

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 11 Volume 7

November 2000

Results of Surat's Cobb and Co Battered Bugle Competition for Bush Verse 2000

- First:** Ellis Campbell, Dubbo
"Federation, The Coach and Me"
- Second:** Ron Stevens, Dubbo
"The Federation Coach"
- Third:** Marilyn Roberts, Brisbane
"The News They Carried on Cobb & Co"
- Highly Commended:** Stephen Burow, Surat
"The Ballad of Maggie and Fred"

Sound Tapes for the Blind and Vision Impaired

Recently 'Skew Wiff' Watt from Kyabram donated a sound tape to 'CONTACT' magazine, which is a sound magazine for the private use of blind people who are members of 'CONTACT'. This sound magazine is produced on standard C90 cassettes for play-back in ordinary cassette tape recorders or on variable speed Talking Book machines. It consists of an editorial, news, discussions and hints, and a range of varied articles, interviews and an Australiana segment, all interspersed with music. It is produced free for legally blind and vision impaired people.

The majority of the "CONTACT" family are Senior Citizens, and always welcome material such as Bush Verse. Mr Bill Scott has been giving his work for many years, and other ABPA members are encouraged to donate to such a worthy cause. The producers are Neil Magill, Val and Des Millican. More information can be obtained by calling Val or Des on (07) 3397 5548.

Tapes can be sent direct to Val Millican, CONTACT Magazine, 43 Bunya St, Greenslopes, QLD 4120

The ABPA would once again like to publish a comprehensive list of Bush Poetry events to be held during the Tamworth Country Music Festival in January. If you are involved in the organisation of any Poetry events or venues during the Festival, could you please send the details to the ABPA Editor as soon as possible? I need: the Day/Date, Time, Venue, Event Details (including contact name and number, compere, entry prices, etc), and any other Details (such as meals available, sign up information, guest performers, etc).

From the Guidelines Committee

At last after many hours of discussion with members and anyone who'd listen or give an opinion, the Committee met at Coffs Harbour in September and collectively drafted the long awaited "Guidelines for Bush Poetry Competitions". Before the AGM we are hoping the collective results of your suggestions and our efforts will be published for your consideration. We trust everyone will understand the Guidelines first published are strictly a draft of a submission. Its approval or rejection is a matter for the AGM to decide.

For more details on this, please see Page 8.

Caloundra 2001

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships will be on from Friday 8th June 2001 at the new Basketball Court, Golden Beach. It's a superb venue with a huge capacity that a Committee of Lions Club members is determined to fill! A full calendar of events and dates will be published in the near future. The programme being developed is looking good. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, all enquiries are welcome. Please phone Wally Finch (07) 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop (07) 5491 3653.



Well, what a response to the "Geoffrey Graham" competition in October's newsletter!

The top five entries appear on Page 9....

Please send in your votes for the winner by 20 December!



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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

I haven't the details of the Annual Meeting to be held in Tamworth, but it will be on the last Saturday of the Festival.

The application form in the magazine worked. Thank-you to those of you who passed them on. I got quite a few of them back with the joining fee. NOTE that your

subscriptions become due on 31st December. I hope some will see their way clear to send the \$25.00 on to me as soon as possible so I don't have a big congestion at the end of the year when I am preparing the books for audit.

We have a lot of new members and we have a lot of our old members who did not renew. The numbers are not very different but it is disappointing to find that 6 foundation members did not join up in 2000.

Fond regards, Olive Shooter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, as expected, we had zero response to last month's plea to fill the executive positions, but we still have another month or two before the

AGM. So all those members who are thinking about the positions will be able to get in on the last rush.

It is with a very deepened heart I report that SOMEBODY died last month. You see, everybody thought that somebody would do the body of the work. But nobody thought that somebody would die and leave everybody the body of the work that anybody could do without somebody asking anybody to do it. Now if everybody could do what somebody thought anybody could do then nobody would have to worry. But... such is life!

The annual is well underway though we seem to have many lady poets in this year and the fella's seem to be a little shy. So if there are a few male members who would like to contribute to this year's annual please send them in ASAP.

I have been running the monthly poetry at Bon Amici Coffee Shop in Toowoomba for about the last 3 years or so, and lately it has been a little disappointing (last month only 4 turned up) but we will carry on regardless. Maybe some of the members who run any of the other monthly get-togethers across the country could send in a little report now and then on how they are being received lately.

There are still a few competitions on this year and many more allocated for next year. Since the inception of the GST and the recent high rise in the price of fuel, I for one am finding it much more difficult to get to many events.

In April next year, Neil Hulm will be conducting the NSW Championships for the first time. Maybe (as previously suggested) some other members or clubs will instigate the Victorian or the Queensland Championships. It would be very interesting to find the best poets in each state providing a poet (any poet) be limited to entering the competition for his home state.

Ron Selby, President

Quote of the month:

*Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who's never turned his head and said,
"Hmmm! Not bad!"*

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

RON STEVENS



Born in Richmond NSW in 1926, Ron spent two years in the RAAF, before transferring to the RAN, where he remained until his retirement. He then took a BA at Macquarie, majoring in English and History, to 'get his mind back into gear'. This background, he hastens to add, does not disqualify him from writing about the bush, its characters and its place in history. Ron and his wife Clo moved from Hornsby to Dubbo in 1994.

Ron has been writing poetry and prose for over 20 years and has won over 90 written verse competitions in all states. These include a Bronze Swagman and two Blackened Billys. He has published four volumes of poetry and regularly conducts poetry workshops, as well as judging poetry competitions. Ron won the Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award in 1996, also gaining the runner-up place in 1999, and is a regular performer at Tamworth.

In his spare time, Ron is a voluntary reader of books for the blind and print-handicapped for The Australian Listening Library.

Soliloquy at Albury, 1883

© Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW

I know it is an honour to be invited here to share this great shivoo and be named a pioneer by gentlemen of substance who've come by special train to mark the railways' meeting upon the Murray plain. The speeches praised – and rightly – our trusted leader Hume. He blazed the trail from Appin, despite the daily gloom of pompous Captain Hovell, who later magnified his bushcraft, navigation and oftentimes he lied.

No speaker mentioned this, for today was one for cheer. Besides old Hovell's silent now in his Goulburn bier; and Hume himself's been buried for – what? – nine years at least. I'm probably the last of the party not deceased. So Thomas Boyd from Dublin, ex-highwayman to boot, is mixing with the toffs and explaining that the route we took to Westenport was a rougher one throughout and some of us were fearful we'd see the journey out.

As convicts though, Fitzpatrick and I had little choice. We'd follow masters' orders yet sometimes we'd rejoice in silence when the blunders that Hovell often made were shown as panic measures for which we'd all have paid. I mind when Hume and I swam across the Murray's spread with lines to drag the punt, so that we might forge ahead, as Captain Hovell sulked and then scribbled on his pad the plan was his alone and that Hume had thought him mad.

To hell with English gentry! I'll have a glass of ale and toast the red-haired Hume and his forebears out of Gael. Too late for my returning to Ireland's tortured shore for freedom's bound me, loving this land I helped explore.

