

*The Australian
Bush Poets Association Inc.*
- Newsletter -

Volume 11 No. 2

April/May 2004

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ready for
the WEST?**

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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 all.

This year got off to a nice steady canter and, for me, hit a galloping pace after two weeks and hasn't steadied since.

The extremely high summer temperatures experienced were quite a talking point, with Canowindra seeing a constant forty degrees plus for over three weeks, the highest being 47, although one of my



mates, (never to be beaten) had a reading of 51 on his back lawn. (In the shade 'of course' - where else?)

This month sees the first of the Newsletters from our new Editor, Leanne Jeacocke of Thangool Qld and on behalf of all our readers I would like to welcome Leanne and wish her every success. Leanne has more computer skills than the rest of us put together, and I have no worries that she will be able to handle the job to the satisfaction of all members.

Rising costs have put the association in a position where charges will have to be made for advertising in the newsletter. Notice of this was given some months ago and now, unfortunately, it has become a reality. A list of advertising rates appears below.

With time flying the way it is, the 2004 National Championships in Perth during October will be upon us before we know it. It would be sound advice for competitors and those interested in traveling to the west to make travel and accommodation arrangements sooner than later.

In closing I would like to thank all the members and various committees for the help they gave me as editor over the past two years. I trust you will do the same for Leanne,

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'

Frank Daniel

ABPA ADVERTISING RATES

1/3 column	\$10.00	} (Or equivalent size)
2/3 column	\$15.00	
Full column	\$20.00	
Half Page	\$30.00	
Book Shelf	\$10.00	

Poets Calendar and Regular Events: Free. Limited to one line only.
Copy regarding festivals and events should be accompanied by a paid advertisement.

Where possible all material should be emailed direct to the Editor mailto: jarby@cqnet.com.au
Postal Address. PO Box 96 Thangool Qld. 4716

All payments to the
Secretary, ABPA,
1 Avenue Street
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

TOOWOOMBA COUNTRY MUSIC ROUNDUP 2004

2004 proved to be another huge success as far as The Bush Poet's Breakfast goes at the Toowoomba Country Music Roundup.

With **Melinda Schneider** and **Brendon Walmsley** headlining the main stage, the Roundup in it's fourth year now, was destined to be well-supported. But how early they get there! At 8 am on the Saturday morning the crowds packed in with several hundred attending and the crowd swelling to standing room only.

I was joined again by **Shirley Friend** and **Ray Essery** who returned for their second year, and **Murray Hartin** who appeared at the Roundup for the first time.

On the Sunday morning we introduced Toowoomba to the likes of **Debbie Anderson**, **Harry Donnelly**, **Kev Munnane**, **Tony Caswell**, **Terry Dixon**, **Brooke Haystead**, and the young **Jillian Kimber**. All these guests were very popular and the Roundup is certainly a venue that makes a commitment to featuring up and coming talent both at the Poets Breakfasts and on main stage.

See ya' there next year. It's a hoot!



Marco Gliori

Ray Essery

✦ **Have Your Say** ✦

about bush poetry or anything at all

✦ **Keep in Touch** ✦

with poets all over Australia and the World

✦ **Announce Your Event** ✦

to the world at a great web site

✦ **Share Your Poetry** ✦



bushpoetry

Log onto the Poets' forum and join the many people sharing the news and poetry and discussing views and ideas. At www.bushpoetry.com.au home page, click "Forum", then "Log in" and enter any of the forums listed. Reply to a message or click "New Message". For help, email bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au or jarby@cqnet.com.au.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING (DEPT. OF COMMERCE) THAT THE PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS MOVED AT THE 2004 A.G.M. HAVE BEEN APPROVED, AND THAT THE DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION AND THE AMENDMENTS NOW FORM PART OF THE ASSOCIATION'S RECORDS EFFECTIVE FROM 17TH FEBRUARY, 2004.

THE NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED TO THE A.G.M. WAS AS FOLLOWS

"GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION MAY BE HELD TO COINCIDE WITH KNOWN LARGE GATHERINGS OF POETS, OR AS DETERMINED BY THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING, PROVIDING THAT ALL MEMBERS PRESENT ARE ADVISED, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE SECRETARY TO ADVISE ABSENT MEMBERS."

Sgnd. Secretary. *Ed Parmenter.*

4th MARCH, 2004

'ABOUT PRONUNCIATION FOR FOREIGNERS'

Anon. (ABPA P. 15 Feb/March 04)

Hearwyth ... 'I Witness'

Anon is clever, I admit,
it's true, but for the final bit.
I ask him, (if he's still alive),
was he so smart when he was five?
He claims he understood each word,
knot watt he red butt watt he herd.
He's witty, yes, but truth to tell ...
he'd learned to speak but not to spell!
Saul Veriwell, (a.k.a. Tom Stonham)

G'DAY FELLOW POETS



Leanne Jeacocke
Ph 07 4995 8407

As this is my first issue of the Newsletter, I'd like to take the time to introduce myself.

I was born, the fifth child of a sheep farmer in the Murray Bridge district

of South Australia, and before I started school our family moved to Central Queensland and continued farming until my father got a job in the local coal mining industry.

Although poetry didn't play a very big part in my childhood, as my three brothers, Graham, Tim (both now back in SA) and Tony Strauss began reciting in the 1990's I started to take a greater interest. My son, Cory would often accompany Tony and his daughter Kristel (then living in Qld) to events such as the Bundy and Gympie Musters, Tamworth Country Music Festival and other poetry gatherings and come home raving about the fun he'd had. When Tony relocated to Victoria it was left to me to chauffeur Cory to the festivals, and never one to sit on the side-line, I soon felt the need to join in.

Although I have only been performing

SORRY, TAMWORTH!

© Dan O'Donnell

I am writing you this letter which I shall (to show my better side!) send to you this very day quick-smart ay-ess-ay-pee!
I thought I was a poet and would have a little go at the Tamworth Gala Do at Poetry!

I am really very sorry, and would gladly let a lorry run its heaps of wheels right over my fat head 'cos I fluffed up all my lines, and today there are still are signs I'd feel better in a coffin, stiff and dead!

I must have been just dozin' since I could've easily chosen other places from the Black Stump right to Perth but I had to make a blunder and rip my guts asunder by forgetting all my lines in Fair Tamworth!

For me it's one great pity that I chose your lovely City to show the world I was a stupid dolt but I tell you without fear that I'm comin' back next year - no fluff-up's stoppin' this regretful colt!

PS: I would also like to say I shall practise every day and try to upgrade all of my material.

I have never heard such verse on subjects so diverse nor of the quality that I heard at the Imperial!

publicly since June 2003, I have enjoyed a few successes (including winning the Novice Original Performance at Monto - my debut, making it into the Tamworth Imperial Finals 2004 and two 2nd places in written comps).

Computers have played a big role in my life since the early 1990's. I have taught myself all the skills necessary to keep ahead of what my now teenage kids were learning at school, and to self-publish my first book of poetry. And with my husband Ian (a self-taught computer technician) close at hand to maintain the 3 computers we now have on our little home network, I can usually find a computer that the kids aren't commandeering for Homework assignments or chatting on the internet, which is connected 24/7.

The internet has proven to be an excellent communicator which has relieved the isolation us folks out in the sticks often feel, making it possible to instantly communicate with people all over the world. Feel free to email me with any news or concerns you may have at jarby@cqnet.com.au. Send photo's and stories from functions you've attended or ask for my MSN or Yahoo messenger login name and join me in instant chat. Please fill me in on your event before 20th of May for the June - July issue.

