

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 8 Volume 7

August 2000

RESULTS of the Bundy Poet's Muster Week-end held on July 7th, 8th & 9th, 2000

Bush Lantern Award:

- 1st Ellis Campbell - Dubbo, NSW "Strike at Brampton's Hill"
2nd Veronica Weal - Mt. Isa, Qld "Roycroft's Ride"
3rd Brian Beesley - Cherrybrook, NSW "Go Forward Looking Back"



Performance Competition:

- Overall Champion Poet: **Roderick Williams, Murrurundi**
- Juniors 12 - 17 years:
- 1st Evan Schnalle, Rockhampton
2nd Jade Brischke, Gladstone
3rd Sunny Mutton, Winton
- Novice Traditional:
- 1st Jim Lysaght, Bundaberg
2nd Sunny Mutton, Winton
3rd Val Lopez, Gin Gin
- Novice Modern:
- 1st Lynden Baxter, Calliope
2nd Sunny Mutton, Winton
3rd Bette Shiels, Bundaberg
- Novice Original:
- 1st Lynden Baxter, Calliope
2nd Trevor Shaw, Thangool
3rd Karen Rhodes, Bundaberg
- Intermediate Traditional:
- 1st Lee Miller, Bundaberg
2nd Ross Keppel, Bundaberg
3rd Marilyn Gregory, Bundaberg
- Intermediate Original:
- 1st Craig Gascoigne, Singleton
2nd Jim Lysaght, Bundaberg
3rd Lee Miller, Bundaberg
- Open Traditional:
- 1st Wally Finch, Kallangur
2nd Roderick Williams, Murrurundi
3rd Ron Liekefett, Lawnton
- Open Modern:
- 1st Craig Gascoigne, Singleton
2nd Anita Reed, Holland Park
3rd Wally Finch, Kallangur
- Open Original:
- 1st Craig Gascoigne, Singleton
2nd Roderick Williams, Murrurundi
3rd Laree Chapman, Bundaberg
- Duo Performances: Milton Taylor & Sunny Mutton
- Dark & Stormy One Minute Cup:
- 1st Jade Brischke, Gladstone
2nd Bobby Miller
3rd Ron Selby

Guess Who!

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c/- H.M.A.S. Coonawarra

It's a busy place, the Darwin Mall,
Full of people – big and small,
Some hurry past with jobs to do,
Others wander the whole day through.
A place to sit, and watch the crowd,
Full of noises, soft or loud,
With buskers outside shops that sell
Funny postcards, that wish you well.

With time to spare I wandered there
Enjoying the sound that filled the air,
I watched a man as flute he played,
Then among the crowd, I strayed.
Suddenly I thought I heard
A sound familiar – not a bird,
Nor yet some tune, - what was it then?
A voice remembered? Where and when?

Some instinct made me rise and go
As thinking to myself, "I know
That timbre and that resonance,
I'm sure I've heard him more than once!"

Bush verse did float above the throng,
Above the chatter, loud and strong,
And then I knew – 'cause on the ground
A swag I saw – Guess who I found?
That "living statue" of swaggie mold
Escaping all that southern cold.
But 'cause I found him it doesn't follow
That he will still be there tomorrow!



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DEADLINE: 20th of Each Month

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Olive Shooter, Secretary

ABPA Membership - \$25 per annum January to December for Single, Family or Club membership.

Juniors \$10 per annum (students to year 12 education).

NEW members joining after July 01, \$13 through to the end of December. Those who have NOT been a member previously may join after October 01 and receive up to 15 months membership for the first year's subscription of \$25. 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!**



Dear Members

We have had five expressions of interest in holding the 2001 Australian Championships. They were Charters Towers, Roma, Mulwala, Winton and Caloundra. We thank them for their submissions and appreciate their offering to undertake the organisation of the contest. A committee of nine is considering separately, and we should have a choice by early August. The committee is Ron Selby, Liz Ward, Marco Giori, Bill Glasson, Frank Daniel, Milton Taylor, Bob Miller, Ray Essery and myself. I am grateful for their co-operation. None of these members has a special interest in any of the venues.

The Magazine will print any notices of functions free of charge. If members wish to advertise their product, that is

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The question of where our AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP will be held in

the year 2001 should be answered next month. We have received five submissions and a panel of nine members have been asked to make a decision on where it will be held.

We are still growing in membership in every state (except Northern Territory) and the time should be right for affiliated clubs in each state to think about holding State Championships. If sponsorships can be arranged maybe the winner in each state could receive a prize of a trip to the Australian Championships each year.

The Championship is an essential event in the progression of our art of Bush Poetry and should be contested by the best poets from each state. It is more than difficult to provide a venue where all the best poets can contest this event and many of those poets have to travel great distances to get there.

There is a lot of new blood and new talent emerging in regional events and they all deserve a chance to be crowned "Australian Champion". To all the clubs in all states: put on your thinking caps and look forward to the future.

I have received a dozen or so poems for the Annual (more needed) and again this year I will be typing them up as they will appear and mailing them back to the authors for corrections. Also this year I propose to add a page of authors addresses at the back of the book. So please indicate whether or not your poems are in print and where they are available.

So much for the soapbox this month, and I hope to see a few members around the traps.

Ron Selby, President

Quote of the month:

*"If you expect something good, for nothing,
You will get something - good for nothing."*

books, cassettes or CDs, \$5.00 will buy two months advertisement. Please send all copy to the Editor and the money to me. I have been asked a few times about private shows advertisement, but at present we have no policy on that so their notices are given freely. If anyone wishes a change in these arrangements, they should send notice for inclusion in the annual meeting or consideration by the Executive.

I am happy to say that we are moving a few annual books of poems. Very few of the second one are left. However, we have plenty of the last four annuals. They are \$3 plus postage, and \$1.10 will post up to four. Just order from me. A flush of members paying subs and new members has brought our membership to near 400. Beautiful weather here.

Fond Regards, Olive Shooter

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE..... THE CO-OPERATIVE POETS

The Co-operative Poets - a group of poets who have worked together on a series of three books of Australian Bush Poetry for children.

In 1997, Carmel Randle approached a number of Bush Poets with the idea of publishing a book of contemporary Bush Poetry for children. This creative idea led to the publishing of "The Co-operative Book of Verse for Aussie Children", edited by Carmel Randle, and illustrated by Louise K. Dean. The book proved very successful, with the first print run selling out, and having to be reprinted due to popular demand!

1998 saw the publication of a second "Co-operative Book of Verse for Aussie Children", with three different poets joining the group, and a third book has just been released.

Sharon Anderson (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Ocean Grove - south of Melbourne, Victoria.

Sharon joined a creative writing course in Ocean Grove, and this triggered her interest in Rhyming Poetry. She is a member of "The Living Poets Society", and has performed with them in schools in the Geelong-Bellarine Peninsula area, and at the Ocean Grove Festival. She enjoys writing for primary school children, and hopes they have as much fun reading and performing her poems as she has writing them.

Graham Dean (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Prairie - North Queensland.

Graham runs "Bush Wookatook" in the historic Old Post Office, and entertains the tourists. He has featured on various ABC Radio programs, and has published two books of verse "Beneath the Southern Cross", and "Gone Wookatook" (with Louise K. Dean). His children's poetry is influenced by the bush, its animals, and his irrepressible sense of humour!

Karen Emmott (Book 3)

From a cattle property out of Longreach - Central Queensland

Karen has written poetry since she was ten, and has been a supporter of NOPA (National Outback Performing Arts) in Longreach. She has coached "School of the Air" children in performance poetry over HF radio, and realises the need for more suitable poems for young Australians to enjoy.

Wally Finch (Book 1)

From Kallangur - Brisbane, Queensland

Wally is an experienced performance poet, and a vice-president of the Australian Bush Poets Association. He has also published books of his own poetry, and is currently involved in encouraging Bush Poetry in the city, with open mike sessions at the Broadwalk Theatre at South Bank.

Zita Horton (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Upper Mount Gravatt - Brisbane, Queensland

Zita has written much poetry for and about her two young children, however, she also has received commendation for her poetry aimed at an older audience. She was the QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda and Australian Female Bush Poet Champion in 1998, and attended the Cowboy Poetry gathering in Elko, Nevada as the Australian representative. She has twice been Reserve Champion. She has a strong interest in passing on a love of rhymed verse to the current generation.