REVIEW – "Reversals" (book)

The poetry of Ron Stevens needs little introduction to most ABPA members. Many have read at least one of his poems, as this prolific writer is also a prolific winner of poetry competitions.

However, it is the first time this reviewer has had the opportunity to read a collection of Ron's verse. What an inspiring experience it has been! In his latest book 'Reversals', this accomplished poet is not content to rest on his laurels, but continually pushes towards a further goal. He experiments with different styles of poetry, with humour, pathos and many shades between, and with rhyme, rhythm and free verse. The four sonnets in varying techniques are truly a challenge well conquered!

Ron's choice of subject matter is equally wide-ranging, varying

from 'bush' tales to historical reveries to suburban kerbside cleanup days. Much of Ron's work shows an interest in history, with well known (or sometimes little known) incidences being explored. His poetry is often intense, tempered occasionally by the revelation of a subtle humour. His grasp of language is extensive, and his use of it free flowing and rhythmic.

Although some may not classify this book as containing strictly 'bush' verse, it is a book that many bush poets should read. It is an encouragement for writing poets – not to become complacency and satisfied with less than their best, but to continually work on their skills and strive for better.

Read it and be inspired!

What's your worst habit?

Agreeing to judge poetry competitions.

What do you consider to be the most important invention of the last century?

The ring-pull beer can.

What's your dream job?

I already have it: retired, with time to read, to write and to attend poetry performances!

Who do you admire most?

My wife, Clo, who tolerates my odd behaviour at night in bed. No, not that sort of thing! Drumming my fingers to the rhythm of a poem-in-progress in my mind.

What started you writing Bush Poetry?

A smug university lecturer who dismissed rhyming poetry as 'out-dated'.

Do you collect anything? If so, what and why?

Yes, I collect the number of times radio and television commentators and interviewers describe something mundane, or even moderately remarkable, as 'absolutely fantastic'. Why? Because I am a masochist, I suppose.

What is your most vivid memory of Primary School?

At a reading-aloud session, when I mispronounced 'picturesque' as 'pictures queue', resulting in scornful laughter from a girl I secretly admired (and never did win).

Dear Editor

Last month I spoke of our strength in numbers and mentioned that it may help in production of our books and tapes, but that was only the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

The real potential of this association and its members is immense. Just to start with there is sponsorship. We have seen sponsors at all the large competitions but what about individual sponsorship, for example, do our more illustrious stars get paid to perform in RM Williams boots? Or Wranglers Moleskins or even Akubra hats? And I wonder how much say, Driza-Bone would pay, or Thomas Cook, to have an ad placed in this mag each month? It's hard to say, but if we don't ask, we will never know. Maybe we could suggest that it's their moral duty to do their bit and improve the plight of this most fundamental part of Australian Bush culture? Or maybe they would love to sponsor our cause? I have no idea, but I do feel that individual sponsorship would enable the better poets of the time to get to more comps and shows. Which improves the general quality of Australian Bush poetry and brings a larger audience, which makes it easier to acquire decent sponsorship and improves the quality of prizemoney, which enables the better poets to attend more comps and shows – and so the cycle goes

It all sounds very ugly but without money it's hard to get by and impossible to get ahead. Even Banjo Paterson got paid by the Bulletin and as our president Ron Selby said "If we expect something good, for nothing – Then we will get something, good for nothing."

Craig A. Gascoigne, Singleton, NSW

Ed Comment: I suggest that Craig tries to develop a sponsorship 'deal' of his own. Personally, I have attempted in the past to encourage several of the above-named companies to sponsor individuals, with no success. As I am no stranger to arranging sponsorships for other interests, it surprises me that Bush Poetry still does not have the recognition or appeal that is needed to gain sponsorships from large brand-names, such as Craig would like to see. It is important that we all promote the art of Bush Poetry at every opportunity, ensuring that we present a professional, entertaining art-form - the kind of thing that these companies would want to sponsor!

Dear Editor

We were fortunate enough to perform some Bush Poetry for a Senior Citizens BBQ last week, and we met an 89 year old Drover, whose memory is sadly fading. But he recalls some lines that his mother used to say and asked if we knew the poem:

"She's somebody's Mother, boys, you know,
Although she's aged poor and slow,
And I hope someone will lend a hand
While he's away in a far off land"

I was hoping that someone out there would recognize these words and be able to shed some light on the name of the poem and author so that we could try to get a copy and make an old man happy.

Any help would be appreciated.

Louise Dean, Bush Wookatook, Prairie, Qld, 4816

Dear Jennifer

May I say a massive thank-you for the wonderful "Centre Stage" you published. I had my newsletter unopened in my drawer for the best part of a week - I was too scared to open it - and then I got an email from Janine Haig saying that she would share a desert island with me any day. My first thought was "Oh Dear God, she's changed her preferences", but then I remembered the bit about the desert island [in the questionnaire].

Love, Joye Dempsey

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

In the ABPA magazine of September some questions were raised about the judging of Performance Bush Verse.

I've had the privilege of being invited to judge on several occasions and would like to add some comments.

The assessment sheets compiled by the ABPA state the different areas on which the judge must decide. The statement therefore that an adjudicator randomly puts ticks on the form is far from the truth. Every judge I worked with in the past has taken his or her task quite seriously. To claim there are sympathy votes is ludicrous and attacks the integrity of the judges.

I would further like to add some suggestions to performers if I may.

- 1). When performing a traditional poem, please aim for the lesser known works of the poet you choose. If – as a judge – you sit through four "Bush Christenings" or several "The Man From Snowy River" it gets a bit dreary. I have two tomes of works by Banjo Paterson and there are some fine poems in there, not as well known, but it would be very refreshing to hear some of those.

- 2). Diction! Diction! Diction! Practice opening your mouth, so the judge can hear every word and every syllable and word ending. There is nothing so tiring as trying to grasp what the performer is saying. Don't mumble. I just had a hearing test and my hearing is 100% but if a performer swallows his words you haven't a hope to make a clear and fair judgement.

- 3). Select a shorter poem or ballad. When there are 140 performances like we had at the Camp Oven weekend, the judges have a heavy task and they can't afford to lose concentration and even judges get tired.

The unusual and professionally performed poem will win out every time. Good luck everyone, and best wishes.

Corry de Haas, Helensvale, QLD

Dear Jennifer

I am sending along a poem which I was obviously inspired to write as I watched the Olympics on TV, and especially the medal presentation to Cathy Freeman following her win.

I guess the sentiments apply to trying in any sphere of life and the ability to accept the win or the loss as it comes our way. As one line says, 'surely there's no greater feat than to be there and to try.'

Thank you again for our ABPA Newsletter.

Yours sincerely, Joyce Alchin, Corrimal, NSW

Dear Jennifer

Well, we met her – Brenda! She came to our 'Round the Campfire Night' at the Ky Club. A tall fair maiden who could have stepped straight from an English country garden. (A tall sheila who spoke with a Pam Ayres twang) She brought her David with her, probably to make You-Know-Who jealous. Janice was there also, we were all watching, the air was electric –

Then she saw 'Skew Wiff', wearing a stupid hat, prancing through the club dining room holding a hurricane lantern aloft, yelling something about being Two Antonio Sold-me-ranch at the 'Lympics ... Well!! I glanced at Brenda. She glanced at David, and I could see that she thought David wasn't so bad after all. She left the club with David.

