

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 6 Volume 7

June 2000



## AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS HOSTED BY THE MURRAY MUSTER FESTIVAL

May 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2000

### RESULTS

Australian Overall Champion	Male	<b>Guy McLean</b>
Runner Up	Male	Lance Parker
Australian Overall Champion	Female	<b>Janine Haig</b>
Runner Up	Female	Jennifer Haig

#### AUSTRALIAN PERFORMANCE HEATS CHAMPIONS

##### ORIGINAL SECTION

Men's Heat Champion	Roderick Williams
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Johnny Johanson
Ladies' Heat Champion	Janine Haig
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Chris Webster

##### TRADITIONAL SECTION

Men's Heat Champion	Don Anderson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Lance Parker
Ladies' Heat Champion	Jennifer Haig
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Janine Haig

##### MODERN SECTION

Men's Heat Champion	Guy McLean
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Don Anderson
Ladies' Heat Champion	Janine Haig
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Carol Reffold

#### AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY YARNSPINNING CHAMPION AT THE MURRAY MUSTER

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Lance Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Merv Webster

#### AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP BOOK

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Grahan Fredriksen	"Paradise Revisited"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Merv Webster	"Laughter and Tears from the Bush"

#### JUNIOR RECITATION

##### JUNIOR TRADITIONAL OR MODERN

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Siobhan Reeves
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Carmel Reeves

##### JUNIOR RECITAL HUMOROUS

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Fiona Reeves
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Liam Reeves

Submitted by Barb Macdermid

#### AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPION WRITTEN SECTION MALE AND FEMALE ADULT SECTION

##### MALE SERIOUS VERSE

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Grahame Watt	"RETURN OF THE 'SWAGGIE'"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Evan Elpus	"CROWDED HOUSE"

##### JUDGES ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Roderick Williams  
"GORDON, LAWSON AND ME!"

##### MALE HUMOROUS VERSE

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Ron Stevens	"WEIGHTING GAME"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Neil McArthur	"CAPTAIN LISP"

##### JUDGES ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Ken Dean  
"MESS MATE"

##### FEMALE SERIOUS VERSE

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Chris Webster	"LET'S SET OUR CHILDREN FREE"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Janine Haig	"GOOD HENRY"

##### JUDGES ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Norma Jeffries  
"REMINISCING WITH THE ANZACS"

##### FEMALE HUMOROUS VERSE

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Hope Galvan	"ONE BETTER"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Dee White	"HOLY SMOKE"

#### JUNIOR SECTIONS

##### Kinder - 1-2

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jessica Cartwright	"CHOOK BALLS"
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kaitlyn Wright	"ARNOLD"

##### Junior Primary

1 <sup>st</sup>	Gemma Ringersma	"THE SILLY CAMPER"
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Winter	"DESERT"

##### Senior Primary

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dimi Kyriakou	"AROUND AUSTRALIA CAR TRIAL"
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Siobhan Reeves	"OH! RED GUM LEAVES"

##### Senior Secondary

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dale Pattison	"THE BASE BALL PLAYERS DREAM"
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coral Borg	"A SPECIAL SURPRISE"

##### Judges'encouragement awards

Rielly Flanagan and Jodi Lee

## 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**

## WANT 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 BENEFITS INCLUDE RECEIVING  
THIS NEWSLETTER 12 TIMES A YEAR!**

### Ed Note: Another Member who forgot to pay her subs!

They say it's old age creeping up on me,  
I've got a crook back, and I've got a bung knee.  
I ask if I'm coming, I've been or I've gone,  
Get lost in the passage, and can't find the john.  
Now I've forgotten my A.B.P.A.  
Oh God! I've grown old! What more can I say?

© V.P. Read, Picton, WA



The Congratulations of the ABPA Inc. Members go to the winners of the Australian Championships held at Yarrowonga/Mulwala. Men's winner, Guy McLean; Runner-up, Lance Parker; Ladies Winner, Janine Haig; Runner-up, Jennifer Haig. They are worthy winners and indeed, all who competed did credit to our art form. The performance poetry

was excellent and magnificent entertainment. A full report and complete results will be covered in this Newsletter.

A grand street parade was held at Yarrowonga and the Bush Poets led the parade. We followed kilted member Don Anderson who played stirring music on the bagpipes. We felt proud to march along the street, which was lined with people out enjoying the lovely weather. The parade included all sorts of interesting items and old machinery, penny-farthing bicycle and all. We had a wonderful time at Mulwala and the area is just beautiful. I met a lot of members with whom I'd only had mail or telephone contact.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Another successful Championships was run at Yarrowonga/Mulwala last month.

As in the previous year, the organising committee and the Services Club handled the event with the utmost professionalism.

Congratulations to the winners and every poet involved with the competition.

Although I personally considered this event another winner on our calendar, I suppose there will still be some who are disillusioned with the results, and as in most competitions, whether they be performance or written, you will always have a few knockers.

Quite often you will hear Mr Grumblebum or Mrs Knickers-in-a-Knot say that the rules or the requirements of the competition should be changed because ... blah, blah, blah....

Committees and organisers spend hours and hours discussing the pro's and con's of a competition, and they come up with a set of rules that they consider to be appropriate for their competition and this is the basis of all who enter that event. Every poet who enters a competition receives a set of rules that they are asked to abide by. These rules will change from one event to another, but we tend to forget that these organisers are running their own event and we must abide by their rules.

At the AGM we elected a panel of members to look into forming a suggested set of rules that hopefully in the future will be the standard accepted all across the country.

This proposed set of rules may or may not be accepted by every event committee, but hopefully they will be a guide to running a successful event.

Until such time as there is a standard set of rules we must agree to the rules set down by the governing bodies, and as that age old saying goes, "If you don't like the water... then don't enter"

### Quote of the Month:

"Discontent is simply a penalty for being ungrateful for what we have."

*Ron Selby, President*

No stone was left unturned by the Committee in making everyone feel at home, and the competitions were run off with precise care and attention to detail. The venue was superb. Our thanks to the dedicated committee.

My job will be up for grabs in January. I will have been secretary-treasurer for four years and I think it may be time to move over for some new blood for the position. There is no reason why the positions could not be split now. There is enough work to entertain two people in their spare time. The only thing is that because our Incorporation is in Queensland, the Secretary must live there or close to the border. Anyone interested could contact me. I would be willing to help in any way to facilitate settling in.

If you have a query about a poem, write to the Editor. I was given the information that Thomas E Spencer wrote, "Why Doherty Died". Probably his most famous poem was, "How McDougal Topped the Score". Thank-you for helping me out with that.

I'm still awaiting your submissions of interest for the holding of the 2001 Australian Championships. None received to date. Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

*Fond Regards, Olive Shooter*

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

# GREG SCOTT



**Who do you admire most?**

Henry Lawson. Nelson Mandela

**What was your most embarrassing moment?**

Being thrown off a horse my kids were using for Pony Club.

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

Nothing.

**What started you writing Bush Poetry?**

Mind numbing hours going round and round on a tractor.

**What really cheeses you off?**

Political correctness and the "thought police"

**What is your most vivid memory of Primary School?**

On my first day, being flattened by a bloke called Geoff Scott. He must have thought I was trying to pinch his identity.

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

You must be desperate to want my autograph.

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

Ireland. Most of my forebears are buried there.

**How do you keep the wolf from the door?**

With great difficulty. He sometimes gets in.

Greg Scott was born in Sydney in 1944. He didn't meet his father for 12 months, as said father was having meaningful dialogue with the Japanese in Borneo at the time. After a fairly unexceptional childhood, he left school in 1961 with absolutely no idea of what he wanted to do with his life.

On the advice of a mate (who was later found to be clinically insane), he found work with a firm of Sydney accountants. After 20 minutes on the job, he realised that his mate had been joking and that he had made a monumental career blunder. The job entailed sitting in a chair for 8 hours a day with eyes glazed over, ticking figures with a green pen. Being the dutiful lad that he was, it took him 4 years to muster up the courage to tell the partners of that esteemed firm what they could do with their green pen.

His spare time was spent drinking copious amounts of alcohol and singing in a folk group which was popular in the Kings Cross area at the time. Popular because they would sing for a cup of coffee and/or a kind word. In 1969 he and his brother bought a run down dairy farm at Berry on the south coast of NSW. It was here that he met his wife, Sue (the best thing that ever happened to him) who bore him three sons (the second best thing that ever happened to him).

After 10 years, the brothers decided they needed a change of lifestyle and moved to a grazing property at Moonan Flat in the Upper Hunter region of NSW. In 1995, after a "mid-life" visit to a doctor's surgery, Greg started writing poetry. He was suitably delighted when in 1997 he won the Original Section of the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition at the Imperial Hotel.

Greg's poems have been successful in numerous written and performance competitions since then, although he prefers to perform rather than compete. He still enjoys his "day job" on the farm, and has just published his first book of poems "Mulligans Mob (and others)".