Bob Miller (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Mungar - near Maryborough, Central Queensland

Bob began writing in 1974, and was part of the renaissance of Bush Verse at Tamworth in the late eighties. He is on the Bush Poets' Wall of Renown. Bob is best known for his hilarious performances, but is also in demand as a competition judge, and for Poetry Writing Workshops. He has published two anthologies "Aussie Poems" and "The Larrikin Returns" and was awarded the Golden Gumleaf for 'Album of the Year' for each of his two cassettes of poetry released in 1995 and 1996.

Betty Olle (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Kyabram - Victoria

Betty is currently President of the Kyabram Bush Poets. She has been writing poetry since her early teens, and now her grandchildren give her poems the seal of approval. She was judged winner of the 'Bronze Swagman' award for Bush Poetry in 1992. She feels that writing poetry for children is really a clever way of keeping in touch with the pleasant memories associated with her own childhood.

Carmel Randle (Book 1, Book 2, Book 3)

From Preston - South-East Queensland

Carmel is the Editor and driving force behind the Co-operative Poets. She is a multi-award winning poet, having won the 'Bronze Swagman' twice (1996 and 1999), the 'Blackened Billy' twice (1997 and 1998) and the Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate 'Book of the Year' in 1997 for her second anthology 'Gone Bush'. She was elevated to the Poet's Wall of Renown in Tamworth in 1998. She is also in demand for her popular and instructive workshops on Poetry Writing, and has written the well-known 'Help!' book - a must for anyone trying to master rhyme and rhythm.

Ron Selby (Book 2)

From Drayton - Darling Downs area of Queensland

Ron is well-known to many of the ABPA as its current President, a position he has held for several years. He has published 'A Born Loser' - his collection of poetry, and is a well-established performer, appearing at many festivals and competitions.

Milton Taylor (Book 3)

Seasonally from Portland, NSW or Longreach, Queensland

Milton won the QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Male Bush Poet Champion in 1996, 1998, and 2000, and reserve Champion in 1999, as well as many other performance awards. He has performed at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, as the Australian Champion Poet. He particularly enjoys working with children in developing their love of Bush Poetry, both performance and written.

Kylie Teakle (Book 2)

From the Darling Downs - South-East Queensland

Kylie was 17 years of age when she had her poetry published in the second "Co-operative" book. She has written Bush Poetry for several years, and in 1998 won the Secondary School Trophy in the 'Little Swaggies' competition.

Veronica Weal (Book 2, Book 3)

From Mt Isa - far North-West Queensland.

Veronica has been writing for as long as she can remember, and was first published in 'Hoofs and Horns' when she was fourteen. She has established herself as one of Australia top Bush Poets with many awards including the 'Diamond Shears', the 'Bronze Swagman' (1987), and has also been a Bronze Swagman Runner-up. An increasing number of Performing Poets are discovering her wonderful poetry.

Greg Young (Book 1)

From Brisbane at the time he contributed to the 1st book - now rumoured to be in Victoria.

Greg has been writing kid's poetry since he was a kid, and has contributed some entertaining verses. His constant threat to his children is to leave home and become a full time Poet.

All three books illustrated by Louise K. Dean

From Prairie - North Queensland

Louise K. has had a strong interest in art since her early childhood, and now specializes in Pen and Ink Artwork. She has ably illustrated the three books with simple line drawings of Australian scenes, animals and people. She is herself a performance poet, and was the 1999 QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Female Bush Poet Champion. As such, she also performed in Elko, Nevada, at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

BOOK REVIEW on Page 6

Dear Editor

I'd like to express my concerns regarding the lack of control a poet has over his or her own work. A poem is like a painting, each one an original – thus a potential asset to its creator. And as it's illegal to copy a painting without the artists' permission, so too it should be, if you perform a poem to win, or earn money without the poets' permission. It is not about greed, it's just good business. Some people give their poetry away and that's fine, but others like to be the sole performer of their own work for professional reasons. So a poet should be able to choose which way they'd like to be, after all it is their work. Surely they have some say, and to ask permission is simply good manners.

There is also a serious problem with poets being taped and filmed doing their original work. As it stands, anyone could follow the competition scene, filming the best poets in the land and compiling a video of original artists, to sell for top dollar. While all the poets get their name on the tape. It is unfair and immoral and a poet should be able to ask that they not be filmed without being treated like some selfish little whinger. One would never get away with it at a music concert, so why bush poetry? Do musicians have more rights or are poets not high profile enough.

Whether we like it or not, poetry is becoming a business in its own right and should be treated as such but if this industry is going to evolve and flourish then we must protect our tradespeople for without them there is no trade.

Craig Gascoigne, Singleton, NSW

Dear Editor

Re the alteration of entry conditions proposed for The Bronze Swagman bush verse competition.

My Dad used to show Australian Ponies at Agricultural Shows. Some judges, although ruled by 'breed standard' guidelines, preferred certain types of animals (one even declared he didn't care what colour a pony was as long as it was grey!). Our ponies could come home with nothing or with a stack of blue ribbons.

This is just my roundabout way of saying that one poem may be an instant winner in one competition but not even be considered in the next. I have always assumed that non placed entries were destroyed and, as they had not won or been passed around or printed, were eligible for entry elsewhere. The new ruling, especially if it is also included in the criteria of other poetry competition organizations, will certainly sentence a lot of unshared 'masterpieces' to the overflowing bottom drawer.

I do agree that 'live performance' poems should be disallowed. These poems are usually presented to quite large groups of people, often on several occasions. It could make things very difficult for a future Bronze Swagman judge if he had chanced to be in the audience at the time, to then judge next year's crop of hopeful entrants in an impartial manner.

I do enjoy the A.B.P.A. Newsletter, the comments and poems. Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Margaret Glendenning, Everton Upper, VIC

Dear Jennifer

You have got me in dire trouble! Who the hell is Brenda? In the Ky notes (July Newsletter) you said that Brenda and I have sold our house. It should have read "Janice and I". Boy! Have I been in trouble. Janice is wanting to know too. I reckon that at our next meeting here I will have some explaining to do. Perhaps you could let everyone know that Janice and I are still living together.

Who Is Brenda?

"Just who is this Brenda?", said Janice,

"If I catch her I will shoot her!"

Skew Wiff said, "Darling, there's no-one!

She's just a virus in some-ones computer!"

Grahame 'Skew Wiff' Watt, Kyabram, VIC

Ed Note: My profuse apologies to Mrs Skew Wiff

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 Editor

Over recent years the ABPA magazine has touched once or twice on the topic of plagiarism. It is a dreadfully awful thing to accuse someone of, and exceptionally hard to prove.

A few years ago a fellow Bush Poet wrote to me asking me to peruse one of his poems, as it had been brought to his attention that his poem appeared suspiciously similar to one of mine.

I immediately saw in the two poems several cases of 'déjà vu'. I agreed with the distinct possibility that he had heard me recite my piece, and inadvertently went away and was influenced to write a poem with theme, story-lines and images appearing as though they could have been transplanted from the story behind my own poem.

If my own poem were written as the result of an old joke or yarn I would simply have to say, 'bad luck'. But the story behind my poem was based on an actual incident that happened to me and two mates some years back. This story was very special to me and captured the larrikin nature of my youth.

As a result of this Poet's letter to me I wrote in return a very friendly and encouraging letter asking the Poet to consider this, 'would he stand up straight after I had said my poem, and recite his?' For the record the author contacted me soon after and advised me that he was 'shelving' the poem, and it would not be published.

That same author has not only published the poem three times since, but has recorded the poem, entered it for awards and continues to recite it around the country. I have noted though that he has never once said the poem in my presence.

Recently we have had further verbal and written interaction concerning these poems. As a result the other author agreed to write to this magazine stating that he wrote, published and performed his poem some months after I had already written, published and recited mine. He also suggested he would be willing to make notations, stating this fact, in future publications where his poem was included.

I said I would agree to signing a joint letter to the ABPA stating the above facts, if he agreed to publish both poems alongside each other in this magazine.

His remark to me was, "what would publishing both poems together prove?"

Surprise! Surprise!

As the author of the poem which was written, performed and published first, I have a little inkling that it would prove lots.

The excitement surrounding the resurgence of 'Popular Verse', has produced a breed of Bush Poets who are like children at the Mr Whippy Van, waiting for the inspiration and encouragement from other writers or performers, to assist them in creating something unique themselves. I'm one of them. This is our nature, and we should embrace it.

