

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter: # 4: April 2001

"Bush Poetry - Time Capsules From The Past"

Our convict ancestors were the scum of the earth. Thieves, murderers, prostitutes, forgers, you name it we had them. Of course, some were victims of the times and political prisoners, but so few of them were as innocent as many would have us believe. Yet, in spite of all the odds, and, such an unwholesome foundation, they built our nation. Without question, for me, in spite of her faults, and she has 'em, Australia is the finest country on the planet. That something this wonderful can come from such unfavorable circumstances is nothing short of a miracle.

How many times does one hear the like of: "Australia has no heritage!" "We have no culture!" For those who believe that, may I suggest you open both eyes. We have built more traditions in a little over two hundred years than many countries have in two thousand. And it's all been recorded; not just by official archives, but by those who did it. They wrote songs and poetry about their daily lives, their troubles, their triumphs, their good times and their bad. Read them and you discover who our ancestors were and who we are.

Right from the days of the First Fleet, convicts and free settlers alike have been putting their thoughts in verse. Much of it is lost, but not all. Some of it we don't know the author. Jokingly, some of us refer to such works as written by that great Greek/Australian poet - *Anonymous*.

For some, poetry will always be regarded as an intellectual exercise. Perhaps in some ways it is. But, it was born from the pure necessity by those who could not read or write. In fact, even today there are still a few illiterate poets. But to return to the point. Illiterate people needing to send messages by illiterate carriers to illiterate receivers found putting messages in simple verse usually guaranteed that the message arrived intact. From humble beginnings, it was soon learned story telling could be enhanced by verse and it soon became a popular means of entertainment, in lieu of TV. This was a good thing as TV had not yet been invented.

Luckily there is no need for outstanding academic genius to composed verse, as our ancestors were certainly not literary giants but they gave us a precious gift of poetry that has always been part of our way of life. While we don't know the authors of many early poems we do know a few. For instance, Frank the poet (a.k.a. Frank MacNamara) a convict who spent time in Moreton Bay. One of Frank's poems is still popular today with singers of traditional Australian music. It's known by a variety of names, *Moreton Bay* being one. It tells of misfortunes there and under the alleged tyranny of the much hated Commandant, Captain Logan.

Continued on page 10:

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DEADLINE DAY - 17th day of each month.

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ABPA MEMBERSHIP

\$25 per annum, January -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 a first years subscription of \$25. (see page 10 for a membership application form).

PLEASE SEND ALL MONIES TO THE TREASURER.

**Australian Bush Poets Association Inc - Finances
 2000**

Income:

Memberships	9,892.00	
Book Sales (Annual)	691.70	
Advertising	150.00	
Refund	43.00	
Bank Interest	84.31	
	Total	10,861.01
Balance B/FC.B.A	8,648.54	
Total		19,509.55

Expenses:

Newsletter; Print	3,326.95	
Post	1,727.66	
Editor	232.49	
Mailing labels	61.30	5,348.40
Bank charges	27.40	
Secretary Post & PSE	423.45	
Fax/film/ink	219.85	
Travel 100k's	10.00	
Telephone	65.36	
Office supplies	27.70	746.36
Annual Book of Poems		472.00
Audit fee/advice/ABN		375.00
Incorporation fee		35.50
Committee expenses		482.71
Refunds for over payments		43.00
President post/phone, ink	110.00	7,635.37
Balance		11,874.00



**The Presidents
 Report**

G'day everyone,

Sad news at the passing of Johnny Johanson also revealed some very positive things about him and us.

Johnny's poem "Au Revoir" is a touching revelation of the mans character. He clearly knew his end was near but his concern was with us who he would soon leave behind. No wonder so many of us loved him and the many tributes reflected his high esteem among those who knew him He will be missed a lot - but think how blessed we are to have had the warmth and joy of his friendship and the wisdom of his knowledge. These things are a vital part of his legacy to us and they, like precious memories of him, will always stay with us.

Congratulations to Bernie for his first newsletter. He has done a great job and we can look forward to more good value reading and information in future issues. As anyone who has edited a newsletters knows, it is a job that needs heaps of member input. So if you have news, views and information updates you want to share with other members, then please tell Bernie.

Although it is unintentional, bush poetry is usually a male dominated realm for a variety of reasons not the least of which is that most of it in the past was written by men. Surely it is not sexist to observe there are two sexes and it's a good thing too. Unfortunately, though, this observation seems to have escaped the attention of organisers of some poetry competitions. A bad move fellers. Many ladies are justifiably upset about it and some are about to give us some commonsense reasons why in future newsletters.

Who do you know in Tasmania or the Territory? As you can see in the regular monthly events section nothing seems to be happening there. It's hard to believe that there are no Bush Poets there. So if you know anyone who is interested in Bush Poetry like us, let them know we are here or even let us know about them.

At the end of each year we lose members who do not renew. It's one of those things we have to face at the start of each year. This year renewals were at a healthy level and we hope our numbers will keep growing to make this a record year for membership. Please help by telling a friend about us. A membership form is printed here in the magazine each month. Why not copy it and give it to a friend. Better still - copy heaps and tell all your mates. Have a great month.

Keep on preserving our Kulcha
Wally Finch
 President ABPA

Australian Bush Poetry Championships

The QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS being held in WINTON will now also be the "Australian Bush Poetry Championships".

Friday June 30th - Monday 2nd July 2001. Please contact: The Organiser - P O Box 84 Hughenden Qld 4821: (Please send a S.A.S.E.) or telephone 07 4741 5041:

What's happenin'

Bendigo Easter Fair.

April 14th, Bendigo, Rosalind Park 8.30-10.30

Bush Poetry Breakfast

October Long Weekend

South Coast Country Folk Festival

Bush Poetry Breakfasts

Enquiries Geoffrey Walker Graham ph 03 5446 3739:

Bush Poets At The EKKA

The Australian Bush Poets have again been invited to perform at the EKKA.

The Brisbane Royal Show and Exhibition, (alias "The EKKA"), is held each year in August.

The Bush Poets have been performing for the past three years in the wool pavilion to enthusiastic audiences. We have been invited again this year and I am asking for any interested Poets to please contact me. Once I receive the days and times, I shall work out a roster - we will probably have 15 minute segments 5 or 6 times daily.

When are you available?? Thursday 9th August - Saturday 18th August.

Please contact:
Trisha Anderson
113 Manson Road,
Hendra Qld 4011
or Fax 07 3268 3624

OLD BOOKS WANTED

Have had a request from person who collects old books to ask around amongst our members if they have any old "Australian Nautical" books that they w in, send the details to:

The Editor P O Box 5208 Manly Qld 4179.