****CHEERS****

Mousey



WEEKEND IN CHARTERS TOWERS

The Gold City Bush Poets, small in numbers but great on enthusiasm, are well advanced in planning for the 2004 Festival of Australian Bush Poetry in the historic gold mining city of Charters Towers – the event scheduled for 18-20 June.

The Towers has a population of 'around' 10,000 in the city, which is surrounded by the Shire of Dalrymple (the size of Tasmania) with the community supported by both mining and pastoral activities.

Again the hosts of the Charters towers caravan Park have approved the holding of the popular "Around the Boree Log" on the Friday evening, with the traditional 'barby' and walk-up poets.

Noted champion, Milton Taylor, will set the evening off with several of his winning originals, assisted by Queensland Champion, Melanie Hall, setting

the mood for a great three day event.

Winton's favourite lass, Sunny Mutton, now attending the James Cook University in Townsville will be on hand to show her improving and entertaining talent.

The competition at the PCYC function room, will be open to all ages with Traditional, Modern, Humorous and Original categories with over \$3,000 in prizes on offer.

Breakfast with the Poets on Sunday morning should see the festival end on a high note.

Scheduled a week before Winton, the Gold City Poets extends an invitation to all travelling poets to join in and be part of the 2004 promotion.

Written sections for bush poetry will close on 30th April, with four age groups, and information can be obtained from the Secretary P.O. Box 38, Charters Towers Q 4820.

Rusty Nail In Wedderburn

The inaugural Rusty Nail Bush Verse Competition was held at the Wedderburn Gold & Heritage Festival on the weekend of the 28th and 29th February 2004. The competition itself was completely open to men, women and children all in the one event and it was great to see **Carol Reffold** turn up to represent the fairer sex. In all, we had 11 competitors which wasn't a bad effort in view of the fact that it was the weekend following the Victorian State Championships. Many of the competitors there could well be excused for not doing a "back to back"! It was great to see **Max Merckenschlager** travel all the way from Murray Bridge in South Australia for the competition. We also had other poets travel a fair distance to display their talent which was greatly appreciated by the locals in Wedderburn.

Whilst the Festival has always traditionally had a Poets Breakfast on the Sunday morning, the vast majority of locals would not have ever experienced the superb level of performance from some of the top poets around the traps. The committee is keen to see the competition occur again next year and hopefully in a bigger and better manner.

The winner of the competition was **Col Milligan** from Benalla performing his original poem "Stress" which one him the major trophy and \$400 prize money. Second was **Peter "Whipstick" Worthington** from Bendigo who performed "Turbulence" and third was **Col Driscoll** from Geelong performing his own original poem "One For The Road". It was great to see "Whipstick" back on stage after five heart attacks last year.

RODERICK BLITZES WAUCHOPE

Wauchope's third annual Bush Poetry Competition was held on 14th of March and proved to be a popular occasion once again. The venue – Wauchope Country Club – noted for its generosity towards the Hastings/Macleay Bush Poets, its wonderful amenities, including the Bush Poets' Breakfast, once again added to the success of the morning's proceedings.

Roderick Williams blitzed other contestants winning all three sections with outstanding performances, especially with his rendition of Neil McArthur's poem, the Gay Farmhand, which had the audience 'rolling in the aisles'.

Other successful contestants in the adult Traditional and Original Sections were **Reid Begg** and **Cay**

Fletcher, gaining a 2nd place each, and **Clare Reynolds** snaring two 3rd placings.

Juniors **Nicole Stewart**, **Troy Wilkie** and **Keelee Beard** provided bright performances and gave an insight into the quality of poetry and poets that we can look forward to, ensuring a bright future for Bush Verse.

The major sponsor was Country Energy, with thanks also going to the Wauchope Country Club, Charley Bros. Wines, Innes Lake Vineyards, Sue Roach of Nutrametics, and More Than a Bookshop, Wauchope.

The Committee of the Hastings/Macleay Bush Poets which to extend their thanks to all the volunteers, including the M.C. John Prosdocimo, Judges, Scrutineers and Timekeeper.

VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

The Victorian Bush poetry Championships organised and run by the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc. were held at the Overlander Hotel Shepparton on February 21 and 22.

The weekend kicked off with a ripper poets breakfast run by that larrikin Collin Milligan entertaining around 60 people in the Bistro. The competition was then run in the auditorium with over 150 people enjoying the proceedings. The nerves and excitement were running high as the first poets in the Ladies traditional were introduced by the compare, Reg Phillips.

The standard was very high, even in the junior section, where nerves did not seem to enter into it.

There were several first timers in the open sections, which was great to see.

The second day saw an even bigger crowd in the Bistro to witness Colin in full flight again,

picking on his mates with unbelievable stories and embarrassing the hell out of others much to the enjoyment of the audience. The crowd then moved to the competition to find the auditorium filling fast. With Marg Martin and Mandy Brown on the door as "Bouncers" selling raffle tickets and Jill Winnett making sure everything ran smoothly, the show was soon under way to a packed house. The judges ..Jan Angel, Ross Noble, Herb McCrum and Barry Martin had a tough job as did Lorna Anderson the Scrutineer and Bob Winnett the time keeper.

It was great to see three poets from NSW enter...Neil Hulme from Lavington, Alex Allitt from Denilliquin and Don Anderson from Leeton who did very well being placed an officially second over all in a field of 17. There were 8 ladies competing and 2 juniors making a total of 27

competitors. There was a wonderful feeling of camaraderie among the members of the 6 Victorian clubs as everyone pitched in to make the weekend the great success that it was.

As president of the Victorian Bush Poetry Association I wish to thank all those involved especially Sue Gleeson our secretary who put in so much work with the initial organising of the event.
From Reg Phillips



Molly Sparks
Ladies runner-up Champion

Monster Weekend at Monto

The Monto Cream Can written bush verse competition will be held again this year, with winners to be announced at the Monto Country Music Festival on the Queen's Birthday weekend.

This year, the Country Music Festival and the 21st biennial Monto Dairy Festival coincide, so it will be a great week to visit Monto.

There will be a performance competition for poets at the music festival in the showgrounds, and some great poet's breakfasts and performances featuring the "Almost Naked Poets".

Usual rules for the written competition and limited to 100 lines. Entry fee is \$5 for up to three poems. Overall winner will receive the Cream Can trophy and a cheque for \$100, and his/her name will be engraved on the perpetual trophy.

The Cream Can award has been run every second year since it was instigated under the guidance of Charlee Marshall in 1994. With the advent of the first Monto Country Music Festival last June, it became an annual competition. No forms are required; send entries, using cover sheets for each poem to Betsy Chape, 19 Edison Street, Monto, Q. 4630. Entries close Friday, May 14. Enquiries 07 41661430 business hours; 07 4166 3425 after hours.

For the performance competition, there will be no entry fee, that will be covered by your ticket into the festival. Early bird tickets are on sale now, \$85 for the weekend. Camping is available at the showgrounds. Contact Elaine Williams on 07 4166 3450 for tickets, to book a camping site, or for more information about the Country Music Festival.

Looking forward to seeing a great roll up of poets June 11-14.

HUNTER COMPETITION

The Hunter Bush Poets will be hosting their Heritage Week Performance Poetry Competition at the Honeysuckle Markets, Newcastle from Friday 30th April to 1st May.

