

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 2 Volume 8

February 2001

APOLOGY TO ALL MEMBERS:

This edition of the ABPA Newsletter is unacceptably late, I know, and I apologise to all members. I know that you have been awaiting the delivery of your favourite magazine since early February, however due to circumstances beyond my control, you won't be receiving it until March! Please forgive me!

*Retiring Editor,
Jennifer Priest*

Report on the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition at the Imperial Hotel

This would have to have been our most exciting competition ever. The atmosphere and the enthusiasm from the large audiences set the scene for some pretty stiff competition between the poets. Dave Proust, who was 'nominated by a mate', knocked them all dead with his from the heart poem 'Mates' and proved to be a very popular winner. I don't think we've heard the last of this newcomer. Carmel Dunn, who we've seen coming up through the Junior ranks, can certainly mix it with the best of them. Her sincerity, style, and professionalism made her a very popular finalist.

We had our largest audience ever. We probably also had more serious poems presented, and the audiences seemed to respond to these particularly warmly. The results show that you don't have to have a funny poem to win and, also, that Imperial audiences are a discerning lot.

We presented our first 'Golden Damper' Awards with more being cooked up for next year, provided we can get SPONSORSHIP! This will give us something to worry about this year.

Thank you to all the poets for your support. It was lovely seeing you all again, and helping introduce some new faces to the bush poetry scene. See you all next year.

*Jan Morris, Organiser,
Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, NSW*

Results of The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2001

1st Prize: 'Shades of Grey' Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale, Qld

2nd Prize: 'From Federation On' Veronica Weal, Mt Isa, Qld

3rd Prize: 'When He Grew Up' Don Adams, Paraparaumu Bch, NZ

Highly Commended

'Pillmania (aka The Analeptic Sceptic)' Glenny Palmer

'Real Men Don't Cry' Jimmy Brown, Gilgai, NSW

'Paddy and the Scarecrow' Hope Galvan, Cootamundra, NSW

'Epitaph' Milton Taylor, Portland, NSW

'A Rotten Bad Shot' Hector Maclean, Bargara, Qld

'How Hivesville Won the Ashes' Hector Maclean

'Pyrrhic Victory' Jeff Ferguson, Upper Mt Gravatt, Qld

'Grandma Alice' Elva Scott, Coolah, NSW

'Barely a Holiday' Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW

'Monarchy' Carmel Randle, Preston Qld

'The Last Bluegum' Lynden Baxter, Calliope, Qld

'Reflections' Norma Jeffries, Warwick, Qld

Encouragement Award

'The Fearless Sheepdog Pup' Corinne Whitman, Townsville, Qld

Results of the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition Performance Competition at the Imperial Hotel, Tamworth

Original Section:

1st	Dave Proust	'Mates'
2nd	Michael Darby	'The Tale of Two Prime Ministers'
3rd	Terry Regan	'Blackbeard's Leap'

Traditional or Established Works

1st	Michael Darby	'Scots of the Riverina' (Lawson)
2nd	Carmel Dunn	'The Pearl of the All' (Ogilvie)
3rd	Rod Williams	'The Death of Ben Hall' (Ogilvie)

New Editor for the ABPA Newsletter

Bernie Bliss

PO Box 5208

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*Please send all reports, advertisements, notes,
information on events and letters to this address.*

New Treasurer for the ABPA

Rosemary Baguley

6 Stringybark Street

Regents Park Qld 4118

*Please send all payments for membership, payments
for ads, and changes of address to this address*

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DEADLINE: 20th of Each Month

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Ron Selby, Acting 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 TREASURER

WANT TO JOIN THE ABPA?

**COMPLETE THE FORM ON PAGE 16,
AND SEND A CHEQUE OR MONEY
ORDER FOR \$25, MADE OUT TO
"ABPA", TO:**

**ROSEMARY BAGUELY, TREASURER
(ADDRESS AS ABOVE)**

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME,
ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER!**

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE RECEIVING
THIS NEWSLETTER 12 TIMES A YEAR!**



Dear Members

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Jennifer Priest, who has carried out the duties of editor for our monthly Newsletter. I receive many compliments about it and I know members enjoy it and look forward to receiving it each month. It is a time for thanks. We thank Ron Selby for the sterling service given

to our Association as President and all the time he spends folding and labeling then posting the Newsletter. Also we appreciate the time given in his capacity as editor of the Seventh Annual book of Poems. By the way, the new one is now available, still \$3.00 plus postage. All poets

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tamworth has come and gone again. Congratulations to all who took part and to the winners. As usual Tamworth was also time for our AGM and there were some changes. Olive Shooter, our much-loved Secretary/Treasurer, has resigned to give her health the attention it deserves. Olive has served us well over her four years in office both in her efficiency and as a good friend. May your health continue to improve. Ron Selby stood down as President and took on the dual role of Vice President and Acting Secretary. If memory serves correctly, Ron has served on every committee of our Association but one. He has often been referred to as the 'quiet achiever' for good reasons.

Our new Treasurer, Rosemary Baguely, is well known to poets throughout Queensland and New South Wales. Rosemary and Peter, her husband, are regulars at competitions and often assist in making many events more smooth by their efficient score collating. We can rest assured our financial matters are in good hands.

Bernie Bliss, a regular performer at North Pine Country Park, Petrie, Queensland, is our newsletter editor and we will be seeing the high quality of what he can do from the next issue. This is the last issue from our retiring editor, Jennifer Priest, who is moving on and will soon be in Europe. Jennifer has done us proud over the last 16 months with the high standard of our Newsletter. We all wish you well with your move, and hope it has the success you are seeking and deserve.

Still remaining on the Committee are Vice President, Liz Ward, and yours truly. Liz has served us well in her capacity as Vice President and last year was also a member of the Guidelines Committee. Her skill, knowledge and expertise in Bush Poetry are assets she willingly shares. More on the Guidelines Committee soon.

The ABPA committee is very aware of our responsibility to all members throughout Australia. After all this is a national association. Help us please. Keep us informed of your needs by mail and phone. We are here to serve. Perhaps we can streamline what we need to do by using email ad /or the www scene? Please tell us what you think.

By the way, the Australian Championships will soon be on line; hopefully by the time this arrives in your mailbox. The address will be www.serv.net.au/bushpoets

Keep recording our Kulcha!

Wally Finch

whose poems appear in the annual will have received a complimentary copy by this. We have sold out of numbers 1 and 2, but we have carried over more than 900 of the next four years. Now add this year's 500 copies and that is 8 boxes under the bed. Please try to help out with this situation.

To vice-presidents Wally Finch and Liz Ward, many thanks for your eager co-operation and attention to all things bush poetry. We go into the year with a credit balance of \$11,874.18, but note that more than 100 prepaid their 2001 memberships. Our expenses have been kept down by reasonable printing costs.

We have continued the trend for a rise in members' numbers even if a small one. 1994 (102), 1995 (166), 1996 (275), 1997 (345), 1998 (374), 1999 (427), 2000(436).

These will be my last notes to you as Secretary/Treasurer. I have enjoyed the job. I will miss the friendly contact with you all and I hope I'll see you around. I will write a poem maybe, or just go fishing. Over the four years, I have felt that I couldn't have had a better group to work with, and when I needed you, my poet friends, you were always there. I wish you all good health, and keep promoting the spirit of Bush Poetry.