The Poets Toast

Hail, poets! Raise your glasses
For I'd like to make a toast
To thoughts that dissipated
With the sunrise like a ghost

Here's to all those moving words
That might have bought renown!
Those words that stirred the poet,
But were never written down.

Exciting words that thrilled you
In the middle of the night,
When there's not a pen or piece
Of paper anywhere in sight!

And you lack the motivation
To quit the comfy bed,
To store them some place safe away.
You close your eyes instead.

Consigned to misty memory
Until the bright new dawn
When they have vanished with the night,
And all your words are gone!

They've gone to join ten million words
Of others, and became...
Elusive words that stole away,
And never bought you fame!

Frank Halliwell
Jimboomba, Australia

"On Ya Soapbox"

G'day - From: Geoffrey Walker Graham

Greetings,

Trust everyone has recovered from Tamworth, and brother wasn't it a scorcher. The only problem about performing at Tamworth is the heat and not getting to see many performers working cause you're too busy yourself. Still I hope it was successful for everyone. Big Mobs of Bush Poetry happening. My congratulations to all the winners of the various awards and competitions.

Country Comfort, the 'coolest' venue in town was great. My shows went down well, and it has set the scene for some pretty heavy touring of my Federation show '100 Not Out'. I'm hoping to get to Queensland this year to make up for not getting there last year. Still managed to do 3 shows of 'The Man from Ironbark', much better in an air-conditioned venue.

Bit of a buzz this year performing original material at the Australia day concert.

Involved with the Federation celebrations at Yarrowonga in early March followed by the John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera (March 15-18th). Bush poetry Breakies at Narrandera on the Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Ex-Kyneton Country Music Festival, (Feb 9, 10, 11) now called the Whittlesea Country Music Festival, was a great success. The awards night on the Friday, the street entertainment on the Saturday, and the big concert including Bush Poetry on the Sunday. Not many poets this first time, but I'll keep you posted as to future stuff there.

The awards night in a great venue was small compared to Tamworth but a terrific night. Endeavouring to get Bush poetry happening, I did a spot earlier in the night preceding a big night of entertainment. The awards were blitzed by Gene Bradley Fisk, Daughter Donna, and Sara Storer, with a host of other winners and entertainment.

At Bendigo this year as part of the Bendigo Easter Fair, there will be Bush Poetry featured in a 2 hour long breakfast on Saturday 14th March. Love to see a big mob of poets there to help kick off this inaugural event. Give us a call if you can make it.

Also a big new Country Folk music festival is planned for the NSW South Coast on the October long weekend. There will be 3 Bush Poetry Breakfasts and if anyone is interested please contact me.

Keep smiling **Geoffrey Walker Graham**
Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739

Dear Editor:

I am trying to chase up for my Uncle, who recites at the Senior Citizens and other functions around Caboolture. He is 81 years old and humped his "bluey" from the age of 15. He has asked me to search for a poem written after the style of another bush poem - maybe Henry Lawson's - which was published during the Great Depression about a Bagman. He does not know what it was called - perhaps "The Bagman's Lament".

Instead of saying "he's only gone to the sliprails", it reads;

"..... he's only gone to Tully".

**If he's not back by Friday
How will he get the dole?,
His beaten Billy in his hand
His swag torn off his back,
His nose bag lies around the bend.**

The Bagman dies, and goes to heaven and knocks on the pearly gates, and St Peter answers. He says...

**Heaven is running at a loss
I'm only working here
We'd better see the Boss
And the Boss is sympathetic
To all Bagman from their birth,
I'll open up those pearly gates
You've had your hell on earth.**

To make my Uncle Walters day, I would appreciate any help readers may be able to give me. I can be contacted at jvee@powerup.com.au

Thank you

June Vickers Oxley Brisbane.

Dear Editor:

In reply to Maureen Stonhams query, the English language has two written forms. Prose and Poetry.

Rules that govern Prose writing, such as beginning a new sentence with a capital letter, do not necessarily govern Poetry. It has been traditional to begin each line of poetry with a capital letter, although, in modern poetry that convention is changing. Many modern poets do not begin each line with a capital letter.

Bush Poetry, however, follows the conventional, traditional poetic form : hence the capital letter.

Regards

Alec Raymer, Nambour QLD

For those members who read - criticise but never contribute - there are nine hidden mistakes, or is it ten. They could be spelling or grammar - but they are there somewhere.. I think?

What a Week-end!

Some of the best poetry 'round was presented over the week-end at the O'Mara's High Country Poets 2001. It was a week-end to remember with some excellent presentations and well deserved winners and place-getters. The Poet's Breakfast on Sunday morning was hosted by Glenny Palmer with assistance from a variety of the previous days entertainers.

Without doubt, Su & Bob Dellar of O'Mara's Hotel know a good thing when they see it, and have been the major sponsor of a truly impressive weekend (now in it's third year). The other sponsors, Hidden Creek Winery & Huddleston Solicitors help make up the rest of the team who were responsible for the balance of the prizes. There was also an excellent display from the local schools who took part in a "Make a Bush Character Figure" competition.

The crowd that attended during the day was still there at the end and the Organiser, Jack Drake, and his team must have been tremendously proud of the excellent local support and very happy with the attendance of poets from all around NSW and Queensland.

If you have not been to this great week-end, then I would suggest that you make a special effort next year. It is getting bigger each time and will soon be considered, if it isn't already, one of the premium events in the Poet's Calendar.

The results are posted on this page, as well as the winning poem for the "Open Original" section presented by a very polished and professional Bush Poet, John Bird, who only decided to do this particular poem as he walked on stage.

O'Mara's of Stanthorpe Excels.

The winning poem from the O'Mara's High Country Bush Poetry 2001: (Open Original)

"The Australian Tradition"

By John Bird - from Lismore NSW

They lie in fields of poppies, 'neath crosses all in a line
They rest quietly at Gallipoli, under shadow of Lone Pine
They sleep beside Kakoda Track, and yonder desert sand
At Korea and Viet Nam, and every foreign stand
We have heard the tales of valour, our Australian lads have done
And of women there beside them, hand in hand as one,
There emerged a feeling that only Aussie's know
For mate-ship again they found, that was birthed long ago
It was born around the campfires when evening turned to night
It gleaned from all the stars above, that shared with us their light
It came down from the mountain crag, to echo on the breeze
It coo'eed from the valley's floor, and coo'eed through the trees
Mate-ship spirit, it was there on that Snowy River chase
It thundered down at Flemington, when Phar Lap won the race
It drifted 'round the still lagoons, and with the floods and rain
It quietly rode with drovers, across a drought filled plain
Now if a foreign shadow's cast, to drive in from the sea
Send the notes of the bugle, clear out to Gallipoli
To Kakoda, to Korea, to Viet Nam's foreign shore
And the spirits of our mates will rise, to be with us once more
Let the spirits of our bravest rest, but call them if we must
When we need them they will rise, and shoulder off their dust
And they will stand beside us, to lift our spirits high
Keeping mate-ship's flaunting flag, waving in our sky.