## REVIEW Mulligan's Mob (and others) (Book)

The 'Baby Boomers', that celebrated generation born in the period immediately after the Second World War up until the early 1960's, will love Greg Scott's first book of poetry!

"Mulligan's Mob (and others)", published in 1999, contains a poetic record of the thoughts of a Baby Boomer. This is the generation now hitting middle age - something they never dreamed would happen to them! Greg typifies their thinking within his words - he remembers the days of the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and times of industrial action; he reminisces about the music of the era; he protests the stupidity of government and local council decisions; and he agonizes (but with a broad grin on his face) over turning fifty. However, like many others of this generation, he has not remained in the past.

He has taken some of the best of Australia's traditions - humour and the ability to tell a good yarn - and carried it forward for another age group to experience and enjoy. The entertaining "Mulligan's Mob" is possibly his best-known poem, but there are many other fine works in this book. Most are well structured, and most are of appeal to the general public. Greg's humorous poems are his forte, but he shows that he also has the ability to write about more sombre topics. Some, like the poignant "The Lady of the Longyard" may mean more to the poetic fraternity, but everyone can relate the feeling of tragic loss expressed both in this poem and the equally eloquent "Saltwater Jack". The cartoon-style illustrations are of particular note, having been produced by fellow poet, Tony Parry. They are simple, yet apt, and demonstrate the versatility of these Hunter Valley poets.

This book may be of specific interest to the Baby Boomers, but it will certainly appeal to a much wider audience than that. I'm sure it will be enjoyed by all readers.

## Little Boy Lost

© Greg Scott, Moonan Flat, NSW

The vicar pushed his bicycle around a country show;  
He chatted to parishioners, he wandered to and fro.  
And as he ambled slowly past the sideshow roundabout,  
He came across a little fellow crying his eyes out.

"What seems to be the matter son? Things can't be all that bad."  
The little fellow blurted out, "I think I've lost me Dad.  
He said to buy some fairy floss and meet him at the gate,  
But that was half an hour ago and now he's runnin' late."

"We'll find him," said the vicar, as he rested on his bike,  
"But first of all you'd better tell me what's your father like?"  
The youngster bit his bottom lip, and struggled not to cry,  
"The horses, beer and football," came the innocent reply.



Dear Editor

I need the help of the ABPA members!

My mother has in her possession an exercise book containing handwritten bush poetry by a man called Phillip Lorimer. We believe he died in 1897.

The exercise book was left to my mother by an old family friend quite some time ago and she would like to know if it would be of any historical value. (The poetry is quite beautiful and sad about his life and times.)

We would appreciate if anybody could be able to direct us to some authority on the subject.

Thank you.

Regards, Sandra Martin

**Ed Note:** If anyone can help, please forward replies to the ABPA Newsletter.

Dear Editor

I have just returned home from the Championships at Yarrawonga and I would like to congratulate the organisers on the excellent way the program was run. The setting was great, the Mulwala Services Club could not have been bettered as a venue and the friendliness and hospitality of the people much appreciated.

I was a little disappointed, however, that as this event is our National Championship, more of our top ranking poets were not in attendance. Distance, of course is always a problem for some, no matter where the event is held. I look forward to a day when, perhaps as a prelude to this event, a State based competition can be held and the place getters given some assistance to attend the National final. Our friends in W.A. especially, must feel rather isolated from this event.

I have just one criticism, however. We were asked, when we submitted our entries to nominate the poems we intended to perform and their authors. This should have allowed plenty of time for the organisers to vet the entries to ensure their suitability for inclusion in the program. That is, are they about Australia and Australians. Yet we had poems performed which were written by a Welshman who has never been to Australia on the subject of English Nursery Rhymes. Further more, they were awarded major prizes.

This is an area which needs to be attended to before our next competition. But that whinge aside, I had a great time and can't wait till next year.

Ron Liekefett, Lawnton, Qld

Dear Jennifer

Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control we regretfully inform all performance poets the "Country on the Tweed Festival" has been cancelled. However the written section, "The Olympic Torch" organised by Poets & Writers on the Tweed will still proceed. The organisers wish to acknowledge the great wave of support shown, and will return all fees to hand. We poets are as disappointed as you are.

*Yours in lies & tears, (forget about the laughs), Lorraine Richards*

Dear Editor

Can't remember where or when I heard this, but vaguely recall it was written by a teenage school-girl. Nor do I think for a minute that's it's word perfect, but my heart goes out to her, and it has long given me inspiration.

I hate writing poetry,  
I can never make it rhyme.  
I work and sweat,  
and now I think,  
It's just a waste of effort.

*Yours Dinkum, Brian D. Lee, Cairns, Qld*

## On My Soapbox

Your contributions to "On My Soapbox" are welcomed. Please keep to a maximum of 300 words, and include your full name. Preference will be given to short, neatly typed letters or emails. The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are the opinions of individuals, and not necessarily that of the Australian Bush Poets Association



Dear Jennifer

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on matters raised by an ABPA member.

Whilst we understand the issue raised we do not agree with this proposal. It appears that this person would like us to modify the entry conditions for the Bronze Swagman to accommodate poems that have been entered in other competitions. In particular, we gather he is proposing that poems entered in performance competitions should be eligible for the Bronze Swagman written competition.

There are a number of permutations of the situation that could be considered however, we interpret our conditions of entry to mean written or performed competitions. I shall explain.

The Bronze Swagman was established in 1972 to foster bush poetry as it was a dying art. I think it is fair to say that the Bronze Swagman has contributed to the revival of bush poetry. If we modify the conditions to allow entries from other competitions we risk promoting an elite competition. We would rather have the best new poem than the best of the best, as the former encourages entries from budding and experienced poets.

We will further clarify the matter by changing the word 'won' to 'entered'.

Regards, Ian Jempson, Secretary, Vision Winton Inc

Dear Editor

Despite the rain, which followed us from Brisbane, we had a great time in Winton during the Easter weekend. Carmel Randle conducted a workshop on Good Friday. Nearly twenty eager poets – and hopeful poets – attended and were given a good, solid grounding in the use of rhyme and rhythm.

On Friday evening there was a concert – and meal – at the historic Royal Open Air Theatre. It rained on and off all evening! But ... we all enjoyed the fun, even if we were frozen stiff and soaked right through!

The entertainment from competitors from all over Australia was superb. The guy who 'stole the show' was Jimmy Hooker, a gold prospector from Tennant Creek. To begin with, he was very shy, but with much encouragement from us all, including Bobby Miller, Bob Magor, and Milton Taylor, he soon settled in and won the award for the most humorous original contribution at the festival.

Carmel Randle announced at the final concert, held at the Winton Shire Hall, that this was her last year of organising the QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Festival. What a hard act to follow! She has done a sterling job over the past many years.

Carmel asked me if I would help judge the 'Clover Nolan' Primary School Finals on Monday. Although working with children for over thirty years, this was my first judging job. I really enjoyed the experience and hope to judge again.

Our group was successful with Wally Finch – a past president – being awarded the runner-up prize in the QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Male Championships, and Brian Perran the runner-up prize in the Christina Macpherson Novice Competition.

No TV; No Computer; No radio; No telephone – HAPPINESS!!

Regards, Jill Perran  
(President, North Pine Bush Poets Group), Kallangur, Qld

Clifton Bush Poet, Bill Glasson, received the Australia Day Community award for the Clifton Shire, as well as the Cultural Award. **Congratulations Bill!**

Dear Jennifer

Our Festival of Australian Bush Poetry went off extremely well, more entries than anticipated, a great roll up of Poets, only down side being local community support was lacking – perhaps that is something we must work on for next year.

I have enclosed a report on the same, you may take whatever you need, realising 'space' would not permit a full report.

THANKS for the lead up publicity on our event; I'm sure it was responsible for the upsurge of entries.

*Yours faithfully, Arthur Rekow, Charters Towers, Qld.*

**Ed Note:** Arthur's report is on page 11

Dear Editor

After being to Tamworth, I have been struck by lightning (or something similar), because I have actually, for the first time, written a "Pome". Not "Blackened Billy" stuff to be sure, but good enough to make me feel satisfied. You do what you will with it.

Macarthur is my little town in the far far Western District of Victoria, between Hamilton and Port Fairy, where we have been going without any appreciable rain for the last three years just so you people up in Queensland can get a share. If you have had enough, could you please send it back to us?

I will be at Yarrowonga, so hope to meet you and all the other Bush Poets there.

*Colin Scott, Macarthur, VIC*

**Ed Note:** Colin's first poem is on page 6

Dear Editor

Well, we've just completed the Australian Bush Poetry Championships, and we are rather exhausted but still really running on a real "high".

We felt proud of our attempts to make everything roll smoothly. It was extremely pleasing to have had both the Australian Bush Poets Association President, Ron Selby, as well as the Secretary, Olive Shooter, with us all.

Standards were extremely high with the tension very obvious throughout the competition, but a very relaxed and wonderful friendship and supportive spirit throughout the rest of the Festival.

