

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 10 No. 6

December 2003

## ABPA - TEN YEARS OLD

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc will celebrate ten years since inauguration in January 2004.

Next January sees the start of the Associations eleventh year and to celebrate our Tenth Birthday, Ron Selby, the founding editor and secretary-treasurer will be publishing the Tenth Anniversary Annual of Bush Poetry as a dedication to our founding members.

Of the original twenty-two financial members only ten remain with us today. Some have sadly passed away, others have dropped out to pursue different interests, though some still maintaining a keen interest in bush poetry.

The Tenth Annual is made up of fifty-two pages of bush poetry and biographies of those founding members still able to be contacted.

Ron Selby was first introduced to Bush Poetry when he attended a bush poetry recital at RM Williams Hodgson Vale property near Toowoomba late in 1993. A crowd of over a hundred turned out at RM's new clubhouse for the Queensland Polo Club to hear recitals by Merv 'Bluey' Bostock and Randal Chandler.

Mr. Bostock, Australia's best known rodeo clown, and Mr. Chandler, Barcaldine Cattleman and driving force behind the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame were old mates of RM.

It was this chance meeting with 'Bluey' Bostock that inspired Ron to take more interest in Bush Poetry, something that he had been keen on for years, but had never followed up.



**RON SELBY**

'Bluey' explained his plans to form an association of bush poets, and so Ron accompanied Bluey to Tamworth in January 1994 where, at the Imperial Hotel, the proposal was put to an interested group following the finals of the bush poetry competition organized by the Tamworth Poetry Writers Group.

'Bluey' was elected President while Ron took on the daunting task of Secretary/Treasurer and, being a villain for further punishment, opted to become the editor of the newly formed associations newsletter.

In the coming years Ron said he found the job not only demanding, but also very rewarding, and he is still "proud to be part of this great family of Australian Bush Poets."

The Tenth Annual should be available before Christmas (if not, shortly afterwards) from Ron Selby at PO Box 77 Drayton North, Qld. 4350. **Price: \$5.00 posted.**



**RM WILLIAMS  
1908 - 2003**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with rule 23 for Incorporated Associations you are advised that - The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. will be held in Tamworth at 2pm on Saturday 24th January 2004.

**THE NEW VENUE WILL BE ADVISED AT ALL POETRY SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS**

Agenda items include -

1. Confirmation of minutes of last annual meeting and business arising.
2. Receive reports
3. Election of office bearers and committee.
4. Allocation of Australian Championships for 2005.
5. Allocation of State Championships for 2004 and 2005.
6. General business.

Edward Parmenter  
Secretary.

See NOTICE page 12

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

(Established 1994)

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Annual subscriptions \$25.00

1st January to 31st December  
payable to the Treasurer.

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Inc.

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The Australian Bush Poets  
Association Inc Newsletter is set-up,  
published and posted direct to  
subscribers bi-monthly by Truthful  
Publications® & Short Street  
Productions®

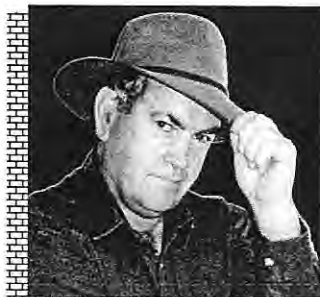
P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2794.

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(ABN. 75 069 376 683)

**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

## Presidents Report



*G'day.*

Things will be really happening in  
Tamworth next month with some very  
exciting times ahead for Bush Poetry.

As always forward planning for the  
different events is a mammoth task and I  
congratulate the various organizers for the  
big role they are playing in presenting  
Australia's Premier Entertainment Art Form  
to the masses at eight different venues during Country Music Week.

Congratulations to the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group on their  
twentieth anniversary celebrated in November this year. From humble  
beginnings this group has grown to be one of the major contributors to the  
success of bush poetry in Tamworth. Held at the Imperial Hotel, the  
annual performance competition, started by this group back in 1987, has  
grown to be one of the most coveted as is their 'Blackened Billy' written  
competition.

In January the ABPA will be ten years old. From 22 original paid up  
members in 1994 to 500 members today, this association has managed to  
keep Australian Bush Poetry to the fore in many quarters; has helped  
introduce our art form to audiences as diverse as camp-fire travellers to  
the Corporate Sector.

Elmslea Homestead at Bungendore NSW will be 'turning ten' on  
January 31st with a special anniversary celebration planned and a chance  
for more home grown limericks to be presented.

Narrandera's John O'Brien Bush Festival is ten years old in March,  
and again tributes to past performances with cultural and heritage  
celebrations are only part of the big five day event.

The ABPA's Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers  
will be held on Saturday 24th January in Tamworth. Unfortunately a  
change of venue could be in order due to unforeseen circumstances and  
members are advised to ask the coordinators at the various bush poetry  
venues for the new address. Announcements will be made.

I would still like to have a spell from the editors role and would  
appreciate any calls from interested persons willing to take on the role for  
another year. It is a rewarding and inspiring position but unfortunately my  
commitments for 2004 make it harder for me to carry on in this capacity.

On behalf of the Executive of the Australian Bush Poets Association  
Inc I would like to extend our heartiest best wishes for the coming festive  
season and wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Congratulations to all those competition winners throughout the year,  
you have certainly helped boost bush poetry in the entertainment world.  
Let's keep it up in 2004

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

*Frank Daniel*

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FALL DUE ON 31st DECEMBER  
PAY NOW AND WIN - OVER \$300 IN PRIZES.  
GO TO PAGE 6**

# RM WILLIAMS

## RM Williams 1908 – 2003

The founding Patron of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc Reginald Murray Williams passed away in his 95<sup>th</sup> year on Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2003 at his Hodgson Vale home, 'Rockybar' near Toowoomba Queensland.

With his passing Australia has lost another of its bush legends, a man who turned stockmen's boots into a national symbol.

RM was dedicated to the preservation of our unique Australian Heritage and his love for Australian verse was not something he kept hidden under his ever-present felt hat.

In 1948 Reg Williams travelled to Scotland to ask Will Ogilvie for permission to 'gather and present all his poems'.

Permission was granted and the book, 'Saddle for a Throne' – (Dedicated to Comrades of Campfire and Muster) sold 10,000 copies when released in 1952.

Born in 1908, RM left home in the mid-north of South Australia in his early teens to work as a limeburner in the Mallee Scrub of north western Victoria.

He was a good learner and with the skills gained and a desire to succeed coupled with a sense of adventure, RM at the age of sixteen headed for the remote gold-fields of Western Australia.

At eighteen years he signed on as a camel boy working on an expedition charged with the immense task of surveying that huge tract of land from the Western Australian border to the north-south railway line at Oodnadatta in South Australia.

He worked on a number of huge pastoral stations in the Centre and in the Northern Territory during which time he learnt bush lore from the aborigines of the regions and

from the tough bushmen in the cattle camps.

During these formative years, RM grew to love the bush, its people and all its moods.

The time of the great depression found him eking out a solitary living in the Gammon Ranges sinking wells.

In the 1930's he began crafting boots and saddlery for use on surrounding stations, having learned the trade from an itinerant bushman named Dollar Mick, and developed a reputation for craftsmanship and durability.

Sydney Kidman, the cattle-king, gave him a much needed boost with an offer to purchase all the pack saddles and harness he could produce.

Setting up shop in Adelaide, RM Williams, 'The Stockmans Outfitter', had probably the best known address in Australia, **5 Percy Street Prospect South Australia**, and his catalogues for mail-order saddlery and equipment was perhaps one of the best read and most cherished books in the bush.

RM Williams founded the Australian Rough Riders Association in 1948 and the same year was instrumental in forming Australia's best known equestrian magazine, Hoofs and Horns in which he published many of the bush poems, stories and yarns of the outback as they came to hand.

Of the popular writers gracing these pages was Bruce Forbes Simpson, who wrote under the pseudonym of 'Lancewood', one among the many who appeared regularly alongside the lesser known, at that time, works of Will Ogilvie.

It was a long dream of RM Williams to establish a 'Stockman's Hall of Fame' and this dream came to fruition at Longreach, Queensland in 1988. The Hall of Fame pays tribute to those everyday heroes who faced the dangers, hard-

ships and privations of the outback to help develop this great land.

R.M. Williams lived a life legends are made of and will be remembered for contributing to our unique Australian identity. So much so that he was made patron of the Year of the Outback 2002.

"He was a shining example of the spirit of the great Australian adventurer, rising from the adversity of the Great Depression to write his name into history as a bush craftsman and generous sponsor of outback ethic and culture," said Prime Minister John Howard.

From these small beginnings has grown the world-wide company we know today.

## TAMWORTH POETRY READING GROUP 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group, who run the Blackened Billy Verse Competition and the Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition, celebrated their 20th anniversary on 13th November.

Cliff Hathway was awarded a Life Membership and several other members received certificates for long time membership. The group meets monthly simply to enjoy poetry and to have continued this activity itself for twenty years is quite an achievement. But, with the introduction of the two bush poetry competitions, the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group set in motion the revival of the tradition of performing bush poetry and encouraged writers to look at new ways of capturing the Australian ethos in bush verse.

You only have to look through this magazine to see where it has all got to now. The Group is proud of its contribution to Australian Bush Poetry and will continue to support and promote it in the years ahead.

# TAMWORTH 2004

*It's all happening for Bush Poetry*

When the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group held its first bush poetry competition on the back of a semi-trailer at the Longyard Hotel in 1987, no-one envisaged the growth or the heights in popularity that bush verse would attain at what was primarily a Country Music Festival.

Subsequent moves (including two years in the KFC car park) to the Imperial Hotel in 1990 has seen their performance competition, favourably referred to as 'The Imperial', grow to be one of the most respected in the country.

