

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 10 No. 1

February/March 2003

ABPA INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. was held in St. Peters Church Hall, Vera St. Tamworth on Saturday 25th January 2003, with forty members present.

Reports were presented and accepted from the President, Secretary and Treasurer. (See reports this issue).

Peter Baguley of Capalaba took the chair for the election of office bearers for the coming year.

The new executive elected are:

President: Frank Daniel, Canowindra NSW.

Secretary: Ed Parmenter, Coffs Harbour NSW.

Treasurer: Marion Fitzgerald, North Star NSW. *"Mount Carmel"*

Vice President: Milton Taylor, Portland NSW

Committee: Sam Smyth, Kempsey NSW. Dennis Carstairs, Stratford V.



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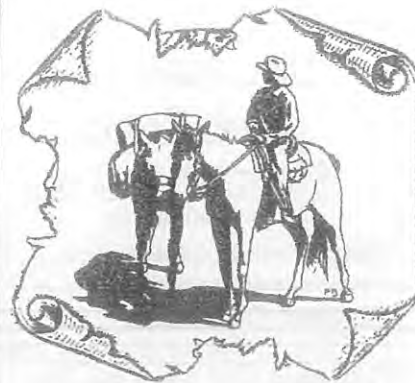
Ed Parmenter

1 Avenue St.

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

NEW BADGE POPULAR

The new ABPA Badge has proven a bit of a hit with the bush poets and regular followers, with sales clearing three hundred and fifty during Country Music Week in Tamworth. Make sure you order one when you renew your subscriptions.



TAMWORTH POETRY GROUP

IMPERIAL HOTEL

The Tamworth Writers Group held its ...15th?..... Performance competition during the latter half of Country Music Week.

As usual the competition attracted some of the country's best performers with an equally challenging number of newcomers from as far north as Townsville to Stratford in Victoria.

Heats of the competition were held on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings with the finals on Saturday 25th.

Exceptionally strong challenges were thrown out in both the Traditional and Original sections leaving audiences almost spell bound awaiting results.

Comperes were - for Wednesday and Thursday, Geoffrey Graham of Eaglehawk V. - Ray Essery of Mullumbimby on the Friday and Marco Gliori of Warwick Q. for the finals.

Winners of the Traditional Section were: First. Noel Stallard of Brisbane. Second. Trisha Anderson of Brisbane. Third Carol Heuchan.

The Original Section was taken out by newcomer to Tamworth, Melanie Hall of Townsville Q. Second place went to Noel Stallard and equal third to Gabby Colghoun and Dennis Carstairs

The Blackened Billy Verse Writing Competition was won by Joyce Alchin of Corrimal NSW.

Her poem, 'The Aussie Spirit' can be found on page 27. Other reports throughout this issue.

**The Australian
Bush Poets
Association Inc.**

(Established 1994)

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Editorials: All copy to Frank Daniel

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payable to the Treasurer.

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**Note:** Every endeavour is made to  
inform readers, poets, competitors  
etc., of functions, written and  
performance competitions and so on.  
Space does not provide to print  
competition entry terms and  
conditions, or details beyond the  
closing dates and dates of such event.  
Further information in regard to such  
can be obtained from the organizers  
by sending an SSAE (stamped self-  
addressed envelope) to the addresses  
supplied.

**Presidents Report**



*G'day.*

It looks like 2003 is up and running  
without too many hassles as far as Bush  
Poetry is concerned. Tamworth went off like  
a rocket despite the drought, and bush poets  
enjoyed the successes they so richly  
deserved.

Reports on the different venues and  
happenings can be found elsewhere in this  
issue, as well as my President's Report for 2002 as presented at the Annual  
General Meeting on 25th January. (p.17)

My congratulations to the newly elected executive members, welcome  
to the board.

I've said it elsewhere, but I must reiterated my thanks to our Secretary  
Ed Parmenter for the great job he carried out last year in securing public  
liability insurance for the association. It was no mean feat and took up a lot  
of his time. To our retiring Treasurer, Rosemary Baguley, I say thank you  
for a job well done. Thank you also to Liz Ward and Carol Reffold for their  
efforts in the past.

Thanks also to Ellis Campbell for sharing his writing skills in the  
newsletter. I've included a double dose of Ellis in this issue and there will  
be five more follow-ups in 2003.

A few new faces, or rather, faces new to Tamworth, certainly gave the  
huge audiences their monies worth and the reassurance that bush poetry is  
in good hands as always. The presence of Veronica Weal, Debbie Andersen  
and Melanie Hall shone a new light on the ladies side of performance  
poetry..

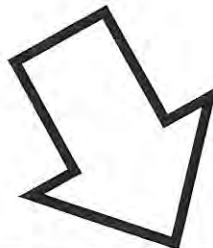
Congratulation to Neville Caldwell and Rohan Davis for their wins in  
the Early-bird membership subscription competition. I think the idea was  
quite a good one. Our thanks must go to Akubra, Max Ellis Marketing,  
Singabout Australia and Dryzabone for their assistance in this competition.

With time marching on it's almost too late, but for all it is worth, have a  
happy new year, and tell all your mates about the ABPA and do your best  
to have them become members too. Don't forget your renewals for 2003.

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin' . . . .

*Frank Daniel*

**ABPA Vice President 2003  
Milton Taylor**



**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FELL DUE ON 31st DECEMBER  
Please don't make this your last newsletter**





The 2003 Australian Bush Laureate Awards were staged on 21st. January at the Tamworth Town Hall in front of a capacity audience.

Book of the Year, including Original Verse, finalists were... *Shadows Of Yesteryear*, written and published by Ellis Campbell; *Australian Outback Poems* written and published by Philip R Rush; *Thank You ... Too* written and published by Trevor Shaw; *Songs Of The Droving Season*, written by Bruce Simpson, published by ABC Books; and *Frogs And Dogs And Kids*, written by Rod Williams, published by Bonza Blue Dog Publications.

In Album of the Year, finalists were... *Dinkum Poetry* by Jack Drake, released by Restless Music, produced by Roger Illott; *Bigger, Sharper Spurs* by Gary Fogarty, released by Restless Music, produced by Roger Illott; *The Naked Poets 3 ... butt seriously* released by Shoestring Records produced by Pat Drummond; *From The Lip* by Glenny Palmer, released by Grevillea Studios, produced by Chapple; and *Australian Outback Poems* by Philip R Rush, released by ABC Tasmania & Sound Connexions, produced by Philip R Rush.

In Single Recorded Performance of the Year, finalists were... *The Realities Of War* by Jack Drake (on the *Dinkum Poetry* album), released by Restless Music, produced by Roger Illott; *Bigger, Sharper Spurs* by Gary Fogarty (on the *Bigger, Sharper Spurs* album) released by Restless Music, produced by Roger Illott; *Bingo* by Bobby Miller (from *The Naked Poets 3 ... butt seriously* album), released by Shoestring Re-

cords, produced by Pat Drummond; *Shades Of Grey* by Glenny Palmer (on the *From The Lip* album) released by Grevillea Studios, produced by Chapple; and *Nhulabuy* by Rob Spence (on the album *In The Bunkhouse With The Goodall Boys*), released by 4AAA Murrie Radio Brisbane, produced by Trevor Dishong.

## AND THE WINNERS

**The Book of the Year** - for self published original verse, Roderick Williams - *Frogs and Dogs and Kids*.

**Album of the Year** - *The Naked Poets 3 ... butt seriously* released by Shoestring Records produced by Pat Drummond.

**Single Recorded Performance of the Year** - *Bigger, Sharper Spurs* by Gary Fogarty (on the *Bigger, Sharper Spurs* album) released by Restless Music, produced by Roger Illott.

Bruce Simpson won the Heritage Book of the Year with *Songs of the Droving Season*.

**Winner of the Judith Hosier Heritage Award** (named in honour of the Awards founder) was ABC Regional & Rural Radio presenter Colin Munro.

This was the eighth year of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards which were instigated in 1996 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

Winners were presented with an attractive, finely crafted sculpture of a pen in the shape of a gumleaf giving the trophy the name "the Golden Gumleaf".

The gala Awards presentation was organised by Singabout Australia and Max Ellis Marketing.

The Awards presentation in Tamworth was a sellout event featuring performances by Wallis and Matilda, Karm Gillespie, Neil McArthur, Frank Daniel, Marco Gliori, Shirley Friend, Adam Brand, Jim Brown, Jim Haynes,



**JUDITH HOSIER**

The late Judith Hosier, founder of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards.



**Gary Fogarty**  
'Bigger Sharper Spurs'



**Rod Williams**  
'Frogs and Dogs and Kids'

Brendon Walmsley, Gary Fogarty, Jack Drake, Roderick Williams, Melinda Schneider, Sara Storer and Glenny Palmer.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT - AGM 2003

I have completed my first year as Secretary and would like to sincerely thank members for their interest and information given to me throughout the year.

No doubt from the information provided in the magazine, most members would realise that it has been a very demanding year.

Following an extremem amount of consutation between the Insurance Broker and yself, Public Liability Insurance has now been obtained at a very moderate cost for those members, who because of the current legal implications, wish to avail themselves of this security.

It has been my desire to have an emblem for the ABPA for some three years now, and it is due to the dedicated personal effort of our President that we now have on offer an official badge.

Much interest has been shown iin the establishment of State Championships, and I envisage that thismatter will be finalised during our AGM.

Most members who contracted me feel that the Guidelines should be known as rules, and I hope that this matter will also be ratified during the meeting.

It has been pleasing to see the membership base expanded, I look forward to a further increase in numbers this year.

I thank my fellow committee and members who have assisted me this past year.

Ed. Parmenter.  
Secretary.



to Committee approval. (m) Kevin Lovis (2) Pip Powell.

Ron Browne spoke on possibility of poets walking next year in the parade with a banner, between 10 and 11am and arriving back at Imperial Hotel for the Competition Finals, and was a suggestion that there could be some kind of promotion for the Imperial. Vehicle would not be needed.

Shirley Friend supported the actions of the Committee and suggested States may fragment if we didn't have registration in all States. General discussion from the floor for the need for registrations and businesses and practices.

President discharged the committee and asked Peter Baguley to act as Returning Officer.

**Nominations** for President - W. Finch. F. Daniel.

**Vice President.** Milton Taylor, Liz Ward, Dennis Carstairs. Carol Reffold (Declined).

**Secretary** - Ed. Parmenter.

**Treasurer.** Rosemary Baguley, (Declined) Marion Fitzgerald.

**Committee.** Sam Smyth, Dennis Carstairs, Liz Ward, Ray Essery.

**Results of Elections.**

President. Frank Daniel.

Vice President. Milton Taylor

Secretary. Ed Parmenter.

Treasurer. Marion Fitzgerald.

Committee: Sam Smyth, Dennis Carstairs, Ray Essery.

A vote of thanks to the outgoing committee was moved by Olive Shooter and Sam Smyth.

Correspondence: Lucindale P.A & H. Society. Approval of 2004 State Championships, indicating necessity to co-ordinate with *the. S,A Bush Poets*.

South Australian Bush Poets (Barmera) Request for financial assistance. Meeting decided unable to assist. President to Contact and advise Barmera to go ahead with 2003 competition but call it the State Championship. (m) Kevin Lovis (2) Ray Essery.

Request for 2003 State Championships for Stratford, V. Approved. (m) Carol Reffold (2) *Sam Smyth*.

Application from North Pine to hold

## MINUTES of Annual General Meeting

Held in St. Peters Church Hall, Vera St. Tamworth. 25.1.03.

Meeing opened 2.30 pm

**Apologies.** Liz Ward, Rod Williams, Murray Suckling, Marie Smith, Neil Hulm, Murray Hartin.

**Attendance** as per Attendance book. 40 present.

**Reports:**

**President's Report.** (m) Report be accepted F.Daniel (2) Eddie Dalton Cd.

**Secretary's Report.** (m) Report be accepted E. Parmenter (2) M. Stoham. Cd

**Treasurer's Report.** (m) Rosemary Baguley (2) Olive Shooter. Cd.

**Minutes** of the 2002 meeting read

by the Secretary. (m) minutes be accepted E.Parmeriter (2) Cay Fletcher. Carried.

**Business Arising** from 2002 minutes.

General discussion on previous resolution to Supply badges for new members.

Motion: In light of the financial situation of the ABPA, badges be issued at price of \$4 or \$5 posted. (m) Sam Smyth (2) Andy Schnalle.

Query from Peter Baguley regarding registration of name. Lengthy explanation was given by the Secretary on action already taken resulting in a motion for the Sec., to make further enquiries to the Fair Trade, Dept., Australian Securities and Investment Commission and I.P. Australia, and if necessary to seek legal advise subject



Queensland State Championships in 2003. Approved. (m) Ray Essery (2) Sairn Snyth.

Application from the Qld. B.P.A. to hold the 2003 State C'ships at Beaudesert (refer to undated letter to hold Qld. State Championships at Monto) (no date given). Both venues defeated in vote from members.

Application from Narrandera for NSW State C'ships 2003 in Sept/Oct. Approved. Moved Pip Powell (2) Sam Smyth.

