

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 10 Volume 7

October 2001



National Country Music Muster Wrap Up

Poets like camping. They enjoy lighting cosy fires and getting back to nature. They don't mind the odd drink or five and of course they relish the opportunity to sing along with the Country Music Fans at Amamoor each year in August.

You will always find the poets camped with the fans, and not behind main stage with the stars. This is their choice and reasons are simple ... inspiration!

For six days the Kidaman Oilskins Bush Poets welcomed capacity audiences to their Breakfast shows. With the like of Neil McArthur and Gary Fogarty introducing some new talent, the fans were sure to be enthusiastic. Some show stopping performances from Jack Drake and Jacqui Bridle ensured they kept turning up for more.

By the time the Naked Poets arrived on Friday morning, the audiences were primed up and ready for a main meal, which included Shirley Friend, Ray Essery, The Larrikin, and Murray Hartin.

The Poets Brawl on Friday arvo was a packed house affair won by the travelling bard, Tony Strauss, who appealed to the crowd with his 'muster' poem. Good strategy Tony!

The Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award was a huge success. Twenty-four performers took part in two heats and six finalists were selected to entertain on Sunday's Musterbeenbloodygood concert. The eventual winner, Barry Ellem, won a cash prize plus the Musterbeenbloodygood

Poetry Trophy with some very funny stuff indeed.

Virginia and the crew from Kidaman Oilskins were absolutely stoked at the response Bush Poetry receives at the Muster. Many campers admit that the Poetry is top of their 'must see' list of shows at the Muster.

Submitted by Marco Gliori, Warwick, Qld

PS

All week people from the audience were coming up to the Poets with their own poems about the Muster. This is one small sample -

The Gympie Muster

Why do we go back year after year
To have some laughs and drink some beer?
Despite the cold and wind and rain
A magnet draws us back again.
We love the camping, the friends we meet.
The campfires at night just can't be beat.
Line dancing and clogging are all the rage.
We sit on the hill near the dual main stage.
We hear the stars perform their best
And spend long hours at the talent quest.
But the magnet that draws us, now wouldn't you know it
Is the wit and charisma of our own Bush Poets.

© Alma Lester, camper and 1st time poet.

Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup Winner

Fabulous Forties

Life begins at forty,
It's what I class as old.
Saggy boobs and menopause,
And men who smell of mould.

Mid-life crisis, grey hairs too,
Men who think they're boys again,
Women who wear mini skirts,
Their kids heads hung in shame.

Forties suppose to be the tops,
The fabulous years of your life,
Yet I can't flamin' understand,

Why you'd want to go through all that strife!

So if you sail through your forties,
Without a little hitch,
You're doing pretty bloody well,
Cause the forties are a bitch!

© Jade Brischke, Gladstone Q

Results of Millmerran Bush Poets Round-up, 2000

Junior Traditional	1 st Jodie Handley	2 nd Melanie Smith	
Junior Original	1 st Jodie Handley	2 nd Melanie Smith	
Novice Traditional	1 st Roy Fleetwood	2 nd Jane Coe	3 rd Rodney Crome
Novice Original	1 st Patricia Markey	2 nd Roy Fleetwood	3 rd Geoff Lynch
Intermediate Trad	1 st Marg Parmenter	2 nd Nell Perkins	3 rd Geoff Lynch
Intermediate Original	1 st Marg Parmenter	2 nd Geoff Lynch	3 rd Laine Harth
Duo	1 st Ed & Marg Parmenter	2 nd Wally & Mary Finch	
	3 rd Jack Drake & Liz Ward		
Yarn-Spinning	1 st Ron Selby	2 nd Gary Lowe	3 rd Bill MacClure
Open Traditional	1 st Jack Drake	2 nd Wally Finch	3 rd Bill MacClure
Open Original	1 st Jack Drake	2 nd Gary Lowe	3 rd Wally Finch
Open Humorous	1 st Gary Lowe	2 nd Patricia Markey	3 rd Jack Drake
Overall Champion	Gary Lowe		

\$2001 in 2001

Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush "Legendary Masters"
20 to 22 April 2001

Entertainers "The Naked Poets"

The FederationYear in Tenterfield is huge
with \$2001 for the Amateurs

For applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW

Or Phone 0267 361082

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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 1, \$13 through to the end of December. Those who have NOT been a member previously may join after October 1 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

Spring is here in earnest, with hot days, but too dry. A few people are taking advantage of the fifteen months membership for new members. Keep them coming.

All members will need a special coloured member card to enable them to vote at the annual or any other meeting. They will be forwarded to you and you will need to have the card with you.

As we have a spare printer, I will be seeking to purchase it when I retire. Also the fax machine. Does anyone have any objection to this? Write if you do.

The annual meeting will be held on the Saturday of

PRESIDENT'S BLAST



APATHY (Syn.) Unconcern, Lethargy, Indifference. A very small word with a very large meaning. Perhaps the ABPA could have a name change to the Apathy Bush Poets Assoc.

There are always numerous suggestions about the running of the Association (we should do this and we should do that, etc, etc,) but very few willing to do anything about it.

Despite repeated pleas in e magazine for interested persons to fill the committee positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Magazine Editor, it seems our pleas fall on deaf ears. We have 400 members – surely there must be a couple of members who are willing to take on these positions? I have put seven years into the Association and every year it is the same. We call for nominations for the AGM in Tamworth and it is always the same few dedicated members who fill the positions. This is YOUR association and if YOU would like to see it thrive then think about putting something back into it.....

It is only THREE months till the end of the year and then the big one – Tamworth and the AGM.

After those few disturbing words I would like to say how enjoyable the Millmerran Round-up was last month. Friendships renewed and new friendships gained. Many very fine performances from a lot of talented poets combined to make this event another success. Though Kev Barnes and Mavis Appleyard were both hospitalised we have heard they are both on the mend and we wish them all the best and a full recovery.

Kev Barnes has indicated this was his last Round-up but the proprietors of the new Millmerran Caravan Village have offered to take it on next year. So with a little help the Round-up may continue for many years to come.

There are still quite a few events for the rest of the year, please give them the support they deserve wherever you can.

Quote of the month

"It is not much use looking ahead...
Unless you walk that way."

Ron Selby, President

the Street Parade in Tamworth. It will be held at the usual venue. Next month I should be able to let you know the details.

I have been informed that if my job is split into Secretary and Treasurer (and there is nothing in the Constitution to prevent this), we may have some people willing to take the positions. There will be an election at the Annual meeting and there is nothing to preclude any member being nominated. The only thing is that because the Incorporation is registered in Queensland, the Secretary should reside in Queensland or close to the border. To facilitate the ease of handling the two positions, it would be good if they were living within easy reach of each other.

Fond regards, Olive Shooter

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

JOYE DEMPSEY

What is your worst habit?

Worrying about, not worrying about, what other people think.

What is your dream job?

Having worked hard all of my adult life, I'm dreaming of the time when I won't have to work and can write/perform full time!

Which three people would you invite to dinner?

James Hardy, because he appears to be a thorough, (nothing to do with titled), gentleman, a man of the land, an intelligent conversationalist - and he could bring the good wine. A really excellent chef, who owned a floating restaurant in Queensland, so that we could have fresh fish. Ray Essery because he's always good for a giggle and is responsible for my demise into 'non-deep and meaningful' poetry. It goes without saying that their partners would all be very welcome, after all I'll need someone to help me with the dishes. The blokes could always do them, but after a few glasses of Hardys they'd probably chuck them overboard.

What one item would you want if you were stranded on a desert island?

A satellite operated computer, with internet/library facilities, built in well-stocked fridge, toaster, TV/Radio, reclining chair, press button inflatable marquee and mobile phone/banking facilities, so that I could let them know when supplies run low.

What was your earliest memory?

I can't remember.

If you could live your life again what would you change.

There is not enough space in the next ten newsletters to print the list.

What started you writing Bush Poetry?

It happened in RPA Hospital immediately after surgery for breast cancer in 1985... you lose something - you win something. I felt the need to write a spiritual poem and it rhymed! Couldn't stop me after that. I just thought it was ordinary poetry having been in love with the likes of Tennyson since I first learned to read. Then about five years ago Milton Taylor came to my Interludes poetry group and told me it was Bush Poetry and that I should go to Winton and meet the Bush Poets that Easter. His lovely cousin Kathy was generous enough to offer accommodation in Longreach and that's when my Bush Poetry life began.

Why do you live where you live?

I've been trying to work that one out for years! Originally it was because of the business, concert sound and a small film studio, 12 kilometers from the Sydney CBD but in the heavy traffic periods it seems longer than from Longreach to Winton. I've been looking at WA and Queensland real estate for some time now...

Joye Dempsey is an award-winning Australian Performance poet of Anglo-Irish heritage. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications, and a Graduate Diploma in Tourism Management, and a Master of Arts from UWS Macarthur.

This highly educated woman has written two books of poetry. Her first was "Of War And Other Things" which won an award from the Australia Remembers Council, and her second book is titled "Joye's Little Red Book of Poetry". She is strongly influenced by people whose courage has inspired a deep response in her and need to tell their story. Most of the poems and short stories in her two books relate to the Australian experience and the reader is immediately aware of the writer's deep love for this country.

