

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 12 Volume 7

December 2000

## Three Cheers for Olive Shooter

© Jake Drake, Stanthorpe, Qld

The poet is a creature who thrives on fans' applause.  
But stop for just a moment and consider while you pause  
How well we all have been served by our own A.B.P.  
But I doubt if our Executive is much like you and me.

For all of us are posers who like to blow and skite  
And try to take the honours on any poet's night.  
We pose and posture trying to get some immortality,  
But would we get behind a mike without the A.B.P.

Olive Shooter is a poet who understands Bush Life.  
Just listen to her poem 'bout the bushman's pocket knife.  
If that's not "country" then I'll say I wouldn't know what is.  
But is she up there proclaiming as a wordsmith she's a whiz?

No. Olive is a lady working for the greater good.  
Just getting out and doing things we all said we should.  
So perhaps we should stop thinking what the audience will see  
And think what Olive Shooter has done for Bush Poetry.

We have seen her cheerful visage in a hundred country towns  
Looking after poets' welfare – this "Darling from the Downs".  
Now someone else must take the reins for she has served us well,  
We need someone to do the books 'cause Olive needs a spell!

## Desert Beauty

© Cecilia Kane

Like an ocean the flowers foam over the land,  
Waves of colour engulf the sand,  
Dull yellow the grasses beneath the blue sky,  
Silver-green the places where salt bushes lie,  
This wilderness has blossomed, its red dunes are decked  
With amethyst fire and white flowers flecked  
By the gold gleam of blooms which rustle and flow,  
Undulating in rhythm, their beauty to show.

Dry is the landscape and parched for rain,  
Here seedlings struggle for survival in vain,  
But, when in its mercy, stern nature relents,  
This desert will blossom with beauty intense.  
I wander in awe on the edge of this world,  
So verdant, so fertile, its glory unfurled.

As I gaze on vast acres of shimmering bloom  
I am loath to believe that it faces swift doom.

Its transient loveliness will fade in the sun,  
Will wither and shrink when its short life is run.  
Still, to those who have seen it, the memory will stay  
As a moment of glory, which has brightened the day,  
Our thoughts will return to this vista of flowers,  
Where brief beauty enthroned, commanded the hours.

The winner of the Geoffrey Graham poem competition from November's Newsletter is Mick Coventry, Kyabram

## Visiting Magi

© Mavis Appleyard, Warren, NSW

If you were Mary and your baby due,  
And three wise men came visiting you  
Would they be welcome and asked to come in  
For you knew that there was no room at the inn.

I have often wondered at the old yam  
Of the three wise men who went to the barn  
We have been told that they really were wise  
But this is not quite what I surmise.

I wonder if they had not been three men  
Would it have turned out differently then.  
If women had been the wise ones to go  
It might have been different, but we'll never know.



They would not slowly follow the star  
But ask how to get there as it was so far.  
Travelling by day they would have been able  
To arrive much earlier at the right stable.

With willing hands they'd have cleaned out the byre  
And probably lit a nice warming fire.  
They'd reassure Joseph of his value and worth  
While helping Mary with Jesus's birth.

With the baby delivered and wrapped warm and tight  
After Mary had checked that he was really alright,  
The ladies would pray and give thanks like the men  
But from long practice they'd get busy again.

They wouldn't bring myrrh and frankincense  
But food or some blankets that makes much more sense.  
They'd bring enough food for everyone there  
'Cause Joseph and Mary would've had none to spare.

Maybe history would still be the same,  
And praise still be to the same holy name  
Things might have been better for Mary and Joe  
If instead of those wise men, they'd let three women go

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ABPA INC

WILL BE HELD AT  
ST. PETER'S HALL, VERA STREET,  
TAMWORTH, NSW  
ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2001  
AT 2.30PM SHARP.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL  
MEETING OF MEMBERS. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A  
PARTICULAR TOPIC DISCUSSED, PLEASE CONTACT  
OLIVE SHOOTER IN ADVANCE!

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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

Watch for the President's notes for the Annual Meeting time and venue.

Thankyou to those who have sent their subscription for next year, and many thanks for your kind wishes to me. At last we have had a little rain.

As you will have noticed, the Guidelines Committee has met and has prepared a booklet of their

decisions. Most of the important parts will be in December and January newsletters. Now if you cannot be at the annual meeting and you wish to put forward any change in these guidelines, give it to me in writing in time that I may take it to the meeting. Also, if any member wishes to see the full booklet, just send a

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Christmas is rapidly approaching and the end of another properous year for our art of Bush Poetry.

Best wishes to all members and their families. May you enjoy a trouble free Christmas and a happy and very enjoyable New Year.

The Annual is ready for the printers and will be available at Tamworth. Thank you to the very talented poets who sent in material for inclusion in the Annual. If you are looking for a present for your special person for Christmas, then why not think about the past copies of our Annual? Contact the Secretary and I'm sure she can offer you a very reasonable discount on back issues.

January is the busiest month on our agenda in as much as Tamworth attracts the most poets to the one venue and all enjoy many many hours of great poetic entertainment with a smorgasbord of events. From the competition at the Imperial to the many other Poets Breakfasts and show available, it is well worth a visit.

Our AGM will again be held (as in previous years) at St Peter's Hall, Vera Street, Tamworth, commencing at 2.30pm on Saturday 27th. All committee positions will be vacated and it will be up to the members present to elect a new committee for 2001. There will be many important issues to discuss and vote on so your presence would be appreciated. Remember this is your association and it cannot survive without some input and dedication from you, the member.

Our editor will again be presenting a full comprehensive calendar of events for Tamworth, so if you are involved in any way with the many and varied shows and events be sure to send in your details as early as possible for inclusion. (*NOW is a great time to do it!*)

### Quote of the month:

If you don't think you shine as you think you should, try cleaning the light before blaming the power source.

*Ron Selby, President*

stamped, addressed business-sized envelope to the President, Ron Selby. Remember that these will be guidelines, not rules, as we have no way of upholding rules for all who run competitions. It is hoped that a plan for guidelines will be adopted at the Annual meeting, so I hope as many as possible will attend.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Guidelines Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ed Parmenter for the time and care taken over their deliberations. It was no mean effort to collate all suggestions and come up with an answer to a very hard question.

Apart from Secretary and Treasurer, we are looking for an Editor for our Magazine after the February issue. Surely in this literary organisation there is someone who would be willing to step into a job that would be very rewarding I'm sure. Just let me know. Please consider this seriously.

My dear friends, I cannot go without this Christmas wish.

As Christmas comes on and the old year ends,  
May you always be blessed with the beauty of friends.  
And the love of the Christ child, a bright, gleaming star,  
And may good health and happiness be right where you are.

*Fond regards, Olive Shooter*

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

# FLO HART



## Our Family Album

© Flo Hart, Mt Tyson, Qld

The young man who shared our table  
Spoke of his family with pride –  
Children so much like their mother,  
How sweet she'd looked as a bride.

Shyly he drew out some snapshots –  
"Mind if I show you?" asked he;  
"This is my young son Paul Matthew,  
That's Ruth on Stephanie's knee.

We honeymooned down at Bondi –  
Look at my beautiful wife!  
The good Lord has truly blessed me!  
What joy they have brought to my life!"

My husband took out his wallet,  
Passed snaps for the lad to see –  
I smiled surprised at his action –  
Was there a picture of me?

"Our twins are cute don't you reckon?  
That's Mother standing beside;  
They fill my days full of sunshine";  
His face was so warm with pride.

"And just take a look at these four –  
We're such a wonderful team!  
Lately we've featured in movies!"  
His smile became a beam.

The lad looked stunned for a moment,  
As at the pictures he gazed –  
Hubby's pet goats stood there smiling,  
Cydesdales the team he had praised.

I guess there is one consolation –  
That's all the photos he had;  
If they are my sole competition,  
No need I have to be mad!

Flo Hart was born in Brisbane in 1926, the oldest of 6 children. She was educated at a country one-teacher school, then 2 years at High School. She worked in an office for 4 years until she married, then moved to a cane and dairy farm on the Mary River. The following year, they moved to the Darling Downs, and were involved in dairying, grain and sheep farming.

She was blessed with four beautiful daughters, and later also blessed with 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Sadly, Flo's husband was killed in a tractor accident, at the age of 33. She remarried in 1972.

She has written poetry all her life, and has won awards for her poetry. She was Runner-Up in the 1996 Bronze Swagman Awards. Flo has had at least one poem published in the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse for 15 consecutive years – a fact of which she is justifiably proud!

Although she does not "perform" her poetry, a few of Flo's verses have been used by performers. One award-winning poem she considers her best work, "Through Danny's Eyes", has been recorded on a Paul McCloud cassette. She is often called upon to write verses for special occasions – Australia Day celebrations, birthdays, christening, etc., as well as the local Anzac Day service each year.