Motion to offer Championship on a 2 year basis to each successful applicant. (m) M. Stonham (2) Cay Fletcher.

Application for Australian Championships from Australian Country Music Festivals, Nerang Q. and Western Australian Poets and Yarnspinners Assoc. inc. Approval was given the West.Australian Poets and Yarnspinners in a vote from members, subject to the date of the function not clashing with Tamworth in *January and Gympy in August*. (m) M. Stonham (2) S. Friend.

Secretary asked members if there was any objection to including telephone numbers on a data base. The general feeling that there was some problem with the secrecies and privacies act and no further action was taken.

Secretary asked for an amendment to the Constitution by adding the additional clause which will be published in our magazine to be voted on, at the 2004 AGM.

Notice of Meetings: General Meetings of the Assoc. may be held to coincide with known large gatherings of poets or as determined by the previous general meeting, and it is not necessary for the Sec. advise members.

Mulwala Services Club request for \$2,000 towards the 2003 Australian Championships. Motion by D. Carstairs, (2) Ellis Campbell) for members to vote against this donation. Carried.

Mulwala Services Club request for additional \$1,000 towards the 2002 Australian C'ships. Motion by D. Carstairs. (2) Ellis Campbell for members to vote against this donation. Carried.

M. Stonham raised the point that successful applicants of State and Australian Championships cannot transfer such allocation to another group without the permission of the ABPA.

Motion. From Anita Reed was held over to discussion on the Guidelines, *Awaiting comments from general membership*. (m) Frank Daniel (2) E. Parmenter. Cd.

*Perpetual Trophy: E. Parmenter asked that cost and placement of a perpetual trophy be investigated for Longyard at Tamworth.*

After much discussion it was the general opinion of the membership that the Longyard may not be the most suitable location and inquiries should be made to the Tamworth Tourist. Assoc. re location.

Carol Reffold volunteered to obtain information regarding the cost and suitable material. Frank Daniel also to make enquiries re board. (m) Andy Schnalle (2) Carol Reffold.

Motions submitted by Roderick Williams, Anita Reed and Wally Finch, all relating to alterations to the Guidelines were held over until the results of the proposed changes to the existing Guidelines have been reviewed by the membership.

M. Stonham congratulated committee on the meeting and moved motion that. Minutes and Auditors report and major committee meetings and decisions are advertised in the magazine. (2) Peter Baguley. Carried.

Results of *Early Bird Raffle. First Prize. Neville and Beryl Caldwell. Second Prize. Rohan. Davis. Results to be published in magazine. Draw conducted by a JP in Canowindra.* Meeting closed -5.40 pm.

## PROFILE — KEITH JONES

The 2003 Blackened Billy Verse Writing Competition attracted 267 entries Australia wide. As with all written competitions, someone has the onerous task of sitting down and reading, and assessing the merits of each and every entry. Keith Jones of Tamworth was the adjudicator for the 2003 awards.

Keith Jones has been writing poetry and prose for over twenty years, and has been a staunch member of the local Poetry Reading Group for most of that time.

Keith has been an active part

of the administration team for "The Imperial Hotel Bush Poetry Competition" and The Blackened Billy Verse Competition" since their inception.

For the last ten years, Keith has competed successfully in Tamworth Eisteddfods in the open sections -of speech and drama.

His having been involved in recitation and writing to a great extent stands him in good stead to recognise and appreciate the work of competent writers.

Keith's comments on this year's Blackened Billy can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

## READ THE RULES !!!

© 2003 Tom Stonham,  
Nambucca Heads NSW

I am not an organiser  
but I've been behind the scenes.  
I am not a judge of others ...  
Who can say what judging means?  
I'm just a back-room poet  
who has never won a prize  
but I never judge the judges ...  
Age, taste, sex, subjective eyes.

Poets often 'knock' the judges  
when the judge is not to blame.  
He or she is only human,  
Ev'rybody has their 'frame'.  
But in any competition  
it's not rare to find some fools,  
unsuccessful, cross, frustrated  
'cos they failed to *read the rules !!*



## Letters to the Editor



First of all I would like to thank all the readers who sent Christmas cards. I certainly appreciate the effort and the thoughts, but unfortunately, I wasn't able to respond to so many. Most impressive was the fact that all of them remembered that I have a wife and family and included them in their wishes as well. That meant a lot.

I'd also like to inform the unknown person (initials TRT) who sent a Christmas Card to a Douglas Manning c/- Defence Centre Sydney, posted from the Mid-North Coast on 22.11.02, with my return address on the envelope, that the card was not delivered and returned to me. A note attached read, 'Sorry, Mr. D Manning left Defence in 1999'. It was a nice card, so I put it in with my lot. Ed. And . . .

A big 'Hi' (not 'High') for Xmas. Just getting used to emails, so not good at filling in the gaps yet. Had lots of dreams about winning a new car, but my therapist says it's probably only auto-suggestion. The Doctor is worried, though, says it could be a gross motor deficiency. BB.



Since 1898 Driza-Bone® has been a legendary part of Australian history. Made famous by the caped oilskin coat, Driza-Bone® has achieved international recognition as a symbol of outback Australia. Today the brand offers a wide range of products for the great outdoors, including coats, jackets, vests, hats, leathersgoods, accessories, and now apparel.

**Supporting the ABPA  
AS AUSTRALIAN AS  
BUSH POETRY**

**ENGAGEMENT** Warren 'Arch' Bishop, well known ABPA member and performer, has announced his engagement to Lesa Roberts of Richmond NSW. Lesa is a versatile musician and songwriter and mother of two. The couple met at a party in Arch's backyard about two years ago. Plans for the wedding are in the early stages but it is rumoured strongly that the hitchin' could be done at a certain south coast festival in 2004 - more later - Best wishes from the ABPA

### NOTE:

From this issue, non-financial members of the ABPA will not receive further copies of the association newsletter.

Membership at the end of November last year had reached an all time high of 460.

The association aims to lift this figure in 2003 in a bid to create more awareness of Australian Bush Poetry with an even bigger and improved copy of the newsletter. This can be achieved with an increase in membership.

In a bid to raise this number the ABPA asks members to spread the word and invite others to join.

### Thank you to the following for information included in this issue.

Ron Liekfette, Karen Bromley, Ed Parmenter, Toni Flanagan, Leo Callinan, Greg Broderick, Rob Spence, Sue Stoddart, Gail Strauss, Graeme Johnston, Janine Haig, Michael Daniel, Julie Jovanovitch, Jack and Stella Drake, Ellis Campbell, Brian Bell, Lisa Hall, Janine Haig, Maureen Quickenden, Ed Parmenter, Maureen Stonham

## ANNUAL SUBS OVERDUE

**Annual Subscriptions fell due on December 31st.**

*Non-financial members will not receive the next issue of the newsletter.*

**If you haven't renewed your membership, payment by return mail would be appreciated.**

**Help to continue the growth of the Australian Bush Poets Association and keep Australian Bush Poetry alive and in its rightful place as an entertainment art form.**

**Ask a friend to become a member - spread the word.**



### Early-bird Winners

Annual subscriptions to the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc fell due on **December 31st.**

As an incentive for prompt payments the ABPA offered the following gifts to the **first and second renewals drawn** from a list of members **having paid up by December 31st.**

#### First Prize:

Went to Neville Caldwell of Kenilworth Qld.who received

\* Two tickets to the Australian Bush Laureate Awards in Tamworth on Tuesday 21st January. Value (\$50).

\* A copy of 'An Australian Treasury of Popular Verse' from ABC Books and Jim Haynes. (\$32)

\* One years free subscription to the ABPA. (\$25).

\* Two ABPA hat pins. (\$10)

\* Akubra Hat. Gift voucher (\$120)

#### Second prize:

Went to Rohan Davis of Fairholme College Toowoomba Qld who won

\* A Drizabone raincoat \$179 and two free hat pins.



## “WOT ODDS?”

© Tom Stonham,  
Nambucca Heads, NSW

The race ain't always to the swift  
nor the battle to the strong.  
Top professional opinions  
can be absolutely wrong.

Like, when David fought Goliath,  
what eye-witness would have said  
that the monster, not the midget,  
would be stark, stiff, stone-cold  
dead?

Speed ice-skating, the Olympics,  
with the Aussie in last place.  
Then all the others took a spill  
and the Aussie won the race!

Far-out, freakish things can happen  
but be wise, do not forget ...  
The underdog can sometimes win ...  
*But that ain't the way to bet!*



Supporting the ABPA  
Keeping  
Australia Australian

Since



1870



THE GOODALL BOYS  
and LEE KERNAGHAN

## 4 AAA and the GOODALL BOYS

**CRIKEY!** What a mixture. The famous Goodall Boys versus some of the cream of Australian Country Music.

The Goodall Boys were invited to the 4 AAA Country Music Station's Christmas Party in Brisbane on December 1st, where artists such as Lee Kernaghan, Brendan Walmsey, Melinda Schneider and a big bunch of other top line Australian country music acts were appearing at the Calamvale Hotel.

Emotions ran high in the foyer of the hotel when two most unsuspecting characters, unable to afford tickets for admission, were literally thrown out of the premises, swags and all, three times before the show got under way.

Setting the scene was a crowd of over 300 dedicated country music fans, a couple of dozen of Australia's best musicians and two bush poets. **Hardly fair competition at all**, the country music artists didn't stand a chance.

Audience members were taken by complete surprise when these very same characters again appeared on stage, to entertain and MC the show *'in lieu of paying for tickets'*.

"Naturally, it was all one big act" says Rob, who reckons "we've paved another big inroad for Australian Bush Poetry."

The boys stirred some great excitement whipping up more than their share of laughs with their own brand of Australian bush poetry and jokes.

Lee Kernaghan admitted on the Q.T that he can see the day that he and "The Goodall Boys" won't be on the same planet! The Boys are wondering where Lee will be going?

"What a beaut time we had", remarked Rob, "Lee really enjoyed our company."

"He enjoyed talking with us so much that he even kept talking while we ran behind him to his car, then with a hurried and reluctant farewell he bid us 'good riddance', or was it 'good day'? Something like that anyway."

"In short **WE HAD A BALL!**" added Mark, "and a big thanks to the many well wishers who contacted us prior to the event."



## BITS N PIECES

SA Notes: Waikerie members of the SA Bush Poets - Riverland Group, Grahame and Tim Strauss and their families are involved in poetry recitals at the Barmera markets. Thanks to Gail Strauss for the following dates for the markets that might suit interested travellers etc. March 2nd. May 4th. October 5th. December 7th.

The Strauss family extends a welcome to all comers who would like to join their group or take part in the performances. Ph. 08 8326 8788

The **Majors Creek Folk Festival**, just a few kays south of Braidwood (NSW), held its eighth annual Music at the Creek back in November.

Keeping the Bush Poetry scene healthy among a gathering of newcomers, was Vic Jeffries, Jane Faulkner, David Meyers and Graham Hume, Graeme Johnson, Barry Lake and Campbell Irving.

On Saturday 30th. November 2002, eighteen members of **North Pine Bush Poets** staged a concert in Pioneer Village Country Music Hall Petrie.

Approximately 150 people were entertained by three hours of mostly humorous poetry with all proceeds being directed to Farmhand appeal.

The proceeds of the concert and the raffle, the prizes of which were all donated by club members amounted to \$1235.

Because of the outstanding success of the two concerts staged this year, and the obvious audience enthusiasm, more are planned for 2003. Best wishes for the New Year from everyone at North Pine.

Well known east coast performance poet Warren 'Arch' Bishop has announced his engagement to Lesa Roberts. An excited 'Arch' ran up a sizeable phone bill spreading the news. Rumour has it that the wedding will be conducted at the Illawarra Folk Festival in Jamberoo next year. Best wishes

## YOUNG CHERRY FESTIVAL - COMPETITION - BREAKFASTS

**The National Cherry Festival has just concluded in Young with everyone singing the praises of the Bush Poets.**

There is no doubt that the Bush Poetry Competition and the two breakfasts were highlights of the festival.

That these events were so successful is a direct result of the exposure given in the ABPA newsletter, the attendance of ABPA members and the support of Frank Daniel.

The following report appeared in the Young Witness.

The country may be in drought but Young's National Cherry Festival was flooded with a wealth of Bush Poet talent at the weekend

The first ever Bush Poetry competition was held in Young NSW on Friday 6th December. The welcome extended to the poets by the organizers and the general public was overwhelming. Bush Poetry has made its presence felt in Young and planning for another onslaught of poets in 2003 is already under way.

Sponsored by the combined Stock, Station and Real Estate agents, the inaugural Open competition attracted eighteen competitors.

Complete strangers to the competitors were the Judges John McCrae (Young), Brian Allen (Wirrimah) and David Benn (Wagga) who praised the event, the high standard of the competition and the use of the ABPA approved judging sheets.

Apologies were received from some long distance travellers, Dave Proust of Forresters Reach (a Fireman on call due to bush fires raging north of Sydney), Geoff Beach (Falls Creek), Denis Kevans (Katoomba) and Ed Walker of

Narre Warren V.

