

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

Monthly Newsletter

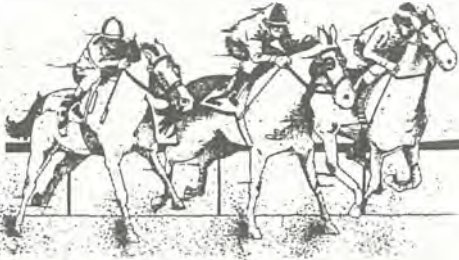
No 3 Volume 7

March 2000



## WINNER - Blackened Billy Competition, Tamworth 2000 THE COLT FROM OLD REGRET

© Neil McArthur



How many of you folks have stopped and wondered to this day  
What happened to the colt from old Regret that got away?  
That one caught unassisted by the Snowy River Man  
'Twas near another year before chapter two began.

They sent him off to Sydney, to a trainer named McBrack,  
Who could turn the wildest brumby to a winner on the track.  
He surely had the bloodlines and his temperament was right,  
To knock off any weight-for-age or handicap in sight.

McBrack, he trained that horse by dusk; he trained that horse by dawn;  
He trained it on the sand and on a track as smooth as lawn.  
He galloped him by moonlight and he swam him in the sun,  
But there was only one small problem, the mongrel couldn't run!

"He just needs time" McBrack explained, "Improvement's slowly showing."  
The old man said, "We shoulda' let the bugger keep on going!  
All that pain we suffered just to bring the mongrel back  
And find we've got ourselves a thousand pounds of hobbled hack!!"

But McBrack kept on persisting and the colt from old Regret  
Improved with further training (and some gelding by the vet).  
He then rang up old Harrison and said "He's right to go!  
I'll enter him next Saturday - he's really got a show."

"'Bout bloody time!" the old man said, hardly sounding pleased,  
"What I won on Pardon in the Cup, I've spent on training fees!  
So I'll only give the tip out to a small deserving clan.  
The tried and noted riders, and to Clancy and the 'Man'"

"Another thing," McBrack replied, "a name to race him by.  
I thought Might & Power." The old man answered "Why?"  
"Cause a name reflects the hopes and dreams that we all hold within"  
"Good then," said the old man, "call it 'Win, You Bastard, Win!'"

So down there by the rails where the Bookies cheer the hack,  
Our band of wanton punters watched their horse walk on the track;  
They'd backed their horse at twenties and they'd backed their horse at tens,  
And when it tumbled in to twos, they backed their horse again.

The Man from Snowy River said "It better run the course!  
I've bet my royalties from my poem on this flamin' horse!"  
And Clancy of the Overflow came down to place a bet,  
He wagered everything he owned, and stood there in a sweat.

But the waiting now was over, as they drew the starting rope.  
"It's up to Fate!" said Harrison, "Just pray and bloody hope!"  
"Fate be stuffed!" said Clancy, "I've fixed things up, you mugs.  
I bribed the swabbing steward and our horse is full of drugs!"

Thus the race began in earnest, they were all quick to begin,  
But five lengths out in front the field, was 'Win You Bastard Win';  
Its eyes were wide as dinner plates, this horse was off its face,  
The other trainers watched in awe and thought "Can this thing race!!"

But it was only out in front 'cause it was trying to avoid  
The other nags, for all those drugs had made it paranoid!  
They scorched around the corner, it had stretched its lead to eight  
Then twelve lengths by the time they thundered down into the straight.

The punters were ecstatic, screaming "Go, you mongrel, Go!!"  
They were gonna clean up big time, they'd be rolling in their dough!  
When the Man from Snowy River sprightly jumped up on the fence,  
And cheered the horse to victory (with obscene reference)!

'Win You Bastard Win' was well in front of every nag,  
The winning post was ten yards off, the plunge was in the bag!  
When that paranoid, poor pony saw the Snowy River Man,  
And thought "Oh Hell, not you again!!" then turned its tail and ran

Backwards up the bloody straight - the sight was quite bizarre!  
The jockey on the second horse shouted "BLOODY TA!!!!"  
The punters stood there speechless as their flamin' horse went 'Whoosh...!!!!'  
Jumped the fence - a mighty leap - and dashed into the bush

"Should I chase it?" asked the 'Man', but Harrison said "No!  
I've lost a bloody fortune, this time let the bugger go!"  
The punters were irate, their horse had failed to deliver  
So instead they bashed the hell out of the Man from Snowy River!

Now, there's no movement at the station, they are sad and bitter people  
See, they sold the colt which next year won the damn Grand National Steeple  
And all the tried and noted riders will tell you to this day  
About that Snowy River Mongrel and the race that got away!

### OTHER PLACINGS IN THE BLACKENED BILLY AWARDS

2<sup>nd</sup> "Our Shrine" Col Hadwell, Byron Bay, NSW

3<sup>rd</sup> "Pensioner's Plight" Richard Hetherington, Moree, NSW

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

"A Matter of the Heart" Milton Taylor, Portland, NSW

"What Does the Future Hold?" Dixie McCauley, Coolah, NSW

"The Bull's Undercarriage" Pamela Drysdale, Berowra Hts, NSW

"Blessings In Disguise" Barbara Nelson, Biggenden, QLD

"Whisperings" Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale, QLD

"Millennium Australis" Bill Kearns, Grafton, NSW

"I often Stop and Wonder" Len Hutton, Attunga, NSW

"Cappuccino Kids" Zita Horton, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD

"Beyond The Gate" Bob Miller, Mungar, QLD

"The Sign of the Cross" Elizabeth Ward, Mount Perry, QLD

"Why Help The Youth In Any Way When You See The

Things They Do" Roderick Williams, Murrurundi, NSW

"Our Olympic Games" Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW

"My New Electric Fence" Harry Bowers, Warragul, VIC

#### ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

"The Bucks Party" Trevor Shaw, Thangool, QLD



## Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

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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



How many times at a competition have you heard someone say, "Oh no, not 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle' again!", or 'The Man from Ironbark' or 'Clancy', or many of the poems from the masters that should be treated as Classics? We tend to put down many fine poems and complain that we have heard them to death.

I agree that they can become boring when a particular poem is repeated many times in one competition. Such as one event when we sat through 'Clancy' eleven times, and at another where there were four entries in the Traditional section and the first three recited 'The Man From Snowy River'. THEN these poems may become boring!

But I was at an event last year where I heard a judge tell a performer who had recited 'Mulga Bill' that the poem was 'old hat' and he should be doing something a little different. Only a matter of minutes later another performer who had recited a lesser-known poem by Ogilvie, was told by the same judge that he would gain more points if he did a more popular poem that people know!

So how do you decide which poem to perform at a competition? Should we have another separate section for "Boring Old Poems", or a list that names the poems that can only be done once a year or so?? Maybe we could include in our entries three poems that we are able to do in the Traditional section, and organisers could decide which poem we perform?

Since the matter was raised in the Newsletter about some poets wanting to be paid for the privilege of others performing their poetry, entries in recent events have mostly been from the masters of old, and many of their lesser works are now being performed.

The point I am trying to raise is the fact that we, as performers, judges and members of the ABPA do put these poems in the 'boring' basket, BUT we seem to forget, at times, that these poems were the basis of our Association. We started this Association to keep alive the many fine poems of the masters and we tend to forget the fact that even though we have heard them many many times, the audience may not have heard them recited for years!

At the recent Stanthorpe event I overheard two older ladies talking and one said, "I loved the way Leonard Teale used to do 'The Man From Snowy River', and I was sure that someone would have done it in the Traditional section."

Are we not only obligated to keeping those popular poems alive, but also to entertain our audiences? After all, that is why we are entertainers, and without an audience many events would not be able to keep going!

*Ron Selby, President*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE ABPA?