Flo has written 2 books. Her first "Just Flo!" was organized and published for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by her family, who felt her poems should be read by others, instead of lying in a drawer for the mice to eat. The 500 books sold in 3 months, with orders for Book 2, so that's how the second book, "It's Flo Again!" came about. Flo is happy that her writings have brought pleasure to others as well as herself, and thanks God for her talent.

### What are you reading at the moment?

"Hell, West and Crooked" by Tom Cole (again), plus any Bush Verse I can find.

### Which three people would you invite for dinner?

Sir Joh and Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen, and the Queen Mum. I admire them all, and in their company, I'd feel quite young.

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

Alone at last on an island, crosswords and pen I'd unpack –

"3 DOWN is 'Ornithorhynchus'" someone would prompt from the back!

### What would you do if you had \$1,000,000?

Share it with family and favourite charities then publish my 3<sup>rd</sup> book of Bush

### Verse.

#### Why do you live where you live?

We both love country life, semi-retired, with a few cattle, horses, 1 pet sheep and 2 dogs. Close enough to town for convenience, far enough away for peace and quiet.

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

A shady spot on a creek bank, with comfy chair, picnic hamper, fly spray, a good book, and my sister Phyl for company.

#### How have you adapted to the technological age?

No microwave or credit cards,  
Computer, mobile phone:  
No fax machine or typewriter –  
I still chip in stonel

## REVIEW "It's Flo Again!" by Flo Hart (book)

Flo Hart's second book of poetry contains a wonderful poem (amongst many other wonderful poems) entitled "Her Life Story in Patchwork". This poem title would be equally appropriate as the sub-title of this book.

Flo's poems are indeed like a patchwork depicting her life story. There are simple homespun patches of life on the farm, and of droughts and flooding rains. There are colourful tales of family, and somber shades of war and remembrances. Here and there is a rich and vibrant patch in jewel-brightness of a poem that stands out from the rest, like the well-loved "Crazy Kate!". The unsophisticated poems from her childhood and younger years contrast well with the mature thoughts of the wife and widow, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother that she has become.

Running through each of these poems is the unifying thread of integrity. These are poems that remind us what Bush Poetry is all about – the recording of the lives and experiences and stories of the everyday Australian.

Flo's patchwork poems are stitched together with love and faith, and with that to bind them, her family will treasure her collection for generations. So will her fellow Bush Poets. Thanks, Flo!

# 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

Let me say I was delighted with my win in the 'Where's Bobby' contest, and I would like to thank all the members who voted for my poem. I will certainly wear the prize [a silver bracelet] with pride. As I am convalescing from an unexpected spell in hospital I must say the win really bucked up.

I am enclosing a little Christmas poem I wrote which I hope you will find amusing. I find writing and reciting Bush Poetry one of the most satisfying things I have ever done in my life. May the movement go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely, June Hansen

Ed Note: June's Christmas poem is on Page 6

Dear Editor

In reference to the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition:

As previously stated, the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group has been unable to secure sponsorship for the 2001 Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition. However, we press on regardless.

We have two Golden Dampers simmering away in their camp ovens, awaiting possession by our champions in the Original and Traditional or Established Works sections. And we still have (slightly reduced) cash prizes for placegetters and finalists.

However, there is one important change. We are now charging an entry fee of \$5 for each entry. Sorry, folks, we hope this doesn't put anyone off, but that's the way it has to be.

Entry forms are now being printed. If you haven't already done so, please send a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope to Jan Morris PO Box 1164 Tamworth NSW 2340.

Looking forward to seeing you all in January 2001.

Jan Morris, for the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group

Dear Jennifer

It is with interest that I have read the letters over the last few months concerning poets' copyright and the performing and or recording of another poet's work not in the Public Domain, in particular the letters from Craig Murray and Mark.

As has been said, there are those who can write poetry but not perform it, those who cannot write poetry but can perform others poetry, and those who can write and perform (the lucky few). There is a very fine line between a poem written never to see the light of day because of the jealous application of copyright laws, and the exploitation of a poem because of scant regard for copyright laws.

If one refuses to allow his/her poem to be performed by another except for some remuneration, there is little or no incentive for the performer, usually a self-publisher of a CD or Cassette, with a limited production of 500; nor is there much incentive if the performer is performing for little or no remuneration as is more times the case than nor. In the main, poems – especially those that are broadly termed "Bush poems" – are written for entertaining others and if a steadfast 'no' is given to every request unless some remuneration is forthcoming, the entertainment value of the poem is greatly diminished, thus defeating the purpose for which it was written. To perform another's poem without first seeking verbal permission at least is stark bad manners. The performing of one's poetry by another is a supreme compliment and I for one would never refuse such a request. I would, however, hope that if it was requested for recording and the record sold in excess of a 500 run that the performer would have the common decency to show his/her appreciation with some small remuneration in keeping with the sales. What better way to air one's own works that by having ten or even twenty performers using it in competition, at breakfasts, etc, or even on a recording. This is, to my way of thinking, the best form of advertising there is. It would also be expected that if the author of the poem was performing at the same venue, anyone intending to perform one of their poems would at least advise the author of their intention, just in case both were going to perform the same poem.

The performance and recording of poetry is poles apart from the world of music at the moment and is likely to remain that way if a rigid refusal to allow performers to perform or record our work is adhered to. It requires trust between poets and performers, in other words a general pulling together to pave the way for the future prosperity of our industry. It goes without saying that no-one else's poem should ever be performed without first obtaining permission, and secondly acknowledging same during the performance. I sought and received permission from Harper Collins to perform some of John O'Brien's works without any difficulty at all, the same with Jim O'Connor's "Roy and the Condom".

Regards, Rex Hockey, Windellama, NSW

Dear Editor

The experience of performing the John O'Brien poetry in Ireland was the highlight for me of the last three years of poetry presentation. I was invited to perform for five schools in Ireland: two schools in Clonmel, two in Lissycasey and one in Dublin. In addition there was the pub in Lissycasey called "The Boree Log".

In Lissycasey, County Clare, where the parents of the author, Monsignor Patrick Hartigan, were born I had been invited to perform for two schools and the pub. The welcome Ann and I received and the response to my performance of the poetry were very moving.

The Irish are great singers, dancers and story tellers but the dramatic presentation of bush or traditional poetry is rare and they were really excited about this form of entertainment.

Because the Irish and the Australians have such similar philosophies of life, you current bush poets would be warmly welcomed in Ireland with your presentation of the Australian way of life, to which the Irish made such a significant contribution.

In one of the schools in Lissycasey the children have a unique way of showing their appreciation. Instead of the traditional clapping of hands they bang the top of the desks with their hands. You can imagine my face and body language when this first occurred. I thought the IRA had entered!

The Irish are definitely late-night, early-morning people. I was surprised enough when they told me my pub performance would start at 9.30pm but it was 10.30pm before it got under way. It went till 1.00am! Ann also performed "Sez She", with me so she also can claim international status!

On another occasion in Dublin with a group of Irish friends the poetry, singing, story and joke telling went till 3.30am and it only stopped then because someone had to play golf that morning. They sure know how to have great "crack".

For Ann and I, the seven weeks away in Europe, Ireland and England was a very enriching experience. Having the opportunity to walk in the houses and places of such great poets as Shakespeare (Stratford-upon-Avon), Wordsworth (The Lakes District) and William Yeats (Sligo) was inspirational. No doubt many of my readers have experienced these places and I hope others of you get the opportunity to enjoy the warmth, generosity, beauty and history of these countries and their people.

Make no mistake, what you bush poets perform is of international interest and top entertainment value.

Kind regards, Noel Stallard, Arana Hills, Qld

Dear Jennifer

I am writing in response to a letter that appeared on page 4 of the November issue of the ABPA Newsletter. The letter was sent in by Louise Dean from Bush Wookatook, Prairie, Queensland 4816. In her letter Louise requested the name of a poem and also the author.

I believe the name of the poem is "Somebody's Mother" but I cannot supply the name of the author. I believe this poem to be a very old one as my late father Ned Ginnane (1900 - 1979) used to recite a short part of this poem when I was a very small boy.

This poem appeared in "The Broadlander", a local publication, in May 1996. I am sending a copy of said poem to Louise and I enclose a copy herewith, as if space permits, you may see fit to publish it in the ABPA newsletter. [See Page 11]

Yours sincerely, Des Ginnane

P.S. Thank you and congratulations for a tremendous newsletter.

Ed Note: Many thanks to ABPA Member, Dorothea Quinn of Murgon, who also recognised those lines quoted by Louise Dean, and was able to supply the rest of the poem. She says it is in a book she has, called "Parlour Poetry, A Rhyming Reminder of Half Forgotten Verse". The poem has been sent on to Louise.