The Hunter Bush Poets have been hosting this competition for the past four years and are keen to attract poets from around the country to this event.

Poets dinners have always been a part of this annual event and in 2004 the program has been extended to provide a full weekend of events including Yarns night Friday night, Junior and Open performance Competition

Contact Ron Brown.
Ph. 02 49261313.
Fax. 02 49261316
Email: ntp@hunterlink.net.au

BACK FROM ELKO, USA

It was difficult to leave behind the cooler climes of U.S.A. and return to an Australian heat wave in February. Tempting to just turn around and get on the next flight back to L.A. However, after 17 hours in-flight, even with the comforts of a Qantas Economy seat, the temptation was resisted.

Bravely, we stepped into the 9am heat of a Brisbane morning, fondly remembering the fact that a week before we had been snowed in at the Elko, Nevada, airport. Life's like that.

Our American sojourn was, as ever, a wonderful experience. This year John and I were lucky enough to be involved with the Western Folklife Centre's 20th Cowboy Poetry Gathering. This meant the line-up of performers included many faces not seen at the gathering in a very long time, as well as many old favourites.

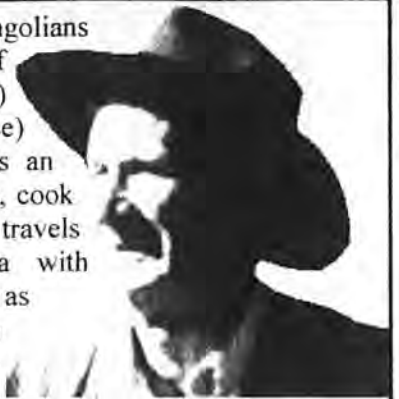
The ever popular Baxter Black once again practiced his "Aussie Accent" with me – he has NOT improved, believe me. Waddy Mitchell was as charming as ever and I think it's rather "cute" being referred to as "Ma'am" and the whole group of us referred to as "Y'all." Henry Real-Bird brought the Native American slant into performances while Randy Rieman knew almost more Australian Poetry than we did. Brenn Hill's music added an extra dimension to performances and Alice Hancock performed in place of her late husband Sunny, showing that yes, she really did know all of his lines – that's why he used her as a prompt so often.

Along with these well known old hands, it was a delight to meet Oscar Auker and Alyssa Jayne who, at the age of eleven, showed that the youth of American Cowboy Poetry is alive and well. Our young Australian Bush Poets need to remember these names – you may very well meet up with these two in the future.

During the few days we were in Elko before the Gathering, we carried out school workshops in the area accompanied by a group of five Mongolian performers. It was a pleasure and an honour to be in their company and also to share the stage with them at one of the sell-out night shows.

Bayaraa is one of Mongolia's top musicians. His specialty is making and playing the horse-head fiddle. Tserendorj a multi-instrumentalist, is nationally

known among Mongolians for his performance of the yerool (blessing) and magtaal (praise) song forms. Tseye is an exceptional horseman, cook and storyteller, who travels throughout Mongolia with tourists on horseback as a guide for Boojum Expeditions. He has a magnificent tenor



voice, but won our hearts with his determination to party! We learned a great deal about their way of life – thanks to the services of the interpreters accompanying the group. Bobo (well, we had to simplify her name, believe me) was a true delight.

The opportunity to travel with our dear friend, Dick Warwick, from Washington State is the icing on the cake for the winners of the Winton Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Competition. Look out for him, Australia! Dick will be in our country in March and April. He's sick to death of the snow at home, apparently. And has bravely claimed that he wants to know exactly where Eulo is and so is prepared to brave the kangaroos and emus to come and see the Outback.

We would like to thank the organisers at Winton as well as Qantas and the people at the Western Folklife Centre in Elko, Nevada, for the wonderful opportunity to expand our horizons and to see what else is out there.

Janine Haig & John Best

THE HISTORIC BOONDOOMA HOMESTEAD 'SPIRIT OF THE BUSH' PIONEER DAY 23RD TO 25TH APRIL

WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY COMPETITIONS

For details of competitions & general information contact: - Secretary: Lyn Seiler Ph 07 4168 0161. Buddy Thomson Ph/Fax 07 4168 0168

- 23rd - Special 'Pioneer Tribute' Concert Fri - 6 pm start with Camp Oven Meals
- 24th - Poets' Breakfast 7am. non stop Australian Music and Poetry 'till late
- 25th Sunday Morning with Anzac Service & Gospel Concert

Stationary Engines, Broad Axe, Adze, Crosscut Saw & Saddlery Demonstrations. Photographic & Historic displays. Novelty events: Whip cracking - Horseshoe throwing - Australiana Art & Poetry Competitions. Saturday Meals by 'Durong Country Beef' - Lic Bar - Stalls

Camping available – Inquiries contact Caretakers Phil & Pattie Ph 07 4168 0159

A New Festival

SUTTON FOREST & CAPITAL COUNTRY

The village of Sutton Forest is set to host a new festival of national significance, to be called *The Southern Highlands Festival of Australian Bush Poetry*.

The festival will be held in Sutton Forest on **Sunday 30 May 2004** from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Many Australian youngsters were brought up on the poetry of Banjo Paterson, Henry Lawson, Thomas Spencer, Will Ogilvie and their fellow writers. Some could recite the poems with uncommon ease. Bush poetry echoed of another time; a better time, despite the hardships so often recorded. However, changes in taste and fashion have seen many Australians by-pass these nostalgic stories of loyal dogs and horses, squatters, gold rushes, drovers and cattlemen and bushrangers. But, more than a century on, urbanised Australians can sympathise with solicitor Paterson in his Sydney legal chambers.

The great poetry of 'Banjo'

Paterson's times is the birthright of every Australian.

This festival focuses upon that era when poetry was more popular than short stories and a man might have no greater social status than a rouseabout, but could try his hand at verse and strike for recognition, fame and immortality as a published contributor to the famous *Bulletin*.

Sutton Forest has a fine village hall with extensive grounds in a picturesque setting. Nearby is the Sutton Forest Inn where a bushman's thirst can be abated with a glass or two of cold ale. The festival's main stage will be set up in a marquee in the grounds, leaving the hall free for a program of bush music and dancing.

Also in the grounds will be a 'Drovers' Camp' hosted by the Riley family of Trangie, serving robust meals of tasty stews and fresh-baked damper, cooked in iron camp ovens in the traditional way.

The program will run from

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

It will be co-ordinated and presented by Mr **Frank Daniel** of Canowindra. The program will have two sections.

Traditional bush poetry where the competitor is challenged to recite one or more of the poems of 'Banjo' Paterson or his bush poet contemporaries.

New poetry - giving an opportunity for everyone to try their hand at emulating the bush versifiers in the style of Paterson or Lawson.

The top prize is **\$1,000** for the best new Australian poem in the tradition of the old *Bulletin* verses.

Overview. The objective is to rekindle interest in the poetry of the Paterson era, and to introduce a new generation of Australians to the wonderment of a great Australian tradition: *the bush poem*.