To all our competitors ... many thanks for all your hard work, and for all you will be doing for our towns in the future.

*Barb Macdermid, Yarrowonga/Mulwala Tourism Inc.*

Dear Editor

I agree with Ted Webber wholeheartedly re the use of rough language in our poetry. It is absolutely unnecessary. Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson never needed to use it and got their points across very well – whatever their topic.

Just because the F... word is in common usage today does not mean that Australian Poets have to deign to use it. Bush Poetry will certainly become "low class" if the vernacular of the gutter is used.

Good old-Aussie curses, e.g. 'bloody' and 'bugger' are acceptable to most of us, but keep the filth out of our Aussie thyme. Let's be proud that our children are reading clean, decent poetry, and hope they'll be influenced to follow our example.

*Yours sincerely, V.P. Read, Bicton, WA*



## FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

Hi again

Time for a breather!

After poetry nights in Port Augusta, Quorn and Hawker, set out north to Coober Pedy.

What an amazing town now, and how much it has changed since our previous visit. Brand new upmarket international hotels alongside a battered corrugated iron hut leading to a dugout home below. Mullock heaps scattered about. Everywhere the sign of mining, and dust - and water and mud from the cyclonic depression of early April. Lots of trees around now - real ones. More poetry and met some great people.

Then to the NT. At Curtin Springs renewed a friendship with Peter Severin, the owner of the million acre plus property (see my poem "An Outback Spectacle" in my book "The Rambling Poet").

I performed at the Residents' Club for the Lions Club of Yulara on Easter Monday night, then went to the dawn service on Anzac Day next morning.

Finally made it to Alice Springs, through road washaways and mud and sand. Here have visited a couple of schools and a Lions Club, and am just relaxing in town and meeting lots of wonderful people. We will be moving on northwards soon, with more bookings up the track, and now for others further on in WA. The northwest seems very keen to have some contact with poetry, and have offered amazing things for us.

The responses all around the country from people who would not normally go to bush poetry performances has been nothing short of amazing, and particularly gratifying. Maybe more of our members could get out and do similar things.

*Regards, John and Gaye Barclay*

Dear Editor

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships held in Mulwala, NSW, Services Club Auditorium on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May were once again very successful.

Although entries were much lighter than last year, the quality of performers remained as high as ever. Perhaps with the extra twelve months of reciting, the performances may have been a shade better than the previous year. The attendance at the "Audi Hall" functions were excellent and, I believe, were equal to last year.

The majority of poets were disappointed to find they were not offered the opportunity to perform as part of the entertainment on the Saturday night, and although it was a great night with talented performers, I did agree with the poets.

One of the poets' main topic of discussion on Sunday was the lack of choice of entertainment on Sunday night. As a large number of poets had previously attended the advertised entertainment in other towns three or four times, many decided on an early night.

Quite a few commented on the lesser number of poets selected for this years' finals. The general comment was, that coming from fifteen finalists last year to six this year was a disappointment. I could only agree.

I now look back at Mulwala last year and realise how fortunate I was to insist repeatedly to our committee that we run two nights under our Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club motto, "Everyone gets a go".

This letter is not to "tread on toes". It is simply a "word" to future organisers of all championships, competitions and events. Look after your poets. The poets are the backbone of the show. If you don't look after them, you will soon be out of business.

*Congratulations to all, Sincerely, Neil Hulm, Lavington, NSW*

### **BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC**

**BUNDY MUSTER JULY 7TH, 8TH & 9TH**

**COMPETITIONS: OPEN, INTERMEDIATE,**

**NOVICE, JUNIOR & UNDER 12'S**

**ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM:**

**BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY INC.,**

**P.O. BOX 4281, SOUTH BUNDABERG QLD 4670**

**ENQUIRIES: JOAN 07 41529624 OR**

**SANDY 07 41514631**

This poem won first prize in the Woolongong Senior's Week poetry competition. The theme was 'within the last 100 years'.

## Travelling Through Time

© Joyce Alchin, Corrimal, NSW

I journeyed down through memory lane and visions came to me  
Of pioneers who have built our land throughout the century;  
I pictured those great wagon teams and heard the horses strain  
With mighty loads of timber, hay, and bags of golden grain.  
A simple cottage, that was home, adorned with climbing rose,  
And children trudging miles to school 'gainst every wind that blows  
From summer heat and winter chills, all keen to have a go  
To learn to make this nation great, and see its people grow.

So all around us we can view the progress we have made  
Within the last one hundred years, foundations that were laid –  
Forever being built upon, and now we look with pride  
From what has passed to future years – faith, hope close by our side.  
Our homes have changed from rustic shacks to something much more grand,  
While cars and planes and streamlined trains transport us 'cross the land.  
We hear the news on radio or watch our T.V. set,  
Communicate by telephone or through the internet.

In awe we watched men on the moon and spaceships go to Mars  
And looked through powerful telescopes to view the countless stars;  
While everything's computerised, controlled by microchip;  
A novelty to ride a horse and hear a cracking whip.  
Instead of dams we swim in pools, two-piece, not neck-to-knee,  
We use a gas filled barbeque, not campfires, billy tea.  
We talk in cents and dollars now and not in pounds and pence,  
Still try to sort out metric miles – to some it makes no sense.

So as we travel on life's road – a highway, not bush track –  
We'll wonder at the scope of change, not wishing to turn back  
Within the last one hundred years from what we've heard and seen,  
But thankful that we've shared these times, and been where we have been.

### TOYOTA National Country Music MUSTER 2000

Location: Amamoor State Forest via Gympie  
Dates: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2000

#### *BUSH POETRY EVENTS*

**Bush Poetry Breakfasts** hosted this year by Marco Gliori, Neil McCarthur, Gary Fogarty and The Naked Poets.

**Poets Brawl.** 1 minute poetry competition. Enter on the day. The first 25 entries drawn on the night perform. Great Prizes.

**The Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award.** An opportunity over two series of heats for Muster campers and Poets to perform a poem in the general format of a Poets Breakfast (1 poem). Three performers from each heat (6 in total) will be invited to perform on the Sunday Musterbeenbloodygood concert where each person will be paid \$50 to perform a two poem bracket, and the performer voted most entertaining on Sunday will receive a cash bonus of \$400 plus the inaugural 'Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award' souvenir Trophy. Entries taken at the festival (Poets Breakfasts) from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Those who don't make it through in the first heats are welcome to try again if there is room in the second heats.

#### *POETRY PROGRAM DETAILS*

Tuesday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast.

Wednesday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast.

Thursday - 2hr Poets Breakfast

Friday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast

Friday Lunch - Heat 1 Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award

Friday Night - Poets Brawl (enter on the day/great prizes)

Saturday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast

Saturday Lunch - Heat 2 Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award

Saturday Night - Naked Poets Concert and album launch.

Sunday - 2hr Poets Breakfast

Sunday Lunch - Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Concert and Award

Muster Tickets and enquiries -: 07 5482 2099

## The Tale of Tamworth

© Colin Scott, Macarthur, VIC

We went one day, up Tamworth way  
As Macarthur's contribution  
To a mighty throng in search of song  
And Australian elocution.

There were rising stars with twangy guitars  
Singing in the street  
And the joint was ajumpin', when the amps were  
apumpin'  
That good old country beat.

Bootscooters too, came in to view  
Up 'n' down the pavement flouncin'  
An' you'll never ever know, if ya' don't 'ave a go,  
If yer boobs were made for bouncin'.

Our heritage takes the centre stage  
When the ports line their sights  
On the Banjo's tales or Lawson's wails  
About injustice, wrongs and rights.

The hoofbeats ring in the verse they bring  
And a grin gets fixed on our faces.  
There's lies outrageous and laughter contagious  
When the ports are put through their paces.

There were girls in clothes, an' I suppose  
They attracted my attention.  
Well-filled shirts an' nice short skirts  
In every known direction.

A cowboy hat and all of that,  
Will make a fancy figure.  
My pulse was really racin', but I left all the chasin'  
To the young blokes with the vigor.

Toole's Family Band had a buskers stand,  
There're the big stars of the future.  
There's Graham an' Lee an' children three  
With a CD that'll suit yer.

These kids are great, an' I'll tell ya' mate,  
Though it may be a temptation,  
If there's any more, Mum says for sure,  
Dad'll have the operation.

There's boozy crews, an' camps that use  
And excuse for elation.  
There's mums an' dads, an' kids just glad  
To be the backbone of this nation.

We had a week of fun in the rain an' sun  
An' it didn't cost the earth,  
Y'cn 'ave our 'lympic ticket, an' ya know just where to  
stick it,  
Because we've been to Tamworth!!!

