all

We'll spin you yarns to make you cry
And yarns to make you laugh
Some brought here on convict ships
From the cruel days of sail and mast

Yes - we're the Bush Poets of Australia
We'll write it down True Blue
Preserving our Aussie culture
For the generations who follow through.

© "The Minmi Magster" Bob Skelton, Minmi, NSW

A Note to Organisers of Written Competitions

Editorial Comment

Over the few months that I have been Editor, I have received many comments regarding the organisation of competitions. I also spend much time sifting through information regarding competitions. While most competition organisers are doing a wonderful job - many spending hours of their own time on a thankless task - there is obviously the occasional problem cropping up. These range from minor to a few that could only be termed as major problems, e.g.

- comments and prize for a written competition not being sent to the prizewinner until more than twelve months later
- the winner of a junior written competition not being correctly notified of the award, and then, due to the young winner not being present for the announcement, the trophy returned to the sponsor
- an organiser of a written competition also being one of the judges, and also taking out a prize in that same competition

As a result, I would like to add my own comments on this area. Anyone who takes on the organisation of a Written (or Performance) Competition needs to take this responsibility seriously. I will endeavor to get your advertisements in the Newsletter correctly, but this means that all the details must get to me on time. Please check the following -

- Is an entry form required? If so, have you stated this?
- How do competitors get an entry form? Do they need to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope? Have you stated this?
- What is the cost of entry?
- When do entries close? When are winners notified?
- What categories are in this competition?
- Have you included contact details - postal and/or phone? Please don't assume that I already know these details!

Naturally, you may have too many details and entry requirements for an advertisement. This where an entry form is useful. If you already have an entry form printed for your competition, please send that to me along with your advertisement. In that way, I can add more details if I think it necessary.

*For all those organisers and coordinators out there -
keep up the great work!*

Lip Service

Miss Duck waddled into the beauty shop,
for a new lipstick refill.

When the head girl asked her "Cash or cheque?"
she said "Stick it on my bill!"



© Hipshot



FROM OUR (NEW) ROVING REPORTERS

Hi

We left Sydney December 27 in wind and rain and cold and headed south to Batemans Bay for New Year's Eve, then further south into Victoria. A couple of boxes of poetry books under the table of our old Bedford motorhome tell of hopes for the future.

The weather has been decidedly unsummery for the first week, but from arriving in the Lakes District of East Gippsland the weather has brightened greatly.

Here then is my "Ode to Departure"

Now the city lies behind us
There's no mailman who can find us
Or a boss who will remind us
Of the work that's to be done.
As the city sights are fading
We can feel the joy cascading
Through our hearts as we're parading
Right away from Highway One.

Here the ocean lies beside us
And the trees and bushes hide us
While the days and weather guide us
To new places near and far.
It is quiet and the rustle
Of the leaves relieves the hustle
Of the city with its bustle
And its noisy motor car.

Way out here we catch the breezes
As our joy the moment seizes,
'Stead of city smoggy wheezes
From a smoking chimney stack.
I can hear the river sighing
As it passes, hear the crying
Of the birds and we are trying
Not to think of going back.

Regards, John and Gaye Barclay



BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

BUSH LANTERN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2000

ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM:
**MR. ROSS KEPPEL,
BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY INC.,
P.O. Box 4281,
SOUTH BUNDABERG 4670**
ENTRIES CLOSE FOR
WRITTEN COMPETITION ON
MAY 31ST, 2000.

Don't You Hate It When

Don't you hate it when some Sheila says
"I have seen you in my dreams."
And things go right until that night
When you're woken by her screams.

Or when you're walking down the street
Someone calls out, "G'day mate."
And you turn in time to 'cop an egg'
From a bloke you really hate.

Or you've done without a lot of things
To go skiing in the snow.
When you bend down lacing runners on
And your trouser seams let go.

Or what about that car you own
And all the sweat and toil.
When you gave it a full service check
Then ran it without oil.

Or the guard dog that you purchased
So you'd feel real safe at night.
While he lets in perfect strangers
You're the only one he'll bite.

Or the ABPA poem you penned
(Which was written like a champ.)
Remiss, with no return address
And forgot to even stamp.

But the thing I really hate the most
Which turns my breath to vapour.
When you're finished in the 'little house'
And there's not a scrap of paper.

© J J Mannion, Rockhampton, Qld

WINNER

Junior Section, Blackened Billy, Tamworth 2000

A Modern Teenager

© Jodie Handley

They say a modern teenager is really very wild.
So you can hardly tell, they were a once cute little child.
Loud music coming from their room - which is an awful mess,
And who will have to clean it up? You sure don't have to guess.
Some smell of beer and smoke, when they come home so late at night,
And when they bang and slam the door, they give you quite a fright.
They never do their homework, or if done, it's not done right,
But when you ask if you can help, they say, "Go fly a kite!"
But underneath all that wildness and all the rudeness too,
You'll see there is a great big heart, that's saying, "I love you."