At the Imperial the group originally held a walk-up Poets Breakfast ahead of the competition heats, and it was through this venue many up-and-coming bush poets made somewhat nervous entrances into the field of performance poetry. While some had minor experiences elsewhere, the Imperial Hotel Breakfasts were for many, their first experience in the company of

their then unknown peers, not to mention a live audience.

Those fortunate to have witnessed the early days still talk of the nervous uncertainty of such characters as the late Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Glenny Palmer, Ron Selby, Frank Daniel and Gertrude Skinner; or the more polished efforts of leading writers such as Ron Stevens or Ellis Campbell; whilst those such as Marco Gliori, Murray Hartin, Jim Haynes, John Major and Marion Fitzgerald managed to belt it out and sock it to their audience without a single care.

Countless miles were trugged in the hotel's backyard as our early novices rehearsed their lines before facing the judges.

From here the Poets Breakfasts at Tamworth evolved and the Longyard Hotel opened up the Goonoo Goonoo Room for poets in 1991.

The following years saw 'Bluey' Bostock running a competition at

the Oasis Hotel (1994); the Big Bush Brekkies at Wests Leagues Club with Jim Haynes; Bush Poetry at the Tamworth Bowling Club with Michael Darby; the Tamworth Golf Club with the Naked Poets and the 'Sex, Lies and Poetry Show'.

In 1996 and 1997 the first of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards (known as the Golden Gumleaf Awards devised by Judith Hosier) were conducted at the Longyard Hotel, later moving to a Hoekka at 'West's' where over 1300 crowded in to the event in 1998. The ABL awards are now held in the Tamworth Town Hall to full house signs.

The Toyota Country Music Festival 2004 will see no less than eight different venues catering for bush poetry. Available updates and timetables to these events will be published in this issue of the newsletter, with more up to date information to be found in the Tamworth Festival programmes leading up to and during Country Music Week.

## LONGYARD HOTEL YEAR OF CHAMPIONS

For the twelfth year in succession The Traditional Longyard Hotel Bush Poets Breakfasts will spearhead the non-stop programme of events during Country Music Week.

From Saturday 16th January to Sunday 25th inclusive, sixty-seven different performances incorporating many of the ABPA State and National Bush Poetry Champions will make up the nine days of breakfasts bringing together the biggest line-up quality performers ever seen at the Longyard.

Co-ordinating the 2004 programme will be Australian Champion Yarn-spinner and Bush Poet, Frank Daniel of Canowindra NSW.

The daily shows, which normally

see patrons lining up from 6am will start a little earlier in 2004 with a 7.45 am start. The usual sumptuous Longyard breakfasts will be served from 7am.

Bob Magor and Neil McArthur return once again and join with a host of Bush Poetry State and National Champions in presenting the biggest and best Longyard Performance in years. Four time Australian Bush Poetry Champion Milton Taylor will make four appearances alongside other champions such as Glenny Palmer, Melanie Hall, Noel Stallard, Terry Regan, Carol Heuchan, Carmel Dunn, Dave Proust, Garry Lowe, Donny Lloyd, and more.

Current Australian Ladies Champion Kerry Lee is making the long journey over from Western Australia.



## ABL AWARDS

### 'Australian Story-tellers Theme'

Nick Erby will host the 9th Annual Australian Bush Laureate Awards concert and presentations at Tamworth Town Hall at 2pm Tuesday 20th January.

The concert theme for 2004 is 'Australian Storytellers' and the line up of singers and bush poets includes Adam Brand, Melinda Schneider, Melanie Hall, Sara Storer, Jack Drake, Wallis and Matilda, Frank Daniel, Bob Magor, Pete Denahy and Brendon Walmsley.

These awards were instigated in 1996 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

This show sells out fast so book NOW 02 6755 4300

## NAKED POETS AT TAMWORTH

The Naked Poets will be appearing again at The Tamworth Golf Club in 2004 with a **new show**, introducing some more wild and woolly characters and putting together another album soon after.

There will be five 'The Best Of' lunch time shows from 11-30-1.30 from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> through to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and five Night Shows from 8pm to 10.30pm Monday through to Saturday with the Wednesday Night off.

A special feature will be the \$1000.00 Naked Poets Brawl held on Wednesday lunchtime as part of the Naked Poets Show. This award is now the richest Poetry prize at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Tickets are \$16.00/Night Shows and \$12.00/lunch shows. Get Naked and book early on 0267659393.

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## OUTBACK AT THE OASIS

The Amphitheatre in the grounds of the Oasis Hotel, situated on the Armidale Road, will come to life once again during Country Music Week in Tamworth.

Victoria's Patchwork Poet, Carol Reffold, will be coordinating events over six days from the 19th to 25th January, with over fifty of the nations best Bush Poets, musicians and performers, providing an incredible variety of family style Australian Outback Entertainment.

Carol guarantees some 'never to be forgotten, special moments' incorporating the works of the masters past and present, living legends, drover's and ringers, a special salute to the diggers and a poets brawl.

Other novice and experienced performers will be welcome to share the stage - time permitting.

Every show is for all the family to enjoy at the pub with a tradition of unforgettable, great Australian entertainment at an affordable price.

## YOUNG NSW NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

Think of Young and you think straight away of cherries.

That's natural enough for a small town that is known for this bright red little fruit. The cherry harvest starts approximately in the first week in November, and continues on through the New Year, and brings hundreds of people to town to pick and pack the fruit. Young is widely known as 'The Cherry Capital of Australia'.

But Young is fast becoming known on the Southern Slopes for its popular Bush Poetry Competition and Poets Breakfast.

This year the combined livestock and estate agents of Young have sponsored the Open Competition once more for a \$1000.00.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2003 an Open Bush Poetry competition will be conducted at the Young Services Club at 8.00 pm,

judges taking into consideration merit for material chosen and performance.

Both traditional and original poems are most welcome.

The 7 major prize winners are expected to perform at the breakfast on the Sunday.

Entries may be made by phoning Greg Broderick on 63 82 38 83 during working hours.



## Poets' Breakfast Sunday 7th December at the Young Golf Club open to all comers 8.30am for 9.00am.

A \$100 Encouragement Award will be given at this breakfast for up and coming bush poets.

The cost of a breakfast is \$10. It will help the caterers if breakfasts were booked by telephone before 5th December.

Breakfasts can be booked at Brodericks agency  
Phone 63 82 38 83

There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra than on Alzheimer's research. This means that by 2020, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them. A terrifying thought.....

## APPLICATIONS

are being sought from  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
considering holding  
State and National  
**AUSTRALIAN  
BUSH POETRY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**In 2005**

**Such applications should  
be in the hands of the  
Secretary - Ed Parmenter  
1 Avenue St**

**Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
By January 12th 2004 for  
consideration at the ABPA  
Annual General Meeting in  
Tamworth on 24th January  
2004**

## WAY TO GO ORRIGHT!

Join a small group  
(up to 20 passengers)  
on an outback tour of discovery  
featuring the  
**Qantas Waltzing Matilda  
Bush Poetry Festival  
in Winton in June 2004.**  
This 9 day tour will also include  
visits to attractions at  
**Roma, Charleville & Longreach**  
as well as the  
Winton highlights.

For details contact Graham at  
Watugo Outback Tours  
Ph.07 3289 2260 Fax 07 3289 5072  
Mob 0414 777 897  
e-mail: [langtry@samford.net](mailto:langtry@samford.net)

## THE CALL OF THE BIDGEE

The Bidgee, have you seen it lately, rolling down the plains?  
Are skies above still blazing blue? And how long since the rains  
have spread a greening carpet on which flowers wave and weave?  
A time you say? And now it's just the same old Willies whirling dust.  
While trembling on the edge of sight, mirages tease the harsh hot light  
in taunting lake-believe?

The Bidgee, have you walked it lately, where it winds and wends?  
Do mighty cod still haunt its holes? Do sandys bleach its bends?  
And all along the higher banks, atop the cliffs of clay,  
in stark relief against the sky do ancient gums hold limbs up high?  
And where their roots jut out below do rabbits, just like long ago,  
At dusk came out to play?

The dawn is magic time for me, from when first light appears.  
The Kookaburras' bedlam, then, is music to my ears.  
When cockatoos screech skywards, and as songbirds start to sing.  
As magpies' chortles grace the air and foxes slink towards their lair.  
The treetops blush with pinks and reds, as rosily the warm light spreads  
and day is on the wing.

My dreams may find me dawdling through the midday summer heat,  
With all the bush folk drowsy; seeking solace in retreat.  
While wheeling in its silent watch, a kitehawk rides the sky.  
And carking crows tell one and all of where another sheep might fall  
up on the plain, where 'roos seek shade and, panting, flopping, so evade  
the heaven's blazing eye.

© Don Adams NZ –  
Winner NSW Written State Championships - 2003

I also love the twilight, when the world is hushed and still.  
That's when the Jackass ceases laughing and so do the shrill  
galahs their stupid gossip and the ducks their frantic flight.  
As, slowly, day's last pastel shade from western skies begins to fade.  
No lap or ripple, not a sound.  
The darkling creatures, all around, are waiting for the night.

I'm lucky. I have been there when the night's starred mantle threw  
its silver spangles on the water and as breezes blew to shiver leafy tree-tops  
where the wide-eyed possums cling.  
A barking fox called to its mate and frogs began their croaked debate.  
From off the plain, by distance blurred, a curlew's mournful cry was heard  
and heard, re-echoing.

I wonder why these thoughts, unbidden, come to plague me so,  
with sounds and sights that trick and tease me, dredged from long ago?  
Today my home is bush clad hills, beside a sparkling sea.  
No scorching heat, no swarming flies, No swirling dust to scratch my eyes.  
So why, for me, the strong appeal Of this old river which I feel  
Is reaching out to me?