Skew Wiff left with Janice, and we all gave a sigh of relief. Our Poet's Club can get back to normal.

Joan Hill, Kyabram, VIC

Sub-Committee for Guidelines for Bush Poetry Competitions.

The Sub-Committee, which was elected at the January 2000 A.G.M. at Tamworth, met at Coffs Harbour on the weekend of 23rd and 24th of September, and completed a draft set of Guidelines for Bush Poetry Competitions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of this Committee – Wally Finch (Qld), Liz Ward (Qld), and Milton Taylor (NSW). Also many thanks to Rusty Christensen (WA) and Maureen Stonham (NSW) for the invaluable assistance they provided by their attendance at this meeting.

I would like to thank the members who forwarded information in relation to this subject for consideration at the meeting. All correspondence was discussed, and proved most beneficial in assisting with the completion of the draft.

Ed Parmenter (Convenor)

Dear Jennifer

I had the good luck and privilege to be invited as guest speaker and poet, for the second time, to the annual bush poetry competition held by the Coomba Park Cowgirls on Saturday 8th October. (Coomba Park is situated at the southern end of the great lakes area). I was accompanied by another member of the ABPA, Philip Maiden, who hails from Pampoolah near Taree.

What a wonderful night we had; the level of work and performance would have to be seen and heard to be believed. For a small community of approximately 800 they are surely to be congratulated for hosting such a successful competition in the friendliest and most hospitable manner. It's great work like this that keeps bush poetry alive and well and we are looking forward to visiting them again in the future.

Yours sincerely, Reid Begg, Forster, NSW



FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

Hi there from the West

Here we are again, now in Perth, and have been for a quick trip to the south-west. Such beautiful country around Margaret River and down to the south coast at Augusta, the most south-westerly point of Australia.

We have been kept very busy with Lions Clubs, and also through our own Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, local Perth Chapter. We have been made very welcome, and there has been much enjoyment of our style of bush poetry.

People here seem fascinated to know that there is such a resurgence of poetry around Australia, and there was even a Poets Breakfast organised for the Royal Show here, unfortunately (for me) the program was full before I had managed to contact them.

However, there is certainly scope for people to come west and enjoy the hospitality of many groups. I have a booking for an Arts Council meeting also in Busselton in a few weeks.

We will be staying here in the south-west of the country until early December, so will pass on more highlights next month.

We also look forward to being back in Tamworth at the end of January.

Regards, John Barclay - the Rambling Poet

AUSTRALIA BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 2001

presented by LONE STAR STEAKHOUSE & SALOON
Nomination Form Conditions

Objectives of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards, presented by Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon, held annually during the Tamworth Country Music Festival, are...

- to recognize excellence in Australian bush verse;
- to encourage and promote the publishing and recording of traditional Australian rhymed verse.

There are four categories in the Awards...

1. **Book of the Year** — for the best original Australian rhymed verse published in book form and commercially released during the eligibility period.
2. **Album of the Year** — for the best recorded album of Australian rhymed verse, commercially released on cd or cassette tape during the eligibility period; albums to contain at least 80 percent spoken word (i.e. not songs).
3. **Single Recorded Performance of the Year** — for the best recorded performance of a particular piece of Australian rhymed verse released as a single or a single from any album commercially released during the eligibility period.
4. **The Judith Hosier Heritage Award** — an award presented to an artist for outstanding achievement in nurturing Australia's unique heritage of rhymed verse.

To be eligible for the Australian Bush Laureate Awards, **product must be published/released between 1st November 1999 and 31st October 2000** (the eligibility period). The **closing date for receipt of entries is 15th November, 2000.**

Judges are selected from the media, publishing and recording industries and judged on the following criteria (except for category four which is a separately nominated and determined award)...

1. **Quality of the verse;**
2. **Entertainment value;**
3. **Presentation and production quality;**
4. **"Australianess" of the verse;**
5. **The variety of styles and moods;**
6. **Quality and appropriateness of illustrations, photos and or artwork.**

Please note: criteria 5 and 6 do not apply to entries in category three (Single Recorded Performance of the Year).

Finalists will be advised in writing and announced to the media during December. Winners will be announced and **awards presented at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards 2001, presented by Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon on Tuesday, 23rd January, at the Tamworth Town Hall.**

Five copies of each book or recording are required regardless of how many categories entered or how many entries are made. Recordings are to be supplied on cd or cassette. **For each entry in any category an entry fee of \$11 (including GST) is required.**

Nomination Forms are available from Max Ellis Marketing, PO Box 298, Tamworth 2340, Phone 02 6766 1577

This poem was inspired by Mavis Appleyard's letter in the October edition of the Newsletter

Sandpaper Love

© Corry de Haas, Helensvale, Qld

I once went to a country dance
Where I met a gorgeous man.
He smiled and introduced himself
Told me his name was Ben.

His manners were impeccable,
When he asked me for a dance,
I gladly walked into his arms
Wouldn't dare to miss this chance.

He gently took me by the hand
We twirled around the floor
And when the music stopped at last
I couldn't wait for one encore.

So we frolicked and we danced all night,
His hand on my bare back,
But when 'twas time to say 'Goodnight'
I felt and looked a wreck.

Red scratches went from left to right
And up and down as well;
My back looked like a checker board
I was sore in every cell.

We dated for a long, long time
We were so much in love,
Yet each time he was caressing me
I told him, "That's enough!"

For I had weals along my arms,
My cheeks and neck were sore
And I knew that this would have to stop
I couldn't take it anymore.

We've been married many years since then
And I'm still his lady-love,
But when he's making love to me
He's wearing rubber gloves!



The Bard's Awards are your awards. The call for nominations for this years Bards Awards will continue till the 25th of December. Please write your name, as only members may vote. Details of entry may be found in the October edition of this Newsletter.

Nominations can be posted to PO Box 643, Singleton NSW 2330. So have a vote and have your say in this, the Poets choice of champions for the year 2000!!

Sooksy (A sad but true story)

© Ron Leikefett, Lawnton, QLD



This is the tale of Sooksy, a lovely little kitten,
Her coat it shone a dazzling black and white.
And Karen loved it dearly, she had indeed been smitten
By its playful ways and eyes which sparkled bright.

A present from a friend it came to fill the lonely hours
That stretched ahead when daily work was o'er.
To bring a little sunshine or to chase away the showers
Of discontent the long hours sometimes bore.

A warm bond grew between them as the months flew swiftly by,
As many precious, playful hours they'd share,
And opening the door each day, her spirits lifted high
When she saw her little Sooksy waiting there.

Each day when coming home from work, a little gift she'd bring,
To help the little kitten's playful ways;
A fluffy mouse, a rattle, or a ball tied to a string,
To keep it happy through the lonely days.

But one day Karen came home from work and saw with deep dismay
On the road there lay a limp and huddled form,
She ran and picked it up but knew she never more would play
With her little Sooksy once so sweet and warm.

