

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

Monthly Newsletter:  
# 7: July 2001



The winning poem from Stanthorpe's Jack Drake, in the inaugural "Bush Poet of the Year" - a competition held recently in Sydney. There were some 750 entries and the one judged the best, was "*The Cattle Dog's Revenge*". An excellent poem written from boyhood memories about growing up on a farm. What makes it better, is that Jack is one of our members. To celebrate his win, Jack went out and married his partner Stella. I'm sure that all members will wish Jack congratulations in both achievements.

## The Cattle Dog's Revenge

If you've ever lived upon a farm,  
You'll know the feeling well  
How easy it can be to get  
The visitors from Hell.  
Y'know those mongrels from the city  
That invite themselves to stay  
Because they only want a holiday  
Where they don't have to pay.

Now, I might be pretty cynical  
And I was just a kid,  
But I'd seen it happen every year -  
It's what they always did.  
Bring some ice cream and a box of fruit  
And half a slab of beer,  
And act like it's a favour  
If they stay there half a year.

And all on the assumption that  
We'd be so glad to see  
The half brother of our Uncle Harry's  
Wife's third cousin Bea.  
They never do a tap of work.  
They clean up all our grog.  
But it all came to a screeching halt  
The year they bought the dog!

Yes the middle seat was taken  
By this huge Rottweiler thing.  
On his neck a studded collar  
Without a hitching ring.  
The old man stared in silence, then said  
"You'll have to tie him up".  
They said "He's had obedience training,  
And he's just the sweetest pup".

The dog bailed out the window,  
They said "Oh you little tyke".  
One word from this mug  
And he did exactly as he liked.  
And like a black and tan tornado  
With a brainless, snarling face,  
He caused an orgy of destruction  
Round our peaceful country place.

He flogged our poor kelpie bitch  
And not content with that,  
Killed six of Mum's best laying chooks  
And murdered Grandma's cat.  
He chewed our poor pet possum's tail  
And chased it up a tree  
While this dork flicked pages in his book  
On "Dog Psychology"

And while the city bloke was trying  
To find answers out of books,  
The Rottweiler, teeth gnashing,  
Headed straight for Andy's chooks.  
Yes, young Andy's special bantams  
Who'd won ribbons at the show,  
Looked just like they were going to be  
The next thing there to go.

But young Andy was a cunning lad  
With everything to gain.  
He raced over to the kennels  
And let Woody off the chain.  
And so to vindicate the honour  
Of our simple country mutts.,  
Woody flew into the Rottweiler  
And latched onto his ....(nether regions.)

From that useless flaming boof head,  
There rose an awful howl.  
They took off down the paddock  
At a thousand miles an hour  
With Woody hanging grimly,  
His feet skidding in the dirt,  
While my legs crossed all on their own  
'cause strewth, it must have hurt.

He swung hard between two saplings  
And set off his own dog trap.  
When Woody sliding sideways,  
Just failed to make the gap.  
The bellows of the Rottweiler  
Became a high pitched squeak  
He lost all interest in the fight  
And sat down in the creek.

Then this poor mug from the city  
He started acting tough  
'till Dad roared in his face "You bum!  
I've had a bloody 'nough!  
Old Woody did the right thing.  
The proper thing to do!  
Anyone who'd breed that mongrel,  
Would be dumb as bloody you!"

And Dad's whole face went scarlet,  
His eyes flashed hard and mean.  
He howled, "I've seen some bludging mongrels,  
But you're the best I've seen!  
So pack you're your traps and snatch it,  
You rotten mongrel sod,  
Or I'll make a Wether out of you  
Like Woody did your dog!"

With the air of people greatly wronged  
They loaded their pet up  
And bounced off down the driveway  
With that castrated pup,  
But no more will we be troubled  
By those pushy city folk  
Who inflict themselves upon you  
'till it's gone beyond a joke

And sometimes when the 'phone rings  
Getting on towards Christmas time,  
Dad's jaw begins to tighten  
As he's listening on the line,  
Our grins keep getting wider  
As old Dad begins to cough,  
Then roars, "I've only got two words for you,  
And the second one is .....OFF!"

© 2001 Jack Drake.

**Australian Bush Poets Association Inc:**  
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(as this is my private address please name subject ABPA)

**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 MONEY TO THE TREASURER.**

Once again it is time to put a few words down on paper to express my views as the editor of this tome. As you will have seen in last months newsletter, there were some superb poems sent in and printed for you to



read that had won various competitions around the country. Congratulations to all those writers that won and also to those who took part and did not win. I know the feeling, but - maybe next time.

While we are on the subject of poetry, I would ask members to keep in mind that this is the official newsletter of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. therefore I would ask that if you send in poems, then surely they should have an Australian Bush

Poetry theme. I can not justify publishing a poem about "the guy who's lady ran off with the local drug dealer" or "Fairies at the bottom of the Garden". I have now started receiving dozens of poems each month that members would like published "if there is space". (Eventually they will get published). They all have the theme mentioned above - but - please, lets stick to poems that come under the heading of what our association stands for. Poetry that have no relevance to the idea of "Australian Bush Poetry" will not be published. I think it is called the "Editors Discretion". I may not be the best person in our association to make this judgment, but I am the editor, and therefore am the one entitled to make that choice. And while I am on the subject of contributions being sent in. If I publish something and there are words that do not sound right for the sentence, I try my best to decipher the writings of what you send and sometimes it is very difficult. Some of the handwriting is very hard to read. Slow down folks and may I suggest that you print - not write. That is a bitch for the month, so now sit back and enjoy the rest of this fabulous newsletter, which is only good because of what you - the members send in for me to publish.