I sign off with fond regards, Olive Shooter

AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

BETTY OLLE



I Dips Me Lid

Betty Olle, Kyabram, Vic

I dips me lid, says he,
As he lifts that battered hat,
I lifts it to the living heroes,
And to they who will never come back.

I dips it to the soldier,
To the sailor and marine
I dips it to the airman
And the lads in jungle green.

I dips it to the living,
And he pauses then and sighs;
For they're the ones whose glory lingers,
They're the ones who've yet to die.

And dying isn't pleasant,
When you're on a jungle track,
Be it standing, sitting, kneeling,
Or lying on your back.

It's something slow and crawling
Or it's something, quick as a flash.
It's something we have not beaten,
Something we cannot smash.

I dips it to their courage
To their laughter and ready wit,
To their young undaunted faces
And to that dauntless, fathomless 'it'.

To the 'it', that is love unselfish
And courage unfailing and strong,
To the 'it' that gives us courage
And strength for the days, so long.

I dips it to the wounded
To the ones who've had their fling,
Who fought until their strength had failed them,
Who would die but never give in.

And I dips it to the silent
To their lost and unfilled lives,
I dips it to their sweethearts
To their mothers, children and wives.

I know you're feeling with me,
In fact I'd make a bid,
And because I cannot do more,
I just stands back - and I dips me lid!

Betty Olle was born in Emerald, Central Queensland, but was forced to leave all that behind to enter the competition called 'living'. She trained as a general nurse in Bundaberg and as a midwife in lovely Hobart. She loved being a midwife, and remained a practising one (except for some time off to become the mother of three boys and two girls) until age and arthritic knees forced her to retire.

Betty has always loved words and the English language and has written poetry from her teenage years. During her nursing years she wrote skits and ditties for 'inhouse' magazines, Christmas skits, etc. Because of these activities and her husband's friendship (and therefore hers also) with Skew Wiff Watt, she was encouraged to enter Winton's Bronze Swagman Competition in 1987 and had her poem published. She was runner-up in this competition in 1988 and won the little bronze man himself in 1992.

She has won places in other competitions as well, and has had other poems in succeeding Bronze Swagman Books. Although Betty has never published her own book of poetry, she has been involved in three books of Children's Poetry, edited by Carmel Randle, and reviewed recently in the ABPA Newsletter. She says, "perhaps she writes children's poetry because "I Dips My Lid" (published on this page) has the distinction of having been written and recited 56 years ago. She wrote it when she was a very patriotic teenager, for a concert to raise funds to buy 'War Bonds' during the war in 1944.

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

The A.B.P. Association.

What's your dream job?

What I do now. Being a wife, being a 'gran', and just being me.

What's your least favourite food?

Fresh oysters - Yuck! They're alive for goodness sake!

Who do you admire most?

People who can get up on stage and recite.

What was your most embarrassing moment?

I keep having them and they keep getting worse.

What was your earliest memory?

Are you kidding? I can't even remember my own poetry - let alone something way back when.

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

I made a list - Geoff said I couldn't send it.

What started you writing Bush Poetry?

I had this profound piece published in the school 'mission magazine', and I was hooked.

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

Too good for Heaven - Too bad for Hell -

Where you're going - I cannot tell!

What kind of car do you drive?

The kind of car that always brings me home!

Dear Learned Colleagues

Can any of our educated members please explain to me, and I am sure to many of my peers, why it seems to be mandatory or compulsory for many poets to begin every line they write with a CAPITAL letter when this practice defies all the laws of punctuation of the English language.

Sincerely, Maureen Stonham, Nambucca Heads NSW

Dear Editor

I'm writing on behalf of the Blackened Billy Verse Competition Committee and myself, as we would all like to congratulate all the winners. Their work was both magnificent and a wonderful challenge. To those who were unsuccessful, may I say that in many cases you will never know just how close your work came to being amongst the top group. Hope you will be encouraged to write again during the year and allow us to hear your words, messages and insights, as perhaps winners in the next Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2002. We received 336 entries. Many thanks to all who entered in the competition which is organized by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.

*Yours Sincerely, Maureen Quickenden,
Monitor, 'The Blackened Billy Verse Competition'*

Dear Editor

Hello! And a Happy New Year from your WA counterpart. As the Editor of the West Australian Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Association (WABP&YSA), I thought I'd make myself known through our newsletter. The other reason I have sent you this issue is that our association has published a unique poetry book of our best members works called "A Welter of Racing and Horse Poems". This has been done as a fundraiser for the association as well as to give our members a chance to publish and make their works known to the rest of the country. (West Aussies sometimes feel a little isolated over here but we enjoy works from your ABPA magazine so maybe this is a chance to reciprocate)

Regards, Geoff Bebb, Editor WABP&YSA

Dear Editor

It is worrying to me to read in the latest magazine the apparent clash of two events at the Corryong 'Man From Snowy River' Festival 2001. One is an official Bush Verse and Yarn Competition and the other is a so-called championship organised by an individual in direct opposition to the MFSR event. Surely common sense should have prevailed in this case, and the other event should not have been called a 'poetry championship'.

The 'Man From Snowy River' Festival and its prestigious awards does not deserve this opposition. I believe it is time that the name 'Championships' be used only for ABPA approved events. What do you reckon?

Grahame Watt, Kyabram, VIC

On My Soapbox

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



Dear Editor

An old lady who attended recent Poetry Day has asked for help in identifying a poem part of which is below (this is all she can remember)

I have a black dolly called Topsy
Who doesn't like sleeping alone
For she is afraid of black bogeys
Though I'm perfectly sure there are none
So I just tuck her under my pillow
?????

Would be grateful if anyone knows the whole poem and can identify the author. If you can help please advise us at Brenda Williams 42 Boger St BENALLA 3672 or email williams@hdc.com.au

Thanks, Brenda Williams

Dear Editor

I became a member only last year, after hearing about the ABPA from Janine Haig at the 2000 Oracles of the Bush. It came as something of a revelation to learn of the widespread interest in Australian verse, as I'd always felt a little odd for wanting to write. How wonderful to know, in our technology-obsessed age, that the tradition of recitation lives on, undefeated. The arrival of the newsletter each month is a great source of encouragement.

David Moore, Tenterfield, NSW

Dear Editor

G'Day from Janine and Milton in Colorado, where we have just spent a glorious week. We were Home Hosted by Eldon and Gayle Laidig and they treated us royally.

The organisers arranged volunteers to take us sightseeing before the Poetry Gathering and a local who is related to an Aussie called Mad Max terrorised us for a day driving in the Rocky Mountains. So we've seen more of Colorado than some of the locals.

Both of us were featured artists on the night programs, which were standing room only in the 500 seat theatre. We also performed at several hour long sessions each day in the smaller rooms (approx 60 seats) and once again it was standing room only.

We have been very enthusiastically received here, lots of interest in both us personally and Australia (and its poetry) in general. The calibre of poets we performed with was outstanding. Their delivery differs from ours but the quality of verse and their professionalism is great.

Oh, well, on to Elko. I guess someone has to do it!

Love from Milton and Janine.

URUNGA BUSH POETS IN THE CLUB "SHOWCASE" DINNER AND CONCERT

In 1997, following several successful bush poetry events along the Mid North Coast of NSW, bush poets and rhymers from this area were encouraged by a visiting performer, 'The Larrikin', Bob Miller to hold regular get-togethers to foster their craft.