To the Editor

I Must Protesteth The Bard's Awards

Surely any awards that are presented exclusively to ABPA members, and judged via a voting system exclusive to ABPA members, must first be sanctioned by the ABPA members.

Well, as far as I know, there has been no such process entered into. There has been no referendum to see if members support these awards. There is no information as to who is behind the awards. Who, from this magazine, or the committee, is taking responsibility for the overseeing of the votes?

I'm thinking of ringing around to see which members have/or are going to vote. When someone replies "I won't be voting", what is to stop me forging their vote and sending it off to whoever the hell is organizing these awards. Hey, I might just be able to win every award going in this one. You little beauty.

Give me a break. This process is open to so much corruption that it is surely a joke, or a very misguided attempt by someone to do something well-meaning for Bush Poetry.

Until the process by which these awards were 'approved' by our committee on behalf of its members is revealed, I must urge members to protest with me. We need more information. Think about it folks.

*Marco Gliori, Warwick, Qld*

**Ed Note:** This notice was originally printed as every notice is printed when submitted by an ABPA member. The Editor of the ABPA Newsletter takes no responsibility for submissions from any member, but is only responsible for the receiving, editing, and dispersing of information.

In order to allow the 'Bards Awards' Co-ordinators right of reply, I contacted Craig Gascoigne for his comments. Craig's response is herewith printed below.

Dear Jennifer

I am writing in regards to your enquiries of The Bards Awards. Yes, I (Craig Gascoigne) am Joint Co-Ordinator of these awards. The reason that I have not used my own name is because I did not want to big-note myself in the eyes of my fellow members.

Simone Maudsley [Editor's note: the other joint co-ordinator] is my partner. I have discussed these awards with Ron Selby, Bob Miller and Wally Finch and the only thing that they did not agree with was the original name, The Banjo's, which has been changed.

As I have not received any nominations so far, membership has not been an issue – but if, or when I receive any nominations I would then contact my good friend Ron Selby to verify their financial status. Every nomination slip, along with their name will be kept for future reference. As to who does or does not vote, we only accept votes, no votes are not relevant (or maybe I do not understand your question).

I have no intention of counting any nominations for myself, and Simone Maudsley will be counting and recording all votes received.

As our intention is only for the betterment of Bush Poetry and this Association, it had not even occurred to me that this was an issue. My hope was to strengthen the overall standing of the ABPA, and to give back some of the power to the poets that has been taken away by the Bush Laureate awards, among others. This whole idea has been created and financed by us including the trophies. I ask for nothing but the opportunity to do my bit for this association and Bush Poetry as a whole but if you or any other members have any misgivings with these awards or my intention relative to these awards then maybe we should call them off and as I have not received any nominations thus far I suppose this is as good a time as any to do so. I only thought that these awards were an obvious course of action and to this day do not understand why a similar set of awards has not already been created.

I am saddened by the lack of support shown to these awards and can only suppose that my fellow members do not feel as strongly about this issue as I do.

*Kind regards, Craig Gascoigne, Singleton, NSW*

G'day Jennifer

Well done with the news letter! I look forward to each month, always has points of interest. The guidelines from the Committee in the last magazine reflect a lot of thought, Congratulations, they have my vote. Good Stuff!

I enjoyed the letter and poem by Joyce Alchin, I too was inspired especially by Kieran Perkins (have been for years) and have included one of my own poems for your consideration. [See Page 11]

*Many thanks and regards, Bob Bush, Vacy NSW*



# FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

*Hi there from the West*

We are in the South-west of WA, where interest in poetry is high – just like the big trees. The farmers are hurting from the lack of rain – their grain crops are sometimes not even good enough for hay. There is plenty to write about as we leave the main tracks and hunt out the little towns and villages, zig-zagging around the country.

What a huge land this is, and we are fast approaching the end of our trip. There are so many problems out there, but the people invariably seem to find a way through.

Anyway, another offering for the magazine:

## TRUE TOURISTS

The tourists on the road are always looking all about,

At gorges, waterfalls and mountains tall,  
They'll seek to find a fishing beach, or river where there's trout,  
At old historic buildings they will thrall.

They'll take a stroll in bushland for an hour or maybe two,

They ooh and ah at flowers along the trail,  
Or take a thousand snapshots showing every scenic view,  
Or reels of video to friends regale.

They frequent little cafes and the restaurants at night,

Or sail on cruises out upon the bay,  
They raid the souvenir shops for the knick-knack that is trite,  
Or visit wineries every other day.

Museums without number, every town must have a few

With tourist information places there,  
They mix it with the craft shops to find something else to do,  
To take back home for everyone to share.

With all these great activities, and wondrous sights to see,

I wonder how they've time to find what's new.  
For every tourist that I find grabs hold to beg of me:  
"Please tell me where they hide the public loo!"

*Regards, John Barclay - the Rambling Poet*

Dear Jennifer

This letter in an S.O.S. I am in desperate need of the help of some Bush Poets. On the 6th and 7th of January I am trying to do a fundraiser for our local Riding for the Disabled Centre, as they are having a new indoor cenntrre built. One of the district nurses who has helped look after me whilst fighting cancer, is very involved in this. My thoughts were to say thank you by having a Bush Bash Week-end at our house. We will be having a sausage sizzle and cake and drink stall, so if anyone from the Snowy Mtns, Kyabram poets or anyone else out there can help.

Telephone 0357 628154 or email williams@hdc.com.au so that I can give directions to 42, Boger Street, Benalla 3672.. Entry by gold coin donation. We have many motels and a caravan park. We can accommodate up to ten people ourselves if you are prepared to muck in. Look forward to seeing some friendly faces, David and I wish to thank Whipstick WORTH0 and his colleagues for a wonderful time of Bush Poetry at the Maldon Folk Festival in November.

*Yours the Apprentice Bush Poet Brenda Williams*

## DRIVING LESSONS

© Janine Haig, Eulo Qld

Driving lessons? Really Mum!  
I think you've lost the plot!  
After chugging 'round the paddocks  
I already know a lot.  
I've mastered country driving  
Since my feet could reach the floor;  
What makes you think some city bloke  
Can teach me any more?  
When you came up with the notion  
You sounded so sincere  
I thought: "Oh what the hell!  
I'll humour the Old Dear."  
But after one excursion  
There isn't much to say  
Except I'll never go again –  
No more. No dice. No way.  
I've heard of keeping to the left  
Away from centre lines,  
But I refuse to dodge parked cars  
And lurking Give Way signs;  
We kept so left we cleared the curb  
Of leaves and rubbish too;  
Any lefter, we'd have been  
On Footpath Avenue.  
And going 'round a corner  
He watched me like a hawk,  
Nagging me to go so slow  
Our pace was at a walk;  
He showed me how to indicate....  
As if I didn't know!  
Indications indicate  
I'll tell him where to go!  
He's got no sense of humour –  
This dork who knows it all...  
I said to him: "You know the rules  
So tell me, what's your call....  
How many bonus points are scored  
For running down a dog?  
Or old-folk on a crossing?  
Is it double if they jog?  
I'm gonna put my foot down,  
The lessons are a bore;  
I know enough to pass my test;  
Not having any more.  
There's only one advantage  
In this Driving Tutor Game –  
If I fail my driving test....  
He can take the blame.

**NSW Bush Poetry Championships**  
RSL Club Tumut  
20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2001  
Section 'G' of Championships  
Write and Recite 'All Rounder'  
**Poets must perform a poem which has  
been entered in Written Sections**  
To enter, send for entry form to  
Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Drive  
Lavington NSW 2641  
Ph/Fax 02 6025 3845  
**Entry for Section G is FREE**

## Our Uninvited Christmas Guest

© June Hansen, Tiaro, Qld

It seemed bigger than a magpie, it seemed louder than a jet  
And the day it came to our house is a day we won't forget.  
It flew in through the window and it hurtled to and fro,  
Me Mother chased it with the broom, but it bloomin' wouldn't go.

It swooped into the kitchen and it scoffed the Christmas cake,  
It slurped up all the plumduff and it gobbled up the steak.  
It divebombed dear old Grandad, he ducked and weaved a bit,  
It landed on Aunt Elsie, and the old girl had a fit.

It zoomed around the lounge room and it skidded off the keg  
It smashed the flamin' window and it broke me brother's leg,  
Me sister and her boyfriend both took refuge in the shower.  
I don't know what they did in there, but they stayed there for an hour.

Now things were getting hairy, something drastic must be done  
So I rushed into the bedroom and I got me trusty gun  
I fired off some buckshot and I missed the bloomin' thing,  
The TV set exploded but IT stayed on the wing.