THE EULOGY

(SEE 'THE MANAGER', ABPA NEWSLETTER, JAN .2000)

DEAR BRIAN BELL,

I LIKED YOUR POEM,
WHICH I KNOW YOU WROTE FOR FUN.
BRIAN, I RELISH BELLY-LAUGHTER
MORE THAN ALMOST ANYONE ...
BUT THAT UNLAMENTED BANKER,
GLOATING GLEE AT HIS DEMISE
THAT ENSURED IN OODNADATTA,
I'LL NOW BROADLY EULOGISE.

BANKERS MUST NOT BE MUG-PUNTERS.
TWO PLUS TWO MUST EQUAL FOUR.
BANKER'S BOOKS MUST ALWAYS BALANCE.
CASH, COLLATERAL, THE LAW.
YES, A BANKER IS AN ANCHOR,
NOT A SLY, COLD-HEARTED BRUTE.
HE'S A SORT-OF MONEY BLOOD-BANK,
NOT A PIRATE SEEKING LOOT.

JUST IMAGINE YOUR REACTION
IF YOU WENT TO DRAW SOME DOUGH
AND RECEIVED, INSTEAD OF MONEY,
AN APOLOGETIC, "OH ...
SORRY, SIR, BUT ALL YOUR MONEY
HAS BEEN LOANED TO BILLY BLOGGS.
I FELT SORRY FOR HIS FAM'LY,
THEIR FARM'S GOING TO THE DOGS.

COULDN'T EVEN PAY THE INTEREST
ON THE PRINCIPLE HE OWES.
WELL, I LOANED HIM ALL YOUR SAVINGS ...
IRRESPONSIBLY, I S'POSE.
BUT I BET YOU'D LIKE OL' BILLY,
HE'S A REALLY BONSER BLOKE.
MAN, THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN MONEY ...
BY THE WAY, THE BANK IS BROKE."

© TOM STONHAM, NAMBUCCA HEADS, NSW



Official Launch

Mark Tempany's new fourth album
"Far Away"

to be launched at Palma Rosa
on Wednesday 16th February 7.30pm

Please show your support for

Mark and his music -
all-Australian - all-original - all new

including
"Australian Child" - "Two Blue Moons"
and the title track "Far Away"

Palma Rosa,
9 Queens Road,
Hamilton, Qld
7.30pm - 10pm
Admission free
Booking 3216 9005

MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL FRI 14TH - SUN 16TH APRIL, 2000

The Legend of Jack Riley

Irish born Jack Riley made his home in the Kosciusko Ranges on becoming manager of the Tom Groggin cattle station in 1884 and soon acquired a reputation as a skilled horseman and stockman.

In 1890 Banjo Paterson visited Jack's high country hut and spent a night with him while Jack told the story of a ride where he daringly pursued a thoroughbred stallion on horseback through rough mountain country. That was the year that the Bulletin published 'The Man from Snowy River' the famous poem which has since become part of Australia's history.

Jack Riley is buried in Corryong cemetery and each year 'The Man From Snowy River' Bush Festival recreates the imagery of the poem with a bush gathering.

There's plenty of exciting horse events - Riley's Ride simulates Jack's last days and the legendary 1914 trek from Tom Groggin to Corryong (43 rugged miles).

The 'Man From Snowy River' Challenge to find the modern 'Man' has real bush action with bareback obstacle, whipcracking, shoeing, brumby catching, and buck jumping over three spectacular days. Add to these a Street Parade, Art & Photography, Family Food Feast, a good old fashioned Bush Dance and re-enactment of Banjo's poem with Geoffrey Graham starring as 'Banjo' himself.

Celebrate with us at Corryong - where the myth began, the spirit of 'Banjo' and Jack Riley live on and the Bush Poetry and Storytelling gain more popularity each year.

We have 11 sections including Written this year with the following prizes: Note that Section 7 (Jack Riley Heritage Award) winner is chosen from Sections 1, 3, 4 & 5.

1. \$200 Original Poem (own work)
Entry \$5 per poem by 24th March
2. \$200 Traditional (50 years)
Entry \$5 per poem by 24th March
3. \$200 Instrumental (original or other, solo or group)
Entry \$5 per title by 24th March
4. \$200 Song (original, solo or group)
Entry \$5 per song by 24th March
5. \$200 Yarn (original)
Entry \$5 per yarn by 24th March
6. \$50 Juniors - Under 17 years
Entry \$1 per entry by 24th March
7. \$300 Jack Riley Heritage Award
for best original Bush Poetry/Yarn/Music
\$5 entry by 24th March
8. \$300 Clancy's Choice Award
for best overall performer at Festival.
\$5 entry by 24th 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 17th March
11. \$50 JUNIOR (u/17) ORIGINAL
Entry \$1 per entry by 17th March

All work to be based on Man From Snowy River or Bush theme.

The competition will be on Saturday afternoon, but plenty of opportunities for walk-ups during three Poet's Breakfasts & Friday Campfire at Banjo's Block, fun night Saturday and other events.

'Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers' is the Bush Poetry arm of the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival. - contact Jan Lewis 0260774332 or email poetfarm@corryong.albury.net.au

Entry forms and full colour festival flyer from The Man From Snowy River Bush Festival (website at www.corryong.albury.net.au/mfsr/bf)
PO Box 144 (76 Hanson St) Corryong. Vic. 3707
Phone 0260761992 or email mfsr/bf@corryong.albury.net.au

(Can someone give one to Campbell please!!)