The subsequent result was the formation, in March 1998 of Urunga Poets in the Club who now meet several times each year at the Urunga Golf Club. This centrally located area, 30 minutes drive south of Coffs Harbour attracted poets from as far north as Byron Bay and Forster in the south to perform at the informal gatherings at the club.

Since the formation of the group, the eastern seaboard has seen many regular bush poetry events in most of its main population centres. Updated information on forthcoming activities and rhyming poetry by the poets can be found on a local web site hosted by COMMUNITY ONLINE - Nambucca Valley NSW Australia <http://www.nambucca-valley.com/community/BushPoetry/Default.htm>

To celebrate the occasion of the group's third birthday and the growth of and interest in bush and rhyming poetry in the area, Urunga Poets in the Club will stage a Showcase evening at Urunga Golf Club on Saturday, 10th March.

The concept of the evenings' entertainment will be to 'showcase' to the public the many local performers of rhyme who have, over the years, developed their skills and love of the art through the group.

Special guest poet and compere for the evening concert will be Bill Kearns who has been a regular visitor at Urunga activities since the groups inception.

He was born and raised on a dairy farm on the Clarence River,

N.S.W and as a lifetime lover of traditional poetry, Bill, (The Bull), named for his mastery of the art of Bull, entertains his audiences with poetic tales of life's misadventures as seen through the eyes of his incorrigibull, disreputabull, unforgettabull and sometimes weird but enjoyabull sense of humour.

(He usually manages to slip in a serious poem or two as well just to catch them unawares and make them think.)

Bill's credentials include judge's commendations in national competitions including the Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts and Tamworth's Imperial Hotel Blackened Billy Competition. He is a past winner of the Bards of Bowra performance competition Original Section and was placed first when he beat Queensland's best in the Original Men's Section of the 2000 Millmerran Bush Poets Roundup.

Bill currently co-ordinates a monthly session of Poets in the Pub at Roaches Hotel in Grafton NSW on the last Tuesday of most months.

Bill has released four books, one of which is a collection of original and recyclabull works under the title of "THE BEST OF BULL". He has also released a cassette tape, "BULL, BALLADS, AND BALDERDASH". Bill and other poets will offer their product for sale during the evening.

The evening will commence at 6 pm with a superb roast dinner provided by the skilled caterers at the club. Admission, including meal is \$8.00. Bookings are necessary for catering purposes and can be made at Urunga Golf Club 02 6655 6161.

All rhymers and bush poets from the area who have performed during the period are invited to come and share their talents on the concert stage. Poets from other areas are also invited to attend. If you would like to perform, please ring and advise us so that we can facilitate the evening's program.

Enquiries to Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.

Bush Poetry Day for Riding for the Disabled 6/1/01

A good day was had by all who attended our Bush Poetry Day for The Riding For the Disabled Day, at the home of David and Brenda Williams. We would like to thank all the Bush Poets who attended. From Kyabram Bush Poets came Molly Sparkes, Johnno Johnson, Joan Hill, Janice and Graham 'Skew Wiff' Watt, who all were terrific giving some good old Bush entertainment.

All the way from Sydney were Cas & Helen Vanloon, who were valuable with their help and poetry. Carol Reffold, a lady just in the middle of a move from Childers, Qld, to Melbourne, took time out to visit. Benalla's own Colin Milligan shortened his holiday to support us. Later in the day, Peter 'Whipstick' Worthington from Bendigo did some poems.

Thanks also to Pat Drennan and his lady Lois, whose help in setting up was very much appreciated. To the whole band of volunteers on the day, we say thank-you, and also to the shopkeepers who donated raffle prizes. At the end of the day we raised \$420.00 for the All-Weather Recreation Room for the Riding for the Disabled.

We have been asked if we could make it an annual event, and we have said 'yes', but will pick a cooler month!

Submitted by Brenda Williams, Benalla, VIC

Millmerran Bush Poetry Group

Plans are well underway for the 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Round-Up. There will be NO Junior performance competition this year but we will run a written competition for them. The Yarn-Spinning Competition and Traditional Aussie Bar-B-Q will start the event on Friday 31st August at 7pm.

On Saturday 1st, in the Cultural Centre starting at 9:30am, we will run the Novice, Intermediate and Duo competitions followed by the Open Female heats. Saturday night in the Sportsmans Club we will run the Open Male heats and run a State of Origin.

Sunday at 9am, same venue, the Poets Breakfast will be followed by the Open Finals, Poets Brawl and Presentations.

There is a new owner at the Rams Head Hotel. He tells me he removed six truckloads of rubbish from the premises in the first week; even the doors to the rooms close now!

Remember, accommodation is always scarce in a small town, so book early with Judy Fitzgeralds B & B (07) 4695 1659, The Millmerran Motel on (07) 4695 1411, Kevin and Dawn Gibson, Millmerran Caravan Park (07) 4695 1572, Phil and Bernadette Bland, Millmerran Village Caravan Park (07) 4695 1332, Rams Head Hotel (07) 4659 1488.

Yours in Bush Poetry, Kev Barnes, Millmerran, Qld

A Poetic 'Nerd'

With computer I'm really quite hot,
I know of a 'mouse' and such rot,
And now without fail,
I sign my email,
With W.W.Wot!

Grahame Watt, Kyabram, Vic

The Path He Almost Followed

David Moore, Tenterfield, NSW

Arriving there at the station,
With no grasp of a vocation,
Or the basic skills required of a jackeroo to know,
He had limited resources,
And knew nothing about horses,
But the owner said he'd give the dairy farmer's son a go.

The lad was only seventeen,
New to the world, and very green,
He'd spent his school years dreaming of a stockman's life on the land
So this was happening at last
And he knew he'd better learn fast,
For he was keen to make a go of it, as a station hand.

Well the first thing he discovered,
In the yards, his breath recovered,
Was that brahmans weren't so friendly as the dairy herd had been
But he stood up and pushed them back,
And refused to give any slack,
Grinning happily when the men chuckled dryly at the scene.

He was doing alright at first,
Enthusiastic enough to burst,
And making a ringer of the young bloke was the owner's tip.
But his weakness was the muster,
Taking buster after buster,
As he tried in vain to develop a little horsemanship.

And it made him most frustrated,
That the horse they'd allocated,
Was the quiet one kept mostly for the visitors to ride.
But, hitting the ground with a curse,
He'd swear he could see a perverse
Glint of humour in that horse's eyes, which really stung his pride.

As weeks became months, he started
To reduced the times he parted
So ungracefully from the saddle, and the owner's frown eased,
With the fencing, cattle and dust,
The youngster believed that he must
Have found a life unfolding with which he could be pleased.

And so, the rhythms of the land,
Had seemed to take him well in hand,
But then his youthful thoughts were cluttered by differing ideas.
He left the station, full of dreams,
With makeshift plans and foolish schemes,
It was a kind of restlessness which would follow him for years.

In a dreamed conversation
With those he knew at the station
They looked back over a decade, and all that had come to pass.
For him, in time, came fulfillment,
Through wife, children and employment,
For them, the cycle of seasons underneath the western stars.

Thoughts of long days in the saddle,
Mustering and drafting cattle,
Form a sharp and focused image of the path he almost chose.
For though his life has brought much joy,
He still regrets that as a boy,
He didn't stay a few years more where the No-go River flows.