An inaugural member and Vice President of the NSW Story Tellers' Guild, Joye is in demand for her Irish Poetry and dramatic performance pieces. The Performing Arts Section of the Department of School Education has accredited Joye to perform from her books in NSW Schools. Joye's background includes the position of community arts officer and public relations for local government bodies. She has acted professionally on films, TV and stage and is both founder and convener of 'Interludes' writing and performance workshops.

Joye was commissioned by Telstra to write and perform a series of poems in "Patterson style" to technical specifications. She performed the work at venue in both Sydney and Melbourne and is scheduled to perform in other states later this year. Joye also organises a 'Big City Muster' for the NSW Writer's Center each September, in an attempt to bring traditional Australian poetry to city-siders and international visitors.



'Ear, 'Ear

© Joye Dempsey

Before we were married, he never would mean,
or complain of the time that I spend on the phone,
nor question my dress sense, and not for a sec'
did he say things about me poor nose, ears, or neck!

But from that fatal day when I gave him my name,
the names that he called me were never the same,
and instead of "my bright eyes, you bowdy" - no fears,
he called me "The Missus" and rubbish me ears.

He never mentions my pearly white teeth,
my skin, so soft, or my body, sleek.
They're never apparent when at me he peers,
his line of focus is on me ears.

One time, I spent a fortune it seemed,
I bought a dress about which I'd dreamed
but did he applaud it, or give any jeers?
He said, the hemline balanced me ears!

I had me hair permed all bubbly and neat,
I looked so cute from my head to my feet,
but his only comment just brought me to tears.
"The fools have forgotten to perm yer ears".

If you think that was cruel, this takes the crown,
we were drivin' outback when the ute broke down.
"No worries", he said, "I'll have it fixed in a sec",
just throw me the spare tyre you've got 'round yer neck!"

Well! I had to think of a plan of attack,
of retribution, of getting him back -
of keeping his mouth shut while other men leer,
at the tiny shell I call 'me ear'.

When he got his pay rise, I knew what to do
to negate those words that could make me feel blue.
I went to the jewellers, to sample his wares
I said, "How many diamonds will fit in me ears?"

He came home that night and I must confess
when he looked at me a long lobe, his face was a mess.
"D'you like them?" I chuckled, as he saw what I'd bought.
"No" said he, his eyes narrowed, "Now yer neck looks too short!"

So - back to the jewellers without more ado
and I bought myself a nice necklace or two.
When I told me mum, "Well", she said, "that's a girl,
you be like the oyster, mend the flaw with a pearl!"

My friends are all jealous, they look really wretched,
they're off to the doctors to get their ears stretched.
And as for my hubby, well as you'd suppose -
he hasn't been game yet to insult me nose!

REVIEW - Of War and Other Things (book)

Joye's book was printed in 1995 with the assistance of the Australia Remembers Council, and explores the Australian war experience through poetry and short stories.

It takes the reader on a remarkable journey through both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam, and the Gulf War - often through the eyes of the ordinary man, woman, and child. These are tales that tug at the emotions. Great sadness and loss are intertwined with the pragmatic and often courageous Australian nature. Men are tortured in POW camps, women are abused in foreign lands, or work and wait at home, and small boys build atom bombs from 'pigeon poo'.

Contributing to the appeal of Joye's work is the historic value of the tales she tells. Much of her work is footnoted, which can be slightly distracting on first reading. However, these footnotes give a depth that is vital for such a serious subject, and a wealth of information for those readers not conversant with war history. She has built her poetry on a foundation of actual experiences, and used her descriptive skills to paint a vibrant memorial to Australians at war.

This is a remarkable book, and should be read by all Australians. Every ANZAC Day we hear the motto "Lest We Forget", and Joye's book makes a valuable contribution towards explaining why we must remember.

Dear Jennifer

I read in our Poet's Newsletter how 'Skew Wiff' enjoyed his weekend in Mulwala. Why shouldn't he? He shared a flat with three bush beauties. Even offered them tea and toast in bed. Came home for a week, then chased some wench all over Queensland. Lucky for her, he couldn't find EULO. Now I read where he and Brenda are looking for a cottage, how sweet! I happen to know his wife is Janice, so who the hell is Brenda! Don't tell us he's run off with Brenda from Benalla, 'cos her hubby David will be after them with his little video camera. Gosh, I'm so confused.

Who the hell is Brenda?
Is it Brenda from Benalla?
And will her David want to lenda
To this womanising 'Skew Wiff' fella?
Now Janice wants to shoot her
And he's thought up a good excuse
Why! He's blaming your computer
While he plays fast and loose!

Joan Hill (Hilly's Missus), Kyabram, VIC

Ed Note: Who would ever think that an Editor's typo would cause such a fuss!?

Dear Jennifer

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, who organise the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, wish to advise a number of changes to the competition for next January. For the past five years we have been sponsored by NorthPower and we have been able to offer cash prizes to our winners. This year we have been unable to secure sponsorship, although we are still trying. This dilemma has led to a bit of a "rethink" on how the competition is organised, and we have come up with the following changes.

Each finalist will, as in the past, receive a small cash prize along with their certificate. We are still trying to work out if we will have cash prizes for placegetters, but we have decided to offer two trophies for the winners of each section. These trophies will be called "The Golden Damper" Awards for Original and Traditional/ or Established Works. The trophies are attractive ceramic sculptures of a golden damper rising in a camp oven and were designed and created at Fred Hillier's studios.

All else stays the same. We have two sections, Original and Traditional, or Established, works. Entry forms will be available from the end of October. The dates for the Competition are Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 January 2001 for the Heats, with the Finals on Saturday 27th. Enquiries to Jan Morris (02) 6765 7552 (h) or 02 6768 5178 (Wk - please keep calls short so I don't get into strife with the boss!)

Sincerely Jan Morris, Tamworth, NSW

Dear Editor

It occurs to me that the wealth of unbridled talent in our association is quite astounding. And yet, it also occurs to me that the amount of untapped resources at our creative fingertips is also quite astounding. We as an Association have a power in numbers, and we as individuals have a power in words. The ability to communicate through the written word is a gift, but when we put our words together as one voice, then that is power. Though, it's a power that will only exist whilst ever we stand together.

The strength on one united force that gives us power to bargain when it comes to the production of our own books and tapes.

We as an association may produce thirty to forty individual products in any one year, a lucrative clientele for any printing company willing to give a ten per cent discount to all ABPA members. That in turn would then encourage new members to join and old ones to stay. If we stand together as one association with one goal in mind (the betterment of Bush Poetry) then we can't lose, but if we split up in small group, unwilling to work as a team, then we all lose.

And yet, it doesn't matter what I think, for in truth this is not about us, it's about Bush Poetry and the ongoing evolution of a culture that is still sitting very precariously on the brink of extinction.

So let's not take it for granted just yet! Our strength is in our numbers, and it's up to us what we do with that. But the art of writing poetry is a gift from God so we'd best take care of this reborn culture cause it may not be as tough as they characters it portrays.

Yours sincerely, Craig A. Gascoigne, Singleton, NSW

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

On reading through the current Newsletter, I read with great interest the letter of Paula Morrison regarding two poems that seem to be the same but written by different poets.

I am very new to poetry writing, but would like to point out the strangest of coincidences.

Very early this year or late last year, I visited my local Post Office at Blairgowrie, Victoria, where the postmaster had a notice board on which he pinned up all sorts of humorous literature. Reading through the board, I noted a yarn about Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. I copied it out to tell my friends, but some months later, on running through the joke it occurred to me it could be written up as a poem, which is precisely what I did.

This was on July 2nd and I have enclosed my totally unconnected piece to Des Bennett's version [see September Newsletter], to lend weight to the theory that two poems with the same theme can be written by different poets.

Des is obviously an experienced poet whilst I am still very much the tyro, so I hope members won't be too hard on my effort.

However, I do look forward to meeting Des some time in the near future and perhaps chat about our confidential poems.

Please find enclosed my version of Holmes and Watson.

Yours sincerely, Harry Grinblat, Blairgowrie, Vic

Ed Note: Harry's poem appears on page 7

To All the Poets who Donated Books/Tapes

I want to extend a huge thankyou to the generous donators of books and tapes to help the Thargomindah children go to the Paralympics.

The Thargomindah school was one of four Qld. schools chosen to attend the Paralympics and take part in Medal Presentation Ceremonies. The school had to raise over \$20,000 to fund the field trip which includes a visit to the Dubbo Zoo, Canberra and then Sydney. The final part of their fund-raising efforts was a Dinner and Charity Auction held at the Jackson Oil Fields (even Wester than Eulo) on Saturday 9 September.

I am delighted to report that the Thargomindah P & C Committee has raised the amount needed, plus a little more, which will be used to improve the facilities at the school. The Charity Auction (including donated books and tapes) raised over \$9000!

From the students and parents at Thargomindah. Thank you.

Janine Haig, Eulo, Q

Dear Editor

As a new member of the ABPA, I recently competed for the first time at North Pine and followed up by competing at Millmerran.

I would like to congratulate the organizers, and their helpers, of each of these events on staging such successful and wonderful occasions. As a new chum, I really enjoyed the camaraderie which exists between all involved in Bush Poetry.

Ray Essery's poem about chokos reminded me of a football coach I once had - it was claimed that he couldn't "coach a choko vine over a dunny wall".

I have enclosed a poem for you to consider for publication. It's a true story (slightly embellished) which occurred at my workplace.