For many hours she paced the floor and tried to come to grips
With the tragedy which through her life had passed.
But the name of little Sooksy came unbidden to her lips,
As she realised at last, the die was cast.

With heavy heart she took a spade and a little grave she dug,
Beneath a flowering shrub she'd planted there.
She took her little Sooksy and wrapped her in a rug,
And buried her with tender loving care.

Karen rang her father in a highly anguished state,
And told him of the awful tragedy.
Of how her little kitty had been dealt a cruel fate
And now was laid to rest beneath a tree.

But as her father listened to his daughter's tearful tale,
Her whole demeanor took another tack,
And he heard her screech in happiness and heard her joyful wail:
"Sooksy! Sooksy! Darling, you've come back!"

Now Sooksy is back home again, oblivious to the trauma
That resulted from her brief and sad absence.
And the cuddles she receives from Karen now are even warmer,
Than before she got involved in this adventure.

But, surely this is not the end of this intriguing story,
Of identity mistaken, on that day,
If Sooksy was not buried at that graveside, grim and gory,
Whose moggie's pushing daisies 'neath the clay.

Perhaps someone is waiting for their moggie to return,
And cannot comprehend its awful fate,
Karen surely is intrigued whose cat she did intern,
Mistaken for her cute and cuddly mate.

NSW Bush Poetry Championships

RSL Club Tumut

20th 21st 22nd April 2001

Sit in comfort at your table.

See Australia's top poets in action

Country Music – Yarn Spinners

- where everyone gets a go -

Beautiful Trophies to be won

Refreshments in auditorium

Entries close 31st December 2000

More information

elsewhere in this magazine.

The Camp Cook

© Don Pender, Redland Bay, Qld

I work for a Drover bloke
Today he said to me
I've started two new ringer blokes
It's your turn to cook the tea.

I made myself a damper
Then it began to rain
Of course it put my fire out
So I had to start again

The rain it kept on falling
My damper turned out soggy
I tipped it out upon the ground
And gave it to my doggy.

Like all Australia, the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games had me dipping my lid not only to our athletes, but also to our greatest assets.... the volunteers.

Volunteers

© Marco Gliori

**When the challenge storms to greet you
And the revenue is bleak.**

**When the burden set before you
Grows like mushrooms every week.**

**Bless that soldier of today who
On the battleground appears...**

**He is – she is – they are
That band of selfless volunteers.**

**When fires engulf the countryside
And the water stocks are low
Yet standing fast before your home
You give it one more go.**

**Check your shoulder. Look around you.
You have seen them through the years.
Like an army they'll invade you –
What a mob those volunteers.**

**On the coastlines in a clubhouse,
In that one shed that survived –
By the truckload they have sought us,
By the boatload they've arrived.**

**Down the highway, through the paddock,
Climbing waves above their ears.
Like a lighthouse they were welcome –
Saved again by volunteers.**

**As a child my mother knitted
By a cake stall in the street.
Am I dreaming to see volunteers
In everyone I meet?
Without them our land of plenty
Would not rate among her peers.
But she does – and how we owe it
To our mates – the volunteers.**

*This poem has been awarded Equal First Prize in
"The Forests 2000 Poetry Prize" – judged by Judith Wright*

The Anzac's Incense

© Denis Kevans, Wentworth Falls, NSW

*Yes, we heard their voices murmur, as the streamers broke and flew,
"I'll love you forever, and forever I'll love you",
Did we live and die in madness, in a waste-land over there,
Just to see Australia's forests turned to woodchip over here?"*

*It was a boarding house in Sydney, an old man's sitting there,
With the smoke of burning gumleaves drifting round him through the air,
"It's my incense, mate" he tells me, "it comes from down the Coast,
The gumleaves of the forest, the ones I love the most.*

*"This incense was our wedding gift, it was our wild bouquet,
We breathed in deep the incense, before I sailed away,
A net of moonlight drifting across her face and hair,
And the incense of the gumleaves drifting round us everywhere.*

*"She'd parcel up the gumleaves, and she'd post 'em far away,
And we sweated on the postie, and his parcel, on that day,
And in silence we would gather, and we'd breathe the incense in,
The incense of the gumleaves burning in our dixie tin.*

*"All the acrid stick of battle in that incense sped away,
And scenes of home and loved ones, entered in, as bright as day,
And we heard their voices murmuring, as the streamers broke and flew –
"I'll love you forever, and forever I'll love you".*

*"Now I stumbled through the nightmare of a forest we once knew,
And I thought I heard her whisper – 'Sonny, Sonny, is it you?'
But when I turned to greet her, just a splintered stump I saw,
And the refuse from an army that has won the forest war.*

*"I had longed to find the moonlight, as it lingered on her hair,
All I saw was litter burning, and the smoke fumes everywhere,
I had longed to smell the incense that is always in the green,
But I only smelt the chain-saws, and the stink of dieselene."*

*Yes, we heard their voices murmur, as the streamers broke and flew,
"I'll love you forever, and forever I'll love you",
Did we live and die in madness, in a waste-land over there,
Just to see Australia's forests turned to woodchip over here?"*



2nd prize in Surat Cobb & Co competition

The Federation Coach

© Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW

*We'd been guzzling beer at least three hours,
so affecting judgements made
and opinions each produced on powers
of the Canberra brigade,
since the colonies in nineteen-one
tossed their futures in one pot.
The GST was the smoking gun
which re-echoed loud and hot,
when old Paddy (being Irish) jeered
that our state should now secede;
an unlikely course, but loudly cheered
though we'd doubts it would succeed.*

*'West Australia tried it once,' said Bill,
'or at least they voted yes
but decided not to push uphill
all alone in pique, I guess.'
His remarks led us to concentrate,
in a less rebellious way
on what benefits an outlaw state
would enjoy this present day.
I am sure that both at Tenterfield
And at Corowa's gab-fest,
like concerns were raised, as deals were sealed
and the perks of states address.*

*I repeat, effects of slurping beer
made a nonsense of debate,
but my recollection's pretty clear
that a stranger put us straight
on the subject of the railways, how
they had hastened nationhood:
'Would you gentlemen perhaps allow
that another service should
be remembered in the debts we owe
for linking of the states?
I refer, my friend, to Cobb and Co,
As our record demonstrates.'*

*Yes, his our was odd, allowing that
I had knowledge Cobb and Co
made its final coach-run to Surat
nearly eighty years ago.
But that stranger knew his topic well,
told of drivers tough as nails:
Billy Armstrong swamped in North Bourke's swell;
Tommy Thompson's epic tales.
We heard of a run to Barrington
—'... with Will Ogilvie on board.'
Then before the stranger's yarns were done,
of '... the great James Rutherford.'*

*Finally he offered to recite
Lawson's Lights of Cobb and Co.
Which he did, then murmured, 'Thanks, goodnight,
it is time for me to go.'
I repeat, we'd had our fill of beer
but we revellers all swore
we then saw the stranger disappear
through a locked and bolted door.
By the time I'd stumbled out the back,
only coach-wheel ruts remained,
plus the sound of hoof-beats down the track
which has never been explained.*

From the Guidelines Committee

Respectfully submitted as instructed and on behalf of the Committee, Wally Finch

At last after many hours of discussion with members and anyone who'd listen or give an opinion, the Committee met at Coffs Harbour in September and collectively drafted the long awaited "Guidelines for Bush Poetry Competitions". Before the AGM we are hoping the collective results of your suggestions and our efforts will be published for your consideration. We trust everyone will understand the Guidelines first published are strictly a draft of a submission. Its approval or rejection is a matter for the AGM to decide.