JUST SEND A CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER  
FOR \$25, MADE OUT TO "ABPA", TO:

**OLIVE SHOOTER, SECRETARY/TREASURER  
ADDRESS AS ABOVE**

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME,  
ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER!**

**MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR THE  
CALENDAR YEAR, JANUARY - DECEMBER**

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE RECEIVING  
THIS NEWSLETTER 12 TIMES A YEAR!**



*Hello Dear Members*

I thank you all for your wonderful caring concern for me. Through all this, I have found that I am not alone in suffering. We have many members who are fighting the same battle. I wish you all well. Everyone has been very helpful with your encouragement and if I have not answered your notes, I thank you now. I am feeling alright but have absolutely no stamina at all and I'm hoping to be up and going soon. I went to Stanthorpe for their contest and although I was not competing, I got such a boost from seeing my poet friends there and listening to the talented performances they aired. It didn't matter that all could not win, for all were winners because they pleased the audience.

We have members who have won community awards and members who are going to carry the Olympic torch. These are great honours and we congratulate them. If any of you have something good to pass on, either write it to me or send to the Editor.

The annual meeting went off well, I think. Our loving thanks must go to Bobbie Miller who has served on our Executive so very well. We will miss him and his cheery input. As he takes a rest from it, may he enjoy better health. We welcome Wally Finch in his place and look forward to working harmoniously with him. Ron Selby has done a fine job as our President and this year I expect we will enjoy the same easy and willing way that he has about him. The other member of our Executive is Liz Ward and no one could have been more supportive than she has been, and always ready to assist. I'm sure we all thank them for taking on the Office positions for the ensuring year.

If you are thinking about applying for the Australian Championships for 2001, an advertisement will be in next month's issue. My fond regards to you all.

*Olive Shooter*



AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

# MAVIS APPELEYARD

Mavis Appleyard was born in London, and came to Australia when she was eleven, under the Fairbridge Child Emigration Scheme. Under this scheme, she lived in an institution, and was made to leave school at fourteen to work in the institution laundry. Australia was involved in war, and staff were impossible to find, so despite throwing a tantrum in order to stay at school, she ended up working in the laundry for three years.

She left there with a reputation for making it look like she had done a job, when she had not. Mavis worked as a nurse, nanny and physiotherapist's assistant, waitress, and in-house carer (just a glorified housemaid) until she decided to find a man who would keep her in comfort. Here, she came a guttser. She found a man to KEEP her, but soon with four preschool aged kids and constantly moving around the country with his work, she missed out on the comfort.

Mavis began writing poetry in the early 1960's, sending poems off to family and friends who were isolated, lonely, or just needed cheering up. Her very visual descriptions of Australian bush life were mailed to England, Canada, and America. However, it was not until 1994 that Mavis' poems first found public favour, during readings at the Outback Art's Committee's "Outback Writers' Retreat" in Warren, NSW. She was surprised by the positive response of the other writers and tutors.

After fifty years Mavis and husband Doug discovered the government pays them to run away from home like errant teenagers. They belong to the S.K.I. club (Spending Kids Inheritance), and are loving it.

## Who do you admire most?

Dick Smith for his adventurous spirit and Helen Avery for her strong serenity.

## What was your most embarrassing moment?

Asking a man, over the microphone, what he did for a living. He was Johnny O'Keefe in his hey day.

## What is your earliest memory?

My Dad catching a rat, and then laughing when I would not let him touch me. I was three, and had seen what he did to the rat!

## What started you writing Bush Poetry?

I was tired of reading Bush Poetry written by men about drinking, droving, and their dead mates.

## What words of wisdom would you write in someone else's autograph book?

'Do it NOW before someone else does it and proves they can do it better.'

## If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Up north, the Kimberleys, Cape York, and where real Australians lead real lives before they have all become commercialized.

## Have you adapted to the technological age?

Yes. To switch on I push up, to switch off I push down, and it usually works, but I do have a bit of trouble with some old equipment that my husband has.



## Outback Lover

© Mavis Appleyard

You only talk of tractors, rain,  
Fences, fertiliser.  
I'm always short of money  
Although you are no miser.  
Unless we're having visitors  
Your whiskers are quite cruel.  
But I love and need you,  
Am I just a fool?

I cart the water, chop the wood  
And do all the chores.  
You swear just like a bullocky  
Both outside and indoors  
You never let me drive the car  
And I don't really care, dear,  
But never leave me, darling,  
'Cause we're miles from anywhere.

## REVIEW - Ballads of a Bush Bride (book and cassette)

Mavis Appleyard shows a unique insight into life in Australia's outback and its effect on a young English wife. Her poetry tells of her times in isolated areas and the daily routines of a wife and mother, who is also the right-hand-man on the farm. At one point in her life, with four small children at home and her husband often away with his work, a sense of humour was vital to her well-being. And she certainly does have a lively sense of humour!

Mavis's poems are not the laugh-a-line poetry that has become more popular lately, nor are these old jokes or yarns set to rhyme, but are instead genuine bush tales, simple and uncluttered. The rhythm often meanders from a regular path, and the rhyme is occasionally precarious when venturing beyond single rhymes, but the authenticity of Mavis's experiences is secure. This, and her desire to write, will steer her in the right direction technically.

The book and the cassette share the same title, and are basically the same poems, with Mavis also making brief introductions to each poem on the cassette. The picturesque frogs in 'Bathroom Decor', and her yearning for an inside loo are sure to raise a chuckle! Her imagery is vivid, and her tales are light-hearted and lively. However, the cassette contains an additional descriptive gem in the form of a prose piece entitled "Mice Plague". Presented as one side of a telephone conversation, this monologue encapsulates the horrors of such a plague, and the stoicism with which country people face it. It is remarkable!

This book is cheerful, pragmatic and fun. I not only enjoyed reading it, but I felt that I had momentarily shared a part of someone else's life experiences. And isn't that what poetry's about?



Dear Editor

In reference to Mr. Brian D. Lee's comments in January edition - Soapbox.

Suggestions that poets and authors be restricted (a word no author can tolerate) in their choice of words no stronger than "bloody" is ludicrous.

Maybe we live on different planets, but in my life time the hard working, hard drinking, swearing and cursing bush men (and often women) that I grew up with faced reality, and that's what we do now as authors and poets.

No bush poet of worth, would dream of using profanity to the extent of creating perverse literature. However, the use of what is now considered socially accepted phrases and quotations that were commonly used in our past, is part of our heritage. Could you imagine a coach driver of yesteryear saying "Giddy up horsey." The mind boggles if you've ever seen a real bullock team at work!

In my opinion, experience in the Australian Bush and outback are the real lessons that Mr. Lee should be recommending, so we all have a good dose of reality!

I am sure that nobody wants to see overt foul language written into our Newsletter and poetry. But strict censorship as suggested could be the demise of some really good bush poetry, and have some effect on your association.

*Philip Maiden, Pampoolah, NSW*

Dear Jennifer

Just writing to let you know I have moved from Texas, and now live in Warwick. Thought I would write with new address as I would hate to miss my ABPA mag! As I did not make it to Tamworth this year, I'm waiting for results of comps. Keep up the good work as Editor.

*Norma Jeffries, Warwick, Q*

Dear Editor

Just a short note. I had the honour to be invited to judge the Lord Mayor's of Brisbane inaugural Bush Poet Competition, organised by the Southbank Corporation on Australia Day 2000.

I believe this will be an annual event in the future. Though there were only about ten competitors in each category and only two in the children's humorous, it was a very enjoyable afternoon and the audience's response was very encouraging for the future.

With best wishes for a great year.

*Corry de Haas, Helensvale, Qld*

Dear Editor

In times of trouble, it's comforting to know you don't walk alone. For the second time in as many months, trouble struck at our place. This time it was the death of my mother the day before Mary and I were set to leave for Tamworth. Thank you for all the cards and well wishes. They were most appreciated. Reluctantly, recent problems have forced me to cut back on some activities. One of these has been Poets and Mates. Mary and I hope this is only a temporary thing and when recovery is more complete we may be able to recontinue it some time in the future.