[To understand the poem] ... a picture of 'John' - he is about 6'2, a recycled hippie with a head of long read wild hair, paranoid about his appearance and health ... a scary sight standing in front of ones desk - half undressed!

Geoff Lynch, Bray Park, Qld

Ed Note: Geoff's poem appears on Page 10

Dear Jennifer

I write in response to the various letters you have had in regards the Bronze Swagman BUSH Verse competition held in Winton by Vision Winton Inc./ Winton Tourist Promotion Association for the last 29 years.

When this competition was started, it was with the intention to encourage people to write NEW BUSH Verse especially for this competition. To this end the rules stated – and I quote from a 1991 entry form (and I don't believe they were changed before this):

"7. Entries must be entrant's own work, and must not have been previously printed, passed around, used in any other media or won another competition."

"N.B. 8. Entrants are advised to KEEP A COPY of his/her verse, as, owing to the large number of entries received, entries cannot be returned."

At this time the entry fee was \$5 and you could enter five poems limited to 1300 words.

Quoted from back of form –

"The Aim of the Award is to foster and encourage the writing of traditional Australian bush verse made famous by Paterson, Lawson, and Ogilvie etc."

To this end we want poems written with the intent of winning this prestigious award.

Things that I can recall being changed on the entry form are:

1) the amount of words allowed in a poem. I think this changed again this year.

2) the closing date and time of announcing the winner. It used to be May 31 announcing Sept – changed to Jan 31 and announcing April, and in 2001, will close at the end of April (I think!) announcing in July.

3) the cost and amount of entries per sheet. As stated previously, in 1991 you paid \$5 for 5 entries; in 2000 the cost was \$5 for 1 to 3 entries. The form for next year will have a \$15 entry fee for (I think) 3 poems, but before you get your knickers in a knot, each \$15 entry form entitles you to a complimentary copy of that years Bronze Swagman Book of Verse (RRP \$12.50).

I hope this will avoid the confusion that has been aroused. I realise that though the form seems simple, and important wording is printed in bold print, it tends to be overlooked.

It's amazing the number of poets who

- a. don't include entry money
- b. put entry money in with form in envelope
- c. put poem in envelope and leave the entry form out

There has been just the one person up to last year sending and receiving the entry forms, and I would like to thank Mrs Mary Nowland for all her years of work.

Ian took over as Secretary of Vision Winton Inc last year, and found the job of Bronze Swagman Bush Verse Secretary made the job too big. To this end I have taken it on, and for this year will be sending and receiving entry forms for the Competition. So, to make things easier, if any poets are writing in regard to the Bronze Swagman Competition, please mark the front of the envelope 'Bronze Swagman' and I will get it a little quicker.

Sorry ... NO, the entry forms are not out yet, but when they come from the printers I will send them out to those on the mailing list.

*Yours in Australian Bush Poetry
Mrs Karen Stockham, Winton QLD*

Dear Editor

Could you convey our thanks to fellow poets at the successful Millmerran Poets weekend?

As Doug tells me, if I don't stop throwing "Tantrums" he won't take me on any more trips. The flowers and wishes sent to me were a real lift. Thank you very much. Special thanks to the gentle bushman with sandpaper hands who knew what to do for me.

Most sincerely, Mavis Appleyard, Warren. NSW



FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

Hi there from the West

We've been in Perth about a week, and brought fine weather with us it would seem.

Bush poetry is alive and well over here, and on a weekend with our campervan and motorhome club, met two poets who told us about the WA association. Everyone seems so isolated over here and talk of "easterners" as if they are another race. Our association must do something to help rectify this.

Whenever anyone learns you are a poet, they straight away want you to perform. I have many bookings between now and Christmas, and guess we will be busy, what with sight-seeing, wildflower chasing and poetry.

Anyway - here's an offering for this month, prompted by an item of news on local radio.

LOSING THINGS

I'm always losing things you know, like keys and specs and things,
I've even lost my wallet once or twice.
I sometimes search to find my hat, my tie, or socks or rings,
And when I was a kid, I lost my mice.

I've thought perhaps Alzheimer was a taking hold of me,
For I would stand and scratch my head in fright;
While looking for the book that I had somehow failed to see
I'd only just been reading it last night.

I went out to the football and I lost my stupid car,
I searched the park an hour or maybe two;
But after everyone went home I hadn't to look far;
They had put it in the paddock, full in view.

So losing things might be my gift, a talent that I've got,
I polish up this skill most every day;
I search each nook and cranny for the thing that I have not
And wonder how it could have gone astray.

Sometimes I think perhaps that I am losing all my mind;
But now I know I'm really not so rough -
A business lost five hundred million dollars - I'm inclined
To help them look and find the flaming stuff.

Regards, John Barclay - the Rambling Poet

Dear Friends omine

Miracles happen sometimes with cameras: every 'official' photo taken of the audience and the poets (you know who you are) at Millmerran would win a competition! Because nearly everyone asked me how to get a photo of themselves and others when I snapped them, I had a few extra sets done at time of printing. They are available from me for 40 cents each, plus 45c stamp. Please phone or fax me (07) 3209 3720, or write to me at 10 Sylvania St, Woodridge, Qld 4114. I am hoping to sell them all just to break even.

Also, it was my first outing anywhere since a backyard accident which resulted in 3 badly broken back ribs, front chest damage, and an ambulance trip with sirens. I want to thank everyone who phoned, sent cards, faxes and encouragement at the time and since. I could not have persevered this long sedentary recovery time without you all. It was a pleasure to be 'needed' and physically active at Millmerran for the first time in many weeks.

Best Wishes and love from Carol Stratford, Woodridge, Qld.

MY OLD MATE

© Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, 2000

I saw him stumble down the street, he looked unsteady on his feet
His clothes were worn and thin, he looked a truly pitiful sight.
But there was something in his walk, his stare just like a hawk
That took me back to school days where we learned to read and write.

I had a feeling that I knew him, from the past so long and dim
But the road he'd travelled since – was dusty and betrayed
I recalled my younger school days and orchard steeling forays
His young and carefree face – on the school yard where we played.

I looked beyond the dirt and grime, and I saw him in his prime
And recalled with joy the happy times spent with my childhood friend.
I called out from 'neath the shade and he looked around afraid
He saw me waving to him – but didn't seem to comprehend.

A flash of recognition crossed his eye, his hand raised in reply
And then he looked me up and down, at my polished shoes and suit.
With a nod (and much to my dismay) he turned, as if to walk away
Through his bearded face and weary eyes, his mind seemed resolute.

I walked to him and shook his hand, his eyes were dull and bland
And he mentioned that he'd known me, from many years gone by,
That things had not worked out for him, in fact were rather grim
All the equal rights, he said, were just a white mans lie.

And he talked of discrimination, said it was rife across this nation
That our leaders hedged on land rights and I'm sorry, will not be said,
A bumpy road, that's where I bin, because 'o' the colour of me skin
My peoples race are dying, they're under school'd an under fed.

I said you are my mate, in his eyes I saw the hate
Please! Could this gap be ever overcome.
But I knew since Namatjira, our peoples were no nearer
The realisation left me cold and numb.

He bid farewell and off he strode, down the hot and dusty road
I stood alone and cried – and cursed our race relations
That pulled at black and white, that makes 'em want and fight
God! Let Australia stand as one, and not as separate nations.

The Gympie Muster

© Tony Strauss

Well I muster had a party, yep I muster had a ball,
And it muster been a good one 'though I really can't recall,
'Cause I woke up with a headache like I've never had for years,
And the sound of country music was still ringing in my ears.

Yes I'm back here at the muster here in Gympie once again,
And me lungs are full of dust now 'cause it didn't bloody rain,
But I reckon I'll come back here like I do 'most every year,
'Cause it's sort of like a magnet with the parties and the beer,

And the poets and the musos make it all the better still,
Mate, if you get bored at Gympie then you muster been a dill.
So gentlemen and ladies please I beg you one and all
To raise your glass to Gympie, the greatest show of all!!!

Australian Bush Laureate Awards

Sponsored by

Lone Star Restaurant & Saloon

(Closing date for entries 31st. October 2000)

Book of the Year Award

Album of the Year Award

Single Recorded Performance
of the Year Award

Further information from

Max Ellis Marketing 02 6766 1577 or
email mem@mem.net.au

The "Where was Bob Miller?" competition in September's newsletter attracted hundreds of entries from all over Australia. The onerous job of deciding the winner has proved too big a task for the Editor, so your assistance is required to choose the best out of the three finalists. Send your votes to the Editor at the address on page 2, before 20 October.

Where's Bobby?

© June Hansen QLD

You may think he's at a barbie
Where the beer is flowing free
But he's selling our Australia
It's as simple as can be.
Bobby Miller's at the 'LYMPICS
And just cop the way he's dressed
He is cheering on Australia
In his Dinkum Aussie Vest.
Now his cap is somewhat Yankeeified
But we'll all forgive him 'coz
He's the envy of the tourists
In his Singlet that's pure Oz.
He's no longer writing poems
'bout the virtue of home brew,
He is flogging off an icon
That leaves for dead, our kangaroo.
And we know that every tourist
Will snap up the ones he's got
And we pray they'll raid our Aussies stores
And buy up the bloomin' lot.
So give three cheers for Bobby
As he does his very best
To rid us of an eyesore
"An Aussie in a BLOODY VEST".