Contact: **Garry Barnsley** OAM
PO Box 438, Bowral, NSW,
2576

Ph. 02 4862-1411 (w) 4871-2060 (h)
E-mail: barnowl@acenet.com.au

EASTWOOD/HILLS FAW BOREE LOG AWARD

for Bush Verse

Bush Theme to 80 lines
No entry forms required
usual conditions apply
cover notes to be used
limited to 3 entries each
\$5.00 Per entry

CLOSING DATE 30TH JUNE

**1st Prize
\$200.00
plus Trophy**

Send to:
Secretary,
Eastwood/Hills FAW
PO Box 4663 North Rocks 2151
Ph. 02 9871 8470
Results to appear in ABPA News

SOUTH AUSSIE NEWS

Not to be forgotten, the South Australian Bush Poets are still plugging on with their regular meetings and writing sessions encouraging new members and younger recruits to the art form.

Though only small in numbers, the group is fast attracting a lot of attention, with competitions and shows popping up regularly.

The biggest thing to happen in SA of late is the proposed SA Stumpy Awards, under the auspices of the ABPA, to be

held on Saturday 7th August at Murray Bridge in August coordinated by Max Merckenschlager with the support of the Council of the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

The Stumpy Awards will cater for both Written and Performance Bush Poetry.

The Lucindale Group is looking forward to holding the South Australian Bush Poetry State Championships in November. Further information regarding this event will be forthcoming.

Results of ...

2004 VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mens open champion for the 2nd year
Collin Milligan—Benalla

Mens open Champion Runner up
Tony Strauss—Little River

Mens open Champion Highly Commended
Dennis Carstairs—Stratford.

Ladies open Champion
Equal first—Betty Walton—Tintaldra
Annette Roberts—Bellbridge

Ladies Open Champion Runner up
Molly Sparks—Kyabram

Ladies open Champion Highly Commended
Carol Reffold—Sunbury

Mens Contemporary
Collin Milligan—Benalla

Ladies Contemporary
Betty Walton—Tintaldra

Mens Traditional
Desc Ginnane—Wungnu

Ladies Traditional
Annette Roberts—Bellbridge

Mens Original
Graeme Watt—Kyabram

Ladies Original
Annette Roberts—Bellbridge

Encouragement awards
Pam Davidson—Wangarratta
Colleen Conboy—Rosebud
John Barnes—Mill Park
Daryl Bray—Philip Island

OPEN WRITTEN CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER
Ed Walker—Narre Warren

Open Written Runner up
Ed Walker—Narre Warren

Open Written Highly commended
{Tied}Margaret Glendenning—Everton
And Mick Coventry—Kyabram



Melbourne ARVOs



Carol Reffold

Melbourne's Australian Rhyming Verse Orators have been meeting on the first Sunday of each month at the Grand Hotel, Warrandyte since early last year for a relaxed afternoon, sharing their writing and reciting skills. Members include Eddy Dalton, Ed Walker, Colin Carrington, Jim Brown, Laurence Webb, Carol Reffold and a few others. They are a very friendly and talented bunch and always ready to welcome new members.

They are certainly off to a great start this year with Ed Walker taking out the first two places in Victoria's "Written" Championships in Shepparton. They are extremely proud of his achievements. Jim has been busily videoing, recording and editing projects with an "Outback" theme and doing well with his very entertaining poetry. Laurence Webb is busy most weekends with trail rides and poetry around various campfires and other bush poetry projects in between working and Carol is busily organising a massive joint fundraiser for two charities in Melbourne and participating in another training programme. Eddy Dalton is still the stalwart supporter of all poetry venues in Melbourne and is very encouraging and supportive of any poets on 'L' plates.

The last weekend of March saw ARVOs performing at "Harry's Farmyard", Sunbury for a fundraiser for the Neph-friends of Royal Melbourne Hospital. (Kidney transplant people) and next weekend they're all off to Corryong for the "Man From Snowy River Festival".

So if you live around the Melbourne area, or you happen to be visiting on a Sunday afternoon, get in touch with the organizers and join in for a great arvo. See you at their next meeting.

Stumpy Poetry Awards Murray Bridge S.A.

7th August

Written and performance competitions

SSSS
cash
prizes

- ☞ Open
- ☞ Youth (Under 17yrs)
- ☞ Junior (Under 12yrs)

RIVERSIDE CONCERT

For more info:

☞ treetops@lm.net.au

☞ Max Merckenschlager
117 Murray Drive
MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

My face in the mirror
isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty,
the cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely
and so does my lawn.
I think I might never
put my glasses back on.

- * Dormitory = Dirty Room
- * Morse Code = Here Come Dots
- * Slot Machines = Cash Lost in 'em
- * Animosity = Is No Amity
- * Mother-in-law = Woman Hitler

Anagram Mania

- * Snooze Alarms = Alas! No More Z's
- * A Decimal Point = I'm a Dot in Place
- * Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one
- * Desperation = A Rope Ends It
- * Contradiction = Accord not in it

WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL
 24th - 27th June 2004 — WINTON

First Prize for the Open Male & Female winner:
Return trip to America to represent Australia at the
 Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, January 2005!

Open Male and Female Performance Competitions:

Round 1: Present a poem by Banjo Paterson

Round 2: Present a poem from any Bronze Swagman Books of Verse (1972-2002)

Finals (8 advance to the Finals): Each competitor may present any Bush Poem –
 extra points awarded if the poem has been written by the Performer

* * * * *

Other Highlights Include

☞ **Novice Male and Female Performance Competitions**

☞ **Yarnspinning Championships** ☞ **Outback Oscars** ☞ **Poets Breakfast**

☞ **Professional Concert:** Saturday night 28th June. Professional entertainment by

**Gary Fogarty, Neil McArthur, John Major, Jack Drake,
 Ray Essary and singer Adam Kilpatrick.**

☞ **Bronze swagman Award:**

Announcement of the Winner of the 2004 written award that has been running
 continuously in Winton since 1972.

* * * * *

Entry Forms and Information now available from:

Louise Dean (Organiser)

P.O. Box 120, Winton, Qld. 4735

Ph: (07) 4657 1296—or—Fax: (07) 4657 1541

**2004 KATHERINE
 COUNTRY MUSIC
 MUSTER**

30th April—2ND May

**BUSH POETRY WRITTEN
 COMPETITION AND BUSH
 POET'S BREAKFAST.**

The Northern Territory's own
 Country Music Muster with over
 20 hours of Country Music
 featuring a variety of Australia's
 best performers at the Outback
 Heritage Museum Grounds. Big
 Brekky – Ute Muster – Busking
 – Ozzie Pub Crawl – Cavalcade
 – Street Parade – Song writing
 competition – **Bush Poetry
 writing competition and Bush
 Poet's Breakfast** with Chris &
 The Grey and friends. For entry
 forms or more info contact 08
 8972 3945 - Mobile 0409 494
 879 – Fax 08 8972 3946 – 07
 4159 1868 - Email
 kerrydiehm@bigpond.com or
 tonicoutts@bigpond.com or
 bushpoets@go.to or log on and
 download from [http://
 www.kcmm.com.au/](http://www.kcmm.com.au/)

Have You Heard?

Someone said, "Roger Federer
 won the Australian Open Tennis
 Championship this year." And
 someone replied, "Oh, I didn't
 play in that."

The crowd stared at him,
 wondering if he were a practical
 joker or a fool. Then someone
 said, "Makybe Diva won last
 year's Melbourne Cup." to which
 someone remarked, "Oh, I didn't
 enter my old stockhorse last year."

He got much the same reception
 as the bloke talking about the
 tennis. Then someone said,
 "Milton Taylor won The
 Blackened Billy at Tamworth this
 year."

