

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

**Greg North's
fresh approach
meets with
approval**
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Volume 11

No. 3

June - July 2004

**UP-COMING STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Qld. . . Aug 20-22— NORTH PINE
NSW. . . Oct 16-17— NARRANDERA
SA. . . Nov 13 — LUCINDALE

**Australia's BIGGEST
prize money EVER
for poetry?**

Read about Carol's success
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Bob Magor

enters Barmera Hall of Fame
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**WA State
Titles HUGE
success**

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

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The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc Newsletter is set-up, published and posted direct to subscribers bi-monthly by the ABPA Inc. (Submissions deadline—20<sup>th</sup> of month prior to printing.)

**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.

### *A word from our President*

Whilst attending the Braidwood (NSW) Drover's Reunion last November I met up with a lot of old mates, some I hadn't seen for 30 years.

I had the pleasure of staying with Reg and Paris Silvester whilst there and many a poem and old book was revived or revised during a couple of very long nights.

As well as a great lover of Australian Verse, Reg is a bit of a gimmick man, converting many items of junk into useful items, creating many a wonderful gadget in the process.

'Come and see my Heritage machine', he insisted when I arrived, and this is what I found in his backyard full of converted scrap.



### **THE HERITAGE MACHINE**

© Frank Daniel 3.12.2003

The title conjures up an image of a mass of cogs and gears, forged steel rods and shafts of steel the likes we've seen for years. A mass of curved-spoke pulleys driving oily chains and leather straps as flywheels hum the rhythm and time each big belt slaps.

One might see a massive traction engine all scrolled in green and gold; brassy valves exhausting steam from boilers big and bold or, some resemblance to a reaper – or perhaps a printing press – to some, a motor mower – it's anybody's guess.

Perchance imagination might allow a child-like overdose of flashing lights and laser beams; things that kids like most. A time machine; a sonic synthesizer; spacecraft flying high above the universe in a multi-coloured sky.

But no! on revelation there are no brassy valves a' hissing; the boiler, whirring cogs and rasping gears are missing. No slapping leather belts; no oily chains or flywheels to be seen just a truss of rusted pipe - and length of shade-cloth green.

It's just a simple curtain, slung between two 'A' frames four feet tall, backdrop for a tin can hanging on a three foot fall. The tin-can, battered, serves as target – in a backyard firing range where shanghais used by grown men might seem a little strange.

It stands before the garden shed, about five meters - maybe more; shooters taking steady aim from just inside the door. Though such an institution might attract a lot of dopes and dills (*expertise with catapults requires certain skills*)

but the skill's not in the firing. The game is not a test to find a winner or a loser - no one comes out best - in fact - it's not a game at all, just a way to ease vexation - where yarners yarn, thinkers think, a means of recreation A past-time for passing time, a means to while away an hour

slinging rocks across the lawn to save from going sour.  
The shade-cloth halts the missiles that fail to hit the target true  
enabling easy gathering when the shooting's through.

'And where does the 'Heritage' part come from?' impatient readers ask.  
From recollections from the past in which the shooters bask;  
each stone that hits, or misses (more than less) 'reminds us of a time'  
years ago, when we were kids, and keeps our memories prime.

*Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'*

*Frank Daniel*



Www.bushpoetry.com.au

## The Tractor Factor

The richest prize in the history of Bush Poetry has gone to NSW Ladies Champion, Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong NSW!

Bush Poetry has seen some pretty fantastic presentations made to its authors and performers over the past thirty years, perhaps none so coveted as the Bronze Swagman Award since 1972, or the famed Blackened Billy from Tamworth, The Asthma Awards in 2001 and 2002 and the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Championships where both the male and female winners are afforded a chance to represent Australia at the famed Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Elko in Nevada in January each year.

But none would ever dream that a sponsorship could lead to a major prize valued at \$34,000.00, let alone in the form of an agricultural tractor. This year the Sydney Royal Easter Show ran a writing competition in conjunction with Rural Press, 'The Land', to find the best 'Hat Story'. Competitors were asked to submit a story and a photograph of their favourite hat.

Carol Heuchan, being a Bush Poet, couldn't resist doing a simple, but catchy little poem in Bush Poetry style. Her entry was chosen from 257 others to be sent to the show for the public to make their choice.

The twenty finalists were displayed in The Dome at the Easter Show and 5,000 voters declared Carol Heuchan the winner of a CASE JX55 Tractor valued at \$34,000.00!! Carol has been competing with her horses at 'The Royal' for 35 years and the poem tells of how her hat

has carried over to her new life in the world of Bush Poetry. A great win, not only for her but for Bush Poetry as well.

Carol says her poem "was pretty basic but suited the conditions, was simple and easy to read." And she's mighty grateful Milton Taylor didn't get around to entering!



Carol Heuchan  
Cooranbong NSW

### Hats Off!

My Ladies' neat Akubra, bought twenty years ago,  
Was just the thing in the Stock Horse ring at the Royal Easter Show!

I wore it too, when working in the sun (much to its sorrow)  
When giving riding lessons to the horsemen of tomorrow.

And when the heavens opened and the rain came pouring down,  
I wore it with my Drizabone to shops and banks in town.

Of course, it's done those 'hatty' things that all good work hats do.  
I've whopped it on a lazy horse. It's landed in the poo.

I've held it humbly in my hands to ask for help from kin.  
I've tossed it in the air with glee to celebrate a win.

I've worn it often judging (when it's had itself a scrub)  
And worn it socializing with my horse mates in the pub.

But things can't last forever. I'm not as young, you see.  
But strangely, now, another door has opened up for me.

One day, I said a poem and they shoved me on the stage.  
And now my blooming poetry's become the bloody rage!

I spruke about Australia, about life and this and that,  
Entertaining in my moleskins and my Aussie, bushy hat.

They say when someone has two jobs, "He wears two hats", it's true.  
But I don't need an extra hat - the same old one will do.

# Your Two Bob's Worth

Tall-poppy syndrome hit Steve Irwin's core.  
There are crocodile tears every night!  
but he says he's not gonna hang out any more,  
'cause he's seen how the media bite!

Brian

Do you love Christmas and all the tradition associated with it? I know I do, and I think it would be nice to read about other families' Christmas traditions.

I am considering putting together a book containing Christmas anecdotes, poems, recipes, family customs, traditions, childhood memories, in fact, anything to do with Christmas. I would love it if you could pass any special stories on to me. Please include your name, address and telephone number, and the same details of any one who is mentioned in the information for publishing reasons. If you have a photo to include, that would be fantastic. It will be returned to you. Thankyou so much, I shall really look forward to hearing about your favourite Christmas story.

Mrs. Elizabeth McLean  
Wellesley,  
SURAT, Q., 4417

Ph 07 47265411

Fax 07 46265435

## Joke Poems

Referring to Murray Hartin's protest letter concerning the proliferation of JOKE POEMS that are gaining their authors notoriety and bolstering the waning repertoires of others.... Due to the lack of response to Murray's article in this magazine, can one assume that at least the majority of members reckon it is OK?

It's nothing new as many recognized and respected authors have proven. Look at Blue The Shearer's 'The Cross Eyed Bull' and 'The Poker Machine', Jim Haynes with Dipso Dan and Re-incarnation. Frank Daniel's poem about Aunt Martha giving the finger is based on a yarn that I have since received on the Internet. In Tamworth Noel Stallard has won the Imperial with The Woman In Red and this year young Patty Ryan recited two poems based on those old jokes about a dead rabbit that a dog dug up, and an old bloke who bought some new boots to impress his wife. I was at the Carbarla Folk Festival some years ago when Ted Egan told a joke in the presence of Charlie Marshall. That day Charlie wrote a poem based on that joke and the next morning recited for the very first time 'The Pontiff's Eyes'.

These poems are based on well-used jokes that many other Poets on the circuit will now feel obliged to leave out of their repertoire for the simple fact that the 'joke' has now been

captured.

Of course the only thing other poets/joke tellers would have to do to stuff up the writer's credibility and diminish their repertoires would be to jump up before them and tell the original joke.

I am disappointed Murray's letter did not encourage more debate on this subject. (except round the campfires - is that where these matters should be left?)