Festival of Australian Bush Poetry Presented by Gold City Country Music Club Inc and Gold City Bush Poets, Charters Towers, Qld Tuesday 1st May to Thursday 3rd May 2001

The final preparations for this festival are well in hand. The Gold City Poets have secured the service of two noted poets, Bob Burgess of Cairns and John Major of Baralaba, whose special talents should ably fit the bill with performances, workshops and judging the entrants in competition.

By the end of February, the organisers should have juggled the best suitable venues for the three-day event, and decided on categories for performance competition. There will also be several sections for written poetry catering for such poets who are unable to visit our fair city, as well as visitors and locals.

Subject to the amount of sponsorship raised, it is envisaged total value of prizes should exceed \$1500.00. The popular venue of the RSL Club will host the competition finals on the Wednesday evening. We are seriously looking at moving other activities on the Wednesday to Dalrymple Stadium (the local saleyard selling complex), and it just happens to be sale-day that day. The Stadium can seat more than 600 what a sight if we could fill this? So we have some finishing touches to complete before the next Newsletter. Just watch this space!

For further information, contact Arthur on (07) 4787 2944 (after hours) Fax: (07) 4787 1439

Decisions

Keith Ireland, Rockhampton, Qld

I sat in my car at the kerb side
Pondering whether to go or stay.
I had rung to make an appointment
But that was early in the day.

I'd had two nights without a sleep
The pain just ached through my head.
As soon as I planned to get it seen
It had fixed itself instead.

Everything must now be right,
I can't feel the slightest pain.
I'd only be wasting the poor man's time.
I think I'll go home again.

But what will I tell my good wife
If it comes back another night.
She was kept awake as well.
She'd think that I'd taken fright.

Oh, well! I guess it's just about time.
I'd be in strife if I shot through.
I headed in to the surgery.
I hate going to the dentist. Don't you?

Shades of Grey

Glenny Palmer, Cedar Vale, Qld

I sat in the shade of a gum tree,
as eventide gently advanced,
and I marvelled how clouds white and downy
turned to grey when the night heavens dance.

It stirred in my mind recollection,
of a scene captured dear in my heart,
as I watched, when the world watched Australia
celebrate the great tournament's start.

There was pageant beyond expectation,
flamboyance unequalled and grand,
but the simplest of gestures had moved me,
when a man held a little girl's hand.

She was fair, just as fair as a sunrise,
and she smiled as she looked up in pride
at that man who was dusky as nightfall,
and a harmony measured their stride.

A harmony born of volition,
resolution from brotherhood's creed,
and my heart understood in that moment,
how intensely we harbour that need.

I recall how my dear mother taught me
that things are not all wrong or right,
that life blends its colours together,
that nothing's all black, or all white.

She taught me to search in the shadows,
silhouettes need the light of the day,
and one can't exist from the other,
they connect in serene shades of grey.

So I puzzle at grand politicians,
our leaders, the metal of men,
who applaud puffed with pride on the dais,
masquerading compassion again?

Are they really so wholly benighted,
debating, dividing our kin,
did they catch just a glimpse of that couple,
did benevolence murmur within?

Are they true in their awkward intention,
are they blind when their policy fails?
For my heart fosters solemn misgiving,
when a dollar based culture prevails.

I'm a child of our mother, Australia,
a sister to black and to white,
and I weep for our grief stricken mother,
as she yearns for an end to the fight.

So my mind's drifting back to the pageant,
when we breathlessly waited in awe,
to learn who would fire the cauldron,
who'd elicit humanity's roar.

Then in view came the dusky skinned maiden,
the daughter of Mercury's wing,
she was swathed in a snow white skinned garment,
the quintessence of souls free to sing.

Now my prayer for my brothers and sisters,
as we share our brief moment in time,
is to honour our one world wide family,
and relinquish the old pantomime.

Call upon all our angers and judgements,
bid them freedom to drift on away,
craft the space that their leaving created,
into Home, for serene shades of grey.

The 2001 'Great Dunny Classic' Bush Poetry Competition

This fabulous event will be held at the Dunedoo Golf Club on the 17th March 2001 at 7:30pm. This year we have prize money totaling \$1000.00 to be awarded, a special 'The Great Dunny Classic' Trophy will be awarded to Overall winner. A weekend of activities is planned including a Bush Yarn Competition and a Poets Brunch in the park. Bush Poetry Workshops with Milton Taylor will be on offer over the weekend, and an Arts and Craft Market on Saturday. For further information, and for entry forms, contact Marie Hensley on (02) 6375 1975 or (02) 6375 1015, fax: (02) 6375 1422 email: dndgroup@coolahddg.com.au

The John O'Brien Bush Festival

15th - 18th March 2000, Narrandera, NSW

The John O'Brien Festival promises some real treats for lovers of Bush Poetry.

On Friday 16th at noon, Noel Stallard in his guise of 'John O'Brien' presents poetry at an Irish Luncheon in the John O'Brien Hall, Larmar Street. At 7.30pm, at the Narrandera Bowling Club, 'The Bush Poetry Show' with Frank Daniel, Noel Cutler and Geoffrey Graham promises to tickle your funny bone.

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th both commence with a Bush Poet's Breakfast at the Bowling Club, hosted on Saturday by Geoffrey Graham and on Sunday by Frank Daniel. This great weekend winds up on Saturday night with Geoffrey Graham's 'One Man Show -100 Not Out' at the Race Club, Race Course Road, at 8pm. This show is straight from it's Tamworth debut, and is a witty look (and laugh) at Australia's past 100 years.

For further information, or bookings, contact the Narrandera Visitor's Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera 2700 Freecall 1800 672 392

The following is an article which was published in the Arts Law Centre's Newsletter 'Art + Law' recently. The ABPA thanks Arts Law for permission to reprint this article here. If you want to know more about the Arts Law centre of Australia, visit its website at www.artslaw.asn.au/~artslaw

Writers and websites: where are you sending your money?

Sally McCausland, Legal Officer and
Michele Imlay, Legal Placement, Art + Law

Arts Law has recently come across some Internet deals requiring caution. The first involved a poetry competition where the authors were subsequently asked to buy a book with their poems in it and found their poems reproduced on a website. The second involved an offer to "publish" which wasn't. In both cases, the common factor was the request to send money. Unless you are completely sure that the business behind the site is reputable, beware.

Situation 1: Entering poetry competitions

Arts Law has received a number of calls from concerned poets who have found their poems published on a website. The callers had one thing in common - some time ago they had all originally submitted their poems in response to newspaper advertisements offering the chance to win a competition prize consisting of money and publication in a poetry anthology. Months later, they all received a letter reprinting their poem and asking for permission to publish it in the anthology - provided they ordered an expensive copy of the proposed anthology. This condition had not been mentioned in the original competition entry form. The letter also asked for permission to publish the poem on the company's website.

Upon inspecting the website, our callers found that their poems were already published there. The callers all wished to have their poems removed from the website and to prevent any further publication by this company. They wanted to know how to respond to the letter they had received from the company, and whether they had to buy a copy of the book.

Did submitting the poem to the competition give permission to publish?

Some of the callers thought that, perhaps by entering the competition, they had somehow given permission for the company to publish their works on the website, or even in the anthology. Arts Law explained that this was not likely to be the case. There was nothing in the original advertisement to suggest that permission was being requested to publish the poem on the website. Nor was it likely that permission to publish in the anthology itself could be implied in these circumstances, particularly as none of the callers appeared to have won. In addition, by sending the callers a release form, the company had admitted that permission was required.