**Have a good one - Bernie Bliss - Editor.**

**G'day Everyone:**



When we formed a sub-committee to prepare a set of guidelines for competitive performance bush poetry events one of our aims was to make a conscientious effort to bring

some kind of standard into play. Reasons for this are many and varied, not the least of which is that competitors in any part of Australia could compete anywhere in the country under similar conditions to those at home. We like to think we achieved that aim and many others.

However achieving that aim or any others has absolutely no value if it is not applied. To what we can add the cliché "the proof of the pudding is in the eating". We urge you to get a copy of these guidelines and apply them. They need to be tested to make sure they work. And if any flaws are found tell us so they can be repaired.

The booklet produced is free to members just for the asking and for non-members it is only \$1.50 to cover print and post charges. As stated before, this is also a "how to go about it" booklet more than a book of rules. Anyone organising a bush poetry event for the first time should find it very helpful.

The guidelines sub-committee is gearing up for its next major project, a handbook for judges and judging. Members are asked to make their opinions known on what has been expected from our judges. For instance, who should judge? What level of expertise is required? How should point scoring be assessed? The guidelines sub-committee needs all the input possible to make an accurate assessment. Please make your opinions known.

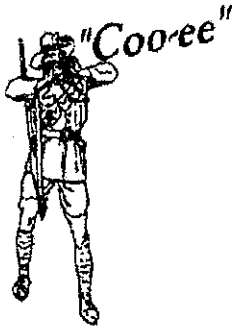
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Much of what we do in the ABPA can only be decided at our AGM. This occurs, as you know in January at Tamworth. Events like this have a way of sneaking up on us before we know it. So please give some thought on what issues need to go on the Agenda and put them in writing early. Hopefully this way everything important will be included and not missed.

One item to start the thinking processes going! Should we have Honorary Members? If so - what are the qualifiers? How many per year?

Have a great month  
Keep on preserving our Kulcha

**Wally Finch**  
**President....**



## Gilgandra Coo-ee Festival

### **Poetry Competition**

Closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2001

Total Prize Money: \$1490

Entry Fee: Adults \$5 per poem - Students \$2.50 per poem

**Section 1:** Coo-ee March Traditional form poem with the theme of the famous Coo-ee March. The Coo-ee March Book by John Meridith is available for sale from the Gilgandra Visitor Centre for \$15 (inc postage and handling) or information can be obtained from the Cooee Festival website at [www.skyboom.com/cooeeffestival.com](http://www.skyboom.com/cooeeffestival.com)

1<sup>st</sup> \$250 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50

**Section 2: Federation**

1<sup>st</sup> \$150 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50

**Section 3: Humorous**

1<sup>st</sup> \$150 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50

**Section 4: Open**

1<sup>st</sup> \$150 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50

**Section 5: Open High School Student**

1<sup>st</sup> \$50 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**Section 6: Open Primary School Student**

1<sup>st</sup> \$25 2<sup>nd</sup> \$15 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

**CONDITIONS:**

- Adults 100 line limit; High School Students 60 line limit; Primary School Students 20 line limit
- No limit to the number of entries
- No entry form required but a cover sheet must be included showing author's name, address, phone number, title of poem, line limit and the section it is to be entered in
- No names on poems
- Two copies of poems is required as well as large stamped self addressed envelop for return of poems
- Presentation night the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001
- Winners will be advised by phone
- All entries are to be available for reproduction or publication by the Cooee Festival Committee with copyright being retained by the author
- Judges decision is final
- Send entries to: The Secretary  
Cooee March Poetry Competition,  
PO Box 71 Gilgandra NSW 2827

## **Australian Bush Poets Association,**

is calling for expressions of interest, in writing, from clubs or groups for the organising and holding of the

### **2002 Australian Bush Poetry Championships.**

Separate expressions of interest are also call for the

### **2003 Australian Bush Poetry Championships.**

*Please apply before 31st July 2001 to  
The Secretary, ABPA Inc  
P O Box 77  
Drayton North Qld 4350*

# "On Ya Soapbox"

## Dear Editor:

Not because I was fortunate enough to win it, but I believe Neil Hulm's introduction of an "all rounder" event at Tumult was a clever idea and I would like to see other competitions adopt it.

I have often seen good writers wince when another performs their poem because they cannot put the interpretation on or emphasis where the writer intended it. Likewise how can any performer, however good, be certain he or she is interpreting the poem exactly as the writer intended?

Listen to Bob Magor performing *Who Gives The Bride Away?* Or Bob Miller *The Will* or Milton Taylor *Queenie Lucinda O'Toole* and try to imagine anyone else doing these poems quite like they do. Being an "all rounder" is indeed an art.

Ellis Campbell  
DUBBO.

## Dear Editor

Any ABPA members living in the Hastings (Port Macquarie), Macleay (Kempsey) and near by areas who are interested in performing Bush Poetry or coming along to listen to Bush Poetry, we would like you to contact us. We are planning to establish a regular Bush Poets get together to enjoy and promote Bush Poetry in our area.

Any established Poets who would be willing to lend a hand would also be most welcome.

Contact - Port Macquarie - Rod Worthing - 02 6581 3161  
- Kempsey - Sam Smyth - 02 6562 6861

Yours faithfully  
Sam Smyth.

## Dear Editor and ABPA Committee,

Congratulations on the prompt publication and distribution of our June Newsletter. I am sure every member will join me in a vote of thanks to all who made this possible.

With reference to the professional distribution of our newsletter. Is it the committee's intention to call public tenders for this task and will the requirements for this be published in our newsletter?

I also note with interest, as stated in the President's Report, that there was an ABPA Committee of Management meeting held in April.

I am sure that many members would like access to the minutes of this and other meeting of the association but because of distance and cost of communication, ie, phone, post, it is difficult to do so.