If you're wondering how I feel about this matter, I don't see anything wrong with writing the occasional 'joke poem' but I deplore those incestuous unimaginative writers who are constantly violating the 'unwritten code of ethics' amongst writers and performers by tasting the wares of apparent 'mates', and instead of being inspired by them, they are appropriating for their own benefit, the talents of those 'mates'. (turning a fellow performer's jokes into poems)

So will the writers who try and maintain a strict set of standards be recognized above and beyond these 'opportunists'? That is not our call and only time will answer that quandary.

But I will say this. We all have a conscience....use the bloody thing!

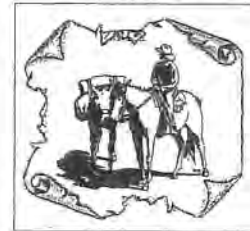
Must go now. I have a couple of Jack Drake's and Neil McCarthur's jokes that are begging to be made into poems. They won't mind...they're nice blokes.

Cheers  
Manco Giori

## The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual of Bush Poetry

\$5.00 posted  
The Secretary  
ABPA Inc.  
1 Avenue Street,  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Back copies available



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\$10 for any 5  
Postage Paid



Do you have something you'd like to say? A gripe or a poetry related query or suggestion? Send your views, stories of interest, poems, jokes and response to newsletter articles to me no later than 20th July for inclusion in the Aug/Sept issue. I prefer email because it saves me typing but if it's here early I don't mind snail mail either.  
See Page 2 for address details.

Leanne Jeacocke, Editor

## ENOUGH FOR NOW!

© Maurie Foun - Corryong Vic.  
You're sitting by a campfire  
In a folding K-Mart chair  
Your mates have settled early  
And the stars are yours to share  
You're thinking of a line to write  
But you can't quite make it rhyme  
Perhaps you'd better think on it  
And try another time.

# KATHERINE HOSTS BUSH POET'S BREAKFAST

The word certainly is getting around that the people of Katherine really know how to put on a show. The Katherine Country Music Muster proved to be a fabulous week. This year's Muster was even bigger than last year and it's already expected that next year will attract an even bigger crowd.

A number of poets flew out of Brisbane to Darwin to be joined by artists from Melbourne. All then boarded a bus for the 300km journey down to Katherine. Katherine is a relaxed, easygoing town with a population of about

6,000 and the locals sure made their guests feel welcome.

Merv and Chris Webster spent two days doing workshops at five local schools and were amazed at the response of the children towards learning the basics of writing and performing bush poetry. The bush poet's breakfast was a first for the Muster and was well supported. Local poets were keen to be a part of the walk up breakfast and joined the 'Southern' poets throughout the morning.

The winner of the Open written competition was **Max Merckenschlager** of Murray Bridge S.A. with his poem, "Gray Gypsies" (page 15) and the runner up was **Ellis Campbell** of Dubbo, N.S.W with "Requiem For Abington."

Highly commended were **Joyce Alchin** of Corrimal, N.S.W - 'The Table' and 'This Swelling

Tide', **Ellis Campbell** of Dubbo, N.S.W. - 'Passing Of An Era' and **Max Merckenschlager** - 'Mallee Farmer'.

It was great to see interstate entries, even among the Junior section. The Junior written competition was won by **Cecily Chandler** of the Burra Burri State School in Queensland while the runner up was nine year old **Zac Finden** of Katherine in the Northern Territory. Log onto <http://www.kcmm.com.au> for further details.

All written entries were critiqued and results sent back to all entrants. We hope this will give some feedback to poets wishing to know just how they fared in the competition, a detail that is missing from many written competitions.

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>  
October 2004

COO-EE FESTIVAL

*Written Poetry Competition*

Total Prize Pool  
\$1490.00

Entries Close August 30<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Poetry Workshop and Readings**

Charges: Adults \$5.00, School Children Free

**Ron Stevens** will conduct a Poetry Workshop on Saturday at the Gilgandra Bowling Club from 8.30am to 11.30am. Ron is a multi-award winning poet, whose over 140 first prizes throughout Australia include the Gilgandra Coo-ee March Section four times in succession, Gulgong Henry Lawson five times, Winston Bronze Swagman, Orange Banjo Paterson, Narrandere John O'Brien and Tamworth Blackened Billy twice.

The workshop will cater for all styles, Bush Verse to contemporary forms. As well as experienced writers, Ron will welcome and encourage beginners and especially young poets.

If invited by the writers, he will offer comment and constructive suggestions on any poems presented. He promises no-one will leave in tears

Entry fee :  
Adults \$5.00  
Students \$2.50  
per Poem

Contact  
02 6847 308  
For conditions

**6 Sections**

- ✦ **Coo-ee March**
- ✦ **Humorous**
- ✦ **Open**
- ✦ **Outback**
- ✦ **Open High School**
- ✦ **Open Primary School**

## SA Poets' Club News

**Bob Magor** is going to be invested into Rocky Page's Barmera Music Festival Hall of Fame during the Barmera Festival. His books include 'Blood on the Board', 'Caravanning Bliss', 'Donkey Derby' and 'Snakes Alive'. Those members who will be attending, along with many others will applaud him on this achievement which includes such greats as Slim Dusty. Congratulations Bob!

The program has been set for the Festival and it appears there will be a good rollup of poets this year. Events in which the SA poets are involved include the Singalong and campfire at the Cobdogla Caravan Park on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, Poets' Showcase at Renmark Caravan Park on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Cobdogla Steam museum on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June and Bush Poets on

## Harbour City Highlights

The glass-like surface of the splendid Lake Awoonga provided a glorious backdrop on Easter Saturday morning for the first Bush Poet's Breakfast held in conjunction with the Gladstone Harbour Festival. Melanie Hall spent Friday night travelling by train from Townsville and the Harbour City folks were so stunned by her performance that they are still talking about it. Her hilarious antics together with performances from Margy McArdle, Leanne & Cory Jeacocke and Trent Jenkinson had

the packed venue in fits.

And it was all happening again on Sunday morning at the Main Stage at the Gladstone Marina, where festival goers took a break from side show alley and enjoyed a relaxed breakfast beneath the clear skies of a typical Central Queensland Coastal morning. Margy's daughter Donna broke up the poetry with some brilliant Bush Ballads accompanied by her guitar. Thanks to Margy's organising, all was a great success. Congratulations ladies (and boys).

Parade on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Jeff Cook, the poet from Minlaton, is having his long-standing beard and his hair shaved off for the 'Shave for a cure' promotion run on behalf of the Leukaemia Foundation. He is asking for anyone who may feel

inclined to support this worthwhile initiative, to forward donations to him. He will provide a receipt and donations of \$2 or over are tax deductible. Send mail to 93 Maitland Rd, Minlaton, or email [jeffrey.cook@yorke.net.au](mailto:jeffrey.cook@yorke.net.au).

JULY  
2ND, 3RD & 4TH  
2004

## 10<sup>TH</sup> BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER

Across The Waves Sports Club

Miller Street,  
BUNDBERG

Special Guest Poets

*Janine Haig*

*Gary Fogarty*

**Performance Competition:**

Open (men & women separate categories)

Intermediate, Novice, Juniors,  
One Minute Dark & Stormy Cup  
& Yarn Spinning

**Closing date:** *June 21<sup>st</sup>* - Early registration enables programme to be finalized but late entries will be accepted on the week-end.

Entry forms available by sending a SSAE to :-

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.,  
PO Box 4281,  
BUNDBERG. 4670

**Phone Enquiries**

Sandy & John Lees (07) 41514631  
Laree Chapman (07) 41527409  
or Sam Dye (07) 41561216

Presentation of  
Bush Lantern  
Written Awards



**Poetry Workshops:** In conjunction with the Muster week-end Milton Taylor and Janine Haig will conduct workshops for primary secondary school children on June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> with adults workshops on July 1<sup>st</sup>.



## MFSR - CORRYONG 2004

Lovers of 'Banjo' Paterson's 'Man From Snowy River' poem were totally divided in their reaction to the announcement that **Greg North** from NSW had won the coveted MFSR Recital trophy for 2004.