O'Mara's Competition Results:

Junior Section:

1st - **Stuart Nivison** - Cleveland Qld
2nd - **Harry Blundell** - "Wobor" via Stanthorpe NSW
3rd - **Juliet Davis** - Ballandean NSW

Novice Section:

1st - **Peter Bundell** - "Malakoff" via Stanthorpe NSW
2nd - **John Best** - Pine Rivers Qld
3rd - **Bernie Bliss** - Manly Qld

Traditional Section:

1st - **Gary Lowe** - Berkleyvale
2nd - **Carmel Dunn** - Warwick Qld
3rd - **Wally Finch** - Kallangur Qld

Open Original:

1st - **John Bird** - Lismore NSW
2nd - **Gary Lowe** of Chittaway Bay
3rd - **Carmel Dunn** - Warwick Qld

Encouragement Trophy went to **Steve Smith** - 'The Cobbler of Tenterfield'

The Overall Championship went to **Gary Lowe** of Chittaway Bay.

Congratulations to all of the above

Festival of Australian Bush Poetry.

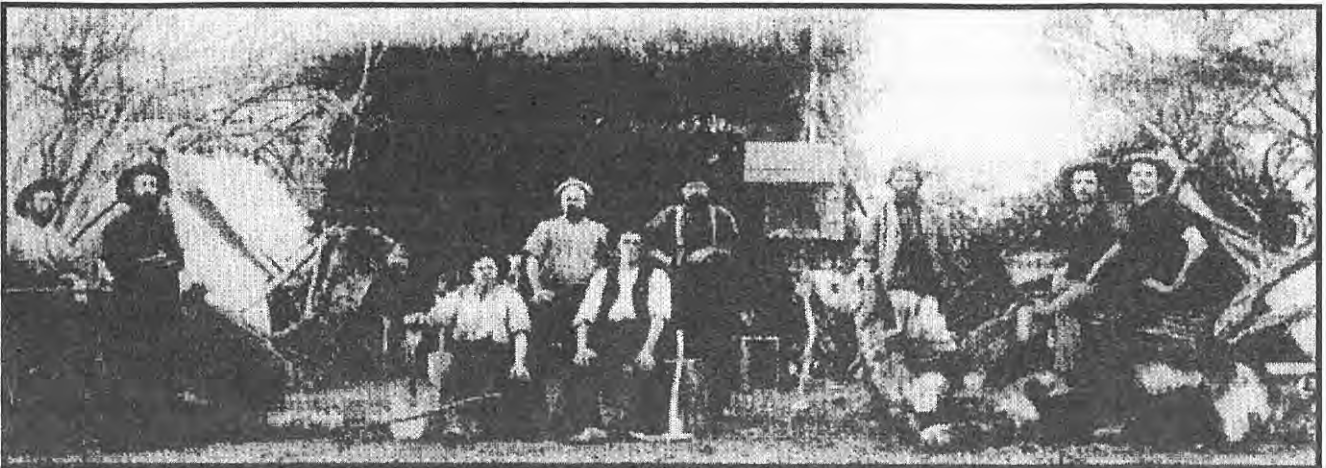
Charters Towers.

Tuesday - Thursday 1 - 3rd May - 2001 - Written and Performance sections for all ages.

Guest Poets: **John Major & Bob Burgess.**

Enquiries : 07 4787 2409 - 07 4787 2944 after hours - fax 07 4787 1439

P O Box 797. Charters Towers Qld 4820



**2001 Annual
"Golden Horseshoe Poetry Awards"
June 8th**

Closes June 4th: (no late entries).

Category:

Adult written - 1st Prize - \$200 plus the "Golden Horse Shoe" trophy.

Children's Written - 1st Prize - \$50 + trophy
2nd Prize - \$30 + trophy
3rd Prize - \$20 + trophy

(All winners are requested to recite their poems at the presentation awards.)

On Sunday June 10th at Beaudesert Showgrounds.
Bush Poets Brekky 8.00 am with Country Music Star -
Tom McIvor and the hilarious "Glenny Palmer".

Performance:

Open Original - 1st Prize - \$200 + trophy
2nd Prize - Trophy

Open Traditional - 1st Prize \$100 + trophy
2nd Prize - Trophy
3rd Prize - Trophy

Entry Fee's:

Written Competition - \$3 each or \$5 for three.
Performance: \$5 per section

Send S.A.S.E for entry forms to:

**P O Box 242
Beaudesert Q 4285
Enquiries to 07 5541 1442**

**Andy's Gone With Cattle:
Henry Lawson**

Our Andy's gone with cattle now -
Our hearts are out of order -
With drought he's gone to battle now
Across the Queensland border

He's left us in dejection now,
Our thoughts with him are roving,
It's dull on this selection now,
Since Andy went a droving.

Who now shall wear the cheerful face
In times when things are slackest
And who shall whistle round the place
When fortune frown's her blackest

Oh, who shall check the squatter now
When he comes around us snarling
His tongue is growing hotter now
Since Andy crossed the Darling

Oh, may the showers in torrents fall
And all the tanks run over
And may the grass grow green and tall
In pathways of the drover

And may good angels send the rain
On desert stretches sandy
And when the summer comes again
God grant 'twill bring us Andy.

Regular Monthly Events

If you are passin' by - call in and say giddy.....