Perhaps, these days, I see with different, wiser older eyes.  
Impatient youth sought greener fields, but now, it's no surprise,  
I find I love my childhood home, my castle from the past.  
A breeze, gum-scented, stirs my dreams; The Bidgee beckons, and it seems  
That when Life's bell for me must toll, Out there is where my restless soul  
Will find its peace at last.

## SPLLEING LSSEON

Aoccdnrig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the only iprmoentnt tihng is that the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pelae.

The rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe. Ceehiro

# TAMWORTH 2004

## The SEX, LIES and BUSH POETRY Show

"Laughter makes the world go round" and at Tamworth Country Music Festival 2004, the Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry Show, now in its sixth year, is a guarantee of just that.

But audiences must be warned that watching these dangerously funny shows can be seriously addictive. Four Golden Gumleaf Finalists make up the cast, again presenting their brand of 'split-yer-sides-laughing' entertainment.

**Neil McArthur**, "The Ratbag of Rhyme", is an Australian Performing Comic Poet from Ballarat whose works know few boundaries. No subject is safe or sacred to this unabashed bard. He is arguably the funniest writer of humorous poetry in Australia today concentrating on more contemporary themes but still using traditional rhyming meter.

Just like his poetry, **Gary Fogarty** is 'Fair Dinkum' and fiercely Australian. With his roots planted firmly in the bush, his excellent bush verse brings to life his love of country, his rural heritage, and an ability to portray some of the funnier sides to bush life.

His recording of "Bigger Sharpers Spurs" won the coveted Bush Laureate Award in 2003.

**John Major** is a 'true-blue' Aussie Bush Poet, grazier and man of the land, and proud of it. John boasts one of Australia's largest repertoires of bush poetry with over 200 poems committed to memory.

**Jack Drake** is the real bush McCoy. His sock-it-to-ya stories in verse come from his years of knocking around the country and being with real Aussie characters. His 2 CDS were both finalists in the Bush Laureate Awards. Jack is one of the few modern Australian poets to be professionally published. The Central Queensland University Press recently released his book "The Cattle Dog's Revenge".

Joining the group will be guest singer and rising star, **Adam Kilpatrick**, a finalist in the Best

New Talent Section of the Mildura Independent Country Music Awards. Adam has been a huge success at the Gympie Muster for the last two years. His relaxed, humorous style and his talent as a guitarist and vocalist will be a great addition to the 2004 Show.

"Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry" will be presented at the **Tamworth Golf Club** on the following dates: **Night Shows** 8 pm : Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. **Afternoon Shows** (completely different show) 2.30pm : Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>.

Advance bookings recommended. Ph. 02 67659393.

En route to Tamworth, a special showing of "Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry" will be held at **Tenterfield on Friday Night 16<sup>th</sup> January** in Paul Petrie's atmospheric Barn. Phone 02 67362447 for bookings.

More details from: Gary Fogarty Ph 07 46951228

fogartygary@h0tmail.com  
Jack Drake ph 07 46 837169  
jdrake@halenet.com.au

## BIG BUSH BREKKY AT DIGGERS

The Jim Haynes Big Bush Brekky Variety Shows will once again be held in the air conditioned comfort of DIGGERS CLUB (the old RSL) auditorium right in the middle of Tamworth, each morning, from January 17th at 8am.

"Our shows really come alive in that room and I can't wait to hit the stage with new shows and songs" says Jim, "you never know who's coming to perform on The Big Bush Brekky; Adam Brand, Graeme Connors, Troy Cassar-Daley, Brendon Walmsley, Melinda Schneider, The Wolverines, Sara Storer, Michael Carr, Carter and Carter have all said they'll drop in."

In 2004 the Big Bush Brekky will see redident poets Paddy Ryan,

Neil McArthur, Glenny Palmer and that creep Montague Fortescue as well as the return of Bob Magor after a four year absence.

There'll be all the regular features like Joke of the Day, Country Classics, Chook Raffle, Top Ten Countdowns; Tamworth Tongue Twisters and new features, like 'CROONERS CORNER' your chance to be a STAR! The booking number to save you time queuing each morning is 02 6765 7588.

There's still bottomless tea & coffee. It's the funniest show in town and the best value at \$ 7.50.



'**TRAINS**' with Jim Haynes and Friends. New Heritage Theatre Show 2004.

Next year Tamworth Festival goers can see a great new show featuring Aussie RAILWAY history in

rhyme, song, music and film. Featuring Grant Luhrs, Kedron Taylor, Bushwackers Dobe and Rog, Bush Poets and Jim Haynes, the show's a must for lovers of Aussie heritage, RAILWAYS, verse and songs.

The show is on in Blazes at West Tamworth Leagues on Sunday 18th at 12.30 pm and Thurs 22nd at 2pm and tickets are only \$15 & \$10 - book early on 02 6765 7588.

This year West League Club are staging the **BEST BLOODY BUSH POETS' BREAKFAST** in the Country Club Pavilion on the oval.

At 8 am every day a great line up of Bush Poets like Jack Drake, Gary Fogarty, Melanie Hall, Garry Lowe, Bob Magor, Neil McArthur, Col Milligan Glenny Palmer, Elissa Renton, Paddy Ryan, Milton Taylor & more will perform with host Grant Luhrs. Entry is \$5.

## CHANGES AT O'MARA'S

Due to many local points which had to be considered, the organizing committee of "O'Mara's High Country Poets" have decided not to run an Adult Performance Competition in 2004, but the Junior Competition which is always wonderfully supported by schools in the district, will be concentrated on with extended activities. Heats will be run at all schools wishing to be involved and a Final will be held in Stanthorpe at a date still to be nominated. A concert will be held in the evening with selected performers and musicians, and the usual "Breakfast with the Poets" will be held on Sunday morning.

In 2004 the event will be held during the running of the "Brass Monkey Season" in July which is the Granite Belt's primary tourist season.

The "Lawson Bronze" trophy will be awarded to the Junior Performance Winner, along with the usual cash prizes and trophies, making a wonderful incentive for the continued interest in Bush Poetry by the young people of Stanthorpe and surrounding districts. The School Written and School Poster competitions will also be continued.

The organizing committee wishes to thank local sponsors who have continued with their support of raffles to raise funds for this annual event. 2004 will be the 6th year of "O'Mara's High Country Poets". Our thanks also to the many adult competitors who have made this event so much fun over the years. We wish you all great success at the many other competitions being held around Australia.

**Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.**

**If you want to see the world come back as a milk crate or a shopping trolley. They're everywhere.**

## BENDIGO

### SCHOOL POETRY COMPETITION

The inaugural School Student Bush Poetry Competition conducted by the Central Goldfields Bush Poets, Bendigo, exceeded all expectations. Entrants came from as far as Wedderburn, Kyabram, Lockwood and Maldon.

Primary School students competed in both Original and Traditional/Contemporary categories with strong representation from both Maldon and California Gully schools. The High School section was dominated by Kyabram students who have benefited from exposure to writing and performing poetry since Primary School, as a result of efforts from the long established Kyabram Bush Verse Group.

Judges were Carol Reffold, Tru Dowling and Jim Brown.

Results: Primary School - Original: 1<sup>st</sup> Louise Halliwell and Beatrice Hunt from Lockwood (duet). 2<sup>nd</sup> Ellie Dowling (Maldon), 3<sup>rd</sup> Maggie Rigby (Maldon).

Primary School - Trad/Contemp. 1<sup>st</sup> Elsie Rigby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Keira Brauer 3<sup>rd</sup> Ellie Dowling, (all from Maldon).

Highly commended Awards:

Amber Gresham, Emma Kelson, and Ben Graham.

Results of both High School categories were identical: going to Kyabram students Heather Buzza, Gideon Cordover & Andrew Ward.

Highly Commended - Skye Allen from Wedderburn.

The Competition was opened by the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo, Councillor Rod Fyffe; who donated an Encouragement Award, which was presented to, Gideon Cordover.

All entrants received a Certificate of Recognition and a book of Bush Verse.

Compere of the Competition and adult concert afterwards, was local entertainer, Mr Geoffrey W Graham.

The organisers received many positive comments from entrants.

Expressing appreciation of appearing before an audience, having both a microphone and stage to perform from. For there are limited opportunities to do so in Victoria, let alone compete for, trophies, books and prize money; said Heather Buzza of Kyabram. Central Goldfields Bush Poets President, Mr. Colin Carrington said that future competitions would be held no later than August in an effort to attract more high school students.

The Goldfields Bush Poets conduct a concert on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, (excl Dec and Jan) 2pm - 5pm in the Bistro of the White Horse Hotel, California Gully.

Contact Colin 03 5441 2425 a/hrs.

## Festival Organiser Required

### The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival

is held in Winton in June each year and incorporates:

Junior performance competition; Junior Little Swaggies written competition; Waltzing Matilda Male & Female Performance Championships.

Interested persons wishing to take on the Organisers position of this prestigious Festival, should contact:

**The President  
Waltzing Matilda Festival  
P.O. Box 120  
Winton. Qld. 4735**



## VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stratford in Victoria's Gippsland district was the home of the 2003 Victorian Bush Poetry State Championships (October 11 - 12).

And what a weekend it proved to be with festivities actually kicking off on the Thursday before at nearby Maffra with a Bush Poets night run by the Maffra Rotary.

The Gippsland Bush Poets and guest poets, Neil McArthur and Col Milligan kept the large crowd of over 200 in fits of laughter.

Audience crowds were high with around 80/100 at each of the Poets Breakfasts, and over 200 attending the Championships held in the Stratford Mechanics Hall.

### Results:

**Victorian State Championships:**

**Men:** Col Milligan.

Runner-up. Ed Walker. Third. Ric Raftis.

**Ladies:** Jan Lewis.

Runner-up Annette Roberts. Third Betty Walton.