And so I fired once again, I smashed the chandelier  
I kept on spraying pellets 'til I hit the keg of beer.  
A stream of beer shot skywards: caught the begger in mid air  
And it fell upon the table all amongst the Christmas fare.

It buzzed around in circles and it really lost the plot  
It scattered all the dishes and it cleared the flamin' lot.  
Me Mum was getting madder by the minute I must say  
When me little cousin Jimmy, well he up and saved the day,  
He got me Grandad's fishing net and he threw it like the best  
And he caught that BLOODY BLOWFLY, our uninvited Christmas guest.



### ENTRIES CLOSE FOR N.S.W. BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 20th—22nd April, 2001

Only a few weeks remain until the close of entries for both Written and Performance Sections of this blue ribbon event on the Bush Poetry Calendar for 2001. Entries close on 31st December, 2000 and will be accepted from residents of all states. Late entries for the Performance Championships will be accepted if time allows. The results of the both competitions will be announced during the Presentation Evening at Tumut RSL Club on Sunday 22nd April, 2001.

Co-ordinator Neil Hulm has advised that to date sponsorship has reached over \$3000 in the form of cash, trophies, prizes and accommodation. This unprecedented support has come mainly from business and residents of the small town of Tumut which will hold it's annual "Festival of Falling Leaves" in the week following the Championships.

Accommodation is still available in the area, however as the date draws closer it will become increasingly more difficult to book. For those intending to attend, Neil suggest that you call him for an accommodation venue list as soon as possible

A busy program has been arranged with opportunities for non competitive poets to "have a go" at the Poets Breakfasts which will precede competitions on Saturday and Sunday where full breakfast menu will be offered for those who wish to partake for just \$8.00. What a way to start the day!

Expressions of interest are also being sought from poets and performers for spots in the Gala Night Concert on Saturday Evening.

One more thing that will be guaranteed during the Championship weekend is the warm welcome that visiting poets will receive from the town folk of Tumut, many of whom have sponsored this wonderful weekend which is completely dedicated to the performance of Bush Verse.

We look forward to offering everyone a well organised competition and entertainment format where our first consideration will be the Bush Poet and those who love this art form.

If you still require an entry form together with a copy of judging guidelines for either Written or Performance Championship, please contact Neil Hulm, 361 Cheyenne Avenue, Lavington NSW 2641 or phone/ fax 6025 3845

Information if also available via email from Maureen Stonham - maureenandtom@tsn.cc

### SPOT ON RON

© Tom Stonham, Nambucca Heads NSW

An open observation  
from a fellow rhyming scribe,  
addressed to ev'ry member  
of our oft' too hasty tribe.

Hail unto Ronald Stevens  
(full first name to make it scan),  
pure poetry, rhyme, cadence.  
(Ron's a most painstaking man.)

Ron counts upon his fingers!  
(true, I'm quoting what he said.)  
He checks syllabic balance,  
drowsing, half-asleep in bed.

Like Ron, run the Marathon,  
not the hundred meter sprint.  
Ron's poems never stumble ...  
It's a typo or misprint.



## NO HIDDEN EXTRAS

© Joye Dempsey

I had a burden yesterday,  
so heavy that I cannot say,  
the pain to bear it brought to me,  
but still I struggled needlessly.  
I tried to wipe from my mind's eye,  
the thoughts that always come to try  
my patience or my sanity,  
like 'why this pain? why death? why me!'

But always when I reach the depths,  
into my vision comes the steps  
to lead me to the one who cares -  
my only task - to climb the stairs!  
I struggle, moan, I say "I can't".  
My conscience says, "You mean, 'I shan't!'  
He climbed the steps at Calvary,  
now come on climb these steps for me."  
I mutter darkly, "What's the use,  
you know I'll only feel a goose  
to reach the top and no-ones there,  
or find that he won't really care!"

"Until you do, you'll never know."  
My conscience firmly tells me so.  
"Pick up your spirit, feet and chin,  
carry your burden full of sin,  
And just let Jesus do for you  
the job that he has paid to do."

I knew then with such clarity,  
that nothing had befallen me,  
that hadn't happened once to him,  
when confined here by strife and sin.  
Yet he had found some men so nice,  
that he would want to pay that price.  
So very deep in thought was I,  
I had not even seen the sky above me  
shining warm and bright,  
I looked up blinking at the light,  
I heaved my burdens readily,  
He reached out, and he lifted me.

I saw at last that glorious face,  
I want to sing 'Amazing Grace'.  
His eyes, so kind, began to smile,  
"That last one is the hardest mile".  
His eyes remind me of my mum  
the day that she had rubbed my tum,  
to take away a 'nasty pain'.  
Yet they reminded me again  
of our old dog, my faithful mate,  
who always waited at our gate,  
though sometimes I would not come home,  
my faithful pal would never roam.

And as I gazed, to my surprise  
I seemed to see within his eyes  
those people who had seemed to me  
throughout my life, to be Godly.  
Just simple folk, not glory driven -  
not of this life, though maybe Heaven -  
who's smile, or word, or friendly pat,  
could soothe a hurt right where it's at,  
whose happiness infectious rose.  
I thought, amazed .... 'He's all of those!'

And as I looked, the smile that crept  
into his eyes, to laughter leapt.  
"You knew me then, you loved me too,  
I've always been there to love you,  
you silly goose, why did you grieve?  
I only asked you to believe.  
"The deal I made to die for you,  
was not one-sided it was two.  
It's not enough that I should take your burdens,  
though your back might break.  
My Father only let it be,  
if you should give them willingly".  
There is no small print to deceive -  
I only asked you to believe."

## IT'S CHRISTMAS

© Joyce Alchin

The smoke hangs in the valley as bushfires blaze and burn,  
The countryside looks very brown and dry.  
The shearing now is over, the harvesting is done;  
Heat, storms and wind all quickly pass on by.  
It's Christmas, yes, it's Christmas, and plans are being made  
To celebrate in truly country style.  
The families join together at homesteads scattered far,  
They'll travel over many distant mile.

The hum of busy traffic, the tread of many feet  
In bustling towns and cities everywhere.  
The stores are full of shoppers all searching hard to buy  
That special gift for those for whom they care.  
It's Christmas, yes, it's Christmas, the decorations hang  
And lights shine out from homes, from Christmas trees.  
There's smiles on children's faces, excitement in their eyes;  
They think of Santa's visit, toys that please.

The postie carries greetings, there's cards and parcels too  
As people keep in touch from year to year.  
The anthems ring out gladly, and voices rise in song,  
Bright carols tell the news for all to hear.  
It's Christmas, yes, it's Christmas, the Lord came down from heaven,  
A tiny baby born to live on earth.  
With joy we all can praise Him, we all can thank our God  
That Jesus came, we'll celebrate His birth.

The season soon is over, the celebrations cease;  
Has Christmas gone for yet another year?  
The caring, giving spirit, the message of goodwill,  
So quickly they can fade and disappear.  
It's Christmas, yes, it's Christmas, each day it's in the heart  
Of those who truly worship Christ the King.  
Who own Him as their Saviour, who serve Him as their Lord,  
Who know the love and joy that He can bring.

### Land of the Beardies Bush Poetry Competitions

I would like to say a heartfelt thank-you to the poets who entered in my poetry competitions and congratulations to the winners.

They were as follows -

#### Traditional Section

1<sup>st</sup> Jack Drake 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Brown 3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Kelly

#### Original Section

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Drake 3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Kelly

## Greetings from

Geoffrey  
Graham



A brief report on events down south.

Events at Dingley Dell were at one of the best settings one could imagine. The Poets Breakfast and events were on the lawns of the cottage, that Adam Lindsay Gordon spent time in. Over the weekend Bob Magor and myself were pretty heavily involved. And great to see new faces strutting their stuff. One of the delights for me was the winner in the writing section being a lady of some 84 years: Alma Thorsteinsen. Just shows you age certainly isn't a barrier when it comes to Bush Poetry.

The Maldon Folk Festival was another winner. From all reports the best yet. I could only get to a part of it but I compered a session with a difference, 4 hours of poetry and musicians combined. Well received and I'm sure setting a trend for the future.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at St Arnaud the Bush Poets Breakfast was bigger and better, and the unique aspect of this breakfast was a dearth of blokes. Apart from myself, Les James and Stan McKay all the participants were women, and gave a totally different feel to the breakfast. Topics of love and feelings and perceptions quite different from most breakfasts I've compered.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I'll be doing my 'Man from Ironbark' show at the Bendigo Regional Arts Centre, then December 9<sup>th</sup>, I'll be at Mooroopna Golf Club.

At Tamworth this year, besides doing three shows of "The Man from Ironbark" I will have a totally new show '100 Not Out'. This is a celebration of our Federation and a look at some of the events that have shaped our identity.