Queensland:

- 1st Mon Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Margaret Street, TOOWOOMBA. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106 - (cancelled).
1st Thurs Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel, MAPLETON 8.30 - 11.00pm Poetry & Music Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
1st Sat Poets & Musicians @ Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
1st Sun & North Pine Bush Poets. North Pine Country Markets, 9.00am @ Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Damper. 07 3285 2845 or
3rd Sun 07 3886 1552
2nd Thurs & 4th Thurs Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall. GYMPIE. 7.00pm. Phil Morrison, 07 5486 1171
2nd Sat Bundeburg Poets Society Inc. Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631
Last Wed Millmerran Bush Poetry Group. 7.00pm. Millmerran Bakery. "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209
Every Wed Writers in Townsville. 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Drive, THURINGOWA. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
Every Wed Matilda Country Caravan Park, WINTON, evenings 'Pinki & her Pee Wee Poets.
1st & 3rd Wed Kilcoy Unplugged, 7.00pm. Kilcoy Gardens Restaurant. Gold Coin Entry. Graham 07 5497 1045
1st Friday every month. 7.00pm. "The Point of View Café" Main Road Wellington Point. Rob 0419 786 269

New South Wales:

- 1st Tues Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. 7.00pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
1st Thurs North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30pm Cornucopia Café. (Grounds Old Gladesville Hospital - off Punt Rd-follow signs). Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
1st Sun Poet's in the Making. 12 - 4.00pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula St, Casula. David Price 02 9825 0402
2nd Mon Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba. Parakeet Café @ 7.00pm. Katoomba St, Katoomba. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
2nd Tues Hunter Bush Poets. 7.00pm, Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
2nd Wed Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets, 7.00pm, April, June, August, October. Murray 02 6657 2139
2nd Thurs Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp. 8.00pm, unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067
2nd Fri The Monaro Leisure Club, 7.00pm, Vale St Cooma. Bush Poetry & Country Music. Elaine 02 6454 3128
2nd Sat Poets in the Club. Urunga Golf Club, 1 - 4.00pm, 12 May, 14 July, 13 Oct. Maureen 02 6568 5269
2nd Sun "Interludes" Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield. Joyce Dempsey 02 9797 7575
3rd Thurs Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers. 7.30pm, "The Hideaway" Davison Ln, Picton. Liz 02 4677 2044. Vince 02 4684 1704
3rd Fri Junee Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317
4th Tues Poet's in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. John Walker 02 6555 8122
4th Wed Inverell Wednesday Writers, 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
4th Thurs Queanbeyan Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891
2nd last Mon The Mid-Coast Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389
for details of venue each month
Last Tues Spaghetti Poetry Group. Gee Wong Restaurant, 197 Mann St Gosford. Dinner @ 6.30pm. Poetry @ 7.30pm. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
Last Thurs Writers on the River, 7.00pm, Caddies Coffee Shop, 2 - 3 Castlereagh St Pennrith. Brian Bell 02 4739 2219
Last Fri Kangaroo Valley Folk Music Club. Bush Poets welcome. Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
Last Sat Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4.00pm. J Bray 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Park 2264
Every 2nd Fri-Pheasants Hut Folk Club. Bundeena. Yuri 02 9527 0955 or 0419 412 093
Monthly Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers. Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
Every 2 months on 2nd Sat Cornucopia Café, 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. "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

Victoria

- 1st Mon Kyabram & District Bush Verse Gr, every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30pm. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
6 weekly, Thurs Gippsland Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

South Australia

- 3rd Wed South Australian Bush Poets. 7.30pm, Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga. Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788
Last Tues Whyalla Writers Group. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

Western Australia

- 1st Fri WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30pm, Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Rusty Christensen 08 9364 4491

**Don't Forget the change of date
and location of the Australian
Bush Poetry Championships.**

**See the article elsewhere in this
newsletter for details.**

**Oil up your thinkin' parts &
getcha pen workin!**

North Pine Bush Poet's Camp Oven
Award 2001 for written Verse.

Must be Bush Verse and a maximum length
of 120 lines.

Open Competition - 1st - , Trophy & \$300:
2nd - \$150: 3rd - \$75:

Junior Competition-(13-16 years old), 1st -
\$50: (9-12 years old), 1st - \$25: (8 years &
under), 1st - \$10:

Entry fee \$5.00 or three for \$10.00:
Juniors free: Entries close 15th July 2001

**For enquiries or entry forms:
Contact the coordinator Mary
Hodgson, Diamond Valley Road,
Mooloolah Qld 4553.
Telephone 07 5494 7260**

A Request:

From an avid reader who does not have a
telephone or email, PLEASE - when you
advertise your books for sale could you
always include a postal address.

Makes good sense to me - you want
people to buy your books - then include a
postal address so that people in this
position can write to you. The more
avenues that you have for contact - the
more product will get out there. If you
have a problem with this, then let us
know and we will see if we can forward
contacts on to you via email.

Want to get into print?

Do you have a short poem or story that may
interest our members.

If you have - then send it in to your magazine.

We are always looking for those 'shorts'.

It may get published, it may not, but if it just
sits in your desk drawer, it ain't never gonna get
a chance.

So - give us a look and if we feel that it will hit
the spot - then in it goes.

Be sure to add your name as we will not
publish un-named contributions.

NSW Bush Poetry Championships.

Location: Tulumt RSL Club

When: April 20th - 21st - 22nd

Registrations scheduled: 7.00 pm - Friday 20th

Following registrations, there will be a Country Music
Concert which will start at 8.00 pm and will feature some
excellent artists.

On Saturday night there will be a Gala Concert starting at
8.00 pm.

The Presentation and Farewell evening is on Sunday night.

Both Saturday and Sunday will see Poets Breakfasts
starting at 7.30 am both mornings

Further details can be obtained from Neil at 31 Cheyenne
Drive - Lavington NSW 2641 or tel./fax 02 6025 3845

24 - 25 - 26 - 27 May - great dates for a great competition.

What is it? The North Coast's most popular Bush Poets
gathering..

Where is it? Cecil Hotel - CASINO

Who is there? All the guns.

Breakfasts? Each morning at 9.00 am

**For any and all inquiries give Ray Essery a call on
02 66684 3817**

A tribute to the ANZAC's

Blood on Foreign Soil © Dennis Carstairs. Stratford 2000

Just over two hundred years ago, but a blink in histories eyes
A Nation born of convict class, beneath the southern skies.
A Nation born of fighting men, men who gave their all
Before the days of federation, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

In those far off distant years, in South Africa, against the Boers
The peacekeepers in East Timor, and in both the worldwide wars.
In Korea and Veitnam, our troops heard their countries call
New Guinea, France and Egypt, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

On the blood stained beaches of Gallipoli, on April 25
The ANZAC legend was begun - and today is kept alive.
A national day of remembrance for us to ponder and recall
The men, who paid the ultimate price, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

The trenches of the Western Front, we sang with the French, the Marseillaise
And we were there (and wept with the English) when ol' London was ablaze.
Our fleet scattered and we staggered, we watched in horror - Singapore fall
And the bombs rained down on Darwin, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

Tobruk, Burma, El Alamein, the Battle of the Coral Sea
Young lives lost but not in vain, for we, Australians are free.
And on the Owen Stanley Ranges (Where the Jap's were looking for a spoil)
We turned them back on the Kokoda Trail, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

And in the fifties our troops abroad again and once again they fell
The tradition of the ANZAC lived - on the fifty second parallel.
With the United Nation forces, we have kept the peace amongst turmoil,
But democracy must pay a price, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

We saw live on television, our boys in Vung Tau, and Long Tan
As jungle fighters their were no peers, with slouch hats in the van
"All the way with LBJ" - rang the cry in every hall
Protests raged upon the streets, our blood has spilt on foreign soil.