Therefore, as the main object of our association is to communicate information about bush poetry to members, may I suggest that, as an important step towards meeting this aim, that an exact copy, (rather than a precis), of all minutes of this and future Committee and General meetings of our Association be published in our newsletter.

Yours faithfully, Maureen Stonham,  
Nambucca Heads, NSW

## President

Australian Bush Poets Association  
Mr Ron Selby  
P O Box 77  
Drayton 4350 Queensland

## Ron

I am looking for the right words to a poem recited by Colin Munro at Tamworth's Roll of Renown night. He called it the "Irish Travelers Prayer".

I have been going to Tamworth for many years and I asked a couple of your members who I have known as Bush Poets at the Oasis Hotel did they know it, and they knew of it and some words but not the lot. So they past me onto a lady that night who gave me your address. I wrote to the ABC and got no reply, also someone in Tasmania and got no reply. I got most of the words off Slim Dusty's records but as you may know singers change words to make them rhyme in a song. If you know of the poem or a book it might be in I am interested in buying it.

The poem is something like this.

May the mountains come to greet you  
May good fortune smile upon you  
May the sun shine in your face  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the rain fall softly on your land

Thanks kindly for taking the time to read my letter.

Peter Grady  
5 Furner St  
Goulburn NSW 2580  
Ph 02 4822 1614  
email - corkey@ozemail.com.au

Ps: is there a good web site for Australian poems?

Dear Editor, Members and ABPA Committee

### INEVITABLE CHANGE!!

For several years we have experienced increasing difficulty in filling the vital roll of Secretary on our executive committee at our A.G.M., and to my knowledge, this has not been for the want of competent nominees for the position.

It is simply because our Association is registered in Queensland and under law, the Secretary of any Association registered in this state MUST live within the state, or within 50 kilometers of it's borders. This rule is exclusive to the position of Secretary and not other committee positions.

Over the last three years, we have had several competent members from states other than Queensland nominate for the Secretarial job but because of the above requirement, these nominees were unacceptable for the position. This has, I feel, placed an un-democratic restriction on members, who in the past, and may in the future, wish to nominate for the job.

Our Association name indicates that we are indeed a national association and therefore, without further delay, should we not consider national registration in the ACT where no residency restrictions are applied to office bearers.

I for one would be happy to give notice of motion to this effect at our next A.G.M. Do I have a seconder and subsequent support for this issue?

Any cost incurred in such a change would wisely be considered as a sound investment in the future of the A.B.P.A.

Yours faithfully,

MAUREEN STONHAM, Nambucca Heads, NSW.

### To the Editor & Committee, ABPA Inc.

Judging from what I have read, it seems some people have 'lost the plot' or maybe it's just me. I would therefore like to suggest to the committee that some changes be made to the competition known as 'The Australian Bush Poetry Championships'. I believe that one or two heats for Traditional poetry should be complemented with a heat for Original verse, still having bonus points for original work in the Finals. We talk of CHANGE so lets change the rules. Then the winner can say they won the championships and know that they are the Australian Champion Bush POET. This is what the inaugural trophy, awarded to Gary Fogarty in 1995 stated.

**Kev J Barnes**  
**'The Legend'**

Dear Bernie,

It was a pleasure to listen to your Bush Poetry last Sunday at Goondiwindi... Thanks for coming out and enhancing the afternoon entertainment....

I send this to wish you an wonderful journey as you continue to compile the newsletter.....it has always been an enjoyable read and Jennifer did a wonderful job.....but there is certainly a new freshness about it.....I found the spelling stuff quite funny...it is always the same, those who don't - do always have the most to say...ah well you know what the wheel of Karma does....

Bush Poetry is slow to take off here...it seems people aren't keen to take personal risks in front of others.....lets help change that...

If it ain't broke...May 2001....what a great Page....it certainly gives people a broader view of it all.....

My deal is to entertain people whether it is with my poetry or others....but what of the cultural history that is being purged simply by others sharing their thoughts...you are right in saying there are classics being written right now.....and how much have we to glean from the poetry of today through this wonderful organization of people.....

Looking forward to your next publication

**Arthur Koestler wrote..... Every creative act involves a new innocence of perception, liberated from the cataract of accepted belief...**

**cheers....Bernadette Allport.**  
**www.pballport.mk2r.com**

### Things to Think About !

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun.

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

If K-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors.... but they all have to learn to live in the same box.

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Have an awesome day, and know that someone has thought about you today!

### What does each Committee Member do? (plus me as the Editor of your Newsletter).

Membership applications, advertising and anything that has money attached to it - send it to our Treasurer, Rosemary Baguley. (Once Rosemary has actioned the financial part of advertising she then sends the advert on to me).

Results, poems, articles, letters to the Editor - send straight to me. This can be via mail, fax or better still - email on either Word or Publisher.

All correspondence must be sent to the Secretary, Ron Selby.

If at any time you feel the need to discuss something with one of the committee members directly, then by all means contact them if you want.

To the Editor  
"The Bush Poet mag"

What a little gem you are producing each month. I like the way each letter, article and poem is defined, which makes each item so much easier to read. Enclosed a poem that I wrote this week; I hope you can find some room for it. (Maybe next month - Ed)

I also want to mention something our Gold Coast poetry group is very excited about. For quite some time now I have been in contact with a poetry editor of the American Writers Journal. (She published one of my poems, the lovely girl).

She has recently extended an invitation to our group to send her poems with Australian content, providing we explain the Australian idiom. She plans to publish these in a special column in 2002.

So you see, success lies in keeping your eyes and ears open for opportunities. I also think the Sydney Olympics have put us firmly on the world map. When the time comes, I'll send you the ones she selected, if that's okay?

With best wishes and regards

Corry de Haas  
Helensvale Q4212

#### **PALMA ROSA POETS**

On May 2nd, we had another fabulous evening of poetry and song for Palma Rosa poets when one of the original Bush Poets, Ray Essery, took the stage.