What's Bob Doing?

© Ellis Campbell NSW

Is it Bob, the Mungar Maggot, or The Larrikin at large?
Could he be a matador of note and ready for the charge?
I'll study it more closely - yes, Ill take another look...
Lion tamer's brave assistant or possum trapper's cook?
Could he be a deep-sea fisherman - a pilot or a king -
A bikie or a stuntman? He could be anything!
A man who walks on water or drives a big bull-dozer?
I think I've found the answer. He's just a bloody poser!

BOBBY'S FROGGY

© Craig A. Gascoigne NSW

Well it's clear that our mate Bobby, was here patting his mate froggy
Out at Winton back in April, on a hot and humid morn.
He was drunk up to the eye-balls, making all these funny frog calls,
With that dirty XXXX singlet, and those shorts that he had torn.

See his gorgeous young wife Sandy had been drinkin' Essery's brandy
With young May and Ray and Colleen, that's McArthur's lovely spouse,
When our Miller who'd been drinkin' that beer XXXX, started stinkin;
Cause his flatulence was so bad, he tore his shorts and cleared the house.

Now the reason our mate Bobby was there talkin' to his froggy
Was because it was the only friend that Miller could impress.
So next year while out at Winton, all your glasses will need tintin'
Cause they've made a rule, to save the shorts, young Bob must wear a dress!

STRIKE AT BRAMPTON'S HILL

© Ellis Campbell

A wattle tree, some stringy bark, and quartz-stone gleaming white upon the side of Brampton's Hill, and almost out of sight of sulky tracks that wound between the gorges and the hills to settlements and mining camps, rough-hewn and lacking skills. A peaceful spot, unknown to most, with beauty to behold; till shepherds saw the gleaming quartz, and recognised that gold might well be borne inside the stone, beneath that rocky spur; a ringing cry that rallied far, and nothing could defer.

A swarming multitude converged, from every hill and glen, by donkey, horse and bicycle - and tramping bare-foot men. They staked their claims in frenzied haste, selecting likely ground, and tents of calico were pitched by tree and rock and mound. Selectors, shepherds, mining men - Chinese and Afghan, too - with frantic picks attacked the soil while still more joined the queue who humped their swags on blistered feet and rode on punctured bikes - all hungry miners fevered with the dreams of lucky strikes.

The creaking windlass groaned and swayed, the delving picks smote earth with hollow sounds that echoed walls and sang of hope's rebirth. At night a sparkling camp-fire's gleam from every corner glowed; where wilderness a week before had sheltered no abode. A bushman's joke, a raucous laugh - the yarns that miners spin - all mingled harsh harmonicas and wailing violin. As lonely men, and far from home, they knew nostalgia's pang; and distant loved ones' memory lived in every song they sang.

Some only sank a shallow shaft, to bottom on a yield; rejoicing in bonanzas - but for most a barren field. Down, ever down, those miners delved - their bodies drenched in sweat; still searching for elusive gold to sate a yearning debt. They slaved for weeks in fevered hope but never found a vein; their failing shafts a dismal curse and bleakness loomed again. And even those who struck it rich found seams were running out. Abandoned shafts a doleful sight that cast disturbing doubt.

And, one by one, they drifted off - despair in heavy hearts; they shouldered swags and tramped again, to search in other parts. The teeming fields were silent then, no more the flailing picks were thudding dampened earth below and candles* burnt-out wicks remained a tragic symbol of despondence and defeat. The skeletons of tents exposed and windlass obsolete. An avalanche of tramping men, past creek and coolabah; deserting Brampton's Hill to heal its crude abrasive scar.

Erosion gnaws at mullock-heaps, where wrathful miners cursed; the tent-pegs and discarded tins are long dissolved to rust. No more the hustle-bustle of the toiling miners' tramp. Old Brampton's Hill's asleep again and only wombats camp along its rocky ledges where the tents of calico were housing seething multitudes, one hundred years ago. Regeneration's miracle has surely found a way, and sally-bush and saplings wave upon the scene today.

* Candle. Miners kept a lighted candle down the shaft to test the air. When depths were reached that lacked oxygen the candle went out.

APOLOGY

The gremlins seem to have hit the computer again! In the September Newsletter, the notice for the Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2001 announces the first prize as being \$1050. This should be \$150. My apologies to our members, and also to the 'Blackened Billy' committee.

International Accolades for Ellis

Dr H Tulsi, Ph.D. LFWAI, is the Founder-Leader of the Classical Renaissance of India and owner-editor of a poetry magazine named METVERSE MUSE. Poets from all parts of the world subscribe to it, including more than twenty Australians. Many of these are doctors (of either literature or medicine, professors, etc.). One might assume that these professional people would have a leaning toward free verse form poetry, but not so.

The object of METVERSE MUSE, a biannual publication, is to restore traditional and structured style poetry to its former glory. As part of a special drive to popularise traditional style poetry over the entire globe, Dr Tulsi decided to confer Honorary Life Membership on one poet from each country whom she believes will assist her aim.

It was a pleasant surprise to ABPA member Ellis Campbell to receive a letter from Dr Tulsi informing him that he was the Australian poet awarded this honour.

Dr Tulsi sent Ellis a copy of METVERSE MUSE. It contains 225 poems by 145 World Poets from India, England, Russia, Canada, Italy, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson

© Harry Grinblat, July 2nd, 2000

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson
Went on a camping trip.

After a good meal and a bottle of wine
They settled down to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes awoke
And nudged his faithful colleague
"Watson, friend, look at the sky
And tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions of stars,"
Said Sherlock, "What does that tell?"
Watson pondered for a while
And this is what he said.

"Astronomically, it tells me that
There are millions of galaxies
And as for shining planets,
Billions potentially.

Astrologically I do observe
That Saturn is in Gemini,
And horologically I'd say
The time is about half past three.

Theologically I can see
That God is ever powerful
And we minute, insignificant,
A mere speck of humanity.

Meteorologically I suspect
A beautiful day tomorrow,
And what say you my dear Holmes?
I surely want to know."

But Holmes fell silent for a while
Then spoke a message truly meant,
"Watson, you bloody idiot
Some bugger has stolen our tent."



G'day from Geoffrey Graham



Greetings,

This is the first year I haven't travelled north to sunnier climates. Instead I'm stuck down South. Not that that is all that bad. Anyway with a new house there's no end to the work that needs to be done at home!

With the Olympics upon us, along with all the hype it is an unusual year. Firstly the Millenium, then the GST, then the Olympics!

At Benalla I was lucky enough to be involved with the Torch ceremony, and the folk there put on a terrific show with a parade celebrating the Snowy River days, complete with cattle, horses, sheep, and wagons right down the dead rabbits hanging from the side of wagons.

I was compering on three stages, constantly travelling from one to the other which was difficult being slightly disabled with a broken foot. The person pushing my wheelchair from stage to stage was buggared by the end of the day, particularly as the wheelchair was over 100 years old and had seen better days.

Benalla had a bit of a coup with the highlight being a performance by John Williamson.

Another amazing event has been the Spring Valley Heritage Horse Ride around Australia.

Two groups of riders left Broome in April this year both bound for Sydney. One group travelled around through WA, SA and Victoria while a Northern group travelled via Queensland. The ride culminated with a bash at Hawkesbury Showground for 5 days, in late August. The Australian flag was carried the whole ride which celebrated the unique Horse sports in Australia and based itself on the theme 'The Spirit that built the Nation'. The longest relay ride on horseback in Australia's history was the brain child of Joy Poole and Neville Holz.

Performing for the riders at Bendigo and later at Hawkesbury was a great experience. The riders were a delightful group of people and of course Bush Poetry had to be a part of these proceedings. Besides Polocrosse, rodeo events and Campdrafting there was a heap of entertainment and visual attractions. Glad to see I wasn't the only Entertainer doing Bush Poetry. Bob and Dave

Skelton were on hand to provide not only Bush poetry but fantastic damper with Billy tea and Michael Darby made his way out there for a while as well.

Being asked to perform at Orange back in June for the 'Banjo' Paterson writing awards was an interesting night. One suprising aspect was that the winners from 600 entrants all won with poems that weren't 'Bush Poems'.

Still the Bush Poets keep popping up. I worked the night before the awards night at a pub at Orange featuring Frank and Ron. Unusual not so many years ago, now it's no big deal to have a bunch of poets entertain the locals. Lets hope there's many more in the future. I must say though we've heard much of Ron Stevens as a writer, he now does himself proud as a performer.

On my travels did a show at Yass in NSW and being a guest of the amazing Leigh Brown I asked her to do a couple of her poems at my show. She hasn't lost that magic touch and as for hospitality from Leigh and Geoff, look no further for damn good southern hospitality.

If anyone is passing through Bendigo, drop in for a cuppa and there's always a bed for the night. Keep smiling!

Geoffrey Graham Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739



IT'S YOUR TURN!

So, Geoffrey has given his version of how he got into this 100-year-old wheelchair, but I'm sure our readers would like to hear YOUR version of events!

Most imaginative rhyming version received wins a prize!

Send your entries to the Editor for consideration. With the Para Olympics on, what better way to participate?

Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival 2000

The fifth Annual Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival, organised by the North Pine Bush Poets, and held on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of August 2000, was a huge success.