And so on ANZAC Day, (When we remember - not glorify)
Think of the tradition of our fighting men, those who live and die.
Hear the haunting sounds of the Past Post, think of sacrifice and toil
Think of where we'd be today, had not our blood spilt on foreign soil.

We Will Remember Them B.J.Bliss © 1999

The old soldiers have near all gone, but our memories will never fade
Of these heroes but mere men, and the sacrifices made.
Most went away as boys so young, still wet behind the ears
To learn a trade so vile and wrong, that aged them beyond their years.

The ones who returned were silent, of the horrors they'd had to face
Of the pain, the cold and suffering, inflicted by the human race.
Of the mates they'd left behind, on the battlefields of hate
The wounded sick and damaged, and the losing of a mate.

'tis eighty years or so now, since these heroes came back home,
But still they have their nightmares, of freezing to the bone.
Being wet and scared and hungry, and wondering about their fate,
In trenches up to knees in mud, and an enemy to hate.

But time will slowly change a man, 'tho the memories are still there,
Of comrades left at Flanders, on shores so far - but near.
And other battlefields that took, the lives of fine young men,
Who died for King and Country - we will remember them..

ANZAC

The poppy-ed fields of Flanders
At Gallipoli a cross
The jungle trees of PNG
And the shadows on the cross.

An upturned face, all innocence
A child asks, "what's a coup?"
And "when is Daddy coming Home?"
In the way that children do.

"Your Daddy went to fight a war
To keep Australia free
Your Daddy's listed missing
By the Army and by me."

But children grown can't understand
The selfish hot emotion
The anger, greed, or pride that sets
The dogs of war in motion.

Another generation goes
To war's black thunderdome
And children still ask "yes, but when
Is Daddy coming home?"

© Lesleyann Malcolm.
Moonee NSW

EULO Mother's Day Poetry Competition. 12 & 13 May 2001

Saturday:

Category Three: Open - Serious - Traditional/
Modern

Category Four: Open - Humorous - Traditional/
Modern

Sunday:

Category One: Junior - Secondary School
Students

Category Two: Junior: Primary School Students

Category Five: Open Serious Original

Category Six: Open - Humorous Original

Category Seven: Open - Yarn-spinning,
(Trophy - "The Yowah Nut").

**If you want to know anything about
the competition, or anything about the
week-end in general then contact**

**Janine Haig on 07 4655 4862 or
fax 07 4655 4901**

Continued from the front page:

In time, free men started to make their mark on Australian Poetry. Adam Lindsay Gordon is regarded by many as our first Poet. He was a well bred Englishman strongly influenced by the works of Shelly, Byron, Tennyson and, probably most of all, Browning. His "Bush Ballads & Galloping Rhymes" set the direction bush poetry still follows today. Close on his heels came Australian born, Henry Kendall. His "Bell Birds" still stirs the imagination.

Soon after Gordon and Kendall came the two greats of Australian poetry. Strange as it seems to us with wisdom of hindsight, in the beginning both were unsure of their worth. Both were intimidated by the works of Gordon and Kendall. One of the "new" poets initially wrote under the name of a horse from his childhood - Banjo. This is how Andrew Barton Paterson became nicknamed "Banjo". Henry Lawson, son of a Norwegian, is the other great who in spite of a tragic personal life recorded what he saw and became known and loved as the "peoples poet".

From this firm foundation many poets, some great, some unknown, have been recording our way of life since 1788. Everything about us is recorded from our seafarers to our cameleers, from drovers to helicopter pilots, it's all there, our past our present. Each poem tells a little about who we were at the time of writing and as such, it is in itself a tiny time capsule for our future - our kids. Hopefully through a knowledge of their past, they will know where they come from. Surely this is the first ingredient in knowing where they are going? Can we give them a greater gift than that.

Wally Finch

President

Australian Bush Poetry Association Inc.

Members:

Just a short note to let you all know that we try to get as much as we can into the newsletter of what you send - BUT - some of you write far to much. Don't get me wrong, we would love to be able to put all you write in each time, but we are limited to 16 pages, and now that everyone knows my address, there is plenty to use. Just give us the details that are relevant and make sure you let us have a contact number. Keep sending it in but try to keep it short and to the point.

Have you just published a book.

If so, I would like to start up a "New" publications list for members. **Details needed are:**

Name of author - name of book - contact via tel/fax number - cost including postage.

Send the above details to "The Editor". Address elsewhere in this publication.

Join the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc was formed at a meeting in January 1994 at the Tamworth Country Music 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 form and as published verse. * Encourage competitions, both written and spoken.

Please complete the form below and send with payment to the ABPA Secretary.

Membership Application Form: I wish to become a member of the ABPA Inc. Please use block letters.

Name: _____

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). 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 is January to December.

The Product Shelf:

Product Shelf Advertisements: \$5.00 for Two Monthly Newsletter Spots:

How good a Bargain is that?

Travel the Red Road

by Roderick Williams.

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

Compilation Cassette - 'Rod and Jessie' Lawson, Ogilvie, Gordon etc. Four Bush songs, five original poems.

40 minutes in length \$15 + \$2 postage. Book & Cassette - \$30 including postage.

'Straight to the Heart' & '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.

\$10 each or set of three for \$25, postage paid.

Contact Brian Gale - 25 Georgette Drive
Margaret River. WA 6285

JOHN O'BRIEN FESTIVAL

The Annual John O'Brien Festival at Narrandera (NSW) held from 15th. to 18th. March was hailed as the most successful yet.

In conjunction with St. Patricks day, this very Irish Australian festival covers all manner of entertainment from beer brewing competitions, singalongs, church services, art exhibitions, crafts and food stalls to Bush Poetry.

Narrandera and the Parish of St. Mels was the home of the great Father Patrick Joseph Hartigan (1878 - 1952) who wrote under the pseudonym of 'John O'Brien'.