Always the alternate entertainer, Ray, as usual, treated us to some of our old favourites as well as many of his new works.

On stage with Ray was the beautiful Elizabeth Lord - a singer of such amazing ability - she entertained us with some fabulous singing, ably backed by her husband Leigh James - what a great duo they are - their many awards richly deserved.

### **To All Members:**

Please note that I have bought the "Deadline" date forward by a couple of days. This is so I can get the copy to the printers on the 20th. Now this should not be a problem, just get your contributions to me a day or so earlier. Simple as that.

**BUT** - if you wait until the 14 - 15th to send it to me - then it may get in - it may not.

**Please note - I will not , "remove" someone else's article just to fit someone in who is late in sending in their contribution - even if they are a regular contributor.**

### **"IT WILL BE FIRST IN FIRST SERVED".**

So if you are - or you want to be a regular contributor, get your copy to me early in the month. All articles can be emailed to me at [bbliss@hotmail.net.au](mailto:bbliss@hotmail.net.au) or posted to

*B.J.Bliss - P O Box 5208 MANLY Q 4179.*

Emailed contributions, I would prefer it to be in 'Publisher' not 'Word', but if 'Word' is all you have, then you are more than welcome to send it in that format.

For those who would like their newsletter sent to them via email, you will need to have 'Publisher 2000' to be able to open it. (*forgot to mention that before.*).

Regards: Editor.

Dear Bernie,

Firstly, congratulations on the great job you're doing as editor of the ABPA Newsletter. As I'm a bit isolated in Mount Isa, I really look forward to receiving my copy, so I can read about all the events that I hope to be able to attend one day.

I'm a member of the Mount Isa Writers' Association Inc., and we are holding a literary competition this year. I hope you will be able to help us by publishing the details in the next ABPA Newsletter.

**Details are as follows.**

**Open Short Story, any theme, up to 3000 words.**

**Bush Verse, not exceeding 60 lines, in traditional bush verse style.**

**Open Verse. Poem in any form, on any theme, not exceeding 50 lines.**

For entry forms send SSAE to:

The Secretary, Mount Isa Writers Association Inc.,

PO Box 2781, MOUNT ISA QLD 4825. ]

Closing date is 31st July 2001.

Thanks, Bernie. Keep up the good work!

**All the best,  
Veronica Weal**

*First Prize \$300, second prize \$100.*

*First prize \$200, second prize \$50.*

*First Prize \$150, second prize \$50.*

#### **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**

# Regular Monthly Events

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

## Queensland:

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 & 3rd Sun North Pine Bush Poets. North Pine Country Markets, 9.00am @ Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Damper. 07 3285 2845 or 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  
Every Wed Writers in Townsville. 7.30pm, Hotel 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 Tugarah Lakes Poetry Group. 7.00pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stantonn 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 June Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, June 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 Sounders - 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 Penrith. 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, 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

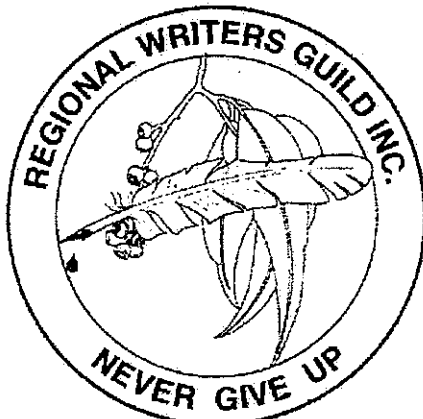
1st Mon Kyabram & District Bush Verse Gr, every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097  
6 weekly, Thurs Gippsland Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

## 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



## The Regional Writers Guild

is a newly formed self help group for writers and self publishers.

For more information contact:

Wally Finch 07 3886 0747 or Pauline ReKintin 07 3285 2887

**Palma Rosa Poets:**

Our next Palma Rosa Poets evening will be held on July 18 when the award winning Poet from Scone, NSW, Greg Scott, will be taking the stage.

Greg has won many awards for his written and performance poetry and will delight you with his presence.

Performing this night with Greg will be our own Singer/songwriter Mark Tempany. Mark has, after 5 CD's, just released his latest single "Sail Away" which is taking Australia by storm.

Another great night is in store for the Palma Rosa Poets. Come along and enjoy a great evening of poetry and song in this beautiful heritage listed home and support the ongoing upkeep and restoration of Palma Rosa.

**Enquiries: Palma Rosa - 3262 3769**

**E S ? T**

Eulo's on the map Skew  
it's been there quite a time  
just across the border mate  
on Eastern Standard Time

The blinkered souls of southern climes  
have trouble with their summer time  
they need more hours to do their best  
and finish doing [you guessed it] ... less

If the water in your garden hose  
runs for an hour the lawn may grow  
don't count on it, maybe it will snow, at Eulo;  
now that's north Skew....you know!

I've watched the 'Whiffs' from south of the line  
methinks they think is fine  
to make believe that Eulo's ....dreamtime  
come on Skew, 'cross the line.

Did you make a mark for Mothers Day  
did you really come all that way and  
did you know Eulo was expecting,  
Kyabram's bard for coronating.

You said you had made Thargomindah  
passed the safety valve, west of Paddabilla  
so now to put you in the know  
both are still....remain due west of Eulo.

More to the matter pertinent...  
the dotted lines that cross this continent  
did you find the one to take you home  
the white one....middle of Matilda lane....

© 2001 'squatter' blake.

**Mid-year Sale:**

**Special Offer to Members:**

\$10.00 - (including postage) gets you 4 copies of back issues of the Annual. We have stocks of the 3rd - 4th - 5th & 6th issues, so why not snap up a bargain.