### Where is Eulo?

© 'Skew Wiff' Watt

I'm thinking of moving to Eulo,  
If only I knew where it was,  
It's hard to locate on a road map,  
But it definitely must be in Oz.  
I'd heard it's outback west of Brisbane,  
So I headed out west straight ahead,  
And I asked everyone "Where is Eulo?"  
All I got was a shake of the head.  
I searched and I searched all of Queensland,  
At stations and camps I did call,  
But no-one had heard of that Eulo,  
Or if it existed at all.  
Then I asked at old Thargominda,  
"Does Janine Haig the poet live here?"  
They said, "No! She lives out at Eulo,  
But it's gone off the map, so we hear!"

*This poem was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize, humorous poem,  
Australian Bush Poets Festival, Yarrawonga/Muhwala 2000*

## Weighting Game

© Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW

Gee, it's great to see you, Jacko. Grab yourself a can of beer.  
Which is one of the many changes since you visited last year.  
It's okay to leave your boots on and to bring your dog inside.  
You could never have imagined how my life's been simplified.  
Wendy shoots through after breakfast, leaving dishes in the sink;  
doesn't care about my smoking or the mates who call to drink.  
She's become a carefree missus and our house has lost its shine  
since she met this bloke Narcissus at the Health Club pumping iron.

She's now managing a sports store, which she hurries from at six  
to the torture-chamber sweatshop for a body-building fix.  
Reinforcing rods run gleaming from her shoulders to her feet,  
with her biceps boldly bulging and her chest hard-muscled meat.  
It is often after midnight when she quits the darkened gym,  
having stayed for private lessons and a brief relaxing swim.  
It's surprising how the missus, who detested beach and brine,  
now goes dipping with Narcissus, after hours of pumping iron.

I suppose he thinks she's sexy in her iridescent togs  
- slinky leotards, bikinis raising eyebrows as she jogs.  
Not that I'm a Health Club member; only had to call there once  
with a note for Wendy who was into wild aerobic stunts.  
She was not at all embarrassed as I watched her gymnast chum  
clasping practiced hands on lycra stretched across her thighs and bum.  
If I tried it on, the missus would object but that is fine,  
she is welcome to Narcissus at the Health Club pumping iron.

I prefer my women rounded, soft and cuddly like Louise  
who'll be ducking in here shortly for her daily hug and squeeze,  
plus some other consolations, for her husband shuns their cot  
since his muscle-building steroids shrunk some other parts a lot.  
Though Louise is not well-muscled, she is still an active type  
who will sometimes cook my dinner, having taken care to swipe  
a wine bottle her Narcissus doesn't miss, so when we dine  
I can toast his vengeful missus, while our spouses pump their iron.

### REMEMBER WHEN

© Anne Cremin, Heathcote, NSW

We're sitting 'round our campfire, waiting for our spuds to cook,  
Freddy poked the ashes, he had to take a look.  
Now Freddy likes to have a chat and said "remember when..."  
That started us all a chatting and this is what was said.  
Remember when you could go to town and leave your door unlocked,  
When mum would get us kids dressed up and she'd wear her bestest frock.  
Remember when they tried to turn the co-op to self-serve,  
Well that only lasted a week or two - they sure did have a nerve.  
Remember the old bush dance, when folk would come for miles,  
The band would play, we'd dance and sing and the hall was full of smiles  
Remember when Rick and Don had their very first smoke,  
They hid behind the old tin shed, and Don he nearly choked.  
Remember when Jim got married, the women cooked for weeks.  
And Gran she made the wedding cake, that saved the family heaps.  
Remember when the show was on, and old Dolly won a prize.  
A great old horse we'd ride to school, we never thought she'd die.  
I wonder what the kids to-day will have to "remember when..."  
With TV and computer games they don't share with a friend.  
They'll never know the life we had, and I think that's just a shame,  
So turn off the old TV and unplug your computer games.  
I hope they have a Gran or Pop, an aunt or uncle too,  
That can help them build a campfire and cook a spud or two.  
And maybe when they have a chance they can share it with a friend,  
And sit around a camp fire and say "remember when...."



### They Are Trying To Waltz Our Matilda

© J J Mannion, Rockhampton, Qld

I've tried my hand at writing verse  
The rhyming sort of course.  
And the answer I keep getting is  
"You're flogging a dead horse."

When I tell 'em "Mate! It's coming back."  
They counter with a frown.  
"We compare it to a dinosaur  
It's dead but won't lie down."

Try telling this to fellow scribes  
Who's fervour never fails.  
Not only here in Queensland towns  
But from Perth to New South Wales.

Now the radio's been running hot  
Which makes my old heart sing.  
With national poets called to arms  
"Rise up and have your fling."

And rally well the writers did  
Penning free verse, rhyme and prose.  
Extolling poets from the past  
With Banjo one of those.

Then the TV showed Matilda  
Being claimed by many types.  
From far flung foreign countries  
Such as Scotties with their pipes.

Some others said "Our marching tune!"  
Yet we know where it begun.  
With our own A B Paterson  
Australia's favourite son.

Now the "Bushies" with their cowboy boots  
Out where Banjo smelt the flowers.  
Have a message which they want to send  
"Bugger off! The song is ours.

Keep your cotton picking fingers  
Away from Banjo's verse  
Or we'll rip your bloody arms off  
Either that or something worse."

So Aussie writers try your best  
With poems of any kind.  
For Matilda was but just some thoughts  
From a poets active mind.

## Winners are Grinners at The Australian Bush Poetry Championships!

*And the winner is....*

Well, once again the Championships were held at Mulwala Services Club from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. A great weekend of Bush Poetry was enjoyed by all who attended.

Congratulations must go to last years' champions Guy McLean, Maryborough, and Janine Haig from Eulo, for successfully defending their titles.

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club was well represented with Don Anderson, Leeton and Trevor Hargreaves, Yarrowonga, making the Final 6 competitors. Although they didn't win, they are definitely winners to us. Don Anderson came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Traditional Heats with his rendition of "The Fire at Ross's Farm".

Johnny Johanson, Mulwala, came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Original Heats with his stirring rendition of "The Day They Sang Waltzing Matilda". This was a huge effort on Johnny's part considering he got out of the hospital on Friday just to attend Saturday and Sunday at the Championships, before returning to hospital. Johnny was presented with a trophy on the Saturday night for his contribution to the Yarrowonga/

Mulwala community.

Trevor Hargreaves, another finalist, had the crowd on the edge of their seats with his performance of "Sweeney", an old favourite of many. Other SMBPC members who put on good performances were Jim Angel, Dennis Carstairs, and Colin Milligan.

The standard was very high this year, and it was obvious that competitors had worked hard to improve their performances.

We also had success in the Written Competition with Hope Galvan, Cootamundra, who came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Female Humorous Verse, and Grahame Watt, Kyabram, who was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Male Serious Verse.

Congratulations to all our Club members on a great effort. Holding the Championships in the southern region of Australia has been a great advantage to our Club members – you have all been given the opportunity to improve your performances. And improve you have!

It certainly was a great weekend, and it was great to catch up with 'friends' from last year and make new ones this year. Until we meet again ....

*Submitted by Sue Gleeson, Secretary,  
Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club.*

### Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up 2000

*By the time you read this update on the Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up 2000, many of you will have received an entry form. These have been sent to all the poets who have competed here in the past, plus a few others I have met at various events.*

*Anyone who hasn't a form and wishes one, please ring me on (07) 4695 4209 or send a SSAE to PO Box 64 Millmerran 4357. Please read the rules well, as the judges will be instructed to adhere strictly to them.*

*Entry forms and fees must be in by 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000. Don't forget to book your accommodation early ... this is only a small country town.*

*Once again, the program is:*

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 6.30pm** Free bus leaves the Millmerran Village Caravan Park for the Community Hall via the Millmerran Motel. 7pm Traditional Bar-B-Q and Yarn-Spinning Competition, \$100 plus trophy for the winner.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept** starting at 10am in the Millmerran Cultural Centre - Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Duo Competition. At 7pm in the Millmerran Memorial Sportmen's Club the Poets Charity Dinner and 'State of Origin' show.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept** at the Millmerran Village Caravan Park at 9.30 am a Poets Breakfast followed by the Open Competition, Poets Brawl and Trophy Presentation by the Shire Mayor.

*A reminder next month ... See you all at the Round-Up.*

*Submitted by Kev 'The Legend' Barnes, Millmerran, Qld*

### Nambucca Valley Country Music Muster, Easter 2000

Maureen Stonham, that hard working poetic groupie from the North Coast of NSW, was hard at work again in the months leading up to the Easter break organising a Poets Breakfast to be held as part of the Nambucca Country Music Festival.

Heading this event was "the Legend" Kev Barnes from Millmerran, who brought with him fellow Queenslanders Carol Reffold and Paul "The Truckie" Adams, as well as "The Rhymer From Ryde" Graeme Johnson (NSW) to be his special guests.

The Nambucca Heads Bowls Club opened their doors for this spectacular, and there wasn't a spare seat in the house as young and old alike warmed to the stories and yarns of the Australian Bush told by these masterful performers. They were joined on stage by an enthusiastic crowd of local bards who certainly didn't let the "home-side" down. "Aussies" entertaining "aussies" with "aussie" culture was certainly a sight to behold.