Patrick Hartigan was born near Yass (NSW) in October 1878 to Irish parents. He attended school in Yass, later studying for the priesthood at St. Patricks College, Manly.

Of interest to readers might be the fact that Father Hartigan was one of the first priests with a motor car, and that in 1911, he took the last sacraments to Jack Riley - said to have been 'Banjo' Paterson's 'Man from Snowy River'.

In 1917, Father Hartigan assumed the role of Parish Priest of Narrandera. A keen student of Australian literature, he first published verse in the local press, the Catholic Weekly, and the Bulletin under the pen-name of 'Mary-Ann'. Later encouragement from C.J. Dennis and others saw him publish 'Around the Boree

Log' and other verses under the name of 'John O'Brien' in November 1921.

These days the memory of 'John O'Brien' lives on, not only in Narrandera, but in the guise of Brisbane performance poet, Noel Stallard. Noel's portrayal of the old master is none short of excellent with appreciative audiences attending his performances throughout the festival.

Visitors to Narrandera are never short of something to do, with Irish music and singalongs, bush dancing, street performers, displays and exhibitions.

Bush Poetry comes to the fore of course in the hands of Geoffrey Grahame, Noel Stallard, Frank Daniel and Noel Cutler. Geoffrey's Federations show "100 Not Out" and the Bush Poets Breakfasts were all sell-outs, with a number of quality performances by guest artists such as Jim Angel, Ken Dean, Don Anderson, Brian Beazley and Sandra Conway.

Congratulations to Julie Briggs and the Narrandera committee for their efforts in promoting Australian Bush Poetry and furthering the cause of so many aspiring new poets.

Frank Daniel.

The Boora Ring

Out there where Bracker Swamp cuts Goalfields Road
Beyond grey tors of tumbled granite blocks
White stringy bark, oft' heavy with blossom load
Gives way to 'yellow box' on sharp trap rocks
Up-thrust in jagged spines over wide paddocks!
With Wattle, Ironbark and Currajong astride,
Through gorse and scrub to open crest
Where canopy of scrub drops sharply west,
And east down sweeping slopes to vista's wide.

Creek with Bracker Swamp it's source
Has cut a narrow gorge through the mountains base
It's rocky bed a shaded watercourse,
More often a tranquil drinking place
For snakes, goannas, lizards and kangaroo
For possums, birds, bandicoots and dingo's too
At night old man Koala's each other berate
Or avidly, with gentle doe's lustily fornicate
Their noisy grunts a continual hulla balloo!!

Inside the swamp, a secluded island mound
Well hid from strangers prying eyes
And any chance of unsolicited surprise
Since Dreaming Time, had been a sacred ground.
Place of dance and mime, and primal sound
And there around an ancient Boora Ring
Black men would nightly gather to dance and sing,
To make clicking stick and rhythmic stomp,
With hollowed thigh and lively romp,
The mountainside with nasal chants rebound.

© Geoffrey Hamlyn-Harris



Vale Geoffrey HAMLYN-HARRIS

No doubt a few of our members will be familiar with the works of Geoffrey Hamlyn-Harris. Sadly, Geoffrey passed away a few days before Christmas aged 79 years. A familiar literary figure, Geoffrey made his home in the Stanthorpe area. He began his writing career at the age of 21 with a book called "Through Mud & Blood to Victory" telling of his experiences as a combat soldier in the battle of the Kokoda Track.

Geoff wrote several volumes of poetry, the best known being "An Australian Point of View" as well as short stories and children's fables. His works were recorded on cassette by Roger Illot of "Restless Music".

A familiar face at Arts Council events in the border ranges area and mentor to budding poets and writers.

Sleep sound old Friend.

To all members, I would like to know if any poet can complete the following poem which was sent to me on behalf of a 90 year old who's entire family are brilliant poets. I am not sure of the name so have put a question mark after Mary Maguire.

"MARY MAGUIRE?"

She stood at the bar of justice
A creature wan and wild
In form too young for a woman
In features too old for a child
"Your name?" said the Judge as he eyed her
With kindly look - yet keen

"Is Mary Maguire if you please Sir"

"And your age?" - "I am turned sixteen".

And then from a piece of paper

He slowly and gravely read

"You are charged, here, I'm sorry to say it",

With stealing a loaf of bread.

Sincerely - Lee Miller - 22 Gin Gin Road - M/S 541 Bundaberg Qld 4670

A Lost Moment in Time:

"Such is Life"

A comment by Tom Collins (Joseph Furphy).

"You're right, Thompson" said Cooper, at length. "Mostly everyone's got a curse on them. I got a curse on me. I got it through swearin' and Sabbath breakin'. I've tried to knock off swearin' fifty dozen times, but I might as well try to fly. Last time I tried to knock it off was when I left Nyngan for Kenilworth, four months ago; but there happened to be a two hundredweight bag o'rice in the bottom of the load; and something tore her, and she started leaking through the crack's in the floor o' the wagon; and I couldn't git at her no road, for there was seven ton on top of her; an' the blasted stuff it kep' dribble-dribble till you could have tracked me at a gallop for a hundred mile; an' me swearin' at it till I was black in the face; an' it always stopped dribblin' at night, like as if it was to aggravate a man. If it hadn't been for that rice I'd 'a kep' from swearin' that trip; an' then, comin' down from Kenilworth with Thompson, I'd 'a kep' from it easy; for Thompson he never swears. I give him credit for that much."

Towers Poetry Fest.

The 3rd Annual Festival of Australian Bush Poetry is being hosted by the Gold City Bush Poets from Tuesday to Thursday 1 - 3rd May - 2001. While final plans are almost complete, it is anticipated that more than \$1000.00 in cash prizes and trophies will be on offer for the various sections with all age groups catered for.

The program will entail a 'Meet & Greet' evening, Bush Poets Breakfasts, (2), Workshop, Competitions and Performances. Professional Poets, Bill Burgess of Cairns and John Major from Baralaba have been engaged for the event - both blokes well credentialed in the 'art' of performance and entertaining.

Special attention will be directed to school aged students for written verse, with a number taking in a workshop.

A number of venues will include the Stock Exchange courtyard, Dalrymple Stadium (sale yards), RSL Club and at St Patrick's Hotel. The Gold City Poets are confident of receiving ample patronage from Poets, visitors and local residents to ensure a successful venture. Entries for the written sections will close 18th April, performance sections 1st May. Enquiries can be directed to Gold City Poets, P O Box 797 Charters Towers Qld 4820 or telephone Arthur on 07 4787 2409 or Sandra 07 4787 2944 after hours. Fax # 07 4787 1439..