But there are also both good and bad writers who resort to feeding off the originality of others to the detriment of their own characters and professional reputations. I would give up writing and performing tomorrow if I felt I was doing this.

I must take this opportunity to thank those of you who have rung, wrote (sic) and offered your support regarding this matter. It has made me feel even more obliged to do the same for the reputations of other writers and performers who place the honour of their craft above the self-gratification that the easy road of mimicking can offer.

Yours truly, Marco Gliori, Warwick, QLD

To the Editor, ABPA

Poet n. writer of (esp. elevated or imaginative) verse

We should all recognise the key word in that definition is 'writer'. (The use of the word 'imaginative' in brackets is also worth noting.) Therefore, a person who hears a poem, learns that poem and then recites that poem is not a poet. The person may well be someone who appreciates poetry but, by definition, the person is not a poet – and never will be until he/she starts writing his/her own verse.

That the author of the original work should be 'pleased' or 'happy' that his work is being recited by others is debatable. That the author should be equally 'pleased' or 'happy' that other poets/reciters use his material to prop up their own routines for financial gain is ludicrous. Not only is it ludicrous, without the author's permission to use this material it is morally wrong. (I'm not too sure about the legal vagaries.)

Now I'm positive no poet would have any qualms about someone using their work in an amateur novice-type competition situation. None whatsoever. But when a person has, by some quirk of nature, been given the talent to write verse, and has spent time developing that craft to the point where it has become their profession, other people using that material for financial gain without the author's permission becomes a whole new ball game. I don't pretend to be a gifted writer but I have been fortunate to produce some reasonable works. And while I'm certainly not the best reciter in the game I do make my living as a professional poet where, aside from Rindecella, the poetic material is generally all original. I take pride in that.

I do admit to having been caught up in the Blue the Shearer Poker Machine tidal wave five or so years ago and, while always acknowledging Blue, given the wonderful benefits of hindsight I should have 'thrown away the crutches' and been less liberal with its use. In saying that, with the advent of The Larrikin, poets/reciters often feel pressure to be funny. And if you want humour you go to Bobby Miller, Marco Giori and Neil McArthur. Obviously Bobby, Neil and Marco can't go to every festival but it'd be a snowy day in Winton if you didn't hear someone reciting their poems – and some of these people are making money from the exercise.

What happens when Bobby, Neil and Marco next go to that venue? Or worse, what happens if they're at that festival and their poems have already been done to death in the competitions?

The term 'modern traditional' is an oxymoron and should be eradicated.

Look, there are plenty of reciters masquerading as poets.

Let the reciters stick to the true traditional poets and, unless having obtained the writer's permission, display the common courtesy to leave the works that will help define this era of bush poetry to the relevant authors.

I know many will disagree, but be wary of he who protesteth too much.

Murray Hartin

P.S. I received the following letter from Tom Mauloni.

"My name is Tom Mauloni. I went to Ingham and won the poetry comp with your poem Turbulence. I don't or can't write poetry but like reciting and I won \$100 and to show appreciation for using your poem here's a cheque for \$30. Maybe one day we can have a beer."

I won't cash the cheque but I feel much richer for the letter.

Dear Editor

I would like to send a huge thanks to all involved with this years Bundaberg Poets muster. Especially John and Sandy Lees. The hospitality they extended to me was beyond compare and words could not express my gratitude for their understanding, as I was violently ill one night in particular. Yet they were unfazed. And even though they were flat out they still found time to help me and anyone else who needed their assistance in the midst of the madness, that is the successful running of a competition.

My hat is off for the tireless work of all involved and I sincerely thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.

Yours most sincerely, Craig A. Gascoigne, NSW



FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

Hi there

Writing from Derby in WA where I will be performing at a Poets Breakfast on Sunday 16 July.

In caravan parks and campsites down the coast the spoken word is well received.

And the country - the incredible Kimberley, from the gorges and ranges around the mighty Ord to the flat plains and the limestone Gekie Gorge of the Fitzroy. These are amazing places and the country is a delight to see.

The people, the heat, the dust, the colours, the events and in fact this entire huge land is one humungous inspiration.

For any comments etc contact us on jgbarclay@hotmail.com - we would love to hear from anyone connected to the ABPA.

Here is an offering for this month:

GREENING AUSTRALIA

From Cape York to Denmark in the west,
From Broome to Eagle Vale,
And from Kingscote up to Palmerston,
From Strahan to Armidale;
Oh from Cockle Creek to Tanami,
From Lorne to Innisfail
And from Exmouth down to Mornington,
From Burketown back to Sale;

There are folk who care for this great land,
They want to help it on,
There's an army of them all around,
Where'er the sun has shone;
They've a crusade working, making green
This wide brown land we own;
They are diligent to change its face
Wherever man is known.

If you travel on the desert tracks
From Warburton to Giles,
Or round the coastline gold and blue,
Among the coral isles;
These great folk have always gone before,
Upon the pristine sands;
And they leave the purest form of green -
The VB box, and cans!

Regards, John and Gaye Barclay

Bob McPhee is forming a
"Will Ogilvie 'Bard of the Outback' Association".
Anyone interested in more details, please contact
Bob directly on 07 5466 5269, or write to
8 Jahn Drive, Glenore Grove QLD 4342

Sleepless Nights

© Joye Dempsey

Patrick and Michael were having a drink and comparing a note or two. They were always 'scoring' or 'one up-ing', as this story reveals to you.

"Have you slept with a brunette, Michael?"

"Yes, a pretty little t'ing. I've slept with a brunette Patrick and I nearly bought her a ring."

"Have you slept with a raven haired beauty, Mick?"

"Yes I have now, Pat, let me t'ink, it was back in nointeen eighty six when I went to visit the Sphinx. I slept with a dark haired beauty by the banks of the River Nile. T'ank's for reminding me Patrick the memory still makes me smile."

"Have you slept with a blonde then Michael an Alpine or Strawberry fair?"

"I've slept with a blonde, I have Patrick, I was very fond of her. She was much too fond of munej, much, much too fond of wealth. Yes, I've slept with a blonde, I have Patrick. So - how about yerself?"

"Well, of course I have, now, Michael, or why'd I be askin' you? I've slept with a blonde, raven haired and brunette, I've had me a beauty or two. But have you slept with a red-head Michael? I'm begging you now to be bold. Not mousy or sandy or beige - do you mind, but a red-head, all fiery and gold."

"I haven't slept with a red-head, Pat, now, I know that for a fact. I haven't slept with a red-head! Must you carry on with this act?"

"You haven't slept with a red-head, Michael?"

"No I haven't Pat, that's right. I didn't sleep a bloomin' wink - she kept me up all noight!"



Afterthought

© Ron Selby

The sun beats down
On a barren land
Where houses used to be.
All things turned brown
All - except the sand.
Why didn't we save the tree?



A Religious Clash

© Leo Keane, Hughesdale, VIC

On a fine and sunny morning, Father Kelly in his car
Was heading for a visit to a friend.
When a spider 'neath the dashboard protruded much too far
As the priest tried to negotiate a bend.

Now there's nothing more disturbing than a spider on the dash
And the father tried to take evasive action
He turned the wheel too far and thought, "I'm gonna have a crash"
And a very speedy prayer was his reaction.



But coming fast toward him was a vehicle in red
And the driver, to avoid the priest decided
To swerve, which turned into a skid instead.
And with a crash, the vehicles collided.

Two vehicles demolished, both of a make prestigious
The priest concussed, and very much agog
When he found the other driver was also a religious
Rabbi Cohen of the local Synagogue.

"Father", said the Rabbi, "what a sorry way to meet
But God's decreed that we should meet as friends."
The priest said, "Sorry Rabbi, glad to see you on your feet
But spiders do play havoc on the bends."

The rabbi walked though broken glass and reached inside his car
"I have" he said, "a bottle of good wine.
Will you drink unto our friendship, just as it's been thus far
And I hope our future friendship will be fine."

The shaken priest was thankful for the stimulant and took
A hefty swallow from the offered drink.
And he said unto the Rabbi, "I hope that you're not crook
It's your turn now to have a swig I think."

But the Rabbi smiled a secret smile and answered simply "No,
But I trust that our relationship won't cease
I gladly take the bottle and I'll gladly have a go
That's after we've been breathalysed by police!"

REVIEW - The 3rd Co-operative Book of Verse for Aussie Children (book)

This book, edited by Carmel Randle and published in 2000, contains the work of nine contemporary Bush Poets. It is simply, yet effectively, illustrated with drawings by Louise K. Dean.