One thing I'm relieved that recent problems did not prevent is being elected Vice President. The honour of this position is taken very seriously and one which I will make every effort to perform to the best of my ability. There is much to be done over the next twelve months and I am personally pleased that we have started to formulate guidelines for the conduct of competitions. I have heard many people calling for them over a long period of time. Such guidelines will benefit competitors and competition organisers as well. A capable Committee has been elected to bring it all together. So please support our Committee and help them formulate the best guidelines by submitting your thoughts and suggestions.

Bush Poetry is many things, not the least of which is preserving past heritage and recording that of today. Is there a better way to enjoy who we are together?

*Wally (The Bear) Finch, Kallangur, QLD*

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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.



## *The Last Word on Copyright*

The unacknowledged poet loses much more than his due,  
He's lost his place in history and maybe money too.  
He misses out on much acclaim and honour from his peers  
His name is lost forever, perhaps right through the years.

Take poor old dead Dan Sheahan, a far North Queensland bard,  
Who had his poem 'stolen' and really copped it hard.  
He wrote about his local - a pub that had no beer,  
And even saw it printed at the beginning of the year.

But then it passed to folklore and spread from mouth to mouth,  
Until 'twas heard by Gordon, a tourist from the south.  
He didn't know the author, or even know the pub  
And so he did some doctoring and now we hear "the rub":

He sold "his" words to Dusty and the rest we need not say  
For his version has become a household word today.  
But Dan he goes unrecognized - a sad and sorry plight  
And all because his admirers paid no heed to copyright.

Dan Sheahan, a cane farmer from Ingham, wrote a poem called "The Pub Without Beer". In January 1944 he saw it published in the North Queensland Register. In 1958 it was rewritten by Gordon Parsons after he had been given an 'anonymous' handwritten version of it.

Josie Sheahan, a friend and colleague of mine from my Tully days, and Dan's daughter-in-law, told me that at the time they thought to fight it, to get back copyright, or receive some acknowledgement or even some payment, but they did not have the resources.

Dan was to see "Pub" become a best seller and recorded in many countries and languages and not receive a single royalty. It was not until Slim Dusty wrote his autobiography "Walk a Country Mile" that Dan was generally acknowledged as the primary source and by then he was long dead.

Dan's poems give a rare glimpse into Queensland life on the land, especially along the far north coast, yet Dan will not be remembered or even quoted.

And the pub? I believe it was the Imperial Hotel of Ingham and it had been drunk dry by the visiting American soldiers during WW2.

Well how about that, you learn something new every day!

*Marilyn Roberts, Oxley, Qld*

Dear Editor

The Surrealist Alphabet (Feb edition) brought back childhood memories. The majority of the letters were similar, however, a few differed from the version we learnt. These were:

C for ships	E Va Brick
H (b)for Beauty	I for an eye
K for a drink	N for eggs
O ver Seas	S for Williams
U for Me	Y for a Husband

From all of the letters, the only "authentic" ones are T and L.

*Kathy Edwards, Merewether, NSW*



## ABPA... WHERE'S YA GUTS?

No! I'm not out for a hanging here. I just want members to ask themselves some questions regarding the future of the ABPA and its role in the maintenance and fostering of Rhyming Australian Poetry both as an Artform and dare we say it... an industry.

But there is no industry is there? There are a handful of Australian Poets making a full-time living from Poetry, and I am lucky enough to be one of them. Events like the Tamworth CMF and The Gympie Muster have been extremely rewarding for me both as a Poet amongst Poets, and as an entertainer seeking to maintain a profile.

Other than for a few community festivals around the traps, I see our members presently nestled under (although on the edge) of the umbrella cast by the Country Music Industry.

But the ABPA itself (God love it) is simply a newsletter, and has no power to wield and no guts in it's influence (YET). This becomes glaringly obvious when the Australian Bush Laureate Awards are held without any consultation with the ABPA. The Poets will never really own these awards until our representatives enter into this consultation process.

Until then, those Awards in my eyes (although grand and thoroughly impressive) will simply be a marketing exercise, orchestrated by marketing people, and owned (literally) by a few business interests.

After the Awards, many of you queried in general conversation... *Why were so many singers on a concert to celebrate Bush Poetry?* One may wonder if the organizers believe the Bush Poets themselves would not attract the audiences these talented singers attracted. Are they right? How do you value yourselves? Don't be afraid to ring Max Ellis Marketing in Tamworth and ask them!! They are your awards... or at least they should be!

I can certainly vouch for the benefits of nationally recognized awards. Murray Hartin's phone has not stopped ringing since he won Performance Of The Year with 'Turbulence'. With Radio Stations flogging the poem to death, record stores are ordering Naked Poets CD's like they are a top ten item.

As a member of the ABPA, I feel I have an obligation to encourage members to influence those who represent their craft and their industry. Are you having your two cents worth? Stir the pot mates, it's the only way you can clear away the mucky stuff on top and get a decent taste of the brew you have helped create.

*Marco Gliori*

**Ed. Note:** Max Ellis Marketing's contact details are as follows:  
PO Box 298, Tamworth NSW 2340  
Phone: 02 6766 1577  
Fax: 02 6766 7314  
Email: mem@mem.net.au

### *Judges' Comments - Blackened Billy Verse Competition*

It was very interesting to note that, within the entries for the 'Blackened Billy' this year, the mood of the poems was very much lighter than that of last year. Probably not surprising really: bush poetry has always mirrored the conditions that have affected this great country of ours. Then ... and now.

So, with a sense of new beginnings, a more buoyant economy and a positivity in the bush that refuses to succumb to the things that have happened over the last decade, comes the lightness and the comedy from the pens of the poets along with the traditional, important tales from the past.

As with other competitions with which I have been involved lately, the 'Blackened Billy' is right up there in 'new' content. Computer bugs, drugs, reconciliation issues etc. are appearing more often these days. I am also noticing a re-working of some of the old favourites with a tongue-in-cheek larrikinism which can only strengthen our links with the great poets of the bush in times gone by.

My congratulations to the hundreds of 'Blackened Billy' entrants, and to the dedicated members of the Tamworth Poetry reading Group for their ongoing support of this great Australian ideal.

*Bill Gleeson*



## FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

*Hi there*

The Victorian climate is as changeable as a baby's nappy. We began the tour as visiting speaker for Lions Clubs two weeks ago and so far have been to four. All have been extremely appreciative of our approach to bush poetry, very hospitable and friendly.

I do some old poets, some new, some other writers and some of my own. My book "The Rambling Poet" is being very well received also.

The people we meet are the heart and soul of Australia, not those 'would-bes' out there who couldn't tell a cow from the sole of a shoe. In towns, and in the bush we have so far been to Werribee, Geelong, Lorne and Forrest - and in the last mentioned also visited the school, presenting bush poetry to the thirty-seven students of a two teacher school.

Life seems pretty good like this, although sometimes we get back in the city mode and try to do too much. Not a good idea.

Meeting people however is the highlight so far: from garbage-men to pilots, from Italians to Poms.

Here's another small offering:

### WHAT'S A MILLENNIUM ANYWAY?

What's a millennium anyway?

I asked myself last night:

A thousand years,

A million tears

A billion fears

Between the dark and light

What's a millennium anyway?

I pondered that a while,

Beginning when

Some lonely men

Could count to ten

Do I detect a smile?

What's a millennium anyway?

The idea is so weird;

Each day begins

One; each day wins

An end. With grins

It's to be thanked, with cheers.

What's a millennium anyway?

A problem posed by man:

We make it up,

Then drink; the cup

Of knowledge sup:

This unimportant sham.