Those travelling long distances who enjoyed the festival included Viv Sawyer and 'Ruby the Roadie' (Albion Park), Jan Lewis (Cudgewa V.), Betty Walton (Tintaldra V.), Suzanne Williams (St. Andrews NSW), Lance Parker (Hillston), Alex Allit (Deniliquin) and Don Anderson (Leeton).

The widely varied styles and themes presented kept the judges busy and covered many topics from cattle-dogs, droving and drought to corrugated-iron tanks and cockatoos.

Original poetry was the order of the day with a good balance of serious and humorous presentations coupled with the works of Veronica Weal, Henry Lawson, 'Blue the Shearer' and Jack Drake.

Two hundred and twenty guests swelled the auditorium of the local Golf Club to see the Milton Taylor of Portland *taking home the honours and \$500.*

Jim Weatherstone of Harden was very close behind with a superb example of Lawson's '*Shanty on the Rise*'. (\$300) and Jack Sammon with an original '*Droving Days*' in third place. (\$200).

Cherry Festival organizers Leo Callinan and Greg Broderick were none short of praise for the poets response to the week-end.

*The entrants included local resident Greg Broderick who also coordinated the event and gained valuable sponsorship from the local agents.*

Over one hundred attended the breakfasts on the Saturday and Sunday mornings where two \$100 encouragement awards were presented to selected performers. Saturday's winner was Jan McDonald of Unanderra NSW and, Sunday, Brian Allen of Wirrimah.

The evening was kept running at a lively pace as compere, Frank Daniel, linked the performances with his own special brand of yarn spinning and recitations.



# JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL

NARRANDERA NSW 13th–16th MARCH 2003

Narrandera, in the heartland of the New South Wales Riverina will hold its ninth John O'Brien Bush Festival in March.

The festival celebrates the Australian tradition in music and poetry and in particular the poetry from *Around the Boree Log*, whose author John O'Brien lived in Narrandera and wrote the famous words *'We'll all be rooned, said Hanrahan'*.

The protagonist was Hanrahan, the worried farmer who *'in accents most forlorn'* shared his concerns about the wet, the dry and other farming hazards with his fellow landowners *'outside the church, ere mass began, one frosty Sunday morn'*.

Narrandera developed around the Murrumbidgee River crossing used by the famed overlanders as they brought stock from the north to the gold mining areas in Victoria during the mid 1800's. It became a service town for the dry area farmers who produced wheat and wool, and faced the challenges, as did Hanrahan, thrown out by the weather, the markets, and the isolation. In the late 19th century it was predicted that Narrandera would be *'the Chicago of the West'*.

Narrandera became a thriving rural town and in the 1980's flour milling, the railways and Telecom had replaced timber milling and land clearing as the big employers, and most government departments had offices in the town.

With time, many jobs were moved to the cities, passenger rail services were discontinued, and then the large Telecom office closed.

Not to be *'rooned'* in the wake, the people of Narrandera realised the tourist potential with two major national highways intersecting in their town.

A visitor's centre was in place

and by the 1990's holiday makers were visiting local Fisheries, the Museum, the Koala Sanctuary, the Golf Course, the Lavender Farm, Lake Talbot and the Murrumbidgee River whose waters provide a southern border to the township.

Narrandera has developed as a tourist haven with motels, restaurants and bed and breakfast facilities.

And then there is the festival that celebrates Hanrahan's creator. It has the support of the townspeople and is growing fast according to Gwen Nielsen, who is Narrandera Shire Council's Tourism manager. "It's been such a morale booster and has really created a sense of connection between our own and Australia's history.

We've been able to stake our claim to a poet who has been as popular as Lawson and Paterson.

Much of John O'Brien's poetry is funny and optimistic. It reflects the way we were then and it still has a lot to say about the way we are now."

The locals aren't leaving the positive thinking to chance though, Narrandera's Tourist Board Chairman, John Beattie, has led a push to confirm a positive image for the town, to keep everyone motivated in troubled times (the drought), implementing an *"Absolutely, Positively, Narrandera"* campaign. Heavily in the grip of drought, the locals are still thinking positively and are still telling the outside world how proud they are of their town and community.

The John O'Brien Bush Festival in March will feature Noel Stallard, Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler and Frank Daniel during the weekend, with a \$1,000 bush poetry competition conducted by Frank on the Friday night at 7pm.



SAM SMYTH

## MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL

### UPDATES

(BEFORE Easter Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2003)

Entries have started rolling in for the 15 sections of Poetry, Yarns and Music sections of the Competition which closes on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February – no late entries.

I'm now working on the program, trying to fit everything in! Milton Taylor, Frank Daniel, Whipstick Wortho, Carol Reffold, Graham Johnson, are just some of the poets who'll be on duty as judges & MC's for the festival.

Thanks for all emails, phone calls, kind thoughts and prayers during our scary time during the bushfires. Most of the mountains surrounding Corryong have had, and still have, fires burning, and as I write this, we still have a fight on our hands. (Yes, I have copied the festival files on my computer onto disks!)

Festival flyers and **Poetry & Music Entry forms have been posted out to those on our database.** Get onto the data base. Phone or email Jan Lewis. Email. poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au. Ph 0260774332 manfromsnowyriverbushfestival.com.au

## PROFILE:

### RON STEVENS

DUBBO POET 2002

Ron has been writing poetry and prose for over 25 years & has won many written verse competitions in all states. These include a Bronze Swagman award, 5 Henry Lawson Society Gulgong, a Grenfell Henry Lawson, 3 Longreach Henry Lawson, a Banjo Paterson Orange, 2 John O'Brien Narrandera, 2 Tamworth Blackened Billy, 2 Northern Territory Red Earth, 2 North Pine Camp Ovens & three successive Gilgandra Cooee March awards.

He has published 4 volumes of poetry and regularly conducts poetry workshops, as well as judging poetry competitions. He is a writing fellow & life member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW; also a committee member of both the Central West Writing Centre Orange & the Outback Writers' Centre Dubbo; and a member of the Aust. Bush Poets' Association.

In performance poetry, he won the Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Award in 1996 & was runner-up in 1999. In 2002 he won the performance section at the John O'Brien festival, Narrandera. He has regularly performed at Tamworth. Although he prefers the challenge and the discipline of writing traditional rhyming verse, Ron does not dismiss other styles as unworthy and has won many major awards for contemporary free verse.

Ron and his wife Clo moved from Hornsby to Dubbo in 1994. Born at Richmond NSW in 1926, Ron served briefly in the RAAF, before transferring to the RAN, where he remained until retirement. He then took a BA at Macquarie, majoring in English & history, to 'get his mind back into gear.'

This academic episode, he hastens to add, does not disqualify him from writing about *the bush*, its characters and its place in history. Many of his poems are written either in a fictional or historical first-person, the better to

### A COOEE DAWN

© Ron Stevens Dubbo  
(Second prize -  
Cooee March section, Gilgandra 2002)



Half-hour to go and while we're waiting whispers fret the air  
- a threadbare joke, a routine whinge, a rueful private prayer.  
My mate's still squinting at a photo warmed by fag-end's glow.  
A dozen times he's told me how a Dubbo studio  
had snapped his girl a week before we started off from Gil'  
upon a march which led from blazing sun to Flanders chill.  
We double-check our rifles, ponder terrors to be borne  
when following the order for a hopeless charge at dawn.

We've done it all before to gain a bloody yard or so.  
We've zig-zagged, crouched and tumbled, crawled towards the artful foe.  
No sideline cheers and cooees, as had marked the Sydney route;  
nor picnics, speeches, arch of roses shielding each recruit.  
We *Cooee Marchers* see *The Great Adventure* now for what  
it is -- a mix of mud and gore, of rats and gangrene rot.  
I'm shivering - I hope it's from the cold - and yet I've sworn  
to do my duty, which includes these futile raids at dawn.

By sunrise I was up and dressed that fateful day in Gil'  
and counting off the minutes till we marched with Captain Bill.  
Those eager faces still are pressed upon my gas-seared eyes  
- Maguire and Turvey, Hunter... some of whom have paid the price,  
with surely more to follow. If my mate should die before  
my turn, I'd dread to write his girlfriend, gilding waste of war.  
But as for me, there's no-one close who would be left to mourn  
back there in Gil, if this attack becomes my final dawn.

I wonder what these fields looked like before the breath of hell  
had blackened land and life? Before each screaming gouging shell  
dismembered trees on mired earth and blasted birds away?  
A rubbled farmhouse testifies that once were kids at play  
and tillers of the soil whose early-rising womenfolk  
would serve them hearty breakfasts long before the daylight broke.  
Did wheatfields speak in rustles, as in Gil'? Was golden corn  
gift-wrapped in green, awaiting harvest on a peaceful dawn?

The sergeant's passed the word along to fix our bayonets  
which means we'll soon be scrambling over sand-bagged parapets.  
My mate's replaced his girlfriend in the pocket near his heart.  
I catch his eye, no need to speak, we both will play our part.  
It's hard to raise a *cooee* when your throat is gripped by fear,  
you're stumbling over bodies and the cross-fire's thick and near  
but sticking close together, we will treat those Huns with scorn  
and *Cooee* to Gilgandra on this frozen bloody dawn.

convey realism to the times or situation.

In his meagre spare time, Ron is a voluntary reader of books for the

blind and print-handicapped for The Australian Listening Library and is a committeeman of Dubbo RSL, sub-branch.



## O'MARA'S POWERING AHEAD

MARCH 14-15-16 2003

Keep these dates free for school workshops leading up to the contest.

High Country Poets has evolved into one of Australia's leading festivals since its inception in 1999 with the big cash prize of \$1,000 for the Open Original Section going to such notable performers and writers in the past such as Carmel Dunn, John Bird, Milton Taylor and Ellis Campbell.

With entries coming in from as far afield as North Queensland and Victoria, it's anybody's guess who will take out this prestigious competition in 2003.

Joining the compering team of Ray Essery and Jack Drake will be none other than 'The Millmerrin Mongrel' Gary Fogarty. O'Mara's looks forward to Gary's own brand of mayhem in the mountains.

Junior competition is making big news with Milton Taylor arriving the week before to conduct

There will also be a Junior Written Competition and a Poster Competition within the Granite Belt School district.

Two young local poets Juliet Davis and Harry Blundell will be co-compering the junior performance competition as well as performing the poetry of the inaugural 'Old Master'. This is a new award to honour poets who kept the craft alive when few people were interested in bush poetry.

Those planning attendance should get their entries in as time dictates a limit of 25 performers per section and the list is growing.

*"We are looking forward to seeing heaps of our mates for the big 'O'Mara's High Country Poets' festival"* says Jack Drake, *"it keeps getting better each year."*

Contact Jack Drake for entry forms at Box 414 P.O., Stanthorpe Q 4380 or phone 07 46 837169 to have one sent to you. They can also be collected from O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe.

She also won the Nimbin A & I Society competition and had a number of placings and commended awards during this time.

Hope had a wonderful and talented family. One granddaughter Meggan Carswell had her own show at the Longyard Hotel in Tamworth last year.

A few days before she died Hope selected three of her favourite poems and requested granddaughter Shanlee Perry to send one each to Terry Regan, Ellis Campbell and Barry Martin after her death.

A great competitor and a lovely gracious lady who showed tremendous courage during the last few months of her life Hope will be sadly missed by her many friends.

## SAMMY'S VERSE

Tom Smith an' me a fishin' went,  
an' 2 live krabs we cort:  
we put 'em inter Mary's bed,  
an' waited for sum sport.

Mam, she went out to tee that nite,  
but dad cum home to late,  
an' Mary she went orf to bed  
jes shortly after 8.

An' then ther was sum life you bet,  
our Mary she did yel;  
Her screams was louder than fog-  
horns  
Or our nu fiar-bell.

Then dad went in to Mary's room  
to try and stop the rou,  
an' jes then mam comes in an' sings  
out: "Wot's the matter now."

When dad cum out from Mary's  
room  
i thort i shoud ha dide  
to see the way mam went for him  
i laffed until i cride.

She sez, you retch; he sez, me deer,  
jes lissen to me pray,  
an' then thay sent me orf to bed,  
an' Mary left nex day.

That's all, i am 10 yeers ole the 21  
day of next month. i spose you  
don't give any burth-day presents,  
do you?

[Your are a good boy, Samuel.  
Thank you, very much. - Editor  
Bulletin].

And thank you to Maureen & Tom  
Stonham for digging this little gem  
up from their archives. Editor. ABPA

## VALE: HOPE GALVAN

Yet another loss to the poet's ranks with the death of Hope Galvan, of Cootamundra on December 7.

Although, due to memory lapses, Hope did not perform often she was a very good writer of Bush Verse and her name appeared regularly among the winners, place-getters and commended in many competitions.

Ironically, while battling a terminal illness in 2002, Hope produced some of her best work. She won the female section of serious written verse at the Australian Bush Poetry Championships at Mulawala in 2002.