Banjo's Block buzzed with emotions ranging from angry disapproval to giggles of delight at Greg's multicultural interpretation of the well-loved poem. Demonstrating masterful vocal skills in several foreign accents, he took the audience on a never-to-be-forgotten journey to be talked about for a long time.

Greg's fresh approach also won him the Aussie Comedy section with an innovative salute to Corryong, parts of which became a catch-cry around the camp. As a 'new kid on the block' in Bush Poetry circles, with only months of experience, he was overwhelmed to win the prestigious Clancy's Choice Award (sponsored by Wodonga TAFE) for best overall male performer. An overjoyed **Molly Sparks** from Kyabram won the Matilda Award for best overall female (sponsored by Vicki Standish).

**Harold Briggs**, last year's Jack Riley Heritage Award winner, was delighted to hand over the trophy this year to **Matthew Hollis**, a bus driver from the Gold Coast Queensland who said that it 'was a dream come true'.

Judged before the festival, the 'Silver Brumby' Written Award in memory of the late Elyne Mitchell was won by well-known Dubbo poet **Ellis**

**Campbell**, and **Kym Eitel** was runner-up.

All Corryong Regional Amateur Performers were crowd pleasers, but **Tracey Foxcroft** and **Annie Reiners** took out the female prizes in the Aussie poem section; **Tara Whitsed** the Junior Walk-up section, **Tessa Simpson** the Junior performer and **Lawrie Sheridan** encouragement award.

The Lions' Youth Hall looked 'bushy' & welcoming and was full most of the day with people interested in



Jan Lewis

watching the hotly contested, marathon program of competition all day Saturday. The standard was extremely high, with 24 entrants in the Original Performed poem section, and 28 in the Aussie poem. Consistent festival performer **Peter Klein** and his son **Todd** from Bethanga won the Original Song section, & Peter also won the Aussie Song.

'Us not Them' alias Chloe and Jason Roweth were our guest musicians and enchanted audiences with their relaxed presentations at all of our venues and the Re-enactment.

Geoffrey Graham started the festival early and joined 'Riley's Ride' then made appearances as the 'Banjo' in and around the different venues.

Ian and Diane Simpson kept the tucker coming on Banjo's Block, through three Poets' Breakfasts and various other events held there, right through to the late night campfire music sessions. Sacred Heart school children arrived en masse on the Friday morning and charmed the audience with their poems. Another highlight was Jim Brown's visual presentation of 'Banjo's Australia' on the big screen. The crowd was enthralled with such poems as 'In the Droving Days', and lined up to buy his DVD'S. Jim was filming a documentary on Corryong prior to and during the festival.

Other events around town included Family food feast and concerts in Attree Centre and Yarnspinning competition followed by Geoffrey Graham and 'Us not Them' at the Sporting Complex Brumby Bar & Legends on Hanson. Two Bush Poets' nights were held at the Court House Hotel and Poets' & Musicians' farewell at Colac Colac Caravan Park on Sunday night with a couple of hundred people rounded off an excellent weekend.

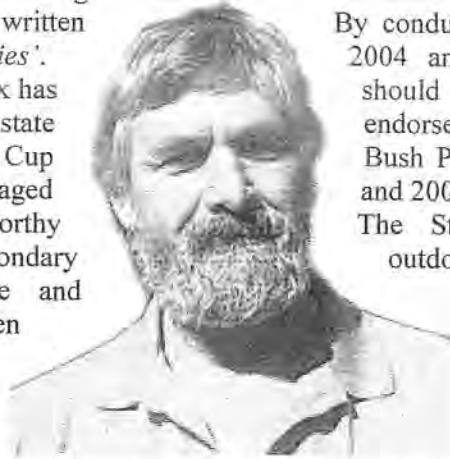
Many thanks to all our Judges, entrants, poets, musicians, guests, MC's and volunteers from near and far for their hard work to make a great weekend. .

*Full Results list on page 14*

*Jan Lewis*

## KATHERINE AWARD TO SA WRITER

From all reports the Inaugural Katherine Country Music Muster held at the end of April at the Outback Heritage Museum Grounds was a resounding success. As at all great festivals, bush poetry was included on the big programme and Max Merckenschlager of Murray Bridge SA took out the written bush poetry award for his 'Gray Gypsies'. During his long and varied career Max has been a banker, represented his home state of South Australia as a Kings Cup oarsman, graduated as a mature-aged student 'way back then' from Roseworthy Agricultural College, has been a secondary school teacher, mostly agriculture and science – including two years in Yemen Arab Republic teaching English just prior to the Gulf War. Between 1991 and 2002 Max and wife Jacqui conducted 'Blackweed Seeds' harvesting native seeds for re-vegetation in SA. They have now joined the great unpaid workforce which many are all too familiar with, known laughingly as the "retired" or "semi-retired". They have worked together for most of the last 20 years, particularly as joint coordinators of an adaptive education program which they set up at Murray Bridge High School that was known as SAIL



(students' assisted individual learning), as a seed harvesting team and as landcare organisation volunteers, so it's pretty much a Max and Jacqui package.

Max is currently coordinating with the Rural City of Murray Bridge to initiate a new annual poetry event, the SA Stumpy Awards, on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

By conducting their own signature event in 2004 and again in 2005 Murray Bridge should be strongly placed to receive endorsement from the ABPA to host the SA Bush Poetry State Championships in 2006 and 2007.

The Stumpy Awards will include an outdoors poet's breakfast on the banks of the Murrundi (River Murray) at Sturt Reserve from 7am which will be followed by the performance poetry heats at the Community Club.

Supporting events include

acapella singers, didgeridoo.

performances and a one-act play 'The Woman Tamer'. It is anticipated that refurbishment of nearby Pomberuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre will be completed in July, and some indigenous involvement is being arranged.

For further information log onto the internet at <http://www.lm.net.au/~treetops/>.

## MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2004



### Poets' Breakfast

Ruby's Country Cuisine – Harry Graham Dr.  
The "Poets' Corner" in historic Kempl Heights

8am Sunday  
1st August  
2004

Featuring:

### "The Great Kempl Poetry Challenge 2004"

Whether you are a poet or just love a good yarn come and enjoy the bush atmosphere and fresh breakfast served in the crisp, fresh Mt Kempl air, all of which provides a really stunning setting for the "Great Kempl Poetry Challenge"

Write your own work and perform or if you prefer have someone else perform for you.

Enquiries: Cate Stevenson

☎ 4271 3737 ☎ 0418 287 000

Mt Kempl Mining Heritage Committee  
2004

9 Araluen Avenue,  
Mt Kempl Village NSW 2526

Email: [mtkemplminingheritage@tpg.com.au](mailto:mtkemplminingheritage@tpg.com.au)

**Competitors  
Entry Fee of \$10  
covers all sections**

- ☞ Open Section
- ☞ Mining Section
- ☞ Written Section
- ☞ Bush Poetry
- ☞ Youth Section
- ☞ Walk Up Start
- ☞ Yarns, Tall Tales, Fibs & Lies
- ☞ Cash Prizes for all sections



## ABPA QLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004

North Pine Bush Poets  
**20th 21st 22nd August,**

Pioneer Village  
Country Music Hall,  
North Pine Country Park,  
Dayboro Road, Petrie

It's on again. If you have not yet received info on this event, written, performance or the Concert, contact our Secretary Manfred Vijars on (07) 3399 8775 Email [manfred@rocketfrog.com.au](mailto:manfred@rocketfrog.com.au).

The Written Comp entries must be postmarked no later than 25th July 2004 so don't delay. The Performance Nominations close 2nd August and all categories are capped at 25 competitors, these figures have been attained in the past, so don't miss out. No entries will be accepted after this date. The total prize money is in excess of \$3000 plus trophies for all place getters.

The venue's magnificent, the weather, like the welcome is warm and it's on your way to the Gympie Muster. You'd be mad if you don't front up. For further information contact John Best on (07) 3285 2845 or Email [longjohnbest@dodo.com](mailto:longjohnbest@dodo.com).

## AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS IN BELLINGEN

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. was formed in 1994 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival, by a handful of bush poets, keen to preserve our heritage. Performing or reciting rhyming verse is a part of our Australian culture, and it is one of the most sincere entertainment art forms available. Performance poetry goes back twenty years in Tamworth, with the first of many successful competitions held in 1987. New South Wales poets Marion Fitzgerald of North Star and Murray Hartin of New Lambton were supported in their winning efforts by the likes of the late John Philipson and Gertrude Skinner of Tamworth.

Written and performance competitions are held nationally, with State and Australian Championships held annually. The National titles with the support of the Perth City Council will be held at Subiaco in October this year, and the Gold City Bush Poets plan to hold the 2005 National Titles at Charters Towers.

State titles for 2004 are to be held in Perth W.A., Lucindale S.A., Narrandera N.S.W., North Pine Qld, and have recently been conducted at Shepparton VIC.

Accredited members regularly attend schools, taking this art form

to the students, giving them an insight into our past with works from the great Masters - Patterson, Lawson, Dennis and McKellar to name only a few, as well as the modern, contemporary bush poets.

With regard to the local area regular meetings of Bush Poets are held by the Mountain Top Bush Poets at the Dorrigo Mountain Resort by Murray Suckling.

Contact phone No. 66572139.

On Saturday the 8th May, with the kind assistance of the proprietors Ian and Lesley Hughes of the Hyde 'N' Seek Café in Hyde Street, Bellingen, the inaugural gathering of what is proposed as a new venue for Bush Poetry was attended by 40 people and approximately a dozen performers who provided a memorable afternoon of entertainment. Thanks go to the supporters and performers who came from Nambucca Heads, Coffs Harbour, Kalang, Dorrigo and Bellingen.

It is proposed to hold the next function at this venue on the 10th July at 1.30 p.m. so if you enjoy Australian rhyming verse or would like to participate please contact Ed. Parmenter on 66523716 for confirmation of this date or any other enquiries.

*Ed Parmenter,*

### George Tuck's *High Country Exhibition* *a verse and visual celebration*

A big turnout is expected at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery in June, where Neil Hulm will host a Poetry Display in conjunction with the exhibition of 24 inspiring paintings of the Snowy Mountains by George Tuck.

Neil, founder of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club is an award winning poet with 13 books to his credit. A selection of 16 High Country Bush Poems will

be on display each day at the gallery which is open from Tuesday to

Saturday each week 10am to 5pm and Sundays 12 noon to 4pm.. There will also be poetry readings each Wednesday from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July at 1:30pm.

For more information phone George Tuck 02 69223450 or Neil Hulm 02 60253845.



**ART  
GALLERY**  
WAGGA WAGGA

**All Welcome**

# LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL

Glen Innes is a town consumed by all things Celtic, and justifiably so. Many of the towns and villages in this part of New England were settled by Scottish, Welsh and Cornish folk who came

to this rugged high country to graze sheep, or mine tin.

During the Land of the Beardies Festival to be staged from the **5th - 14th of November** you can experience several Celtic flavoured

events, featuring the Bearded Stockman Competition, colourful street parade and market stalls. Other events in King Edward parklands will include Amusement Rides, Musical Entertainment, Cat Show Tug of War events, Talent Quests, Car Shows and Cultural and Local exhibitions. There will also be other entertainment in various venues around the Town.

As the Land of the Beardies Festival is a Lions Club Project the Festival has Candidates raising money for a Local Charities, Last year and for the following three years they are raising funds for a Heated Aquatic Facility at the Glen Innes Swimming Pool. In 2003 four Candidates raised \$5000 in a very short time for this project and with this year's added attractions they are hoping for another very successful festival.

As the Festival Committee is always looking for new events for the Festival, they have decided to re-establish the Poets' Breakfast and competition this year, utilizing the expertise of our Local well known Poet Colin Newsome. The Poet's breakfast will be on Sunday the 14th of November 2004 in King Edward Park, commencing at 8.00am

Categories for the competition will consist of Contemporary or Modern, Original, & Traditional sections and an Encouragement award for Junior Poets.

An entry Fee of \$ 5.00 would be charged for each Nomination received, good prizes will be provided, plus a Cash prize to the winner of each division.

Further information can be obtained by contacting secretary Neville Campbell on (02) 67322663 or email [nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com](mailto:nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com) or Colin Newsome (02) 67322417 or write to

Neville Campbell  
PO Box 182, Glen Innes.

## INVERELL'S CELEBRATION *of the* OUTBACK

10th - 12th  
SEPT 2004

\*2 Bush Poets' Breakfasts at the beautiful Pioneer Village  
\* Poets' Pub Crawl  
\* Sheep Shearing Time Trial  
AND THE "GOLDEN ANGEL"  
AWARDS NIGHT FEATURING:

\*MURRAY HARTIN \*JACK DRAKE  
\* DON LLOYD \*MELISSA BAJRIC  
\* THE RABBIT-TRAPPERS

### MAJOR PRIZES:

BUSH POETS (Original) - \$1500 Total  
BUSH POETS (Traditional) - \$700  
BUSH BALLADEERS - \$800  
YARNSPINNERS - \$350

JUNIOR BUSH POET SECTION - \$150 and Trophy  
WRITERS' COMPETITION - \$300

(Written entries close 10th August 2004)

PLUS - "GOLDEN ANGEL" AWARD TO ALL WINNERS

Entry Forms, accommodation details and bookings available from:  
Jimmy Brown - (02) 67 223550 (Day)  
(02) 67 23 1439 (Evening)  
Inverell Visitors Centre -  
(02) 67 288161 (BH)

early bookings  
advised: particularly for  
accommodation

TICKETS  
AVAILABLE  
FROM JULY

proudly sponsored by:  
**Best Employment**

## BUSH POETRY SOIREE AT BOWRAVILLE THEATRE

A treat is in store for Australian Bush Poetry lovers on Saturday 21st August, 2004 when popular performer, "Arch" Bishop will feature at a Bush Poetry Soiree at the heritage listed Bowraville Theatre.

Built in 1940 and formally known as the Raymond Theatre, the building in High Street has been recently restored by the members of the Bowraville Arts Council who can be justifiably proud of the result of the thousands of hours they have collectively contributed to restore this beautiful building to its former glory.

"Arch" or "Cardinal Sin" as he is often known, established himself well as a performance poet in the late nineties when he won the coveted "Reciter of the Year" award at the National Folk Festival in Canberra. He is a regular

performer at poetry and spoken word sections of many other folk and country festivals and has also performed with the best of Australia's contemporary Bush Poets at Tamworth's famous Long Yard Hotel during the city's Country Music Festival.

His powerful voice and stage presence captivates and entertains audiences, whether it be with verse, yarns or storytelling in the Aussie humorous tradition or with his interpretations of, and empathy with his selections which will bring tears to your eyes.

Arch's down to earth attitude is coupled with an off beat sense of humour and a knack of not looking at things in the traditional manner which will make you laugh, cry and think!

No stranger to those along the mid north coast who enjoy rhyming verse, Arch contributed to the success of the "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry Events which were held during the towns annual festival several years ago.

The afternoon's entertainment will commence at 1.30 p.m. and will include some great songs from local country music identity

Dianne Sanger. Cost of entry is \$8.00.

During interval you can treat yourself to the tasty snacks or delicious coffee from the theatre's very own café or perhaps a Devonshire Tea, available for just \$5.00.

If you recite or wish to read Bush Poetry you are invited to participate in the afternoons entertainment. Novice and junior poets are most welcome.

All funds raised will contribute to ongoing support of this beautiful building in Bowraville, an absolute credit to the Verandah Post Town.

If you would like to share your rhyming verse during the afternoon please call Maureen Stonham - 02 6568 5269 or Email: maureenandtom@tsn.cc

Theatre booking should be directed to Dorothy Evans - Ph 02 6564 7828 Email: dje1@nor.com.au

We look forward to sharing this afternoon of very Australian entertainment with you when the Bards Return to Bowra !!

*Maureen Stonham,  
Nambucca Heads, NSW.*



## NSW STATE TITLES Narrandera

The ABPA NSW State Championships for 2004 will be held in Narrandera on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th October at the Narrandera Services Club.

Narrandera is a River Town with a rich heritage. It is located on the Murrumbidgee River in the heart of the NSW Riverina, at the junction of two National Highways, the Sturt and the Newell and centrally located to attract a great many poets vying for the State Poetry Titles.