And a dozen poets immediately
 said, "Oh, I didn't enter that."



The Poet

› Graham Watt
 (Skew Wiff)

I was a talking 'Budgie',
 And I talked in rhyming verse,
 My mistress was so proud of me,
 And daily I'd rehearse.

I'd say 'The Man from Snowy River',
 I knew it, every word,
 And little bursts of Lawson,
 I was a clever bird.

All the neighbours knew about
 My flying rhyming fame,
 And my mistress had me christened,
 --- "The Poet", was my name.

I'd fly around the household,
 Reciting all the day,
 And people came from miles around,
 To listen what I'd say.

But then a small disaster,
 Which really knocked me flat,
 My mistress then decided
 That she would get a cat.

A great big hairy monster,
 Built just like a truck,
 So mistress called him "Lorry",
 I was really out of luck.

That moggy, started haunting me,
 For there in wait he'd lie,
 I'd always keep an eye on him,
 And be ready, quick to fly.

But now my story ends,
 And I'll tell you of my fate,
 I'm very sad to tell you,
 I'm "The Poet", "Lorry" ate.

Qantas - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival Winton 2004 Tour

Departing Brisbane 22nd June and returning 30th June.

The price of \$1385 p/p twin share, includes all travel, accommodation, dinner and cooked breakfasts & all entry fees

Join the 9 day tour for this fun-filled special event. Visiting attractions at Roma, Charleville, Longreach, Barcaldine and Biloela. Spend 3 days and nights at Winton and enjoy the highlights of the festival, as well as taking in the unique sights of Winton, along with a visit to Lark Quarry

BOOK NOW!

Watugo Outback Tours Ph. 07 3289 2260

Fax 07 3289 5072 e-mail langtry@samford.net

Maximum 20 Passengers. Pick up & return to your home or other preferred venue

WA Festival of Australian Verse Australian Bush Poetry Championships 2004 Update

October is looming ever closer and plans are well under way for the biggest ever poetry event to be staged in WA..

A recap on the accommodation arrangements: The entire facilities of a 13 acre youth camp at Camp Wattle Grove situated approximately 10 km from the Perth city centre will be made available. The facilities have been booked from 24th - 30th October 2004 but bookings may be extended by arrangement.

All the three bedroom units have been booked. We still have available two bed dormitory style rooms at \$15.00 per head per night.

There are also many caravan sites available but the powered sites are limited.

For folk desiring more comfortable accommodation, the Wattle Grove Motel is close by. Rates can be obtained from Edna Westall 08 9339 3028 email: ednawestall@dodo.com

Competitions in many categories will be organized including Original Serious, Original Humorous, Traditional, Contemporary, Novice (Original & Other), Junior (Original & Other), Yarn Spinning and a Written Competition
Competition fees will be \$10.00 per category.

Entry forms are available by sending a SAE to **Rod Lee 160 Blair Road Oakford, 6121.**

There will also be plenty of social entertainment starting with "Meet the Poets" at Diggers

Camp on Tuesday, "Australian Folk Music Concert" Wattle Grove Camp on Wednesday, "Supporters & Sponsors Dinner" on Thursday, "Australian Bush Verse - Our Heritage" Concert. Regal Theatre Subiaco on Friday and "Naked Poets Show" on Saturday. Bush Poets breakfasts will be conducted at Wattle Grove Camp each morning from Wednesday through to Saturday. The competition will probably run from Thursday to Saturday and be held at both the Regal Theatre and Camp Wattle Grove. Presentations are expected to be held on Sunday at Camp Wattle Grove.

Hopefully a web site will be soon up and running with relative information including costs.



A Salute to Slim

David Gordon Kirkpatrick was born 13th June 1927 in Kempsey and raised on a nearby Nulla Nulla Creek dairy farm. At the age of 10 he wrote his first song, "The Way The Cowboy Dies" and the legend began. He called himself Slim Dusty and went on to become the most prolific and biggest selling recording artist in Australia with more than 5 million of his recordings sold on the domestic market.

He wrote his first country music classic, "When The Rain Tumbles Down In July" in 1945 and signed his first recording contract in 1946. He stuck with the one record company for more than half a century and in 2000 released his official 100th album.

I NEVER CRIED FOR ELVIS BUT I SHED A TEAR FOR SLIM

© Merv Webster -The Goondiwindi Grey

Perhaps I'd heard it wrong somehow that quiet September day,
But no, the words rang in my head. Slim Dusty's passed away.
I knew the old bloke had been crook and not that well of late.
Still, legends live forever ... though ... it seems I'm wrong old mate.

Like Lawson you could tell a tale about the average bloke,
Though sung them in the ballad style backed by a guitar stroke.
Your songs portrayed an image which aroused our Aussie pride
And most of us we shed a tear when poor old Trumby died.

Chorus:

*So rest in peace for now old friend until the trumpet calls;
The spirit of your ballads, mate, ring through life's memories halls.
A lifetimes dedication proves you where no passing whim;
I never cried for Elvis, but I shed a tear for Slim.*

You walked a mile or two we know, through muddy tracks and dry
And entertained a lot of folk and made them laugh or cry.
You pioneered an industry and did the real hard yards
And kept alive the sentiments of yesterday's bush bards.

A myriad of campfires echoed tunes that bore your brand.
The Pub With No Beer, Duncan; just two that come to hand.
You made us feel Australian with a sense of wrong and right.
The city bloke, the bushy, whether brindle, black or white.

Chorus:

They said goodbye in style that day and gathered in their throngs
And old St Andrews echoed to a melody of songs.
Your passing's left us empty mate, we've lost a true blue friend
And no one lives forever, but the memories will not end.

I know we lost an icon, but his family lost much more,
A father, grandad, soul mate, of that I am quite sure.
We stand and we salute you Slim despite the fact we know
The final curtain's fallen on the last Slim Dusty show.

Chorus:

In 1957 his recording of "A Pub With No Beer" was the biggest selling record ever by an Australian and Slim received Australia's first Gold record in 1958. This is also the only 78 rpm gold record in existence in this country. He was the first Australian to have an international record hit, and the first singer in the world to have his voice beamed to earth from space (in 1983, when astronauts of the space shuttle "Columbia" played Slim singing Waltzing Matilda as they passed over Australia).

Twelve times his records have been named "Album of the Year", he received 36 "Golden Guitars", has been awarded as "Male Vocalist of the Year" (1979), received more Gold and Platinum Record Awards than any other Australian artist. ARIA Awards including induction into the ARIA Hall of Fame, an MBE and Order of Australia for his services to entertainment, and he was one of the earliest inducted to the Country Music Roll of Renown. Slim kept in touch with his audience in such a real and meaningful way that his fans would feel that Slim was one of their mates, and his songs "just a good yarn you might hear from a mate at the pub, around a camp fire in the bush or at a back yard barbie".

On September 19, 2003 his life came to an end but the legend will live forever. And to many modern poets and balladeers, his life and achievements will long be an inspiration - the topic for a new verse.

OUR COUNTRY'S... KEEPER OF THE FLAME

The Life and Legend of Slim Dusty

© Robert Raftery

The camp fires' coals were blazing, as the news came through that night,
Australia's country music had lost its leading light,

Half mast, our flags are flying, the light's out on the hill,
Our country czar's pure gold guitar's, stainless strings... are still,

A gentle giant has left us, our guiding engineer,
Ambassador of Outback, bush and backblocks balladeer,
He spoke the simple language that got us through the day,
In the noble nouns and notions of the great Australian way,

Slim sang of unsung heroes that he knew and loved through life,
The Trumby's and the Duncan's, battlers and the drover's wife,
Took up where Lawson left us, and in the Banjo's holy name,
He re-lit their rhyme and reason, Our Country's... Keeper of the Flame.