*Regards, John and Gaye Barclay*



There was mention of Bush Poetry and jokes put to verse in the February issue of the ABPA and also the old yarn of the two blokes in the graveyard put to rhyme.

The story has been around the "Boonies" since I was a lad, and like many of its ilk, we always thought of it as a Bushies Yarn.

Question! If it is a bush yarn and used by someone to their full poetic licence, what does it become? The following was my offering some years back.

### The Spirits

© J. J. Mannion, Rockhampton, Qld

A new grave was left one evening, with a lamp to mark the site  
As the diggers had intended to return at morning's light.  
But the lamp blew out at ten o'clock, and it left the graveyard black  
Then along came Blue the hobo, with his swag upon his back.

Sure enough, old Blue fell in, and thereby struck his head  
It was just a superficial cut, but how the damn thing bled.  
Now Blue was only five-foot-two, and the hole was six foot deep  
His struggles left him weak and then, he fell in restless sleep.

Across the town at the Rose and Crown, Tom Brown comes staggering out  
And the trouble he had walking, you'd swear both feet had gout.  
He's teetering through the tombstones, without a single care  
When suddenly a voice calls out, "Is anybody there?"

At this stage panic took poor Tom, and the old chap ran like hell  
When his toe caught on a headstone. By the open grave he fell.  
Poor Tom was not a holy man, years ago he'd left the fold  
Though his Faith returned on hearing. "I'm shivering from the cold."



Tom lay upon the mound of earth, with the night as black as pitch  
And wondered, 'Was it God or Nick'. He'd no way of telling which.  
Just then the dark clouds parted, and the moon came shining through  
A shaft of light shone down the hole. It was then he noticed Blue.

Whose elfin sort of figure lay, one arm behind his back  
With all the goods and chattels he had carted 'round the track'.  
Tom's bloodshot eyes were staring hard, he'd forgotten he was hurt  
"No wonder you're so cold", he said, "You've kicked off all the dirt!"

Winner - One Minute Poetry Championship, Tamworth 2000

### O.B.E.

I'm s'posed to write this poem roughly sixty seconds long,  
And if I go into overtime of course I'll get the gong.

Whilst all the others picked out themes as easy as could be,  
Of course I had to get the worst, O.B. bloody E.

It could stand for almost anything I thought at my first glance,  
Like "Over Boiled Eggs" or "Obese Bloated Elephants".

There's "Over Bloody Eighty" or there's others I could say,  
Like "Obscene Baggy Earlobes" I could go on here all day.

But I've only got a minute and I guess it's just as well,  
'Cause all that I can come up with is "Oh Bloody 'Eil".

© A.B. Strauss 2000

## Millmerran Bush Poetry Group

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up will be conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2000. The competition this year will see some changes. The Juniors will remain the same, with categories being Traditional, Original, and Group. The Novice section also will not change, however we will also run a new section, Intermediate. This is for competitors who have WON a Novice competition, but have NOT been PLACED in an Open competition. Of course, we will be running an Open competition, Yarn-Spinning, Duo (with a difference) and a Brawl. All entries for the Duo must supply a copy of their poem with their entry form.

Our intention is to start around 7pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept with a Camp Oven Dinner at Ned Winter's "Roo Retreat", where we will hold the Yarn-Spinning contest and have an "Open Mic" session. On Saturday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11am we will have a Poet's Brunch (sausage sizzle) in the Millmerran Cultural Centre followed by the Juniors, Novice and Duo competitions. Then on Saturday night at 7.30pm, a Poet's Dinner and "State of Origin" show will be held in the Millmerran Sportsman's Club. Sunday morning will see the Poets Breakfast in the Beer Garden of the Ram's Head Hotel followed by the Intermediate and Open Competition. Again there will be trophies, prizes and cash to be won, more about that later.



## 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

## Wanted - Wanted - Wanted

Bush Poets  
for the **Festival of Bush Poetry**  
Charters Towers  
Tuesday 25 - Thursday 27 April  
Competition Sections  
\$1100 cash prizes plus trophies  
enquiries Sandra 07 4787 2944  
Arthur 07 4787 2409

## SUB-COMMITTEE FOR COMPETITION GUIDELINES

At the Tamworth Annual General Meeting of the ABPA held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, a sub-committee was elected to compile a set of guidelines for adoption to be used in conjunction with competition events.

The following members were elected to the sub-committee:

Ed Parmenter (Convener) Ph 02 6652 3716

Milton Taylor Liz Ward

Wally Finch Pat Hunter

Any suggestions regarding competitions, categories, judging or rules may be forwarded to the Convener, Ed Parmenter, 1 Avenue Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450



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

*A unique Australian bush gathering in Corryong, Victoria*  
Includes of special interest to Bush Poets and Bush Poetry fans:

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April

8.30am Poet's Breakfast at Banjo's Block  
5.00pm Poet's Gathering and Campfire at Banjo's Block

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April

8.30am Poet's Breakfast at Banjo's Block  
11.00am Geoffrey Graham's "Man From Ironbark" Preview,  
Mountainmen's Marquee, Corryong Showgrounds  
12.30pm Poetry/Bush Music/Yarnspinning Competitions  
Youth Club Hall, Donaldson Street  
6.00pm Geoffrey Graham's "Man From Ironbark Show"  
Uniting Church Hall, Donaldson Street  
9.00pm Poetry Fun Night at the Brumby Bar, Jardine St

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April

8.30am Poet's Breakfast and presentation of all Poetry  
competition awards at Banjo's Block

Enquiries to: The Secretary

The Man From Snowy River Festival  
PO Box 144, Corryong, VIC 3707  
Ph 02 6076 1992  
Fax 02 6076 1967

### Editor's Note to all ABPA Members:

Ron Selby tells me that he has had several calls regarding the Keith McKenry poem 'The Dingo Didn't Do It', which was included as a sample of work from Keith's reviewed book (*ABPA Newsletter, Feb issue*). These callers have been annoyed that the poem condemns Lindy Chamberlain (who was later exonerated) and also that it is regarded an 'old' issue, and so should not be published.

*I asked the reviewer to comment -*

"I choose this poem as an example of Keith's work because I had stated that he is often 'recording current events with an awareness to their future historical importance'. This poem is a subtle tongue-in-cheek comment on the Justice system going wrong. Perhaps it is too subtle for some to understand that Keith is, in no way, accusing Lindy Chamberlain. I have requested that the Editor reprint Keith's own comments on the poem. Please read these comments, then re-read the poem with these comments in mind. It is interesting that people still feel so strongly about this 'old' issue! This was such an important part of Australia's recent history that it will never become 'old'."

### *Keith McKenry's notes on 'The Dingo Didn't Do It'*

In 1980 baby Azaria Chamberlain disappeared from the family tent at Ayers Rock in Central Australia. The case - and in particular Lindy Chamberlain's claim that a dingo took her baby - gave rise to endless voyeuristic speculation about black magic and the like, to a new genre of dingo jokes, and associated with all this, to despicable public, media and police harassment of Lindy and her family, culminating in a trial where, despite the absence of a motive, a body, a confession, an adequate opportunity or a witness, a Darwin jury found Lindy guilty beyond reasonable doubt of murdering her daughter.

While in theory the verdict was based on forensic evidence (later found to be not merely suspect but plainly wrong) it was Lindy's failure to display adequate motherly emotion at her loss which really condemned her. She served three years in prison. Eventually, the Northern Territory Government was forced to admit there had been a gross miscarriage of justice, and her conviction was quashed.

### THANK YOU

Well known roving bush poet and respected ABPA member **Bill MacClure** of Tin Can Bay, QLD, has been on the sick list for the past few months and has subsequently received numerous 'get well' wishes from his many mates on the Bush Poetry scene.

He would like to let everyone know that he is making a steady recovery and is hopeful that he will soon be back on the track to the various venues and sincerely thanks all those who have been so supportive during his illness.