This is certainly a clever marketing idea! A group of poets collaborating on a book for children makes a lot of sense - a small market, yet more sales outlets. However, this book is much more than a marketing ploy. It fills a neglected area in the current Bush Poetry scene, that of the up-and-coming generation.

These poems are all obviously written for children, and cover a wide variety of topics, loosely gathered into categories such as "Animal Friends", "On the Land", "Life's Like That", and so on.

They are primarily light-hearted, with a few more serious thoughts sprinkled amongst the frivolity. The poetry is modern in language, yet often traditional in style and content. Aimed at 5 to 16 year olds, perhaps the addition of a few more shorter poems would strengthen the appeal to the lower end of this age range.

I have not had the pleasure of reading the two preceding volumes, and I have been informed that copies are now more difficult to buy, as they have been virtually 'sold out'. I'm not surprised. I believe the popularity of these volumes is due to the combined skills of the contributing poets. All are well-recognised in their own right, holding between them most of the prestigious Performance and Written awards for contemporary Bush Poetry.

United, they are a formidable team!

Ed Note: The Co-operative Books of Verse may be purchased from any of the contributing poets

When I was just a little girl,
So many years ago,
My Mum was always there for me
To help me learn and grow.

To put her arm around me –
As I toddled down the hall;
And as I took my first few steps
She would not let me fall.

She'd brush and comb my long brown hair,
And wash my hands and face;
Then choose for me my prettiest dress
With its collar made of lace.

She would cook my meals – wash my clothes -
Made sure I looked my best.
With six of us to care for,
She stood out above the rest.

When it was time for vaccinations,
I think I'd just turned six,
Mum said, "It's sometimes cruel to be kind
And I don't want you getting sick."

Each night, she'd bathe and dress us all,
Kiss us sweetly on the head,
Then we'd kneel and say the rosary,
And she would tuck us into bed.

Full Circle

© Kathy Edwards, Merewether, NSW

Every Sunday morning
To Mass we all would go.
Mum pushed the baby in the pram
With the other five in tow.

As I grew up I always knew
To Mother I could turn
To have a chat, or seek advice,
To understand and learn.

Yet Mum was growing older
With every passing day ...
And as she reached her twilight years
We said, "Come with us and stay."

Now our lives had turned full circle,
This was sheer reality,
I tried to do the things for Mum
That she once did for me.

I'd put my arm around her
While shopping in the mall.
Her steps were getting weaker now
But I would not let her fall.

I'd brush and comb her silver hair,
And wash her hands and face;
Then choose for her, her nicest dress
With its collar made of lace.

I would cook her meals – wash her clothes,
As for me she once had done.
I loved her so, that lady,
After all, she was my Mum.

When it was time for flu injections
I said – "Mum, you're over 86,
And it's sometimes cruel to be kind –
I don't want you getting sick."

Every Sunday morning
We had a standing date.
I would push her in her wheelchair
Round to Mass at half past eight.

When God called Mum home to Heaven
I lost a lifelong friend;
Yet I know her hand still guides me
And one day, we'll meet again.

Yes, our lives must turn full circle
And of this I became aware,
When my daughter picked me up for Mass
- And she brushed my greying hair.

On Windmills

© Garry Boyd, Gulgong, NSW

Far out on the western plains, when summer winds blow strong,
Sometimes is heard an outback sound, as rhythmic as a song.
It's company for the emptiness and barren, sunburnt ground,
Turned by nature's unseen hand the windmill spins around.

A melody sung day and night when westers keep on blowing,
That low-pitched, humming murmur, relentless never slowing.
When the wind fades to a breeze, the windmill changes sound,
To a lazy, creaking whisper as the windmill ambles round.

Drovers, horses, thirsty stock, all glad to see the 'mill,
Where they can stop and rest awhile, grateful drink their fill.
Even in the harshest drought, there water can be found,
Provided by a little breeze, and the windmill turning round.

Late afternoon in summertime, when the sun is setting low,
Shadows start to lengthen, strange shapes begin to grow.
The windmill catches final rays and casts across the ground,
A transitory, twirling dance while the windmill goes around.

Let Down

© Greg Young

He caught her glancing at him and he thought he understood,
She must have thought him handsome, of course he knew she would.

Her lust could not be hidden as she eyed below his waist.
He checked her over also till she reached him. Then they faced.

She smiled at him so sweetly. He returned a smile – as one.
And then she broke the silence with, "Yer bloody fly's undone."

The Test of Time



© Graham Brunckhorst

Remember on our wedding day
When we shared vows from above
We promised we would every day
Repeat these words of love
We told that to the folks who said
We were too young to wed
We promised we would daily share
Those lovely words we said

We find that we are pleased we did
Repeat those words each day
They kept our love alive and well
For fifty years today
We knew how much complacency
Could creep into our life
So she daily said, "I Love You"
She was my loving wife

It wasn't just a one way street
We proved our critics wrong
Not many people can sustain
A love that is so strong
You can't afford to go to sleep
With harsh words on your mind
Daily tell your wife "I Love You"
As I still do to mine.

NSW Bush Poetry Written Championship – 2001

At Tumut R.S.L. Club – 20th, 21st, 22nd April, 2001

In conjunction with Tumut Festival of Falling Leaves.

After discussions with the committee of the Festival of Falling Leaves, Tumut, and the management of the RSL Club, we decided to run the NSW Bush Poetry Championships. The Championships and associated events will all be held at the Tumut RSL Club from 20th to 22nd April, 2001.

The Written Championships will comprise separate sections for Ladies and Men, as well as a Champion Book Section.

The Performance Championships will also offer separate sections for both Ladies and Men, as well as Champion Yarnspinner and a "Best Country Singer" section which will be judged during a Gala Night planned for Saturday 21st April, 2001.

Entry forms and an early program have been printed and are available together with a list of venues and phone numbers for accommodation.

Please direct your enquiries and request for entry forms to Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641, Phone/Fax 02 6025 3845.

'Old Paddy' on the Tweed

Come and enjoy an afternoon of free entertainment and celebrate the Book Launch of Patrick (Old Paddy) O'Brien *'Old Paddy on the Tweed'*

A book of Bush Poetry about stories from The Tweed.

Including other Tweed Poets and Entertainers.

Where: **Uki Sports Ground**
(twelve miles west of Murwillumbah)

When: **2nd September**

Time: **1.30pm**

Refreshments Available

Further information regarding this event please phone: (02) 6689 7274

Brunch With The Bards at Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens

The "Friends" of Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens, located in Hardacre Street, invite you to enjoy another "Brunch With The Bards" from 10am – 12 noon on Sunday, 3rd September, 2000.

The event will showcase bush poets Barry Jacka, Cliff Schofield, Murray Suckling and Margaret and Ed Parmenter who all hail from Coffs Harbour and surrounding areas. A Fathers Days concert, "A Salute to the Pioneers" Classic Country Music Concert will follow featuring "Red Back on the Toilet Seat" star Slim Newton as well as Wally McQuaker and local artists.

Disabled facilities can be found throughout the gardens and morning and afternoon teas and a barbeque lunch will be available. Visitors are advised to bring chairs and rugs when they come to enjoy this wonderful free entertainment and recreational opportunity to celebrate Fathers' Day at Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens. Enquiries to George Arnett, phone 02 6658 2867

Submitted by Maureen Stonham, Nambucca Heads, NSW

Australian Folk Festival Kiama

9-12th June 2000

Back to the beautiful panoramic seaside views for the Australian Folk Festival 2000, held just down the road from the 'Blowhole' on the south coast of NSW. I missed this event in 1999, but looked forward to falling victim to its easygoing charm again this year.

As a featured poet along with Blue the Shearer, Arch Bishop, Yuri the Storyteller, Keith McKenry, Vivienne Sawyer, Peter "I'm not really a Bush Poet" Willey and Malcolm Brodie, we eagerly took over the Rugby Club venue with its sweeping views of the ocean to spin our yarns from sunrise to sunset.