**TENTERFIELD NSW  
ORACLES OF THE BUSH  
11 - 12 - 13 APRIL 2003**

also

**LOOMING LEGENDS  
POETRY COMPETITION  
PRIZEMONEY\$2003**

ENTRY FORMS: - SSAE  
The Secretary, Patti Ainsworth,  
PO BOX 373  
TENTERFIELD NSW 2372  
02 6736 2900

## DOORALONG

By sluggish creeks and silver streams  
Where through the scrub the warm sunbeams  
Cast golden rays on moss and fern,  
'Tis then within my heart does yearn  
To hear the music and the song  
Of chirping birds in Dooralong.

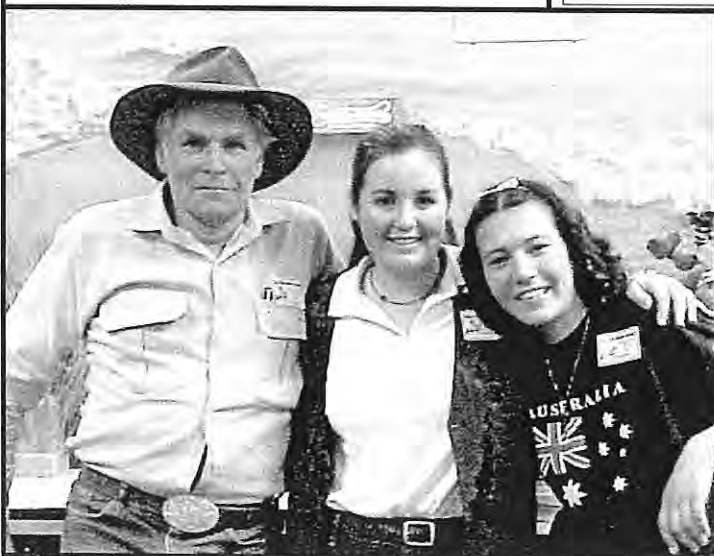
The golden wattle that I see  
Brings back again the memory  
Of happy days that I have spent  
Amid the peace and sweet content  
Of bushland life and all its charm,  
Where snugly lies a fertile farm,  
Where strife and sorrow ne'er can throng  
The gracefulness of Dooralong

Ah! I have left it far behind  
The place I love that once was mine;  
And now upon a restless night  
I look towards the northern light  
And scan the languid starlit sky  
Which seems to sing a halcyon song  
Come back! Come back to Dooralong.

The blooms of wattle, gone are they  
To reappear some fine spring day  
And in their glory, charm and grace  
You'll see the vision of a face  
With ringing voice and lilting song  
Come marching back to Dooralong.

Danilo Jovanovitch  
written while based at Kapooka Army Camp  
(Wagga) late evening 8th August, 1942.

**Milton Taylor, Jennifer Haigh and Carmel Dunn enjoying a school visit during their trip to Nevada in January.**



## SONGS OF A BUSHLAND ROVER - DANILO JOVANOVIČH

Danilo Jovanovitch was born in Cairns Queensland in 1919, the eldest of five children born to George Jovanovitch, who migrated to Australia from Montenegro in 1910.

George was the 18th Duke Dreklovitch, a direct descendant of Jovan Drekalovitch, the youngest son of Prince Marko Dreklovitch.

George sold his business in Cairns to enlist in the 1<sup>st</sup>. AIF artillery. He was wounded in action in France, repatriated back to Australia, and on 11/11/1918 married (Doreen) Ella Burt.

Danilo's grandmother, (Ella's mother) Margaret Wollbach was of full German blood, born Palmer's Island, Maclean. Her mother died soon after she was born. She was left with the Volkers family, and reared as Margaret Volkers.

Margaret married David Thomas Burt, and they had three daughters of whom Ella was the youngest. David's Uncle was Fredrick Ward (Thunderbolt), who was disowned by the family, as was the custom then.

Danilo served a total of four years in the army 2nd AIF, and in the BCOF in Japan. He has been writing poetry since 1934 when he was 15 years old. Scores of poems have been published in newspapers - Perth, Yarram (Vic), Sydney, Scone, Mudgee, Musweilbrook and Taree, to name a few.

He won The *Land* weekly Australian Bush poetry competition with 'Five Miles from Gundagai' in 1981, and the poetry section of a literary competition in Taree in 1969 with 'Empty Pockets'.

'Dooralong' was written at Kapooka engineers camp in 1942, whilst in training.

Now in his 84th year, Danilo lives at Newbridge just south of Bathurst NSW where his wife Judyth conducts an art gallery.

The poem on the right is another example of his work.

### A.B. (BANJO) PATERSON

A horseman still is riding 'where the seasons come and go'  
With stockmen and scrub cattle, out  
'beyond the Overflow'.  
And as the day is ending 'round about  
the set of sun

This horseman is seen riding out  
across old 'Kiley's run'.  
Perchance, if you should follow, you  
will find the tracks will stray,  
With the tracks of 'Conroy's sheep',  
along the Castlereagh.  
Beside the Snowy River, where the  
brumbies roam and race,  
They say this horseman's riding with  
a smile upon his face.

One time when droving cattle,  
through the town of Matterson,  
I recognised this horseman - A.B.  
(Banjo) Paterson.

*Danilo Jovanovitch*



## JOURNEY'S END Ron Stevens

The *Coach of Death's* creator had left the western creeks and crossed the far equator to Highland glens and peaks. The coachman and his horses continued with their load along the watercourses where Ogilvie once rode, collecting Will's creations, with others starkly real in towns and outback stations from Hay to Camooweal.

By Warrego and Cooper, Macquarie and the Bree, they sometimes hailed in stupor, or acting recklessly: three would-be *Rebel* tamers, each landing on his back – *Marora Mick*, no gamer than Neil and *Mulga Jack*; a shearer drowned in rum when his *Gippsland Girl* had wed; *The Stockyard Liar* summoned to have the truth outspread.

*Fair Girls* like tragic *Leila* had long since journeyed on when Will's sweet one-time sheila *Lynette*, now aged and wan, called weakly for the coachman to bring his phantom team. Upon his swift approach an idyllic old *Dray-dream* produced another patron, blond *Freda*, up ahead, who joined the lifeless freight on the carriage of the dead.

For year on year in silence the horses ranged the west, for hot-heads slain by violence and oldsters due their rest. While all this time the driver shed not a single tear for victim of conniver, and child croup-choked in fear. The coachman, eyes unblinking, missed not a guest who waved; and heard each distant sinking of breath, where mineshafts caved.

A soldier~settler weakened by gas in Flanders mud was swept away one week-end while fighting Bogan's flood. In praise of this lost hero, the mayor prepared a speech but phrases count for zero when help is out of reach. That night the coach was crowded with patrons from upstream as Nyngan's hopes were clouded by fate's uneven scheme.

The coach's routine followed till nineteen sixty three. Through deeps where cars were swallowed, the stallions trotted free. Her stops were never vagrant but purposeful and quick, through dust, or glades so fragrant, a moment there might trick the passengers to spurning their distant promised land. Instead the wheels kept turning behind the four-in-hand.

Until the phantom driver, boot hard against the board, reined in his horses five or six miles from Hungerford. The wind blew from the nor'ward. He sniffed, then cupped his ear while straining back and forward to test the atmosphere. The stallions whinnied, stamped and the years-long silence broke. Their driver's jaw unclamped and in hollow tones he spoke.

'I catch a scent of heather and hear the muffled drums, the pipes' lament together. For *Auld Lang Syne* it comes. His spirit calls to bring him across wide oceans' foam. On lyric hooves you'll wing him to this, his other home. We'll leave now, coaching faster than we have done before, for Ogilvie, the master, lies dead, aged ninety four.'

Notes: 1. Allusions drawn from the following poems by Will H Ogilvie: *The Coach of Death*; *The Riding of the Rebel*; *His Gippsland Girl*; *The Stockyard Liar*; *Fair Girls and Gray Horses*; *Leila*; *Goodbye, Lynette*; *Dray-Dreams*; *Auld Lang Syne*.

2. Poem won 1st prize Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Competition 2000.

## CLARENCE LIVES!

© Brian Bell

Them words they say, them coves out on the floor,

to get ol' Ginger Mick to soun' true blue, and make Doreen the girl wot lives nex' door,

they bring the 'Bloke' to life, wiv' all 'is crew.

Them words can make 'im jus' as real today as when they dipped their lids to "Old C.J"

Jus' lend an ear - you'll be there wiv' the Bloke;

see all wot's goin' on inside 'is 'ead; 'cause he's still 'ere, tho' C. J. 'ad to croak.

No, strike me pink, the master, 'e ain't dead while poit coves gits up 'ere to recite 'is verses, after learnin' 'em all night.

An' as they swear an' poun' frustrated fists for bits o' words their memories cannot find,

they feel a love for C.J. that persists; a gentle, tender feelin' what reminds - each poem what the master's hand 'as writ' is worth the time it takes for learnin' it!

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix.

At a Proctologist's door: "To expedite your visit please back in."

On a Plumbers truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a Plumbers truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Pizza Shop Slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."

On a Plastic Surgeon's Office door: "Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

At an Optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

## *It's Hard to be a Hero*

Robert Raftery © Australia's Picture Writer August 2002

You can rise and be a hero in the workplace, and the track,  
And soak up all the accolades as supporters thump your back,  
They can garnish you in garlands, press laurels to your chest,  
And the columns in the paper can paint you as the best,  
But it's when you strike your driveway,  
that you'll face your biggest test.

You can build inspired columns in well-respected journals,  
Knock around with big nobs... brassy generals, governors, colonels,  
Direct the links of destiny of a multitude of man,  
Be the one who found a missing link in the Master's mystic plan,  
You might write the living lyrics in your nation's national poem,  
*But it's hard to be a hero*, in the confines of your home.

You might focus down on fossils... crack an ancient cryptic code,  
Teach a tribe of youngsters, to navigate the open road,  
You might be the one most fervent, in the vanguard of the church,  
Occupy amongst its hierarchy, its most majestic perch,  
Be the leader of the party that directs the might of nations,  
Secrete a string of speeches, to grandstanding ovations.

Be the face that finds reflection in the fleers of corporate chrome,  
But your hero's flag's at half-mast,  
when your compass points to home,  
'Cause *it's hard to be a hero*, in the confines of your home.

You might fertilise your little patch, with many splendid things,  
Go to lengths to furnish luxury, befitting little kings,  
But the answer plain and simple fits in place like hand in glove,  
We must flood our precious families with pure open-hearted love,  
For the best advice I was ever given, that I value like no other,  
Was... show your kids that every day you live...  
you really love their mother.

## DUNEDOO'S "GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC" March 29 & 30 - 2003

Written Bush Verse  
Competition

### Three Sections

1. Original Serious
2. Original Humorous
3. Under 16's Original Verse

Closing date 7th. February 2003

For further information or entry forms  
please contact

The Dunedoo & District  
Development Group,

P.O. Box 1, Dunedoo, NSW 2844

PH: (02) 63 751 975

FAX: (02) 63 751 976

Email: [dddgroup@bigpond.com](mailto:dddgroup@bigpond.com)



## THE GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC ~~ Dunedoo NSW

The Dunedoo Bush Poetry Celebration is now a weekend Festival commencing with poetry and yarns on the Friday night at the local pub.

Markets in the street are a feature on the Saturday morning, as well as a poetry workshops conducted by weekend Master of Ceremonies, Milton Taylor, (Australia's Champion Bush Poet) for those wanting to improve their skills.

The Performance Competition will be held Saturday 29th March with sections for Novice, Original Serious, Original Humorous, Open Traditional or Established Work and an Original Poem with Dunedoo Theme (trophy)

'Great Dunny' for Best Performance in the evening at the Golf Club. Section 1 has prizemoney to the value of \$70 - \$30 - \$10 and sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 have to the value of \$100 - \$50 - \$20.

Entries close on Friday 15th March at \$5 per section. SSAE for entry forms to PO Box 1 Dunedoo NSW 2844 Ph.6375 1975 fax 6375 1976

The winner of the Written Competition will be announced that night. On Sunday morning, 'Breakfast with the Poets' gives a chance for the novices and juniors to 'have a go' in a non competitive situation.



This is always a fun weekend with the opportunity to see places of local interest.

This year the poetry weekend is part of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Group's calendar of events with their AGM to be held in Mudgee the following week.



## NEW ALBUM

After a long healthy life, Will Ogilvie, in his last few weeks, was confined to bed and died peacefully in his sleep on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1963 at his home in Kirklea Scotland.

His wife (Madge) was ever at his side and a few days before his death she left him for a moment only to return and find him standing by his bedroom window looking into the distance. His lips were moving, and when she reached him he turned and said . . . . .



## SADDLE the GREY

© Frank Daniel 2002

Old man, old eyes, old memories, life fading from his face, remembering the nineties; different time and different place. Reflecting in minds mirror, through a shaded misty haze, far distant sounds of hoof beats in his younger wilder days.

To wilder days, much wilder ways; a world away from home in answer to the challenge free to live and free to roam. Apprenticed to an ancient land, a life he never knew, in the Outback on 'Belalie' – a new chum jackeroo

Drafting in the stock-yards, with choking dust and hellish heat from sun-up through to sundown – such a life was hard to beat. Night times by glowing fires – swapping yarns and telling lies as high above the Southern Cross traversed wide open skies.