## A Change of Name

© Leo Kearne, Hughesdale, VIC

I'm just an ordinary woman  
By name of Dorothy Brown  
Widowed, living in a house  
Just three miles out of town.  
Nothing ever happens  
You'd say that life's serene  
Kids to school, preparing meals  
And making beds my scene  
You see my life is humdrum  
Quite ordinary in fact  
Just another country mum  
With nothing to attract.  
I yearned to be quite famous  
Whom fame has not forgot  
Not like the way the people say  
"It's comfortable old Dot"  
The kids all learned computers  
At our little country school  
But I knew nothing of them  
In fact, I felt a fool.  
So I listened to the radio  
And watched ads. on TV  
They all had their little call signs  
To end their ads, you see.  
Then I had a bright idea  
Of what these words could do.  
So I changed my name by deed poll  
And became "Dot Com A.U."  
And now in all advertisements  
At which I used to snarl  
All have my adopted name  
A great boost to morale.  
So listen all you people  
To your wireless and TV  
And when they say "Dot Com A.U."  
They're glorifying me!



### With Love And Thanks

So, I didn't get to Tamworth;  
That was a bitter blow.  
But throughout the weeks of trauma,  
It was comforting to know  
That so many thoughtful caring folk  
Were praying for my son.  
And from the bottom of my heart,  
I thank you. Everyone.

When life becomes a burden  
And the stress is tough to bear,  
One really does appreciate  
Friendship, love and prayer.  
Though his health is still precarious,  
He now is, somewhat, stronger.  
And by the grace of God  
Still with us a little longer.

I THANK YOU.

*Maxine Ireland, Murwillumbah, NSW*

### FOUND IN TAMWORTH

Dark brown leather stitched and stapled keeper off a  
leather belt; oblong, 2 inches long X 3/4 inch.  
If you were a performer at the City Bowling Club, you  
left it in the performers room by accident.

Please phone Carol Stratford (07) 3209 3720





# TENTERFIELD

## "Oracles of the Bush"

12th - 16th April, 2000

Audiences will be treated to a variety of quality Australian bush poetry, storytelling, music, art and live theatre performances. A selection of the finest bush poets available, including **Gary Fogarty, Marion Fitzgerald, Janine & Jennifer Haig, Carmel Dunn and Ray Essery** have been engaged, together with a selection of local talent, to ensure a great cultural experience. An open Performance competition known as the Looming Legend will be held over several heats with the winner being chosen at the grand final on Sunday afternoon. (Prize... \$500 cash)

Winners of the open Written competition will also be announced. (Prize... \$250 cash and Looming Legend trophy) Breakfast in the Park, Poet's Brawl, Railway Markets, shearing demonstrations, dog obedience trials, marbles tournament, wool fashion parade, bbq's, plus heaps more!

**Don't miss this fun event! Entry details Page 14.**



Join a tour to the "Oracles of the Bush" departing from Toowoomba at 7.30am on Friday 14th, returning Sunday 16th April. Tour includes motel accommodation (all ground floor units), breakfasts, evening meals (including theatre restaurant) and tickets to the "All Star" Poets Concert.

**All this for only \$190 per person.**

Call Dunkley's Coaches on (07) 4630 2566 for reservations.

### Australia Day Bush Picnic 2000 at Galston

Getting the citizens of Hornsby and surrounding districts together to celebrate the first Australia Day of the New Millennium was the objective of Hornsby Councils Australia Day Bush Picnic 2000.

In keeping with this theme the day started off with the sound of Bush Poetry reverberating around the grounds of historic Netherby Cottage and echoing out into the fields of Fagan Park Galston.

On a day slightly marred by overcast conditions there was no doubt what the people had come to see, as the Poetry Marquee soon filled to capacity.

Poetry and yarns aplenty filled the air, as well as the occasional bald faced lie, as poets 'Yuri' the Storyteller, Terry Gleeson, Ron Brown, John Dengate, Brian Beesley and myself continued the Bush Poet's tradition of bringing Australian stories to life.

Poems on whingers, wowsers, boozers, diabetic dogs, cross-eyed bulls, misguided missionaries, and Macarthur's mighty fart to the haunting beauty of the "Highwayman" plus a smattering of traditional classics kept the crowd baying for more.

The Australia Day Bush Picnic continued on with activities for all ages closing with a twilight music concert.

*Submitted by Graeme Johnson, West Ryde, NSW*

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.*



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 02 6249 7755 or fax 02 6247 0906 or e-mail natfolk@spirit.com.au

### Australian Railway Contemporary Song and Poem Competition

\* \$500 for the best contemporary Railway Song or Poem

#### Entry Rules

1. Entry is by submitting together a tape and lyric sheet of the song, or a typed poem, with a completed entry form.
2. Entry is free but restricted to ONE song or poem per writer.
3. Up to ten finalists will be selected to perform their entry at a special concert at the National Folk Festival at Easter 2000 in Canberra.
4. Closing Date is Friday March 24
5. The entry must
  - a) be an original work. One song or poem per writer may be entered.
  - b) not have been previously published in any form, nor awarded a prize in a competition
- c) use an original or traditional tune, and this must be stated on entry form
- d) be no longer than 4 minutes
- e) enclose a tape and an A4 typed/printed lyric sheet - both containing only the song or poem
6. Failure to comply with rules must result in disqualification. The judges decision will be final and not open to any discussion.
7. The entrant gives the Rail Tram and Bus Union the right to publish the song or poem in its National Journal. The entrant will confirm copyright by marking the entry ©.
8. Entries will be destroyed after the National Festival unless a stamped self-addressed envelope is supplied for their return.
9. Entry implies acceptance of these Entry Rules and the conduct of the event.

For official entry forms and more details, please contact:

**Brian Dunnett**  
**Rail Tram and Bus Union**  
**National Office**

Ph: 02 9310 3966  
 Fax: 02 9319 2096  
 Email: publictu@magna.com.au



## Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition

The 2000 Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition attracted entries from all over Australia, and we saw many of our old friends and a large number of new and extremely talented performers competing in a packed and varied program.

Audience numbers were down slightly, due to competing poetry events. There is so much bush poetry going on in the Country Music Festival now, you can have Bush Poetry from morning to night, every day! Naturally, this spreads the fans around a bit, but the people who made it to the Imperial Hotel were treated to a wonderful show each day.

**This year's winners were:**

### Original Section

- 1<sup>st</sup> Roderick Williams
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil McArthur
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Milton Taylor

### Traditional or Established Works Section

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sally Mitchell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Milton Taylor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Zita Horton

*submitted by Jan Morris*

*Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, Tamworth, NSW*

## Gulgong Folk Festival

*Fri 31/12/99 - Sun 2/1/00*

Not since the heady "Gold Rush" days of the 1800's had the historic town of Gulgong seen such crowds! It was New Years Eve 1999 and three thousand people milled about on the main street which had been closed and made into an extended dance floor.

Dr Johnson's Antidote pumped out the remedy of a foot-stomping night of Australian dance tunes and were joined on stage by Bush Poet Graeme Johnson.

The Poet's Breakfast attracted one of the biggest crowds of the weekend with patrons filling the grounds of the Stables Guest House as never before. Graeme MC'd and performed at the breakfast, as did former Reciter of the Year, Terry Gleeson. They were joined by locals Gary Boyd, Kay Binns, and Glen, as well as Nita and Ray, Herb Lippman, and John Ryan.

The colonial surrounds of the Post Office Hotel Beer Garden were also packed on Saturday arvo as patrons lounged around on the grassy area under the overhanging cover of the trellised grape vines to watch Graeme's solo poetry set. They laughed, they cried, they clapped as Graeme led them through a variety of traditional, contemporary and original work.

Festival organisers were once again justly proud of the friendly and informal nature of the event.