This year's event will coincide with Narrandera's

TREE-MENDOUS Country Celebrations, a celebration of Country music featuring the Riverina's Craig Giles in Concert in the Narrandera Park along with many other fantastic artists.

Entry forms for the written and performance competitions are available by calling Julie Briggs at The Tourism Centre on 1800 672 392.

Narrandera could be ideally suited as a port of call to those making the long journey from the East to Perth for the National Titles later in October. Start making your plans now.

## POEMS AND SONGS

© Jan MacDonald

*Unanderra NSW January 2004*

Poetry? How boring!  
Someone said to me  
But each night and morning  
They enjoy it blissfully

Songs are poems with a tune  
We sing and hum along  
Any subject, sun and moon  
A reason to belong

Think of how this world would be  
Without a poem and a song  
A sad place, just empty  
With no meaning, all wrong

It really is amazing  
How poems cheer the soul  
Words tumbled into phrasing  
The last verse is the goal



# GREAT SOUTHERN MUSTER

LUCINDALE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Campfires, country music, Utes, bush poetry, working dogs, shearers, regional food and wine .... all this and more at the 2004 Great Southern Muster - in Lucindale - on November 13th!

On the heels of the hugely successful inaugural event, this year's Great Southern Muster will have all the same country attractions as last year.

A twilight concert will be one of the main highlights of the event.

Featuring three of Australia's top female Country artists, together for their only South Australian concert.

The South Australian Bush Poetry Championships, conducted under the auspice of the Australian Bush Poetry Inc., will proudly be held in conjunction with the 2004 Great Southern Muster.

Poets from all over South Australia will perform their works of art throughout the day at the 2004 Southern Muster.

The event will be held at the Yakka Park (S.E. Field Days site), in the quaint township of Lucindale.

Lucindale is positioned in the heart of the Limestone Coast, approximately 3½ hours drive from Adelaide and 5½ hours drive from Melbourne.

The SA Bush Poetry Championships will get underway at 10am, conducted under the

auspices of the ABPA at Yakka Park (concluding Sunday if necessary)

Categories will include Traditional, contemporary or modern, Original (serious & humorous) and a written section.

Competitors will be vying for the Champion's Trophy and cash prizes in each category. For further details and entry forms contact Di Jenke.

For further information about the event, please contact:

## BUSH POETRY

Di Jenke: ☎ (08) 8769 6030

☎ (08) 8769 6030

## GREAT SOUTHERN MUSTER

Verity Ingham: ☎ (08) 8766 0041

☎ (08) 8766 0005

☒ [verity@greatsouthernmuster.com.au](mailto:verity@greatsouthernmuster.com.au)

Or visit our website at:

[www.greatsouthernmuster.com.au](http://www.greatsouthernmuster.com.au)

As writers we may often spend time deciding the form our new composition will take. We may ask ourselves "should I use *Octosyllabic Couplets*, or perhaps *Alexandrine* is more my style?" Here's a spot of advice from C.J. Dennis which appeared in *The Bulletin*, 18 March 1915

### A GUIDE FOR POITS (Excerpt)

First, choose some swingin' metre, sich as this,  
That Omar used - per Fitz - to boost the wine.  
An' 'ere's a point true artists shouldn't miss:  
Sling in a bit o' slang to ev'ry line.

An' when yer full o' them alternate rhymes -  
As all the true push poits is at times -  
Jist ring the changes, as I'm doin' now;  
An' find ixcuse to say: "The bloomin' cow!"

Or, comin' back to Omar's style again,  
It's easy fer to pen a sweet refrain

Wiv this 'ere kist a dead-'ead sort o' line,  
An' this one rhymin' wiv the former twain.

An' though this style me soul 'as often vext,  
Wiv care an' pains the knack is easy cort;  
This line's rhymed wiv the first, an' then the next  
Is cut orf short.

An' if yeh want to round it orf orl neat  
Just add a couplet 'ere of equil feet.

An' 'ere's a style I've very often done:  
You swing orf 'ere, an' find a second rhyme,

Then hitch the third line to the leadin' one.

An' make the fourth lap wiv the second chime,  
An' then you sort o' come another time,  
An' jist end up the same as you begun.

It's orl dead easy when yeh know the way,  
An' 'ave the time to practise it - But, say,  
Although it sort o' takes the eye, no doubt  
(An', mind yeh, I'm not sayin' but it may) -  
Wivout a stock uv rhymes to see you out  
This style o' rhymin's like to turn yeh grey.

The triplets comes much 'arder than the twins;  
But I 'ave 'ad to bear 'em fer me sins.

'Ere, fer a single line, yeh change the style,  
Switch orf an' rhyme the same as you begins;  
An' then yeh comes back at it wiv a smile,  
Pertendin' it's dead easy orl the while.

Them sawed-orf lines 'as often stood me friends;  
Fer you kin cut 'em upto serve yer ends.

An' frequent I 'ave slung the dotin' throng  
This sort o' song.  
To ring su'prises on the eye an' ear  
Is 'arf the game. It seems to kind o' queer  
The dull monotony. yeh make a miss,  
An' then do this.

Aw, 'Struth! it's pretty; but you take my tip,  
It gives a bloke the everlastin' pip  
'Oo tries to live upon the game and gets. . . .  
Corns on 'is brain an' melancholy debts!

## WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Assoc. State Championships

**T**he WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners held their State Championships on 15th May 2004 at the Fremantle Arts Centre. The Arts Centre is a magnificent 160 year old heritage listed lime-stone building which was formally an asylum - what better place to put a mob of Bush Poets!!

This was the first formal championship held in WA and was conducted prior to the National Championships as a test for the systems and categories. Organizers are very excited about all the positive aspects of the day and have learnt from the few little glitches.

This should ensure a good national event.

The over-all Champion was Kerry Lee, our National Ladies Champion. As there were no gender categories Kerry had to take on the blokes and she did it in style, winning every Open Category.

The WA club have not been able to establish a good Junior following as yet and junior entries were low. They were, however, encouraged by the large entries in the Novice section. The Open Competition attracted thirteen poets from all over Western Australia. This provided a very high standard of competition. One poet to emerge

from the scrub was Peter Blyth. Peter's work has filtered around the State with the occasional mention from travellers of the entertaining quality of his work. In 2000 he snuck into Tamworth and made the final in the Imperial Competition.

Peter mentioned he had done most of his writing on his tractor. Another mad "cap" poet, Peter Capp, was quick on the uptake with the vision of his tractor out in the scrub with poetry written all over it in felt pen!

Peter has retired to a small property near Albany and hopefully now has more time to be involved in the WA Bush Poetry scene.

**The overall Championship results were - 1st - Kerry Lee, 2nd - Rod Lee, 3rd - Peter Blyth**



## BUSH POETS - CHRIS & THE GREY PRESENT LAUGHTER & TEARS FROM THE

### 290 PAGE BOOK:

I love people who believe in themselves and have a good go at things that suit their talents. It is a delight to see

the way Merv [The Goondiwindi Grey] and Chris take their show Laughter and Tears from the Bush around Australia, charming people with their great range of poetry and yarns. I know good performers when I see



them, and here are a couple of the best. No wonder Merv sold all copies of his first six books and had to reprint. Merv and Chris now present this fine collection, **A Muster of Australiana**, to give readers a taste of all their earlier books. I am certain that readers will derive as much pleasure as I have had from reading, first, the fascinating Biography "**In**

**Days Gone By**" and then the selection of poems, the best, from the six previous titles. What a good idea. What a bargain. The poetry ranges right through the emotional scale. You're laughing out loud one minute, reflecting the next and occasionally wiping a tear. That's what good poetry's all about. It's very Australian, and that suits me.