Paddy's Valentine

Valentine's Day as you well know, is a day of Sweethearts and roses, beautiful roses all red and perfumed, so great to the eyes and noses. In recent years it has become fashion to give chocolates and cuddly toys, in an act of love that's reciprocal, where boys give to girls and girls give to boys. Now Paddy was quite a stranger to this and knew little of hugging and kisses but felt it was wrong to do any such thing, at least without asking the Missus. He thought about it for several days, and wondered if Dolly would mind if he looked around at the maidens so fair, just to see what a bloke could find. So after dinner one Sunday past, he mentioned the subject to Dolly, 'ME FINKS' he chose the wrong time to do this, as oh boy, did she do her lolly. Her blood pressure rose and so did she, she grabbed him by the throat, she dragged him across the dining-room floor screaming 'listen to me you old goat.' Poor old Paddy's face was all red, his airways now harshly constricted, he suddenly realised his grave mistake, this reaction he had not predicted. His little feet barely touched the floor for Dolly was twice his size, David and Goliath, his mates often mused, and now he could understand why. She stormed to the door, which fell from its hinges, she gave it such a sharp reef, even the dog, so normally docile, took off in disbelief. With a hand on his collar in a vice-like grip and one on his trouser belt, Dolly flung Paddy through the open door-way and the landing he certainly felt. He picked himself up rather gingerly and staggered back to the room, only to be confronted by Dolly in her hand she had a straw broom. "I'm sorry my love if I've hurt your feelings, and I know I'm not very romantic, but couldn't we discuss this small thing, without you being pedantic?" Dolly tried to smile but her face was fixed with a look of hurt and disdain, "How could you even think of looking, out there on the street for a dame?" "For 25 years I've been your wife, and that is a very long time, it just might interest you to know, that I'M your blasted Valentine!!" Paddy was stunned for he had no idea that his wife was such a gem, **BIG AND STRONG AND A VALENTINE TOO...** ...oh he'd be the envy of them. On Valentines Day he rose early that morn, to give Dolly a cuppa in bed, and on the side of her breakky tray, was a rose of brilliant red.



© Beth Vincombe-Bashford, Berrigan, NSW

KY Kronikles

The Kyabram and District Bush Verse Group enjoyed a great Christmas BBQ feed-up and sociability wing-ding on the 6th December, 1999. The venue was Joan and Bill Hills ranch, a few kilometres out of Ky. Mick Olle and Les Parky were in charge of the smoke-machine (sometimes called a 'Barbie'). In spite of their attempts at fumigation, the food was cooked to perfection. We had all the Christmas trimmings including plum pudding. It was a great night topped off with Christmas poems, yarns, etc. It was a top finish to the year.

President Betty Olle conducted a short business session at the Christmas show, and it was decided that the next meeting (February 7th) will be at the Warramunda Retirement Complex in Kyabram. This will take the form of Bush Verse entertainment for the residents followed by supper for all. Grace Leamon, one of our stalwart members, is a resident at Warramunda. We look forward to the coming century.

Submitted by Grahame 'Skew Wiff' Watt, Kyabram, VIC

*The following poem was
winner of the
Eastwood/Hills FAW
rhyming poetry competition, 1999*

Home

I am weary, oh so weary, as the darkness steals around
let me lie beneath the pine trees, on the warm and leaf strewn ground.
I have wandered, long and listless, vaguely hoping I might find
all the virtues lost in childhood, swept aside by years unkind.
Now the faintly sighing murmur of a gentle evening breeze
stirs the leaves with whispered rustle through the swaying pepper trees.

Youthful memories are returning, poignant summers long ago;
carefree days that seemed enduring as the river's sluggish flow.
Sixty years ago I left here, lusting for adventure's lure;
but a pathway fraught with hazards found a bush lad insecure.
For adventures there were many, but alas, not all to plan;
curse of drink and gambling fazed me in the way such perils can.

Still I smell the frangipani and the scent of jasmine vines;
hear the mopoke's dreary calling echo through the shadowed pines.
Loving cattle browsing pastures seem to chant a sweet refrain,
and the hum of distant traffic whines along McCosker's lane.
Cherished haven, all embracing, still refuting years of change;
how I love this valley's solace, calm beneath its guarding range.

Weight of years grate harsh upon me, and I'm weary of the fight;
let me bask in fond remembrance as I lie alone tonight.
Will I see tomorrow's dawning, feel its tang upon my cheek;
smell the freshness of the clover, glinting dew beside the creek?
Let the warm west wind caress me as it whispers on its way;
sighing bittersweet condolence to a drifter gone astray.

© Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW



Grahame Watt asks "What ever happened to autograph books? Remember when nearly everyone had an autograph book? And do you remember the little verses people wrote?"

He has submitted a few for the nostalgic enjoyment of others -

'By hook or by crook I'll be last (or first)
in this book'

'In days of old when knights were bold
and pants were made of tin,
No piercing cry came from the guy
who sat upon a pin'

'Too bad for heaven,
Too good for hell,
But where he's going
Who can tell?'