Most items in the guidelines are self-explanatory while some require explanation. For instance ...

Qualifying Scores

At present a performer is usually elevated from Novice status by winning in Novice. While this is a reasonable criteria it has some shortcomings which must be addressed.

1. In competitions with only one entry, because there are no other contestants, the winner is automatic regardless of the quality of the performance. This is unfair on many counts, not the least of which is the performer may not be ready to leave Novice.
2. In competitions where there are many entries and the standard is high, there could be any number of great performances that should elevate the performer from Novice, but at present only the winner can be elevated.
3. Regardless of the number of entries, when the performance standard is low and no one really deserves to be elevated, then no one should.

To address issues such as these a system of Qualifying Scores has been introduced. In principle, this means uncontested winners will be elevated only when they deserve to be and/or when they are ready. Where there are a large number of entries of a high standard, all deserving performances can be elevated, regardless of whether they win or place or not. And performances below par can have elevation withheld even though there may be clear-cut winners.

Judges' Score sheets have been altered to give a total of 100 possible points for a theoretical perfect performance. Take the total score to also represent a percentage.

The Guidelines for a Qualifying Score read:

"A score meeting all of the following conditions is a Qualifying Score which elevates a competitor to the next level of competition:

- (i) a score of 80% or better of a possible total score from all Judges; with,
- (ii) at least 80 points from each Judge; and
- (iii) no section of any Score Sheet score below 12 points."

Deductions

A system of deductions has been introduced for the following reasons.

New Competitors should be permitted to read but encouraged to perform without the aid of books or prompt sheets.

Time Limits are usually in place at most competitions but often not adhered to. Please note that time limits have been increased to 8 minutes to allow time for some classics that cannot be performed in under 7 minutes.

Among other things, competitions should be encouraging performers to develop repertoires big enough to be entertaining. While coincidence of different performers choosing the same poem is often unavoidable, the same poem by the same performer at the same competition is avoidable.

Concerns about smut, obscenity and offensive material creeping into Competitions are widespread. Organising Committees have always had the power to disqualify under such circumstances. These guidelines reinforce both their right and obligation on the matter.

The Guidelines on Deductions read:

(i) Reading

Although competitors may read their work in some categories, unscripted performances are encouraged by automatic deductions as follows:

Novice 10 points

Intermediate 20 points

Open Category Competitors are

expected to be able to perform without help and reading will mean a disqualification.

(ii) *Exceeding Time Limits as detailed in these Guidelines will incur a penalty of 5 points for every 15 seconds or part thereof.*

(iii) *Repeated Poems carry a 10 point penalty.*

(iv) *Bush Poetry is family style entertainment. Obscene or Offensive material will be automatically disqualified and scored zero.*

Regarding the above clause (iv), any decision of what is or is not obscene or offensive is a matter for the majority of the organisers' committee present to decide as mentioned elsewhere in the Guidelines.

Please Vote!

The Committee hopes members will approve the Guidelines submitted and that these Guidelines will serve us well for years to come making future competitive events better and uniform throughout Australia. Please study the submissions and make your opinions known with your vote at the AGM.

The Committee has one last recommendation: that such a Committee be elected at every AGM to constantly review Guidelines and put in place desirable schemes such as Judge's Training.

"Where's Bobby", by June Hansen has to be a winner by content, it seems to me. Her rhyming, her meter, is really spot on as she merrily writes of the Aussie Icon. His whereabouts seem of little concern, but from this verse we really do learn that many a word can praise or defame, and it's great to be part of this Poetry game.

© Beth Vinecombe-Bashford

Yes, June Hansen was the over-whelming favourite (100%) of all who voted on the 3 finalists from last month's competition. *Congratulations June!*

Once again, your assistance is required! I can't pick between these 5 entries - can you? Many thanks to all who entered, and I'm sorry that space doesn't allow all entries to be published.

The Mouth From Eaglehawk

© Glenn Palmer, Cedarvale, Qld

*If you never have seen the Grand Canyon,
can't pay for the flight to the States,
take heart, for there's one here in Aussie,
just as big, inside one of our mates.*

*Geoffrey Graham's got a gob like a cod fish,
you could park a V-Dub in its space
and an Eaglehawk bike and a buggy,
without wiping the smile off his face.*

*Now our Geoffrey is stuck in a wheelchair,
(a modern one, just like his style)
and his foot is all bloodied and bandaged,
and you ask what inflicted this trial?*

*Well it's simple, our Geoffrey's a master,
the best from the North to the South,
but this time he was caught well and truly,
when he got his foot stuck in his mouth!*

GEOFFREY GRAHAM'S WHEELCHAIR

© Mick Coventry, Kyabram

'Twas Geoffrey Graham, from Eaglehawk, that caught the Wheelchair craze,
He'd fallen from his cycle and been very sore for days.
Apparently the bike lies 'neath the murky Dead Man's Creek.
With Geoffrey's lack of riding skill, it happened twice a week.
But this time the bike stayed there, and Geoffrey sought respite,
In the comfort of a Wheelchair, to rest, both day and night.

'Twas Geoffrey Graham, from Eagle hawk, in his Wheelchair bent and old,
(that's the Wheelchair, not Geoffrey, for he's still young and bold?????)
He wheeled his way to Sydney, the Wheelchair squeaked and squawked.
Downhill, he went very fast. Uphill, he should have walked.
He was chasing sporting glory against some famous sporting names,
And had entered the 100 metres, at the Paralympic Games.

'Twas Geoffrey Graham, from Eaglehawk, who faced the starter's gun.
A time of nervous tension, the race would soon be run.
But alas, in his ageing chair, his time was about a minute,
Then the chair fell to pieces, on the track, with Geoffrey in it.
He scrambled from the wreckage and said, "I'm finished with this lark.
I'll change my name from Geoffrey Graham to The Man from Ironbark."

The Perfect Crime

© J J Mannion

I felt fear for Geoffrey Graham when I saw him on page eight
In his wheel-chair looking drawn and gaunt, so I hope I'm not too late
To tell him of a chap I knew (though I won't divulge his name)
Please Geoffrey! Heed this warning, for your symptoms look the same.

There's this fellow asks a lawyer friend for advice about his wife
Who's been giving him all sorts of hell, so he thought to 'end her life'.
But everything he mentioned from Ratsack to Cyanide
The lawyer said left traces just impossible to hide.

He asked of strangulation, at night when it was dark
Then his good friend reassured him, "It always leaves a mark."
"I even thought to drown her in a quick impulsive whim,"
Then explained, "I couldn't catch her, for you see I cannot swim."

The lawyer said, "A doctor friend, whose name I shall not speak
Has a theory on the act of love, with the way it leaves you weak.
He thinks an over dosage of the pleasure meant to thrill
Would leave no signs of torture and he's certain it would kill."