Juniors. Emma Flynt.

Runner-up: Emma Masters  
Encouragement Award: Shane Carstairs.

Open Written Championships:  
Champion: Ed Walker  
Runner-up: Col. Milligan.  
Commended. David Campbell, Laurence Webb and Margaret Glendenning..

Junior Written Championships:  
Champion. Emma Flint.  
Runner-up: Brittnee Boulton.  
Commended: Kirra Boulton.

In the performance sections the Best Contemporary Poem went to: Annette Roberts in the ladies and Ed Walker in the mens.  
The Best Traditional Poems went to Carol Reffold and Colin Milligan.  
Jan Lewis and Colin Milligan won the best Traditional sections and the most inspiring performance of the weekend went to Jan Lewis and Ric Raftis.

Judges for the weekend were Grahame Watt, Sue Gleeson, Neil Hulm and Herb McCrum who had nothing but praise for the high standards of the Championships.  
MC for the weekend was Neil McArthur.

## NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The New South Wales Bush Poetry State Championships were held over the weekend of 17th to 19th October 2003 at Narrandera in the Riverina District.

The competition was organized by Julie Briggs of Narrandera Tourism, and held in the comfort of the Narrandera Services Club.

A 'meet-and-greet' on the Friday evening gave visitors an insight into the weekends activities.

Judging and compering for the weekend was shared between Noel Stallard, Milton Taylor and Frank Daniel with further assistance from three local judges.

### RESULTS:

**NSW Ladies State Champion:**

Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong and  
**NSW Men's State Champion:**

Terry Regan of Blaxland.

The heats of the performance sections were hotly contested with the results as follows;

Ladies Traditional:

1. Carol Heuchan
2. Claire Reynolds - Gloucester
3. Kathy Edwards - Mereweather.

Mens Traditional Section: Terry Regan followed by Ron Stevens of Dubbo and Jim Weatherstone of Calwell ACT.

Ladies Contemporary Section.

- First. Carol Heuchan.
2. Maxine Ireland - Tweed Heads.
  3. Claire Reynolds.

Mens Contemporary Section.

1. Terry Regan.
2. Garry Lowe - Wyong NSW
3. Graeme Johnson - Ryde NSW

Ladies Original Section.

1. Maxine Ireland
  2. Carol Heuchan
  3. Shirley Everingham - Wauchope
- Mens Original Section.

## TAMWORTH 2004

### BUSH POETS BALLADEERS TAMWORTH BOWLING CLUB

The line-up for Bush Poets and Balladeers at the Tamworth Bowling Club during the 2004 Country Music Festival boasts some of Australia's best poets.

All the favourites from the 2003 shows will be back with a selection of new faces.

For some, it will be their first time performing at Tamworth.

The response from Poets and Balladeers alike has been overwhelming with all shows overflowing with quality performers. There are far too many to list here, so check out our posters and the official program at Tamworth.

Having two great shows daily, a 7.30am breakfast and a 10am brunch, the entertainment will be thick and fast, presenting Aussie Bush Humour at its best along with a light hearted look at Australia and its people.

This is a must see show and for anyone who saw one of the 2003 shows, you can rest assured that 2004 will be bigger and better.

Individual, Group or Tour bookings for all shows can be made by contacting

Sam Smyth on 02 6562 6861

1. Terry Regan.
2. Dave Proust - Forrester's Reach.
3. Graeme Johnson.

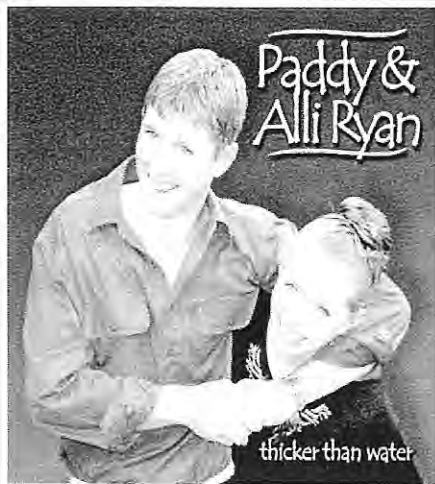
### NOVICE SECTION.

1. Lisa Quast - Narrandera.
  2. David Williams - Benalla
  3. Colin Carrington - Bendigo.
- Junior Section.

1. Jim Proust
2. Peter Proust

### WRITTEN SECTION.

1. Don Adams - New Zealand
2. Graeme Johnson - Ryde NSW
3. Ron Stevens - Dubbo NSW



## UNIQUE DEBUT ALBUM

**Two Talented Young Aussies**

Paddy & Alli Ryan are just nineteen and twenty-one years of age. They are a brother and sister team of 'bush poetry' performers who live on a farm near the village of Duri, twenty minutes south of the country music capital of Tamworth.

Over 300 people turned out at Duri Hall south of Tamworth recently for the launch of Paddy & Alli Ryan's debut album, 'Thicker Than Water'. It was a great show. Nick Erby was the host, ex Duri School Principal Lyn Wright and Tamworth Mayor James Treloar launched the CD officially and it is already the biggest selling CD ever in the history of Duri!

Their debut album, 'Thicker Than Water', with nineteen poems

and one song and incidental music arranged and recorded by the talented Michael Carr, heralds the coming of age of two of the best performers of Aussie verse to be found anywhere.

It is now over ten years since Paddy & Alli entered a poetry competition through their local school and began performing 'bush' poetry in public.

Their first album contains a mix of classics by 'Banjo' Paterson, Henry Lawson and P.J. Hartigan, humorous pieces written by some of the best contemporary 'bush' poets (Col 'Blue The Shearer' Wilson, Grahame Watt, Jim Haynes and Frank Daniel), and some original Ryan verses.

Paddy & Alli have performed throughout Australia at folk festivals and Country Music events. They have been regulars on Jim Haynes' Big Bush Brekky Show at the Tamworth Country Music Festival for many years and are talented and seasoned performers of traditional and original bush verse.

Country Music Broadcaster Nick Erby calls them 'two talented and engaging young people' and says they are definitely committed to taking their love of Bush Verse performing as far as they can.

In 2000 Alli was the youngest performer to ever win the Performance of the Year Award at the prestigious Australian Bush Laureate

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE**

**Annual Subscriptions**

**fall due on**

**December 31st.**

**Annual membership**

**\$30 per annum,**



**PERFORMERS**

**PUBLIC RISK**

**INSURANCE**

**PREMIUMS FALL**

**DUE ON**

**2nd JANUARY 2004.**

**ANNUAL PREMIUMS**

**FOR 2004 - \$ 70.00**

Awards. This debut album is a perfect showcase for the unique talents of two real beautiful young Aussies, it will make you laugh, cry and feel proud of your heritage.

For interviews, copies of the album, or more information contact: SINGABOUT AUSTRALIA mail@jimhaynes.net

Phone. 02 9663 4791

or.....THE RYANS direct on 02 67680381

## NEW FESTIVAL FOR 2004

Plans are well under way for the inaugural Southern Highlands Festival of Bush Poetry to be held in the village of Sutton Forest on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Sutton Forest, near Moss Vale, between Liverpool and Goulburn, just off the Hume Highway, has a rich Scottish heritage with a touch of Irish, a blend of religious beliefs, a few obvious historic buildings, large and mysterious graveyards, beautiful open vistas of farmland, and a wonderful sample of colonial history.

Sutton Forest remains largely un-

spoilt by the excesses of 20th century pressures and population

Two discreet elements will go towards making this festival a memorable event, one that patrons will want to come back to year after year, and that is the blend of bush dancing and music led by fiddler Bob McInness and a rediscovery of the poetry of the Bulletin era. This, coupled with contemporary poetry, bush style, will be a feature.

\$1,000.00 has been set aside to attract poets to an open competition

A 'Drover's Camp' will be set up to supply the best in

camp-oven tucker to which end the organizers have enlisted the help of Helen Riley of Trangie, in western NSW.

Further information will follow in the New Year with contact details etc.





**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bungendore  
Bush Poetry Breakfast and  
Limerick Competition  
Elmslea Homestead Bungendore  
31 January and 1 February 2004**

During the 1994 Bungendore Country Muster two bush poets, Campbell Irving and Mark Thompson came to a shop known as The Light Horse Cottage, to busk.

They told the owners, Miles and Toni Flanagan, how popular poetry had become at other Musters and Festivals and suggested the Flanagans might like to host a Bush Poets Breakfast the following year.

Mark suggested that they contact Frank Daniel to find out how to organize a Breakfast.

"Frank was a great help in arranging that very first event and willingly offered to be Master of Ceremonies for the occasion" says Toni, "He has been the MC every year since."

In 1995 a competition was conducted for adults and children at the breakfast with 8 adults and 3 children competing. A very apprecia-

tive audience of about 150 people gathered on the lawn beside the Cottage. The first Breakfast was a great success.

The Flanagans followed up with another Bush Poets Breakfast at The Light Horse Cottage the next year. The crowd coming to listen to the poetry was much larger, spilling out onto the roadway and making it difficult for passing traffic. It was then decided another venue for future festivals was an absolute necessity.

In 1997 the Bush Poet's Breakfast was held at Elmslea Homestead, under the beautiful old elm trees with another competition incorporated as well. The stage was the tray of a wagon pulled onto the grounds by two lovely Clydesdales.

This was the last of the competitions as so many poets had told Miles and Toni that they felt this format stopped many budding poets from getting up on stage to 'have a go'. From then on everyone had an opportunity to recite and it helped to reduce the nervous pressure.

Miles and Toni recall seeing 'so many poets come regularly to the Elmslea Bush Poetry Weekend who have gone on from being very nervous novices to accomplished poets who now perform and MC events all over the country'.