Offer closes 30.09.01

**Contact the Treasurer.....**

**Dingo**

Dingo - dingo - how can you understand  
All the rules and laws of invading man  
You earn your place in a pack by stealth  
Not by privileged position, birth or wealth.

When William Dampier first saw you at Roebucks Bay  
You were much the same as you are today  
"Twas in the year of 1699 it's true

The vivid description he wrote still closely fits you

Since then you've been tainted by domestic types  
Such as Alsatian, Kelpie, Cattle dogs and the likes  
Once silent companion to the dark Koori man

When food was scarce you made the ultimate sacrifice for them

Now one of your kind has killed an innocent child  
On a remote coastal island where tourists run wild

Once again the ultimate price you pay  
For an eye for an eye proved the law of the day

So Dingo dingo - sound out your haunting call  
From the sandy beaches to mountains tall

And may the powers to be come to understand

That you are the spirit and soul of this great ancient land.

Bob Skelton (aka) The Minmi Master © 2001

**Inviting fellow Poets to drop into the Lawson Room  
TARRO HOTEL Q.**

We are the Hunter Bush Poets, a small and friendly bunch.  
You'll find us at the old TARRO Pub on the second  
Tuesday of each month.

So come along and enjoy the night of Bush Poetry and  
Yarns. It's a beaut night and it's all about our love of this  
great country.

**Bob Skelton - The Minmi Master.**

**Computer Etiquette**

**For those of you who are "on-line" here are a few things  
that you need to know.**

Always put your name at the end of an email.

*Before you forward a message on - 'clean it up' (get rid of all the  
>>>'s because by the time it gets 4 people away, it's a dog's  
breakfast and extremely hard to read.)*

Check your email **EVERY DAY.** (Do you only check your letter  
box outside your house once a week?)

*Always reply to an email, even if you have to say - I'll get back to  
you on that.*

Be very wary about what you forward on to a friend. If they are  
offended that may no longer be a friend.

*Be careful how many attachments you send to someone. Most  
people do not have the on-line capacity to download "heaps" of  
information or pictures.*

You are not on-line yet - DON'T WAIT. It will be one of the  
biggest and most interesting changes to your life you will ever  
have. There is a world out there you have never heard of.

*Become email addicted. Your friends come so much closer  
and you can access the whole world from your home... ..*



### **The Fighter:**

Full commitment to ideals  
he tests each hose and polished pipe,  
a weekly ritual that reveals  
the dedication of his type.

With time-bombed forest fuses spent,  
smoke's whisper turns to scorching flash  
a raucous siren screams give vent  
to threats to turn this world to ash.

With billows hurled at blood-red sky,  
he joins the fight with up-most speed -  
no time to stop and wonder why,  
no time to rest or grab a feed.

She waits at home as best she can.  
She waits alone with time to kill.  
Her thoughts are focused on her man.  
Each phone call makes her heart stand still.

Immersed in smoke-filled danger zone,  
his views is nature gone insane.  
He prays to God, as if alone,  
that clouds disgorge their drenching rain.

She thinks about their bushland dream  
and understands his need to fight.  
She can not change life's fated stream,  
but clings to straws that prayer just might.

With conflagration bought to ground,  
he takes the chance to look about.  
Within the hell a heartfelt sound,  
one 'thank you' to dissolve his doubt.

Tired, homeward-bound, his mind is cast  
on fractured scenes of each near miss.  
He swears that this will be his last.  
Past fires were never quite like this.

She fought this fire as much as he.  
She shared with us his heart of gold.  
His car's arrival sets her free.  
She lets go breath that's three days old.

She greets him like she's gone berserk,  
the answer to her wildest dreams.  
Next morning on the train to work  
how ordinary this hero seems/

Brian Bell © 1994

### **From The Editor:**

A short reply to the letter opposite. Thanks for the kind words, I think. It is very hard to print information which we have never received. I received a note about the competition but certainly no results and it is impossible for me to follow up every competition and get them. This job, as Editor, takes an enormous amount of time and I have none left to chase people. By all means, get onto the people who were running it and find out why nothing was sent in. As you will see ~ we always publish results. I think they are the most important part of our organisation. So ~ keep up the good work in your neck of the woods and don't forget to send me in something for publishing.

Regards ~ Bernie Bliss

### **Some gems for you ~**

Black holes are where God divided by zero.  
Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.  
OK, so what's the speed of dark?  
How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?  
If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.  
Support bacteria -- they're the only culture some people have.  
Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.  
When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.  
Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.  
Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.  
Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.  
Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.  
I intend to live forever -- so far, so good.  
Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.  
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.  
A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.  
Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.  
For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.  
No one is listening until you make a mistake.  
Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view.  
The colder the X-ray table, the more of your body is required on it.  
The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.  
The severity of the itch is proportional to the reach.  
To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.  
Two wrongs are only the beginning.  
You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.  
The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.  
A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.  
If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.  
Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.  
Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.  
Half the people you know are below average.  
99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.  
42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.  
A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

### **To The Editor of A.B.P.A**

Firstly let me state that I believe for anyone to be a critic, they must be prepared and capable to do better themselves. So then I would also have to state that I personally could not and would not do so! Having got that bit of garbage out of the way, I hope you will realise that this is not a bitch or a complaint. Our club members all realise that taking over the position, you now hold as Editor is no easy task and will require quite some time before it becomes a routine chore.

The whole crux of this letter is that the members of this very small club/group, competed at Dunedoo in March, and as small as we are we fared reasonably well against some very talented poets. But to date there has not been even a whisper of this very well organised and run event.

Now our individual members are not upset because they couldn't see their names in print. But as a group we are extremely disappointed that we did not rate a mention. We are desperately trying to entice people into our group, which will ultimately flow on to the A.B.P.A and when people can see we are both active and sometimes successful they are more likely to both seek us out and hopefully join our ranks. We believe that somewhere in the transition period of old and new Editors we got placed in the very lost basket. (Most organisations have one.)  
Anyway, we are not blaming anyone but thought we should let you know what hasn't happened.