Best wishes to everyone for Xmas and congratulations to the committee for another top years work

Keep smiling, Geoffrey Graham, Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739

#### Yarn Spinning

1<sup>st</sup> Col Newsome 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Barnes 3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Murchie  
Encouragement award was won by Malcolm McClood of Inverell

Submitted by Nell Perkins

## Part 1 - About These Guidelines

### 1. Preamble

Since the beginnings of European settlement, Australia has gone through many changes — some good, some bad. Regardless of our largely diverse origins, these changes are collectively the heritage of all Australians including those born in other lands. By design and default we are a wealthy nation because so much of our precious heritage has been preserved in verse and song. Our heritage is who we are. It is us. It is a gift for the future from our past. As poets and performers of Australian bush poetry and those who appreciate it, we must preserve what we can from what has been and record what is.

### 2. Objective

To preserve past, present, and, future, Australian bush poetry in writing and performance.

### 3. Interpretation

All poetry covered in these definitions shall be interpreted as *bush poetry* as defined herein unless specifically stated otherwise, e.g. American Cowboy Poetry, British Poetry, Foreign Poetry, Free Verse, etc.

## Part 2 - Terminology

### 4. Definitions.

**ABPA** — Abbreviation of "Australian Bush Poets Association Inc."

**Australian Bush Poetry** — Poetry with good rhyme and meter which is written:

- by an Australian;
- about Australia, its people, places, things, and, way of life.

**Categories** — Competitions offered at the discretion of the organisers — *Also see Classes*.

**Any Other Poet** — Contemporary or Traditional Australian Bush Poetry which is not written by the performer.

**Contemporary** — Australian Bush Poetry less than fifty years old which is not written by the performer.

**Modern** — *See Contemporary*.

**Original** — Australian Bush Poetry written by the performer.

**Specialty Categories** may be added at the organisers' discretion providing conditions of entry are made clear, e.g. Henry Lawson Category for poems written by Henry Lawson, or, Horse Category for poems written about horses.

**Traditional** — Australian Bush Poetry at least fifty years old which is not written by the performer.

**Classes** — Levels of competition offered at the discretion of the organisers. Ideally, where practical, Male and Female performers should be offered separate classes — *Also see Categories*

#### Children's Classes

**Youngsters** — boys and girls under 7 years of age

**Nipper** — boys and girls under 12 years of age

**Junior** — poets under eighteen years of age.

*Please Note: Broad differences between age groups need to be considered. Organisers should avoid combining Children's Classes where possible.*

(a) *Should "Youngster" and "Nipper" Class be combined, these Classes then become "Nipper — boys and girls under 12 years of age".*

(b) *Should "Nipper" and "Junior" Class be combined, these Classes then become "Junior — poets under 18 years of age".*

(c) *Should all three Children's Classes be combined these Classes then become "Junior — poets under 18 years of age".*

#### Adult Classes

*Please Note: Competitors who qualify may wish to enter Novice, Intermediate, and Open Class at one Competition. However, where a large number of entries are anticipated at a competition, organisers may limit competitors to one class only e.g., Novice only.*

**Novice** — poets who have not qualified in Novice, Intermediate or Open Class.

**Intermediate** — poets who have not qualified in Intermediate or Open Class

**Open** — Poets who exclude themselves from other classes either by choice or by having qualified

**Veteran** — poets over seventy years of age.

**Duo** — A Class for two competitors. Percentages of the performance for either competitor should not be nominated as controlled silence can be effective.

**Competition** — *See separate entries for each type of competition, namely, Written, Performance, Yarn Spinning.*

**Contemporary** — *See Categories*

**Deductions** — For various reasons Deductions may be taken from a competitor's score, e.g., Reading, Exceeding Time Limits, Performing the same poem in both Heats and Finals. *See Part 3 Section 7 (i) and the definition of "Disqualification".*

**Disqualification** — If a competitor is disqualified for any reason, that performance is disallowed for any consideration whatsoever and will automatically incur a zero score.

**Modern** — *See Contemporary*.

#### One Minute Competitions

- Poems written after a contestant's presence has been registered at the competition;
- Performance of such poems must be less than One Minute;
- Preambles should be brief or even non-existent;
- Preambles are not counted in the timing of the poem;
- Performance of these poems that run over One minute are disqualified;
- One Minute Competitions are conducted under a variety of acceptable names (For instance, 1 Minute Cup, 1 Minute Cut Out, Poets' Brawl, or any other suitable name Organiser's may decide).

**Overall Champion** — The poet with the highest score calculated at a competition. For the criteria of such calculations see Part 4 Section 11.

**Poets Brawl** — *See One Minute Competition.*

**Preamble** — The performer's introduction to the poem.

**Qualifying Score** — Where the scores on a competitor's score sheet total 80 or more points from each judge with no section on any sheet scored below 12 points. *See Part 3 Section (j).*

**Qualifying Certificates** — Whenever a Qualifying Score is given the competitor must be given a Qualifying Certificate.

**Tie Breaker** — the method used to separate equal scores to clearly define the winners and/or the order of place getters. *See part 4 Section 12.*

**Time Limits** — Maximum Time for children's events is 5 minutes and for all Adult events 8 minutes. **These are upper limits only.** It is not always desirable, and sometimes detrimental, to completely fill the time allowed. Time limits always include the Preamble. *See Deductions and Part 3 Section 7 (i)*

**Traditional** — *See Categories*

## Part 3 - Conditions

### 5. Types of Competitions

Written (See part 3 Section 5);

Performance (See part 3 Section 6);

Yarn Spinning (See part 3 Section 57).



## 6. Written Competition

### (a) Categories

At the discretion of the organisers any or all of the following classes may be offered to competitors either singularly or in combination:

- (i) Youngster;
- (ii) Nipper
- (iii) Junior;
- (iv) Novice;
- (v) Intermediate
- (vi) Open
- (vii) Any nominated theme, e.g., Serious, Humorous, Local History, Drovers, Wildlife, etc.

### (b) Original Work Only

In written competitions all work submitted must be written by the competitor.

### (c) Co-authors

For the purpose of these guidelines co-authorship shall count as original. However written consent of all parties must accompany the Entry Form.

### (d) Limited Number of entries

Organisers, at their discretion, may nominate a number of entries per competitor or per entry form.

### (e) Entry fees

Organisers, at their discretion, may nominate appropriate entry fees to cover administration costs and raise funds.

### (f) Closing Date

Organisers shall nominate a closing date, at least one month before the announcement of results, to allow judges adequate time for accurate assessment.

### (g) International Entries

Organisers, at their discretion, may accept international entries.

### (h) Length of poems

Organisers, at their discretion, may limit the length of poems to be considered in any or all sections of a written competition.

### (i) Refusal of Previous Winning Poems

Organisers, at their discretion, may refuse to accept poetry that has:

- (i) won any other competitive event; and/or,
- (ii) been published for profit; and/or,
- (iii) performed in any competitive events.

### (j) Notification of winners

As soon as practical after the completion of judging, organisers shall notify winners.

### (k) Judges Decision is Final

Judges' decisions are final and no further discussion will be considered.

### (l) Return of Poems

Competitors are advised to always keep copies of their work. Poetry submitted may not always be returned.

### (m) Judges' Sheets

At the sole discretion of the organisers, Judges' Assessment Sheets may be forwarded to Competitors. Stamped, self addressed envelopes may be requested.

### (n) Publication of Anthologies

Organisers may publish an anthology of poetry from the poetry submitted. At the sole discretion of the organisers any poem submitted may or may not be used in such a publication.

### (o) Performance at the Presentation

Ideally winning and place getting entries should be performed by their author at a winners presentation. Winners may nominate another poet for such a performance.

### (p) Copyright

For every entry received at any competition copyright belongs to the author or to whoever is the legal owner.

### (q) Deceased Estate

Beneficiaries or executors of a deceased estate may permit entries on behalf of deceased authors.

### (r) Names Must Not Appear on Entries

Entrants names must not appear on the poem — see Appendix 1

## 7. Performance Poetry Competition

### (a) Categories

At the discretion of the organisers any or all of the following categories may be offered to competitors either singularly or in combination:

- (i) Youngster;
- (ii) Nipper;
- (iii) Junior;
- (iv) Novice Traditional;
- (v) Novice Contemporary;
- (vi) Novice Original;
- (vii) Intermediate Traditional;
- (viii) Intermediate Contemporary;
- (ix) Intermediate Original;
- (x) Open Traditional;
- (xi) Open Contemporary;
- (xii) Open Original;
- (xiii) Veteran Traditional;
- (xiv) Veteran Contemporary;
- (xv) Veteran Original;
- (xvi) Duo;
- (xvii) One Minute Cup;
- (xviii) Organisers may, at their discretion, offer other nominated themes, e.g., Serious, Humorous, Local History, Drovers, Wildlife, etc.