In 1998 the Bush Poets Breakfast was extended to a two day event. Frank Daniel, Milton Taylor and Blue the Shearer also spent the Friday before the weekend at the Bungendore Primary School helping the kids to write and recite Bush Po-

etry. Frank, Blue and Milton also conducted the first of the Saturday afternoon Poetry Workshops which are now a regular event on the weekend calendar.

In 2001 Miles and Toni built the Elmslea Pavilion and it was officially opened on the Bush Poetry weekend by the then State MP Peter Webb, a Bush Poet himself. They also introduced a Limerick Competition which added another dimension to the event. The Pavilion has been the focus for the Bush Poetry ever since.

From humble beginnings at The Light Horse Cottage, Elmslea now has over 40 poets reciting at the Poet's Breakfasts with audiences of over 400 people treated to succulent breakfasts served up by members of the Queanbeyan Bush Poets.

The Flanagans are looking forward to 2004 Bush Poetry Breakfast where Frank Daniel, Blue the Shearer, Milton Taylor, Arch Bishop, Viv Sawyer and 'Us Not Them' will entertain from 8am each day along with many other poets.

The welcome mat is always out at Elmslea, and all are invited to come along and help Miles and Toni celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bush Poetry and Limerick Competition on Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Jan and 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2004 at Elmslea Homestead, Bungendore, NSW.

For more information please call Toni Flanagan on 02 62381651 or email [elmslea@elmslea.com.au](mailto:elmslea@elmslea.com.au).

They're looking forward to seeing you in Bungendore.

**NARRANDERA NSW  
JOHN O'BRIEN BUSH FESTIVAL  
Another very successful festival celebrating its tenth anniversary is the increasingly popular John O'Brien Bush Festival held in Narrandera around 'Paddy's Day' each year.**

The five days of celebrations start with an 'Around the Boree Log' luncheon with Noel Stallard

on St. Patrick's Day, a children's stage show and an Irish-Australian Trivia night.

Thursday afternoon is a chance to 'meet the locals' at the visitors centre and view the art exhibition that night.

The Englishman and the Scotsman's wife, Colin Mockett and Shirley Power head up a long list of Irish and National entertainers.

On Friday the John O'Brien Bush Poetry Competition will be held at the Services Club. Poets Breakfasts follow on Saturday and Sunday with parades, bush dancing and a 'Bush Culture Concert'.

Details about the festival and the competition will be elaborated on in the next issue.

Contact Julie Briggs for more info. Phone. 1800 672 392

# FROM THE WEST

Rusty Christensen, President of the Western Australian Bush Poets and Yarn-spinners Association Inc. sends a message of greetings to his friends in Bush Poetry.

Rusty says 'with the approach of the festive season we are reminded that another year is looming and 2004 promises to be a momentous year for our art form - Bush Poetry'.

With time being the traveller that it is, those who haven't started planning should spare a thought for Perth in October.

'At this time there is only a shade over ten months before the Nationals', quotes Rusty, 'the time for procrastinating is over and positive planning is the next stage'.

The National Championships will be held in Perth, Western Australia in October 2004, and for the first time ever in a Capital City - certainly a big step forward for Bush Poetry and Bush Poets alike.

Word has it that the WA Government could recognise the Australian Championships by declaring a 'Bush Poetry Week', adding greatly to the promotion of the championships and the ABPA.

This, no doubt, comes from the interest and enthusiasm which is building among our band of believers in the West who are eagerly looking forward to the opportunity to host the bush poets when making their "Poetry Pilgrimage" to Perth next year.

'Meanwhile', says Rusty, 'keep enjoying your poetry, be you a writer, performer or listener - the world is short of listeners! From the Bush Poetry fraternity here in the 'REAL WEST' the Compliments of the Season to you and your families - we look forward to giving you a BIG TIME in October 2004.



(And from WA Secretary Rod Lee).

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships are now firmly in the minds of those interested in Bush Poetry in WA.

We have booked the "Regal Theatre" for the Friday and Saturday (29th & 30th October 2004). This will be the venue for most of the heats, the finals and two production performances on the Friday and Saturday nights.

The Regal is a heritage listed theatre in the suburb of Subiaco. It is within walking distance of the Perth CBD and Kings Park, which is one of Perth's major tourist attractions.

Kerry & I will be in Tamworth for the duration of the event.

Please track us down with any queries you have about Perth or the Championships.

Bookings have already started with 1 x 3 bedroom unit 3 x powered sites & 1 x un-powered site booked so keep them coming.

[Note: Rod and Kerrie Lee can be found during their appearances at the Longyard, the Oasis and the Imperial Hotels during Tamworth's Country Music Week.]

# TOOWOOMBA COUNTRY MUSIC BREAKOUT

Once again the Toowoomba Qld Country Music Breakout is on at Toowoomba Showgrounds 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

This year's featured Poet will be Murray Hartin, who will join host Marco Gliori along with Shirley Friend and Ray Essery.

The weekend promises to be another giant success, with Poets Breakfasts on both the Saturday and Sunday Mornings.

Sunday morning brings a great opportunity for up and coming Poets, or guest Poets to perform at the Breakfast - those wishing to make an appearance should contact Marco on 07 4661 4024 for details.

The festival is shaping up to be busy with emerging artists, blues/rock stages, a Country and Western Ball, and the likes of Troy Cassar-Daley, and Melinda Schneider featuring on main stage.

For further information and to book tickets contact Gordon Stone on [gstone@bigpond.com](mailto:gstone@bigpond.com) Telephone 07 4639 3366 ....

Visit [www.bushpoety.com.au](http://www.bushpoety.com.au)  
The official homepage of the  
ABPA  
since 1995.

## Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

### NOTICE

In accordance with Rule 15 for Incorporated Association, nominations are requested for the election of Office Bearers of the Association, or as ordinary members of the Committee.

Nominations must be in writing, signed by two members of the Association, and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

Nominations must be delivered to the Secretary of the Association at least seven (7) days before the date fixed for the AGM at which the election is to take place.

Nomination forms are available on request or may be in letter form stating the names and addresses of the Nominee, the Nominator and the Secunder, along with signatures.

Please post to Secretary, ABPA Edward Parmenter. 1 Avenue St. Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

## THROUGH THE HEAD 1918, 2003

© Ron Stevens Dubbo NSW.

Winner. Coo-ee March Section, Gilgandra 02003

I trust that Captain Holman told the truth,  
reporting on the dead Gilgandra youth.  
The letter to the soldier's father tells  
that death was instantaneous, and dwells  
upon the 45th battalion's loss;  
discloses young Maguire's graveyard cross  
stands guard beside the Anliens-Albert  
rail line, upon a scarred embankment there.

Such details, visions flow between the lines  
of this old document, as bullet whines  
disturb Gilgandra's restful RSL,  
where now I'm shocked by shell on crumping shell.  
Did Laurie's father fear less sudden death  
for his brave boy? The lung-consuming breath  
of mustard gas? Slow-drowned in shell-hole mire?  
Or trapped and tortured, riddled on barbed wire?

This letter's one of thousands from *the war  
to end all wars* and none of which, I'm sure,  
would read 'your son's been blown to bloody bits  
to gain a poisoned yard for brass nitwits.  
' Compassion, loyalty and censorship  
combined to stay so dinki-di a scrip  
and next-of-kin remained assured their dead  
had fallen swiftly, nobly, ably led.

The three score years and fifteen more are lost  
in space and Laurie's father counts war's cost  
as now again he reads, re-reads and reads  
once more this letter, finally concedes  
the force of... rifle bullet through the head' –  
that curly head he'd cheered when marshalls led  
the Coo-ees out of Gil', before advance  
to Sydney, Egypt, then the hell of France.

So how to ease Mister Maguire's pain?  
The letter's current readers, I explain  
to him, appreciate your sacrifice  
and Laurie's too, of course; the awful price  
of World War One, which leads them on to view  
the glassed-in photographs of World War Two,  
Gilgandra's RSL will never let  
the Coo-ees down or void *Lest We Forget*.

I've taken Captain Holman at his word  
but truth today is often slanted, blurred  
by euphemism, coded *friendlyfire*,  
*collateral*, *strategically retire*.  
The Cooees always called a spade a spade,  
were honest, innocent at first, afraid  
with cause but bravely facing tasks ahead,  
including random bullets through the head.

## COO-EE

### GILGANDRA

Friday night, 3rd October, saw the Gilgandra  
Bowling Club Auditorium packed for the Coo-ee Fes-  
tival Poetry Night.

Local performers alongside better known ABPA  
members entertained the audience with above average  
original and traditional works. Musical arrangements  
were provided by local and Dubbo based musicians.

The written Poetry Competition once again at-  
tracted entrants from every state as well as from New  
Zealand.

Adjucicator, Mr. Peter Hanbury, commented on  
the high quality of the entries which made judging  
quite difficult, and that a number of entries in each  
section stood a good chance of winning prizes else-  
where.

Results of the Coo-ee Festival Poetry Competition  
are:

Coo-ee March: 1. Ron Stevens Dubbo, *'Through the  
Head 1918, 2003'* 2. Brian Beesley, Cherrybrook,  
*'Castlereagh'* 3. Ron Stevens *'Searching in the  
Hitchem House Museum'*.

The *'Fresh Water'* section was won by Adrienne  
Smith followed by Frances Hackney and Ron Ste-  
vens.

**Humorous Poetry:** First and Second to Ron Stevens  
followed by Caroline Aldridge-Alfonsetti.

**Open:** Brian Beesley from Ellis Campbell and Vera  
Hepple.

**High School:** Jessica Camlin with Bonnie Vagg tak-  
ing out second and third places.

**Primary School:** Caitlin McCutcheon, Ayrton King  
and Charlotte Egan.

## WELCOME BACK OLD FRIEND

© Mavis Appleyard - 2003

When there is a drought, there never was a coubt  
That an old man would always help us out.  
But, alas, there were some pollies,  
noted for their follies  
Said to put that tough old man to rout.