Arts Law advised the callers to write to the competition organisers stating that they did not have permission to

reproduce the poems in any way, including on the Internet, and demanding that the poems be removed from the website immediately. We advised that they had no obligation to buy the book.

What should you do when submitting work to a competition?

Always read the terms of any competition very carefully before you enter. In some cases, you may find that you have assigned copyright in your poem, or granted extensive publication rights, just by signing the entry form.

In general, you should:

- * read the fine print of any competition forms or other invitations to submit work; and
- * seek advice if you are not sure what any terms mean; and
- * if you believe someone has published your work without permission, seek advice on a letter of demand as soon as possible. You may be entitled to damages or other remedies for copyright infringement.

Situation 2: "Internet publishers" - what are they really offering?

A caller sought advice on a letter from an United States Internet company offering to "publish" his work. On examination, the offer did not contain any of the usual provisions to be expected in a publishing agreement. First, the author was required to send payment for the print run up front, rather than receiving the usual advance from the publisher and royalties on sales. Second, the company was not offering to do any marketing or distribution as would normally be expected from a publisher. Rather, the company simply offered a "free listing" on the website and free warehousing for a year, and indicated that if the author wanted any copies of the book sent to Australia, he would have to pay for shipping fees as well. The letter offered to send the author a more detailed "publishing agreement" for signature provided he committed to a print run.

Arts Law advised that, on its face, the letter was not an offer to= publish within the industry meaning, as the most crucial element of= publishing was missing: the publisher's up-front capital investment= giving it an incentive to promote the book. In this deal, the Internet= company would make its money as soon as the author paid for the print run. It would therefore have no incentive for sales. It might even be difficult for the author to know if the entire print run had been produced to order as the company was overseas.

Arts Law advised that the offer was effectively equivalent to self-publishing through a local printer, although with less control given to the author as the books would be located overseas. Arts Law therefore advised the caller to be cautious and to investigate the track record of the company as well as other means of publishing before committing.



National Bush Poetry Championships, Caloundra, from 8th June, 2001

The count down for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships is well and truly here and things are looking very exciting. Soon the entry forms will be available. All indicators are that this is sure to be a great competition and one we'll all remember for a long time to come.

Remember too that Caloundra is the Gateway to the Sunshine Coast, home of many of Australia's premier tourist resorts. Beyond a doubt, this is a great place for a holiday for anyone planning one at this time. There's a lot to offer around here. Learn the heritage of the Gympie gold rush; the timber getters in the mountains of

our hinterland; the mystique of the Glasshouse Mountains, and much, much more. As well as our fascinating past, the beauty of today's beaches is there to enjoy, along with a whole lot of other attractions and fair dinkum Queensland hospitality.

More details available next month. In the meantime, feel free to contact Bob Hislop (07) 5491 3653 or Wally Finch (07) 3886 0747.

N.S.W. BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001

at TUMUT R.S.L. CLUB
20th, 21st, 22nd April, 2001

Although the Written Section entries are now closed we have extended the closing date for entries in the Performance Sections until 1st March, 2001.

We, the secretary and co-coordinator of this event are quite pleased and somewhat honoured to be able to arrange and hold this new event and look upon this competition as an extra bonus, for both organisers and poets, especially as it is being held in the Centenary year of Federation. We do appreciate your support.

With the quality of entries received, we have no doubt this competition will immediately become a prestigious Bush Poetry Event in South East Australia which this year will offer a combined value of prizes and beautiful trophies for Written and Performance Championship in excess of \$2,100.

Plans for our Gala Concert to be held on Saturday evening 21st April are now under way. Any poet wishing to perform is asked to ring Neil to book a spot.

The two Poets Breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings are a great way of start your day. Not only do they create more opportunities to breast the microphone but they provide a valuable opportunity for everyone to share in the great fellowship that we experience on such occasions. In order to keep the daily programs fresh and interesting intending performers are encouraged to bring lots of different poems to use. Optional hot breakfasts will be available both days.

A reminder for those who won't be able to attend the Championships that tickets are available in our Monster Raffle fund raiser featuring 5 draws for prizes valued at \$60 each. Tickets are available by mail for \$2 each. Those who purchase 5 will be given a souvenir festival coffee mug.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered some time to assist with the many chores attached to these events. The invitation to help out is still available so if you can spare a few hours over the weekend let us know.

For further information, please call 02 6025 3845 Neil or write to 361 Cheyenne Drive, Lavington, NSW 2641.

Neil Hulm and Maureen Stonham.

THE GRENFELL HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL OF ARTS INC

**ENTRIES FORMS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE
2001 VERSE, SHORT STORY & SONG COMPETITIONS
PRIZE MONEY \$2,500 TOTAL, PLUS 3 STATUETTES**

ENTRIES CLOSE 7TH MARCH 2001

ENTRY FEE \$6 (\$2 JUNIORS)

**FOR ENTRY FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT
MRS. MARION KNAPP**

**VERSE, SONG, SHORT STORY CO-ORDINATOR
THE GRENFELL HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL OF ARTS INC
PO BOX 77, GRENFELL NSW 2810**

PH: (02) 6343 1284, (02) 6347 8147

EMAIL: KNAPPDM@TELSTRA.EASYMAIL.COM.AU

Country Music Rush Bush Poetry Competition Sunday 18th March 2001

Written poetry competition judged prior to the weekend.

Due to renovations being carried out at the Jondaryan Woolshed it has been necessary to change the venue to the Oakey Community Centre, Campbell Street, Oakey. Major reconstruction of the floor area within the Woolshed and accommodation areas will prevent us from using these parts of complex, hence the change. A decision will be made closer to event regarding whether the Poetry will be held indoors or undercover on the lawn outside. Details of accommodation available in Oakey are contained on the entry form. Contact Dell (07) 4635 6429

Kyabram Bush Verse Mob

Well! We had a great Christmas meeting at Mr and Mrs 'Skew Wiffs' place on Monday 4th December. There were over 40 poets and partners present. It was a warm night and apart from a few uninvited 'mossies' it was goodoh! President Betty Olle conducted a brief meeting and apart from an interruption by Santa the rest of the night was devoted to poetry and yarns.

Guess what? Local lad Mick Coventry received word last week that he was runner-up in the 'Bronze Swagman' Award. (Editor's note - for 2000). Congratulations Mick! Our group now have Betty Olle a past winner and runner-up, and now Mick - beat that!

Do drop in if you are passing. Ta-taa!

'Skew-Wiff' Watt, Kyabram, Vic

A Welter of Racing and Horse Poems

**Featuring poems and stories about horses and
horse racing from WABP&YSA poets,
as well as contributions from
Banjo Paterson and C.J. Dennis.**

Cost: \$11.00 + \$2.00 postage

for interstate purchasers

Contact Michelle on (08) 9367 4963

NAMBUCCA HEADS EASTER 2001 POETS BREAKFAST

Fans of Bush Poetry and rhyming verse around the Nambucca Valley, NSW will be pleased to learn that, on Easter Sunday, 15th April, 2001, another Poets Breakfast will be held at and sponsored by the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club. In fact is being staged in conjunction with the Nambucca Valley Country Music Club's Jamboree and Talent Quest which will be conducted at the club throughout the Easter Weekend.