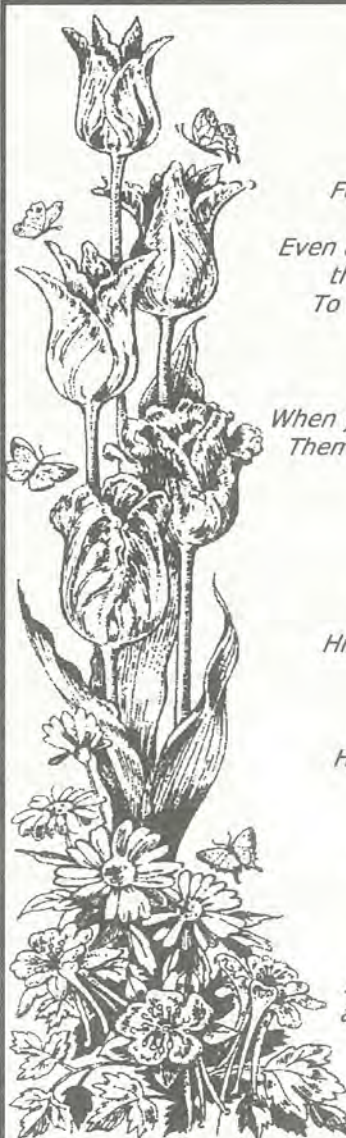
The Poets Breakfast played to full houses 3 days running, and saw old hands such as Jim Chapman, Ted Webber, Jane Faulkner, Dave Myers and John Dengate join us on stage with some very impressive newcomers such as Ian Mallyon (from Tasmania), Marilyn Hawkes and Tony Jowett.

The future of Bush Poetry was kept alive by the performing skills of the younger generations namely, Phoebe Richardson, and Andrew and Merryl-Anne Morris with their well-rehearsed pieces.

Apart from our own feature spots, there were Poets' Brawls, New Voices and a hell of a lot of MC'ing which was great fun.

Sunday night was capped off with a Poet's Dinner hosted by Keith McKenry where amongst the jocularly was a very entertaining, impromptu (and bawdy) Limerick session. You had to be there.

*Your fellow poet,
Graeme Johnson, Ryde, NSW*



Sixty Red Roses

© Dingo Taylor, Broadmeadows, VIC

*It's a pretty big word for some kids,
and awful hard to say,
For Cystic Fibrosis becomes sixty red roses,
and to us, that's quite okay.
Even as a farmer, you gotta live through the drama,
the uncertainty, the travelling and the pain.
To see those sad little faces in hospital spaces,
over and over again.
How do you tell a kid in hospital,
that's frightened to be brave,
When you well know, beneath the glow, that one day,
Them same roses, could put him in an early grave.
We take him in fresh gum leaves,
in a little tobacco tin,
He opens it up and smells them,
with hands so pale and thin.
He hates being fed, in a strange bed,
and the needles they jab in his butt,
His sad eyes and smile make life worthwhile,
the times that they're not shut.
He misses his brothers and sisters,
his pets, his dog and his cat.
He wants to come home and feed the pigs,
and wear his little hat.
It's tuff on a kid in hospital,
and harder on the parents wot's more.
And until you're in the same situation,
you'll never really know the score.
Now sixty red roses adorn the grave
of the bravest little heart,
And a gum tree tall, grows near the wall,
and beneath it, our little bloke's billy cart,
We don't have wot it takes to move it,
For it's a reminder of the past.
For the love we had for our little boy,
In our hearts will forever last.*

Ky and District Bush Verse Group

President, Betty Olle, and her committee are busy organising the "Around the Campfire" night at the Ky Club. This will be the 12th Annual Show. The first night was to commemorate the Bi-Centenary (1988). There is to be a local primary schools bush verse competition and the winners will be presented on the 14th September. Originally these nights were sponsored by the Ky Apex Club. As they are now in recess, the Lions Club is doing a great job as sponsors. So if you are going to be in our area in September and would like to take part, give us a call.

John Johansen is still not well and we send him all our wishes for a return to good health. Hooroo!

Submitted by Grahame 'Skew Wiff' Watt, Kyabram, VIC
P.S. Where is Kyabram? A bit south of Eulo!

Triple Treat at Poets Brunch

The Kempsey Country Music Festival is pleased to announce that their 2000 programme will again feature another popular 'Poets Brunch and Aussie Humour Show' which will be held at 9am on Sunday 10th September at the Moon River Motel, Pacific Highway, Kempsey, NSW.

Returning once again to entertain you will be well known bard Ray Essery – "The Mullimbimby Bloke", who will be joined by Wauchope bush poet and singer, Russell Churcher. This awesome duo will be joined this year by the irrepressible 'Arch' Bishop from Whalan in Sydney's west.

'Arch' is no stranger to bush poetry fans on the mid north coast, having entertained at a Bush Poetry Soiree by the River in Kempsey last year for the committee. His performance style is characterised by his powerful voice and stage presence, captivating and entertaining his audience with verse and yarns in the popular Aussie humorous tradition.

Ray is one of a new breed of Australian Bush Poets who have emerged on the scene in recent years. Known for his wonderful ability to "paint word pictures", he has entertained at major bush poetry events and venues throughout the country, including the famous Longyard Hotel during Tamworth's Country Music Week. He specialises in humorous verse, yarns and his unique style of performance makes "The Mullimbimby Bloke" a popular crowd pleaser.

From the Sub-Committee for Guidelines for Competitions

The response from members for suggestions regarding the guidelines for competitions has been excellent – both verbal and written. The suggestions have been compiled and will now be the subject of a 2 day workshop tentatively set for a date in September.

If any member wishes to have a last minute input regarding this very important subject, please write to Ed Parmenter, 1 Avenue Street, Coffs Harbour 2450.

Phone 02 6652 3716, or fax c/- J Andrews, 02 6648 4655

Talented Bush Poets and Folk Singer, Russell Churcher will return to perform his special brand of entertainment, which has been so popular during recent years. A regular performer at folk and country music festivals for some years, Russell performs his recitations of traditional and contemporary bush verse and song from the heart and is often accompanied by "The Limberjacks", Russell's 'little people' who are usually seen to upstage his efforts.

Ray, Russell and 'Arch' will, as usual, welcome to the microphone any local poets who may wish to come and share their work throughout the morning, so bring your poetry along if you feel like "having a go". Juniors are also most welcome to attend this great morning of family entertainment.

Our special guest poets will also select from those who perform throughout the morning, and the selected performer will receive this year's 'Sue Mayne Encouragement Award'.

The staff at the Moon River Motel is well noted for their presentation of a delicious hot brunch, which will be included in the \$10 admission fee. Bookings for breakfast would greatly assist with catering.

Festival patrons may also wish to avail themselves of a Weekend Ticket for \$35 which covers entry to all major events at the RSL Club and the Poets Brunch, representing great savings to the enthusiast.

The committee of the Kempsey Country Music Festival look forward to you company for this morning of very Australian Entertainment during our Festival being held 8th-10th September. Enquiries 02 6562 2937, or write to PO Box 471, Kempsey, NSW 2440.

*Submitted by Maureen Stonham for and on behalf of
Kempsey Country Music Festival.*

2000 Big City Muster News

The 2000 Annual Big City Muster has been postponed because of the Olympic Games and will be held in March 2001 – an update later in the year.

The Muster, which is held at the NSW Writers' Centre as part of the NSW Writers' Festival, attracts international and nation-wide interest with writers and performers drawn from all genres and nationalities. For those who mumble about 'people getting funded to do these events', the NSW Writer's Centre supports the Presenters fees but all of the money which I generate by begging letters, phone calls etc, goes to prizes. There is, unfortunately, no other funding.

As anyone who runs events can tell you it is costly, especially as far as time, photocopying, phone calls and billeting are concerned, otherwise there would be more people doing it. Sadly, there are still those prima dons/donnas who seem to think it is their right to criticise, whilst doing very little to be supportive. Even when events are funded the amount of work and time people put in is not proportionate to reimbursement.

Unless you want to start something from scratch yourself, don't knock those who are having a go. I take my hat off to those who run Championships.

To see new poets stretch their wings and hear the words of Old Masters and talented contemporaries, getting through to people who might not otherwise benefit, for me, makes it very worthwhile.

I would like to say a big thanks to NSWWC Executive Director, Irena Dunn, and Chairman, Michael Wilding and their exceptional staff, for their generous support of past Musters. The high profile last year – front-page photographic coverage and build-up articles as well as allowing a Bush Poets book launch, as part of the Muster, was exceptional.