But with hindsight and science  
and showing some defiance,  
Some cockies showed their individual flair.  
They worked out their needs and starting with seeds  
Replanted old man salt bush everywhere.

**VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004**  
**February 21st to 22nd.**

## Valour Rode the Range

by Ellis Campbell -  
Winning poem in the Billy Mateer  
Written competition 2003.

### DORRIGO IN FOCUS

Dorrigo was clearly in the sights of the North Coast Poets for the weekend of November 1st. Twenty six accomplished bush poets gathered from the length and breadth of the N.S.W. North Coast to attend this year's Dorrigo Roundup.

The weekend began with Milton Taylor's poetry writing workshop on the Saturday morning. Twenty attended and were delighted with the flow of knowledge and skills that Milton so generously imparted.

That afternoon over twenty poets had the opportunity to perform before an audience that packed the Bowling Club. Milton Taylor was feature poet and compere, and as usual gave masterful performances that thrilled the crowd. While this is not a competitive event the following poets received a bag of potatoes and a pumpkin as reward for best audience response: - Gabby Colquhoun, Reid Begg, Ray Halliday and Cay Fletcher. A dinkum country afternoon tea complimented the feast of poetry everybody enjoyed.

A barbeque that evening gave most of the poets a good mingling sensation and prepared them for the Poets Breakfast the next day.

Over 100 people feasted on a scrumptious hot breakfast and a banquet of poetry from Milton Taylor and all the supporting poets.

It's fair to say that everybody went home from a resplendant weekend of fun and friendship. Dorrigo was the throbbing heart of Bush Poetry that weekend and this was by far the best Roundup since it's inception 5 years ago.

Thanks to Milton Taylor and everybody who attended and contributed to the event's success with special mention for the generous support from Country Energy.

Plans are already being nailed down to enhance the 2004 Roundup and expand the opportunities for greater Poets' participation.

Look out for the Dorrigo Bush Poets' Roundup around September next year.

## VALOUR RODE THE RANGE

At Esk in eighteen-ninety-three the local people saw  
a legends tale created by the fickle whim of Thor.

A sultry sun beamed humidly, portending vague unrest;  
the listless birds in languid trees sat perched with head on breast.  
Lethargic stock lay panting from the heat in scanty shade;  
persistent flies in thousands droned and launched a fierce tirade.

The black clouds rolled in fury, scowling from a fuming sky;  
the tree-tops wavered in the wind - a curlew wailed its cry.  
The lightning rent the Heavens while the thunder boomed its wrath -  
the water-courses gurgled with a swirl of foaming froth.  
All night the drumming rain streamed down - a never ending roar;  
till creeks and gullies burst their banks as never seen before.

The second of two mighty floods - and just two weeks apart  
brought damage quite horrific as they watched with sinking heart.  
For miles the muddy water spread - a turgid, surging stain;  
dislodging logs and hapless trees to swirl in frenzied chain.  
And daylight brought no yearned respite from storm clouds' sullen frown;  
relentlessly from leaden skies the rain kept tumbling down.

Alarm began to spread at Esk that February day -  
this was no ordinary flood that swept so much away.  
Caboonbah Stations manager one Henry Somerset,  
became concerned about the flood that hadn't peaked as yet.  
He realised that Brisbane faced disaster very soon  
all unaware a crisis loomed before the morrow's noon.

The lines were down at Esk by then, compounding Henry's fears  
the old hands claimed they'd never seen such floods in all their years.  
By chance "Dalgangal" stockman, Bill Mateer, was there that day  
and volunteered to swim the flood and try to find a way.  
Then Henry said to Bill Mateer - a stockman of renown.  
"You ride to warn the Brisbane folk that floods are coming down.

"You'll have to go to North Pine, mate, to get a message through,  
It's close on forty miles - I think - the job is up to you.  
You take the big bay Lunatic and Oracle as well;  
the going will be pretty rough - your horse will need a spell."  
And Billy did not question him, or pause for more discourse;  
that Friday at Caboonbah yard he strode to catch a horse.

A sodden, dreary monning - just a little after eight -  
when Billy mounted Lunatic outside the stockyard gate.  
And leading Oracle he rode into the driving sleet  
while Somerset prepared the boat for this amazing feat.  
Avoiding Stanley River's might they took the combined one,  
and led both horses from the boat - a plan that came undone.

While Lunatic swam staunchly on to go where he was led  
the chestnut Oracle took fright, escaped and quickly fled.  
Despite the constant hazards' threat they reached the other side  
and Billy mounted Lunatic to start his famous ride.  
The big bay's shoulder quivered from confusion and the rain  
he ground the bit between his teeth and shook his heavy mane.

He swung into a gallop with a free and easy bound -  
his hard hooves floundered often on the heavy, spongy ground.  
Far from ancestors coppiced woods and fields of yellowed gorse  
brave Lunatic affirmed the worth of English Hunting Horse.  
His game ears pricked he ploughed ahead, to slip and slide again -  
with snorting breath and thudding heart he braved the daunting rain.

The gallant rider stared ahead and held a steady rein -  
to guide his sturdy mount with care across the rough terrain.

They reached the first of many creeks – a vast expanse of foam that lashed defenceless trees and banks - destroying precious loam. Game Lunatic just snorted once, then heard his rider speak; he plunged into the swirling foam of flooded Reedy Creek.

And Billy rode as bushman will to help his gallant horse – prepared to swim behind his mount to lessen current's force. Courageous rider and his steed defied the torrent's might to safely reach the other side and keep a hope alight. Then up toward Mount Pleasant's peak the plucky bay climbed through the ragged rocks and wombat holes where heavy timber grew.

He floundered on with heaving sides and nothing much to change this rugged course until he topped the steep D'Aguilar Range. But Lunatic forged strongly on and never changed his course; while Billy stroked the rangy neck to calm his gallant horse. They reached the peak and Billy reined the great steed to a stop – five minutes blow he'd surely earned while they were on the top.

For sliding down the other side was daunting still - and slow – an injury might well occur on loosened rocks below. While Billy looked around the scrub that decked the range's dome brave Lunatic stood panting there, his huge chest flecked with foam. A word from Bill and he stepped forth to brave that daunting scope; his iron shod hooves struck sparks from rocks that slithered down the slope.

By riders skill and horse's pluck they tamed the steep terrain where joyous frogs in marshy swamps croaked out their blithe refrain. Across the sodden countryside the big bay Lunatic kept to a steady gallop though the scrub was sometimes thick. Each flooded creek he gamely crossed, despite the current's drag the water soaked Mateer's old strides, his boots and saddlebag.

And onward still the mighty heart of Lunatic beat true, through miles of boggy pasture land - where stunted suckers grew he floundered to another creek, responding to the reins; a credit to the "Kelpie" blood that surged his pulsing veins. Though growing tired he forged ahead with loping strides that count, and Bill Mateer alone there knew the courage of his mount.

Beside the winding North Pine River many miles he rode; though treacherous in many parts the big bay rarely slowed. Then veering right across the hills toward the North Pine goal with thudding heart the gallant steed assayed each greasy knoll. Instincts of man and beast combined to best the fearsome odds; a bushman and courageous horse against the weather gods.

At last the town appeared to Bill - a welcome sight indeed great Lunatic had proved to all the mettle of his breed. His lathered sides were heaving and he breathed in gasping snorts; his fetlocks bruised and bleeding from the logs and vicious quartz. The sweat oozed from his foam flecked flanks to drip upon the ground – As open mouthed the local folk in wonder grouped around.

Then to the railway station Billy raced past startled staff – to issue his grim warning by electric telegraph. His effort surely helped to save both property and life and justified to everyone brave Billy's pain and strife. A century - plus ten - of years have passed since Billy's ride, but still his exploits are relayed with pioneering pride.

Foresight of Henry Somerset and pluck of Bill Mateer are now eclipsed by mists of time and facts not always clear. Apart from his concerned forethought the artful boating skills of Somerset was. Vital – as the record now instils. Perhaps his wisdom, too, was sound when Henry chose to pick that gallant stockman Billy and the great horse Lunatic.



## MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

1st to 4th April 2004  
(Before Easter)

Since 1995 and the Centenary Celebrations of the publication of 'The Man From Snowy River and other Verses' by AB 'Banjo' Paterson, the Corryong community has celebrated this old master and his poem with a unique 'Challenge' horse competition, set in 'real scenery' with dinki-di bush folk and a plethora of Australian Bush Poetry and novelty displays.

Corryong is a lovely little town where everyone is friendly and visitors warm to the atmosphere of the celebrations without hesitation.

The annual festival combines horsemanship, poetry and music. Jack Riley is central to the festival and most of it revolves around him, his memory or his alleged feats (some believe he was the 'man' in the poem).

The Poetry and Music program keeps to Aussie 'Bush' theme alive and \$4000 prizemoney is offered across 15 sections of written & performed poetry, song, yarn, drama. Entries for the competitions close at the end of February. Poetry and Music Entry forms will be posted out in December to those listed on the database. To be added to the database phone the Festival Office 02 6076 1992 email [mfsrbf@corryongcec.net.au](mailto:mfsrbf@corryongcec.net.au)

## A TASTE OF COWBOY POETRY

By Jim Haynes.  
(Cont'd from October issue).

**Bruce Kiskaddon** is an interesting poet from an Australian point of view because he lived and worked here for a few years in the early 1920s. He was born in 1878 and worked as a young man as a cowboy in Arizona and Colorado. His first poetry was published in 1924 not long after he returned from working on cattle stations in Australia. He worked as a stunt rider in Hollywood and even drove a chariot in the silent version of Ben Hur in 1926. He was also quite a private man and little is known of his later life. He lived in Los Angeles and made a living writing verse for western magazines and working in the stockyards. He died in 1950.