*Ted Egan AM - Alice Springs 2002*

### 16 TRACK CD :

When you put the combination of thongs, racehorses and Neil McArthur together what do you come up with. Blacklisted, that's what. When Neil and I were sharing a moment at Bobby Millers Wake, Neil mentioned there was a runner in the Melbourne Cup called Thong Classic. Inspired by Bob and Neil's love of humour I went home and penned the words to Blacklisted, which is the title track for our new album. In the poem Neil's love of racehorses finds himself with a new purchase, Thong Classic, and he gives me the ride. Well that in itself is comical enough, but the twist at the end will give you a good old belly laugh. There are fifteen other tracks on the album which include the award winning poem, The Passing of Stumpy Shore, Murder Bloody Murder! Who Will sing Their Praises, A Loowd Conversation, A Failure That's The Best Success, R.B.T. Blues, A Rum Soaked Ringer's, Marion Lee, The Price of A Kiss, The First Surveyor, The Night I Caught The Rat, Bert's Will, The Genie and Mulligan's Mob.



### BUSH POETRY EVENT CO-ORDINATORS - COMPERES - PERFORMERS AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS

Merv & Chris Webster, P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld. 4670 or Phone 07 4159 1868

Log onto [www.bushpoets.go.to](http://www.bushpoets.go.to) or email [bushpoets@go.to](mailto:bushpoets@go.to)

# RESULTS *from* CORRYONG 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2004

## SILVER BRUMBY' AWARD (in memory of Elyne Mitchell)

Written Original Poem Winner - Ellis Campbell - Valour rode the Range  
 Runner-up - Kym Eitel - Wild Horse Rain

## PERFORMANCE POETRY SECTIONS

Original (Male) Winner - Rod Williams - Travel the Red Road  
 Runner Up - Terry Regan - Blackbeard's Leap

Original (Female) Winner - Annette Roberts - Bridgett's Lament  
 Runner Up - Molly Sparks - Headless Chooks

Aussie Poem (Male) Winner - Gregory North - Said Hanrahan  
 Runner Up - Rod Williams - Marshall's Mate

Aussie Poem (Female) Winner - Tracey Foxcroft - Drover's Sweetheart  
 Runner Up - Annie Reiners - Hist

Aussie Yarn Winner - Barry Lake - The Atheist  
 Runner Up - Terry Regan - The Goanna

Banjo Paterson's 'MFSR' Winner - Greg North  
 Runner Up - Rod Williams

Jack Riley Heritage Award Winner - Matthew Hollis - Man From Snowy River 2  
 Runner-up - Harold Briggs - Men of the Snowy Scheme

## MUSIC SECTIONS

Original Song Winner - Peter & Todd Klein - Baby in the Shearing Shed  
 Runner-up - Aitch - Alive you'll not take me

Aussie Song Winner - Peter Klein - Lachlan Tigers  
 Runner-up - Aitch - Diamantina Drover

Junior Performer (U/18) Winner - Tessa Simpson - When McDougall topped the score  
 Runner-up - Todd Klein - Somebody's Moggy

Aussie Comedy Winner - Greg North - Corryong  
 Runner-up - Colin Milligan - Stress

## SPECIAL AWARDS

Matilda Award (Female) Winner - Molly Sparks  
 Runner-up - Annette Roberts

Clancy's Choice Award (Male) Winner - Greg North  
 Runner-up - Rod Williams

One-Minute Poem Winner - Lance Parker  
 Runner-up - Frank Daniel

Walkup Award Winner - Reg Phillips  
 Runner-up - Will Arnold

Junior Walkup Award - Tara Whitsed  
 - Luke Wallace



Harold Briggs

**Have all write-ups, submissions and ads for  
 Aug - Sept issue to the editor by 20<sup>th</sup> July**



07 4995 8407



jarby@cqnet.com.au



PO Box 96,  
 THANGOOL, Qld. 4716



# Dorrigo Round-Up Bigger & Brighter

We don't know what it is that makes the Dorrigo Bush Poets Round-up so popular. Perhaps it's the clear mountain air?

If you want a great weekend of Bush Poetry, come along to Dorrigo on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. You'll be entertained by

a great gathering of poets from the length and breadth of NSW North Coast, all ably led by our feature Poet, that master of entertainment, Gary Fogarty.

Gary will be heading up a poets brawl at the Dorrigo Hotel on the evening of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> which should prove to be a real

rib tickler.

Ted & Margaret Parmenter have arranged to hold a Poets' Breakfast at the Plateau Café, Dorrigo, between 7am and 9am on Saturday morning and would love to hear from other poets wishing to participate.

At 9.30am Gary Fogarty will be conducting a Performance Workshop for two hours at the Mountain Top Resort so make a point of turning up at this event and enjoy the benefit of Gary's vast raft of knowledge.

The Round-Up Concert starts at 1pm at the Dorrigo Bowling Club with Gary as Compere and feature Poet. One and a half hours has been set aside for walk-up poets so be sure to get your name registered early. As usual some bags of potatoes and pumpkins will be awarded to those poets who receive the best audience response.

The Ladies of Dorrigo will again be providing a scrumptious home cooked afternoon tea.

On the morning of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Gary will be leading the Poets at the ever popular Poets Breakfast at the Dorrigo Hotel. This will prove to be a feast in both culinary and poetic senses.

Dorrigo Poets Round-Up has always been a fun weekend and this year they're planning on more fun than ever. Don't miss it.

For more information and breakfast bookings call Murray on 02 66572139.

Winner of the inaugural written bush poetry competition at Katherine's Country Music Muster, April 2004.

## GRAY GYPSIES

© Max Merckenschlager

They cut their teeth in leaner days, when hunger stalked the lands and fathers tramped to look for work in thin disheartened bands. Black billies swung from bedrolls over scores of lonely tracks, while many vied to mend a fence, or swing a splitters' axe.

They waved at older brothers marching off to meet the Hun and draw the line in jungle trails to halt the Rising Sun. Those graduates from acne to the lather-up and shave, returned as weary elders, or were left to fill a grave.

They helped rebuild a labour force depleted by The War, in offices and factories along our eastern shore; and grew a grand suburbia - a rich and sprawling seam - in quarter-acre modules of the great Australian Dream.

And few of them as bushmen ever moved a mob of sheep, or watched the stars from campsites while their cattle milled in sleep, or sat all day on station hacks or diesel-belching steeds, to check the boundary fences or to trash and bury weeds.

And less have broken brumbies or have roped and branded steers, or driven miles on mulga tracks to shout and swallow beers, or fought a war with dingoes on the parched Willochra Plains, or spent a month surrounded when the Channel Country rains.

And fewer still trucked road trains south from Katherine and Bourke, or buzzed the Gulflands buffalo as part of daily work, or gouged at Andamooka chasing fire locked in stone, or gained an education in a class that met by phone.

And none were raised on barra in the gorges of the West, nor handled pain of cicatrice as manhood's final test, or read the signs of kangaroo in gibberplain and scrub, or dug for roots of desert bush to steal its fattened grub.

But travelling the Simpson and neglected Canning Route, from Geraldton to Gwabegar, those graying gypsies hoot: in four-wheel-drives and caravans our old romantics teem; on modern-version walkabouts, they're living out a dream.

## LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL

POETS BREAKFAST

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> November. 2004

**GLEN INNES NSW**

Poetry Competition

Nomination \$5.00 per Entry  
Entries Close 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Contact Neville Campbell  
(Secretary)

02- 67322663

nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com

or

Colin Newsome 02 - 67322417.