*Submitted by Henry Albury*

## Calling all Exhibitionists!

**The OUTBACK OSCARS are back! This popular event will be hotly contested again in 2000 in Winton, from 22-24 April. Get your team (3-5 poets) together to perform your "Olympic Games" theme presentation.**

- \* No Nobbling of Opposing Teams Allowed
- \* Inappropriate Attire Encouraged
- \* Bribing Judges Recommended
- \* Death Threats and Kidnapping are Banned

**See Page 10 for Entry Form details**

## Results of WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinnners Australia Day Challenge 2000

*Champion Bush Poet (Own Composition)*

Keith Lethbridge - "Mum's Driving Lesson"

*Champion Yarn Spinner*

Peter Capp - "The Truffles Man"

*Champion Bush Poet (Other's Composition)*

Rusty Christensen - "In The Droving Days"  
(A.B. Paterson)

*Best Written Poem (Open)*

Sid Hopkinson - "Loser at the Landau Races"

*Junior Sandgroper Written Champ (8-10 years)*

Kate Ansell - "The Clearing"

*Senior Sandgroper Written Champ (11-13 years)*

Graham Pearce - "The Boy and the Kangaroo"

## Charters Towers Australian Bush Poetry Written Competition

Categories for:

under 14 years (fee \$2)

14 years and under 18 years (fee \$2)

18 years and over (fee \$5)

*Closing date April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000*

**Entry forms available from**

Sandra Smith Ph/Fax 07 4787 2944 or

Arthur Rekow 07 4787 2409

## Festival of Australian Bush Poetry presented by Gold City Country Music Club Inc and Gold City Bush Poets

Special Guest Poets:

Bob Miller and Helen Avery

*both well-known and very talented poets*

## Performance Poetry Competition

Categories for:

Own Choice

under 14 years

14 years and under 18 years

18 years and over

Traditional/Modern

under 18 years

18 years and over

Original

under 18 years

18 years and over

Humorous

under 18 years

18 years and over

*Entries close 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2000*

Entry forms from Sandra Smith Ph/Fax 07 4787 2944 or Arthur

Rekow 07 4787 2409

**Also: poetry workshops, poets breakfasts, poetry performances**

**All Poets, Yarn Spinners, Songsters, Performers:-  
Yarrowonga/Mulwala is proudly hosting the  
2000 Australian Bush Poetry Championship  
from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Ph 03 5744 1989 Free Call 1800 062 260  
Fax 03 5744 3149**



## Kyabram Kapers

Well! What a great start to the New Year. The Kyabram Bush Verse Group combined their 7<sup>th</sup> February meeting with a visit to "Warramunda" retirement village. Our group provided a great night of bush verse, yarns and music for the residents. New member, Les James set the night off to a bright start with his music (guitar and mouth organ). Highlights that followed were Des Ginnanes "The Old Bush School", Herb McCrum's "Mooch of Life", Les Parky's yarns, Dennis 'Whiskers' Attwood with "Kylies Run", and Betty Olle's "Something to Share with Jim". These are just a few of the well-presented items. 'Skew Wiff' Watt was compere. These performances were followed by supper with the residents.

After supper, our group held its normal bi-monthly meeting.

Items from our meeting are -

- \* our group is to enter a float in the street parade prior to the Kyabram Rodeo. Bush beauties Molly Sparks, Janice Watt and Joan Hill have volunteered to add to the glamour aspect, and Wattie and Parky will be there to add nothing. The name suggested for the float is "Beauty and the Beasts"! This will be on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- \* The group is to purchase a copy of "A Thousand Campfires" for the local library. Congratulations to those responsible for this excellent production.

Our next meeting is to be Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the Ky Fauna Park Kiosk at 7.30pm. The theme of the night is "Circus". (That theme appears very apt for our group.) Betty Olle will be ring-master.

We are looking forward to the Yarrowonga-Mulwala show.

Submitted by Graham Watt, Kyabram, VIC

**WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS  
MEET FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RAFFLES  
HOTEL (UPSTAIRS IN THE RIVERVIEW ROOM)  
7.30PM TILL 10PM  
ENTRY \$2 AT THE DOOR.  
NO PERFORMANCE FEE  
ENQUIRIES: RUSTY CHRISTENSEN 9364 4491**

**Bush Poets, Yarnspinnners & Songsters at the  
Corryong Hotel  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2000 at 8.30pm  
Neil Hulm as M.C.  
everyone gets a go  
Meals and Accommodation Available  
Call Kris or Leif Ph/Fax 02 6076 1004**

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

Anyone wanting entry forms, please write to PO Box 7714, Toowoomba Mail Centre, Qld 4352, including a Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope. **Nominations close 24th March.** Late nominations will only be accepted if time allows. **Entry Forms for ALL EVENTS available NOW!**

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.

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Junior Performance Festival. Individual and Group Competitions for all School Grades 1-12
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	"Taming Rhyme and Rhythm" Poetry Writing Workshop, Mulga Bill's Shed "Laughs, Lies and Even More Larrikins" Concert, Royal Picture Theatre
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Round 1 of Open and Novice Competitions (Male & Female) Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships Non-competitive Poetry Outback Oscars Heats
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Round 2 of Open and Novice Competitions (Male & Female) Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships, Junior, Senior and Masters Non-competitive Poetry Outback Oscars Heats
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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) Outback Oscars Heats Trophy Presentations for all events

## ABPA FINANCIAL STATEMENT, January 2000

Financial statement as presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association in Tamworth, January 2000. This is a summary only - if any member is interested in a full report, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer, Olive Shooter.

### Finances for year 1999

Balance brought forward 1/1/1999	\$ 4 416.38
Income	\$ 12 237.93
Total	\$ 16 654.31
Expenditure	\$ 8 005.77
Balance carried forward 31/12/1999	\$ 8 648.54



## TAMWORTH GOLF CLUB

The Tamworth Golf Club is fast becoming an established venue in it's own right. Crowds at the Tamworth CMF have flocked to the venue in recent years and continue to respond to the Poetry/Comedy Shows that the Golf Club Venue is hosting.

The most amazing thing is that this venue has no budget, but is managed in such a way, that it supplied a very comparable income for up to twenty one people during the Tamworth CMF. It's called Teamwork!!!!

Our Five Naked Poets Shows were sold out this year and hundreds were turned away at the door over the week-long season of nighttime shows. The team of Shirley Friend, Murray Hartin, Bob Miller, Ray Essery, singer Pat Drummond, and myself have developed a show which attracts both the traditional Poetry lovers and many new (young) faces who have never seen a Poetry Show before.

We never quite know how the show is going to go until the first night. After this year's first show we dropped 30 minutes of material as we continued to mould the show into what became as much fun for us to perform as it was for the audience to watch. All the material performed by the Poets on this show is exclusive to the Naked Poets Show. In other words, if people are paying to see us, we've got to give them something above and beyond what they receive at the Traditional Poet's Breakfasts.

A new Naked Poets album was recorded over the five nights, and we look forward to releasing that album around August.

## COMEDY BRUNCH

This fresh approach to the morning Poetry Shows was well received for its first year. We utilized the talents of The Naked Poets, the crew from the Sex Lies And Bush Poetry Show, and yobbos like Milton Taylor, Glennly Palmer, Rupert McCall, Jack Drake, Marion Fitzgerald, Greg Scott, Tim McLachlan, Ellis Cambell, Steve Sorensen(s), and Alan Glover, and guest appearance by Stu Nivesen. The show developed a loyal following and snapped up a market of late risers (must be Queenslanders).

With so many traditional shows around, we found the emphasis on comedy was well received.

## SEX LIES AND BUSH POETRY

For only its second year running, this show has developed some keen interest. As well as a good return audience from last year it attracted crowds who had heard about a good laugh at the show.

With the likes of Gary Fogarty, Neil McCarthur, Rupert Mccall and John Major, the night was always going to be hilarious. However, throw in the singing talents of Mike Horswood and Kelly Fogarty and the entertainment regains some sanity and is rounded off nicely.