South Bank - Brisbane - Australia Day Bush Poetry Competition:

results;

Best Junior:

1st - Kelsey Horton
2nd - Guy Stafford
3rd - Miss Em

Best Original

1st - Zita Horton
2nd - Carol Stafford
3rd - Allan Ramsay

Best Humorous Any Other Poet

1st - Don Pender
2nd - Merv Webster
3rd - Ivan Wall

Results from the Country Music Rush (Bush Poetry Section) - Oakey 18/03/01

Written Section:

High School Winner - **Kirsty Sloss** - Senior Winner - A tie between **Flo Hart & Ellis Campbell** - 3rd **Joyce Alchin**

Junior Novice Bush Verse - 1st - **Hannah Totenhofer**: Senior Novice Bush Verse - 1st - **Rob Spence**.

Poets Cutout - 1st - **Kev Barnes**: 2nd - **Wally Finch**: 3rd - **Lee Miller**:

Traditional Bush Verse Male (over 17 years) - 1st - **Wally Finch**: 2nd - **Kev Barnes**: 3rd - **Dean Zurvas**:

Traditional Bush Verse Female (over 17 years) - 1st - **Mary Finch**: 2nd **Lee Miller**:

Original Bush Verse Male (over 17) - 1st - **Kev Barnes**: 2nd - **Wally Finch**: 3rd - **Rob Spence**:

Original Bush Verse Female (over 17) - 1st - **Mary Finch**: 2nd - **Lee Miller**:

Overall Bush Poet: **Wally Finch**

Millmerran Bush Poets Group.

The 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Group Round-up will take place on 31st August, 1st & 2nd September - 2001. The Yallabee Retirement Village, Millmerran will benefit from the proceeds.

The round-up will commence on Friday 31st at 7.00 pm a Bar B Q and Yarn-spinning competition at Blandy's Tavern, Millmerran. The cost of the nights entertainment is \$5.00 per head. This includes a steak burger. Entry into the competition is \$5.00 and there is a trophy plus \$100.00 for the winner. This part of the round-up is open to all-comers. You only have to be able to spin a good yarn.

Saturday 1st in the Millmerran Cultural Centre starting at 9.00 am. We will run the Novice & Intermediate categories in both Traditional & Original bush verse. The Duo competition will be followed by the Open Female heats & a lunch break, (sausage sizzle & drinks available). After the heats in the Original, Traditional & Humorous bush verse, the Open Male heats will commence.

Saturday at 7.00 pm at Blandy's Tavern, the Open Male heats will be completed and we will hold a State Of Origin show. . There is a \$5.00 entry fee for this for non-performers. There is no charge for the events being held in the Cultural Centre.

On Sunday at 9.00 am at Blandy's Tavern we will hold the Poet's Breakfast which will be our normal hot meal for a cost of only \$5.00 per head. The Open Female and Male finals will follow. Last but not least will be the Poet's Brawl. The Round-up culminating with the trophy presentations. There will be cash prizes, trophies and certificates in the Open categories, Yarn-spinning and Over-All Champion. (who will be selected from the Open Competition).

Major sponsors this year include; **Blandy's Tavern, Millmerran Shire Council & Stan & Kate Gorton**. Feature Poets this year include Mark Feldman, Wally Finch, Gary Fogarty & Kev Barnes. There will not be a Junior performance competition this year but a written competition will be run instead. It will carry certificates and cash prizes for the three place-getters.

Please book accommodation early. The Millmerran Hotel is booked out and there is no B & B. It has closed. The Millmerran Caravan Park has powered and un-powered sites, o'night vans & cabins. Call Dawn or Kev on 07 4695 1572. The Ram's Head Hotel, now under new management, has been cleaned up, doors fixed but again has only limited single & twin rooms. Call Ken or Margaret on 07 4695 1488. The Millmerran Village Caravan Park has SC cabins, o'night vans, powered & un-powered sites. Call Phill or Bernadette on 07 4695 1332. Blandy's is next to the Millmerran Village Caravan Park. Any enquiries call Kev Barnes on 07 4695 4209. See you at the Round-up.

What's goin' on 'round the traps!

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.

Barrington Estate "The Banjo" Looming Legend Poetry Competition

For applications: P O Box 372 Tenterfield NSW.
Telephone 02 6736 1082.

Festival of Australian Bush Poetry. Charters Towers.

Tuesday - Thursday 1 - 3rd May - 2001 - Written and Performance sections for all ages.

Guest Poets: **John Major & Bob Burgess.**

Enquiries : 07 4787 2409 - 07 4787 2944 after hours - fax 07 4787 1439

P O Box 797, Charters Towers Qld 4820

New South East Brisbane Venue

On the first Friday of every month you can join in the poetry group at "The Point of View Café" at the point of - yes - Wellington Point. It is situated on Main Road Wellington Point and starts at 7.00pm. If you need more information - call Rob Spence on 0419 786 269

EULO Annual Mothers Day Fair:

12 - 13 May - 2001

Written & Performance Poetry Competition for adults, primary & secondary children. \$1500 in prizes money plus trophies. In augural "Dangerous" Dan Smith Memorial Trophy. Written competition closes at the end of March. Enquiries: Janine Haig, "Moama" Eulo Qld 4491. Telephone: 07 4655 4862 Fax 07 4655 4901. email janinehaig@bigpond.com

Put the date on your calendars and come and see that Eulo really does exist!

Category 1: Junior; secondary School Students

Category 2: Junior; Primary School Students

Category 3: Open; Serious Traditional Original

Category 4: Open; Humorous Traditional or Modern

Category 5: Open; Serious Original

Category 6: Open; Humorous Original

Category 7 Open; Yarn-spinning

The Ludwig Leichhardt Pageant Fun Day 2001:

Sunday 20th May - 2001:

Written Competition open to adults. Unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. Closing date is Sunday 4th May - 2001: Topic - "Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush". Please keep a copy of your poem and put personal details (ie: name, address phone/fax) on a separate sheet. Judged independently and announced at the Fun Day. Entries to: Cecil Plains Homestead 'Leichhardt Poetry Competition' Cecil Plains, Qld 4407.

Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Fest.

Fri. 29th June - Mon. 2nd July - 2001:

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Championships, Christina McPherson Novice Awards, Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships, Novelty Poetry Events & Concerts. This event is the highlight of the Queensland Bush Poetry Calendar and Winton puts on a great welcome for all comers. For more information contact: The Organiser: P O 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 Qld 4670.