The NSWWC June newsletter features a photograph of a sculpture of Henry Lawson – with friend and dog, which stands in the Domain in the City of Sydney and there is an interesting article by Henry Lawson's grand daughter, Olive. In it she said that in the 1960's, pilgrimages were made to the Domain by Lawson devotees. We hope to resurrect the pilgrimage in March as part of the Muster, on Sunday afternoon, with a Lawson specific – poetry performance picnic. It will be another great opportunity for Sydneysiders, and International visitors, to see and hear that Bush Poetry is thriving.

Submitted by Joye Dempsey

"Girl's Night Out" at Palma Rosa.

It will be a 'Girl's Night Out' and a "Mother and Daughter Double" at Palma Rosa on Wednesday 30th August, when three Australian Champions take the stage.

We are proud to present the 2000 Australian Ladies Bush Poetry Champion, Janine Haig, from Eulo near Cunnamulla in Queensland. Janine also won this prestigious award in 1999. Earlier this year, she also won the QANTAS- Waltzing Matilda Ladies Bush Poetry Championship in Winton, and as a result of that award, will be attending the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, USA. She has also won many written poetry awards. Janine Haig is a poet not to be missed.

Her daughter Jennifer will also be coming to Palma Rosa. Jennifer holds many Junior Championship Awards, but this year she moved to the adult competition, winning the Open Novice section at Winton in January. She was also Runner-Up to her mother Janine at the Australian Championships in Yarrowonga/Mulwala - what a talented duo!

Performing with Janine and Jennifer will be another Australian Champion. Zita Horton won the QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda and Australian Ladies Bush Poetry Championship in 1998, and has performed in the United States at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. Zita will also be bringing her daughter - ten-year-old Kelsey, who is very much a star in her own right; having won countless Age and Junior Championships. I know these poets will present an exciting evenings entertainment.

We look forward to seeing you all at Palma Rosa on Wednesday 30th August, at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. Cost is \$18 (including supper) BYO drinks.

Palma Rosa - 9 Queens Rd, Hamilton 4007

Enquiries and Booking : Palma Rosa (07) 3262 3769, or Trisha Anderson (07) 3268 3624

The Childers Backpacker Disaster

© Jean Cook, Gateshead, NSW

From the four corners of the earth they came,
With the sense of adventure pulsating in their veins,
Their heads full of dreams they would never fulfil
Oh God how we wish they were with us still.

They had travelled here to our vast brown land,
To explore its diversities for themselves - first hand,
From our forests and surf to the bright city lights,
To the great outback where the stars sparkle like diamonds at night.

To replenish their funds to Childers they came,
Picking fruit or veges it was all the same.
Leaving for work in the dawn's early light,
Returning to socialize in the pub at night.

The building was old so the fire quickly grew,
It was a raging inferno before they knew.
The dense smoke made it so hard to breathe,
Terror reigning in the hearts of those trying to leave.

The full devastation was revealed in the light of the morn,
The stench of smoke polluting the dew crisp dawn.
Survivors and townsfolk consoling each other,
While the rescue teams their emotions battling to smother.

But the spirit of the Outback came to the fore,
The townsfolk of Childers pulled together as never before.
They opened their hearts, homes and pockets as well,
To help those young strangers who had been through hell.

Now their loved ones are coming from lands far away,
So we will all come together and quietly pray:
For those 15 young lives lost so needlessly,
Another sad chapter in this country's history.

Now the events that led to the fire at "The Palace",
Be it from human error or human malice,
Has shown us all no matter your race, colour or creed
Faith and humanity emerges in our fellow man's hour of need.

The 2001 Centenary of Federation Festival

(12 - 16 April 2001)

The Festival is featuring THEMES to celebrate the coming together of all Australians. If you can add to themes like Rivers, Oceans, Wool, Isolation, Islands, Far North, Gold Rush, Immigration, Reconciliation, Workers, Mouth Organs, Rebels, Larrikins, Environment, Anzac, Federation and much more let us know. Also, we have three days of education prior to the festival where we run workshops in instruments, singing, dancing and business aspects. This is from 10 to 12 April 2001 during the day, often with jam sessions in the afternoon or evening. You may have an interest here also. Workshops are also run during the festival.

Applications for themes, workshops or other performances close end August and can be downloaded from our website or can be mailed to you.

If you would like to produce or narrate a theme contact us ASAP.

Phil Spring, Director
National Folk Festival
EVERY EASTER IN CANBERRA
AUSTRALIA

61 2 6249 7755 phone

61 2 6247 0906 fax

PO Box 156 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

E-mail natfolk@spirit.com.au

<http://www.spirit.com.au/~natfolk>



You are invited to come along to
The 5th Annual Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival

At North Pine Country Lodge
 Dayboro Road Petrie (30mins North of Brisbane)

On 19th and 20th of August 2000



Starting at 8:30am Saturday morning and winding up about 3pm on Sunday afternoon.

It's performance Bush Poetry at its best!

There's fun for everyone!

Junior and Novice events.

Humorous and Serious Competition with a bit of Yarn-Spinning thrown in.

Over \$3000 in Prizemoney and Prizes

Saturday night at 6pm - Spit Roast dinner \$15

Followed by a great show with a line-up of some of Australia's funniest poets

"Laughs, Lies and Larrikins"

with Ray Essery, Bob Miller, Glenny Palmer, and Shirley Friend.

Concert charge is \$10.

Sunday starts up at 8:30am with more competitions and the presentations

For bookings and further details, contact the Organiser on (07) 3886 1552

Millmerran Bush Poetry Group

August already!! The Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up is on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd September, 2000. Entries close 17th August, and who could miss the LAST Round-Up? Some entries are already in, but I'm hoping for a lot more. Everything is organized; we have some great prizes, trophies and some dollars to give away. The butcher tells me that the grain fed beef he is cutting the BBQ steaks from will melt in your mouth (so you 'oldies' won't even have to bring your teeth!) The trophy for the Yarn-Spinning is unique to say the least, and with \$100.00 to go with it ... I might just enter myself! The Bar-B-Q and Yarn-Spinning is on Friday night starting at 7 o'clock. A free bus has been organised for those of you staying in town.

Saturday at 10am in the Millmerran Cultural Centre we will have the Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Duo competitions. The dinner on Saturday night is at 7pm in the Millmerran Memorial Sportsman's Club - and will be a buffet style roast dinner.

The Poets Breakfast is on Sunday morning at the NEW Millmerran Village Caravan Park, and it will be followed by the Open competition and the presentations. With feature poets like Ray Essery and Gary Fogarty, it is shaping up to be a great weekend.

Now get your entries in, and include your money for the Bar-B-Q and Dinner too - the cooks want proper figures.

Make cheques payable to "Bush Poets Competition" and send 'em to me at PO Box 64, Millmerran 4357.

Any enquiries - phone (07) 4695 4209

Submitted by Kev J Barnes, Millmerran, Q

Great Opportunity for Brisbane Poets

Regular open microphone sessions of bush poetry will start up at the Broadwalk Theatre, South Bank on Saturday 5th August at 1 p.m. From then on at the same time every Saturday the sessions will continue. Poets of all skill levels from beginners to champions are welcome to take part.

Open microphone sessions are ideal for learning how to perform better as they can be used as practice on a live audience. Try out new poems, new ideas. Read them if you like. The venue is set on a picturesque bend of the Brisbane River overlooking the City through a screen of mangroves. In spite of its central location it has a relaxed rural atmosphere that's hard to beat. Because of its location we are sure it will quickly become very popular with many regular visitors to South Bank.

For further information please contact Wally or Mary Finch on (07) 3886 0747

The Bundy Poet's Muster Week-end

The Bundy Poet's Muster week-end held on July 7th, 8th & 9th saw many new faces entering the performance competition for the very first time.

The Bush Lantern written competition attracted 178 entries from all over Australia as well as New Zealand. The Overall Champion Poet for the week-end was Roderick Williams from Murrurundi and the Bush Lantern winner was Ellis Campbell from Dubbo for his poem "Strike at Brampton's Hill".

Congratulations to both winners as well as the winners from other sections. The Friday and Saturday night concerts were once again lots of fun and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. We would like to thank most sincerely the poets who travelled to Bundaberg for the week-end - your support for our Muster week-end was certainly appreciated.

Thanks must also go to the judges who travelled to Bundy for this event, namely, Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Milton Taylor, Ron Selby, Wally Finch & Loveen Taylor. The support of all concerned certainly made our week-end a successful one. Keep happy, keep smiling and above all keep writing and performing poetry.