Again we would like to state that as disappointed as we may be, we are not pointing a finger, or criticising another's efforts. We as members realise we are most fortunate to have such a willing committee to serve us.

Sincerely

**Mid-Coast Sundowners-Bush Poets.**



596 David Low Way - Pacific Paradise,  
Sunshine Coast Qld.  
Brekky & open microphone every second &  
fourth Saturday of the month,  
from 9.00 am to 11.30 am. Free admission.  
Tucker at great prices.  
Bring your favourite or latest poem and have a  
go or just sit back and enjoy.  
Telephone: 07 3886 0747 or 07 5448 7155

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:**

The Australian Bush Ballads Association monthly magazine may publish any of your poems you feel would suit being put to music. Send them to ~ Blue Bostock - 32 Redruth Road. Alexandra Hills Q 4161 for consideration each month.

**Beaudesert Country & Horse Festival Bush Poetry Awards.**

"Golden Horseshoe Awards" for written verse.

**Adult:**

- 1st - Joyce Alchin for "*If Only Walls Could Talk*"
- 2nd - Bill Glasson for "*Brisbane's Last Hansom Cab*"
- 3rd - Ross Keppel for "*Traveller*"

**Children: (Junior)**

- 1st - Rachel Thomas for "*The Country and Horse Festival*"
- 2nd - Emily McCredden for "*The Animal's Representee*"
- 3rd - Loren Stokes for "*My Little Country Town*"

**Children: (Intermediate)**

- 1st - Kelly Fogarty for "*The Wild Brumby*"
- 2nd - Evan Schnalle for "*Weekend Warriors*"
- 3rd - Robin Dunne for "*A Walk in the Bush*"

**Special Encouragement Award Trophy:**

- Rebekah Wein for "*The World Where I Live*"

**Performance Results:**

Open Original.

- 1st - Maxine Ireland for "*What You Shoul'da Done*"
- 2nd - Ron Selby for "*A Snail Trail*"
- 3rd - Ross Keppel for "*Brunette, Blonde & Copper*"

Open Traditional.

- 1st - Wally Finch for "*An Old Master*" CJ Dennis
- 2nd - Carol Stafford for "*The Parting Rosary*" John O'Brien
- 3rd - Ron Selby for "*Roo & The Blue*" Marco Giori

**All first placed poems will be published next month:**

**LOOKING BACK !**

In seventy years of penning my verse  
I've found it's like marriage "for better or worse"  
You first need the time, then inclination,  
It also helps to have inspiration.  
These days I'm lucky if ONE of them's there -  
I yearn for the old days and snooze in my chair.

© Flo Hart 2001

**"It's Still Free!"**

Everywhere prices are rising,  
So we must count every cost;  
Power and foodstuffs are soaring,  
Most luxuries we have lost.  
A car is costing us money  
Though we don't travel a mile;  
Only thing left on the free list -  
A sunny welcoming smile!

© Flo Hart 2001

**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?

### '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**

### Finalist - Australian Bush Laureate Album of the Year 2001

#### *"Australian Bush Poetry"*

with Trish Anderson.

Cassette - \$15.00 - Postage - \$2.50

Contact Trish Anderson - 113 Manson Road -  
Hendra - Brisbane Q  
Telephone/fax 07 3268 3624

### N.S.W Bush Poetry Championships. April 2001 Book of Bush Verse. (First Place).

#### **Travel the Red Road**

by Roderick Williams.

Book \$15 + \$1.20 postage.

Compilation Cassette - 'Rod and Jessie' 40 minutes  
of variety \$15 + \$2 postage.

Book & Cassette - \$30 including postage.

**Roderick Williams,  
40 Templeton Lane.**

**Oxley Island N.S.W 2430.**

**Telephone/fax 02 6553 2565**

### "Beyond the Gate"

Poems from a women's heart.

Jan Lewis CD - \$25.00 posted anywhere in  
Australia.

email address: poetfarm@corryong.albury.

### "Palma Rosa Poets Live"

Double CD.

Featuring 15 Poets and Singer/Songwriter Mark Tempany.

Cost is \$30.00 - per double CD plus \$3.50 postage. A total  
of \$33.50.

Featured artists include; Trisha Anderson, Carmel  
Dunn, Graham Fredriksen, Wally Finch, Bill Hay,  
Anita Hendrie, George Lovejoy, Bobby Miller, Stuart  
Nivison, Glenny Palmer, Robert Raftery, Anita Reed,  
Noel Stallard, Ron Selby, Milton Taylor and Mark  
Tempany.

Available through the English Speaking Union - 9 Queens  
Road - Hamilton - Brisbane Q 4007 or P O Box 1 -  
Lutwyche Q 4030.

The money raised from the sale of this great double CD  
goes towards the ongoing upkeep and restoration of the  
beautiful "Palma Rosa", headquarters of the English  
Speaking Union, at Hamilton in Brisbane.

### 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

## 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 at 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.

*Do you have a book to sell?*

*Are you about to publish and want to "spread" the word?*

**Then you need to place a couple of advert's in your newsletter.**

Just \$5.00 for two months adverts is good value. If you've got something and you want to sell it - ya gotta tell the buyers. Send your advert & money to the "Treasurer" and she will forward it to the editor.

Dear Editor:

I know just how Frank Halliwell feels when I read his poem "The Poets Toast" ~ but I have somewhat overcome this problem (one can write in the dark with practice) by having pen and paper beside my bed, in fact ....

There are pieces of paper all over the place with half finished poems and thoughts that I chase

For I'll get an idea at the strangest of times  
so, on whatever's closest, I'll jot down the lines.