'God made little roosters
He made them in a day,
He made them in a hurry,
and forgot to make them lay'

And some more from my memories -

'Can't think, brain numb
Inspiration won't come
Bad writing, bad pen
Best wishes, Amen'

'Girl, boy, out late
Kissing by garden gate
Dad comes, big boots
Girl screams, boy scoots'

'The lightning flashed, the thunder roared
The powers of heaven were shaken
The little pig rolled up his tail
And ran to save his bacon.'

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

Yarrawonga/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



Leah Smith (Kaimkillenbun) and Renae Mirtschin (Jondaryan)
join Bill Glasson in a Poetry Writing Workshop

Good Ol' Country Footy (AFL)

Now footy it is something, we all hold proud and dear.
Especially when the Grand Final comes around each year.
Well the city boys play hard, and are recommended tough,
Yet the country blokes play something that is absolutely rough.

When it comes to regulations, they like to step them wide,
What's a game without injuries, and a punch up beside.
It breaks a players' heart if he has not drawn blood,
On his opponent that is, then buried him in the mud.

Yes good ol' country footy, more a battle than a game,
And spectators come for miles, so I've heard the claim.
This year Port Poppi, all tough and rugged brothers,
Had made the final, just by knocking out the others.

The other team was Albusta, a team by name and nature,
And if you weren't a local, they naturally would hate ya.
These two teams had made it, not by style or skill,
But by how many bones they broke, and threatening to kill.

Now the 'Ump' who got the draw, was 'Holy Dan', a preacher,
Who on Sundays was a holy rolling Pentecostal teacher,
Who thought he had a calling to umpire the country mob,
Bringing in fair play, was his self appointed job.

The day arrived, the crowd was huge, and lightning filled the air
The chants and warcries were electric, a noise beyond compare
Mrs. Smithers took the podium, to sing the Nations' song
Till someone yelled, "Bring on the game, you're going on too long."

There was a roar, the teams came on, all looking especially tough,
The only thing seemed missing was all that gladiator stuff.
The Holy Dan came prancing on, his clothing dazzling white,
Oblivious this could be his last, he mightn't reach the night.

Holy Dan blew his whistle and then he bounced the ball
Which was the signal for both teams to begin a brawl.
Holy Dan blew his whistle a shrill Acme Thunderer note
Until a brawny hand grabbed him and shoved it down his throat.

Holy Dan was quite a hero, I must put it to ya
Still he found his whistle blew, if he shouted "Halleluia!"
So in every misdemeanor, Dan would shout his exultation,
Though it didn't stop the players in their murderous confrontation.

Second quarter in the mayhem, four men were lying dead,
A First Aid bloke, two runners, and a linesman lost his head.
Half time only a few players were still running all about,
The break gave time to go in and take the injured out.

Then Dan yelled "Halleluia", with his whistle screeching cry,
But no one paid attention, as the last bloke fell down to die.
The crowd was hushed, there was time left in the final quarter,
And the only man left standing was Dan in all this slaughter.

The score was nil, no one moved and Dan began to pray,
Then a spectator jumped in, determined to save the day.
He waved to Albusta supporters, and shouted, "We'll never die!"
Poised to kick a goal, dropped dead, someone shot him in the eye.



POETS AND MATES

Having celebrated the end of the millennium a year early we have moved Poets and Mates back to where it all began two years ago. The new venue will be on the verandah of Todd's Cottage in the historic North Pine Country Park. This is a homely setting that lends itself to performances of bush poetry.

Our special guest performer to launch the new year will be Mark Feldman. Mark is a talented writer/performer who has been on Poets and Mates before and regulars will certainly welcome him back again.

So see you there! (Bring a friend or two!)

Poets and Mates

7.30pm Friday 11th February 2000

at Todd's Cottage

North Pine Country Park

1480 Dayboro Rd

Kurwongbah (via Petrie)

A light supper will be served and the all-inclusive cost is a low \$10.

Booking is essential as space is limited. Ph 07 3886 0747

Submitted by Wally (The Bear) Finch

CHARTERS TOWERS

The Charters Towers Bush Poetry Group, part of the Gold City Country Music Club, is forging ahead with plans for their 2nd Festival of Australian Bush Poetry. This will be held 25-27 April, 2000, when they will have as guest poets, Bob Miller, and (returning for a second year) Helen Avery.

The Festival will include a Performance Showcase, Workshop, Bush Breakfast, and Competitions. Written Entries close 14th April.

Contact Sandra on 07 4787 2944 or
Arthur on 07 4787 2409

The crowd went wild as many a fella tried to beat the bell,
But no one could get a kick in, before the final fell.
It soon became a war scene, people bashing left and right,
Handbag-swinging mummy's, and kiddies putting in the bite.

Then Holy Dan yelled "Halleluia" at the top of the football post,
He looked whiter than his clothes, resembling a ghost.
No one heard the final bell, in all the blood and gore,
And this was horrid, something the media couldn't ignore.

TV news posted a story, primed for the very top,
"Country game was over, but not a soul would stop"
The shock of it, the shame of it, this incident was quoted,
No one could find the umpire, some say he'd been denoted.