John and Sandy Lees

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Aug 2	"My Friend, Your Friend – Shirley Friend", Kilcoy Unplugged , Graham 07 5497 1045 or Marilyn 07 5496 3690
Aug 4	Closing Date Spirit of the Outback Writing competition. Details page 14
Aug 4	Closing Date Newcastle Poetry Prize 2000 , Details page 14
Aug 11	Closing Date 2000 Victor Harbour Folk Festival Poetry Writing Awards Ph Kath or Mike Edgecombe 08 8271 0524
Aug 16	Milton Taylor at Kilcoy Unplugged , Graham 07 5497 1045 or Marilyn 07 5496 3690
Aug 19-20	Camp Oven Festival . North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Enquiries - John & Patti Coutts 07 3886 1552
Aug 19-20	Trundle Bush Tucker Day . Trundle NSW Ph Frank 02 6344 1477 Fax 02 6344 1962 bushpoet@westserv.net.au
Aug 22-27	Toyota National Country Music Muster 2000 , Amamoor State Forest, via Gympie Qld. Ph 07 5482 2099 P6
Aug 25	Closing Date Coonee Festival Poetry Competition , send entries to PO Box 199, Gilgandra NSW 2827
Sep 1-3	Millmerran Bush Poet's Round-Up , Millmerran Qld. Contact Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 P15
Sep 3	Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens Poets Brunch , Enquiries George Arnett 02 6658 2867 details P14
Sep 6	Merv and Chris Webster at Kilcoy Unplugged , Graham 07 5497 1045 or Marilyn 07 5496 3690
Sep 10	Kempsey C.M. Festival Poets Brunch , Moon River Motel, Kempsey - \$10 incl. hot meal. Ph Gwen 02 6562 2937
Sep 14	Kyabram and District Bush Verse Group Inc 7.30pm at Kyabram Club. Ph Betty 03 5852 1993 or Mick 5853 2265
Sep 29-Oct 2	Coonee Festival , Gilgandra NSW. Phone the Visitor Centre on 02 68472045 for more information.
Oct 7-8	Australian Camp Oven Festival , Millmerran Qld.
Oct 8	Bush Poets morning at Rudds Pub , Nobby from 7:30am.
Oct 28	Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets Spring Festival Bush Poetry . Ph Murray 02 6657 2139, or Maureen 02 6568 5269
Oct 31	Closing Date Dubbo Outback Writers' Centre Literary Competition. PO Box 2994 Dubbo 2830
2001	
Mar 17-18	High Country Poets , O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe, Q. Cash prizes for Original and Traditional Ph Jack 07 4683 7169
May 12-13	Eulo Annual Mother's Day Fair , Written & Performance Competitions.

Waltzing With the Rogue

© V.P.Read, Bicton, WA

While we love to sing Waltzing Matilda,
our song of the proud and the free -
It's a yarn 'bout a cunning old swag man
who'd camped 'neath a coolibah tree.
He had stolen a sheep from a squatter,
(those days a despicable crime).
And when three troopers rode down to nab him,
he died to avoid doing time.
That he tried to conceal the sheep's carcass
from the vigilant eyes of the law
Is the proof of how sly that old man was.
(He'd been in the courthouse before).
Well he knew that the judge would condemn him,
and true justice would not be denied.
He jumped up and dived into the river
"Come Waltzing Matilda!" he cried.
We sing out in praise of that swagman
in Australia's favourite song.
And we want it as our nation's anthem,
though lauding a man who did wrong.
We've sung it at every occasion,
at war when the world went awry.
When our soldiers were dying in thousands,
that song was our brave battlecry.
And we've sung it in football arenas:
it's echoed around the whole world
As we sing it with pride and great vigour
when our Union Jack is unfurled.
Oh, how much the old rogue must be laughing
in Hades where's he's roaming free,
As he nicks one of Satan's fat jumbucks
to cook o'er the flames for his tea.

REMINDER: *Get your 2000 subscriptions paid NOW! Also, please send all changes of address to the Secretary, Olive Shooter, at the address on Page 2. Here's an example of the Change of Address notifications we receive here at the ABPA Editors' desk!*

This is just to let you know
I am moving out of Kendall
Up to Aldavilla where
I pay a lot less rental

Gone are the days of acres
When farming used to be fun
Now it's time to tend less land
Mid-life crisis has begun

Cattle and crops are no more
As we settle on our plot
Just an acre of lawn to mow
Some garden but not a lot

Once there was ambition
Career and future too
Now it is leisure and pleasure
The easy life will do

And when you see me fishing
Or running on the sand
Doing a lot less mowing
That easy life is at hand!

So this is just to tell you
My address has changed – not the name
So that my ABPA Newsletter
Will find me just the same.

© David Warton, Aldavilla, NSW

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

QUEENSLAND

- 1st Monday** **Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Margaret St, Toowoomba Ron Selby 07 4630 1106
- 1st Thursday** **Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st Saturday** **Poets & Musicians at Eumundi Markets** in courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Ph. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 1st Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 2nd & 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- 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 John Walker 02 6555 8122
- 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, Windemere 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



KILCOY UNPLUGGED

2nd August - "My Friend, Your Friend - Shirley Friend"
16th August - Milton Taylor - Shearer, Poet, Bush Ambassador
6th September - Merv and Chris Webster
at the Kilcoy Gardens Motor Inn commencing 7pm.
Enquiries - phone Graham Fredriksen (07) 5497 1045, or
Marilyn Williams (07) 5496 3690

BEYOND THE MARGIN WRITING COMPETITION

Two sections - Poetry - maximum length 20 lines
Fiction - maximum length 2000 words
Entry fee - \$5 for each entered story or poem
Prizes:- 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25, plus certificates of merit
and encouragement certificates.
Entry form is available, but is not mandatory. An information
pack including entry form and full conditions of entry can be
obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to -
Beyond The Margin, 15 Forsythe St, Banks ACT 2906
Or email beyondthemargin@regards.net

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 4th August 2000**
Enquiries, or for entry forms, contact
The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, PO Box 12324,
Elizabeth Street Brisbane 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, 4th 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

THE 2000 VICTOR HARBOUR FOLK FESTIVAL

Poetry Writing Awards. Two categories - Open Verse Style
(for primary school students, high school students, and adults)
and Bush Verse. Entries close **Friday 11th August**.
No entry fee for students, but an entry fee for adults of
\$5.00 for one or two poems.

Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form.
For entry forms, or further details, contact Kath or Mike
Edgecombe 08 8271 0524

TRUNDLE BUSH TUCKER DAY, Trundle NSW

August 19th - 20th Spoken Word Competition. \$1,000

Prizemoney. Saturday 19th. at 10.00am

Open Traditional Bush Poetry (over 50 years)

Open Original Bush Poetry (Serious)

Open Original Bush Poetry (Humorous)

Finals same day. Pays three places in each section.

Contact Frank Daniel 02 6344 1477 Fax 02 6344 1962

email. bushpoet@westserv.net.au

5th CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

North Pine Country Park, Dayboro Rd, Petrie, Qld

19th & 20th August 2000. Hosted by North Pine Bush Poets
Group. 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

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 Muster *beenbloodygood* Poetry Award

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

Saturday - 2 hr Poets Breakfast

Sat Lunch - Heat 2 Muster *beenbloodygood* Poetry Award

Saturday Night - Naked Poets Concert and album launch.