Our chappie says, "Let's do it, I'll put the plan in play
Place a circle on the calendar, she's on her way today."
The lawyer and the doctor thought, after some months had passed
They should go and check the household for she could be on her last.

A frail chap in a wheelchair came when they rang the bell
Good Lord! It was the husband and the poor sod wasn't well.
Then his wife ran through the hallway with footsteps light and deft
As the husband whispered feebly, "She's just got one week left."

Could the photo in our monthly 'Mag' showing Geoffrey ill at ease
Be blamed upon some trick of light (though he's wobbly at the knees).
Is his hat brim casting shadows shielding us from tortured eyes
May he not be going down the road my written verse implies.

But the wheelchair is the lynch pin linking Geoffrey to my friend
Who kept up with the treatment, until the bitter end.
In time an ode will come from this, adding to the wordsmith's purse
When we hear the true rendition he'll immortalise in verse.

Advice to Mr Graham

© Henry Lawson (dec'd)

It's tragic, Mr. Graham, sir,
To see you in a chair.
And knowing that you grappled with
The Angel called 'Despair'.
For when your life is intertwined
With spruiking words in rhyme;
The pressure how it sometimes seems
A futile uphill climb.
I know the pain you're going through
For I once did the same,
But sadly came off second best
And found that I was lame.
I found a trusty walking stick
Effective through the years
And if the pain was bad enough
I downed a few quiet beers.
Though in the end it's up to you
Rise up above it all;
For leaving this old world my man
Is not your beck'ning call.

Banjo - The Chair - And Geoff

© Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW

So Geoffrey is a hundred - or the wheelchair? I'm confused.
Or is that just a tally of the times he's been abused?
Old Banjo was a dapper chap with nifty little hat
and Geoffrey with decorum seems to capture all of that.
An orator of standing with his smooth and subtle ways
that Geoffrey well exemplifies to live in Banjo's days.
A master of deception who transports us down the years
to ride and sing with Banjo - prince of gallant balladeers.
Oh, romance of a day long past his aptitude recalls
of brumby chasing, hurdle racing - nights in wool-shed halls.
He lives and looks like Banjo and he thinks like him as well -
and Geoffrey cons a multitude who fall beneath his spell.
But Banjo clumsy? Never! Always had some class to show -
he wouldn't drop a bag of bull-shit on his biggest toe!

Palma Rosa Report

"Girl's Night Out" Palma Rosa 30th August 2000

What a great night we had at Palma Rosa for our "Girl's Night Out"! We had Janine and Jennifer Haig having some friendly Mother/Daughter jousting and Zita Horton and her talented little daughter Kelsey there too! It certainly was a fun night.

Another fabulous evening's entertainment was at Palma Rosa on Wednesday 11th October, when Ray Essery – our favourite "Mullimbimby Bloke" took the stage.

Ray made us laugh and made us cry with his wonderful poetry. He performed many of our old favourites, but had many new poems for us to enjoy – all delivered in his inimitable style.

Ray is now also a songwriter and the fantastic singer, Elizabeth Lord, performed his new song "A Poet's Lady" ... very beautiful.

Elizabeth Lord and her husband Leigh James were our other guests on this great night. What amazing talent! Elizabeth sang many of their own songs, but also showed us her varied range and repertoire when she sang the haunting "Evita", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", and many other favourites. What a fantastic night it was!

Hopefully we'll be launching our Palma Rosa Poets CD soon.

For all enquiries about Palma Rosa Poets, ring Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or the English Speaking Union 07 3262 3769

Submitted by Trisha Anderson, Hendra, Qld

Kyabram Bush Verse Group Notes

The Ky Group met on the 2nd October at the Fauna Park Kiosk and there was a swag of poets and rouseabouts. It was good to see Peter Worthington. "Wortho" has not been too good, so we hope he keeps OK and stops choppin' bits off his fingers.

Narelle from Tatura was a visitor, also Merle from overseas (Tassie), and not forgetting Barry and Margaret. Barry brought along his guitar (but nobody asked him to play!).

Our business session was conducted by President Betty Olle. This was followed by verse and yarns, plus a great supper. Our next meeting is Dec 4th which will be a Christmas BBQ at the Watt's Humpty at 4 Bond Street, Kyabram. If you would like to come, bring a Christmas poem and a thirst (and some grog). Plastic cups and paper serviettes provided. This is called a 'Scotsmans BBQ' (Only joking Bob!)

Submitted by Grahame Watt, Kyabram, VIC

Updated information on the 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*

Performance Sections

(Mens Championship - Aggregate of Sec A+B)

(Ladies Championship - Aggregate of Sec C+D)

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

Written Sections

(Mens Championship - Aggregate of Sec 1+2)

(Ladies Championship - Aggregate of Sec 3+4)

- 1 Mens Serious Verse
- 2 Mens Humorous Verse
- 3 Ladies Serious Verse
- 4 Ladies Humorous Verse
- 5 Book

*Wasn't it wonderful to see
Jack Thompson reciting
"Old Botany Bay" by Mary Gilmore
during the Opening Ceremony of the
Paralympic Games?*

Winton 2001

Preliminary Information

*The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival
dates for 2001 will be:*

FRIDAY 6th April

- Junior Bush Poetry Festival
- Clover Nolan Junior Finals
- Concert (to be confirmed)

FRIDAY 29th and SATURDAY 30th June

SUNDAY 1st July and MONDAY 2nd July

- QANTAS-Waltzing Matilda Championships
- Christina McPherson Novice Awards
- Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships
- Novelty Poetry Events
- Concerts

*NOTE: The Winton Federation Celebrations will be held
over this weekend, and it's School Holidays as well!*

MONDAY 30th April

- Closing date for the Bronze Swagman Awards

*Information regarding these Festivals and entry forms
for the 2001 Bronze Swagman Award, will be sent out
to those poets on the (Winton) mailing list. Those
wishing to be added to this list should send their
name and address to:*

**The Organiser, PO Box 84,
Hughenden QLD 4821**

CELEBRATING VICTORY

© Joyce Alchin



The race is run and over, the planning left behind.
Relief and jubilation on the winner's face defined
By a smile that is a picture of exhilarating joy
As the crowd all madly celebrate, there's nothing
The wonder and the rapture, the deep and utter praise
Of the victor as she savours that final winning stride
And holds aloft the medal, the brilliant, shining gold -
It's round her neck, it's in her hand, it's hers to keep and hold.

Forgotten are the struggles, the heartache and the strain,
She knows that all was worth it just this moment to attain;
For standing on the dias is the place where she belongs,
Her flag displayed before her eyes, and in her ears the songs
All saying she's Australian, she's standing on the ground
Where for centuries her fathers' walked, her culture can be found.
She knows this golden medal is a victory for them all,
Again she holds it proudly as she stands there straight and tall.

Emotions fill my being and my eyes well up with tears
As I listen to the clapping and am carried by the cheers,
For I am part of history in the making on this night -
I won't forget the magic and I won't forget the sight
Of the glory that is present, it is something I will tell
When the place is hushed and silent, I know it augers well.
For every would-be conqueror, and surely it is true,
They all can do their very best and feel like winners too.