We had a record number of entries with plenty of Novices and Juniors to keep our traditions alive and well.

Our get-together on Friday evening suffered a two hour power failure in the North Pine Lodge, so all had to gather around the camp fire to keep the lies and laughter continuing into the night as the campers kept arriving.

Saturday and Sunday saw a full-on festival of 140 on-stage performances of a very high standard. The Saturday night concert was great fun, with Ray Essery, Bobby Miller, Glenny Palmer and Shirley Friend keeping the audience in rapture with their antics and the catering was prepared by "Delicious Catering" to their usual excellent standard.

The sound system had a few glitches and the committee realises that we have to hire top equipment in future if we continue to hold the festival in our new location.

It was a pity that John Coutts, our Festival Organiser, could not get back from overseas in time for the festival, after all the time an effort he had put in to make sure the weekend was a success. The Committee sincerely thanks everyone who pitched in to help over the weekend, especially Patti Coutts and John Best for all the behind scenes work and last minute preparations that are necessary to make a Festival such as this successful.

All in all, it was a great socialising event, with a great gathering of friends and some really good poetry and yarnspinning.

The Committee and Members of the North Pine Bush Poets Group would like to thank Peter and Rosemary Baguley for their fine work in collating all the scores, Ray Essery for his Master of Ceremonies duties, our Judges for their untiring work over the weekend, our performers in the Saturday night Concert, and last but certainly not least, all our Performers for their excellent Performance Poetry, without which our Festival would not survive.

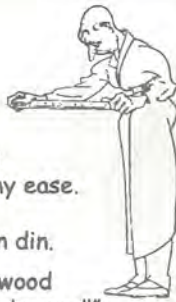
We look forward to seeing you and your friends in August 2001.

Submitted by

The Committee of the North Pine Bush Poets Group Inc., QLD

MEN AT WORK Gympie 2000

(This is pretty rough.... Just like the furniture)



Gympie for the Muster in amongst the stately trees;
Attend the Poet's Breakfast - after that just take my ease.
Dreams of relaxation, lazy mornings sleeping in
Were shattered that first sunrise by a God-forsaken din.

It was Chainsaw-Bobby-Miller wildly wacking bits of wood
With Raving Raymond ranting: "Miller! That's no bloody good!"
Jack and Neil and Milton shouting out advice they love to share
While Mark and Wally cart the wood from there... to there.... to there.

Fogarty and Lowie help by warming up the seats
For when the others finish their great carpentereering feats;
So, in "supervised" disorder they were furnishing the site
With chairs and tables - int'resting - but none of them quite right.

Like Santa's Little Helpers, sweating faces resolute,
Busy as those tiny elves (but nowhere near as cute),
The men there in our campsite were trying hard to show
That when it came to building they were really in the know.

We have slippery-slides called benches with splinters of such length
You'd never tumble of the things - to stand takes all your strength;
And the table is a Work of Art - will turn your faces green....
It's steady as a rock (but then, the leg count's seventeen).

So come and see the Poet's Camp, their place of industry -
Though when it comes to building.... They should stick to poetry;
You'll see them standing proudly, not seeing imperfections,
Surveying with admiring glee their beautiful erections.

© Janine Haig, August 2000

Gippsland Bush Poets



The winter months have been fairly slow around this

neck of the woods, not much going on in the way of Festivals or Shows. However, the Gippsland Bush Poets have still been meeting on a six-weekly basis and our membership continues to grow. At present standing at 29 financial members.

The 'Morwell Club' has run two very successful Bush Poets nights, with members of our club taking out major prizes on both the nights. The AGM of the Gippsland Bush Poets Club was held at the 'home' of the G.B.P., the Rosedale Hotel on July 6th. The committee for the following year is:

President:	Dennis Carstairs
Vice President:	Russell Heathcote
Secretary:	Julie Carstairs
Treasurer:	Jill Fidler
Committee Member:	Len Fidler

The Club looks forward to the Summer and Autumn months where several organisations have been in touch with us to perform at their festivals.

The Club has a public get-together every quarter, the latest of these was held at the Briagolong Hotel on Sunday 20th August. The afternoon went down well with two new members joining our group. The day also saw the official unfurling of our new club banner. The club had the banner made up this year and hope to get permission from organisers of event that hold street parades, such as Corryong and the Australian Championships, to parade our banner in the march. I believe the banner is a great idea, and would encourage other clubs to have one made up. The cost of the banner was \$220 with our logo and name painted on it, measuring 3000 x 1200.

The Gippsland Bush Poets have also moved into the world of computers, and now share a website on the Internet with the Rosedale Hotel.

You can find us on:

www.rose-dale.net/pub'n'poets

We can also be contacted via e-mail:

Clair@i-o.net.au

Submitted by Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, VIC

Kyabram and District Bush Verse Group

G'day from the top end (of Victoria).

Our group, in conjunction with the Ky Lions Club, conducted the 12th Annual (started 1988) "Around The Campfire" at the Ky Club on Thursday 14th September.

An audience of over 100 people enjoyed a great night of top entertainment.

To start the proceedings, President Betty Olle presented the prizes for the Schools Poetry Competition. The winners were Danielle Leocata from St Augustines School with "Mother Nature" and Candice Thompson from Haslem Street School with "Outbush Australia". Book prize winners were Kath Heier and Larissa Beck, and ten encouragement certificates were also awarded. The two winners read their poems to the audience. We have some wonderful junior poets in our ranks.

Co-compères Mick Coventry, Keith Hocking and "Skew Wiff" then introduced an array of poets and yarnspinners.

We had new talent with Jim Campbell from Shepparton, and our own "Johnno" made his debut.

And guess what??? Brenda was there!! At last the secret is out.

Brenda Williams and David travelled from Benalla to take part. Winners on the night were - 'Best Poet' Des Ginnane; 'Best Yarn Spinner' Les Parkinson.

The special "Skew Wiff" award went to Les James. Les is a musician-poet and is an acquisition to our group.

Congratulations to all who took part. Oh! Yes! As it was Olympic theme time, Dave "Skew Wiff" Samaranch ran in with the Olympic hurricane lamp and lit the cauldron on stage. Dave was supposed to light the flame at the Melbourne Olympic in 1956, but he got lost.

Our next meeting is October 2nd at the Fauna Park Kiosk.

Submitted by Grahame Watt.

The Faith of a Friend

*There's a time to sing and a time to sigh,
A time to laugh and a time to cry.
A time when a smile or the touch of a hand
Can let a friend know that you understand.*

*A wok of encouragement for something begun,
Or a round of applause for a job well done.
A strong arm to lean on for someone who's old,
Of the smallest kind deed, can bring pleasures untold.*

*For to give is to know the joy of sharing.
To receive is to know there is someone caring.
And the faith of a friend; to have and to hold
Is of far greater worth than silver or gold.*

*George and I are most grateful for the friendship and love
we received from our friends in poetry during the time of
stress and grief at the loss of our son.*

*It has been very comforting for us to have had so much
support. We thank you all very sincerely.*

Maxine Ireland

"I need five minutes of your time in the office please,
I have this rash upon my bod, it could be some disease."
We head into the office and behind I close the door,
"I'd like a second opinion on it, that's what I do implore.
This rash I am concerned about, it's in a vital spot,
It's spreading fast, it's on my a.., red dot upon red dot."



Just then he lifts his singlet, to expose the reddened blight.
"It could be measles! It's on my groin! I'm in an awful plight!"
Next thing he releases the button and undoes his fly.
"I've seen enough! I get the picture! Hold it there!" said I.
I suggested the chicken pox to set his mind at ease.
"Pox on the genitalia!" – the suggestion didn't seem to please.

Now his pants are around his knees and he holds his undies out.
"This is not a good look!" said I, as I began to shout.
"If someone walks in here right now, what horror will they think?"
But he just goes on exposing, without the slightest blink.
I've been accused of playing favourites and I live with that by and by
But if someone witnesses this, who knows next what they might try.

"Have you been out in the garden?" my mind recoils to ask,
Thinking of something more innocent, caused by a menial task.
"No way!" says John, "I'm worried mate, I want an answer fast!"
"Well, best you see the doctor, he's the one should know,
Plus he'll get paid to sit there, while you repeat your strip show."

Well, the doctor solved the riddle of this reddened rash,
It seems it was the end result of a recent bicycle crash.
As John was riding p... from the pub, peddling with maximum mettle,
He parted company with the bike, landing in a stinging nettle.
So all his fears and worries have really been for naught,
An innocent little garden rash has got him so distraught.

Next time you're in such a panic and come knocking at my door,
Keep your blimmin' clothes on, don't go acting like a whore.
Think about me reputation, you've left it all in tatters,
The staff are queuing at my door to discuss all sorts of sexual matters.

I wouldn't really mind if I could hit 'em with a fee
But I'm playing Doctor Feelgood, and I'm doing it for free,
So now with the diagnosis done and the cream applied with glee,
I hope life can return to the humdrum in this crazy factory.