Great prizes available

## Regular Monthly Events

### NEW SOUTH WALES:

**DORRIGO** 2nd Wed. April, June, August, October. Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139  
**GOSFORD** Bush Poets - Last Tues. Gosford Hotel - Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590  
**GRAFTON** Last Tues. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772  
**HUNTER** Bush Poets. 2nd Tues. 7 pm, Tarro Hotel. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751  
**INVERELL** 4th Wed. 7.30 pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425  
**KANGAROO VALLEY** Last Frid. Folk Music Club. Carl Leddy 02 4465 1621 re venue.  
**KATOOMBA** - 2nd Mon. Parakeet Café Katoomba. 7 pm. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119  
**KEMPSEY** 2nd Sat. Hastings Macleay Bush Poets. Phone Rod 02 65813161 or Janice 02 6581 3552  
**MID-COAST** Sundowners - 2nd Last Mon. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389  
**PENRITH** Last Sat 12.00 PM - Writers on the River at Caddies Coffee Shop ph Brian 02 4739 2219  
**QUEANBEYAN** 4th Thurs. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891  
**TAMWORTH** Poetry Reading Group. 2nd Thurs. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067  
**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  
**TWEED HEADS** Each Sunday 9am Pioneer Country Venue. Graeme Brunckhorst. Ph. 07 55246668  
**YOUNGSTREET POETS** Writer's Centre Rozelle Ph. Winifred Weir 02 9971 6206

### QUEENSLAND:

**BEAUDESERT** 1st Sat. Perform at the Market Fest 9.30am - 10.30am. Ph. Pamela 5541 2662, Betty 5541 2664  
**BEAUDESERT** 3rd Fri Thompson Park Rec. Gleneagle. 10am - 12 noon Ph. Pamela 5541 2662, Betty 5541 2664.  
**BUNDABERG** Poets. 2nd. Sat. 1.30 pm - Jim 07 4152 9624 - Sandy 07 4151 4631 - Marilyn 07 4154 1663  
**CHARTERS TOWERS** 2nd. Wed. 10.30am. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Norah 07 4787 7453 Harry 07 4787 3211  
**EUMUNDI** 1st Sat. Eumundi Markets in Courtyard. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991  
**GYMPIE** Golden Pen Poets. 2nd & 4th Thurs Old Gympie Town Hall. 7 pm. Phil Morrison, 07 4773 4223  
**KILCOY** 1st & 3rd Wed. Motor Inn - Hope Street. 7.30 p.m. Robyn 07 54 971 100 - Pat 07 54 971 458  
**MAPLETON** 1st Thur. Mapleton Hotel - 8.30pm Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263  
**NORTH PINE** 1st & 3rd Sun. Country Markets, 9 am Dad & Dave's 07 3285 2845 - 3886 1552  
**REDLANDS** Poets .3rd Tues. Dennis 07 3286 3346  
**SHORNCLIFFE** -3rd Mon. 7.30 pm - Café on Park - Anne 07 3869 1282  
**TOWNSVILLE** Each Wed. 7.30 pm Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa - Phil Heang 07 4773 4223  
**WOODFORD** 3rd Sun. 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**GLANDORE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. SA Bush Poets. 7.30pm Community Centre, 25 Naldera St. Maurie O'Brien 08 8382 1504.  
**WHYALLA** Writers Group. Last Tues. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

### VICTORIA

**BENDIGO** Goldfields Poets. 4th Sun. Whitehorse Hotel - California Gully. Colin Carrington 03 5441 2425  
**CORRYONG** Top of the Murray Poets and Story Tellers Corryong - Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332  
**GIPPSLAND** Bush Poets. Times vary. Rosedale Hotel. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128  
**KYABRAM** Bush Poets. 1st Mon./2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097  
**MELBOURNE** - **ARVOS** Bush Poetry. 1st Sun. Warrandyte - Grand Hotel 2pm. Ph. Laurence Webb 0438 872 653

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**COMO BOWLING CLUB** - 1st Friday 7.30pm Hensman & Sandgate Sts, Sth Perth - Rod Lee 08 9397 0409  
**MARGARET RIVER.** Last Thur. 7pm Community Centre. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431

## **Gympie Muster** **Amamoor Creek State Forest Park** **August 22nd - 31st 2004**

Gympie Muster 2004, Australia's biggest celebrations of music at Amamoor Creek State Forest Park happens again this August. A musical feast of country, blues and rock in the company of old and new friends. And, of course, some of the countries biggest Poets Breakfasts will be conducted each morning

from Tuesday to Sunday and competitions on Friday and Saturday with the Mustabeenabloodygood Poetry finals on Sunday. There will be standing room only as poetry lovers cram into the massive tents to enjoy the Muster's huge line-up of entertainment.

And remember, all funds raised are donated to worthy causes including the Muster's Rural Aid Appeal. The Toyota National Country Music Muster is a fundraising initiative of the Gympie Apex Club.





## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11-14 **GRENFELL NSW** - Henry Lawson Festival - Ph. (02) 6343 1403  
 June 11-14 **MONTO Country Music Festival** and Poetry Competitions (07) 4166 1430  
 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  
 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  
 June 23-July 7 - **WAGGA WAGGA** High Country Exhibition Ph. Neil Hulm (02) 6025 3845 (Page 9)  
 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 6)  
 Aug 1 **MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL** Ph. (07) 4271 3737 (Page 8)  
 Aug 7 **SA STUMPY AWARDS** Written & Performance Comps eMail treetops@lm.net.au  
 Aug 20-21 **CLERMONT GOLD FEST.** Bush Poetry perform. & breakfast Chris & The Grey 4159 1868  
 Aug 20-22 **Qld STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** Nth Pine Ph (07)3285 2845 longjohnbest@dodo.com.au (p. 9)  
 Aug 21 **BOWRAVILLE THEATRE** Bush Poetry Soiree Ph (02) 6564 7828 or (02) 6568 5269 (Page 11)  
 Sept 10-12 **INVERELL - CELEBRATION** of the OUTBACK Ph Jimmy Brown - (02) 67 223550 (Page 10)  
 Sept 15 Closing date Written ABPA 2004 Championships (Details Below)  
 Sept 24-26 **DORRIGO** Round-Up Featuring Gary Fogarty Ph Murray (02) 6657 2139 (Details Page 15)  
 Oct 2 - **GILGANDRA COO-EE FESTIVAL** Workshop and Readings Ph. (02) 6847 308 (Page 5)  
 Oct. 2-3 **CANOWINDRA** \$2,000 Performance Comp. Ph. 02 6344 1477 bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au (page 18)  
 Oct 16-17 **NARRANDERA** - NSW State Championships - 1800 672 392 (more details page 10)  
 Oct 23-31 **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
 Nov 13 **LUCINDALE** Great Southern Muster SA Championships Ph Di Jenke: 08 8769 6030 (Page 12)  
 Nov 14 **GLEN INNES** - Land of the Beardies Festival - Ph Colin Newsome (02) 67322417.(Details Page 10)  
 Nov 14 **WALLA WALLA** Written competition. U12 - 12-18 Open.(02) 60292119 den53@austarnet.com.au  
 Dec 4 -5 **YOUNG** Cherry Festival Competition. \$1200 Prize money  
 Dec - **BRAIDWOOD** Drovers Reunion

### ABPA 2004 Championship in WA

Over the past few months several Perth Rotary Clubs have indicated an interest in assisting with running the Australian Bush Poetry Championships to be held.

They are also suggesting that other Rotary Clubs in their districts, these being country WA clubs, may be interested in hosting travelling bush poets during the weeks either side of the Championships.

As a number of poets who are travelling over by road indicated they would like to perform on the way we are following this up and will keep you all informed.

This year is Western Australia's 175th Birthday and a "Celebrate WA" Committee has taken an interest in our event. This has not translated into any tangible benefit at this stage but they have provided us with a

couple of initiatives which will grant more exposure for Bush Poetry in Perth. One is a major shopping centre display at no cost. The display will be mainly static but will be manned by WA Poets for about 40 hours over a two week period. The normal cost for this exposure would be round \$3000.00 per week. They have also nominated our Australian Bush Poetry Champion, Kerry Lee, for a WA Citizenship Award in the Arts. Kerry is humble but I'm looking forward to the feed!!

Remember the Australian Bush Poetry Championships Written Competition. Entry forms can be mailed to

Diggers Camp  
160 Blair Road,  
Oakford WA 6121

Entry fee \$5.00. Closing date 15/09/2004.

Closing date for entries for Championships - 15/09/2004.

### **KYABRAM & DISTRICT BUSH VERSE GROUP Vic.**

The KY BUSH VERSE GROUP are going strong. Most recently the group promoted the Geoffrey Graham show, "A Taste of the Outback" at the Ky Club on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April. This was a big success. 130 People attended and enjoyed Geoffrey's verse, yarns and song. It was a top night and the group made a tidy profit as well. Their next meeting is the Annual meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Mick Coventry is organising a primary schools Poetry performance competition in the district which will culminate in August. And the annual "Around the Campfire" night of Bush Poetry will be at the Ky Club on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. So if you are in the area and want to take part contact **Graham Watt, (03) 5852 2084**. All welcome.