### (b) Male and Female Separate Categories

Ideally separate Categories should be offered for Male and Female competitors. These may be identified as (M) for Male and (F) for Female respectively

..... Continued next month

## EULO MOTHER'S DAY POETRY

### COMPETITION

12 & 13 MAY 2001

WRITTEN BUSH VERSE

*Closing Date 30 March 2001*

Entry Fee: OPEN: \$5 for 1 to 3 entries

#### PRIZE MONEY:

OPEN 1<sup>ST</sup> place \$150

SECONDARY STUDENTS: No entry fee: 1<sup>ST</sup> place \$30

PRIMARY STUDENTS –

Grade 4 to 7: No entry fee: 1<sup>ST</sup> place \$20

Grade 3 and under: No entry fee: 1<sup>ST</sup> place \$10

- Each poem must have good rhyme and rhythm and have an Australian theme
- Maximum length: OPEN – 120 lines. SECONDARY – 60 lines. PRIMARY – 20 lines.
- Each entry must be on a separate sheet of paper and typed, if possible
- Two copies of each poem
- Names of entrants must NOT be shown on entry
- Entrants are advised to keep a copy of their work as entries will not be returned
- Entries must be the entrants own work and not previously won or been placed in another competition or been previously published
- The winner will be notified as soon as the Judges decision is available and announced in Eulo on Mother's Day
- Cheques/money orders to be made payable to: Eulo Development Association
- Judges decision will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into
- Send entries to:

*Janine Haig, Poetry Competition, Eulo, Qld. 4491*

#### ENTRY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

AGE (for Student entries): \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

NO OF ENTRIES: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF ENTRIES:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the enclosed verse is my own work and has not been previously published, passed around, or used in any other media. I agree to the Conditions of Entry and accept the Judge's decision as final.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone enquiries:

Janine (07) 4655 4862 or Helen (07) 4655 4849

## Maldon Folk Festival (Vic) 3-6/11/2000

There was an interesting quote in the programme for this Festival that said simply, "if you don't have a good time at Maldon, then you're not trying" and that's as good a place as any to start I think.

This was my second Maldon Festival appearance and along with the other featured poets Geoffrey Graham, Campbell the Swaggie, Richard Leitch, Eddie Scott & Whipstick Wortho, the 27<sup>th</sup> Maldon Festival was a ball from start to finish.

Not that we had much time to ourselves. Between the 3 Poets Breakfasts, a brunch in the Maldon Café (with the local Poetry reading group), a "Yarn Spinning" session in the Blacksmiths Barn, a "Booze, Ballads & Bulldust" gig (shared with ex-patriate NSWelshman, Dave de Hugard) and individual solo spots in the various restaurants and businesses accompanied by lengthy bouts of MC'ing in the Maldon Hotel the weekend just flew by. Sessions and Chalkboards gobbled up any leisure time to boot!

For those who haven't had the pleasure of attending this event, there are two main Festival sites. One being the town itself, the other the natural amphitheater of the Tarrangower Reserve just up the road. Excellent venues, excellent organization by a very switched on committee. And the locals are pretty friendly too!

Other poets helping out over the course of the weekend were Arnie Haynes, Gail Jaffa, Brenda & Dave Williams (& video recorder), Duncan Dunnidge, Steve Curl, Don Bannister, Peter Howe, Lindsay Wilson & Dave Moss all lending their particular skills to the betterment of the Spoken Word Programme.

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

### North Star Bushman's Carnival

Annually, a North Star Bushman's Carnival is held on the NSW long weekend for labour Day, i.e. the first weekend in October. North Star is a small town and agricultural district just over the NSW border, about 50km south of Goondiwindi, and the Bushman's Carnival is a weekend of horse sports, featuring Campdrafting.

This year, a small committee got together to materialize a long tossed around notion of Bush Poetry to compliment the action and spirit of the horse events, which this year was held over two days, with the Poetry on the Saturday night. Locally made trophies featured a horseshoe mounted on varnished wood in keeping with the horse theme of the weekend.

On a beautiful summer evening, we were thrilled to welcome 3 experienced Bush Poets and their supporters who had traveled considerable distances, and a small band of local budding poets gathered to entertain and enlighten audiences. Humour was the order of the night, and as you all would know it is amazing how a few or more words strung together with emotion and posture can provide such a treat for those present.

Winners were –

Open Section – Bill Glasson, Clifton "That Day on Boiling Downs"

Original Section – Colin Newsome, Glen Innes "The Green Tree Snake"

Novice Section – Nell Perkins, Glen Innes "The Warrumbungle Mare"

Juniors were a bit shy this year, but not so Sophie Allport who mustered pluck and courage and recited "Mother Doesn't want a Dog". Sophie, at 9 years of age, promises to have a creative future ahead, as she also secured the Poet's Brawl in Open Company! And, against her mother! To top off her evening, Sophie was also awarded the Judges' Encouragement Award of a book "A Thousand Campfires".

Colin Newsome's rendition of "The Green Tree Snake" held the audience enthralled, as was the Editor of a local newspaper who reproduced Colin's poem in full for the pleasure of his readers.

*Submitted by Bernadette Allport, North Star, NSW*

## "Somebody's Mother"

The woman was old and worn and grey,  
Bent with a chill of the winter's day,  
The streets were wet with ice and snow,  
And the woman's steps were aged and slow.  
She stood at the crossing and waited long  
Alone uncared for amid the throng.  
Of human beings that passed her by  
None heeded the glance of her anxious eye  
Till down the street with laughter and shout  
Gladed at the freedom of school let out  
Came the boys like a flock of sheep  
Ailing the snow piled white and deep,  
Pass the woman so old and grey  
Hastened the children on their way  
None offered a helping hand to her.  
Alone uncared for afraid to stir,  
Lest the carriage wheels of the horses feet  
Should crowd her down on the slippery street.  
Till at last came one of a merry troop,  
The gayest laddie of all the group  
He paused beside her and whispered low,  
I'll help you across if you wish to go  
And so her hand on his strong young arm  
He placed without hurt and harm.  
He guided the trembling feet along  
Proud that his own were firm and strong,  
And back again to his friends he went  
His young heart happy and well content.  
"She's somebody's Mother, boys you know,  
For all she's aged and poor and slow  
And I hope some fella will lend a hand  
To help my Mother who understand,  
If ever she's worn and old and grey  
And her own dear boy is far away  
And somebody's Mother will bow her head,  
In her home that night and the prayer she said  
God be kind to that noble boy  
Whose somebody's son and pride and joy."

### URUNGA POETS IN THE CLUB & DORRIGO MOUNTAIN TOP POETS

A combined end of year get together of Urunga Poets in the Club and Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets will be held at Alma Dopel Recreation Reserve, River Street, Mylstrom from 12 noon on Sunday 10th December, 2000. The reserve has some tables available as well as plenty of shaded picnic areas. Should the weather be increment, there is a shelter shed which can be used.

Everyone is welcome and are asked to bring everything needed for a picnic - chairs, rugs, food, drink and utensils and don't forget to bring your poetry!

Each person is asked bring a small wrapped and unlabelled gift suitable for either gents or ladies (value of \$3.00) which 'Santa' will distribute.

Urunga Poets in the Club, will begin their 2001 events with a "Bush Poets Showcase" evening on 10th March at Urunga Golf Club to celebrate their 3rd Birthday. This year, instead of having a professional performer to entertain, local poets will feature admirably during the program, hence the name "Showcase". All NSW Mid North Coast bush poets are invited to perform as well as bush poets from other areas who may wish to do so. Cost for the evening, which includes dinner (Baked meal, bread roll and coffee) is \$8.00 per head. Bookings are necessary for catering purposes and can be made at Urunga Golf Club 02 6655 6161. Enquiries to either Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.

Regular meetings for the year will then be held at Urunga Golf Club on Saturday 12th May, 14th July and 13th October, 1.30 - 4pm.

Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets will hold their gatherings at the Dorrigo Mountain Top Resort on the second Wednesday of February, April, June and August. For details ring Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139.

We look forward to the pleasure of your company at some of the above events and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your valued support over the past year.

Maureen Stonham, Keith Haycraft and Murray Suckling,  
Organisers.

## AND THE WINNER IS .....

© Bob Bush

Four years we've been waiting and at last it's Sydney's turn,  
To light the sacred flame and for two weeks watch it burn.  
And while the cauldron burns, check the history of the games,  
Read the past results and the list of winners' names,

And when looking at men's swimming and the 1500 swim,  
In ninety two and ninety six, check the name they've written in,  
Kieren Perkins will be there - he won the right to be,  
But he hasn't finished yet - he wants to make it three!