Kiskaddon is best known for his realistic, but often sentimental, verse about ranch life. His poetry has been made popular again by the cowboy entertainer Waddie Mitchell and his best-known poem by far is 'When They Finish Shipping Cattle In The Fall', here is an extract:

Though you're not exactly blue,  
Yet you don't feel like you do  
In the winter,  
                                or the long hot summer days.  
For your feelings and the weather  
Seem to sort of go together,  
And you're quiet  
                                in the dreary autumn haze.  
When you make the camp at night,  
Though the fire is burnin' bright,  
Yet nobody  
                                seems to have a lot to say.  
In the spring you sung and hollered,  
Now you get your supper swallered  
And you crawl  
                                into your blankets right  
away.  
Then you watch the stars a shinin'  
Up there in the soft blue linin'  
And you sniff  
                                the frosty night air clear and cool.  
You can hear the night horse shiftin'  
And your memory starts a driftin'  
To that little village

                                where you went to school.  
With its narrow gravel street  
And the kids you used to meet,  
And the common  
                                where you used to play baseball.  
But now you're far away  
                                and draggin'  
To the home ranch with the wagon  
When they finish  
                                shipping cattle in the fall.

And your childhood sweetheart too,  
With her eyes of honest blue,  
Best performer  
                                in the home town talent show.  
You was nothing but a kid,  
But you liked her, sure you did,  
Lord!  
But that was over thirty years ago.

Then them winters at the ranches,  
And the old time country dances,  
Everybody there  
                                was sociable and gay.  
Used to lead 'em down the middle  
Just a prancin' to the fiddle,  
Never thought  
                                of going home till break of day.

No there ain't no chance of sleepin'  
When the memories come a  
creepin'  
And sometimes  
                                you think you hear the voices call;  
When a feller starts a draggin'  
To the home ranch with the wagon -  
When they finish  
                                shipping cattle in the fall.

**Curley Fletcher** is best known for writing the classic cowboy poem about the unrideable horse, 'The Strawberry Roan', a pretty ugly customer ....

Down in the horse corral standing  
alone  
There's an old *caballo*, \* a straw-  
berry roan.  
His legs are all spavined, he's got  
pigeon toes  
Little pig eyes and big Roman nose.

Little pin ears that touch at the tip  
A double square iron brand stamped  
on his hip  
Ewe-necked and old with a long  
lower jaw  
I can see with one eye he's a reg'lar

outlaw!  
(\*Spanish *caballo* pronounced 'ka buyo' = horse)

Curley's description of being bucked off is a classic... He hits on all fours and he goes up on high,  
Then I'm sittin' on nothin' way up in the sky.

I turns over twice and I comes back to earth  
And I starts into cussin' the day of his birth!

Fletcher never received proper recognition or royalties for 'The Strawberry Roan' for many years. He also worked as a stuntman and cowboy extra in early Hollywood westerns.

More recent cowboy poets have written about more varied topics.

**Carlos Ashley** is a third generation rancher and farmer from Texas. He was also a State Senator and District Attorney. (I reckon he is a 'real' bush poet because he writes about horse racing among other things.) Here's a short poem of his about small town pride.

### 'Duty'

If our home town needs improving,  
As they all most surely do,  
Well, that's you and you and you  
and me -  
We need improving, too.  
For a town's the folks that's in it,  
And we write upon the scroll;  
And the record we have written  
there  
Reflects our very soul.  
So we owe a solemn duty  
To our neighbours and our friends  
To do our home town honor  
And to serve her noblest ends.  
It's a whole lot more important  
Than vain glory or renown  
Just to be the kind of feller  
Who does something for his town.

**Wally McRae** is a rancher from Montana who captures the stoic nature and dry humour of the typical westerner in his verse. He has appeared on his own Television series and visited Australia in 1991 to perform some shows with Paul Zarsy-sky, Waddie Mitchell and a Texan singer called R. W. Hampton, for



## WEDDERBURN FESTIVAL

More great news!! The Wedderburn (Victoria) Festival Committee has decided to incorporate a Bush Poetry Competition as part of its 2004 festival.

It will be known as the Rusty Nail Bush Poetry Competition and will be held on February 28th. The festival will be held over the weekend of the 28th and 29th February and the Competition will be conducted on the Saturday afternoon under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

On the Sunday morning the festival will continue on with its tradi-

tional Bush Poets Breakfast. Prizemoney is as follows.

1st Prize - \$400 cash and trophy  
2nd Prize - \$200 cash and trophy  
3rd Prize - \$100 cash and trophy  
Poems can be contemporary or original.

Entry to the competition is FREE, but poets will have to pay admittance to the Festival itself. Admission prices are \$12 per adult for the entire festival weekend.

Entry forms are available from Ric Raftis and in order to ensure that every performance is different, entries will be treated on a first in, first served basis.

SSAE - Ric Raftis  
37 St. Arnaud Road  
Wedderburn Vic 3518

## GRENFELL NSW HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL OF ARTS Inc.

An invitation has been extended to all writers to participate in the 2004 Short Story and Verse Competition with senior and junior sections.

Prizemoney totals \$2,150.00 with two statuettes sculptured by Michael Mandelc.

Entries close on 12th March 2004 and entry forms are available from (SSAE) Mrs. Marion Knapp  
P.O. Box 77 Grenfell NSW 2810

[www.henrylawsonfestival.asn.au](http://www.henrylawsonfestival.asn.au)

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep.  
You are richer than 75% of this world.

which it was my pleasure to be the compere. His best known poem by far is this one:

### 'Reincarnation'

"What does reincarnation mean?"  
A cowpoke asked his friend.  
His pal replied, "It happens when  
Your life has reached its end.  
They comb yer hair, they wash yer neck,  
And clean yer fingernails,  
And lay you in a padded box  
Away from life's travails.

"The box and you goes in a hole  
That's been dug in the ground.  
Reincarnation starts in when  
You're planted 'neath a mound.  
them clods melt down, just like yer box,  
And you who is inside,  
And then yer just beginning  
On yer transformation ride.

"In a while the grass'll grow  
Upon yer rendered mound,  
Till some day on yer moldered grave  
A lonely flower is found.  
And say a hoss should wander by  
And graze upon this flower

That once wuz you, but now's become  
Yer vegetative bower.

"The posy that the horse done ate up  
With his other feed,  
Makes bone, and fat, and muscle,  
Essential to the steed.  
But some is left that he can't use  
And so it passes through,  
And finally lays upon the ground;  
This thing that once was you.

"Then say by chance I wanders by  
And sees this on the ground,  
And I ponders, and I wonders  
At this object that I found,  
Then, I thinks of reincarnation,  
Of life, and death, and such,  
And I come away concludin': Slim,  
You ain't changed all that much! "

There are many other great cowboy poets past and present. Gail L. Gardiner, Baxter Black, Buck Ramsey, Waddie Mitchell and many others.

I also should have mentioned the great Canadian poet, Robert Service (1874 -1958) whose poems such as 'The Shooting of Dan McGrew' were hugely popular from the 1920s

through to the 1960s. Although he was born in Scotland, Service emigrated to Canada, spent time in the Yukon, and was a very successful writer of rhymed verse. In the 1920s and 1930s the three best known poets in the British Empire were Rudyard Kipling, Banjo Paterson and Robert Service.

Well, I have gone way over my word limit and haven't even started to get warm! So do yourself a favour and read some Robert Service, Badger Clark, Baxter Black, Paul Zarsysky or any other cowboy poetry you can find, I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

As Michael Riley said a few years ago in *Time Magazine*, "Most cowboy poems speak of real events and people from bucking horses to cagey cows to old Stetson hats and long winter travels. Although they focus on the ordinary stuff of life, their truths seem no less eternal than those penned by William Shakespeare. Some cowboy poems are bust-a-gut funny, some are downright dirty and most carry an honest, primitive power."

He might have been talking about Aussie Bush poetry, mightn't he?

## Regular Monthly Events

### NEW SOUTH WALES:

**TUGGERAH** Lakes 1st Tues. Tuggerah Leagues Club. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972

**TWEED HEADS** Each Tues. Library Meeting Room. Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

**KATOOMBA** - 2nd Mon. Parakeet Café Katoomba. 7 pm. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119

**HUNTER** Bush Poets. 2nd Tues. 7 pm, Tarro Hotel. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751

**DORRIGO** 2nd Wed. April, June, August, October. Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139

**TAMWORTH** Poetry Reading Group. 2nd Thurs. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067

**KEMPSEY** 2nd Sat. Hastings Macleay Bush Poets. Phone Rod 02 65813161 or Janice 02 6581 3552

**GRAFTON** Last Tues. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772

**INVERELL** 4th Wed. 7.30 pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425

**QUEANBEYAN** 4th Thurs. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891

**YOUNGSTREET POETS** Writer's Centre Rozelle Ph. Winifred Weir 02 9971 6206

**MID-COAST** Sundowners - 2nd Last Mon. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389

**GOSFORD** Bush Poets - Last Tues. Gosford Hotel - Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590

**KANGAROO VALLEY** Last Frid. Folk Music Club. Carl Leddy 02 4465 1621 re venue.

**TWEED HEADS** Each Sunday 9am Pioneer Country Venue. Graeme Brunckhorst. Ph. 07 55246668

### QUEENSLAND:

**TOWNSVILLE** Each Wed. 7.30 pm Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa - Phil Heang 07 4773 4223

**MAPLETON** 1st Thur. Mapleton Hotel - 8.30pm Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263

**EUMUNDI** 1st Sat. Eumundi Markets in Courtyard. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991

**BUNDABERG** Poets. 2nd. Sat. 1.30 pm - Jim 07 4152 9624 - Sandy 07 4151 4631 - Marilyn 07 4154 1663

**KILCOY** 1st & 3rd Wed. Motor Inn - Hope Street. 7.30 p.m. Robyn 07 54 971 100 - Pat 07 54 971 458

**NORTH PINE** 1st & 3rd Sun. Country Markets, 9 am Dad & Dave's 07 3285 2845 - 3886 1552

**GYMPIE** Golden Pen Poets. 2nd & 4th Thurs Old Gympie Town Hall. 7 pm. Phil Morrison, 07 4773 4223

**REDLANDS** Poets .3rd Tues. Vivienne 07 38244038 - Elaine 32452114

**WOODFORD** 3rd Sun. 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157

**SHORNCLIFFE** -3rd Mon. 7.30 pm - Café on Park - Anne 07 3869 1282

**CHARTERS TOWERS** 3rd. Wed. Caravan Park 10.30am. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Mary 4787 7944 Harry 07 4787 3211