## Written (Humorous) Section

### Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival 2004

Among the many prizes Ron Stevens was received at the 2004 Great Dunny Classic (Mar 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) was first place in the Written Humorous Section. Here is his award winning poem. (Note: He was Highly Commended for this poem in the 'Blackened Billy' competition at Tamworth this year.)

### CANOWINDRA SPRINGFEST

\$2,000.00 COMPETITION

The second Annual Springfest Celebrations in Canowindra, (Central Western NSW), will run from September 23rd to October 31st 2004.

Following the success of last years inaugural event, and being the home of ABPA President, Frank Daniel, the organizers have elected to hold a Performance Bush Poetry Competition as one of its major attractions.

The competition will run on the October Long-Week-End (2nd-3rd) with prize-money of up to \$2,000 having been considered and looking very much like being a goer.


Canowindra's Springfest is a celebration of a country town,


with workshops and exhibitions in all facets of the arts, drama, writing, music, song and dance, art exhibitions featuring local artists, endurance riding, a street party and parade, concerts, Cellar Door sales and Hot Air Balloons.


Canowindra is a party town - its first big party being held in 1863 when Bushranger Ben Hall and his gang held the whole town to ransom for three days.

Further information on Springfest can be obtained from Bob Craven 02 6344 1000 or the competition from Frank Daniel 02 6344 1477 - bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au or PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804.

### BITS AND PIECES

 Don't forget the Walla Walla Wagon Wheel Written Competition to be held in conjunction with its Heritage Festival in November. There will be categories for Under 12, 12 to 18 and Open. More details next issue. Phone (02) 60292119 or email den53@austarnet.com.au.

 It's a safe bet that when drovers get together you can treated to some good yarn spinning. And this is certainly the case at the Braidwood and District Drovers' Reunion, when some 100 sheep and cattle drovers gather from around south-east New South Wales. The Reunion will be held again this year in December. More news later

 Young's ten-day National Cherry Festival starts on the last weekend in November. Along with the usual festivities there will be Poets' Breakfasts and Competitions. More information about this huge event coming up in later issues.

### The Worms That Turned

I warned him he was playing God;  
one day he'd go too far.  
The locals reckoned Bob was odd,  
his schemes sometimes bizarre.  
I'd been his mate for forty years,  
the only bloke he'd trust.  
Then as we sipped his home-brewed beers  
his tale left me nonplussed.

I heard about his worm-farm plans  
and how they'd gone awry  
because, despite the GM bans,  
he'd found a way to buy  
from USA canola seed  
to feed his slimy stock.  
They changed from simple docile breeds  
to beasts that bored through rock.

Bob took a shotgun from his shelf  
and led me out the back,  
while warning I should watch myself  
or risk a sneak attack.  
His compost bin was brushed aside,  
too small a gaol for worms  
equipped with horns and rhino hide,  
like reptile pachyderms.

Apparently he'd mixed the seed  
with pats of potent poo  
a retailer had guaranteed  
was bought at Dubbo zoo.  
The Commonwealth inquiry will  
no doubt evaluate  
the linkages within the swill  
created by my mate.

One glance was all I needed, for  
those worms had chilled my blood.  
With snaggle teeth they swiftly tore  
Bob's cabbage patch to mud.  
Inside again, I questioned 'Bob,  
have any broken out?'  
He frowned and stifling a sob,  
confessed he had some doubt.

His house is three-k out of town  
but merely days had passed  
before our world turned upside-down  
and stones were wildly cast.  
The pulpits thundered 'Wrath of God!'  
and Lefties blamed the Yanks.  
*El Nino* had its censure squad.  
One cynic cited banks.

Meanwhile the mutant worms consumed  
each straying cat and dog.  
A crisis worse than cane-toads loomed  
and joggers feared to jog.

Our paper's earnest editor  
- an educated bloke -  
wrote *Kraken wakes on Aussie shore*  
(a Tennyson linked Joke.)

The council sent a frantic fax,  
alerting powers-that-be  
our town was under weird attacks  
and faced catastrophe.

Bin Laden was the suspect source  
of this demonic plot.

They urged a military force  
be sent to stop the rot.

The SAS arrived and soon  
the worms were hunted down,  
their bullet-riddled bodies strewn  
on every street in town.

John Howard sent his lofty mate  
to exorcise the place.

We thought it was a trifle late  
but grinned and bore His Grace.

The Navy clearance-driving teams  
remained in town two weeks,  
depth-charging dams and probing streams  
but found no floating freaks.

The parson's daughter thought she'd caught  
a lusty young jack-tar  
but he escaped to his home port.  
(You know what sailors are!)

It seemed we'd passed the horror stage,  
then calling on my mate,

I noticed how his budgies' cage  
lay flattened like a plate.

He greeted me with guilty smiles  
and pointed, so I'd see  
six mutant feathered crocodiles  
high up a red-gum tree.

FA18s the RAAF flew in  
were pleased to show their skills  
and soon each household wheelie-bin  
was stuffed with dogfight kills.

The feathers flew and body bits  
dropped down like Hades' rain  
as aircraft rockets scored their hits,  
till all was quiet again.

So ends this cautionary tale  
of fiddling with fate.

Poor Bob is languishing in gaol  
for crimes against the state.

I'll pay him a commission when  
I get my hefty fee  
agreed by TV Channel Ten  
for *Worms on Terror Spree*.

© Ron Stevens

2nd place in Bronze Spur Award held in conjunction with  
Camooweal's Drovers Festival

## TOO LATE

© Veronica Weal—Mount Isa QLD "Too Late"

I was talking to Jim in the pub yesterday,  
And he told me the news – that old Fred passed away.  
I stared at him, shocked; then I answered him, "No!  
Why, he wrote me a letter a few weeks ago!"  
I'd been meaning to answer – I thought it could wait,  
But Death waits for no-one. I'd left it too late.

Now I'm sitting at home in my old easy chair,  
And I'm coming to terms with my grief and despair.  
I am holding Fred's letter, and wondering why  
I didn't make time to send off a reply.  
I remember so clearly that day at the gate –  
His handshake, that grin, and "Be seein' ya, mate!"

I had made what I thought was a change for the best,  
So I moved to the city, while Fred stayed out west.  
I soon settled down, found a job and a wife,  
While Fred, like a nomad, kept drifting through life.  
He sent me two letters, but didn't say much.  
I answered him, once; and that's how we lost touch.

Now kaleidoscope images play through my mind  
From the start to the finish, then swiftly rewind.  
There are horses and cattle at galloping speed,  
And Fred in his usual place in the lead.  
A campfire at night, silver moonlight and star;  
Fred's baritone voice, and his twanging guitar.

I could tell you about him, but where to begin?  
With his twinkling eyes and his lopsided grin?  
A man who commanded an instant regard,  
He'd a heart that was soft, and two fists that were hard.  
A man you'd depend on in turmoil and strife –  
Now Fred was a memory, gone from my life.

So I stare at his letter, still wondering, why?  
Was the letter his method of saying goodbye?  
He said he'd retired, and had now settled down  
In a shack on the edge of a far western town.  
It was close to the pub and the doctor and such –  
But that's all he mentioned. He didn't say much.

Now it's too late to tell him, he never will know  
How often I think of those days long ago.  
How often I long for the good times we spent,  
And how much his friendship and company meant.  
I'm at odds with myself, and the workings of Fate,  
As I hear myself murmur, "I left it too late".

Real friendship's a gift that is rarer than gold,  
And needs to be nurtured – don't let it grow cold!  
Our destiny's written, we come to the call  
Of Old Father Time, who is stalking us all.  
So pick up a pen, get in touch with a mate!  
Don't wait till tomorrow. You may be too late.

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Entry Forms and Info from:

Louise Dean

PO Box 120, Winton. Qld. 4735

Ph: 07 4657 1296

Fax: 07 4657 1541

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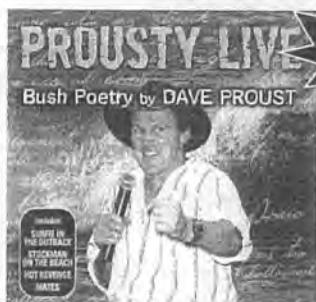
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