No man has ever matched the great Dawn Fraser's feats  
Of the same Olympic gold at three Olympic meets.  
To come and race in Sydney and hear the home crowd roar,  
And so motivate his swim to claim one medal more.

In four years since Atlanta he'd train and he would swim,  
But every race he entered - he failed to claim a win.  
He ignored all the knockers and he'd answer with a grin,  
"I wouldn't be doing this if I thought I couldn't win."

But as with all parades there's a constant risk of rain,  
Grant Hackett had emerged as a threat to Perkins' aim,  
The experts all appeared from where they used to be,  
Predicting every outcome through their papers and TV.

The day before the final when the best of them would meet,  
He was fronted with the question on how to swim his heat.  
Unknowing of the field and how they'd swim the rest,  
He was faced with the option of swimming at his best.

He went out and swam that heat, at a pace still rarely seen,  
He qualified the quickest, with a time below fifteen  
The impact of that swim like a bushfire spread the word,  
Serving notice to a country that his voice will still be heard.

Reports on Hackett's form, just days before the race,  
Had shown in recent swims he was lacking normal pace,  
The nation paused to watch - as history proves they do  
Each with their own favorite, but all wanting the one - two.

They were ready on the blocks as the starter held them down  
Two Aussies locked in battle for the fifteen hundred crown.  
Four years of work and heartache had climaxed to this day.  
The starter's buzzer sounded and released them on the way,

The time had come to race - they'd come here to compete!  
Hackett went out quickly - with Perkins at his feet,  
That crowd within the centre gave a roar to test the roof  
They each had picked a winner but now they wanted proof.

'Though Hackett's lead with every lap was appearing to improve,  
The crowd as one still waiting for Perkins' final move,  
That great Atlanta feat still etched within their mind,  
Could Perkins lift and swim and take him from behind?

But that sub-fifteen he'd swum in that heat the day before,  
Proved a weight within the water as Hackett shut the door.  
With two hundred left to swim Hackett stretched the pace,  
And went on to claim the blocks and victory in the race.

The finish that was wished - was sadly not to be,  
Perkins finished second - he had failed to make it three.  
The chance to be a swimming great - like a siren it had beckoned,  
But that quest had not been lost - even though he'd finished second.

That crown he'd held untarnished had been lifted from his head,  
And the title of "a legend," bestowed on him instead.  
He'd set a benchmark for the future through all he had achieved  
By the way he kept on striving to chase what he'd believed.

He'd set the measure for all sport on how to claim the win,  
Or to greet a loss head-on and still embrace it with a grin,  
Although he took the silver - to me he's won the gold,  
And we shall be the winners - every time his story's told.



# POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Dec 10         | <b>Snowy Mountain Bush Poetry Club</b> Christmas Party, Commercial Club, Wagga Wagga. Reg 02 6040 2508, Sue 0415 922 315   |
| Dec 10         | <b>Urunga &amp; Dorrigo Poets End of Year Picnic</b> Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.   |
| <b>2001</b>    |  |
| Jan 23         | Winners announced and Trophies presented for <b>Australian Bush Laureate Awards</b> , Tamworth Town Hall   |
| Jan 24-26      | <b>Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition</b> Heats. For entry form send SSAE to Jan Morris PO Box 1164 Tamworth 2340  |
| Jan 27         | <b>Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition</b> Finals. For entry form send SSAE to Jan Morris PO Box 1164 Tamworth 2340   |
| Jan 27         | <b>The Blackened Billy Verse Competition</b> Presentation of Award 11 am at the Imperial hotel, Tamworth NSW   |
| Jan 19         | Closing Date for <b>Chinchilla Melon Festival Written Comp</b> . Entries Ph 07 4662 7088   |
| Feb 16-18      | <b>Chinchilla Melon Festival</b> . Poets Breakfasts, Melon Field Day. For more information, phone 07 4668 9564   |
| Mar 10         | <b>Urunga Bush Poets Showcase</b> 6 pm Urunga Golf Club. Dinner & Show \$8, Ph Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.                                    |
| Mar 15-18      | <b>John O'Brien Bush Festival</b> . Poets Brekkys Saturday and Sunday, Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672392   |
| Mar 16-18      | <b>Yackandandah Folk Festival</b> Contact 0260269224 Email yackfolk@netc.net.au  |
| Mar 16-18      | <b>Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival</b> Details from Marie Hensley bh : (02) 63 751975 ah: (02) 63751015   |
| Mar 17-18      | <b>High Country Poets</b> , O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe, Q. Cash prizes for Original and Traditional Ph Jack 07 4683 7169   |
| Mar 18         | <b>Country Music Rush Bush Poetry Competition</b> , Jondaryan Woolshed, Qld. Phone Dell 07 4635 6429 (a/h)   |
| Mar 30         | Closing Date <b>Eulo Mother's Day Written Competition</b> . Phone Janine 07 4655 4862 or Helen 07 46554849   |
| Apr 6          | <b>Junior Bush Poetry Festival</b> , Winton Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q. 4821  |
| Apr 6-8        | <b>Man From Snowy River Festival</b> . Phone/fax Jan Lewis 0260774332 email <a href="mailto:poetfarm@corryong.albury.net.au">poetfarm@corryong.albury.net.au</a> |
| Apr 20-22      | <b>NSW Bush Poetry Championships</b> , Tumut NSW. Ph Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845 Entries close 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2000  |
| Apr 20-22      | <b>Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush</b> Applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW Or Phone 0267 361082  |
| Apr 20         | Closing Date <b>Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush</b> written competition. Enq to Cecil Plains Homestead, Cecil Plains Q 4407  |
| Apr 30         | Closing Date for <b>Bronze Swagman Bush Poetry</b> written competition.  |
| May 12-13      | <b>Eulo Annual Mother's Day Fair</b> , Written & Performance Comps. Ph Janine 07 46554862, Fax 07 46554901   |
| Jun 8-         | <b>Australian Bush Poetry Championships</b> , Caloundra, Q Ph Wally Finch 07 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop 07 5491 3653.   |
| Jun 29 - Jul 2 | <b>Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival</b> , Winton, Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q. 4821                                   |
| Jul 6-8        | <b>Bundy Muster week-end</b> . Performance & written competitions. Ph Joan 07 41529624 or Sandy & John 07 41514631   |



Greetings from Gippsland, where Bush Poetry continues to thrive. The Gippsland Bush Poets opened their Summer/Autumn campaign at the Ninety Mile Beach Festival at Lock Sport over the weekend of November 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. Eight members of our group performed over the weekend. Although the anticipated crowds did not appear, Festival organisers have pledged that the Festival will continue next year. Bush

Poetry was a prominent part of the Festival, which saw names such as Johnny Chester, Jimmy Little and the Howie Brothers perform.

The Gippsland Bush Poets celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the Rosedale Hotel on Thursday night the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. The meeting was well attended with 21 members and guests present. Members reflected on the first 12 months of our club, and all consider the club to be a very successful one.

Membership of our club now stands at 31 financial members. The president stated that the challenge facing the club was not only to keep our present members, when membership dues are renewed at the end of the year, but to increase our members and our presence in the district. As a Bush Poetry club, we see it as our duty to lift the profile of traditional Australian Bush Poetry as a legitimate form of entertainment.

The club has been contacted by various Festivals and will be performing at the:

- Gippsland Lavender Festival, January 7<sup>th</sup>
- Lines, Laughs & Larrikins, January 26<sup>th</sup>
- Welling Bushracing Carnival, January 27/28
- Heyfield Festival, late March
- Shakespeare Festival, May 5/6<sup>th</sup>

The club is also involved in the organisation of the inaugural Gippsland Writers Festival to be held in October 2001.

As well as the above, members of our club will be competing in the:

- Mountain Cattlemen Bush Poetry Competition, January 13<sup>th</sup>
- John O'Brien Festival, March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Man From Snowy River Festival, April 7/8<sup>th</sup>
- NSW Bush Poetry Championships, April 21/22<sup>nd</sup>

For information on any of the above festivals, please do not hesitate to contact our President, Dennis Carstairs, on (03) 5145 6128.

May I take this opportunity to wish every member of the Australian Bush Poets Association a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, from the Gippsland Bush Poets.

I hope to be able to catch up with many of you in the New Year,

*Submitted by Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, Vic*

# \$1,000 in prizes

School students from Tamworth & district and around Australia are invited to compete for a total of \$1,000 worth of prizes at the National 2001 School Students' Australian Poetry Championship, at Tamworth City Bowling Club, 11am to 2.30pm on Thu 18 Jan (heats) and Fri 19 Jan (finals).

Admittance is FREE, entry to the competition is FREE, and guests may obtain good value meals and refreshments at the Club.