Tomorrow is another day and at the break of dawn
The competition starts again, more champions are born;
And the crowds will raise their voices and cheer along their team,
They'll watch more winners cross the line, see more fulfill their dream.
But those who fail to finish can hold their head up high
For surely there's no greater feat than to be there and to try;
And in their hearts the songs will swell, the noise continue on
To last forever and a day when everyone is gone.

South Bank Poets

Things are going smoothly at South Bank but we could use a greater number of poets. These open microphone sessions are a superb opportunity for bush poets on many fronts. They are ideal practice sessions with a live audience. There are few better ways to sharpen one's performance skills. Poets being seen performing in a public place is always a positive public relations exercise that benefits all of us. The bigger and stronger such a group becomes the better the impact of the public relations exercise. Such a group can be used as a springboard for bigger and better things for all of us. Not the least of which is promotion of up and coming events and/or competitions; as we have already done at South Bank. But all this needs input from us poets. Please give it your consideration. We're there every Saturday. So it shouldn't be too hard to find one to suit.

On the last Saturday of each month is a competition with plaques for winners and certificates for runners up. Those placed become finalists in the Lord Mayor's Bush Poetry Competition on Australia Day. This is a prestigious award to win with attractive prize money. If you live near Brisbane and won't be going to Tamworth, it's well worth having a go. The odds of you winning are good.

September's winners were:

Humorous Traditional:

1st Gloria O'Brien

2nd Keith Rice

3rd Paddy O'Brien

November's competition is on the 25th.

If you haven't performed or read poetry in public before, take the opportunity to break the ice. The atmosphere is friendly, relaxed and informal at a superb venue that blends with the above. If you don't perform but enjoy listening, you're welcome too. An audience is essential to every performance.

See you there next Saturday from 1 to 3pm

Submitted by Wally Finch, Kallangur, Qld

G'day

From

Geoffrey

Graham



Greetings,

A few things happening down south over the next few weeks. Probably already happened by the time you read this, but at Port MacDonnell in South Australia, there's a special little place called Dingley Dell.

The significance of this place is, it's the home of Adam Lindsay Gordon, the man some say is the father of Bush poetry in this country. Over the weekend of 27th-29th October some Poetry in the Park will be held, not only traditional and original works, and competitions but there's more.... good Aussie music as well.

Then in November will be held the 27th Maldon Folk Festival the 3rd to 6th November. Every year there is a strong input of Bush Poetry, and this year will be no exception. This historic township has strong links with the goldrush days, and lots of business houses lean back to the olden days with their buildings and in many cases, products.

Sunday 18th November 8.00am at McDonald Hall in St Arnaud will be held a Bush Poets Breakfast. Last year we had a delightful session, and I'm sure this year will be bigger and better. All budding poets and listeners most welcome. The night before I'll be presenting one of my shows: 'Ratbags & Romantics.'

They say you're never a prophet in your hometown, and I guess there's a lot of truth in that. However on December 3rd, I'll be doing my 'Man from Ironbark' show at the Bendigo Regional Arts Centre at 3.00pm. It's a great venue, so I'm really looking forward to doing this one on my own turf.

Then on Saturday December 9th, I'll be at Mooroopna Golf Club with 'The Man from Ironbark'.

If anyone is interested in more information feel free to give me a call.

Keep smiling, Geoffrey Graham
Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739

I Wonder Why!

© Flo Hart, Mt Tyson, QLD

I love to lie and listen
To gentle falling rain,
Its soothing pitter patter
Against my window pane.
I wonder why it is then
I cannot sleep a wink,
If one wretched tap I hear
Drip-dripping in my sink!



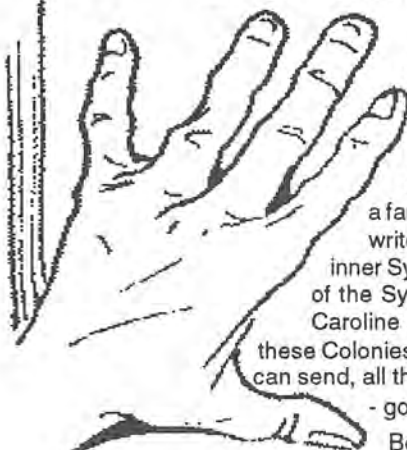
POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Nov 5 **Land of the Beardies Festival**, Glen Innes, NSW 7.30am Town Hall Poets Breakfast and Performance Competition
 Nov 9 **Bush Poetry Evening** at Benalla Library, Nunn Str Benalla 3672 V from 7.30 -9.30pm. Ph David or Brenda 03 5762 8154
 Nov 12 **Glengallan Bush Poetry** Allora Community Hall, Allora Q Mrs. Brenda Moscrop 07-54264948.
 Nov 15 Closing Date **Australian Bush Laureate Awards** Nomination Forms from Max Ellis Marketing Ph: 02 6766 1577
 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.
 Dec 10 **Snowy Mountain Bush Poetry Club** Christmas Party, Commercial Club, Wagga Wagga. Reg 02 6040 2508, Sue 0415 922 315

2001

Jan 23 Winners announced and Trophies presented for **Australian Bush Laureate Awards**, Tamworth Town Hall
 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**. Entries 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 Brekks 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 **Junior Bush Poetry Festival**, Winton Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q 4821
 Apr 6-8 **Man From Snowy River Festival**. Phone/fax Jan Lewis 0260774332 email poetfarm@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
 Apr 30 Closing Date for **Bronze Swagman Bush Poetry** written competition.
 May 12-13 **Eulo Annual Mother's Day Fair**, Written & Performance Comps. Ph Janine 07 46554862, Fax 07 46554901
 Jun 8- **Australian Bush Poetry Championships**, Caloundra, Q Ph Wally Finch 07 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop 07 5491 3653.
 Jun 29 - Jul 2 **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival**, Winton, Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q 4821
 Jul 6-8 **Bundy Muster week-end**. Performance & written competitions. Ph Joan 07 41529624 or Sandy & John 07 41514631

Potted Personalities *with Marilyn Roberts*



Caroline Chisholm, 'the emigrants friend', declared herself to be 'the first lady in Australia who has ventured in the character of an author to appear before the public'.

I would go as far as saying she is our foremost female author, deserving of a place in "Potted Personalities". Admittedly she did not produce a great deal of work, but the work she did produce had more impact on our culture than any other. As well as the philanthropic work she undertook to help migrant women and families settle in this land in the 1840's, she also managed to raise a family, conduct a census for the Government Statisticians (on the age, sex and trade of emigrants), write a novel entitled "Little Joe" (on the poverty and homelessness suffered by small children in inner Sydney) and compose a pamphlet reporting on "Female Immigration, Considered in a Brief Account of the Sydney Immigrants Home". In fact it was her reports that did Australia the most good. In 1847 Caroline Chisholm wrote, "If the British Government wants a well-behaved community to grow up in these Colonies, the social needs of the people must be considered. All the priests and books and teachers you can send, all the churches you can build, will never do much good without "God's Police" - wives and children - good and virtuous women."

