

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

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BUSH POETS OUTBACK

Bush poets from Queensland and Western Australia took top honours at the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships in Winton, the 'home' of bush poetry and Australia's best-known bush verse, *Waltzing Matilda*, at the end of June.

The inaugural Waltzing Matilda Festival followed in the footsteps of the very successful 'Banjo' Paterson Centenary Celebrations in 1995, held to celebrate the anniversary of the writing of our most famous national song.

Annually since then, Winton has welcomed thousands of visitors and scores of poets and story-tellers, both young and old, to participate in one

of the country's most cherished four day events – whilst at the same



**Bronze Swaggie Winner
SLIM JONES of Mackay Q.
See story and poem page 8 & 9**

time, hosting the largest gathering of junior bush poets in the country.

Slim Jones from Mackay in Queensland won the *Bronze Swagman Award*, the country's most prestigious award for written bush poetry. Now in its 33rd year, this award recognizes outstanding bush writing and ensures that traditional Aussie verse lives on in Australian culture. Slim won the Award with his poem, 'The Scobie Whip', which will be published in the *Bronze Swagman Book of Verse*, the longest running publication of its type in Australia.

Rusty Christensen from Ardross in WA and **Melanie Hall** from Townsville in Queensland won the male and female divisions of the Waltzing Matilda Open Championships – and as part of their prize, both will be guest performers at next year's

Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, USA.

A number of fitting challenges exist in Winton, such as the Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships where, in the Masters section for those over 64 years, the title went to renowned camp oven cook and yarn-spinner Ned Winter of Cecil Plains Q. with Rusty Christensen runner-up.

Melanie Hall placed second in the junior class of the Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships.

Other major award winners were – Carmel Dunn of Warwick, Qld (Waltzing Matilda Award for best performance of a poem by 'Banjo' Paterson).

Jean Lindley of Charters Towers, Qld (Larrikin Award for best performance of a humorous original poem)

Dean Trevaskis of the Grange, Brisbane; Ray Essery of Mullumbimby, NSW; and Ned Winter of Cecil Plains, Qld (class winners of the Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships)

Queenslanders Lex Shepherd of Dalby and Janet Diehl of Nerang (male and female winners of the Christina Macpherson Novice Awards)

Outback Queensland students Chelsea Just of Longreach School of Distance Education and Loudoun Campbell of Barcaldine State School (primary and secondary winners of the Clover Nolan Awards)

Brisbane students Ryan Waddoups of St Pius X Catholic School and Kelsey Horton of Moreton Bay College (overall primary and secondary winners of the Little Swaggies' Written Awards)

Frank Daniel



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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,

The lack of response to Murray Hartin's letter (August '03) pointing out a breach of copyright, indicated that, although many sympathised with him, and the fact that his 'Turbulence' had been recorded by another without permission, there was really nothing readers could do about it other than take notice. Murray was right in pointing out the breach - let's hope this doesn't happen again. (I don't know who the offender is nor have I seen hide nor hair of the album).

People often ask why doesn't the ABPA do something about copyright (and plagiarism)? Why doesn't APRA take it all on board and sort 'it' out? Might I point out that 'IT' is a matter far too great for the ABPA and that APRA is an organization conducted by songwriters and musicians doing their own thing and not exactly interested in bush poetry.

Since Marco's letter (June '04) the strength of the argument has moved to joke poems "gaining their authors notoriety and bolstering the waning repertoires of others" - (and 'non-writers' I might add).

We may have to rewrite the history books if joke poems are on the outer. This 'new category', 'Joke Poems', must now relate to some of the Classics as written by AB 'Banjo' Paterson; 'A Bush Christening', 'The Billy Goat Overland' or 'When Dacy Rode the Mule' (directed at Macquarie Street Politicians). Consider Henry Lawson's 'Not Too Long for This World' or Thomas E Spencer's 'Why Doherty Died' or 'How M'Dougall Topped the Score' - we can go on, it never ends.

I don't know of copyright on jokes but surely the words of the poet leading up to a punch line in a 'Joke Poem' must be equally worthy of copyright and recognition as such by his peers.

It is good to see that some people are open to change, that new people are coming along prepared to try something new, endeavouring to keep our traditional masters in the public eye; encouraging today's writers to create works in the style that has been typically Australian since the days of Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie and others further back, as well as those of latter years.

Back at the end of May such a venture came to fruition at the tiny Southern Highlands Village of Sutton Forest (NSW) where a certain Mr. Garry Barnsley OAM promoted and self sponsored an event to attract writer-performers in a challenge that has never before been considered.