Star performer at the event will be none other than the inimitable New South Welshman, Garry Lowe who hails from Chittaway Bay on the Central Coast.

Garry is no stranger to The Nambucca, having performed here during a competition held in 1998. A real sage of the bush, he easily impresses and entertains his audience with his witty and humorous verse.

Performing his traditional style verse with great skill in recent times saw Garry win the title of Overall Champion Poet at the well-attended the Millmerran Bush Poet's Roundup in Queensland in September 2000 where he defeated many of the best poets to grace the Bush Poetry stage.

Garry has also been a featured performer for several years at many bush poetry events which are held during the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

If you like to pen a rhyme or spin a yarn or two, or perhaps read or recite the work of another poet, you can join Garry during an open microphone session during the breakfast. Junior performs are always most welcome to 'have a go'. Here's an invitation in rhyme from Garry:

I've performed at many places, as poets often do.

Like 'Hey, Hey's' mad 'Red Faces', Millmerran, Gympie too.
Been to Camooweal and Sofala, lots of paces just like those,
as Aussie as a Koala, (without the same damned ears and nose)!

'Though I'm no longer youthful, I often win a prize.

Not a single one for bein' truthful, but heaps for tellin' lies!
So why not come and join the flock, cast off your 'woes and dreads',
Easter Sunday mornin', eight o'clock, Bowling Club, Nambucca Heads!"

The wonderful hot breakfast for which the Nambucca Bowlo is now famous for will be served and included in the admission cost of \$6.00. Please book or breakfast at the club to assist with catering - phone 02 6568 6132.

Please join us for what promises to be a great session of family entertainment. Enquiries to Maureen Stonham or Lorna and John Simpson-Phone/fax 02 6568 7069.

Palma Rosa Poets

The final Palma Rosa Poets evening for 2000 was fantastic! As most of you know, we are producing a CD - 'Palma Rosa Poets Live', and our final night was a wonderful evening of poetry and song featuring Robert Raftery, George Lovejoy, Glenny Palmer, Wally Finch, Noel Stallard, Anita Reed, Mark Tempany and Trish Anderson.

This CD promises to be a winner! Featuring 15 of the best poets in Australia and one of Australia's leading singer/songwriters, Mark Tempany, it was recorded live over the year 2000 and engineered and produced by Allan Lahey of Taramalin Sound. It will be, I'm sure, in great demand by all regular at our Palma Rosa Poets evenings and of course by all who wish to support and promote the upkeep of our beautiful heritage listed headquarters 'Palma Rosa'.

The CD is now in production and I urge you all to buy one!

I thank you all for your support during the year 2000 and hope 2001 brings you everything you could wish for.

Trisha Anderson, Hendra, Qld

\$2001 in 2001

Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush - Legendary Masters 19-22 April 2001

Featuring 'The Naked Poets'

Federation year in Tenterfield will be huge with \$2001 prizemoney
Barrington Estate 'The Banjo' Looming Legend Poetry Competition
Applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield 2372 or phone (02) 6736 2900

What's On At Winton, 2001

The **Bronze Swagman** competition for Written Bush Poetry
(Australia's most prestigious award for Bush Poetry)

Entries close **30th April, 2001**
at PO Box 44, Winton Qld 4735

The **Little Swaggies' Award** for Junior Written Bush Poetry
(Australia's most popular Junior awards)

Entries close **9th March 2001**
at PO Box 84, Hughenden, Qld 4821

5th April 2001

Junior Performance Festival

Individual Competition all School grades 1-12

Group performance of Bush Poetry

Entries and Enquiries to PO Box 84, Hughenden Qld 4821

6th April 2001

Clover Nolan Primary & Secondary Championships

Announcement of Little Swaggies' Award

30th June - 2nd July 2001

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda

Open Bush Poetry Championships, Male & Female

Christina MacPherson Novice Bush Poetry, Male & Female

Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships,

Junior, Senior and Masters

More Laughs, Lies and Larrikins Bush Concerts

Fun Team Poetry Competitions

Non-Competitive Bush Poetry

Campfires and Campfire Dinners

Announcement of 2001 Bronze Swagman Award

Entry Forms posted out March 2001.

Enquiries PO Box 84 Hughenden Qld 4821

Federation Bush Poets Breakfast

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of our Nation

The Australian Character in Poetry and Prose

At the Shearing Shed - Rockhampton Heritage Village on Sunday 29th April 2001 at 8.00am (8.30am start). Admission \$12. Tickets available through the Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton (p) 4927 4111. Enjoy a hot breakfast and be entertained by some great Australian poets including, John Major, Ray Essery and Bob Miller.

Winners of the Centenary of Federation Bush Poetry Competition announced - competition details outlined below.

Competition Write an Australian Bush Poem/Ballad

Categories Junior (up to 18 years of age)

Senior (18 years and over)

Guidelines Maximum 80 lines or 20 verses of 4 lines each

The poem/ballad must not have won any other competitions

Prize money Junior Winner \$250 & Trophy

Junior HC (x2) Trophy

Senior Winner \$750 & Trophy

Senior HC (x2) Trophy

Competition closes 5pm on FRIDAY 16th MARCH 2001 - additional entry forms are available from the Pilbeam Theatre Rockhampton or by telephoning (07) 4924 5600.

PLEASE SEND COMPETITION ENTRIES TO:

Vanessa Kleinschmidt
Events Co-ordinator
Rockhampton Venues and Events
PO Box 1152
Rockhampton Q 4700

On The Move Again

David Warton, Forster, NSW

On the move again

This time is the last

I will grow my roots right here

And contemplate nomadic past.

For the past holds lots of memories

Of towns that I have know

From Inverell to Coolah

And on to Merrygoen.

I have spent time in Narrandera

At Forbes and Moss Vale too

And whilst I was at Wellington

I would visit Dunedoo.

Now the time has truly come

For me to settle down

From now on if you wish to find me

I will be right here in Forster town.

Advance Notice - Palma Rosa Poets

Legendary poet and TV presenter, Rupert McCall will be our next exciting guest artist at 'Palma Rosa Poets'. Rupert will be appearing on Wednesday 21st March to present an entertaining evening of poetry.

Rupert is well known for his sporting poems - and has just spent an exhilarating time at the Olympics as resident poet. He is also the author of 5 great books of poetry. Cost: \$18.00 (including supper - BYO drinks)

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

ENTRY DETAILS

Centenary of Federation - Bush Poetry Competition Rules

... Entries must be unpublished

... Entries must not have won any previous competitions

... Maximum length is 80 lines or 20 verses of four lines each

... Your name and address must not appear on the manuscripts

... The title of each poem must be entered on the entry form - or the first line for untitled poems

... Photocopies of the entry form are acceptable

... Entries must be typed or written clearly in black on white A4 paper and on one side of the paper only

... You may enter as many poems as you wish

... If you are entering more than one poem - do not staple the different poems together

... Please submit two copies of each poem submitted

... Closing date is Friday 16th March 2001

... Winners will be notified by Friday 13h April 2001

... Prizes will be awarded at the Bush Poets Breakfast on Sunday 29th April 2001

... We are unable to return entries so please do not send your only copy

... Judge's decision is final - no correspondence will be entered into

... Your entry in this competition means you accept these terms and conditions.