Now, up in the laundry a few gems you'll find  
on the back of a soap box, pegged to the blind.

And there's more in my cook book ~ it seems when I bake  
inspiration will rise along with the cake.

But there's one place that's safe from my pen, any hour  
.....experience has taught I can't write in the shower.

©1994 Sandra Binns

## Bush Poetry Event - Woodford

The Woodford Lions Club will present a 1 - 1½ poetry event in Woodford on the third Sunday of each month commencing in May - 2001. This will coincide with the local markets. The aim is to promote and encourage both local and visiting talent in the field of Bush Poetry, as well as to bring further interest in the town of Woodford and it's artistic and historical features.

The venue is **Shop # 1 - 95 Archer St, Woodford** - situated halfway between **Clews News-agency** and **Woodford Pharmacy** (so if the news makes you crook, grab some medicine and join the Poets for an even better cure - laughter!). Also in the same row of shops is **Jalla's Café** - where you will get some really good service for tea/coffee/cold drinks and U-beaut tucker.

The "**Lairs, Larrikins and Liar's Lunchtime Laughs & Laments**" (what a gob-full) will kick off at 10.30 am and conclude approximately 12.00 noon). Mark Feldman will host the event and will be joined by locals Pat Markey & Lance Reason, to present guest poets and encourage amateurs, veterans and young and old alike to participate in keeping this Aussie tradition alive and well.

For further information, please contact Mark Feldman on  
Phone/Fax 07 5496 1157 or mobile 0407 625408

### The Branding

The station stirs 'fore the crack of dawn  
for the years first branding round  
and the camp cook's gong 'midst the clanking plates  
is an appetising sound.

The Ringers walk with a jingling step  
and a mincing, hasty tread,  
past the yards and the dip near the old airstrip  
to the door of the saddle shed.

The horses yard with nostrils flared  
and an eager pounding stride,  
then the stockmen cut the brood mares out  
and check those fit to ride.

While the plant stock ring in a frantic bid  
to keep their kin and kind  
they draft the doubtful youngsters out  
and the bay with the lame off-hind.

The Ringers mount 'midst the yells and cheers  
from their mates perched 'round the rails,  
for the horses yet are spelled and fresh  
with a kink to their necks and tails.

But the humps are smoothed by a lap or two  
and a turn 'round the main yard fence.  
so they cross the lane on an easy rein,  
though highly strung and tense.

The mob drones in 'neath a cloak of dust,  
they march the last mile home,  
through the laneway down to the stockyard gates,  
at the edge of the aerodrome.

Then the cattle stamp through the force and draft  
To the yards where they low and stand,  
While the stockyard sing to the slap and the sting  
Of the greenhide rope and the brand.

I sit and dream in my eerie high,  
Breathing and living it all,  
I can taste the dust, hear the rattling hooves,  
I can hear the cattle brawl:  
I can smell the yards, hear the stock-whip crack,  
I can feel that old greenhide -  
But it's time for tea, so who'll help me  
And my old wheelchair inside.

**Author wanted please - can you help?**

**For those members who read & criticise - each month we try to make a point of putting in few mistakes.**

**But - hell - I think we forgot this month. Or did we.**

**I am sure that there must be a couple there somewhere. I wonder ?????**

### **THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG.....**

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.  
Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.  
When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.  
Let others know when they've invaded your territory.  
Take naps. Stretch before rising.  
Run, romp and play daily. Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.  
Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.  
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.  
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle him/her gently.  
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.  
On hot days, drink lots of water and rest under a shady tree.  
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.  
No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the "guilt thing". Run right back and make friends.  
Bond with your pack.  
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.  
**Be happy, there's more to life than money.**  
True friends are those that share what they have and you are only too happy to share what you have with them.

### Irish Heritage Festival

#### **KILLARNEY QLD**

**Irish & Aussie Fun - Saturday & Sunday September 15 & 16 - 2001.**

**POET'S BREAKFAST Sunday @ 8.00 am.**

**WANTED - POETS - REWARD ??**

(Sprout your blarney - Little People welcome).

Enquiries please telephone

Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115 - Judy Bell 07 4664 1818

Camping area available.

### **Kyabram (Vic) Bush Group News:**

The group has installed a new President. This time around, it is in the form of :

Herb McCrum ( a well known authority on the works of CJ Dennis).

It was also noted that a few friends of Ray Essery turned up for the meeting, surprising all that Ray has friends that are actually nice people.

The group hold their next normal meeting at 7.30 pm at the Ky Fauna Kiosk on Monday - August 6th.

### **POEMS WANTED**

Submissions of poems from members are wanted for this year's Annual.

Please send suitable poems to:

Ron Selby P.O. Box 77

DRAYTON NORTH QLD 4350

## What's goin' on 'round the traps!

### 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

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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,**  
74 Diamond Valley Road, Mooloolah Qld 4553.  
Telephone 07 5494 7260

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### **'Gippsland Bush Poets'**

will be running a Australian verse written competition as part of the

### **'Gippsland Writers Festival'**

To be held over the weekend of October 27th & 28th

Entries close Sep. 28th. Sections are:

Open - Secondary students - Primary students

Weekend will include Poets Breakfast, a Poetry workshop  
and Poets in the Pub on Sunday afternoon.

### **Guest Poet - Neil McArthur**

For more information/entry forms send SSAE to:  
Claire Van Baalen PO Box 186 Heyfield 3858 Vic.  
entry forms available on our Web page:

www.vicnet.net.au/~gipwrite  
or e mail [claire@i-o.net.au](mailto:claire@i-o.net.au)

For more information ring Dennis Carstairs  
(03) 5145 6128 - email [carstairs@i-o.net.au](mailto:carstairs@i-o.net.au)

### **KYABRAM**

### ***"Around the Campfire"***

Lion's Club & Ky Bush Verse Group.  
Thursday 20th September at KY Club - 7.30 pm.  
**WANTED: Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners**

Good Prizes, Good Fun.