Born in 1808, Caroline Chisholm, was so sure of her goals in life that the condition she put on her marriage was that she strongly believed that there was a purpose to her life and that the man who married her must understand and support her. She worked tirelessly from the time of her arrival in Sydney in 1838 until her death in 1857 improving the housing and resettlement conditions of unemployed migrant girls, taking the women out to country areas where labour was in short supply. She soon found not only women but other immigrants also needed her help. She established employment registries, and sent letters to farmers, churchmen and magistrates to find employers willing to take on her immigrants, thus forming employment exchanges in several towns, where employers could come to look for workers.

Caroline Chisholm lectured on the conditions she saw and her efforts resulted in the establishment of a colonisation scheme in Britain. She also convinced the British Government to allow free passage to Sydney for wives and children of men sent as convicts in previous years. Her efforts in 1850 saw the establishment of the Australian Family Colonisation Loan Scheme to "help the poorer class of people to emigrate."

Like many of that age, Caroline Chisholm kept a journal, the following extract showing just how remarkable a woman she was. Upon being given barracks for a Female Immigrants Homes she spent the first nights there alone to show the girls of its safety and wrote in her journal. "I returned, weary to rest. Scarce was the light out when I fancied from the noise that I heard that dogs must be in the room, and in some terror I got a light. What I experienced at seeing rats in all directions I cannot describe. My first act was to throw on a cloak and get at the door with intent of leaving the building. My second thoughts were, if I did so, my desertion would cause much amusement and ruin my plan. I therefore lighted a second candle and seating myself on my bed, kept there until three rats descending from the ceiling alighted on my shoulders." She then cut some bread from a loaf she had brought with her and put it with some water in the middle of the floor, watching them feed until 4 o'clock. Over the next four nights she again fed them but laced the slices with arsenic until they were all gone.

An extraordinary woman or an ordinary woman prepared to do a little bit extra!



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** **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 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



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

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)

WALTZING MATILDA JUNIOR BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL
Friday 6 April, 2001. Contact The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden QLD 4821

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@corryong.albury.net.au

NSW BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 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. \$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.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS will be on from Friday 8th June 2001 at the new Basketball Court, Golden Beach. For more details, phone Wally Finch (07) 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop (07) 5491 3653.

WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Friday 29th June - Monday 2nd July, 2001
QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Championships, Christina McPherson Novice Awards, Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships, Novelty Poetry Events, Concerts. This event is the highlight on the Queensland Bush Poetry Calendar, and Winton puts on a great welcome for all comers! For more information, contact The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden QLD 4821.

BUNDY MUSTER WEEK-END, 6-7-8 July, 2001.

Performance & written competitions. Bundaberg has lots to offer - Southern Gateway to the Barrier Reef, sandy beaches, botanical gardens, famous Bundy Rum, sugar cane fires to name just a few. If you are planning to go to the Australian Championships at Caloundra why not extend your holiday a little longer and visit Bundaberg in July. Competitions will be held over the three days - opens, intermediates, novices, juniors & under 12's. Bush Lantern Award (written competition) place-getters will be announced during the presentation of trophies on Sunday afternoon. Enquiries to: President Joan - 07 41529624 or John & Sandy - 07 41514631

BUSH POETRY EVENING at Benalla Library, Nunn St, Benalla V 9 November, from 7.30 - 9.30pm, as part of the Rose Festival Celebrations. Gold coin entry for the "Friends of the Library". This is a first for Benalla, so please support this endeavour! Call David or Brenda Williams on 03 5762 8154

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 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 Narrandera Visitors Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera. 2700 email touristcentre@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

REVERSALS

poems by Ron Stevens, also **IDENTITY** and
A LIGHTER TOUCH OF HISTORY

(All poems included are prize-winners)
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including p&h, from Ron Stevens
14 Eden Park Ave, Dubbo NSW 2830



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

contains "The Cattle Dog's Revenge" and more Bush Poetry
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Phone 07 4683 7169

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\$12 each, \$20 for 2, \$30 for 3 p.p.

Thank you to our Contributors

Joyce Alchin	Henry Lawson
Trisha Andersen	Ron Leikefett
John Barclay	JJ Mannion
Reid Begg	Glenny Palmer
Elis Campbell	Ed Parmenter
Mick Coventry	Don Pender
Louise Dean	Marilyn Roberts
Joye Dempsey	Ron Selby
Holly de Dikato	Olive Shooter
Wally Finch	Ron Stevens
Craig Gascoigne	Maureen
Marco Gliori	Stonham
Corry de Haas	Beth Vincombe-
Flo Hart	Bashford
Joan Hill	David & Brenda
Neil Hulm	Williams
Keith Ireland	Grahame Watt
Denis Kevans	

THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

You'll find a rather comprehensive explanation of some areas of a report from the Guideline Sub-Committee on page 8 of this Newsletter. I'd like to congratulate these dedicated ABPA members for attempting to do what is obviously not an easy job. I'm sure people will whinge about the rules, and no-one will be happy, but at least this group of people didn't complain, but just got in there and decided to become part of the solution rather than part of the problem. The ABPA could use the services of more of these type of people: specifically as Secretary, Treasurer and Editor for 2001! Do you measure up?

The response for the Geoffrey Graham competition was enormous, and I'm gratified that the inclusion of a couple of silly photos has garnered such attention! No photo this month, but if you have a great shot of one of our members (*possibly in a compromising position?*), please send it along for consideration!!!

In January this year I published a list of Poetry events taking place during the Tamworth CM Festival, and would like to repeat what seemed to be a successful exercise. I understand that many people used the ABPA list during this year's Festival, so expect that a similar list for January 2001 would be welcomed. Please send me any information you may have on your poetry event for inclusion in this year's Tamworth Poetry Program.

Best regards, Jennifer Priest



Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.
 PO Box 2343 Mansfield BC Qld 4122 Fax 07 3849 5844
 Email abpanews@hotmail.com
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**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**



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

bred here in the earliest days of settlement when hunting for food was often imperative; the cattle-dogs, and the sheep-dogs, whose evolution was essential to the carrying on of the pastoral industry under the peculiar conditions obtaining in the vast hinterlands 'beyond the Blue Mountains'. Only one of these dominant breeds is native to the country, but the others, built on various lines of imported blood, are acknowledged the world over today as purely Australian.

*Robert Kaleski in
 'The Sydney Mail Royal Show Number',
 13th April 1938*

Foundation Dogs of Australia
 Among the world's great breeds of dogs, Australia possesses four that are now almost as distinctively our own as are our kangaroos and koalas. First there is the dingo, whose ancestry goes back some millions of years; then come the kangaroo-dogs,

- Nov 9 1876 STUMP-JUMP PLOUGH FIRST EXHIBITED AT MOONTA AGRICULTURAL SHOW, SA
- Nov 10 1909 GEORGE ESSEX EVANS, POET, DIED NEAR ALICE SPRINGS NT
- Nov 25 1880 REVEREND JOHN FLYNN, FOUNDER OF THE AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION AND ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE, BORN MOLIAGUL, VIC



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 complete form and send payment to the ABPA Secretary, Olive Shooter, "Willow Bend", MS 765, Allora Q 4362

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.