The moonboat's pulled its anchor for his trip out through the stars,
Slim's path's illuminated... by a billion gold guitars,
Where the pubs are overflowing with kegs of amber clear,
'Cause the old blitz that was busted, mate, is now on power steer.

Slim Dusty's tour is over... so long... farewell, old mate,
For preparation's underway to welcome home a great,
There's a concert outside heaven's gates, and Slim's there, holding sway,
As the Keeper of the Mighty Flame, of the great Australian way.

The king of our country music will never, ever die,
We'll think of Slim, and the love of him "When the Rain Tumbles Down in July",
And 'til the fretboard fails to stir us, and the ANZAC legend's rusty,
While our role's to play, the great Australian way, we'll never forget... Slim Dusty.



S.A. Stumpy Awards

The banks of Murrundi, the mighty Murray, is an ideal location to hold a poetry event—early morning with mist rising. Competitions for Written and Performance poetry will be held at the Community Club premises and as a backup if weather conditions threaten to dampen breakfasts. The event will held on Saturday 7th August, during SALA (South Aust. Living Artists) Week, to complement other arts activities occurring in the region then. It will be conducted under the auspices of The Australian Bush Poets' Association and supported by The Rural City of Murray Bridge.

There will be Open, Youth (Under 17yrs) and Junior (Under 12yrs) awards for written and performance competitions with HUGE cash prizes, trophies and certificates to be won. Prizes will be presented at a Murray Bridge riverside concert on Saturday night.

You can find more information by visiting the Web Site <http://www.lm.net.au/~treetops/stumpy.htm>

treetops@lm.net.au or SASE to Max Merckenschlager
117 Murray Drive MURRAY BRIDGE SA 5253

GOLD CITY BUSH POETS Inc

CHARTERS TOWERS

Festival of Australian bush Poetry

Fri 18th – Sun 20th June 2004

Fri – Around the Boree Log

Walk-up Poets

Sat- Competitions – Entertainment
[3 sessions]

Sun – Breakfast with the Poets

Written Poetry Competition

Entries close 30th April

Secretary

P O Box 38

Charters Towers, Q 4820

Phone

07 4787 2409

07 4787 7453

07 4787 3211

Qld ABPA State Championships.

The second ABPA Championships will be held from the 20th to the 22nd of August 2004 at the Pioneer Country Music Hall set in the picturesque grounds of the North Pine Country Park Dayboro Road Petrie, on Brisbane's northern fringe. Nominations for the performance sections close on 1st of August 2004, on a first come first served basis with a limit of 25 competitors in each category. The three categories for the open are Traditional, Modern/Contemporary and Original. Junior and Novice competitions will be held on Friday night the 20th August 2004. Entries in the Written Competition will not be accepted if post-marked later than 25th of July 2004.

This is only an Early Warning Notice and further details will be published in the next issue. If you are on our mailing list you will receive details as soon as they are available. For applications and further information contact

John Best

Pres. North Pine Bush Poets Group.
"Kumbaya"
1 Whiteside Road
Whiteside.Q.4503.
Australia
Phone 07 3285 2845
Email longjohnbest@dodo.com.au

HUNTER COMPETITION

Heritage Week

Honeysuckle Markets

30th April - 1st May.

Performance Poetry Competition

Newcastle

Poets dinners
Yarns night



Junior & Open Comps

Contact Ron Brown.

☎ 2 49261313.

☎ 02 49261316

☐ ntp@hunterlink.net.au

St Patrick's Day A wee bit of History

The Irish, whether at home or abroad, have long recognised 17 March as a special day. Around the world, St Patrick's Day is recognised by Irish nationals, those who claim an Irish heritage, those who purport to be Irish, and further still by many non-Irish. It is, arguably, the most universal of all national days.

It is no surprise that St Patrick's Day is of greatest significance in places where Irish emigration has been most pronounced – namely Britain, the United States, Canada, and Australia. But why have the Irish been so concerned about the life of a saint who died 1,500 years ago? And how did St Patrick's Day become a key part of the Irish experience abroad?

Intriguingly, Maewyn Succat (later known as Patrick) was not Irish but a Roman Briton who first set foot on Irish soil after being captured by local marauders and put to work as a slave shepherd for six years. A dream prompted him to escape his Celtic captors and inspired him to undertake formal training as a Christian cleric. While studying in a French abbey he again received a celestial visitation, this time calling him to return to the land where he had been enslaved, though now with a quest to convert.

Upon ordination he was given the Latin title Patricius (since Anglicised as Patrick), and travelled to Ireland as one of the earliest Christian missionaries. With previous experience of local customs and language, Patrick was in a position to spread the word of God, using a shamrock to explain the Trinity.

In Irish mythology, he was credited with supernatural feats, such as turning his enemies into animals and 'ridding' Ireland of snakes. Hagiographers, writers who specialise in chronicling saints' lives, invented Patrick the ancient super hero – replete with Christ's staff and the ability to perform miracles. Patrick is thought to have died sometime between 463AD and 493AD, with 17th of March the most likely day.

As Christianity spread around Ireland, so too did Patrick's fame. Despite an upsurge of religious and political differences in Ireland arising from both the Reformation and the Act of Union, St Patrick's Day largely avoided sectarian tensions during the 19th century. Indeed, when Irish authorities banned 'sectional demonstrations' for much of the 19th century, St Patrick's Day was usually unaffected as it was deemed a cross-community celebration.

Parades began modestly enough in New York in 1766, with Irish soldiers in the British Army marching proudly along the streets. For the Irish in early Australia, whether they were convicts, emancipists, or free settlers, St Patrick's Day was a time of merriment.

David Collins, an ecumenical observer, recorded in his journal on March 1795: 'On the 17th St Patrick found many votaries in the settlement ... libations to the saint were so plentifully poured that at night the cells were full of prisoners'. In a similar vein, Irishman Joseph Holt, a landowner and farmer, wrote in 1803: 'my usual time to commence sow was the first Monday after St Patrick's Day: it requiring a few days to get my men sober'.

Cheers to all our Irish neighbours. Thank you for keeping a tradition alive and giving us one more reason to celebrate.



~  ~ **NARRANDERA 2004** ~  ~

The Tenth Annual John O'Brien Bush Festival in the Riverina Town of Narrandera was one to beat them all.

With St. Patricks Day being on the Wednesday, this meant an even longer festival period with **Noel Stallard** of Brisbane getting the ball rolling at Midday on 'Paddy's Day' with Around the Boree Log and other Verses.

The 'Kids Expo', Australiana on Stage, was a resounding success with 'our children on show' and the Irish-Australiana Trivia Night gave patrons only a taste of more to come.

The John O'Brien Festival is always a busy event with little time to spare between activities. With leisure activities available all year round, the added bonus of the Irish celebration and the Bush Poetry events makes March one of the best times to be in Narrandera.