Enquiries: 03 5852 2084

Anyone from Eulo admitted free.

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### **POETS BRUNCH & AUSSIE HUMOUR SHOW *PLUS Blackboard Concert***

in conj. with Kempsey Country Music Festival  
8.30 am - 12 midday, Sunday 9th September 2001  
Moon River Motel, Pacific Hwy, Kempsey NSW

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**Feature Poet - Frank Daniel**  
**Open Mike Session at Blackboard Concert**  
Admission \$11.00 - Bookings Preferred  
Ring Gwen 02 6562 2937

### **DORRIGO MOUNTAIN TOP BUSH POETS ROUND UP**

in conj. with Dorrigo Spring Festival  
1 pm - 4 pm, Saturday 27th October 2001  
Local and Visiting Poets Welcome

**Feature Poet - To be Announced**

Admission Gold Coin - Ring Murray 02 6657 2139

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### **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival *August 17 - 18 & 19***

@ North Pine Country Park - Brisbane Qld.

Novice performers on the Friday night.

Youth & Open performances in Serious, Humorous and  
Original on the Saturday & Sunday.

**Huge concert on Saturday Night featuring Marco Gliori,  
Carmel Randall, Neil McArthur & Milton Taylor.**

**Applications from The Secretary P O Box 131 ARANA  
HILLS QLD 4054**

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### **Irish Heritage Festival**

### **KILLARNEY QLD**

Irish & Aussie Fun - Saturday & Sunday September 15 & 16

**POET'S BREAKFAST Sunday @ 8.00 am.**

**WANTED -- POETS -- REWARD ??**  
(Sprout your blarney - Little People welcome).

Enquiries please telephone

**Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115 - Judy Bell 07 4664 1818**

**Gilgandra Coo-ee Festival**

**Poetry Competition**

*Closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2001*

**Total Prize Money: \$1490**

Entry Fee:          Adults \$5 per poem - Students \$2.50 per poem

or information can be obtained from the Cooee Festival website at [www.skyboom.com/cooeeefestival.com](http://www.skyboom.com/cooeeefestival.com)

Send entries to:  
The Secretary  
Cooee March Poetry Competition,  
PO Box 71 Gilgandra NSW 2827

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**Millmerran Bush Poets Group.**

**The 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Group Round-up 31st August - 1st - 2nd September....  
Saturday at 7.00 pm at Blandy's Tavern**

There is a \$5.00 entry fee for this for non-performers. 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.

**Any enquiries call**

**Kev Barnes ( the old bloke) on 07 4695 4209.**

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**Mount Isa Writers Association Inc**

*Literary Competition*

Open short Story (any theme)  
Bush Verse (traditional)  
Open Verse (any theme)

Good prizes.

**Entries close July 31st .**

**Entry forms - Contact The Secretary P O Box 2781  
Mount Isa Qld 4825**

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**To The Cyber-users Out There!**

Are you on the inter-net?

Do you have Publisher 2000?

Are you keen on getting the ABPA newsletter early?

If you are - just let me know and I will email it to you ~ the same day as it is posted to the publisher.

All you need to do is email me your address and a quick as you can say Jack Whatshisname, you can have it !

How is that for service?

**SOAPBOX**

**The Fellowship of Australian Writers Qld Inc**

*Article writing competition.*

*Closing date is September 30th - 2001*

*Climb on your soapbox and write an article on any theme to a maximum of 2000 words*

*For an entry form, contact the ABPA Secretary.*

**Fellowship of Australian Writers Qld Inc.**

**Young Adult Poetry Competition.**

*Entrants must be between 16 & 25 years old. Closing date is 30th September.*

*For an entry form - contact the ABPA Secretary*

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

Surface  
mail

Postage  
Paid

Dear Son,

I'm writing this letter slow because I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left home. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of your home, so we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the last Arkansas family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address. This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though: last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen them since. The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice last week; the first time for three days and the second time for four days. John locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out. Your sister had a baby this morning; but I haven't found out what it is yet so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle. The baby looks just like your brother. Uncle Ted fell in a whiskey vat last week. Some men tried to pull him out, but he fought them off playfully and drowned. We had him cremated and he burned for three days. There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.

Love, Mom

P.S. I was going to send you some money but the envelope was already sealed.

### Poets Calendar of Events and Competitions:

6th July Bundy Muster. Performance & written. Tel - Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy/John 07 4151 4631

15th July - closing date for North Pines Camp Oven Competition. Telephone Mary 07 5494 7260

31st July 2001 - Mount Isa Writers' Association Inc Literary competition closes - Contact the Secretary, Mount Isa Writers Association Inc., PO Box 2781, MOUNT ISA QLD 4825.

9th August - Bush Poets at the EKKA. Trisha Anderson telephone/fax 07 3262 3769

17 - 18 & 19th August - Camp Oven Bush Poetry Competition - North Pine Brisbane Qld. Secretary Box 131 Arana Hills 4054

31st August - The 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Group Round-up - contact Kev Barnes on 07 4695 4209.

9th September - Blackboard Concert - Moon River Motel Pacific Highway - Kempsey NSW

15 - 16th September - Irish Heritage Festival - Killarney Qld - Telephone: 07 4664 1115 or 07 4664 1818

20 September - Kyabram "Around the Campfire" Enquiries - 03 5852 2084

28th September - Closing date of inaugural ' Gippsland Bush Poets' Australian Verse written competition.  
To be run as part of the 'Gippsland Writers Festival'

27th October - Dorrigo Mountain Top Round-up - Contact Murray 02 66657 2139