Far from familiar customs and ideals to which he'd grown grew lustful seeds for adventure, the likes he'd never known; long drives with scrubber bullocks 'neath a dust screened summer sun; with cattle from 'Nelangie' 'cross an absent owners run.

Reckless rides with gay abandon – bold 'Breaker' by his side - flat gallops over grassy plains, both fearless every stride; all caution to the wild winds that unfurled the hunters sails; hurdling station boundaries - clacking hooves on sapling rails –

Mischievous rides when work was done to drink the roguish ale; stirrup to stirrup, side by side, in song would each regale; they'd dance away the hours with girls on the Lachlan side; each a delight in fancy's flight, but dare to choose a bride.

Fair girls and grey horses! Who could forget those tresses gold, or faithful greys that carried him in treasured days of old. Unbroken, unbridled beauties, tamed with a touch of hand; pleasant, passing recollections of a timeless sunburnt land.

Land of magic inspiration, the pen flowed swift and fast; the long sojourn soon over; he set sail for home at last. Home to the hills of Scotland's border mists and morning dew, lush valleys and wet lowlands where harsh wintry breezes blew.

Tears welling in his eyes rolled on an ashen sallowd face. 'Time' had finally come for him, he'd run his earthly race. Gone were the wild bush flowers; the wattle's golden cluster; 'Saddle the Grey' he whispered, 'twas time for his last muster.

Australian Champion Yarn-spinner and Bush Poet, Frank Daniel presents another collection of original bush poetry.

This album lends itself to a more serious side of the author but it goes without saying, he can't stay serious for too long.

Reading the history of Will Ogilvie, Frank was inspired by the last words of this old master, 'Saddle the grey', and so came the title poem .

Listen as Frank takes a nostalgic look at an abandoned set of cattle-yards in the outback where the 'Whips Have Long Ceased Cracking', and consider the seriousness of a gathering at a mate's funeral in 'When You're Dead - You're Dead'.

From 'Cobb & Co' to 'Done Cartin'; from 'The First Buck' at a bushman's carnival to the loss of a drovers earnings in 'Chequed Out', you'll find more of this 'Dinkum Aussie's' unique narrative writing skills accompanied by the musical talents of his mate, John Wythes.

Be warned though, as he always says, '*Only half the lies I tell are the truth!*'

CD available from the author -  
13 Tracks @ \$20.00 posted.  
PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804

## PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

The ABPA through its Broker Bruce Wotton and Associates has secured a Public Liability Insurance cover for nominated financial members of the association.

This cover is available from January 1st to December 31st to all poets, writers or performers who wish to take advantage of the low premium being offered.

Cost of this insurance to nominated members is \$60 per annum. In the case of duos it will be necessary for both parties to be financial members to obtain cover. Membership for the second member of the team is \$10 per annum.

Some festivals have already levied a \$30 per day cover for performers. Ph. the Secretary 02 6652 3716

# Writing Tips

Ellis Campbell's 'Rhyme and Reason' column continues on in 2003 bringing helpful hints to not only writers, but readers alike. Understanding the basics of writing rhyming verse must surely be as helpful to a reader as it is to a writer. The advantages of knowing 'how it is done' and 'why it is done' must give a better insight into what judges at competitions look for, and what readers of quality verse expect.

The 'Rhyme and Reason' column can be found on the internet at the ABPA website ([www.bushpoetry.com](http://www.bushpoetry.com)) and will be featured in each issue of the Newsletter during 2003.

Readers can show their appreciation for this column by writing to Ellis at 1 Laswon St Dubbo NSW 2830. (Send him some money too, he has a couple of books for sale. See page 26).

## 'RHYME and REASON' -



Too many poets write personal poems and enter them in competitions or publish them in self-published books. Judges

are not impressed - nor are readers of the book.

Remember that a personal poem is usually just that.

Because you are writing on a subject dear to your heart don't assume that everyone will like it.

Write a poem about your mates at the bowling club and they will slap you on the back and say, "You're a bloody genius! I don't know how you do it!"

Possibly the poem has more faults than a porcupine has quills, but they like it simply because they are in it - and don't know the first

thing about the rudiments of Bush Verse. Anyone

who does not know the characters involved will be bored to death by

If your dear departed Uncle Fred had been a war hero, an outback drover, a daring lion-tamer, a distinguished buckjump rider, famous racing car driver or some such thing it is fine to write a poem about him.

But if you are only writing about him because he was your favourite uncle and you remember how he always gave you lollies when you were a kid - it has to be a piece of sensitive writing or something quite humorous. Otherwise you end up with a poem that will bore everyone to death, excepting - maybe - a few relatives.

I put this obsession with personal poems down to lack of inspiration. A poet gets an urge to compose a poem but can't think of a subject.

After sitting there day dreaming until sundown he notices old Tom from across the road limping out to water his garden. That's it, he thinks, I'll write a poem about Tom. Unless the poet is an accomplished and sensitive writer, this poem is doomed to failure. But the accomplished and sensitive writers are rarely lacking in inspiration.

### PADDING

"Padding" simply means using unnecessary words to make a line fit the required metre pattern. On the up side it shows that the poet does understand metre and recognises that another syllable is needed, but there is a better way of achieving this.

An example: "and the gate it did shut."

Who would come up to you and say that? A New Guinea native - maybe speaking pidgin English.

Otherwise the bloke is just talking gibberish. Of course you would say, "And the gate blew shut" or "And the gate swung shut" or "And the gate was shut". But that would only give the line five syllables instead of the required six.

The poet has taken the easy way out and wrote, "and the gate it did shut" -- and spoilt the poem. I would write "The rusty gate slammed shut" or "the creaking gate swung shut". Admittedly that is changing the stress order but a pattern of weak weak, strong - weak, weak, strong is a hard one to maintain and needed changing, anyhow.

Only an accomplished poet could maintain this stress order throughout the length of the poem. But an accomplished poet would not have written a pidgin English sentence in the first place!

Another example: "The garden path was so very long". You would normally say, "The garden path was long" or "the garden path was very long". 'The garden path was so very long' is overdoing it a bit, don't you think?

Again the poet has been searching for that extra syllable and took the easy way out. And again it is a poorly chosen metre pattern. Nine syllables of Iambic except for "so" making an extra weak beat. I'd make it ten syllables of straight Iambic. How about, "The winding garden path was rather long?"

Incidentally "so" is a word many poets use too often and judges are aware of this. Try to cut some of those out.

You may have noticed I avoid terms such as "Iambic tetrameter" -- "anapaestic hexameter" and so on. While these are readily understood by well educated and experienced poets I'm sure many readers would be baffled by such terms and feel I was only stuffing them around!

Anyway, I don't understand them myself! I cannot stress too often, "keep it simple and make it sound natural."

Next issue: More poetic terminology.

Happy New Year to all,

*Ellis Campbell*



**AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION Inc.**  
**Annual General Meeting. 25<sup>th</sup> January 2003.**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Since inauguration of the ABPA in January 1994 I have witnessed quite a few ups and downs in the bush poetry movement.

There were times when the survival of Australian bush poetry was in some doubt but, against all odds, it has survived as an entertainment art form, and is probably bigger and better than ever imagined in the early days.

Throughout the past nine years there has been a lot of bickering and arguing over rules and regulations; something that the ABPA never set out to be part of, but, as it has been dropped on us so many times, we have come to the stage where hopefully we may settle a lot of differences and come to an amicable agreement on what the association considers an acceptable form of conduct for competitions.

Comments, criticisms, suggestions etc. gathered over the past twelve months have all been considered and a new set of rules for conducting bush poetry competitions has been drafted for consideration, based on the guidelines approved at the AGM in 2001.

During 2002 subscribers to the ABPA grew to an all time high of 460 members. I would like to see that number grow even further. I believe we can keep the numbers up if we, not only as an association, but individually as well, continue to promote our association. We can do this by encouraging new members, maintaining the standard of the newsletter with quality contributions, and by keeping non-writing, non-performing members interested in our work.

As Editor of the ABPA Newsletter I took on the responsibility of producing an extended 28 page newsletter (one issue was 32 pages),

on a bi-monthly basis. My reason for the bi-monthly newsletter being to cut costs on annual production avoiding a price rise in membership, yet still producing more news and more interesting articles.

The matter of Public Liability raised its ugly head even higher in the past year with some venues asking for proof of cover from musicians and performers before acceptance. Likewise the same question has been asked of some performance bush poets, one example being Mildura CM Festival where artists were required to pay \$33 for the weekend cover. It's a sad state of affairs I'm afraid, but a reality that we could well do without.

Thanks to our Secretary's long and tiring efforts, a Public Liability Cover for financial members of the ABPA has been secured through Wotton and Associates, the ABPA's Insurance Brokers, with Trans Pacific Insurance Corporation at \$60 per annum per member - well below the cost of any other comparable cover.

An association badge, or hat pin, has at last come into being. The badge is made of copper, is the size of a penny, looks like a penny and bears the ABPA logo - the Packhorse Drover.

Sadly in the last year we have seen the passing of some members of the Association, John Clode of Mt. Gambier, SA, Jim Angel of Narrandera NSW, Geoff McFarlane of Glen Innes NSW, Bobby Miller of Mungar Qld, Tom Dunn of Warwick Qld., and, in December, Hope Galvan of Cootamundra NSW; each well-known in their own areas for their contributions to Australian bush poetry - but, on a more wider

scope, for sheer performance capabilities mixed with his writing and workshop skills, Bobby Miller - and for her successes in writing competitions, Hope Galvan. My condolences to their families, I know they'll be sadly missed.

To the executive of the Australian Bush Poets Association I wish to extend my gratitude for their willingness to act quickly on matters and for their overall support.

Special mention must go to Ed Parmenter, the association's secretary for his diligence and dedication to duty. Thank you to Rosemary Baguley for her continuing excellence as Treasurer of the Association and for her regular updates.

Thank you to the members of the association for their letters, contributions and poems: for their phone calls and emails. It has been a big year for the Association, and I wish the incoming executive every success.

Keep on writing and keep on reciting,

*Frank Daniel*

**NOTICE  
OF  
MOTION**

Due to the diversity of membership of the ABPA it has been found that it is not always possible to call meetings at large poetry gatherings, still adhering to the relevant clause (26) in the model rules requiring 21 days notice of such meetings.

The following notice of motion has been presented for consideration at the 2004 AGM.

**Notice of Meetings:**

General Meetings of the Association may be held to coincide with known large gatherings of poets or as determined by the previous general meeting, and it is not necessary for the Sec. advise members.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 31st DECEMBER**  
**Please don't make this your last newsletter**



**The  
MAN FROM SNOWY  
RIVER  
FESTIVAL  
APRIL 10th - 13th 2003**  
(Before Easter this year)

- Unique 'Challenge' horse competition (\$11,000 prizes) and novelty displays.
- Aussie Bush Poetry & Music competition. (\$4000 total prizemoney)
- 16 sections of written & performed poetry, song, yarn, drama
- Walkups of Poetry & Music

**Poetry & Music Entry forms**  
Contact Jan Lewis, 0260774332  
Em: poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au.  
*A unique  
Australian bush gathering  
in Corryong, Victoria*

Have you written a collection of poems and would like to have them published in book form - but only need a few copies?



may be the answer!

- Effective A5 booklet size
- 4 to 80 pages plus a premium cover
- 1 to 100 copies (or more)
- Colour and/or Black & White Print
- Designed to your specifications

For more information, please call  
Jeannette Doyle 02 4632 7676



## LOST POETRY

Requests for copies of the following poems are on hand.

Readers who can help are asked to post, email or fax replies to the Editor. (details p2.)

*'Murphy's bindle cow' - 'The Ducite Snake' - 'Post Hole Mick' - "The Procession"*

Another poem is one with the following text,

*'Oh I love to be by Moonlight  
Where the fragrant pastures are  
And the Tambo to his bosom  
takes the trembling evening star.  
Just to sit and listen to the magpies  
Singing in the blue gums on the hill*

Does any reader know of a writer by name of J.C. Morrison, a bush poet from Broad Arrow, Western Australia who, in 1899, wrote a verse called "Pioneering Days" in the Kalgoorlie Sun newspaper.

Any details about this talented voice from the Goldfields will be appreciated.

## NEW VENUE - PIONEER COUNTRY



### Pioneer Country

is considered one of the Gold Coast's best secrets - and visitors like it that way.

Here you can "escape the crowds" to enjoy peaceful country ambience.

Pioneer Country has now opened its doors to Australian Bush Poetry, and held its inaugural bush poetry competition on Australia Day.

Further to that poets breakfasts will be conducted every Sunday morning at 8am (est).

Free coffee to poets and breakfasts are available on the Verandah Café to all comers.

Contact: Pioneer Country

Ph. 07 5524 2632

Fax 07 5524 2673

Em. Info@pioneercountry.com.au

www.pioneercountry.com.au

Or Graham Brunckhorst

0401 055 606

## JUST MY LUCK

© Skew Wiff.