Entries close for written competition on May 31st 2001:

Poetry in the Park

9th June - 10 am, Grenfell Memorial Park.

10th June, Poetry & Damoer around the Campfire at Grenfell Henry Lawson Park from 9.30 am.

10th June - Poetry Evening at the Exchange Hotel from 7.30 pm. Free event - open to all participate (not a competition).

Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc:

Presents the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster on July 6th - 8th, 2001.

Competitions: Opens, Intermediates, Novices, Juniors and under 12's. N.B: Intermediate Category: Anyone who has not been placed 1st - 2nd or 3rd in any open competition or 1st in any intermediate competition. Closing date for performance competition entries is June 22nd, but late entries will be accepted on the week-end.

Entry forms available from:

Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc.,

P O Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670.

Enquiries: John & Sandy on 07 4151 4631

North Pine Bush Poet's Camp Oven Award 2001 for written Verse.

Must be Bush Verse and a maximum length of 120 lines.

Open Competition - 1st Prize, Trophy & \$300: 2nd prize \$150:
3rd Prize \$75:

Junior Competition - (13 - 16 years old), 1st Prize \$50: (9 - 12
years old), 1st Prize \$25: (8 years & under), 1st Prize \$10:

Entry fee \$5.00 or three for \$10.00: Juniors free: Entries close
15th July 2001.

Enquiries/ entry forms:

**Contact the coordinator Mary Hodgson, Diamond
Valley Road, Mooloolah Qld 4553. Telephone 07 5494
7260**

An apology in advance:

If you have sent something in and it has not been published, please accept my apology. I am still getting to grips with everything and I know you all want it in yesterday, but it is hard to juggle things around. Get it to me early to ensure it is published. Please note that I have had to bring the deadline date back a few days to the 17th of each month. I want to get all the copy away to the printers by the 20th and I need that earlier date to cover the situation when I am not able to spend the last couple of days at the key board. Bear with me, I'm sure I will get better at this with a little patience from you all and a little time.

Bernie

"Hang-ups & Hand-Me-Downs"

Poems by Jean Versace

\$12 posted
from Lot 2 Woodleigh Road, MSF-415
Mount Garnet Qld 4872

Mick Dooley's Pants

by George Essex Evans

They bought a boy in from Tallaran, to hunt Mick Dooley's tracks
They yarded him the fastest blood, among the station cracks
With moles and shirt and sloucher hat, and pipe with broken stem
He slung into the saddle straight, and waved his hand to them

The Sub was lately out from 'ome, the troopers both were green
The tracking of an outlaw, was a game they had not seen
The chippy little abo, and the antics that he played
They were rolling off their saddles, at the funny sight he made

The tracker had a roving eye, he laughed a saucy laugh
He grinned as they were grinning, and he gave them chaff for chaff
The troopers both were solid men, who's brains had run to beef
But when the boy got moving, all their mirth was turned to grief

He was cautious 'mong the melon holes, but where the plain was
sound
He led 'em at a gallop, with his eyes upon the ground
And as odds are on a thoroughbred, against the troopers hacks
They were somewhat disconcerted, at his mode of running tracks

He took 'em down the Flinders, where the spear-grass lined the brink
Then crossed a stage of forty miles - without a drop to drink
And down the beds of dried up creeks, they wandered all day long
Till life seemed in a troopers view, one endless billabong

Then turned, he sharply to the west - the blue McKinlay Range
And gave them joys of spinifex, in case they wished a change
And up and down the stony hills, they tracked the guilty Mick
Except when they required to rest, to be a little sick

They hauled their horses after them, when hills were tough and high
And still the Sub. remarked, "Bai Jove" - his eye-glass in his eye
And still the black boy pointed, to the tracks which he had seen
Until they fairly bottomed - they had struck a blind ravine

Then one sharp-eyed suffering trooper, gave a grunt of savage joy
And called aloud unto the Sub. and pointed to the boy
"The name upon them trousers! Sure as God made little ants -
Look Sir, this imp of Satan, wears a pair of Dooley's pants"

Like thought the tracker wheeled his mount, and vanished from their
sight
But as he thundered down the gorge, he yelled with all his might
"Mick Dooley's crossed the border now - no run dat feller in -
Next time you want a tracker, boss - don't get Mick Dooley's gin !"

Want to sell your Books, CD's or Tapes?

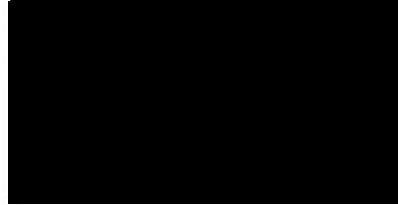
Then place an advert in your magazine: If ya got something to
sell, ya gotta tell the buyers. If ya don't - how will anyone
know that they are for sale. And is it cheap - or not?

Quite simple ain't it!

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc
P O Box 5208
Manly Q 4179 March 2001
Print Post PP 242018/0013

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mail

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A Bit Of Aussie Humour:

With the recent passing on of the greatest cricketer of all time, Sir Donald Bradman, there comes a story that was published many years ago.

On a Queensland station the squatter had one of his Aboriginal stockman peddling furiously on the peddle radio so that he could listen to reports of the test cricket in England. The weary stockman was kept hard at it well into the night as Don Bradman piled up a great score of runs. Finally the stockman exclaimed, "Crikey this Bradman must be good Boss. If he can score that many at night, how many could he make in the daytime".

Poets Calendar of Events and Competitions:

6th April Friday Waltzing Matilda Junior Bush Poetry Festival - Hughenden
6th April Man From Snowy River Festival Tel/fax Jan 02 6077 4332 email poetfarm@corryong.net.au
20th April NSW Bush Poetry Champs Tumult NSW Neil 02 6025 3845
20th - 22nd April Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush - Tenterfield
20th April Closing date for Ludweig Leichhardt in the Bush written Competition
29th Centenary of Federation Bush Poets Breakfast Rockhampton Vanessa 07 4924 5600
30th April Closing date Bronze Swagman Bush Poetry written Competition
1st May to 3rd may Festival of Australian Bush Poetry - Charters Towers
12th - 13th May EULO Mothers Day Fair - Eulo
20th May The Ludwig Leichhardt Pageant Fun day - Cecil Plains - Closing date 4th May - contact 07 4668 0098 - fax 07 4668 0097.
30th June Australian Bush Poetry Champs Winton The organiser 07 4152 9624 or 07 4151 4631
6th July Bundy Muster. Performance & written. Tel Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy/John 07 4151 4631