Time to 'Meet the Locals' at the Visitors Centre has grown beyond all expectations. From the original concept of a cup of tea and a few bikkies in the Tourist Centre, 'meeting the locals' has become another fringe event with up to 300 turning up on the Thursday afternoon and Friday morning to share memories of their travels, their experiences, previous visits to Narranders, mixing with the likes of the 'late' John O'Brien and other entertainers - recalling memorable events such as Maccas 2003 visit and the rise to fame of 'H', best remembered for his forgetfulness, - where new poets can break the ice alongside the more experienced all encouraged by **Frank Daniel**.

Frank also compered the Open Bush Poetry Performance Competition boasting a \$1,000 purse. It was the best attended yet, with twenty three poets including a few 'newies' entering the challenge.

One surprise packet from the Thursday afternoon 'cuppa' session was a bloke from Ingleburn named '**Sam the Plumber**', a completely unknown who accredited himself well. Another first-timer from Sydney was **Bill Greenhalgh**.

Almost a cliché these days, the overall standard was exceptionally high with the Judges, Gail Murphy, Noel Cutler and Geoffrey Graham seeing the results as follows:

- First
Colin Milligan of Benalla Vic.
Second
Vic Jeffries of Baulkham Hills NSW
Third
Terry Regan of Blaxland NSW

Poets Brekkies were popular, with the first, on the Friday set aside as a business house cum sponsors breakfast. Five other breakfasts at three venues made up the weekend capably handled by **Col Milligan, Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler** and **Frank Daniel**.

Three hundred turned up at the Services Club for The Bush Culture Concert held on the Saturday night, when **Molly Sparks** of Kyabram came to life as 'Mum' to her doting sons, Noel (Cutler) and Joe (Daniel).

Keeping wood up to the fuel stove, cooking dinner, putting up with visitors such as Father Pat and Mr. Stallard, the local school teacher, not to mention coping with milking, cleaning and the constant 'banging' of the fly-screen door coupled with a non-stop poetic script was only a part of Molly's day on the family farm.



Tourism Narrandera received so many complimentary reports the morning after, that the 'Bush Culture' concert will become a featured event in 2005.

Geoffrey Graham presented his crowd pleasing '100 Not Out' to two full houses at the Narrandera Race Club, a day session on the Friday and his usual night spot on Saturday.

Workshops, singalongs, demonstrations, dinners, whip-cracking, a parade, bush dancing and an Anzac Tribute in Poetry and Song are only part of the big line up at Narrandera each year.

Make it a date in 2005.

**Have all write-ups, submissions and ads for
June - July issue to the editor by 20th May**

 07 4995 8107
 jarby@eqnet.com.au

PO Box 96,
HEANGOOE, Qld 4716



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. Dennis 07 3286 3346
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 2nd. Wed. 10.30am. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Norah 07 4787 7453 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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CANNING BRIDGE - 1st Frid. WA 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel - Michelle Sorrell 08 9367 4963 msorrell@iinet.net.au
MARGARET RIVER. Last Thur. 7pm Community Centre. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431

**It's on
again**

Casino Beef Week May 21st to 30th 2004.

This year's program is a hugely exciting one which includes a variety of events, competitions, exhibitions and entertainment— from Cattle to Craft; from horses to Home Brew. And when there are country folk gathered at a fun-filled Festival such as this, you can expect a liberal line-up of Bush Poets to keep the crowds laughing. And they don't come much funnier than **John Best, Milton Taylor, Melanie Hall** and **Ray Essery!** From Thursday 27th at 7:30pm, when they introduce the **Yarn Spinning competition** at the **Cecil Hotel, Casino** (NSW), you can witness these wags and many up and coming poets. All welcome for the Bush Poetry each morning till Sunday, from 9am till 11am. Poetry Competitions to be conducted throughout the weekend at the same venue.

For more information Phone 02 6684 3817 or 02 6644 8285.

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 11 **NAMBUCCA HEADS** Bowling Club Poets Breakfast with Feature poet Ted Webber. Ph 6568 2569
April 23-25 **BOONDOOMA Homestead** Written & Performance Comps. Buddy Thomson Ph/Fax 07 4168 01
April 23-25 **Marti's CANOWINDRA Balloon Festival**. www.martisfiesta.com.au Ph 02 6344 2422
April 30-May 2 **HUNTER Bush Poets** Heritage Week Competition. Ph. 02 49261313.(Details page 7)
April 30-May 2 **KATHERINE Country Music Muster** Written Comp. & Poet's Breakfast Ph: 08 8972 394568
April 30 Closing Date **CHARTERS TOWERS** Written Competition Ph 07 4787 2409 (Details page 5)
May 14 Closing Date **MONTO Cream Can Awards** Written Competition 07 41661430 (Details page 6)
May 20 Closing Date **Golden Horseshoe Written Awards** PO Box 242 Beaudesert Q 4285. ph 07 55414355.
May 21-30 **CASINO Beef Week**, Casino NSW. Performance Competitions. (Details page 16)
May 28 Closing Date **Bush Lantern Written Awards** SSAE—232 Walker St. Bundaberg 4670 (page 5)
May 30 **SUTTON FOREST Southern Highlands Festival** Ph. (w)02 4862 1411 (h)02 4871-2060 (page 8)
June 11-14 **GRENFELL NSW - Henry Lawson Festival**
June 11-14 **MONTO Country Music Festival** and Poetry Competitions 07 41661430 (Details page 6)
June 11-20 **BEAUDESERT Country & Horse Festival** Bush Poetry, Music, Camp Draft, Races, Bull Rides, etc.
June 18-20 **CHARTERS TOWERS** Gold City Bush Poets Festival Ph 07 4787 2409 (Details page 4)
June 19 **BEAUDESERT POETS BREKKY & PERFORMANCE COMP.** and concert.
June 20 **BEAUDESERT**. More Bush Poetry, "Roundup In The Park" Parade Of 1000 Hooves. Country Markets
June 24-27 **WALTZING MATILDA FESTIVAL WINTON** Ph Louise Dean 07 4657 1296 (page 10)
June 27 **Mt LARCOM** Poets Breakfast and Comp. Sec Mt Larcom Show Society, PO Box 49, Mt Larcom 4695
July 2-4 **BUNDY MUSTER** Performance Comps, 1 Min. Cup & Yarnspinning Ph. 07 4151 4631(page 5)
Aug 7 **SA STUMPY AWARDS** Written & Performance Comps eMail treetops@lm.net.au (Page 13)
Aug 20-22 **Qld STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** Nth Pine Ph 07 3285 2845 longjohnbest@dodo.com.au (page 12)
Oct 23 - 31 **AUST BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA** (Details page 11)

LADIES HOST POET'S BREAKFAST AT GLADSTONE

One of the best weeks you'll ever have if you enter into the "spirit" of the festivities will be in Gladstone at Easter time for the annual Gladstone Harbour Festival - featuring a seven-day Marina Mardi Gras with free live on-stage entertainment, street theatre, buskers, street parade, markets and two giant fireworks displays. Combine this with a diverse range of sporting and cultural activities around the city and top it off with the exciting finish of the famous blue water classic - the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and you have the makings of a fabulous event.

Another of the highlights will be the Ticor Chemical Company's Bush Poets' Breakfast on Easter Saturday morning, featuring the ever popular dynamo, Melanie Hall from Townsville. Also appearing on the Marina breakfast stage will be mother and son Leanne and Cory Jeacocke and mother and daughter Margy and Donna McArdle. Donna will sing a few Country Ballads to break up the morning of poetry.