*Submitted by Bill Whitman, Erewon, NSW*

### Australian Camp Oven Festival, Millmerran Qld

The second Australian Camp Oven Festival will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2000 in the small town of Millmerran, situated on the Gore Highway some 87kms south west of Toowoomba.

The first festival was held following a suggestion to the Tourism and Progress Association by local, Ned Winter. Ned and his family run a well-known Bush Retreat where you can enjoy "Fair Dinkum" country hospitality, stories from the past, yarns, and some of the best Camp Oven cooking there is to be tasted.

The Camp Oven Cooking Competition is open to everyone, novices to experienced cooks. The Festival is offering trophies and prizes to the value of \$4000.

During the two days of the Festival, there will be ongoing entertainment such as Horse Shoeing, Whip Cracking, Billy Boiling Races, Pottery Making, Wood Carving and Sheep Dog Trials. There will also be a Damper Throwing Contest, with the contestants competing for a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

On Sunday morning there is a Poets' Breakfast, featuring Bush Poetry Champion, Gary Fogarty, Ray "The Mullumbimby Bloke" Essery, and John Major. The breakfast starts at 7.30am, and everyone is welcome. There are plenty of camp sites available, and a courtesy bus will be available for visitors to tour the town. The Historical Museum will be open for the duration of the Festival.

### AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION INC

IS CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, IN WRITING, FROM CLUBS OR GROUPS FOR THE ORGANISING AND HOLDING OF THE YEAR 2001 AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS. PLEASE APPLY BEFORE 30TH JUNE 2000 TO THE SECRETARY, ABPA INC, MS 765 ALLORA QLD 4362





# Cooee Festival 2000



## 2000 Cooee Festival Introduces Bush Poetry and Busking Competitions!

The 2000 Annual Cooee Festival will be held between September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Cooee fever will be high in Gilgandra over this October Long Weekend, with this years festival being the biggest ever.

The Cooee Festival commemorates the famous 1915 Cooee March – which took place from Gilgandra to Sydney. Thirty-five men set out on a recruitment drive from Gilgandra to help in the WW1 effort, calling out "Cooee" enlisting men along the way. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December the Cooee's reached Sydney with 277 men.

The Cooee Festival is important because it showcases our history as well as preserving it. The famous call will be heard from the banks of the Castlereagh when the NSW Cooee Calling Championships are held.

This year will see the introduction of a poetry night. There will be two poetry competitions, an open competition where the competitors can chose any subject and a "1915 Cooee March Poem" about the famous WW1 recruiting march. The total prize money for the competition is \$1100. For information about the Cooee March contact the Gilgandra Visitor Centre to obtain a free leaflet or copies of "The Cooee March"

by John Meredith can be purchased for \$9.95 plus postage and handling. See the advertisement in this newsletter for further details.

Another feature added to this year's festival is busking. On Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> artists are invited to be part of the main street promotion and celebration. The Cooee Festival is enthusiastic about giving new Australian artists the opportunity to perform and introduce their music to a new market, for this reason there are no amplifiers permitted. There will be a competition for buskers held in the afternoon and again, the competition carries great prize money.

As well as these additions the full programme of entertainment, sport, markets and much more will still occur over the 4 day weekend and everyone will be calling COO-EE. The Cooee Festival offers something for everybody, whether you want to be a participant or spectator, young or old you will have a fantastic time at the festival. If you would like further information about anything relating to the Cooee Festival or Gilgandra please contact the Visitor Centre on (02) 68472045. **Entry details page10.**

### Snowy Mountain Bush Poets Clean Up at Corryong

The Man From Snowy River Festival was once again a drawcard for Bush poets from around the country, with Poets' Breakfast held at Banjo's Block each morning and the main competition being held in the Youth Club Hall on Saturday.

Our own Jim Angel took out the coveted prize for "Banjo's" poem, The Man From Snowy River – well done, Jim.

Don Anderson was awarded the Clancy's Choice Perpetual Trophy for Best Overall Performer after competing in every section. Don is currently having some reinforcing work done on his mantelpiece to support the trophy. One of our newer members, Colin Milligan won the Original Section with his poem "A Mate Like Him", and John Memery won both the Original Song and the Jack Riley Heritage Award for the best original poem, yarn or song, with his song "We Were Never Men".

Official Results –

#### Written

Under 17 years – Billy Straughton, Jingellic "Life In The High Country"

Open – Ellis Campbell, Dubbo "Save Our Man"

#### Performance

Under 17 years – Luke Netherwood, Koetong "The Brumby Chase"

Original – Colin Milligan, Benalla "A Mate Like Him"

Traditional – Ted Webber, Narrellan "An Old Master"

Yam – Brian Blakeman, Wairewa "The Good Oil"

Banjo's MFSR – Jim Angel, Narrandera

Instrumental – "Cracken Back Group" Spirit of the Mountains Medley

Clancy's Choice Award – Don Anderson, Leeton

Original Song and the Jack Riley Heritage Award for the best original poem, yarn or song, - John Memery "We Were Never Men".

This poem won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize,  
Coolac Festival of Fun  
"Ode to a Sausage" competition

### Ode To A Sausage

© Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW



I wonder why *A Grecian Urn* should be immortalised,  
a *Nightingale's* ear-piercing warbling never criticised.  
Yet no-one judged a sausage worth a glorifying ode  
- pan-fried or curried, barbecued or floating *a-la-mode*.  
All hail this mighty mystery-mix intestinally encased!  
Let welkin hear hosannas to its tantalising taste!  
No finer fare for fools or kings has ever been designed.  
The president and peasant who have succulently dined  
on sausages and mashed potatoes with a splash of sauce  
epitomise democracy upon its gastric course.  
What better emblem could there be upon our re-vamped flag  
than rampant on a pea-green field a dinkum Aussie snag?  
On second thoughts, that spectacle might lead to smutty jokes  
by monarchists, comedians and other low-life blokes.  
For that's the risk with symbols (much confused with *icons* now)  
there's always someone willing to down-grade a sacred cow:  
allege there's surplus gristle, even pizzle finely ground  
included with the leaner cuts before the mixture's bound  
in casings, strung in festive fashion, laid in lovesome links.  
What true romance and mystery, the equal of the sphinx,  
in those beguiling bangers, most mouth-watering of meats,  
deserving lofty tribute from a Byron or a Keats!  
I've done my best in eulogy, their praises loudly sung.  
Must finish now – a sizzling snorker's burned my bloody tongue.

# Cooee Festival Poetry Competition



**Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2000**

**Section 1: Cooee March**

**Poem dedicated to the 1915 Cooee March**

Traditional form poem with the theme of the famous Cooee March. Information about the Cooee March can be obtained from the Gilgandra Visitor Centre on (02) 68472045 or on the Cooee Festival website <http://skyboom.com/cooeefestival.com>.

1<sup>st</sup> - \$500 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$200 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$50

**Section 2: Open - Any subject the writer wishes**

1<sup>st</sup> - \$200 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$100 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$50

**Entry fee:** \$5 per poem

## Conditions:

1. 100 line limit
2. No limit to the number of entries
3. Previous award winners or published poems ineligible
4. No entry form required but a cover sheet must be included showing author's name, address, phone number, title of poem and line limit
5. No names on poems
6. Presentation day 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000 during the Cooee Festival
7. Winners will be advised by phone
8. All entries are available for reproduction or publication by the Cooee Festival Committee with copyright being retained by the author
9. Send entries to: The Secretary, Cooee March Poetry Competition, PO Box 199, Gilgandra NSW 2827  
Or e-mail to: [cooeefestivalgilgandra@hotmail.com](mailto:cooeefestivalgilgandra@hotmail.com)

## Nambucca Heads Bush Poets Breakfast

Another highly successful Bush Poets Breakfast was held on Easter Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, at Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club, NSW.

Attended by 113 bush poetry groupies from the surrounding areas of the mid north coast, the breakfast was held in conjunction with the Nambucca Valley Country Music Club's Jamboree and Talent Quest.

Kevin Barnes of Millmerran, aka 'The Legend' was featured poet of the mornings entertainment and he was joined by Graeme Johnson, 'The Rhymer from Ryde', as special guest. In addition Carol Stratford of Brisbane, and Paul Adams from Ipswich travelled to perform. Locals Murray Suckling, Marj Trotter, Tom Stonham and Pat Richardson also contributed.

It was great to receive very positive comments from attending locals who had not seen several of the visiting poets before. Many thanks to those who travelled to the event and the wonderful catering and management staff of the club, without whom we would not have had such a great morning. Congratulations to all.

*Submitted by Maureen Stonham, Nambucca Heads, NSW*

## Man From Snowy River Bush Festival

One of the many highlights of the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival held at Corryong on 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> April was the "Silver Brumby" Bush Poetry Competition at the Corryong Hotel on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>.