Me Dog's lost his bark  
and things are real crook,  
An me missus shot through  
with me best leghorn chook.  
The drought's killed me stock,  
and the tank's sprung a leak,  
And me mortgage's due  
at the end of the week.  
Now the Taxation mob says  
'pay without fail!',  
about twenty grand,  
or they'll put me in jail.  
But today in the mail,  
I got quite a cheer,  
there's this card from me mate,  
it says 'Happy New Year!'

## GOOD NEWS!

It was Tommies turn  
for news in class  
He caught the teacher  
unexpected.  
He said 'Pa fell in the well  
last week,  
His plight's still undetected'.

'Good Heaven's'  
shrieked the teacher  
'is the old man now okay?  
'I think so Miss', young Tom replied  
'he's stopped his yelling  
anyway!'



## BEAUDESERT COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

### Bringing the boys back to the bush...

Norco Pauls Milk, in conjunction with the Beaudesert Shire Council is working together to bring the Beaudesert Country Music Festival to the region. The date is Saturday March 15th at the Beaudesert Showgrounds.

With the support of some of the countries top artists including local boy Rick Price and Stanthorpe born James Blundell, Norco Pauls Milk are truly bringing the boys back to the bush.

The Bush Poets Breakfast and One Minute Cup will start at 8am.

Understanding the hardship of living in a drought stricken region, other country artists including The Wolverines and Louella Widt and The Blue Heelers will be there to ensure a successful event for the locals of Beaudesert, and those country music fans making the trip out to Beaudesert to enjoy the entertainment.

With a crowd of over 2000 people expected to attend from the Lismore, Northern NSW, Gold Coast, Brisbane and Toowoomba regions this festival promises to be a lot of fun for the whole family.

The local drought appeal will be the official charity for the Festival, and community groups will be at the Festival to sell products and raise funds for this very worthwhile appeal.

Camping available on the grounds.

Contact Denise Payne.

Tel: 07 55278688. Fax: 07 55278699

Australian Country Music

Festivals Pty Ltd.

mailto: denise@austcountry.com.au

**SPREAD THE WORD**  
HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION GROW

**ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO BECOME FINANCIAL MEMBERS**

## BUSH POETS BREAKFAST with BILL LASHAM

Regular visitors to the annual Bush Poets Breakfast held at Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club on Easter Sunday, will not be disappointed when Bill 'Lobo' Lasham will take the stage as feature poet on 20th April, 2003

Bill, from the Sydney suburb of North Rocks, is a seasoned entertainer around Bush Poetry traps along the eastern seaboard of Australia where he has received many awards in recognition of both his performance and writing skills.

Bill is often seen at venues in Sydney's western suburbs and various NSW country areas, including Tamworth during Country Music Week.

Concentrating on a strong comedy routine in the vast majority of his performances, he will offer those who attend a very witty and entertaining show format where he performs not only his highly original verse but performs the verse of some of Australia's best

Never short of a quick response to any situation, Bill will bring some of his rhyming mates along for the ride. Included in the guest list will be Bill's long time school chum, 'Little George', who is

guaranteed to make you giggle. Word has it that Don Lloyd, the 'Mongrel from the Mulga' will also be on-stage.

As usual, included in the entry fee of \$8.00, the Club dining room staff will offer the very best breakfast menu available on the coast. Cereal, toast, a hot serve together with tea or coffee, and as A. B. Paterson put it, "I've seen full many breakfasts since I first commenced to roam, but no where yet such breakfasts have I seen." *Sorry Banjo!* Aspiring bush poets of all ages are welcome to share their work on the day and will be welcome to either read or recite their verse or that of another author.

You will find the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club in Nelson, facing the beautiful Nambucca River. Sponsorship of this event has been provided for the event by the club for this last five years.

The club has indicated that bookings for breakfast are *absolutely essential* as past audiences have reached the auditorium's capacity. Please book by ringing the club 02 6568 6132.

Other enquiries should be directed to Maureen Stonham Ph. 02 6568 5269.

### IPSWICH POETRY FEAST National Poetry Competition

Theme: Australian

Categories include Primary  
Schools

5-7 yrs, 8-10 yrs and 11-13 yrs.  
Secondary School under 16 years  
and under 18 years.

Open Classes.

Contact Ipswich City Council  
Library and Information Service  
07 3810 6761

[Http://library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/  
poetryfeast](http://library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/poetryfeast)

VISIT THE  
ABPA WEBSITE  
We've had 46,000 visitors  
in the past 2 years.



## WILLIAM JAMES WYE

In a tiny, ill-lit room at the Wanderer's Club \*, Albury (NSW), in 1952, an 86 year old man sat adding the final lines to a book which had taken much of a lifetime to compile, *'A Bushman's Biography'*.

William James Wye, author, poet and bushman, was dying. But before he died he completed what may well have proved to be one of the most fascinating stories of the Australian bush ever written.

At that time, he was being interviewed by Eric Jessup for 'Hoofs and Horns' (an Australian horse magazine), and produced 'A Bushman's Biography' from a battered suitcase in the corner of the room, with shaking hand.

Written in spidery, cramped longhand, the manuscript contained over 7,000 foolscap lines - 80,000 words about a lifetime of wanderings throughout Australia.

Inside the cover Mr. Wye had written, *'This volume of narratives is more appropriate than attractive. It has no pretensions (sic) to art, nor literary merit - being simply the true recordings of an Australian bushman'*.

William Wye was more than just a bushman and horse lover, he lived a life packed with sufficient incident to satiate any other ten men—yet still he was curious about the Outback, it's people, and the ways of the bush.

If he had not exactly 'walked with the great', he had known and held the secrets of some of the best known men in Australia's history. He numbered among his friends the

Kellys and a score of other, lesser-known, bushrangers.

Like Henry Lawson and George Bernard Shaw, he was a member of Melbourne's famous 'Bread and Cheese Club'. Mr. Wye was a poet of great merit, a man of whom 'The Bulletin' said in the 1920's *'Mr. Wye is probably the greatest of all Australia's horse poets, greater than Henry Lawson'*.

Several books of his verse - all about horses, stations and the outback he loved so well, had been published. Clippings and other writings awaiting publication filled several trunks.

*'A Bushman's Biography'* is rich in personal contact with Australian history and the men who made it. It gives a startling insight into the lives of the Kelly gang, hitherto unpublished accounts of how numerous famous robberies and murders occurred - as told to Mr. Wye by the bushrangers themselves on condition the facts were never published during their lives.

Billy Wye's personal story starts at a branch of the Broken River at Benalla (Vic.), when his father was left an orphan at his mother's graveside. His father remained at the graveside for several hours until picked up by a tribe of friendly blacks on walkabout.

They took him with them and for some years he lived as an aboriginal and learned to hunt like them and speak their language. Later he was taken away from them and worked in a mine. He later became one of the best bushmen Australia has ever known.

Billy Wye was born during the Myrtelford (V.) gold rush in 1866.



William James Wye

For years he followed the golden metal through every field in Australia. He made fortunes and lost them, and found fields that were still producing sixty years later.

With packhorses he travelled the length and breadth of the Outback. There was scarcely a cattle station or a part of the Outback that he hadn't been on.

He was a race-horse trainer and followed bush meetings across Queensland; Outback meetings where he gained much of the material for his poems. He was a brumby hunter and a dingo trapper.

William Wye died just before the end of 1952.

\* The wanderer's club, an institution where many an old Australian bushman ended his days.

Next issue. A Billy Wye Poem

**JOYCE ALCHIN** was born in 1938 and grew up in the Goulburn district where her parents owned a property. Upon leaving school she returned home to help her father in all aspects of farm life - the family later moving to a property in the Cootamundra district. Joyce was the first female to do a wool classing

course at the Cootamundra Tech.

Following her marriage to Dal, forty years ago, they moved to the Wollongong area but her love of country still remained and she kept in touch with many country based friends and family over the years.

Due to her husband's failing health Joyce found the need to care

for him at home and so began the search for something to keep her motivated and so it was in 1997 Joyce started writing bush poetry. She felt this was an answer to her prayer and a 'God-given challenge', having written some poetry in her teens, and that hidden talent that had been put to one side was now coming to the fore, using stories and



## The Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2003

**1st Prize:** 'The Aussie Spirit'  
Joyce Alchin, Corrimal, NSW.

**2nd Prize:** 'The Toll' Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW.

**3rd Prize:** 'Aussie' Brian Beesley, Cherrybrook, NSW.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**"The Gilgandra Tree"** Brian Beesley, Cherrybrook, NSW,

**"One Night of Wind and Rain"** Ellis Campbell,

**"The Lion Tamer & The Line Dancer"** Ellis Campbell,

**"Peacock Blues"** Veronica Weal, Mount Isa, QLD,

**"Prepared"** Ron Stevens, Dubbo, NSW

**"The Running of the Bulls"** Doug Berry, Ravenshoe, North QLD, 4872

"Making It" Ron Stevens

**"The Wedding Gift"** Valerie Read, Bicton, WA,

**"My Lawns are Green"** Joyce Alchin, Corrimal, NSW,

**"The Grey Mare's Run"** Ken Dean, Marrangaroo, NSW, 2790

**"The Thomson River Cup"** Brian Beesley, Cherrybrook, NSW

**"Dan McGann"** Des Bennett Morwell, VIC, 3840

yarns as told by her husband and others had told her of country life in the early part of the last century.

Drawing on her own experiences and love of the country as well, Joyce put into verse the joys and concerns of the present time.

Since joining the ABPA a few years ago Joyce has entered quite a number of written competitions and has enjoyed the challenge writing about things dear to her heart, bringing enjoyment to others.

## BUSH FESTIVAL CELEBRATES AND AUSTRALIAN GREAT



Over four days in March, the NSW Riverina town of Narrandera celebrates its connection with one of Australia's greatest bush poets through the John O'Brien Bush Festival. John O'Brien was responsible for *Said Hanrahan*, the poem in which Hanrahan laments "We'll all be rooned, (said Hanrahan) in accents most forlorn, outside the church ere Mass began one frosty Sunday morn..". His poetry outsold Banjo Patterson's and equalled Henry Lawson's and his work was lauded by CJ Dennis as "real Australian.... bush Australian".

He lived in Narrandera from 1917-1944 and when not writing poetry was the Parish Priest of Narrandera's St. Mel's Catholic Church. John O'Brien was a pen name only, and many remember Father Patrick Hartigan as a man of the people, an ecumenist ahead of his time and a great support to the many struggling pioneering farming families, particularly during the depression.

The Poet Priest was also known for his love of cars. He owned a series of cars when they were still a novelty. He is also known for his epic journey into the Victorian high country to administer the last rites to Jack Reilly, reputedly the horseman on whom Banjo based his epic poem *The Man from Snowy River*.

As its name suggests the John O'Brien Bush Festival celebrates Australian bush tradition. The festival is always a bonanza for bush poets and those who enjoy bush yarns. Some big names in the bush poetry world will strut their stuff in competition and at a number of informal get-togethers as well as four poet's breakfasts. Bush dancing in an old country hall, the most atmospheric of settings; and bush music sessions at the pubs really adds to the country experience.

In recognition of John O'Brien's Irish Heritage the organisers have thrown in a little bit of the Irish. Several Irish Luncheons and a Tribute to Irish-Australia Concert recognise the strong links between things Irish and much of the Australian tradition.

Those who enjoy dance will enjoy the Monaro Colonial Dancers and the members of the O'Shea-Ryan Academy of Irish Dance as they perform in East Street and elsewhere. Everyone will have a chance to dance at the Boree Log Bush Dance held at the atmospheric Sandigo Hall on festival Saturday night.

On Saturday families will enjoy the street concert and pavement fair, the parade, and the CADAS kids street performers and the buskers who come to try for the Maton Guitar prize.

Sunday brings the Country Craft Fair, the Singalong at Charles Sturt Hotel and the Farewell Barbecue at the Golf Club. But there is more, much more within the four-day program. The people of Narrandera invite you to come and be a part of one of the best little festivals in Australia.

The Festival is held from 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2003.

For a program call 1800 672 392 or write to Narrandera Visitor's Centre, PO Box 89, Narrandera NSW 2700 or look us up on [www.johnobrien.com.au](http://www.johnobrien.com.au)

## **RICHMOND Vic. BOOK SHOP**

Here's a new book outlet for those who may be interested.

**Strikemedingoblindude.com** is a site devoted to Book lovers and readers alike. You can be sure of finding something to take your fancy so if you're in the area duck in and meet the family.

StrikeMeDingoBlindude is the brainchild of ABPA member Wayne A Roberts, more affectionately known as Mr Ikins.

It was started in July of 2002 hoping to bring the best of the writing world straight to your door.

Wayne's aim is to not only retail books but to eventually handle Music, Video's & DVD Titles of all genre's and tastes.

Wayne's shop can be found on the internet (the name is the address) so take time to look around and you may want to bookmark the site for regular visits.

The site is constantly updated and new products will be added on a regular basis.

StrikeMeDingoBlindude is an Australian owned and operated business at 4 Adolph St Richmond Melbourne Victoria.

Over 20,000 books from private libraries and collections are available and will be catalogued on the internet as time goes by.

Wayne is also interested in consigning or buying any books, Video tapes, DVD's, or Compact discs you may have for sale so drop him a line and let him know what you have and the prices.