Now on a barren hill in Tibet, there lives a lonely man,
Who whistles to himself, yes, that man is Holy Dan.
And travelers who meet him, on their pilgrims' task,
Why does he whistle, do you wonder? It's wisdom not to ask.

© Peter Chapman, Aldinga Beach, SA



Palma Rosa Poets

We are very excited to announce our first Palma Rosa Poets Evening for the year 2000 will feature two of Australia's finest performers - direct from the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Ian Betteridge - well known and popular singer songwriter from Terrigal in NSW and Kelly Dixon - renowned poet and performer - songwriter to the stars - from Camooweal in Queensland.

These two fabulous artists along with a couple of surprise performers will be here on Wednesday 9th February to entertain us.

Another exciting addition to this great evening will be the Official Palma Rosa Launch by award winning singer/songwriter Mark Tempany of Trisha Anderson's "Australian Bush Poetry" Album.

We look forward to seeing you in the year 2000. Wednesday - 9th February, 7pm for 7.30pm, \$15 (including supper) B.Y.O. drinks. Bookings Essential. Enquiries and Bookings - ESU 3262 3769 - Trisha Anderson 3268 3624

Bush Poetry Festival at Historic Hotel

Bush Poets from across the country are invited to the inaugural Bremer Valley Bush Poetry Festival which will be held at the historic Retreat Hotel at Rosevale near Ipswich, Queensland, on 21-23 April, 2000 (Easter).

The 150 year old hotel was used as one of the locations in pioneer film maker, Charles Chauvel's first movie, "The Moth of Moombi". The beer garden, shaded by century old elms, provides a perfect outdoor setting for performance poetry.

Open competitors in the performance poetry programme will compete in two sections, Original and Traditional, with prizemoney of \$150, \$100 and \$50 in each section. Other sections with \$50 prizemoney and trophies for minor places include Juvenile, Novice, and Intermediate. There will also be a Duo section with a prize of \$200.

A competition for original bush poetry will also be a feature of the festival, with prize money of \$300, \$200 and \$100. A selection of the best poems will also be published in book form.

There will also be a "State of Origin" competition, with two poets to represent each state. Prize of \$2000 - winners take all.

Further information on the festival may be obtained by writing to Bush Poetry, PO Box 20, Harrisville QLD 4307. Please include a stamped, self addressed envelope.

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

The SECOND CIRCULAR which will contain the ENTRY FORMS, will be mailed out to all on the Mailing List in the 3rd week of February. Anyone else wanting entry forms, please write to PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre, Qld 4352.

The Little Swaggies' Awards for Junior WRITTEN Bush Poetry (*Australia's most popular Junior Awards*)
Entries close 17th March 2000. Entry forms are available NOW. Same address.

JUNIORS wishing to compete in the Junior Festival should write for ENTRY FORMS and CONDITIONS. Same address. Juniors (under 18 years) are not eligible for Novice or Open Events. Medal Winners ONLY from the Junior Festival contest the Clover Nolan Primary and Secondary Awards.

Wednesday 19th April Junior Performance Festival. Individual and Group Competitions for all School Grades 1-12

Friday 21st April Poetry Writing Workshop, Mulga Bill's Shed
"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 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 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

TREVOR



For readers in the Geelong area of Victoria, Country FM (a local Community Radio station featuring Country Music) has recently changed frequency. You can now find Country FM at 91.9 on your dial.

WOODFORD 1999

Essay by Marilyn Roberts

This year was my third year performing at the Woodford Folk Festival as a storyteller, and my first as a bush poet. Woodford is *the* premier event of festivals it is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and the second largest in the world, it was even showcased for the Millenium world telecasts (though it was rather a shame that the broadcasters weighted their coverage towards the "hippie" element).

But this year at Woodford I learnt more in a few days than I have in my entire time storytelling, because this time the lessons became more than mere platitudes.

Maybe it was because it was our Millenium year and this was reflected in the general atmosphere of the festival. Maybe it was in sloshing around in mud one really got down to the basics, completely unadorned. Or just maybe it was the right time for me to learn these lessons.

I learnt that the audience was my friend, and that I had *nothing* to fear from them, everyone there came with good intent. But most importantly I learnt that the words of the poet or storyteller were more important, more immortal than the performer. The words would remain long after the performer had long since gone.

This second part should have been self-evident, in fact it was part of my very introduction to the storytelling show I performed with Helen Fitzgerald and Mala Karim. This was a storytelling and bellydancing spectacular called *In the Steps of Scherehezade*. For although the voice of Scherehezade has long since gone from the Arabian nights her voice still echoes on in her stories and we can still share the wonder, love, laughter, joy and despair her stories bring us.

And as for fear and believing the audience was my friend this was only something I believed in my head and not my heart, and it kept me from joining in with the poets for a long time. But this year with some experience and practice behind me I threw myself into the fray joining in at the poets breakfasts and even camping with the poets on Poets Hill and so made room for those lessons to move from my brain to my heart.