This was a great night of entertainment, with Hec Griffiths, the popular bush balladist breaking in every half-hour with a few songs.

The winners of the "Silver Brumby" trophies were Dennis Carstairs and Jim Weatherstone, with Bob Skelton in third place.

Others to recite were Tom Grant, Arthur Webb, Keith Whitsed, Des Guinnane, and Geoffrey Graham. Kip Gates, from Meeker in north-west Colorado, who came over to compete in The Man From Snowy River Challenge, was welcomed to the Bush Poetry night by way of a poem written and read by the MC, Neil Hulm.

Kip responded with a very interesting talk about his ranch and family. A raffle on the night raised money that was to be donated to the Walwa Bush Nursing Hospital.

Jan Lewis has reported that a good crowd went along to the Bush Poetry at Banjo's Block, which was also on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. This must be very encouraging to the local committees. Holding two successful bush poetry nights at different venues on the same night was previously unheard of.

A Wonderful Festival.

*Submitted by Neil Hulm, Lavington NSW*

## "Owed" to the G.S.T.

This G.S.T is N.B.G.

It drives me U.T.W.

and if that's not enough to deal with  
there's P.A.Y.G. to trouble you!

I'm swamped with U.P.W.,  
There's reams of stuff to read,  
Taking up my precious time  
- just what I do NOT need!

My computer coped with Y.2.K,  
But now it cannot help me  
'cause I reckon the whole tax system  
has now ...G...T...T...D...!

© Sandra J. Queenborough Binns,  
Kincumber, NSW

## **Glossary:**

G.S.T. - Goods and Services Tax

N.B.G. - No Bloody Good

U.T.W. - Up The Wall

P.A.Y.G. - Pay As You Go

U.P.W. - Unwanted Paper work

Y.2.K. - Year Two Thousand

G.T.T.D. - Gone To The Dogs!

## South Coast Country Music Festival 16/4/00

Tell you what, it was a bit of a shock to the system to be up at 8am, hosting a Poets Breakfast after the last couple of events I'd run. Lately I've been convincing Festival Organizers the Brunches and Lunches are the way to go, but never mind, "on with the show".

The Third South Coast Country Music Festival, held at Mt Kembla (near Wollongong NSW) sprang to life early on a Sunday morning to a motley (well they were at that time of the morning) crew of poets including "Rhymin" Simon Campbell, Vivienne Sawyer, Brian Bell, myself and special guest, "Poet Lorikeet" Denis Kevans.

We were joined on the stage by locals Peter Channon, Steve Caskey, John Seers, Chris Smith & Cas Van Loon in a fun filled sortie of humour, pathos and general "tom-foolery".

Set in a magnificent natural amphitheater, the lofty perch of Mt Kembla was a perfect setting for the spoken word. The breakfast has grown in popularity over the last few years and the year 2000 gig saw over 150 in attendance to spur the spruikers on, whilst enjoying a scrumptious brekky of pancakes/sausages, eggs and bacon.

If you're travelling to NSW April next year, put this one on your calendar.

*Your Festival Scribe, Graeme Johnson, West Ryde, NSW*

## Charters Towers Poets Festival

There is positive evidence that Bush Poetry is gaining great popularity on the local scene after the 3-day Festival held in Charters Towers on 25-27 April, 2000.

All five sessions were well patronized, with poets from all points of Queensland. More than 60 attended the 'Bush Poets Breakfasts' – Wednesday at the Stock Exchange Courtyard, and Thursday at the historical Venus Gold Battery – to witness a wide range of poetry, from serious to bush to humorous.

The guest poets, Bob (The Larrikin) Miller from Mungar, and Louise Dean from Prairie, both displayed their special talents, providing such entertainment that would encourage others to consider taking up the 'craft' themselves, and maybe 'strut the stage' themselves next year.

Bob has such an extensive repertoire, and, as a performer, can only be described as 'magic'. He came to us with high credentials, and is a master of the art.

Louise showed she is also an accomplished performer, and was the Australian representative earlier this year at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

The 'Meet and Greet' on the Tuesday night at St Patrick's Hotel gave many the opportunity to mix and perhaps dispel some of the nervousness before the competition the next evening.

The RSL Club venue attracted a 'full house' with more than fifty entrants vying for a share of the prizes on offer. A number of sterling performances from all ages ensued, with many staying until the very end, which concluded past midnight.

The overall success of the Festival can be attributed to so many attending, performing, plus media cover, combined with the generous support by the valued Sponsors.

*Submitted by Arthur Rekow, Charters Towers, Qld*

*A full list of Charters Towers performance winners was published in the May Newsletter, and now here are the Written winners:*

### Under 14 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinne Whitman, Townsville - "Fishing the Burdekin Way"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Julian Luke, Charters Towers - "A Bush Kid's Life"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Corinne Whitman, Townsville - "The Fearless Sheepdog Pup"

### 14 years to 18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jade Brischke, Gladstone - "A Tribute to Australia Day"

### 18 years and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> Veronica Weal, Mt Isa - "The Ghost Gums Haunt Me Yet"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trevor Shaw, Thangool - "Mudmap"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandy Chapman, Townsville - "Harsh Land"

## Australian Bush Poetry Championships 2000

Once again a large group of Australian Bush Poets decided to "Linga-Longa" in Yarrowonga/Mulwala on the NSW/VIC border for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships, held at the Mulwala RSL Club.

I was one of this fortunate posse who were privileged to participate in one of the best run Performance Competitions it has been my pleasure to attend.

Competition co-ordinators Barbara McDermid and Club President Trevor Hargreaves (and various supporters) gave their all to see poets and audiences were treated to a feast of Bush Poetry in well organised comfortable surroundings, morning, noon and night.

Rules, regulations and competition details were concise and accurate leaving no confusion in the competitors minds. Programs ran pretty close to schedule and in the few breaks in proceedings, MCs Noel Cutler, Geoffrey Graham and Reg Phillips kept 'em laughing with a continuous stream of jokes. The camaraderie amongst the poets brought me a warmth and happiness that I experience all too infrequently, and now, a week later, I'm still sporting a grin from ear to ear. It didn't matter whether or not you were successful; it just mattered to be there.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners and thanks to all the citizens of these beautiful twin towns for a weekend that will be hard to beat.

*Submitted by Graeme Johnson, West Ryde, NSW*

## Bush Poets Run Benefit Dinner for Wagga Radio Appeal

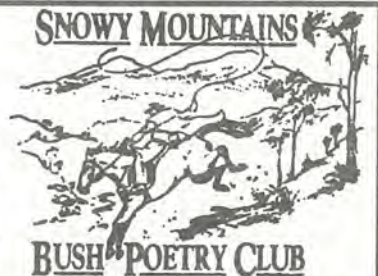
A poet's dinner was held in the Butter Factory Restaurant on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>, in aid of The Wagga Radio Therapy Appeal. The Club President Reg Phillips compered the evening, organized by the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc.

Members of the club, along with several local poets and country singers, provided top entertainment to an audience of 65 people while they indulged in a tasty lamb roast dinner.

A total of ten performers rolled up for the evening's fun. Kevin Annetts from Tumut kicked off the evening with some good old country songs, followed by Jack Bridle with his great memory for long, funny poems. Johnny Johanson was in great form with yarns and poems, Ted Hall sang some Slim Dusty songs, and Gay Nestor (our only female performer) recited some of her own work. Eric Crain held the audience with his great timing and humorous poems while Mick Donohue told some of his yarns, and recited a few of his own works about sheep dogs and shearing. Bruce Brumby concluded the evening with the audience singing along to some well-known country gospel songs.

Special thanks must go to Col and Val Alchin of the Butter Factory Coffee Shop for their donation of \$150 to pay for the hire of the hall at the rear of their shop. They did a great job in decorating it in a country theme and providing an excellent meal at a reasonable cost. Thank you also to the performers and the good people who came to support this worthy cause. The total clear profit for the evening was \$550 to be donated to the Wagga Therapy Appeal.

*Submitted by Sue Gleeson, Secretary, Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc.*



A cow, like a ship,  
has a stem and a bow  
and a tail in place of a rudder.  
You fill her at one end  
with hay that you mow  
and you empty 'er out  
at the udder!!

© Hipshot



Ayres Rock is so bloody high  
When I climbed it I gave a great sigh,  
I let out a cheer,  
And said, "My God, I'm here!"  
And a voice boomed "I know" from the sky.