**Results of Performance sections
Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival
2000**

Category 1 – Novice

- 1st Patricia Markey, Kilcoy
- 2nd Red Earl, Wynnum
- 3rd June Hansen, Tiaro

Category 2 – Junior

- 1st Stuart Nivison, Cleveland
- 2nd Tom Hughes, Forest Lake
- 3rd Amanda Corbett
- HC Evan Schnalle, Rockhampton

Category 3 – Open Serious Female

- 1st Anita Reed, Holland Park
- 2nd Liz Ward, Mt. Perry
- 3rd Marilyn Masters, Delaney's Creek

Category 4 – Open Serious Male

- 1st Milton Taylor, Portland
- 2nd Noel Stallard, Arana Hills
- 3rd Merv Webster Snr, Margate

Category 5 – Original

- 1st Milton Taylor, Portland
- 2nd Gary Lowe, Chittaway Bay
- 3rd Rod Williams, Murrurundi

Category 6 – Open Humorous Female

- 1st Liz Ward, Mt. Perry
- 2nd June Hansen, Tiaro
- 3rd Marilyn Roberts, Oxley

Category 7 – Open Humorous Male

- 1st Milton Taylor, Portland
- 2nd Noel Stallard, Arana Hills
- 3rd John Best, Whiteside

Category 8 – Duo Competition

Marilyn Roberts and Doug Hutcheson

Category 9 – Yarnspinning

- 1st Joe Waite, Scarborough

Overall Camp Oven Festival Champion

Milton Taylor, Portland, NSW

Pine Rivers Shire Council

Mayors Encouragement Award

Stuart Nivison, Cleveland, Qld

**NSW Bush Poetry Championships
Tumut NSW**

*In conjunction with the Festival of Falling Leaves
Tumut RSL Club, 20th, 21st, 22nd April 2001*

\$1,000 trophies - \$800 Prize money

Categories

- A Mens Original and Traditional/Established
- B Ladies Original and Traditional/Established
- C Book
- D Yarnspinning
- E Best Country Singer
- F Junior Bush Poets
- G All Rounder ****New Section****

NSW Bush Poetry Championship Programme

- Fri 7pm Registration of Poets & Country Music night
- Sat 7.30am Poets Breakfast
- Sat 10am Championship Recitals
- Sat 1pm Championship Recitals
- Sat 8pm Gala night (everyone gets a go)
- Sun 7.30am Poets Breakfast
- Sun 10am Championship Recitals
- Sun 1pm Championship Recitals
- Sun 8pm Presentation Night and Farewell

Visitors are advised to book accommodation as soon as possible.

New Additional Section for the NSW Bush Poetry Performance Championships, to be called the "All Rounder". This section (Section G) will call for poets to perform a poem they have entered in the NSW Bush Poetry Written Championship, 2001.

Competitors who have already received entry forms for the Performance Championship, and who wish to enter the new Section G, are advised to include a note advising the co-ordinator of their intention to enter when they return their entry forms.

All intending competitors should contact the co-ordinator for the entry forms, judging criteria, and rules of entry, which will explain each Section in more detail. Contact Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington NSW 2641. Please send SSAE, or phone/fax 02 6025 3845. Entries close 31st December 2000. **Entry fee \$5.00 per section**

Suggested accommodation in Tumut (distance from RSL Club)

Hotel Star	02 6947 1102	Next door
Hotel Royal – Motel	02 6947 1129	100 metres
Hotel Wynyard	02 6947 1104	150 metres
Hotel Commercial	02 6947 1040	150 metres
Hotel Oriental	02 6947 1174	300 metres
Motel Ashton Townhouse	02 6947 1249	150 metres
Motel Elms	02 6947 3366	200 metres
Tumut Motor Inn	02 6947 4523	250 metres
Motel Farrington	02 2947 1088	400 metres
Motel Amaroo	02 6947 7200	500 metres
Caravan Park – Riverglade	02 6947 2528	1 km
Caravan Park – Blowering Rd	02 6947 1383	6 kms



BOSS COCKY

© Dennis Carstairs

Now the Republic referendum –
I know where that went wrong
T'was all in the word 'President'
So we gave the lot the gong.

Now I reckon, if I were Howard
I'd make a Government decree
That we'll call our head of state
By the dinkum – 'Boss Cocky'.

Boss Cocky is an Aussie term
And one that's not so bland
An we'll call our Prime Minister
The Countries Leading Hand.

The Politicians will be Squatters
Tis a fitting name I say
The Squattocracy of Canberra
Where logic goes astray.

The public servants we'll call Ringers
There's enough of them, I swear
The Boss Cocky could sack half of them
And no one would really care.

The Press we'll call the Stockmen
Because they're rounding up our thoughts
And Ned Kellys will be Squatters
Charged with travel rorts.

The Treasurer will be the Bushranger
You know – the man with the hidden face
And our Tourism Minister
Will be known as Christopher Skase.

Yeah I'm dinkum bout this plan 'o' mine
But I can hear your doubts and scoffs
The Premiers of each and every state
Will be henceforth known as Toffs.

The Tax Office will be the Shearers
Because like Sheep we're being shorn
And the Boss Cocky – I must say
Should be one – Australian born.

The Boat People will come no more
Because we'll erect a Dingo fence
And we'll go back to the good ol' days
Of Pounds an Shillings an Pence.

Political parties will have emblems
The Libs – of course, the Lion
Labour a red Kangaroo
An the Nats, a Porcupine.

The Democrats we'll call the Duffers
For agreeing to the GST
And the Speaker of the House
We will call the Referee.

Yeah – I reckon that's my Ministry
And one we oughter keep
Oh! And us 'ordinary' Australians
Well – we'll still be called 'the Sheep'.

Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up

The 4th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Round-up is over, and with the number of competing poets, it was the 2nd biggest competition, outside of Tamworth, this year. I thank you all for making it the success it was.

Maureen Stonham, that diamond, what a true blue Aussie mate she is, words cannot express my thanks to her. Then there were the others, Wally, Jack, Graham, Gary Lowe who made the show happen, Carol Stratford and Carol Reffold who worked so hard to help out, and there are possibly others that I don't know about as yet. All I can say is "Thanks Mates!" You see, for those of you who didn't make it, I took crook on the Friday night and missed my own festival, ending up in hospital, where I was nursed back to near healthy by the staff. They kicked me out after ten day – they'd had enough!! Thanks for the many cards, letters, phone calls, visits, and wait for it, FLOWERS. You all made me feel so important, yet you see, everything ran smoothly without me. I was so disappointed I missed it all, and at the same time I knew that it was in the hands of Maureen so it could be nothing short of great.

I was disappointed about just a few things; only two Juniors competing, I really expected more. The 'Roast Dinner' Saturday night,

I spoke to the caterers and was verbally abused. I'm taking that further, but I must apologise to you all.

Carol Stratford has taken some great photos that she has for sale. Anyone wanting them should contact Carol either by phone/fax 07 3209 3720 or write to 10 Sylvania St, Woodridge Qld 4114. There is a great shot of Selby and George Ezzy.

The Round-up raised \$1232 for the various charities, so I thank you all, my friends and I hope everyone of you had a good time (you should have, I wasn't there to annoy you!) I heard from the local Progress Association, they couldn't believe 87 people in the hall on Friday night. I don't know how many were at the Cultural Centre on Saturday, but they said there were 60 odd for breakfast on Sunday. I thought the judges on Friday night did a good job, until they disqualified me for telling lies! And a big thanks must go to Bill Glasson, Ray Essery and Gary Fogarty for all they did.

By the way, I'll treasure those poems from the brawl for the rest of my life, you bunch of 'b's' they brought tears to my eyes. Thank you all, and thank you Rosemary and Peter what a great job you two did.

Well I'm back on deck, sort of, and I'll catch up with you all around the traps.

Submitted by Kev J Barnes, Millmerran, Qld

South Bank Poetry

South Bank got off to a healthy start in early August with a dozen poets taking part and a few sitting quietly on the fence. Because most of these were poets not usually seen at competitions around South East Queensland it was encouraging.

We learned that South Bank is also a springboard to project new poets into the mainstream familiar to most of us. Two new poets found their way to North Pine and one to Millmerran. Unfortunately the multiple choice of events in August reduced our numbers which are steadily climbing again.

The prestigious Lord Mayor's Bush Poetry Competition starts with Heats on 30th September at the Board Walk, three Males and three Females being chosen for the finals on Australia Day. If you can't make it to Tamworth and you live near Brisbane, this could be the competition for you. Bring the kids along too; there's a kid's section we'd like to fill.

Give me a bell for further information
(07) 3886 0747.

Submitted by Wally Finch, Kallangur, Qld

The Bard's Awards

Nominations from ABPA members are now being called for this year's Bard's Awards. The first award is for the betterment of Bush Poetry – to be awarded to the person who you the members feel deserves to be honoured for their contribution to Bush Poetry as a whole. The second and third awards will be given to what you the members choose to be the best original poem for the year – female and male. The fourth and fifth awards will be given for the most consistent overall performers of the year – male and female. And last, but not least, the final award will be given to the best group of performing poets for the year.

Simply place the name of your choice next to the number of each category, and send to the Bard's Awards, PO Box 643, Singleton, NSW 2330. Counting will continue till the 25th of December 2000, and the Bard's Awards will be awarded at the Tamworth Country Music Festival, January 2001.

The Bard's Awards categories are –

1. For the betterment of Bush Poetry Award
2. The women's Original Poem of the year
3. The men's Original Poem of the year
4. The women's Most Consistent Performer of the year
5. The men's Most Consistent Performer of the year
6. The best performing Group of Poets for the year.