## **AND HOPE WILL SPRING ETERNAL**

© Des Bennett Morwell V. 2002

In the shadow of Mount Baw Baw, beneath the great divide,  
I've lived my life in Gippsland's fair rolling countryside.  
I've sensed her mood in tempest, and flood and fire and drought,  
But through it all could never say we've had to go without.

How lucky then are we, by way of stark contrast,  
To the plight of fellow brothers, and their families aghast,  
At a prospect tinged by who knows what and a future bleak and grim,  
As drought unfolds across the range – adrift nature's whim.

Where the hand of fate has dealt a card, an enigma to define,  
And one which all too often, leads on right down to the line.  
Where circumstance beyond compare, has left their lives on hold,  
In a timeslot frame of grief and pain, and anguish borne untold.

Our bureaucrats in ivory towers, not subject to duress,  
Draw lines on maps, and study stats, and then dispense largesse  
In a random way it seems to me, a way not always right,  
While brothers to our North and West fall victim to their plight.

But through it all it's true to say, we here, want you to know,  
That others care and feel for you, and more than wish to show,  
By word and deed, and empathy, a kind of steely strength,  
To help you on your rocky road, no matter what the length.

Our farmers **here are sending hay to feed your starving stock**,  
To help preserve your way of life, and stay the chopping block.  
The 'Farmhand Foundation' and Red Cross too, are right here at the fore,  
Cajoling and working at timely relief and urging us all to do more.

Our country towns run drought appeals, where one and all pitch in,  
And good old Aussie mateship comes to life for kith and kin.  
Do not despair, bad times will end, as must the drought infernal,  
And the rivers will flow, and the grass will grow,  
and hope will spring eternal.

## **QANTAS WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS**

**26th - 30th June 2003  
WINTON QLD**

### **NEW RULE**

*"Any competitor can only win the Open Competition two (2) years in a row, then they must retire for the next competition, after which they are then eligible to re-enter"*

Performance competitions cover all sections from Junior to Open events.

### **'BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD'**

Written competition for the  
Writers of Poetry.

**Entries close 31st. March 2003**

Further information from

**Louise Dean**

**Waltzing Matilda Poetry Awards**

**P.O. Box 120 Winton Q. 4735**

**Ph. 4657 1296 Fax. 4657 1541**

## **RULE BOOK**

A draft of a proposed new rule book has been included with this February edition of the newsletter.

These rules are designed to simplify the running of performance bush poetry competitions and it is hoped that readers, competitors and organizers will take the time to consider the draft and make reply indicating the areas in which they might suggest changes, deletions or insertions. This proposed new book of rules has been drafted from comments, criticisms and suggestions received since the ABPA Guidelines were drawn up and approved at the 2001 AGM.

The aim of the 'new rules' book is to keep it easy to follow. Readers should direct their comment to the editor as soon as possible. Please give this matter priority and reply by March 15th to PO Box 16 Canowindra 2804



## **AUDIT REPORT**

*To the Members*

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS  
ASSOCIATION INC

Incorporation Number: IA 14431

### **Scope**

We have audited the attached financial report of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc for the year ended 31 December 2002. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information obtained therein. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Association. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to which it relates, to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Audit Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination of evidence of support the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of significant accounting

estimates. These procedure have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the Associations Incorporation Act and the Association's constitution so as to present a view of the association which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

In discussions with Committee Representatives, we have been advised that accounts held by the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc with financial institutions during the audit period is:

- CBA Toowoomba  
A/c 4433 1023 1528

There are no mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting any of the property of the Incorporation Associations.

The Audit opinion expressed in this report had been formed on the above basis.

### **Qualifications**

1. It is not possible to establish control over memberships, donations, fund raising activities or other sundry items of the Association's income prior to their initial entry in the accounting reports, nor is it practical for us to ensure that all

such income has been received and recorded. Our Audit relation to these cash items was, therefore, limited to the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

2. We did not attend the Association's stocktake. The valuation and stock as at 31 December 2002 was determined by the Association's committee and we have accepted this valuation.

3. We have not sighted the Association's Fixed Assets. We have accepted the valuation provided by the Association's committee dated 31 December 2002.

Please note that 1 to 3 of the above points are consistent with the audit approach adopted in previous years.

### **Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, subject to the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraphs not existed, the financial report of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc presents fairly, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the Associations Incorporation Act and the Association's Constitution, the financial position as at 31 December 2002 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year ended.

MICHELLE GOSLING BBus (Acc)

## **John McGrath Toyota Country Music Rush Festival of Country Music 15-16 March**

**Venue - Jondaryan Woolshed**

(40 km west of Toowoomba)

In conjunction with this event the

**"Silver Comb" Poetry Writing  
Competition**

**\$2.00 per entry - send it to PO Box 7038**

**Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352**

**Entries close 1 March 2003**

## **THE MURRAY MUSTER**

*Incorporating*

**The Australian Bush Poetry  
Championships**

**15th, 16th, 17th & 18th May 2003**

**Up Close & Personal - Gala Night  
Competition heats during the days**

**Walk-up Night**

**Presentation Night**

**Top Live Entertainment**

**MULWALA SERVICES CLUB**

**www.mulwalaservices.com.au**

**Contact Debbie Williams 03 5744 2331**

## Regular Monthly Events

### New South Wales:

- 1st Tues **TUGGERAH** Lakes Poetry Group. 7 pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay.  
Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
- Each Tues **TWEED HEADS** Poets and Writers on the Tweed. Library Meeting Room. Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395
- 1st Thurs **GLADESVILLE** - North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. Cornucopia Café. Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653  
( Grounds Old Gladesville Hospital - off Punt Rd-follow signs). Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
- 3rd Sat. **LIVERPOOL** Poet's 12 - 4 pm Liverpool Library - 170 George Street Liverpool. David Price 02 9825 0402
- 2nd Mon **KATOOMBA** - Parakeet's Poets - Parakeet Café - 7 pm. Katoomba St, Katoomba. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tues **HUNTER** Bush Poets. 7 pm, Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Wed **DORRIGO** Mountain Top Poets, 7 pm, April, June, August, October. Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139
- 2nd Thurs **TAMWORTH** Poetry Reading Grp. unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067
- 2nd Frid **BUNDEENA** - Pheasant's Hut Folk Club - Ph. Yuri 02 9527 0955 - 0419 412 093
- 2nd Frid **COOMA** The Monaro Leisure Club - 7 pm Vale St. Cooma - Elaine 02 6454 3128
- 2nd Sat **KEMPSEY** or Port Macquarie. Hastings Macleay Bush Poets. Phone Rod 02 65813161 or Janice 02 6581 3552
- 3rd Fri **JUNEE** Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317
- Last Tues **GRAFTON** Live Poet's Society - Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772
- 4th Wed **INVERELL** Wednesday Writers, 7.30 pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
- 4th Thurs **QUEANBEYAN** Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 2nd last Mon **MID-COAST** Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389
- Last Tues **GOSFORD** Spaghetti Poetry Group. Gee Wong Restaurant, 197 Mann St. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Thurs **PENRITH** Writers on the River, 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 02 4465 1621 re venue.
- Last Sat **MORISSETT** Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4 pm.

### QUEENSLAND:

- Each Wed. **TOWNSVILLE** Writers - 7.30 pm Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa - Ph. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
- WINTON** - Matilda Caravan Park - Pinki & her Pee Wee Poets
- 1st Thur. **MAPLETON** - Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel - 8.30pm Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st Sat. **EUMUNDI** Poets & Musicians - Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 2nd Sat. **BUNDABERG** Poets Society 1.30 pm - Jim 07 4152 9624 - Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631 - Sam 07 4156 1216
- 1st & 3rd Wed. **KILCOY** gardens Motor Inn - Hope Street Kilcoy 7.30 p.m. Phone 54 971 100 (Robyn) or 54 971 458 (Pat)
- 1st & 3rd Sun. **NORTH PINE** Country Markets, 9 am Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Damper. 07 3285 2845 - 3886 1552
- 2nd & 4th Thurs. **GYMPIE** Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall. 7 pm. Phil Morrison, 07 4773 4223
- 3rd Tues. **REDLANDS** Poets Society. Mandalay Centre of Care, Cleveland. Vivienne 07 3824 4038, Elaine 07 3245 2114
- 3rd Sun. **WOODFORD** - Lairs, Larrikins and Liars. 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157
- 3rd. Mon. **SHORNCLIFFE** - 7.30 pm - Poets in Park - Café on Park - Anne 07 3869 1282

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

### VICTORIA

- Monthly **CORRYONG** Top of the Murray Poets and Story Tellers Corryong - Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
- 1st Mon **KYABRAM** Bush Poets. Every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097
- 6 weekly, **GIPPSLAND** Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30 pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

- WESTERN AUSTRALIA** 1st Frid **CANNING BRIDGE** - WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel -  
Michelle Sorrell 08 9367 4963 <mailto:msorrell@iinet.net.au>
- Last Thursdays. **MARGARET RIVER**. 7pm at the Community Centre. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431

### **FOR ALL LEXIOPHILES**

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent

Will (n.) a dead giveaway.

Acupuncture (n.), a jab well done.

Inverse: backward poetry.

**Lexiophiles: (lovers of words)**

**AND:** A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.



## POET'S CALENDAR . . . . .

- Feb 1-2 ... **'Elmslea'** Homestead **Bungendore** NSW. Poets Breakfasts 8 - 11am daily with Frank Daniel Limerick challenge Sat. Ph. 02 6238 1651 **'Us Not Them'** in Concert 11 am 1st Feb.
- Feb 7 \*... Closing date. **Dunedoo 'Great Dunny Classic'** - Written Verse Competition to 100 lines. \$5.00 entry fee. SSAE for Entry forms etc. Dunedoo & District Development Group, P.O. Box 1, Dunedoo, 2844 PH: (02) 63 751 975 FAX: (02) 63 751 976 Email: [dddgroup@bigpond.com](mailto:dddgroup@bigpond.com) - Sue Stoddart \*
- Feb 7 - 9 **Whittlesea Country Music Festival** - Bush Poets Breakie Sunday 9th - 8.30 am Contact Geoffrey W Graham - Eaglehawk Ph 03 5446 3739
- Feb 14-16 **Boyup Brook** W.A. Annual Festival. Poets Breakfasts etc. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431
- March 4... Closing date. **Ipswich Poetry Feast**. Written Competition. 7 sections - Primary Schools to Open. \$1900 Prizemoney. Entry Forms etc. SSAE to Ipswich Poetry Feast. Ipswich Library & Information Centre PO Box 191 Ipswich 4305 [www.library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/poetryfeast](http://www.library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/poetryfeast)
- Mar 9..... Claiming the date. **Wauchope Bush Poets** Competition - Hastings MacLeay Bush Poets Group, Contact Jan Downes 02 6581 3552. Email [cut\\_downes@hotmail.com](mailto:cut_downes@hotmail.com) Rod Worthing - 02 6581 3161
- Mar 12.... Closing date. **Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival** of Arts Inc. Short Story and Verse Competition. \$2100 prizemoney - 2 statuettes. Info. SSAE to Marion Knapp. PO Box 77 Grenfell NSW 2810 Ph. 6343 1284
- Mar 14-17 **Narrandera** NSW John O'Brien Bush Festival. Poets Breakfasts. \$1000 performance poetry competition. Narrandera Tourism. Ph. Julie Briggs 1800672 392
- Mar 14-16 **O'Mara's High Country Poets**, Stanthorpe Qld. \$5,550 prizemoney & awards. Entry forms - Contact Jack Drake ph 07 46 837169 [jdrake@halenet.com.au](mailto:jdrake@halenet.com.au)
- Mar 16..... **Beaudesert** Norco Bush Poetry Competition - Written section and Open Male, Female and Novice Performance Sections. Phone 07 5595 2247 - 07 5527 8688 or Write to: Beaudesert Bush Poetry Competition P. O. Box 1229 Nerang Qld 4211 Email: [info@.austcountry.com.au](mailto:info@.austcountry.com.au)
- Mar 29-30 **Dunedoo** NSW 'Great Dunny Classic' Performance competition. Contact Sue Stoddart. 02 6375 1975
- Apr. 10-13 **Corryong Vic.** Man From Snowy River Festival. \$4,000 prizemoney - bush poetry, yarns and music. Poetry & Music Entry forms available December. To be added to database, phone or email Jan Lewis, 0260774332 [poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au](mailto:poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au).
- Apr. 20.... **Nambucca Heads** Poets Breakfast. 8 am at the Bowlo. Feature poet TBA. Enq. Maureen 02 6568 5269
- Apr. 25-27 **Canowindra** NSW Martis Canowindra Balloon Festival - Frank Daniel 02 6344 1477
- May 16-18 **MURRAY MUSTER FESTIVAL - - AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS** Mulwala Services Club. For entry forms contact Karen Bromley. 03 5744 2331 email: [reception@mulwalaservicesclub.com.au](mailto:reception@mulwalaservicesclub.com.au)
- May 30.... Closing Date. **Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. Bush Lantern Awards**. Written Bush Verse Competition. Entry forms - SSAE to Liz Ward. P.O. Box 61 Mt. Perry Qld. 4671. Phone enquiries: (07) 4156 4631
- Jun. 6-9.... **Grenfell** NSW - Henry Lawson Festival.
- Jul 4-6... **Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.** Bundy Muster. Competitions, Open, Novice, Duo's, Yarn Spinning. Entry forms. SSAE to Muster Committee P.O. Box 4281 South Bundaberg. Q. 4670 Phone Sandy & John Lees. 07 4151 4631 - Jim & Joan 07 4152 9624 - Sam 07 4156 1216
- June 26-30 **Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards** - Winton Qld. See page 8. Contact Louise Dean PO Box 120 Winton. Qld. 4735 Ph: 07 4657 1296 Fx: 07 4657 1541
- Aug. 15.... Closing date. Outback Writers Centre Inc. **Dubbo National Poetry Competition**. Max. 80 Lines. Usual conditions apply. No limit to number of entries at \$5.00 each. No entry form required. Add cover sheet. Send to PO Box 2994 Dubbo NSW 2830
- Aug 22-24 Claiming the date: North Pine Festival. Written and Performance Poetry Competition. Ph. 07 3285 2180

ENTRIES IN THE BUSH POETS CALENDAR ARE POSTED FREE OF CHARGE. MAKE SURE YOUR FESTIVAL IS LISTED

## ISBN AUSTRALIA

*Information for the benefit of those contemplating a new publication.*

Universally adopted as a bibliographic and industry standard, the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) is a unique identifier for books and related products.