© 'Skew Wiff' Watt

# POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Jun 11	<b>Beaudesert Country and Horse Festival</b> , Bush Poets Breakfast, enq Nancy Moss 07 5541 2444 P14
Jun 16	<b>Rockhampton Agricultural Society Inc</b> , 4th Annual Bush Poetry Championships Ph 07 4926 3148 P14
Jun 17-18	<b>Australian Workers Heritage Centre</b> , Barcaldine Q, Weekend Writers Workshop Ph 07 3224 4838 P14
Jun 17	<b>Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc</b> , AGM, Union Club Hotel. Ph Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508
Jun 21	<b>Kilcoy Unplugged</b> with Wally Finch, Ph Graham Fredriksen 07 5497 1045
Jul 5	<b>Kilcoy Unplugged</b> with Ian Mackay, Ph Graham Fredriksen 07 5497 1045
Jul 7-9	<b>Bundy Muster weekend</b> Performance and written competitions. Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy 07 4151 4631 P14
Jul 14	Closing Date <b>Country on the Tweed</b> written competition. Details page 14
Jul 16	3rd Annual <b>Bush Poets Breakfast</b> , followed by Bushdance BBQ and Yarnspinning, Derby, WA. Ph Cheryle Holmes
Jul 17	Closing Date <b>Surat's Battered Bugle</b> written competition. Ph Jan 07 4626 5103 P14
Jul 19	<b>Kilcoy Unplugged</b> with a Tribute to Henry Lawson, Ph Graham Fredriksen 07 5497 1045
Jul 22	Closing Date <b>Hastings Regional 2000 Literary Competition</b> , Ph Gloria 02 6584 1163. Full details page 15
Jul 31	Closing Date <b>North Pine Bush Poets Camp Oven Award 2000</b> written competition. Ph Mary 07 5494 7260
Aug 1	Closing Date <b>Coonee Festival Poetry Competition</b> , details see page 10
Aug 4	Closing Date <b>Spirit of the Outback</b> Writing competition. Details page 14
Aug 4	Closing Date <b>Newcastle Poetry Prize 2000</b> , Details page 14
Aug 19-20	<b>Camp Oven Festival</b> . North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Enquiries - John & Patti Coufts 07 3886 1552
Aug 19-20	<b>Trundle Bush Tucker Day</b> . Trundle NSW Ph Frank 02 6344 1477 Fax 02 6344 1962 bushpoet@westserv.net.au
Aug 22-27	<b>Toyota National Country Music Muster 2000</b> , Amamoor State Forest, via Gympie Qld. Ph 07 5482 2099 P6
Sep 1-3	<b>Millmerran Bush Poet's Round-Up</b> , Millmerran Qld. Contact Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 P15
Oct 7-8	<b>Australian Camp Oven Festival</b> , Millmerran Qld.

## G'day from Geoffrey Graham

### Greetings!

Victoria/NSW has had its share of Bush Poetry lately and not before time. A lot of folks in Vic still need convincing of the entertainment value of Bush Poetry. Anyone who was at Yarrowonga/Mulwala recently certainly doesn't need any more convincing.

My own performances have kept me in NSW and Victoria so far this year, and as winter approaches I now remember one of the reasons I go North at this time of the year. However more work in Victoria and a new house to settle into will keep me closer to home this season.

As the pockets of Bush Poets spring up around Victoria so does support for each other. I must thank the Gippsland Poets, especially Dennis Carstairs and family and Brian Blakeman, for their support to me this year with my work in their delightful neck of the woods. Looking forward to going back.

The festival back in March at Swan Hill was once fairly small but this one will steadily gain momentum. It really is a great little town complete with its own historic settlement. The support for Bush Poetry is increasing thanks to the wonderful worth of Kathleen and committee. Great to see Ted Egan doing his show this year. His performance included the showing of his video clip for which he won a gold guitar this year at Tamworth. If you haven't yet, I urge you to support Ted in his continuing efforts to get *The Drovers Boy* completed. It's well worth investing in and I look forward to the finished product.

Jamberoo, one of my favourite festivals was once again in fine form. I still reckon it's one of the friendliest festivals in Australia. Just the right size, the perfect atmosphere and the right mix of Poetry and music and dance. Terrific to see so many new faces who are fast becoming old faces. People like Barry Lake, Shirley Drake and a host of others. I'm also addicted to the humour of the performers who, whilst more musicians than poets, have a wonderfully warped sense of humour. Artists like John Dengate and Bernard Boland.



Corryong once again brings the high country folk together. Guy McLean made his first appearance here and once again, though a relatively small festival, has a large input from the spoken word. Jan Lewis and her comrades in arms did a great job organising the competitions and other events. One of the highlights for me besides my "Ironbark" performance is the performing of *The Man from Snowy River* poem at the cemetery as a memorial to Jack Riley. Jack is the local that many purport to be the man in the poem that "Banjo" wrote about. To perform the poem with Jack Riley's horsemen behind me and the graveside audience in front is a great feeling. Not even the rain put a damper on the enthusiasm of the audience.

One again we should congratulate the organisers of these festivals who do a mammoth job and for the most part are unpaid.

Yarrowonga/Mulwala was huge. Last year the southerners proved it could be done. This year it was done brilliantly. Barb MacDermid did a superb job with a great crew of helpers. If you look at all the people involved from judges to compers to staff at the clubs, sponsors and so on, there's a lot of people who get behind the event. Most importantly the locals have been very supportive.

Congratulations to Janine and Guy and to the host of other competitors who go to great lengths to get to the competitions. (Even Queenslanders were there!) The number of poets at this weekend was staggering. With competitions, breakfasts, and other get togethers, there was something for everyone. Just at one breakfast as compere I put through 26 performers. Noel Cutler was in his element with poetry and whipcracking, and John Memery had a great little show on Granite, Guns and Gold. One special moment for me half way through my Ironbark show was an audience member presenting me with an 1899 copy of the Bulletin, in mint condition. I also felt honored by the poets supporting my Ironbark show. Gives me a great thrill to look out at the audience and see pioneers like Ellis Campbell grinning away.

I finished my weeks in that part of the country with a show at Milawa instigated by Noel and raising money for the Kelly Whipcrackers.

*Keep smiling, Geoffrey Graham, Eaglehawk  
Ph 03 5446 3739 PS. My new fax number is 5446 2639*

# 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 & 4th 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
- 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 Wed** **Kilcoy Unplugged,** 7.00 p.m. Kilcoy Gardens Motel Restaurant, Gold Coin Entry Ph Graham 07 5497 1045

## 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 Wednesday** **Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets,** 7pm April, June, August, October Phone Murray 02 6657 2139
- 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. Ph Elaine 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** 7.30pm "The Hideaway" Davison Ln, Picton Liz 02 4677 2044, Vince 4684 1704
- 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.
- 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.
- Every 3 months** **Poetic Folk,** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770. Ring "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

## 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 Australian Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga Ph/Fax Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788
- 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



## BEAUDESERT COUNTRY AND HORSE FESTIVAL

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2000, including the Annual Bush Poets Breakfast.

Prizes worth over \$1000, with trophies.

Seniors and Childrens Sections, with Original and Traditional Categories. The judges are Glenny Palmer and Ran Chandler, with Tom McIvor as guest entertainer.

Enquiries - phone Nancy Moss (07) 5541 2444, or contact her at PO Box 70, Beaudesert, Qld, 4285

**AUSTRALIAN WORKERS HERITAGE CENTRE**, Barcaldine, Qld. Weekend Writer's Workshop, **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2000**. Saturday workshops with celebrated writer and editor Barbara Ker Wilson, and special guest writer Herb Wharton. On Sunday, Suzanne Misso from Arts Queensland will talk about the "Living Memories" project, which worked with Queensland communities to record their stories. Call (07) 3224 4838 or (07) 4651 2422 for a brochure and enrolment form.

## SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB INC.

Annual General Meeting **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2000**

Union Club Hotel, 122 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga, at 4.30pm followed by Dinner and entertainment upstairs. Bookings for Dinner essential, Contact Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508

## KILCOY UNPLUGGED PERFORMER'S NIGHTS

**21<sup>st</sup> June**

Wally "The Bear" Finch showcases the best of C.J. Dennis

**5<sup>th</sup> July**

Ian Mackay, Nambour's original Master Poet extraordinaire

**19<sup>th</sup> July**

Marilyn Roberts, Belle Shootingstar, Graham Fredriksen

Present "A Tribute to Henry Lawson"

All at the Kilcoy Gardens Motor Inn, Cnr of Hope and Ethel Sts, Kilcoy, Qld, 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Enquiries - phone Graham Fredriksen (07) 5497 1045 or Marilyn Williams (07) 5496 3690

## COUNTRY ON THE TWEED Written Poetry Competition

Theme "The Olympic Torch". Two sections - Junior (under 16yrs), and Adult (17yrs & over). Limit 40 lines

Closing Date **14<sup>th</sup> July**. Entry fee \$2 (Junior) and \$5 (Adult)

Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for entry form to - Country on the Tweed Poetry Competition, 20 Scenic Drive Bilambil Heights NSW 2486

## 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 & 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

## FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC

Hastings Regional 2000 Literary Competition. Categories:

1. Short Story 3,000 words max, fiction, open theme
2. Mini Story 1,000 words max, fiction, open theme
3. Article 1,200 words max, non-fiction, general interest
4. Poetry Traditional rhyming 60 lines max
5. Poetry Contemporary free-form, 30 lines max
6. Poetry Australian Bush rhyming, 80 lines max

Closing Date **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2000**, Results 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000

Entry Fee \$3 per entry

No entry form required, but entries must be author's original work that has not won any other competition. All entries to be typed double or 1.5 spaced on one side of A4 paper only.