The first lesson came as I walked off the stage shaking with fear

to be replaced by a very novice poet. He got up to read us some of his own poetry, not only was it moving but his beautiful voice was rich and resonant but oh how his hands shook. I have never seen such nervousness. I sat there listening to his beautiful words and sending him positive thoughts trying to let him know we were there just for him, we were his friends. And in that moment it struck me I had that same fear and had never allowed myself to believe that the audience was there just for me and that I could get up and be truly me. What an insight, what I saw for others I could now see was true for me. I now look forward to my next opportunity to really try this out, every opportunity in the future will be a joyous celebration.

My next lesson came almost straight on top of that, because he was followed by a beautiful young girl who had been so inspired by a poem I had recited the day before that she went home and wrote her own poem. As she spoke how much she had enjoyed my performance I took a few moments to bask in her admiration before realising I was merely a conduit, a carrier of an important lesson that someone else had conceived. I could carry word the words of an old fashioned bush poet that could inspire the life of a hip 17 year old. Words were important.

In that same session a married couple got up to share some words in dedication to their son, he had planned to come to Woodford with them, they had in fact bought his ticket, but he tragically died in a motor vehicle accident. They shared their pain and love with us, and the regrets they will face in the future as they grow older without him. Their words were healing for many in the audience, but especially healing for me, as I too must grow older without my eldest son as he was also killed in a motor vehicle accident. I don't recall their names just as many who saw my performances will not remember my name, but the words and the stories may linger with them for a long time.

I have the privilege as storyteller and poet to keep alive some of man's loftiest thoughts, among friends and without fear I can remind others of the essential goodness of man, in my own way. And that is something I am learning is a precious gift.

Australia Day at Southbank, Brisbane

Southbank Parklands held their inaugural Bush Poetry competition at the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Celebrations. The beautiful parklands beside the Brisbane River were crowded with locals and visitors out enjoying the sunshine and festivities. It was a very well-organised competition, with judges being ABPA members Corrie De Haas and Ian Mackay, along with local 4KQ radio personality Dave D. The afternoon was compered by another 4KQ personality, Greg Newman. Brisbane and local area poets turned out in force, including a contingent from Russell Island. Special mention should be made of young Trent McInnes, who also contested the Open Male section as well as the Junior section. Keep an eye out for mention of this rising young performer.

Congratulations to Jenny Ford, of Southbank Parklands, for an efficiently run and highly amusing afternoon.

Results were:-

Junior 1st Kelsey Horton, Mt Gravatt
2nd Trent McInnes Chapel Hill

Open Humorous Female

1st Zita Horton, Mt Gravatt
2nd Marilyn Roberts, Oxley
3rd Kate Gibson, Gold Coast

Open Humorous Male

1st Wally Finch, Kallangur
2nd Doug Hutchenson, Redland Bay
3rd tied Merv Webster Snr, Margate
3rd tied Trent McInnes, Chapel Hill

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



2000

- Feb 5 **Bett's Bush Bash** 6.30pm, \$10 inclues meal. More information from 02 6077 9201
- Feb 9 **Palma Rosa Poets**, 7pm for 7.30pm, \$15 (incl supper) Contact Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624
- Feb 11 **Poets and Mates**, North Pine Country Park, 7.30pm. Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- Feb 11-13 **Kyneton Country Music Festival**, V. Poets breakfasts and more. Contact Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739
- Feb 12-13 **High Country Poets**. Stanthorpe Q Performance Competition Ph Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 Fax 07 4683 7069
- Feb 16 **Palma Rosa Poets**, 7.30pm. Launch of Mark Tempary's new album. Free admittance. Ph 3216 9005
- Mar 1 Closing date **Grenfell 2000 Verse, Short Story & Song Competitions**. Enquiries 02 6343 1779 or 02 6343 7120
- Mar 3 Closing date **Central Coast Poets Henry Kendall Poetry Award** PO Box 403, Ourimbah NSW 2258
- Mar 6-8 **Redgum Festival**. Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585
- Mar 18 **The Great Dunny Classic** Dunedoo Bowling Club, Dunedoo NSW. Ph Marie 02 6375 1975 or 02 6375 1015
- 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
- Mar 19 **Poets in the Pub**, 1pm Fitzroy Hotel, Coffs Harbor NSW. Open Mike featuring Barry Jacka. Ph 02 6652 3716 P15
- Apr 12-16 **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 20-24 **National Folk Festival**, Canberra ACT. Contact Phil Spring 02 6249 7755 Fax 02 6247 0906
- Apr 21-23 **Bremer Valley Bush Poetry Festival**, Retreat Hotel, Rosevale Q. Send SSAE to PO Box 20, Harrisville QLD 4307 P10
- 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 **Gold City Festival of Australian Bush Poetry**, Charters Towers Q. Ph Sandra 07 4787 2944 or Arthur 07 4787 2409
- 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 18-20 **Country on the Tweed Festival** Poetry from 8am. Lorraine Richards, Email: poetry@fan.net.au
- Aug 19-20 **Camp Oven Festival**. North Pine Markets, Petrie. Enquiries - Mary Hodgson, Diamond Valley Rd, Mooloolah, 4553

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

Spoken Word and Poetry - Storytellers and Reciters from around the country will get together to display their wit. Poet's breakfasts are held each morning and of course the World Poetry Debate is not to be missed. Bush poets, rhymers - it's all in the great tradition of telling a yarn and showing off. *Apply to perform.*

Admission - All this is for one season ticket price, or day and evening tickets are available (food and drink is not included, of course). Camping is a small additional fee. Ticketing will be open on our telephone number +61 2 6249 7722 from January. Whether its the Poet's Breakfast, the Great Debate (NSW versus the rest of the world) or the feast of stand-up poetry and comedy be sure to highlight this in your program!