Using ISBN is essential for disseminating information about your

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As the revolution in electronic information and ordering continues unabated, ISBN's become more important than ever before.

As of January 1 2003, new charges will apply to requests for ISBNs, barcodes or Standard Address Numbers (SANs)

Once off registration fee for new publishers will be \$27 including

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Further information can be obtained from Maria Watt, ISBN Co-ordinator, 03 8645 0385

Publisher and publication data recorded by the ISBN Agency is entered into Thorpe-Bowkers Books in Print database and appears in the Australian Books in Print and Global Books products. This is made available to the National Library of Australia if you so wish.

## The Taste of ASHES

© Tom Stonham

I used to love Test Cricket  
on the wireless when a boy.  
Mum, Dad, me, my brother, Bill,  
Aunty Bessie, Uncle Roy.  
We'd sit up 'way past midnight,  
sometimes listening 'til dawn  
to hear our heroes batting,  
bowling, fielding 'til 'Stumps Drawn'.

I'd get so awf'ly sleepy,  
(I was only nine or ten).  
Nineteen thirty four or five,  
bitter, black Depression then.  
The Aussies versus Pommies,  
but no money bets were made.  
Just ... who would win The Ashes?  
That was why the game was played.

High noon in Mother England,  
was past midnight in Balmain.  
By wonderful world-wireless  
ev'ry word was heard quite plain.  
It wasn't 'til years later  
that I learned it was a sham.  
These Test Match cricket broadcasts  
came to OZ by cablegram!

Two clever commentators  
in a Sydney studio  
faked on-the-spot descriptions,  
Teams, Scores, Overs ..  
*CRACK! WHACKO!!*  
We could hear the thud, the impact,  
willow-bat, six-stitcher ball.  
A pencil tapped a table ...  
sound-effects that fooled us all.

That really didn't matter,  
we were richly entertained.  
Like Santa Claus and Christmas  
few illusions are sustained.  
I tolerate each Christmas,  
with its crass, commercial lies.  
A long life-time has taught me  
it's not smart to be too wise.

But getting back to cricket  
as the game is played today.  
Men armoured like Ned Kelly,  
bowlers bouncing balls half-way.  
I loved the game of cricket  
as it was, I always will,  
but murderous fast bowlers  
aim to maim, if not to kill!

I hated Harold Larwood,  
ev'ry dinkum Aussie did.  
How COULD I know his reasons ...?  
I was just a little kid.  
Don't point the bone at Larwood,  
bowling brutal body-line.  
What Harold Larwood wanted  
was a way out of the mine.

They bowl today like Larwood  
but without his stark excuse.  
They have no hungry children  
caught in Dark Depression's noose.  
They KNOW Larwood was driven,  
pushed, but they'll accept no blame.  
It's wicked! ... It's not CRICKET !!  
It's a crying bloody SHAME !!!!

## NINTH ABPA ANNUAL Book of Verse

The Australian Bush Poets Association's ninth Annual anthology of selected poems collected during 2002 is now available.

Compiled and presented by Ron Selby of Drayton North (Q.) this publication makes an ideal gift was one of the better selling books at the recent Tamworth Festival.

Copies are available from:

**The Secretary  
Ed Parmenter  
1 Avenue St  
Coffs Harbour  
NSW 2450.**

### PRICES:

No. 9. \$ 5.00 post paid.  
Older issues still available  
at \$3.00 posted.  
Cheaper rates for lots of  
ten etc. contact the Secretary.



## THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS MULWALA SERVICES CLUB

16th - 19th May 2003  
Ph. Karen Bromley  
03 5744 2331

## TAMWORTH POETRY

The general feeling about the 2003 Tamworth Country Music Festival is that crowds were up slightly - but spending was down.

Although the Longyard Hotel, The Tamworth City Bowling Club, the Tamworth Golf Club and the Leagues Diggers Club all played to capacity audiences, product sales were down on previous years.

Among the new faces to Tamworth this year were Debbie Andersen of Warwick Q., Melanie Hall, Townsville Q., Lawrence Webb,

Mansfield V., Mike Cody, Sofala NSW, Ed Walker, Narre Warren V and Dennis Carstairs of Stratford V. who all enjoyed the hospitality of the poets and organisers.

Sadly missed was the 'Larrikin' himself, Bobby Miller, who passed away in October last year. Several tributes to Bob were presented at all venues, with one of the most moving being that at the Naked Poets Concerts at the Golf Club. A power point presentation on Bobby's history was prepared with the accompaniment of Pat Drummond on guitar.



## THE AUSSIE SPIRIT

© Joyce Alchin Corrimal NSW

Winner. 2003 Blackened Billy Verse Writing Award

I look around Australia and there's hurting and there's pain  
as I see a sunburnt country that is crying out for rain.  
The stock are dead and dying and the crops have withered too,  
so many folk are struggling and they don't know what to do  
for years of work have vanished, or that's the way it seems –  
where are the aspirations and where are all the dreams?  
Maybe they have been taken in the dust that fills the air  
and blown with all the top soil to, I guess, we know not where.

I watch the fire trucks racing as the smoke clouds fill the sky  
while angry flames develop destructive wings and fly  
across the leafy treetops with a roaring hungry sound  
devouring all before them and burning to the ground  
an isolated homestead, five houses in a street,  
a school, a hall, machinery sheds, a silo full of wheat.  
And those who own these treasures have to stand and watch them burn,  
too numb, too broken hearted to know which way to turn.

I've never been to Bali, I didn't really know  
of all the many thousands each year who pack and go  
to see a different culture, to feel the surf and sun,  
to holiday, to make new friends, relax and have some fun.  
But now my heart is aching and my eyes well up with tears  
as I see the desperation, the tragedy, the fears  
of folk who search for loved ones, who count their loss and mourn  
for those, through act of terror, who lay dead and burnt and torn.

They can't break the Aussie spirit for that is not our way,  
we will start again tomorrow and begin another day.  
Those living in the country have been through it all before  
and, despite the mounting hardships, of one thing they are sure  
that the rains will soak our farmlands, the crops and grass will grow,  
the dams will fill with water and the creeks and rivers flow  
in a time that still is con-fing; until then in true-blue style  
they'll fight to keep on going with a quiet determined smile.

We look at smouldering ruins and we ask, will folk survive?  
While, sifting through the rubble they are thankful they're alive.  
And the tragedy of Bali lingers etched upon the heart  
as we see both friends and family prepared again to start  
despite the loss of ones they love, the scars on body, mind –  
for all those who are hurting say they're strengthened as they find  
that all Australia loves them, surrounding them in prayer  
and showing, through so many ways, how much they really care.



### Naked Poets

MURRAY HARTIN  
& PAT DRUMMOND >>  
<< RAY ESSERY

## NAKED POETS AT TAMWORTH

**Butt Seriously! The Naked Poets were featured again in the 2003 Bush Laureate Awards when they won the Album Of The Year.**

Their second album *Newdirections* won the same award in 2001, and one wonders what may have happened if they had bothered to enter Vol 1 *Naked Poets Lie..ve* in the 2000 Awards...especially seeing it contained such hits as *Turbulence*, *The Mr Whippy Rippoff*, and *The Toilet Paper Linedance*.

So why didn't they enter the first album? Well these sensitive little critters were a little worried about how their 'out there' live album would be received by the traditionalists. However the public response and national sales indicate that they underestimated the impact of these unique recordings.

The Naked Poets shows at the Tamworth Golf Club were sold out for every performance in 2003, as the faithful audiences allowed Shirley, Murray, Ray, Marco and Pat to indulge in a healthy amount of Bobby Miller Tributes.

The Naked Poets admit The Larrikin will be sorely missed, but already they are working on a new show for 2004, and with Shirley's, Murray's and Marco's delightful 'synchronized swimming' piece, one feels that Bobby Miller may well be still heavily involved in ghost-writing the scripts.

Signed 'Buck Naked'



## BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

### Judge's Comments

It was a great privilege for me to adjudicate in the 2003 "Blackened Billy Verse Competition." I can now empathise with Bill Gleeson and his **diligence and hard work**, in determining the winners of **these prestigious awards**.

The 2003 competition attracted 267 entries, and I have to say, the standard of writing, and the imagination used by the writers, was truly amazing. There is no doubt that this country is blessed with an abundance of wordsmith talent, in the form of bush verse.

In this last "Year of the Outback," the entries covered many topics, from sport to politics, from the Anzacs to Animals, from folklore to old age, and a wealth of subjects, both humourous and heartbreaking. All of these topics were depicted in very creative ways.

Without any doubt, the major influence on all of our lives has been the devastation caused by bushfires, the Bali bombings, and possibly one of the worst droughts in the history of Australia. Several of the poems entered in the competition were very graphic and poignant descriptions of the agony and devastation caused by these disasters. Two of these poems figured in the final selection, because the full plight of the victims of these tragedies was so cleverly and well-constructed in their detail.

Congratulations to the winners, and to those who achieved highly commended awards. I can nonestly bay that there were at least thirty Mms sirongly c~:idered for final selection.

If I may be permitted to say, in my humble capacity, what I consider to be two main essentials in the writing of a good narrative. The first is an attention-grabbing start, and most importantly a finish, which is not only well crafted, but a full endorsement of the storyline or subject matter. So many entries failed to reach the final selection, because of the absence of one or the other of these important points.

Thank you all for your contributions, and keep writing, your turn could be just around the corner.

**Keith Jones.**

## AUSSIE © Brian Beesley

I walked into a newsagent to buy the 'Telegraph' – a two-inch banner headline had me almost fit to laugh. The Indonesian president was taking strong offence at how we got involved to manage East Timor's defence. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie you're a lout but you're pleased to stand in line sir, when our aid is handed out.

I tuned into the wireless after that September's shock – the afternoon announcer had the blooming hide to mock America's disaster, asking who was in the right and questioning the wisdom of our hastiness to fight. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie you're a fool but the 'truth' is not a subject at a smug announcer's school.

I went into my lounge room just to catch the evening news – some 'bleeding-heart' was sounding off and giving out his views; complaining how we're treating those illegal immigrants; condemning our reluctance to declare them residents. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie damn your soul but a 'bad-mouth' echoes poorly from an ivory cubbyhole.

I went to town on business and before I met the boss – some federal politician, who is prone to memory loss, was talking to her 'rent-a-crowd' on how she felt the shame of being an Australian – how the government's to blame. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie go away but it's clear that she forgets why she is free to have her say.

We give you gold-class favour while you're talking ill of us – at international forums making mischief-loaded fuss. But wielding worn-out axes that are ground on overtime won't settle any differences that you regard a crime. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie curse your hide but it's not the true Australia that faced the world and lied.

Those 'eminent' Australians have turned against us now – all lecturing in moral voices holier-than-thou. Yes, born-again Prime Ministers with fattened pension cards, including one who showed his stock from low-fenced cattle yards. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie you're a hound but the stones you throw from glazed abodes are likely to rebound.

We aren't cold-hearted people and we aren't all racist ghouls – we've always succoured wretched souls, so don't reject our rules. And all those loud minorities with court-room appetites, should know a foreign freighter cannot tamper with our rights. Oh it's Aussie this and Aussie that and Aussie you're a brute but you're free to go ahead sir, with your faulty legal suit.

I'm tired of all you whingers and your single-issue files – we gave you half an inch and mate, you've taken twenty miles. But if the 'lucky country' isn't all you'd like to be, then we should sponsor *you* as an 'Australian' refugee. For it's Aussie this and Aussie that and anything he sees but accusing minds have never seen the forest for the trees. And it's Aussie this and Aussie that and on and on it goes, but Aussie doesn't suffer fools – I'll wager Aussie knows!

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 31st DECEMBER**  
**Please don't make this your last newsletter**