Competitors may present one or more poems together with suitable preamble(s). **The Primary School Section** has a time limit of seven minutes. Entry is open to any student enrolled in Primary School for the year 2001. **The Secondary School Section** has a time limit of twelve minutes. Entry is open to any student enrolled in Secondary School for the year 2001.

Quality of material is a component in assessment, so performers will find an advantage in presenting material by established poets. New material in the final is a good idea. Judges are poets George Lovejoy, Liz Ward, Trisha Anderson and Carmel Dunn.

Entries are accepted until 16 December 2000 at the Narnia Bookshop, 352 Peel St, Tamworth, or by phone to (02) 6766 6913 or fax to (02) 9922 5848. Late entries are welcome if space is available on the day.

Enquiries to 0413 348 843

# 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 12 May, 14 Jul, 13 Oct. 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** **The Mid-Coast Sundowners - Bush Poets** meet in a private home, Ring Reid 02 6554 9788, or Phil 02 6552 6389  
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 Yarnspillers,** 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



## 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

## URUNGA & DORRIGO POETS End of Year Picnic, December 10

12pm Alma Dopel Rec. Res., Mylstrom. Bring your poetry and everything you need for a picnic. Everyone welcome. See article Page 6 this issue.  
Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2001**  
Announcement of Winners and Prize Presentations will take place at a Poets Breakfast at the Chinchilla Museum on 18<sup>th</sup> 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

## TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION 2001

Featuring "The Golden Damper Awards", At Tamworth Imperial Hotel, Brisbane & Marius Streets, Tamworth. **Heats January 24-26, Finals 27<sup>th</sup> January.** 2 sections: Original, and Traditional or Established Works. Entry fee \$5 per section. For entry form send SSAE to Jan Morris PO Box 1164 Tamworth 2340

## INNER KISS PUBLICATIONS Poetry and Short Story Competition

1<sup>st</sup> prize \$250 for best poem (max 25 lines)  
\$250 for best short story (max 2000 words)  
Entry fees \$4 per poem, \$7 per short story  
For details send SSAE to Inner Kiss Publications, PO Box 327 South Caulfield Vic 3162, Or e-mail [innerkiss@hotmail.com](mailto:innerkiss@hotmail.com)

## CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL 16 - 18 February 2001

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

## URUNGA BUSH POETS SHOWCASE March 10, 6 pm Urunga Golf Club.

Dinner and Show \$8. All NSW Mid North Coast and visiting poets invited to perform. Come along, show off and have a great night. Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.

## THE DUNEDOO BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL, March 16-18, 2001

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Yarn Spinning Competition.  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - "The Great Dunny Classic" Bush Poetry Competition - Dunedoo Golf Club.

**\$1000** in Prize Money and other awards. Categories are : Novice, Traditional/Established, Original - Serious, Original - Humorous, Original Poem/Song with Dunedoo Theme. MC for the evening is Milton Taylor.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - Poets Brunch and Junior competition.

There will be Bush Poetry Workshops run by Milton Taylor to be held over the weekend - any one interested in the workshops or entry forms for the Bush Poetry Competition and Yarn Spinning please ring the festival coordinator - Marie Hensley bh : (02) 63 751975 ah: (02) 63751015

## 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](mailto:touristcentre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au)

## YACKANDANDAH FOLK FESTIVAL (NE Vict)

**16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:yackfolk@netc.net.au)

## COUNTRY MUSIC RUSH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Jondaryan Woolshed, Queensland, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>  
**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](mailto:poetfarm@corryong.albury.net.au)

## NSW BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001

Tumut R.S.L. Club - **20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2001. \$1,000 trophies - \$900 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, except 'All Rounder', which is Free. 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](mailto:janinehaig@bigpond.com). Put the date on your calendars and come and see that Eulo really does exist!

Performance Competition closing date is 4 May 2001.

CATEGORY ONE: Junior: Secondary School Students

CATEGORY TWO: Junior Junior: Primary School Students

CATEGORY THREE: Open: Serious Traditional or Modern

CATEGORY FOUR: Open: Humorous Traditional or Modern

CATEGORY FIVE: Open: Serious Original

CATEGORY SIX: Open: Humorous Original

CATEGORY SEVEN: Open: Yarn Spinning

## THE LUDWIG LEICHHARDT PAGEANT FUN DAY - 2001,

Sunday **30<sup>th</sup> May 2001.** Written Competition open to adults Unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. Closing date Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001 Topic - "Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush". Please keep a copy of your poem, and put personal details (i.e. name, address, phone/fax no) on a separate sheet. Judged independently, and announced at the Fun Day. Entries to:- Cecil Plains Homestead 'Leichhardt Poetry Competition', Cecil Plains Qld 4407

## THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS will be on

from **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2001** at the new Basketball Court, Golden Beach. For more details, phone Wally Finch (07) 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop (07) 5491 3653.

## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

### WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY INC.

Present Bundy Bush Poetry Muster and Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse 2001. **July 6-8, 2001.** Entries for Bush Lantern Award will close on May 31st, 2001. Entry forms for both the written and performance competitions will be available soon.

Enquiries: Joan (07) 41529624 or John & Sandy (07) 41514631

### WANTED: Copies of

"The Bronze Swagman Book of Verse" from years 1972, 1974, 1975, 1980 and 1981.

Will forward a cheque for books and postage.

Contact - Jill Perran, 38 Chestnut Drive, Murrumba Downs, Qld 4503



### Alan Palmer (Big Al)

wishes to advise that he has a U-Beaut

### Dragon Jumping Castle

for hire, for festivals or private functions.

Fully covered and enclosed, suitable for tiny tots to 10 years.

Call Big Al on (07) 5543 2606

Also avail: Large Castles, Chair-O-Plane, Fairy Floss, Trackless Train, Giant Slide, etc.

### "On The Lighter Side"

Humorous Verses and other Light Reading by Keith Ireland

\$12 plus postage

165 Kerrigan Street

North Rockhampton Qld 4701

Phone 07 4928 6916

### Thank you to our Contributors

Joyce Alchin  
Bernadette Allport  
Mavis Appleyard  
John Barclay  
Bob Bush  
Dennis Carstairs  
Michael Darby  
Joye Dempsey  
Holly de Dikard  
Jack Drake  
Des Ginnane  
Marco Gliori  
Geoffrey Graham  
Janine Haig  
June Hansen  
Flo Hart

Rex Hockey  
Neil Hulm  
Graeme Johnson  
Cecilia Kane  
Jan Morris  
Nell Perkins  
Arthur Rekow  
Marilyn Roberts  
Ron Selby  
Olive Shooter  
Noel Stallard  
Maureen Stonham  
Tom Stonham  
Brenda Williams  
Grahame Watt



## THE PRODUCT SHELF

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

### REVERSALS

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

(All poems included are prize-winners)  
Cost \$12.50 each, or \$30 for all three,  
including p&h, from Ron Stevens  
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### "Bush Humour"

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### THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

Merry Christmas to all ABPA members and your families. I hope that this Christmas season brings peace, joy and prosperity to you all.

I am looking forward to Tamworth, as I hope to get there for the first time ever! After hearing so much about how fun it always is, I hope to catch up with many of you there. Please remember to send all details of your event to me before the 20th December for inclusion in the Tamworth program that I will produce with the January 2001 Newsletter. If I don't receive your event details I will not be able to include it in this program.

Take the time to read the first installment of the Guidelines on Pages 8 and 9 of this issue. The remaining information will be included in the January issue. These Guidelines will be voted upon at the AGM on Saturday 27th January, so make sure you all read and understand them. Any comments should be directed to Olive Shooter.

Best regards, Jennifer Priest



**Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**  
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 Email abpanews@hotmail.com  
 Print Post PP 242018 / 0013 December 2000

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**POSTAGE  
PAID**



**Merry Christmas to  
all ABPA Members!**

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

From 'Swallows & Ariell' advertisement for plum puddings, *The Australian Women's Weekly*, December 15<sup>th</sup> 1945  
 'Victory is ours ... Our gallant sons are returning to share with their loved ones the joys of a Christmas freed from the dark shadow of war... May this calm Yuletide mark the dawn of an age when "Peace on earth, goodwill to all men" is a humble prayer answered in its glorious full.'

**Explaining Cricket** – this classic explanation is always accompanied by an acknowledgement to the Marylebone Cricket Club.

You have two sides – one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out. When he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they're all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs, that's the end of the game.

**1 DEC 1854 EUREKA STOCKADE CONSTRUCTED ON EUREKA HILL NEAR BALLARAT, VIC**  
**21 DEC 1817 THE NAME 'AUSTRALIA' FIRST OFFICIALLY USED BY GOVERNOR MACQUARIE**  
**23 DEC 1924 CORNFLAKES AS BREAKFAST CEREAL ON SALE FOR FIRST TIME**



**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. *(Please use block letters)*

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.*