Another rising talent to grace the stage along side the ladies will be Trent Jenkinson. Trent has recently been successful in obtaining funding from the Rockhampton Regional Development Fund to receive Speech and Drama lessons and is set to show that Poetry isn't just for the old bush folk. Watch out for this bright young star.

Don't miss the fun on the Central Queensland Coast this Easter!



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

DUNEDOO NSW The GREAT DUNNY Classic

The sky's the limit in Dunedoo after the 2004 Great Dunny Classic (Mar 26th-28th) turned out one of the most successful events in its five year history.

Moving to the Public Schools new multi-purpose unit for the performance competitions was approved by all – the extra available space was more than appreciated by the organizers, the poets, the **Lions Club** who ran the bar facility and the **P & C Group** who did the catering.

Ted Webber of Young NSW led the way with the Yarn Spinning in the Royal Hotel Beer Garden on the Friday night, with at least a hundred listeners enjoying the bush yarns and the odd poem from more than a dozen story-tellers. The yarn-spinning always brings out some new blood in Dunedoo, with characters of the ilk of Neil Singleton from Coonamble and such renowned bush wackers as **Don Trindall** of Binnaway. The fact that these blokes so much believe what they say themselves only goes to make the evening more enjoyable.

Notwithstanding, regular festival favorites such as **Milton Taylor** and **Frank Daniel** came up with some old favorites and a few new stories to keep the evening brisk. Milton's Duck Hunting episode improves every performance with that little embellishment that makes an Aussie yarn what it really is. **Milton Taylor** conducted a number of School Workshops during the week, and an open writing workshop at the Bowling Club giving a better insight into developing creative skills.

The Performance competitions were certainly over and above anything in the past.

Ellis Campbell – Winner of Traditional section of Eastwood Hills, Sydney 2003

JULY RAIN

It's late July and mist-strewn sky engulfs the bush today.
Calm silence fills the sodden hills and gorges clothed in grey.
A clement breeze stirs languid trees that dribble as they sway.
Horizons near veil mountains sheer and keep the world at bay.

A tawny hare sniffs dampened air and skips in playful vein.
On ledges steep dull wombats sleep midst creeper's tangled chain.
Grey kangaroos in leaden queues like statues in the rain.
My foot-step's sound on rain-soaked ground earns only their disdain.

I trudge along through kurrajong and box trees looming tall;
no cares today – work's far away and I resist the call.
The low fog clouds with pewter shrouds the valley like a shawl.
The drenching rain begins again – an everlasting fall.

The gully's flood – all stainer with mud – comes swirling from the hill.
Dead autumn leaves and rotted sheaves are floating with the swill.
On soft breeze blown the cattle's moan comes drifting clear and shrill.
I'm soaking wet but I forget discomfort of its chill.

Though some may view my tastes askew and think that I'm insane
I'll long recall that, after all, my quest was not in vain.
A beauty rare that few will share I've witnessed in the rain.
I humbly pray another day may see me here again.

The fading light that heralds night deceives the march of time;
it's little more than half-past four as I begin to climb
toward the road, and my abode – my wet boots sloshing slime
around the logs where croaking frogs rehearse their joyous chime.

Original Serious: 1st. **Carol Heuchan** from Cooranbong NSW.

2nd. **Ted Webber** of Young NSW.

3rd. **Ken Dean** of Marrangaroo NSW.

4th **Garry Lowe** of Berkeley Vale NSW

Open Traditional: 1st. **Ted Webber**.

2nd. **Garry Lowe**.

3rd. **Carol Heuchan**, 4th **Brian Coghlan**

Original Humorous: 1st. **Garry Lowe**.

2nd. **Carol Heuchan**.

3rd. **Ron Stevens** of Dubbo.

Novice Section: 1st. **Geoff Singleton** of Coonamble.

2nd. **Chris Garling**.

3rd. **Roger Knight**.

4th **Bob Cummings** of Kurri Kurri.

Junior Section. 1st **Megan Knight**.

2nd **Roger Knight** – both of Coonabarabran.

Dunedoo theme poem: 1st **Carol Heuchan**, 2nd **Ellis Campbell** and 3rd **Ted Webber**.

Written Serious: 1st. **Ron Stevens** – "Success", 2nd **Dan O'Donnell** – "Dear Sir" and 3rd. **Joyce Alchin** – "This Swelling Tide".

Written Humorous: 1st. **Ron Stevens** – "The Worms that Turned", 2nd. **Ellis Campbell** – "The Lion Tamer and the Line Dancer", 3rd. **Ellis Campbell** – "Chalky White".



© Greg Scott

Invasion

(Upstream)

From a spring, high in the foothills of the mighty Great Divide,
Where the wedge-tailed eagles soar on thermals free,
There's a tiny stream that gathers pace as down the mountainside,
It begins it's hard won journey to the sea.

And the stream becomes a river as it travels on it's way,
Joined by creeks and gullies swelled by mountain rain,
Down through farming land and forest where the brush-tailed possums play,
Then released by Glenhawn Dam on to the plain.

Past the vineyards and the horse studs and the dairy farms it flows,
Through a wonderland of scenery unsurpassed,
But the scenery is ephemeral and everybody knows
That the beauty of this valley can't last.

(Downstream)

There's an open-cut invasion spreading slowly 'cross the land,
Doing exponential damage every day,
Surely destined to continue unless someone takes a stand,
Heaven help the farms and townships in its way,

There's an open-cut invasion and it's known without a doubt
That the politicians back it to a man,
Mesmerised by short term profits, and the jobs they skite about,
Willing puppets of the boardrooms of Japan.

And the multinational companies rape the land for all it's worth,
Working twenty four hour shifts without a break,
As the dinosaur-like draglines tear the guts out of the earth,
Leaving devastated moonscapes in their wake.

While the bureaucrats and schemers using governmental clout
Change the rules and push the limits everyday,
As they minimise the buffer zones and force the families out,
Whilst protected by their mates the EPA.

For the EPA set boundaries as to where to draw the line,
How much poison can be poured in to the streams,
And they monitor the noise and dust of yet of another mine
As they pander to the multinational's dreams.

And they liaise with the locals as they seek to sanitise
The environmental damage people dread,
But the consultative process only serves to emphasise
That the mine will roll along whatever's said.

Sure it's good for the economy, but ponder what we've lost,
Can't our so called leaders think outside the square?
'Cause for every economic gain, there has to be a cost,
And the cost is poisoned water, soil and air.

There's an open-cut invasion spreading slowly 'cross the land,
Doing exponential damage every day,
Surely destined to continue unless someone takes a stand,
Heaven help the farms and townships in its way.

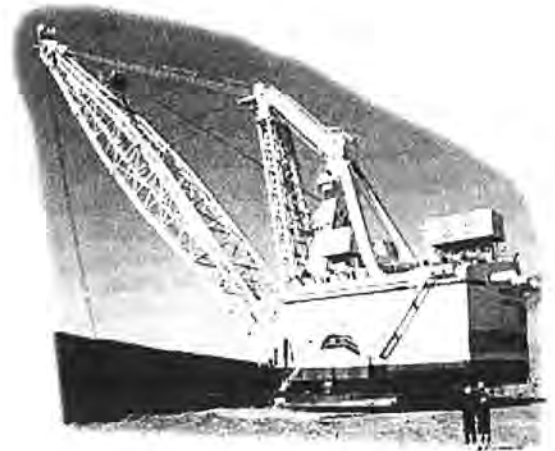
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