Although treated with some scepticism by many, this format was more than entertaining with poetry from Paterson, Lawson, Kendall, and Spencer in the open classic events, through a range of five specific subjects to an Open Original Serious and an Open Original Humorous Section.

I congratulate Mr. Barnsley and his family for their splendid effort in making this \$3,000 event a success with virtually no returns to them

I felt that it was entirely a new means of finding our best writers and reciters, giving them a challenge beyond the norm, creating a new avenue of competition. A wonderful change.

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'

Frank Daniel

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GALSTON Country Music Festival Fagan Park Galston

Sun 12th Sept 2004

"The Women of the West" plus a couple of blokes, is the theme for this year's Poets Brekky at Sydney's biggest 1 day Country Music Festival, the Galston Country Music Festival 2004, held in the picturesque grounds of Fagan Park Galston.

Stars of this year's Breakfast are Australia's favourite humorist, "Shirley Friend" & NSW Bush Poetry Female Champion, Carol Heuchan.

Just to balance things out for the blokes, Bill "Lobo" Lasham & "The Rhymer from Ryde" will also be taking the stage.

The 2 hour Bush Poetry shindig starts at 9.00 am, but a friendly word of advice, get there early, everybody else does.

Hang around after the Brekky to enjoy the best of Australian Country Music Superstars on the main stage till 5pm.

There's Market Stalls, rides and showbags for the children. Vintage and Hot Rod car displays. A round of the NSW Woodchopping Championships and a fully licensed Coopers Beer Tent for the adults.

Organised by the Galston Rotarians all proceeds go to local charities.

ROBERT BURNS - Bush Poet?

The great bard of Scotland, Robert Burns (1759-1796) was raised on a farm in Ayrshire and began his working life as a farmer.

But if Robbie Burns had ploughed the soil here in Australia instead of Scotland, can you imagine how his much-acclaimed poetry may have spoken about the Australian Bush, its characters and wild-life? And what might have been the subject of his 'Address' in the ab-

sence of a haggis . . . ?

Robert Burns was one of the subjects of a number of written sections in the recent Southern Highlands Festival of Australian Bush Poetry at Sutton Forest NSW and the winning poem, 'The Memory Burns', was written by Ellis Campbell of Dubbo NSW.

Congratulations to Ellis who took home a cheque for \$1,000 for his efforts.

Frank Daniel

THE MEMORY BURNS

© Ellis Campbell - Dubbo NSW 2004

O, your hert is in the Highlands on a bonny autumn morn
when a mellow sun is shining with the tint o' amber corn.
Aye, it's somewhere close to Heaven ☐ I can see the heather sway
and my dormant blood bestirs to hear the skirling bagpipes play.

And this little piece o' Scotland with its shades o' Brigadoon
offers solace to believers when they hear the stirring tune
O 'The Scottish Soldier's lyrics lilting clear their braw refrain
sending sweet nostalgic memories winging homeward once again.

O'er the melancholy distance floods the visions never seen;
bluer lochs and sheltered glens abound and braes of verdant green.
And the kye and cuddie grazing in the loaning nigh the burn
bring a muckle sigh o' yearning for the heather and the fern.

Aye, Australia guid we're seeing with its strath below the ben;
but this little bit o' Scotland boasts a bothy that I ken.
By the bramble and the byre skirts a simple country wynd
with its bitter☐sweet reminder o' the home I left behind.

Hear the skelp o' smirr that whispers through the gloaming and the glen;
bide awee in Sutton Forest and I know ye'll come again.
Keek at beauty in abundance where the mountain mists drift low;
'tis a bonny piece of Scotland that the southern highlands know.

Just imagine Robert Burns, Australian ☐ living different times –
farmer still perhaps and writing in the style of bushmen's rhymes.
Hot winds blow from dusty plains and shrivel vegetation's growth
burnished sun and cloudless skies provoke the farmers' cursing oath.

Squawking crows on sagging fence☐lines, harking loud their cruel refrain;
soaring hawks in endless numbers gracing skies devoid of rain.
Land of drought and flood and famine, as our pioneers recall;
yet a land of lavish bounty where she casts her wondrous shawl.

But it's just a when o' blethers all this twaddle I conceive;
Robert Burns is nae Australian but was Scottish all perceive.
But his memory dwells forever in the Sutton Forest glen;
if your hert is in the Highlands then it's something that ye ken!

O, your hert is in the Highlands on a bonny autumn morn
when a mellow sun is shining with the tint o' amber corn.
Aye, it's somewhere close to Heaven ☐ I can see the heather sway –
and my dormant blood bestirs to hear the skirling bagpipes play.