Please print your nominations clearly, stating the name of your nominee and where possible the state and/or town they reside in, so as not to confuse two people with the same name.

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- Oct 7-8 **Australian Camp Oven Festival**, Millmerran Qld.
 Oct 8 **Bush Poets morning at Rudds Pub**, Nobby from 7:30am.
 Oct 11 **Palma Rosa Poets** 7.00pm for 7.30pm Bookings Essential \$18 Ph Trisha Anderson 3268 3624
 Oct 15 **Day in the Country**, Tintaldrá, V. 11am Recreation Ground Bookings Betty Walton 0260779201
 Oct 18 **The Websters at Kilcoy Unplugged**, Graham 07 5497 1045 or Marilyn 07 5496 3690
 Oct 28 **Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets Spring Festival Bush Poetry**. Ph Murray 02 6657 2139, or Maureen 02 6568 5269
 Oct 28 **South Bank Poets Mini Competition**. 2pm Board Walk Theatre. Ph Wally or Mary Finch 07 3886 0747
 Oct 31 Closing Date **Dubbo Outback Writers' Centre** Literary Competition. PO Box 2994 Dubbo 2830. Details page 14
 Oct 31 Closing Date **Australian Bush Laureate Awards** Call Max Ellis Marketing 02 6766 1577
 Nov 5 **Land of the Beardies Festival**, Glen Innes, NSW 7.30am Town Hall Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition
 Nov 12 **Glengallan Bush Poetry** Allora Community Hall, Allora Q. Mrs. Brenda Moscrop 07-54264948.
 Nov 25 **South Bank Poets Mini Competition**. 2pm Board Walk Theatre. Ph Wally or Mary Finch 07 3886 0747
 Nov 30 Closing date for **The Blackened Billy Verse Competition** for Written Australian Bush Verse. Details page 14

2001

- Jan 24-26 **Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition** Heats
 Jan 27 **Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition** Finals
 Jan 27 **The Blackened Billy Verse Competition** Presentation of Award 11 am at the Imperial hotel, Tamworth NSW
 Jan 19 Closing Date for **Chinchilla Melon Festival Written Comp**. Entrys Ph 07 4662 7088
 Feb 16-18 **Chinchilla Melon Festival**. Poets Breakfasts, Melon Field Day. For more information, phone 07 4668 9564
 Mar 15-18 **John O'Brien Bush Festival**. Poets Brekkys Saturday and Sunday, Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672392
 Mar 16-18 **Yackandandah Folk Festival** Contact 0260269224 Email yackfolk@netc.net.au
 Mar 17-18 **High Country Poets**, O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe, Q. Cash prizes for Original and Traditional Ph Jack 07 4683 7169
 Mar 18 **Country Music Rush Bush Poetry Competition**, Jondaryan Woolshed, Qld. Phone Dell (07) 4635 6429 (a/h)
 Apr 6-8 **Man From Snowy River Festival**. Phone/fax Jan Lewis 0260774332 email poefarm@corryong.albury.net.au
 Apr 20-22 **NSW Bush Poetry Championships**, Tumut NSW. Ph Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845 Entries close 31st December, 2000
 Apr 20-22 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush** Applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW Or Phone 0267 361082
 May 12-13 **Eulo Annual Mother's Day Fair**, Written & Performance Comps. Ph Janine 07 46554862, Fax 07 46554901

THE GOOD LIFE

© O. Gamble, Moana SA

Ma bought her small tomato plant
 At last years country fair.
 She watered it and cherished it
 To go near, no-one dare.

A hessian sack was put around
 To keep it from the wind.
 Ans as it grew tied to a stake
 We saw it blossoming.

The laterals were soon removed
 With fingers carefully.
 'And keep that dog away', she yelled
 'It's not a bloomin. tree.'

Gramps said he didn't mind at all
 To go outside at night
 And maybe 'wet' the soil a bit
 To stop it getting blight.

Pa'd gotten there before him
 And sprinkled chook manure.
 'She'll 'ave the biggest tomatoes
 I reckon, that's for sure.'

Son Jimmy had these hormone pills
 He'd bought, his spots to clear.
 So he shared them with the growing plant
 'Might do more good out here.'

Ma didn't know what they had done.
 She thought 'twas all her care
 To see her vine come so alive
 And fruit begin to bear.



Tomatoes they were as big as grapes
 But soon had swelled in size.
 Then hung like grapefruit on the vine
 Before one's very eyes.

Word got around at Ma's great feat
 As crowds flocked out to see
 Gramps boasted at the local pub,
 'It's where I go to pee.'

A television crew drove out
 To film it nationally.
 'Twas on the ABC that night.
 And what a sight to see!

Ma was parading in her best.
 Pas was doing the same.
 Jimmy was eyeing the female crew.
 Whilst Gramps got pinched by dames.

There had to be some jealous soul.
 And it turned out to be
 A garden expert on telly.
 The one on Channel C.

Who said it wasn't possible
 For fruit to grow apace.
 'Twas then Gramps plucked a tomato
 And shoved it in his face.

But one good thing came out of this,
 It really made Ma's dream.
 A beautifying lotion called
MA'S FACIAL TOMATO CREAM.

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
- Every Wed** **Matilda Country Caravan Park, Winton, evenings 'Pinki and her Pee Wee Poets'**
- 1st & 3rd Wed** **Kilcoy Unplugged,** 7.00 p.m. Kilcoy Gardens Motel Restaurant, Gold Coin Entry Ph Graham 07 5497 1045
- Every Saturday** **South Bank Poets** 1pm, Board Walk Theatre on the river, near the Maritime Museum. Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- Last Saturday** **South Bank Poets, Mini Competition.** Winners to compete at Lord Mayors Australia Day Bush Poetry Competition

NEW SOUTH WALES

- 1st Tuesday** **Tugarah Lakes Poetry Group.** (except Jan) 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club, 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay. Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde. Ph Graeme Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
- 1st Sunday** **Poets in the Making,** 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264
- 2nd Monday** **Parakeet's Poets,** Katoomba. Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets** - 7pm - Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Wednesday** **Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets,** 7pm April, June, August, October Phone Murray 02 6657 2139
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm Unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth Ph Keith 02 6766 4164 or Maureen 6765 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, 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
- 6 weekly, Thursdays** **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



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.

PALMA ROSA POETS present Elizabeth Lord and 'The Mullimbimby Bloke' Ray Essery at historic Palma Rosa, 9 Queens Road, Hamilton Wednesday 11th October at 7.00pm for 7.30pm Bookings Essential \$18 (including supper) BYO Drinks Enquiries and Bookings - Trisha Anderson 3268 3624, or ESU 3262 3769

BUSH POETS BREAKFAST AND COMPETITION

Sunday 15 October at 7am. Held at the Pimlico Performing Arts Building, Pimlico High School, Fulham Rd, Townsville. This event is being held in conjunction with the North Queensland Champion of Champions Country Music Festival. For further information contact Leanne Luther on 07 47798034.

DAY IN THE COUNTRY Tintaldra, Vic

Top Spot at the Top of the Murray!

Sunday 15th October, 2000 11am Recreation Ground See Barry Paton (MFSR Challenge Champion) & his team in action with Jimmy the Brumby and his tricks. Up and coming junior riders and Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers, musicians & friends. Non-competitive, with open mike. \$20 Adults \$10 Concession, children & performers includes BBQ lunch and afternoon tea. Bookings Betty Walton 0260779201. Market Stalls \$5

KILCOY UNPLUGGED

18th October - The Websters - Merv Snr, Merv and Chris at the Kilcoy Gardens Motor Inn commencing 7pm. Enquiries - phone Graham Fredriksen (07) 5497 1045, or Marilyn Williams (07) 5496 3690

SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB INC.

The Club where EVERYONE GETS A GO!
Club Championships Saturday 21 October 2000 at 7:30pm, Corowa Golf Club. Accommodation available. Meal available from 6pm in Bistro

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

THE LORD MAYOR'S BUSH POETRY COMPETITION, October 28

South Bank Parklands, Brisbane
Category 1 - Junior (boys and girls under 16 years)
Category 2 - (Female) Humorous Traditional or Modern
Category 3 (Male) Humorous Traditional or Modern
Category 4 (Female) Humorous Original Poetry
Category 5 (Male) Humorous Original Poetry
For more details, phone Wally 07 3886 0747

DUBBO OUTBACK WRITERS' CENTRE

Outback Australia Literary Competition \$1000 Prizemoney
To celebrate the Centenary of Federation 1901-2001. Entry fee of \$5 per entry, no limit to number of entries. Section 1 - story, article or essay to maximum of 1500 words. Section 2 - poem to maximum of 80 lines (any style). The entries must relate to Outback Australia. Closing date: 31st October. For full details and entry form, send a business sized, SSAE to Outback Writers' Centre Inc., PO Box 2994 Dubbo NSW 2830

AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

closing date 31st October 2000
Book of the Year Award * Album of the Year Award * Single Recorded Performance of the Year Award * Further information from Max Ellis Marketing 02 6766 1577 or email mem@mem.net.au

LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL, 5th November, at Glen Innes, NSW. Starting at 7:30am with Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition in the Glen Innes Town Hall. Section 1: Original, Section 2: Traditional. Prizes per section - 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50. Also encouragement award and Yarn Spinning Competition. For entry forms and accommodation information write to Nell Perkins, Flat 3, 125 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370

GLENGALLAN COUNTRY MUSIC, BUSH POETRY & ROCK & ROLL FESTIVAL.