To enter please complete the following form and submit one copy with each entry

Title or first line of poem entered

Name

Address

State/Postcode

Phone

Signature

Fax

Email

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

Feb 9-11	Whittlesea Country Music Festival. Whittlesea Showgrounds, Bush Poetry enquiries Geoffrey Graham ph 03 5446 3739
Feb 16-18	Chinchilla Melon Festival. Poets Breakfasts, Melon Field Day. For more information, phone 07 4668 9564
Mar 10	Urunga Bush Poets Showcase 6 pm Urunga Golf Club. Dinner & Show \$8, Ph Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835 ah.
Mar 15-18	John O'Brien Bush Festival. Poets Brekkys Saturday and Sunday, Enquiries to Julie Briggs 1800 672392
Mar 16-18	Yackandandah Folk Festival Contact 0260269224 Email yackfolk@netc.net.au
Mar 16-18	Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival Details from Marie Hensley bh : (02) 63 751975 ah: (02) 63751015
Mar 17-18	High Country Poets, O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe, Q. Cash prizes for Original and Traditional Ph Jack 07 4683 7169
Mar 17-18	Country Music Rush Bush Poetry Competition, Oakey Community Hall, Qld. Phone Dell 07 4635 6429 (a/h)
Mar 30	Closing Date Eulo Mother's Day Written Competition. Phone Janine 07 4655 4862 or Helen 07 46554849
Apr 6	Junior Bush Poetry Festival, Winton Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q 4821
Apr 6-8	Man From Snowy River Festival. Phone/fax Jan Lewis 0260774332 email poetfarm@corryong.albury.net.au
Apr 20-22	NSW Bush Poetry Championships, Tumut NSW. Ph Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845 Entries close 31 st December, 2000
Apr 20-22	Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Applications PO Box 372 Tenterfield NSW Or Phone 0267 361082
Apr 20	Closing Date Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush written competition. Enq to Cecil Plains Homestead, Cecil Plains Q 4407
Apr 29	Centenary of Federation – Bush Poets Breakfast Rockhampton. Enquires and entries to Vanessa Ph 07 4924 5600
Apr 30	Closing Date for Bronze Swagman Bush Poetry written competition.
May 12-13	Eulo Annual Mother's Day Fair, Written & Performance Comps. Ph Janine 07 46554862, Fax 07 46554901
Jun 8-	Australian Bush Poetry Championships, Caloundra, Q Ph Wally Finch 07 3386 0747 or Bob Hislop 07 5491 3653.
Jun 29 - Jul 2	Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival, Winton, Q. Enquiries and entries to The Organiser, PO Box 84, Hughenden Q 4821
Jul 6-8	Bundy Muster week-end. Performance & written competitions. Ph Joan 07 41529624 or Sandy & John 07 41514631

Potted Personalities *with Marilyn Roberts*

Loves Labours Lost an apt description of the life of Henry Lawson.

Lawson was born on 17th June 1867 at Grenfell to Niels (Peter) Larsen and Louisa (nee Albury). He grew up on a poor selection at Eurunderree with a domineering mother and a father often away. At nine he developed an ear infection that was to worsen and eventually leave him profoundly deaf.

Lawson's mother was to be one of the most elusive women in his life, not believing in displays of emotion and driven to prove herself in artistic and women's suffrage spheres she was often not emotionally or physically available to her children. She was difficult to live with because of her own artistic temperament and unresolved grief at the loss of one of her twin daughters but she did lay the foundation of his early literary experiences, introducing her family to her favourite authors and poets. Early in his life Lawson strove for her attention, at 17 he moved to Sydney to join her in her ventures. It was through his mother's interests that Lawson was to meet the next

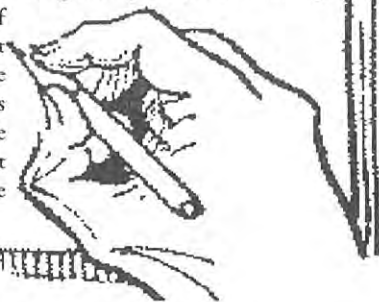
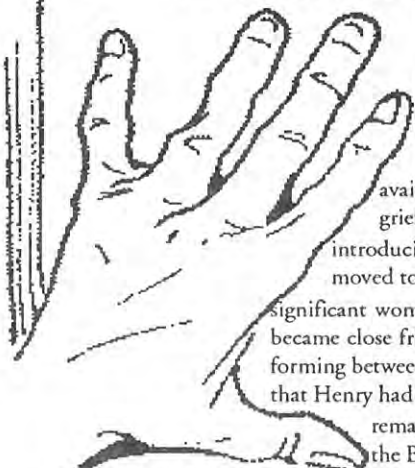
significant woman of his life, Mary Cameron (later to become Dame Mary Gilmore) then a young schoolteacher. They became close friends until his mother sabotaged that friendship. In 1891 Louisa became concerned with the relationship forming between the two and reacted by sending Henry and his brother Peter to Western Australia. Mary Gilmore claimed that Henry had proposed to her, even asking her on the night before his departure to go to the registry office with him. She remained a friend through many ups and downs, and he sought her both after his foray to Brisbane to work for the Boomerang, and after his trip to Bourke. But in all this time he alternated visits with her to visits to the more

seedy side of life. (In fact it was because of his behaviour that his friends arranged for The Bulletin to send him off to Bourke to get him away from the drink.) By this time Lawson had become quite a heavy drinker and perhaps this including her strong desire to help found the "New Australia Colony" in Paraguay influenced her decision to reject him again in 1893. Even so when in 1895 Mary Cameron was packed to leave for the new colony she declares he again came and begged not to go.

It was Bertha Bredt Lawson finally married on 15 April 1896. By now having finally gained some recognition he often went on colourful rounds of escapades in which large amounts of alcohol were consumed in the company of his "Dawn to Dusk Club" friends. Life with a temperamental, alcoholic and often broke genius was difficult. The Lawsons tried their luck in Western Australia then in New Zealand, where Henry taught for several years until Bertha's advancing pregnancy and loneliness necessitated a return to Sydney, and his old friends. (Mary not having heard of his marriage wrote to him in this time asking him to join her in Paraguay and hinting at marriage.) Upon his return though he was frustrated at lack of recognition and, drinking heavily, he was soon put in a home for inebriates. By now the marriage needed more help, not only was drinking a problem but so was Henry's liason with 29 year old Hannah Thorburn. Funded by George Robertson (of Angus and Robertson), and other friends, the Lawsons' departed for London. For the first time life looked assured but London was not to agree with them, bad weather and ill health took their toll on both the Lawsons and they were forced to return, and it was Mary Gilmore (she had married while in Paraguay) who again came to the rescue.

Upon their return Lawson was to find that Hannah had died some months previously, his idealised woman was gone. By 1903 their marriage had fallen apart, Bertha had filed for divorce. He attempted suicide and from this time on he was in and out of hospitals and clinics, his alcoholism worsening. Two of the women upon whom he relied throughout the last quarter of his life were his "housekeeper" Isabel Byers and Sister Alberta de Villiers MacCallum, sister-in-charge of the Mental Hospital Darlinghurst, but even these relationships suffered with the highs and lows of his mental condition. It seems that no one, no love, no great passion could help him stay away from alcohol, the low dives he liked to haunt and the life he liked to lead but nothing could keep his genius from the people. Let fame, that all hunt after in their lives, Live register'd upon our brazen tombs, And then grace us in the disgrace of death.