Sunday - 2hr Poets Breakfast

Sun Lunch - Muster *beenbloodygood* Poetry Concert and

Award. **Muster Tickets and enquiries 07 5482 2099**

COOEE FESTIVAL WRITTEN POETRY COMPETITION

Closing date: 25th August 2000. Entry fee: \$5 per
poem. Send entries to: The Secretary, Coee March Poetry
Competition, PO Box 171, Gilgandra NSW 2827.
Or e-mail to: cooefestivalgilgandra@hotmail.com

MILLMERRAN 4th ANNUAL BUSH POET'S ROUND-UP

1st, 2nd, 3rd September 2000, in aid of The Qld Cancer Fund,
Millmerran Blue Nurses, Millmerran Hospital Auxiliary,
Millmerran Volunteer Fire Brigade

Friday 1st September Yarn-Spinning Competition

Saturday 2nd September Junior, Novice, Intermediate &
Duo Competitions, Charity Dinner & "State of Origin" Show

Sunday 3rd September Poets Breakfast, Open Competition
and Poets Brawl. Entries close **17th August**. For Enquiries
and Entry Forms, contact Millmerran Bush Poets, PO Box 64,
Millmerran Qld 4357, Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209

'OLD PADDY' ON THE TWEED

Come and enjoy an afternoon of free entertainment and
celebrate the Book Launch of Patrick (Old Paddy) O'Brien
'Old Paddy on the Tweed' A book of Bush Poetry about
stories from The Tweed. Including other Tweed Poets and
Entertainers. Where: Uki Sports Ground (twelve miles west
of Murwillumbah) When: **2nd September** Time: 1.30pm
Refreshments Available. Further information regarding this
event please phone: (02) 6689 7274

BRUNCH WITH THE BARDS

Sunday 3rd September 2000 - 10am to 12 noon

Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens, Hardacre Street, Coffs
Harbour, Followed by Country Music Concert - no admission
fee both events. Disabled facilities - BBQ lunch & morning
and afternoon teas available - bring chairs and rugs
Enquiries to George Arnett - 02 6658 2867

POETS BRUNCH AND AUSSIE HUMOUR SHOW

In conjunction with Kempsey Country Music Festival
Sunday 10th September 2000 - 9:00 am to 11:30am
Moon River Motel, Pacific Highway, Kempsey NSW
Featuring Ray Essery, 'Arch' Bishop and Russell Churcher
Admission \$10.00 - includes Hot Brunch - Bookings and
Performance Enquiries Gwen 02 6562 2937

KYABRAM AND DISTRICT BUSH VERSE GROUP INC.

With the Lions Club of Kyabram present
"Around the Campfire". A night of bush verse and yarns at
the Kyabram Club **Thursday 14th September** at 7:30pm.
Prize for the best Poet and Yarnspinner. Entries welcome.
Contact Betty Olle (03) 5852 1993 or Mick Coventry (03)
5853 2265

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

COOEE FESTIVAL, Gilgandra NSW. **29 Sept - 2 October**
Poets Breakfast and Busking Competition. Over \$1100 in total prize money. Contact the Visitor Centre on 02 68472045.

AUSTRALIAN CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL, Millmerran Qld
The second Australian Camp Oven Festival will be held on the **7th & 8th October 2000** in the small town of Millmerran, situated on the Gore Highway some 87kms south west of Toowoomba.

NOBBY HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
are holding an amateur Bush Poets morning at Rudds Pub on **Sunday 8th October**, from 7:30am. We encourage new poets to have a go. Last year was a great morning! Our Dad 'n' Dave day follows the poets with a fun run at 9:30am, kids games, amusements, big kids games with Olympic theme ie. Broomstick Throw (javelin), Gumboot Throw (discus), Keg Rolling Relay! Street stalls and bush bands will be playing from 11am.

BUSH POETRY ROUNDUP, Dorrigo Spring Festival
Saturday October 28th at 1:00pm
Join the Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets for a fun afternoon of Bush Poetry and Yarnspinning at the Dorrigo Community Centre. Guest Poet and Compere will be "The Mullimbimby Bloke", Ray Essery. Open Mike, judging by public acclamation, novelty prizes. Come and enjoy our clean air, sparkling water and big mountain potatoes! Contact Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139 or Maureen Stonham 02 6568 5269
Or write to PO Box 403, Dorrigo, NSW 2453

DUBBO OUTBACK WRITERS' CENTRE,
Literary Competition. Closing Date **31 October**
Theme: Outback Australia (factual or fictional).
Section 1 - short story, article or essay to maximum 1500 words. Section 2 - Poem to maximum 80 lines (any style).
Prizes in each section: 1st \$300, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50, five merit awards of \$10, plus commendations. Entry fee \$5 per entry. Any number of entries. For entry forms and details conditions of entry send SSAE to Competition Convenor, PO Box 2994, Dubbo NSW 2830

O'MARA'S HIGH COUNTRY POETS, 17-18 March 2001.
Traditional and Original performance competitions, as well as a Poets' Breakfast and Open Mike Session. Cash prizes totalling \$2650. Contact Jack Drake 07 4683 7169

NSW BUSH POETRY WRITTEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2001
Tumut R.S.L. Club - **20th, 21st, 22nd April, 2001**
The Written Championships will comprise separate sections for Ladies and Men, as well as a Champion Book Section. The Performance Championships will also offer separate sections for both Ladies and Men, as well as Champion Yarnspinner and a "Best Country Singer" section which will be judged during a Gala Night Saturday 21st April, 2001. Entry forms and program are available together with a list of venues and phone numbers for accommodation. Enquiries to Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641, Phone/Fax 02 6025 3845.

EULO ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FAIR
12-13 May 2001. Written and Performance Poetry Competitions with Great prizes!



THE PRODUCT SHELF

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

'Broken Waratahs'
and other poems for your pleasure

by
KEN DEAN

available from
9 Korra Street, Marrangaroo, 2790
for \$12.00 postage paid

New release!

"Still Ducking" by Jack Drake

- Bush Poetry and Short Stories -
also **"Duck For Cover"**

contains *"The Cattle Dog's Revenge"* and more Bush Poetry
\$10 each + \$2 p/h
Jack Drake, PO Box 414 Stanthorpe Qld 4380
Phone 07 4683 7169

"MULLIGAN'S MOB"

(and others)

A selection of poems by Greg Scott

Book available \$12.00 postage paid
"Norwood", Moonan Flat,
via Scone NSW 2337

Birdsville Races 2000

Aug 28 - Sept 4, 2000
Via Eulo, 'Dig' Tree, Innamincka, Birdsville.
Corones Hotel Charleville
Optional flight over Lake Eyre
\$675.00 Smiths Outback Tours
Ph 07 4637 4999
POETS ALWAYS WELCOME!

2001 Bushranger Tour

April 4 April 20. Ex Toowoomba
Southern NSW and Victoria
Bushrangers, Gold, Eureka, and
the Bendigo Chinese Festival.
\$1995.00 Smiths Outback Tours
Ph. 07 4637 4999

'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

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August 2000

SURFACE
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Heritage Corner

This space devoted to
preserving the character of our
Australian Heritage

Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikato

How to Clean Greasy Plates

“The Antipodean Cookery Book, 1895”

If the man of the house is at all handy at carpentering, the housewife can save herself endless trouble if she will get him to make her a square

portable rack for the greasy dinner plates. I made mine myself, but it was very rough and primitive, and was merely an open sort of box, into which I used to pack the dirty plates and dishes, and standing it in the washing-up tub, pour hot soapsuds over. I have a strong handle to it, and so could lift it up and down to souse it, and get the plates clean. Then from this I stood it in a large milk-dish, and with a gardener's watering-can rinsed then well with cold water. This idea could be improved upon with a well-made rack.

AUGUST 4TH, 1914

AUSTRALIA ENTERED WORLD WAR I

AUGUST 7TH, 1912

AKUBRA HAT FIRST REGISTERED

AUGUST 27TH, 1908

BORN COOTAMUNDRA, NSW, SIR DONALD BRADMAN

Thank you to our Contributors

Trisha Andersen	Graeme Johnson
John & Gaye Barclay	Leo Keane
Kev Barnes	Bev Lamrock
Garry Boyd	John & Sandy Lees
Graham Brunckhorst	Ed Parmenter
Jean Cook	Valerie Read
Holly de Dikato	Ron Selby
Joye Dempsey	Olive Shooter
Kathy Edwards	Phil Spring
Wally Finch	Maurenn Stonham
Craig Gascoigne	Dingo Taylor
Margaret Glendenning	David Warton
Marco Giori	Grahame Watt
Murray Hartin	Greg Young
Neil Hulm	

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

Our Secretary, Oliver Shooter, has indicated that she will be stepping down in January, leaving the way open for any member who might be interested in taking on the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Australian Bush Poets Association. Because our incorporation is in Queensland, the Secretary must live in that state, or close to the border. If you are interested, and have a bit of spare time, please contact Olive, as she is more than willing to assist with every aspect of the changeover.

I am also the bearer of similar news, in that my employer has seconded me to a position in Europe from March 2001, and I will be unable to continue on with the Editorial job after February. With such notice, it is hopeful that someone within the ABPA membership ranks would be interested in taking on the role of Editor.

I would also certainly be most willing to assist with the changeover, and can provide all ABPA Newsletters since October 1999 on disk, in Mac Pagemaker format, along with heaps of back-up material.

I have certainly enjoyed being the ABPA Editor, and will continue to enjoy the job until February 2001. I am also very grateful to all those members who have supported me in this endeavour. The learning curve has been enormous!

Best regards, Jennifer Priest