Include cover sheet A4 showing title, category, author's name, address and phone number. No name on entry.

For further details, and for all entries or enquiries, contact Competition Secretary :  
Gloria Paviour-Smith, PO Box 1693  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Phone 02 6584 1163

## SURAT'S BATTERED BUGLE Bush Verse Competition 2000

Written Competition - Open

Must be 'Bush Verse' with the theme 'Cobb & Co and the Centenary of Federation'.

Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$150, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$100.

Written Competition - Junior (under 17 years)

Prizes - 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20

Entries close **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000**

Send to The Secretary, PO Box 8, Surat Qld 4417

Enquiries - Jan Ritchie Ph 07 4626 5103 Fax 07 4626 5516

email - villacoola@bigpond.com

## NORTH PINE BUSH POETS Camp Oven Award 2000 for

Written Verse. Must be Bush Verse and maximum length of 120 lines. Open Competition - 1<sup>st</sup> prize trophy & \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$25

Junior Competition - 13 to 16 years - 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$50, 9 to 12

years - 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$25, 8 years and under - 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$10. Entry

fee \$5.00, or 3 entries for \$10.00. Entries close **31<sup>st</sup> July, 2000**

For enquiries or entry forms, contact the Co-Ordinator, Mary Hodgson, Diamond Valley Rd, Mooloolah Qld 4553, Phone (07) 5494 7260

## COOEE FESTIVAL POETRY COMPETITION

**Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2000. Entry fee:** \$5 per poem

Send entries to: The Secretary, Coee March Poetry Competition, PO Box 199, Gilgandra NSW 2827. See page 10

Or e-mail to: cooefestivalgilgandra@hotmail.com

## SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK Writing Competition

An initiative of The Australian Workers Heritage Centre  
Entries may be prose, poetry, or short stories (max 2500 words). The theme for 2000 is "A Woman's Spirit". Entries must pertain to women's working life - paid or unpaid - in the Australian outback. Entries close **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2000**

Enquiries, or for entry forms, contact

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, PO Box 12324, Elizabeth Street QLD

## NEWCASTLE POETRY PRIZE 2000

The \$10,000 Newcastle Poetry Prize will be awarded to an unpublished poem or group of poems in English to 200 lines. Entries close **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2000**.

Entry fee \$10.00 per entry. For Conditions of Entry, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Newcastle Poetry Prize, PO Box 5276, Newcastle West NSW 2302

## TRUNDLE BUSH TUCKER DAY, Trundle NSW

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. \$1000 Bush Poetry Competition.**

Open Traditional (Poetry over 50 years)

Open Original Bush Poetry

Open Original Humorous Bush Poetry

Three places paid in each section.

Frank Daniel Ph. 02 6344 1477 Fax. 02 6344 1962

Email bushpoet@westserv.net.au

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

### 5th 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

### MILLMERRAN BUSH POET'S ROUND-UP

1 - 3 September 2000.

BBQ and Bar Friday night at Rural Estates, SW of Millmerran. Jack Drake and Kev Barnes co-compering.  
Open Mic session. Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Duo competition from 10am on Saturday. At 7pm Saturday there will be a Poet's Charity Dinner, followed by a State of Origin show, featuring Ray Essery.  
Stay for the Poet's Breakfast on Sunday morning from 9.30am, followed by the Open Competition and the Brawl.  
Entry forms available soon from Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209

### AUSTRALIAN CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL, Millmerran Qld

The second Australian Camp Oven Festival will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2000 in the small town of Millmerran, situated on the Gore Highway some 87kms south west of Toowoomba.

### TOYOTA NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER 2000

22 - 27 August, 2000.

Tuesday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast  
Wednesday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast  
Thursday - 2hr Poets Breakfast  
Friday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast  
Friday Lunch - Heat 1 Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award  
Friday Night - Poets Brawl (enter on the day/great prizes)  
Saturday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast  
Sat Lunch - Heat 2 Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award  
Saturday Night - Naked Poets Concert and album launch.  
Sunday - 2hr Poets Breakfast  
Sun Lunch - Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Concert and Award  
Muster Tickets and enquiries 07 5482 2099

Bronze Swagman Book of Verse  
is now available \$12.50 pp from  
The Secretary  
Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44,  
Winton, Qld. 4735

### ABPA ANNUAL BOOKS OF VERSE

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(and others)

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Via Scone NSW 2337

### A VALID EXCUSE

Bush Poems and Other Verses

by Trevor Shaw

\$13.00 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

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

Golden Gumleaf 2000 Finalist, and now  
Australian Bush Poetry Championship Book

"Paradise Revisited"

50 poems by Graham Fredriksen

featuring several award winning and highly  
commended works, including Bronze Swagman  
winner "Battle of St. Quentin Canal"

Send \$12 (or \$20 for 2) to Graham Fredriksen,  
Monsildale Rd, Kilcoy 4515 or Ph 07 5497 1045

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Laughing at His Three Books  
The Humorous Verse of  
J J Mannion

A London Mix of Poetry

And just released, "Joe's Back."

Only \$9.00 pp each, send to J J Mannion, 8  
Luck Ave, Rockhampton Qld 4700

### 'Listen 'ere ol' mate!'

Original Australian Bush Poetry

by Gippsland Poet

Dennis Carstairs

\$15 plus \$2 p&h

PO Box 159, Stratford, Vic 3862

## 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

June 2000

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### Heritage Corner

This space devoted to  
preserving the character of our  
Australian Heritage

Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikatz

From 'The CWA Cookery Book and Household Hints', 1936

A hint That Will Help In The Home and Preserve The Temper  
Get a round plough disc (one that has been cast aside). Take an oil drum or petrol tin, and punch holes all round the sides, and put a fire in it, and when it has finished smoking, and only clear red coals remain, put the tin on the disc and place it in the room or hall where it is required. Mallee roots make lovely coals, and throw out a lot of heat. This is an excellent way of heating a cold hall on a winter's night.

From 'The Australian Enquiry Book', 1894

### The Young Farmer

A great many young men who have been farm hands at Home (Great Britain), when they come to this country, having a little ready money, buy or rent land, and become farmers on their own account, forgetting that their knowledge gained in England or Ireland, as the case may be, is of very little use to them in the colonies. The man who comes with a little money will do well to put that money into the Savings Bank, and hire himself as a labourer on a farm, where he will very soon pick up the knowledge he requires of the different seasons, the different crops grown, and many other details which he will be the better for knowing before risking his money in a venture on his own responsibility. While he is gaining experience his money is increasing, and he is becoming accustomed to the country, learning the manners, customs, and ways of working.

**15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1927, BORN DAVID KIRKPATRICK, BETTER KNOWN AS SINGER & SONGWRITER SLIM DUSTY**

**17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1867, BORN AT GRENFELL, NSW, HENRY LAWSON**

**18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1880, GLENROWAN SEIGE TOOK PLACE AUSTRALIA'S MOST FAMOUS BUSHRANGING EVENT INVOLVING THE KELLY GANG.**

### Thank you to our Contributors

John & Gaye  
Barclay  
Kev Barnes  
Sandra Binns  
Dennis Carstairs  
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Hipshot  
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Graeme Johnson  
Brian D Lee

Ron Liekefett  
Barb Macdermid  
JJ Mannion  
Sandra Martin  
Jill Perran  
Valerie Reid  
Arthur Rekow  
Lorraine Richards  
Colin Scott  
Greg Scott  
Ron Selby  
Olive Shooter  
Ron Stevens  
Maureen Stonham  
Grahame Watt  
Bill Whitman

### THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

The ABPA Championships at Yarrowonga/Mulwala must have been a hoot! I've received many reports on the activities and events that took place, and you will find some of them included in this edition of the Newsletter. Thank you to all members who took the time to comment! Apart from one negative report, all others have been positive to the extreme. I'm sure that it was well worth the journey for all who attended the festivities. Our heartiest congratulations go to Guy McLean and Janine Haig! It is certainly wonderful to see both Janine and Jennifer Haig in such a successful period - both having also had major success in Winton at the QANTAS Waltzing Matilda Championships in April!

Would you like to become a regular contributor to this Newsletter? It's easy! Just send me information on whatever is going on in your neck of the woods, or a poem, or some gossip/lies/innuendo/rumours! I'm looking for more of our members to become regularly involved in the compiling of this Newsletter. I'm sure that you have all noticed the fabulous efforts of some members, particularly Graeme Johnson, Sandra Binns, Ron Stevens, Dennis Carstairs, and of course, John Barclay! My most grateful thanks to all of you who submit regular items! (I apologise if I have missed anyone!)

Best regards, Jennifer Priest