*Submitted by Marco Giori*

## WHY WE NEED MORE PAID VENUES

The great thing about developing a (pay to get in) venue such as this, is that all Poets attending are being paid a reasonable amount up front to perform. We were always cautious when placing a fee upon entry to the Golf Club, but it is obvious many of us have convinced ourselves we are nothing more than campfire entertainers, and not worthy of payment for our services. This year we never had one complaint about paying to get in, but received several comments stating 'how cheap' it was.

Poetry has become an important part of most Country Music/Folk Festivals around Australia. Yet, it is one of the few forms of entertainment (other than Morris Dancing) that organizers still seem reluctant to set aside a decent budget for. Every chance you get, you as a Poet should be chasing a decent pay packet for your unique and creative artform, influencing organizers to increase budgets, or alternatively, getting together with a team of Poets and charging for your services at an appropriate venue.

I am sure we all do a host of charity work throughout the year. It gives you a nice warm fuzzy feeling and adds to a sense of community. But be buggered if I'm going to allow event organizers to cry poor in my ear, when I have mouths to feed and mortgages to pay, and am well aware that another performer attracting half the audience I am, for half the time, is getting paid double the fee.

Whether you perform for nothing or \$1000, you can bet if you put in a shocker, the audience will remember it. Therefor my theory is while I'm making a living from Performance Poetry, I may as well be getting paid well to take the risk.

I hope I can pay you soon for your services as well.

*Marco Giori*

## The Old Plum Tree

*© Anne Cremin, Heathcote, NSW*

It's holiday time, the car is packed, we're heading out the west.  
My uncle has a little farm we think it's just the best.  
There's cows and horses, chooks and ducks, his dogs they number three.  
But the best thing about my uncle's farm is the beautiful big plum tree.  
My uncle is a funny bloke, we think he's just a nark.  
'Cause he wouldn't let us eat the plums 'til we were sitting in the dark.  
Then one day a basket full of plums was sitting there,  
I thought they wouldn't miss just one, it's always nice to share.  
I grabbed a plum and then took off, like a jack rabbit down the track,  
And I didn't stop a running 'til I reached the old tin shack.  
I sat behind the tin shack my plum was shiny bright.  
And so I opened wide my mouth and took a great big bite.  
The juice it ran out of my mouth and dribbled down my chin.  
Was then I saw these little things that were living there within.  
The plum was full of little worms, I thought I was going to die.  
Should I tell the other kids, the answer was not I.  
You see I'm just a city kid and I think I'm rather smart.  
I'll never eat another plum while sitting in the dark.





# POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



- 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 11-13 **Red Gum Festival.** Swan Hill, Vic. Bush Poetry Performances. Arts Swan Hill, Box 488, Swan Hill Vic. 3585
- Mar 12 **Bush Poets Brekkie** 8.15 am Swan Hill Club Enquiries Ph Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739
- Mar 18 **The Great Dunny Classic** 7.30pm, Dunedoo Golf 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](mailto: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 P14
- Mar 24 Closing date **Australian Railway Contemporary Song and Poem Competition.** Details page 8
- 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 14 **Bush Poets, Yarnspinners & Songsters at the Corryong Hotel,** 8.30pm Call Kris or Leif Ph/Fax 02 6076 1004
- 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 P14
- Apr 22-24 **QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships,** Winton. PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352
- 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](mailto: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. Enq 20 Scenic Dr Bilambil Hts NSW 2486 Ph 07 55909395 P15
- Aug 19-20 **Camp Oven Festival.** North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Enquiries - John & Patti Coutts 07 3886 1552

## Gippsland Bush Poets



The Gippsland Bush Poets have had a baptism of fire and are currently enjoying a successful start around the district. For a club formed only some months ago, in October 1999, the GBP are thriving.

First up the club has decided on a Logo. Secretary, Julie Carstairs, put in many hours of work designing logos, and members at our last meeting decided on the one above. It is hoped that the Logo will become readily recognizable throughout the Bush Poetry circles. Since our formation our members have performed at various functions. The first was the Lavender Harvest Festival at Callignee on January 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Over 700 people came through the gates to the festival, and enjoyed some stirring Bush Poetry performed and read by five of our members.

Our President, Dennis Carstairs, then competed the following weekend, January 15 & 16, at the Mountain Cattleman Association of Victoria annual get-together a Bennison Plains. Dennis won the prestigious MCAV Bush Minstrel award for Bush Poetry. G.B.P member, Dorothy Watt, also won the written competition, the Bush Laureate.

Neil Hulm travelled down from Lavington to comper the Wellington Bush Racing Carnival Poets night on Friday January 21<sup>st</sup>. Peter Worthington and Eddie Dalton also travelled long distances to perform and support our Club. Members of our group performed Bush Poetry throughout the weekend. The entire Carnival, at which organizers combined Mountain Bike racing with the traditional bush horse racing, billed as "Mulga Bill meets the Man From Snowy River", was dampened with foul weather and the anticipated crowds did not eventuate.

At the Bush Poets night on Friday Neil, along with Eddie Dalton from Melbourne, Peter Worthington from Maryborough and twelve members of the Gippsland Bush Poets, entertained a small crowd well into the night.

The recitals during the weekend of "Mulga Bill's Bicycle" and "The Man from Snowy River" as the bike riders and horse riders gathered at the starting blocks was very entertaining for all present.

On the Friday afternoon, Neil Hulm, Peter Worthington, Dennis Carstairs, and GBP member Allan Shield entertained a very grateful audience at the aged care wing of the Sale Hospital. Several senior citizens from around the district were bussed to the Hospital for the performance. Most of the people present had grown up with traditional Bush Poetry in the heydays of Lawson and Paterson and were very appreciative and very pleased that a local group had been formed to help revive the art. For me, the afternoon was very rewarding.

On Saturday night, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Brian Blakeman, Peter Worthington and Dennis Carstairs entertained a very grateful crowd in the bar of the Cowwarr Hotel. The night was a great success.

I would like to publicly thank Neil for his assistance and advice throughout the weekend. Also thanks to ABPA members Eddie Dalton and Peter Worthington for travelling long distances to help out our club.

I feel that over the weekend the Gippsland Bush Poets in general and traditional Australian Bush Poetry in particular were the big winners.

Don't forget, if you are in Gippsland, give me a ring on (03) 5145 6128. Our meetings are held at the Rosedale Hotel on Thursday nights. Because of rosters and other commitments they unfortunately can't be held on a regular basis, but are generally four to five weeks apart.

*Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, VIC*

### "O'Mara's High Country Poets" at Stanthorpe, Saturday 12th February RESULTS

Junior	Novice	Open Traditional	Open Original
1st Kelsey Horton	1st Jeff Simpson	1st Trisha Anderson	1st Milton Taylor
2nd Peter Blundell Jnr	2nd Rodney Crome	2nd Ellis Campbell	2nd Gary Lowe
3rd Stuart Nivison	3rd Tim Sherf	3rd Rod Williams	3rd Peter Blundell
Encouragement Award Sharyn Roser		<i>More details next issue</i>	



# 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 Todd's Coattage, North Pine Country Park, Kurwongbah Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- 2nd Saturday** **Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.** Contact Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631
- 3rd Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- Last Wednesday** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group,** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- Every Wed** **Writers in Townsville** 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Dr, Thuringowa. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
- 1st & 3rd Sunday** Treasure Island Holiday Park at Biggera Waters Bush Poets Breakfast 8am Ph 07 5537 1511 Fax 07 5537 4233