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**WILUNGA** - 3rd Wed. SA Bush Poets. 7.30 pm, Alma Pub Long Room. Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788

**WHYALLA** Writers Group. Last Tues. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

### VICTORIA

**CORRYONG** Top of the Murray Poets and Story Tellers Corryong - Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332

**KYABRAM** Bush Poets. 1st Mon./2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097

**GIPPSLAND** Bush Poets. Times vary. Rosedale Hotel. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

**MELBOURNE - ARVOS** Bush Poetry. 1st Sun. Warrandyte - Grand Hotel 2pm. Ph. Laurence Webb 0438 872 653

**BENDIGO** Goldfields Poets. 4th Sun. Whitehorse Hotel - California Gully. Colin Carrington 03 5441 2425

**MELBOURNE.** Henry Lawson Memorial Society. 2pm 3rd Sat. Monastery Hall 326 Lonsdale St. Ph. 03 9592 0780

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**CANNING BRIDGE** - 1st Frid. WA 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel - Michelle Sorrell 08 9367 4963 msorrell@inet.net.au

**MARGARET RIVER.** Last Thur. 7pm Community Centre. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431

## **WALLA NEWS**

The thirteenth annual Walla Walla Heritage Festival was hailed as another success for the small southern NSW township situated 50 kays north of Albury and the Victorian border.

With a population of just 700, Walla Walla is steeped in history with the district being first settled in 1834, ten years after Hume and Hovell passed through the area, blazing the trail from Sydney to Port Phillip.

Walla Walla was the name of a large pastoral holding, which was opened up for smaller settlers with the passing of the Robertson Land Act in 1861, and it was to this area that many German families from South

Australia (where they had been finding it difficult to buy good land) arrived by wagon train settling in the surrounding area. These immigrants left Germany to escape religious persecution.

The township is fiercely proud of its heritage, which is exemplified in its festival held each November.

The Walla Walla Wagon Wheel written competition was won by Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong NSW with 'Cruising'.

The Junior written section went to Jessica Wilson for her poem 'The Stockhorse'.

Frank Daniel, on his second visit to Walla Walla conducted the yarn spinning and bush poetry.

## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 3 **PALMA ROSA. Brisbane.** Mark Tempany, Carmel Dunn and Stuart Nivison. Ph. 3262 3769 3268 3624

Dec. 9 **Bush Poets Competition and Breakfasts. Young NSW. Ph. Greg Broderick. 02 6382 2506**

### **January 2004 - TAMWORTH NSW.**

16-25 Traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts - Longyard Hotel - with Frank Daniel and a long list of Champions.

16-25 Tamworth Bowling Club with Sam Smythe and friends.

19-24 The Oasis Hotel with Carol Reffold - Australian Outback Entertainment.

19-23 Tamworth Golf Club features the Naked Poets  
Tamworth Golf Club - Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry.

16-25 RSL Club - Jim Haynes Big Bush Brekky

16-25 Wests Leagues Club - The Best Bloody Bush Poets Breakfast with Grant Luhrs

20 Australian Bush Laureate - Tamworth Town Hall. Bookings. 02 6755 4300

24 The Geoffrey Graham Show - North Tamworth Bowling club: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 4.30 to 6.00 pm

### **Jan 25 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ABPA.**

Jan 31 Feb 1. **10th Annual Bush Poets Gathering - Elmslea Bungendore NSW** with Frank Daniel Ph. 02 6238 1651

Feb 6-8 **Whittlesea V. Country Music Festival.**

Feb 28 Closing date. **Midlands Literary Competition.** Short Story, Poetry etc. SSAE POB 1563 Ballarat V. 3354

Feb 28 Rusty Nails Bush Poetry Competition. SSAE Ric Raftis. 37 St. Arnaud Road Wedderburn Vic 3518

March 17 - 21. **10th Anniversary John O'Brien Bush Festival & Competition - Narrandera NSW.**

March 26 - 28 **Dunedoo NSW Bush Poetry competitions and yarn-spinning.** SSAE - PO Box 1 Dunedoo 2844

June 18-20 **Charters Towers Festival of Bush Poetry.** Ph. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Mary 07 4787 7944 - 07 4787 3211.

June 27 **Mt Larcom Poets Breakfasts and competition.** Sec. Mt Larcom Show Society, P.O. Box 49, Mt Larcom 4695.

June **Grenfell NSW - Henry Lawson Festival.**

June **Winton Qld. Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Competition.**

### **OCTOBER 2004 AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

## **ADVERTISIN RATES TO APPLY IN 2004 — SEE BACK OF COVER SHEET**

### **PAULINE**

© Brian Bell - Glenbrook NSW

Pauline's had her day in court,  
and now there's time to work out why  
the jury said she must be taught  
that politicians must not lie!

We harp on how justice is futile today -  
that crook politicians have emptied the  
cup,  
but here in Australia we're going OK -  
we've got one political leader locked up!  
If you believe that there ought to be three,  
pray for some justice beyond GST

People say Howard's a low-level chump,  
referring to Government rorts -  
recently Woomera looks like a dump,  
but soon there'll be glowing reports!  
(Crean wants to shout about acting in  
haste  
reckons detention will soon be a waste.)

Remember, when putting another soul  
down,  
how lucky you are to be able to frown.

While looking for something more useful  
to do,  
be thankful not everyone's perfect like  
you!

What's the verdict on Hick's trial?  
Will the military go too far?  
Will they offer his normal rights?  
A telephone call and a last cigar?

Paul and Mary had enough.  
Apalling news, without a doubt.  
We reckoned they'd run out of Puff!  
But no, it seems they Petered out.

We watched Alan Fels interceding,  
his fists kinda set for a fight.  
But the watchdog who's finished his feed-  
ing  
showed his bark to be worse than his bite.

To deal with Ms Hansen, the slush fund  
was fat,  
and that's where democracy fails.  
If all the crook pollies were treated like  
that,  
we'd have to build too many jails!

### **Thank you to the following subscribers to this issue:**

Marco Gliori, Carol Ref-  
fold, Murray Suckling,  
Sam Smythe, Jack &  
Stella Drake, Ric Raftis,  
Colin Carrington, Gary  
Fogarty, Erica Nade-  
baum, Jim Haynes, Ed  
Parmenter, Julie Briggs,  
Jan Lewis, Rusty Chris-  
tensen, Toni Flanagan,  
Leanie Renton, Sue  
Gleeson, Reg Phillips,  
Rod Lee.

*Merry Christmas  
And a  
Happy New Year*

## THE STOCKHORSE

By Jessica Wilson.  
Grade 6. Winner, Walla Walla  
Junior Written Competiton.

The stockhorse gallops through the field,  
Free from it's yard at last.  
The morning air whipped it's face,  
Dragging the fence to which it was cast.

What was that noise, the drover thought,  
And when he reached the door  
He saw the fence was all torn up,  
The stockhorse gone forevermore.

He could not follow the poor old beast,  
He sat down lost in thought.  
He started to think and he remembered,  
What he had been taught.

If you love someone truly,  
Then you should set them free.  
If I was loved by her,  
She'll come back just for me.

The next morn, just as he had thought  
The old girl had come back home.  
From then on in he made sure,  
From here she would not roam.

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## DUNEDOO'S "GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC"

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Written Bush Verse  
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Three Sections

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

Closing date 6th. February 2004

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)

## GRANNY SMITH, MIDWIFE

© Mavis Appleyard. 2003

No saddle on his pony  
No boots upon his feet,  
As young Tom came madly  
Gallop down the street.

He jerked to a sudden stop  
And called out from the gate  
'Mum needs Granny's help  
Come quick or we'll be late

Me dad's still droving, he ain't home  
'cept for us kids, Mum's all alone'.  
Sulky readied, pack the bag  
With scissors, tape and sterile rag.

Twelve miles along a bumpy track,  
Found Mum leaning heavily on the back  
Of a kitchen chair, with kids all round.  
She looked up with relief profound.

She'd been lonely, worried and scared  
Til Granny arrived all prepared  
To bring this baby safely through  
It's long travail, and mother too.

Wide-eyed children went to bed  
As Tom the older brother said.  
He stoked the fire to boil the pots  
'cause Granny said she needed lots.

Mum relaxed at Granny's touch  
The awesome job seemed not too much  
And at the healthy baby's yell  
Granny knew that all was well.

Baby nestled at Mum's breast  
As she enjoyed her well earned rest  
Tom, by the fire was fast asleep  
So Granny cleaned up at his feet.

Daylight filtered through the trees  
As Granny covered her cold knees  
Tired but jubilant, her job well done  
She clicked the patient pony on.

At the last gate, in a wagon there  
Sat an unkempt man, his anguish bare  
'Biddy, how's Biddy?' 'Both fine she replied.  
'God bless you, Granny' the relieved man cried.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FALL DUE DECEMBER 31st. 2003 - - - - \$30.00 Per annum.