Your Two Bob's Worth

From Ellis Campbell

So Marco is concerned about the lack of response to Murray's disdainful article re joke poems? Well, I meant to respond, but – you know – I am so busy with writing poems, attending poetry festivals, sending for entry forms, writing letters to poets and talking to poets on the phone; life becomes quite hectic. One gets stressed out! Thank God, that's not true! What an ideal way to spend one's few remaining years" The real reason I did not respond to Murray's excellent article is because I was too lazy and apathetic. There! I feel better already for revealing my shortcomings.

I think I agree with Marco that there is not much harm in an occasional joke poem and, as he points out, some good ones have been written. But I also agree with Murray that it is something of a grey area to call these poems original. I have written an occasional joke poem – particularly in the early stages before I discovered inspiration – but they do not go down among my more memorable poems. And you can bet your boots (cliché) someone else will write a poem based on the same joke. Then people (those who have never heard the joke, in particular) begin to shake their heads and mutter vaguely about plagiarism – blaming the one not their best mate.

However, I do believe some of the poems Marco mentioned gained too many accolades, clever though they were. Murray is right in saying that real humour should come from your imagination or your ability to see the funny side of a situation.

While they are good fun I don't think a joke poem should ever be regarded as a classic. However, I disagree with Murray that a joke poem is merely a joke with 50 or 60 lines strung around it.

The Pontiff's Eyes would not have

The response to last issue's "YTBW" page was tremendous. It seems there are plenty of members with a view to express regarding issues discussed in Marco's letter in the last edition. *Sandra Binns* pretty much summed them up: *I'm not against them. As Mark G pointed out Blue's Cross Eyed Bull, had it never been written would be a real loss to bush poetry. If it gives a poet something to write about/practice on when devoid of other inspiration, why not? And if it is mediocre, it*

become so popular had Charlee not written it with good meter, perfect rhyme, regular pattern, consistent tense, pleasing lay-out, perfect timing, etc. He did much more than throw a few words around it.

Writing "send-up poems" is another trap. I thought every poet in Australia – except me – had done a send-up on The Man From Snowy River. Then I got a brilliant idea. I would do one – but my man would be a girl! What a magnificent idea! I wrote my poem and was quite happy with it. I performed it a couple of times and got a good reception.

Then I discovered Frank Daniel also had one with a female hero! I certainly did not know Frank had written this poem and I'm equally certain Frank did not know about mine. The poems had no likeness at all, except written on the same theme. I have long discarded my poem and I suspect Frank has done the same – thus the efforts of two great poets were wasted!

Finally I agree with Marco that pinching ideas from mates is rather poor. I once heard a fellow perform a poem as a "send-up" on another very popular poem. He merely changed about two words in each line of the original poem – just enough to bugger up a good poem!

There! I have had my say and appeased my cursed conscience.

will certainly fade without trace, having hurt no one (I trust). Of course, pinching someone else's joke (or any idea for that matter) without asking, is out of the question.

Here are a few others.

Do you have a topic you'd like discussed? Send your views, stories of interest, poems, jokes and response to newsletter articles to me no later than 20th Sept for inclusion in the Oct/Nov issue. Please try to keep you submissions to 200 words to avoid them getting the chop.

I prefer email See Page 2 for address details.

Leanne Jeacocke, Editor

From Des Bennett

Marko, In reply to your letter (issue No. 3 2004) concerning so-called 'joke poems', and the lack of response to the letter submitted by Murray Hartin (issue Aug/Sept 2003) – yes, the lack of response has been rather deafening. May I suggest that one of the reasons may be that it is not easy for lesser lights in any organisation to take on their peers with an alternative viewpoint, especially when they are competition judges.

I remember that at that time I sat down and wrote a letter of reply. And then I thought – 'what the heck' and finished up binning it.

Now, in response to your letter and because I think it is an important issue, I will try again. Although there have been no really supportive letters of Murray's viewpoints I agree entirely with his beef about plagiarising of material, especially in recorded form. APRA should certainly be able to act in regard to recorded presentation, and if they don't, then they are certainly not doing their job.

However, Murray's comments about so-called 'JOKE POEMS' warrant a strong right of reply in my view.

Murray writes – inter alia- 'Joke poems are a lazy attempt at comedy verse and should not be accepted in

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

any competition. Joke poems are easily identified, even if you haven't heard the joke. They are generally 40 or 50 lines of padding leading up to one tag/joke in the last line. Any poet worth his or her salt could write ten of these a day without raising a sweat, the only thing preventing this occurring would be INTEGRITY. Poets!! a simple rule – if the last line isn't yours, it's not original.'