Loves Labour's Lost Act I Sc.I



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 Poets Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm. Ring Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772.
- 4th Wednesday** **Inverell Wednesday Writers.** 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ph Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
- 4th Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Poets Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 2nd Last Mon** **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 5852 2097
- 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 Yarnspinnners,** 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



WOLLONDILLY REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS Literary Competition 2001

Closing date **28th February 2001**, Entry fee \$5 per entry
Open section

1. Short story up to 2500 words
2. Free Verse poetry up to 60 lines
3. Traditional Rhyming poetry up to 60 lines

Regional section (Open to residents of Wollondilly Shire only or members of Wollondilly FAW)

1. Short story up to 2500 words
2. Free Verse poetry up to 60 lines
3. Traditional Rhyming poetry up to 60 lines

Entry forms and enquiries - Liz Vincent (02) 4677 2044, or PO Box 385, Picton NSW 2571

THE GRENFELL HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL OF ARTS INC

Entries forms now available for the 2001 Verse, Short Story & Song Competitions. Prize money \$2,500 total, plus 3 statuettes
Entries close **7th March 2001**. Entry fee \$6 (\$2 juniors)

For entry forms and further information, contact Mrs. Marion Knapp, Verse, Song, Short Story Co-Ordinator, The Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts Inc, PO Box 77, Grenfell NSW 2810. Ph: (02) 6343 1284, (02) 6347 8147

Email: knappdm@telstra.easymail.com.au

POETS IN THE BUSH Saturday 3rd March 3pm to 9pm

Phone (03) 5762 8154 or email williams@hdc.com.au
42 Boger St, Benalla 3672 for details

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 16th - Yarn Spinning Competition.

Saturday 17th - "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 18th - 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 tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au

YACKANDANDAH FOLK FESTIVAL (NE Vict)

16th - 18th March 2001 Run by volunteers. Music, Dance, Sessions, Workshops & Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers & friends hosting Poets' Breakfasts etc.

Contact 0260269224 Email yackfolk@netc.net.au

COUNTRY MUSIC RUSH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Oakey Community Hall, Queensland, 17 - 18 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

NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB as part of their EASTER JAMBOREE & TALENT QUEST is holding a Bush Poets Breakfast at the club over the Easter weekend, 13th-15 April.

Bush Poets Breakfast, Easter Sunday, 15th April, 2001 8 am to 10 am. Feature poet, Garry Lowe. Open mike session where everyone gets a go.. Junior poets are also welcome. Admission is \$6.00 and includes cereal, hot breakfast and coffee. Booking for meal essential, please ring the club 02 6568 6132. Other enquiries - John and Lorna Simpson 02 6568 7039.

NSW BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001

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

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

The Performance Championships will also offer separate sections for both Ladies and Men, as well as Champion Yarnspinner and a "Best Country Singer" section which will be judged during a Gala Night Saturday 21st April, 2001. \$1,000 trophies - \$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

CENTENARY OF FEDERATION - Bush Poets Breakfast,

Rockhampton, Sunday 29th April 2001 at the Shearing Shed - Rockhampton Heritage Village.. Starting at 8.00am with Bush Band, Poets Breakfast and performances.. Official prize presentation to winners of the Centenary of Federation Poetry Writing Competition. Admission cost \$12 - Book at Pilbeam Theatre (p) 4927 4111

FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY Presented by

Gold City Country Music Club Inc And Gold City Bush Poets Charters Towers, Qld. Tuesday 1st May to Thursday 3rd May 2001. Performances, Competitions, Bush Poets Breakfasts, Workshops and more. Contact Arthur on (07) 4787 2409 or Sandra (07) 4787 1622 b/h (07) 4787 2944 (after hours) Fax: (07) 4787 1439

EULO ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY FAIR

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

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 30th May 2001. Written Competition open to adults
Unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. Closing date Sunday 29th
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 8th June 2001 at the new Basketball Court, Golden
Beach. For more details, phone Wally Finch (07) 3386 0747 or
Bob Hislop (07) 5491 3653.

POETRY IN THE PARK, 9th June 10am, Grenfell Memorial Park
10th June Poetry and Damper around the Campfire at Grenfell Henry
Lawson park, from 9.30am
10th June Poetry evening at the Exchange Hotel from 7.30pm. Free
event - open to all to participate (not competitions)
Enquiries: June Lal (02) 9625 8577

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

BUNDABERG POET'S SOCIETY INC. Bush Lantern Award for
Bush Verse 2001. Entry forms available from: Mr. Ross Keppel,
Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc., P.O. Box 4281, South Bundaberg
4670. Entries close for written competition on **May 31 2001.**

BUNDABERG POET'S SOCIETY INC. present Bundy Bush
Poetry Muster, **July 6-8, 2001.** Competitions: Opens,
Intermediates, Novices, Juniors and Under 12's. N.B: Interme-
diate Category: Anyone who has not been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd
in any open competition or 1st in Intermediate. Entry forms
available from: Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc., P.O. Box 4281,
South Bundaberg. 4670 Enquiries: John & Sandy (07)
41514631

**'Straight to the Heart' and
'Closer To the Heart'**

Two books of poetry from Brian Gale,
self-published by Margaret River Printers.

\$10 each or 2 for \$18, postage paid.

Brian also has three tapes, which include almost his entire
work over 15 years.

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23 poems including preambles and photos - past and
present. Book \$15 + \$1.20 postage.

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Lawson, Ogilvie, Gordon, etc. Four bush songs, five
original poems. 40 minutes in length \$15 + \$2 postage

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Rod Williams, 35 Liverpool St, Murrurundi, NSW 2338
Tel/Fax 02 6546 6757



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 Print Post PP 242018 / 0013 February 2001

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 <p>Heritage Corner This space devoted to preserving the character of our Australian Heritage Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikard</p>	<p><i>Roast Black Swan</i> Choose a young bird and stuff and roast as you would a goose. Pork sausage meat is the best stuffing. Truss like a goose, brush with lemon juice, cover the breast with rashers of bacon and roast for two hours in a moderate oven. When nearly done, remove rashers, dredge with flour and baste with melted butter or bacon fat till crisp and brown. Serve with apple sauce and with stewed red cabbage. A good sized bird should be enough for eight persons.</p>
<p><i>Protected Recipes</i> Early settlers to Australia had to learn to live off the land, or starve! Many of their recipes have been preserved for historical interest, and cannot be used today, as most of the fauna mentioned are now protected. Amongst these recipes are ways to cook bandicoot, parakeets, mallee hens, black swans, emu, kangaroo, and many other native animals. Here's two to get keen bush cooks started!</p>	<p><i>Sturt's Hot Pot</i> Slice the top off a pumpkin and hollow out the inside. Fill the shell with joints of possum, kangaroo or other meats and replace the lid. Bury the pumpkin in a bed of hot coals and cook till done.</p>
<p>FEB 5TH 1941 FEB 11TH 1861 FEB 19TH 1877</p>	<p>A.B. 'BANJO' PATERSON DIED IN SYDNEY, JUST BEFORE HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY BURKE AND WILLS REACHED THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA, NT. THE RETURN TREK WAS TO PROVE FATAL FOR BOTH MEN. REGISTRATION OF THE STUMP-JUMP PLOUGH PATENT IN SA</p>



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 Treasurer, Rosemary Baguely, 6 Stringybark St, Regents Park, Q 4118

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.