	Ticket Type	Gate Price	Prepaid Price
Adult (18 years & over)	Season	\$120	\$95
	Day (includes evening)	\$45	\$35
	Evening (after 5 pm)	\$25	\$20
	Camping (per person)	\$30	\$25
	65s and over	Free	Free
	Power for Caravan or camping (per site)	\$15	\$15
Youth (13 -17 years)	Season	\$60	\$48
	Day (includes evening)	\$20	\$16
	Evening (after 5 pm)	\$15	\$12
	Camping (per person, 5 nights)	\$16	\$12
Children (5 - 12 years)	Season	\$20	\$16
	Day (includes evening)	\$7	\$5
	Evening (after 5 pm)	Free	Free
	Camping (per person, 5 nights)	\$6	\$5

Children under 5 are still Free!

Mail to: The National Folk Festival, PO Box 156 Civic Square ACT Australia 2608 or fax: 02 6247 0906 before Friday March 31, 2000, and save up to 20% - or give us a call between 1st March and 5pm 31 March with your credit card details on 02 6249 7722 and order over the phone between 9.00am and 5.00pm!

The National Folk Festival is held at EPIC (Exhibition Park In Canberra), which is located at Flemington Road in Mitchell ACT. The nearest turnoff is from the Federal Highway. Be there from 20-24 April 2000!

For more information, call 61 2 6249 7755 or fax 61 2 6247 0906 or e-mail natfolk@spirit.com.au Visit our website: <http://www.spirit.com.au/~natfolk>



FINAL MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

UNLESS MEMBERSHIP IS PAID BY THE END OF FEBRUARY, MEMBERS WILL NOT RECEIVE THE MARCH NEWSLETTER. WE WILL TRY TO SEND COPIES TO LATE PAYERS, BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE THIS. SEND \$25.00 TO THE SECRETARY, OLIVE SHOOTER, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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 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** **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
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 tel, 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



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

POETS AND MATES

7.30pm, Friday 11 February, 2000.

Todd's Cottage, North Pine Country Park,
1480 Dayboro Rd, Kurwongbah (via Petrie)
A lights supper will be served - all-inclusive price \$10.
Bookings essential, as space is limited.
Contact Wally Finch Ph 07 3886 0747

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

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

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

THE GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC

Dunedoo, NSW **18th March 2000** Dunedoo Bowling Club
Competitions: Original, Traditional, Humorous, Novice
The prestigious "Great Dunny" Trophy awarded for best overall
For more information
phone Marie Hensley - 02 6375 1975 or 02 6375 1015

POETS IN THE PUB 1pm 19 March 2000

Hosted by Portside Poets and Players, Fitzroy Hotel, Coffs Harbour. Featured Poet - Barry Jacka. Open mike. Performers welcome. Admission \$2 includes afternoon tea
Enquiries Ed Parmenter 02 6652 3716

BREMER VALLEY BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

21 - 23 April 2000 at the Retreat Hotel, Rosevale, Qld
Performance and Written Competitions,
as well as State of Origin Competition.
Send SSAE to PO Box 20, Harrisville Qld 4307

ORACLES OF THE BUSH - LOOMING LEGENDS

12 - 16 April 2000

Written Section - Prize in each section \$200.00

1. Poem with humorous theme
2. Poem celebrating Battler Spirit OR expressing Community concerns
3. Poem about any local area

Performance Section: Contestants must (i) submit entries on cassette and (ii) be available to perform 12-16 April 2000 in Tenterfield. Judges will select 15 contestants and notify them of their inclusion in the heats.

4. Original Work - unpublished
5. Previously published works

Entry form to include Name, Address, Phone/Fax, Sections entered, and Title of Entry. Entries close 31 March 2000.
Send to: Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush, Looming Legend
PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW 2372

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 March

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

WRITING WORKSHOP

Friday 21 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

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

20 - 24 April 2000. Poet's Breakfasts, the Great International Poetry Debate, Sessions Bar.

Special Guest: Les Barker from the UK

Enquiries: Phil Spring Ph 02 6249 7755 Fax 02 6247 0906

Email: natfolk@spirit.com.au

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

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

GOLD CITY FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY

25 - 27 April, 2000. Charters Towers, Qld Performance Showcase - Workshop - Written Competition Bush Breakfasts - Competitions Special Guests: Bob Miller and Helen Avery Contact Sandra 07 4787 2944 or Arthur 07 4787 2409

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

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarrowonga/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

BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse 2000 Entry Forms available from: Mr. Ross Keppel, Bundaberg Poets Society Inc., P.O. Box 4281, SOUTH BUNDABERG 4670

Entries close for written competition on May 31st, 2000.

CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL North Pine Markets, Petrie, Qld 19th & 20th August 2000

Written Competition, Adults, Under 16, Under 12, Under 8. Performance Competition, Serious, Original, Humorous, Novice Enquiries - Mary Hodgson, Diamond Valley Rd, Mooloolah, 4553

Poetry, Paintings, & Pieces of Wood by Harry McVey

A hard cover book of 40 poems with 42 illustrations of paintings or pieces of bush sculpture which are all the work of one man. Harry McVey lived from 1897 to 1995, but really started all these hobbies in his 70's.

\$20 plus \$2 pp. Contact Betty Markwell, 9 Laura Court, Beaudesert Qld 4285

FRENCH CUISINE: RECIPES FOR HUMOUR!

By Mary Meehan

Poetry with the ingredients for a smile.

Book available from:

5 Willow Court SEAFORD SA 5169

Only \$9.00 pp



THE PRODUCT SHELF

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"City of Green - Green Ban Songs & Beyond"

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Poetry and Songs from the pen of Denis Keavans and friends

Available from D Keavans

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

Of War & Other Things

A book of poetry
from Joye Dempsey

\$14.95 postage paid, from
Interludes

PO Box 20

Croydon Park NSW 2133

"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.

Bush Poetry but ...

DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT!

People ... Politics ... Religion ...

Ruffled feathers start to fly ...

Are you Hawk, Dove or Clay Pigeon ...?

Ponder "BRAINWASHED", then reply.

Send \$5.00 pp for your copy of this 1500 word verse-story in booklet form - written and illustrated by Tom Stonham © 1999
2/8 Salamanda Parade, NUMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448

Keith McKenry



CDs

Bigger the Music, Give Us a Poem! \$20 pp

Travelling Through the Storm (with Alan Scott) \$20 pp

Cassette

Battler's Ballad (with Alan Scott) \$18 pp

Books

McKenry's Curse and Other Verse \$15 pp

An Obscene Alphabet and Other Unacceptable Verse \$10 pp
(with a guest poem by Blue the Shearer)

Lingua Bureaucratia (3 pocket volumes) \$15 the set, pp

Fanged Wombats accept cheques, Visa, Bankcard and Mastercard, and can be contacted at 5 Bonney St Ainslie ACT 2602, by phone/fax on 02-6247 9656 or by email at FangedWombat@Bigpond.com

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

February 2000

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**



Heritage Corner

This space devoted to
preserving the character of our
Australian Heritage

Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikard

A Useful Hint for Fire Lighting

Potato Peelings, if dried, are useful for fire lighting. If sufficiently abundant they entirely take the place of wood, but in any case they will economise it.

How To Make Cut Flowers Last Longer

Cut flowers will last longer if a little Carbonate of Soda be added to the water in which they are placed.

From the Australian Household Guide, 1916

From a recording of two comedians, Clapham and Dwyer, which was performed in the 1930's.

The Surrealist Alphabet

A for Horses

B for Mutton

C forth Highlanders

D for Enshall

E for Adam

F for Vescence

G for Police

H for Respect

I for Novello

J for Orange

K for Ancis

L for Leather

M for Sis

N for a Dig

O for the Garden Wall

P for Relief

Q for a Song

R for Mo

S for U

T for Two

U for Films

V for La France

W for a Dollar

X for Breakfast

Y for Gawd's Sake

Z for Breezes

17 FEBRUARY 1848 LOUISA LAWSON, MOTHER OF HENRY LAWSON WAS BORN IN GUNTAWANG, NSW

17 FEBRUARY 1864 AB (BANJO) PATERSON'S BIRTHDAY, BORN NARRAMBLA, NSW

Thank you to our Contributors

Trisha Anderson
John & Gaye
Barclay
Beth Vincombe-
Bashford
Ellis Campbell
Peter Chapman
Holly de Dikard
Wally Finch
Bill Glasson
Hipshot
Max Jarrott
Leo Keane
Jan Lewis

JJ Mannion
Barb McDermid
Keith McKenry
Bob McPhie
Margaret Mitchell
Arthur Rekow
Marilyn Roberts
Ron Selby
Olive Shooter
Bob Skelton
Phil Spring
Tom Stonham
Grahame Watt

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

The Newsletter is a little late this month, primarily because I wanted to get the Tamworth results in if at all possible. Many thanks to those members who took the time to let me know what went on at Tamworth, as I was unfortunately unable to attend in person.

It is great to see that the Executive Committee has a new member, Wally Finch, and I'm sure he will relish the task! My best wishes to Bob Miller in his retirement from the job. I would also like to welcome a new columnist to the Newsletter. New member, Holly de Dikard, has approached me to write the above "Heritage Corner" on a monthly basis. I wish her all the best, and hope all members get a kick out of this new addition to our regular features.

Remember, this is YOUR Newsletter! Any submissions are gratefully accepted, and will be used as space allows. Do you have any ideas for the Newsletter? Please let me know, and I will attempt to incorporate them. I feel that all members have the right to have a say, and this is the ideal forum.

Ron Selby has informed me that as and when the new "Proposed Guidelines" for competitions are formulated, he will make them available to all members via this Newsletter. What a great idea! I look forward to being able to include these Guidelines for your comments.

Best regards, Jennifer Priest