Allora Community Hall, Herbert Street, Allora, QLD. 4362. 12th November 8am Start. Entry Fees: Seniors \$5.00, Juniors \$3.00 Trophies for Prizes.

JUNIORS—
1. TRADITIONAL POETRY
2. HUMOROUS POETRY.
SENIORS
1. ORIGINAL POETRY
2. TRADITIONAL POETRY
3. HUMOROUS POETRY.

Entries- Mrs. Brenda Moscrop, 629 Coominya Connection Road., Coominya Q 4311 Phone 07-54264948.

Entries close Monday 6th November 2000.

THE LORD MAYOR'S BUSH POETRY COMPETITION, Nov 25

South Bank Parklands, Brisbane
Category 1 - Junior (boys and girls under 16 years)
Category 2 - (Female) Humorous Traditional or Modern
Category 3 (Male) Humorous Traditional or Modern
Category 4 (Female) Humorous Original Poetry
Category 5 (Male) Humorous Original Poetry
For more details, phone Wally 07 3886 0747

THE BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION 2001

Closing date 30th November, 2000. Written Australian Bush Verse. Entry fee \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00, extra entries \$3.00 each. Presentation of Winners and Highly Commended at Imperial Hotel, Tamworth, on Saturday 27th January 2001, 11am. Prizes - 1st \$150 and Trophy and Certificate, 2nd \$100 and Certificate, 3rd \$50 and certificate. Highly Commended - certificates. To enter, send SSAE to Maureen Quickenden, PO Box 1164, Tamworth, NSW 2340

SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB INC.

Christmas Party, Commercial Club, 77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga. Sunday 10 December 2000 at 12 noon, Cost \$10.00 each 2 course meal (Roast of the Day). Booking and Enquiries Reg 02 6040 2508, Sue 0415 922 315

CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL "Bush & Melon Poetry Writing"

Competition. Section 1: Bush Poem, Section 2: Melon Theme Poem. These two sections are each split into Open, High School, and Primary School Categories. Entries close Friday 19th January 2001. Announcement of Winners and Prize Presentations will take place at a Poets Breakfast at the Chinchilla Museum on 18th February 2001. Entry forms may be obtained by contacting Browns Furniture, Chinchilla, on 07 4662 7088, or writing to Melon Festival Committee Inc. PO Box 556 Chinchilla 4413

CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL 16 - 18 February 2001

Poets Breakfast on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th
Melon Field Day, Melon Parade, Concert, lots of Festival Activities. For more information, phone 07 4668 9564

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

JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL 15-18th March, 2001

Celebrates the rural pioneering spirit and pays tribute to John O'Brien of "Around the Boree Log" fame. Poets Brekkys Saturday and Sunday, Bush dance, Some beaut shows at night, and big day in the street on Saturday. Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672392 or

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

Narrandera Visitors Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera. 2700
email tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au

YACKANDANDAH FOLK FESTIVAL (NE Vict)
16th - 18th March 2001 Run by volunteers. Music, Dance, Sessions, Workshops & Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers & friends hosting Poets' Breakfasts etc.
Contact 0260269224 Email yackfolk@netc.net.au

COUNTRY MUSIC RUSH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION
Jondaryan Woolshed, Queensland, Sunday 18th March 2001
Written poetry competition judged prior to the weekend
Phone Dell (07) 4635 6429 (a/h)

MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL 6 - 8 April 2001
The Man From Snowy River Challenge - horse event over 3 days, Riley's Ride, novelty events, lots of family fun - Ph 02 6076 1992. Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers organise the poetry events. Poets interested in performing/judging/helping or donating products for encouragement awards please phone/fax Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332 or email poetfarm@carryong.albury.net.au

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 a Champion Yarnspinner and a "Best Country Singer" section which will be judged during a Gala Night Saturday 21st April, 2001. \$1,000 trophies - \$800 Prize money. Categories for Mens Original and Traditional/Established, Ladies Original and Traditional/Established, Book, Yarnspinning, Junior Bush Poets, All Rounder. Entry fee \$5.00 per section. 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.

TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH \$2001 in 2001
"Legendary Masters" 20 to 22 April 2001
Entertainers "The Naked Poets". The Federation Year in Tenterfield is huge with \$2001 for the Amateurs. For applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW Or Phone 0267 361082

EULO ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FAIR
12-13 May 2001. Written and Performance Poetry Competitions for adults, primary and secondary children. \$1500 in prize money plus trophies. Inaugural "Dangerous" Dan Smith Memorial Trophy. Written competition closes at the end of March. Entry forms not available as yet. Enquiries: Janine Haig "Moama" Eulo Q. 4491. Ph. (07) 46554862, Fax (07) 46554901 or email: janinehaig@bigpond.com. Put the date on your calendars and come and see that Eulo really does exist.

Thank you to our Contributors

Mavis Appleyard	Janine Haig
John & Gaye Barclay	June Hansen
Key Barnes	Joan Hill
Jade Brischke	Neil Hulm
Ellis Campbell	Maxine Ireland
Dennis Carstairs	Alma Lester
Holly de Dikard	Geoff Lynch
Joye Dempsey	Jan Morris
Wally Finch	Ron Selby
O Gamble	Olive Shooter
Craig Gascoigne	Karen Stockham
Marco Gliori	Carol Stratford
Geoffrey Graham	Tony Strauss
Harry Grinblat	Grahame Watt

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

I hope all the members of the ABPA get a kick out of the three finalists' poems for the "Where/What is Bobby Miller" comp on page 6. The entries received were hilarious, and a great prize in on offer for the final winner, but I need help to determine who that worthy person should be. Thank you to all members who entered, and please send in your poems about Geoffrey Graham for this month's competition (see page 8)! *My apologies to both Bobby and Geoffrey for using their names in vain!*

Is there anyone out there who would like the opportunity to take on the Editor's position? The job is a lot of fun - albeit hard work - and I would recommend the experience to any budding or knowledgeable journalisticly-inclined person! Please let me know if you are interested, or even if you would like to know a little more about the how/what/when/etc.

Best regards, Jennifer Priest



THE PRODUCT SHELF

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



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

"Skew Wiff Kelly"

Bush Verse and Yarns

By Grahame Watt

Book \$13.50 pp Tape \$13.50 pp

Popular prices: *Well! I like them.*

Book & tape \$25.00

4 Bond Street, Kyabram, Vic 3620

You've read the books (or you SHOULD have!)
**I Hope Yer Sheep Get Flyblown and
Always Wear Clean Knickers.**
Now listen to the tape **Where's Eulo?**

(and it's nowhere near Kyabram, Skew Wiff!)
Books and tapes available from
Janine Haig, "Moama" Eulo Q. 4491
\$12 each, \$20 for 2, \$30 for 3 p.p.

"OF WAR AND OTHER THINGS" \$15.00

"LITTLE RED BOOK" \$10.00

PLUS \$1.25 POSTAGE

JOYE DEMPSEY PO BOX 257,
CROYDON PARK NSW 2133
OR PHONE (02) 9797 7575

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 **October 2000**

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**



Heritage Corner
 This space devoted to
 preserving the character of our
 Australian Heritage
 Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikard

*The Waterbag, cooled by evaporation,
 is an Australian invention.*

The outback explorer Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792 – 1855) is credited with inventing the waterbag. Mitchell, who was Surveyor-General, had served in the Peninsula War in Spain during the Napoleonic Wars. Perhaps he got the idea from the goat skin wine carriers

the Spanish used. Alternatively, perhaps he observed that the Aborigines carried their water in kangaroo skins and realised that this was a better method than the wooden kegs he had been using. Sir Thomas ordered some bags to be made from canvas, which were then greased with tallow to make them waterproof. The tallow tainted the water, however, and plain canvas bags were then tried. When the canvas was wet it contained the water satisfactorily, but as the water slowly seeped through the canvas and evaporated it cooled the contents. This worked particularly well if the bag was left in a breeze. Today waterbags are often seen hanging on the front of four wheel drive vehicles in many parts of the country.

- OCT 7 1824 FIRST AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN AUSTRALIA HELD IN PARRAMATTA, NSW**
- OCT 19 1863 FAMOUS 3-DAY OCCUPATION OF CANOWINDRA, NSW, BY BEN HALL, ENDED**
- OCT 19 1895 BANJO PATERSON'S 'THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER AND OTHER VERSES' PUBLISHED**



JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. was formed at a meeting in January 1994 at the Tamworth CM Festival.

The purposes of the Association are to:

- * Foster the publication of a Newsletter on a monthly basis to keep members informed of coming events and past results.
- * Promote bush poetry as an art form in the entertainment field, both in the spoken word form and as published verse.
- * Encourage competitions, both written and spoken.

Please fill in details below and remit payment to Secretary/Treasurer. Please use block letters.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to become a member of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Name.....

Home Address.....

Postal Address.....

Signature.....

Amount Enclosed..... Cheque / Cash / Other.....

Membership fee \$25.00 Single, Family or Club member. Juniors \$10.00 (Students to year 12 of education). NEW members joining after July 01, \$13.00 to 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 years' subscription of \$25.00 Financial year Jan to Dec.