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- 1st Tuesday** **Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group.** (except Jan) 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club, 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde. Ph Graeme Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
- 1st Sunday** **Poets in the Making,** 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264
- 2nd Monday** **Parakeet's Poets,** Katoomba. Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel,** Anderson Dr, Tarro Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St, Sth Tamworth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067
- 2nd Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St Cooma Bush Poetry and Country Music. Mrs. Elaine Schofield "Green Hills" Jerangle, 2630 Ph 02 6454 3128
- 2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club,** Urunga Golf Club, 1-4pm March, May, July and September only. Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269
- 2nd Sunday** **"Interludes"** Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield - Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd Thursday** **Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers in the Pub** 7.30pm George Hotel, Old Pacific Hwy, Picton. Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilotos 02 4631 1419
- 3rd Friday** **Junee Bush Poetry Group** 7.30pm, Junee Com'ty Cntr, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, Junee 2863 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

- 1st Friday** **WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners,** 7.30pm Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Ph Rusty Christensen 9364 4491

**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



## JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2000, Narrandera  
Celebrates the rural pioneering spirit and pays tribute to John O'Brien of "Around the Boree Log" fame.  
Writing awards Thursday night. Irish Luncheon & Poetry in the Bidgee Friday. Busking 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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## RED GUM FESTIVAL at Swan Hill, concerts, music, poetry

11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> March 2000  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March Bush Poets Brekkie 8.15 am Swan Hill Club. Enquiries Ph Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 3739

## THE GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC

Dunedoo, NSW 18<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm Dunedoo Golf 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/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

### 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

## 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



## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

### TENTH ANNIVERSARY

#### NATIONAL OUTBACK PERFORMING ARTS

in conjunction with Outback Muster and Drivers' Reunion at the Stockmans' Hall of Fame **28 April - 30<sup>th</sup> April**  
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 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000**  
Competitions: Open, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & < 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000.**

#### COUNTRY ON THE TWEED FESTIVAL Aug 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Poets Brekkie competitions Sun 20<sup>th</sup>  
Open Female & Male Champs, Trophy & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes  
Open Humorous (costume & props OK) Trophy & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Open for jaded memories, (book allowed) Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Open written "The Olympic Torch" 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes  
Under 16's written "The Olympic Torch" 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes  
Open Songwriter 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes  
Entry forms, enquiries, Country on the Tweed Festival,  
20 Scenic Dr Bilambil Hts NSW 2486  
Ph 07 5590 9395 Email poetry@fan.net.au

#### 5<sup>th</sup> CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

North Pine Country Park, Dayboro Rd, Petrie, Qld  
**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> August 2000**, Hosted by North Pine Bush Poets  
Group. Written Competition for Adults, 13-16 yrs, 9-12 yrs,  
8 yrs and under.

Entries for Written Comp close 31/7/2000  
Performance Competition for Junior, Novice and Open,  
Serious, Original, Humorous Australian Bush Poetry, and  
also fun events such as Duo and Yarn Spinning.  
Entry forms for these competitions available from  
John Coutts, Treasurer, North Pine Bush Poets Group,  
5 Old Gympie Road, Kallangur, Qld 4503  
Ph/Fax 07 3886 1552

## Talking to the Bar

**Australian Bush Poetry on CD**

**Only \$12.50pp**

**Brian D Lee, 3/187 Lake St, Cairns Q 4870**

**A good listen!**

## "Tough Country"

a book by Kevin Magher

90 pages of good Aussie poems

Send \$12.50 to

5 Algol Crt, Ocean Grove Vic 3226



## THE PRODUCT SHELF

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

### "300 Funny Little Poems"

Book - only \$12 pp

### "City of Green - Green Ban Songs & Beyond"

CD - only \$25 pp

Poetry and Songs from the pen of Denis Kevans and friends

Available from D Kevans

63 Valley Rd, Wentworth Falls 2782

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

## A VALID EXCUSE

### Bush Poems and Other Verses

by Trevor Shaw

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

## GOODBYE GUNSYND

A BOOK OF AWARD WINNING BUSH POEMS  
AND AUSSIE BUSH BALLADS

BY STEWART HOPPER

"THE BARD OF THE COW BALES FROM BELL"

FULL COLOUR COVER PHOTO OF GUNSYND

WELL ILLUSTRATED BOOK PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER  
PRICE - \$10 PP (CHEQUES OR MO PLEASE - NO BANKCARD)

FROM STEWART HOPPER, MS 360, BELL, Q. 4408 OR  
HELEN CAMERON, PO BOX 143, KINGAROY, Q. 4610

## 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

## Ballads of a Bush Bride

by Mavis Appleyard

*Readable, Recitable, and Refreshing*

\$10 postage paid for book or cassette

Contact Mavis Appleyard

106 Thornton Ave, Warren NSW 2824

## Keith McKenry



### CDs

Bugger 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 Bureaucratica (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

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March 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

#### The Sydney Harbour Bridge opened on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1932

The original bridge tolls as charged in 1932:

Motor car and motor cycles with sidecar - 6 pence

Bicycles, tricycles and motor cycles - 3 pence

Sulkies, buggies and hand carts - 3 pence

Vans, lorries, drays, wagons under two tons - 1 shilling

Vans, lorries, drays, wagons 2-3 tons - 2 shillings

Other vehicles - 3 shillings

Passengers - Adults - 3 pence each, Children - 1 penny each

Horse and rider - 3 pence

Horse or cattle (as loose stock) - 2 pence per head

Sheep or pigs - 1 penny per head

### Grandmother's Secret for Washing Clothes

1. Build a fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water
2. Set tubs so smoke will not blow in eyes if wind is sharp
3. Shave one whole cake of lye soap in boiling water
4. Sort things. Make three piles. One pile white, one pile coloured and one pile work breeches and rags
5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water for starching
6. Rub dirty spots on board. Scrub hard. Boil. Rub coloureds but don't boil, just rinse and starch
7. Take white things out of kettle with broomstick handle, then rinse, blue and starch
8. Spread tea towels on grass
9. Hang rags on fence
10. Pour rinse water on flower bed
11. Scrub porch with hot, soapy water
12. Go put on clean dress - smooth hair with side combs, brew cup of tea - sit and rest and rock a spell and count blessings

### 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 1878 - THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM FIRST SENT TO ENGLAND

#### Thank you to our Contributors

Henry Albury	Norma Jeffries
Mavis Appleyard	Graeme Johnson
John & Gaye	Leo Kearne
Barclay	Jan Lewis
Dennis Carstairs	Philip Maiden
Rusty Christensen	J J Mannion
Anne Cremin	Neil McArthur
Holly de Dikard	Jan Morris
Brian Dunnett	Arthur Rekow
Kathy Edwards	Marilyn Roberts
Wally Finch	Ron Selby
Corry de Haas	Olive Shooter
Bill Gleeson	Carol Stratford
Marco Gliori	Tony Strauss
Maxine Ireland	Graham Watt

#### THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

The Kyabram Bush Verse group are to be congratulated on their ideas for bringing Bush Poetry to the attention of the local community. Read their report regarding a float in the annual Street Parade, and donating a book to their local library. Any other groups with ideas for publicizing Bush Poetry are encouraged to write to the Editor.

Remember that this is YOUR Newsletter! All members are encouraged to contribute to it, and have their say. If you are dissatisfied with the editorial or advertising content, layout, spirit, standard of poetry, or anything else -- WRITE, FAX OR EMAIL ME AND SHARE YOUR OPINIONS! I am not a mind reader, and am unable to fix anything if I don't know what's broken - and *I value your input.*

2000 has got off to a rollicking start, with heaps of poetry events being scheduled. Make sure to read the Calendar of Events regularly, as new events are added each month. Also, thanks to all competition organisers who have sent in updated information about their events, as per the Editorial Comment in last month's Newsletter.

New members are also encouraged to participate in the content of the ABPA Newsletter. We are happy to receive your contributions, and will publish just about everything, space permitting! See Page 11 for new member Anne Cremin's first poem! Good on ya, Anne!

Best regards, Jennifer Priest