Well now, there you go. Writer and entertainer W.C. Fields once wrote that nothing is new in the field of humour, that everything is recycled, re-arranged to fit circumstances, or retold in varied forms, and I don't believe that he was that far off the mark. I believe most people know and accept this. This being the premise, can anything in the field of humour be regarded as being the exclusive domain of any one person? I believe not. The best stories are told over and over again, but in an infinite variety of forms – poetry being just one.

As to how entertaining they can be – this all depends upon either the reciter or the writer of words. Personally, I could listen to Ray Essery's version of the old bloke who bought some new boots to impress his wife, many times over, and still have a good laugh, whereas a poem written by somebody else about the same subject, would probably leave me for dead. In similar vein, a performance by Neil McArthur of any of his poems generally has people in fits of laughter and appreciation, whilst a performance by anyone else just does not seem to have the same effect. Whilst ability is a pre-requisite, it all really depends upon PRESENCE, and few people are endowed with this natural gift. If you have it, and with it a modicum of talent, then the world is your oyster in your chosen field.

Imitation by others should be

From John Norman.

... as Mark said, "is that where these matters should be left [around the campfires]", but I feel I must answer some things brought up in Marks letter.

Thank God Mark can treat it as a joke because that's about what it has turned into. I am now waiting for some old Ringer to come in from out West and tell the JOKE about a bloke who is dead set scared of flying, and has to get to his mates wedding by tomorrow!!!! Throw in a bit of Turbulence, and what have you got?? Now wouldn't that be something!!! End of story EH??

I have heard and seen Murray Hartin performing, along with Mark, Ray, our old mate Bobby, Shirley, etc., and yes he's funny, more a comedian than Bush Poet.

regarded as a form of flattery, which can only enhance your reputation.

Now – I take particular exception to Murray's questioning the integrity of anyone who dares to indulge in such form of expression as to write 'joke poems', and who then has the temerity to enter them in competitions. Would you, Murray, be happier if an extra rule was added to conditions of entry – 'JOKE POEMS INELIGIBLE' – however, entrance fees will be gratefully accepted, as they help to boost the prize pool. Or perhaps we could have 99% original poetry competitions. After all, whatever leads up to the punch line is still the work of the author and must comply with all the other writing guidelines, e.g. rhythm, rhyme, phrasing, syllable count, etc., in order to be eligible for a prize.

Marco and Murray – I am enclosing two of my '99% original' poems, the first of which I wrote after hearing a yarn at the Longyard Hotel in Tamworth in 1999, and the second of which I heard at Corryong in 2001. Feel free to use them as, along with everyone else

I think Murray's first complaint; about others using his poems, was the dollar talking, for had Banjo and his like not been performed by others, there would probably be no bush poets today. The "Joke Poem" issue is just that, a bit of a joke really, most poets that get a laugh from their audience are telling a joke, and story, in poetry form really.

Could Murray please explain to the people who enter the poetry competitions, how to perform a Banjo Patterson poem, in that section, without performing someone else's poetry?? And should all those performers who have won trophies, prizes, etc. give them back because they didn't perform their own poem?? Get real!!

yet to win a competition, I need the exposure!

By the way, Murray, after first reading your poem 'Skinnydipping', page 161 in 'An Australian Heritage of Verse', and your punchline – 'And if you Sir were a gentleman you'd bow and raise your hat' – I laughed. Then, after reading your comments in ABPA issue Aug/Sept 2003, well, I laughed and laughed again!!!

Well I guess that the number of competitions for which some of my efforts were formerly eligible, will now have to be reduced by a factor of one – make that two.

Available by writing to the Editor

SPELL CHECK

Poets beware of incorrect spelling as one word mis-spelt can certainly alter the meaning intended..

For instance:: Children in school were asked to write ---

"UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS DID PRIMITIVE MAN LIVE?"

One boy wrote: "PRIVITIVE MAN LIVED IN BARK HUTS AND THERE WAS ROUGH MATING ON THE FLOOR."

SKEW WIFF

POETS BE WARNED

Michael Darby

Everyone who writes a poem which appears on the internet in conjunction with an email address will in due course receive at least one email headed:

"Your Outstanding Achievement in Poetry Award" (or words to that effect)

You might be invited to attend the International Society of Poets' Summer Convention and Symposium, to be held in America's Birthplace, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from August 13th-15th, 2004. Or you might be invited to submit your poetry for inclusion in a 'handsome bound anthology'.

If the email mentions 'International Library of Poetry' or 'Noble House Publishers' or 'Poetry.com' or 'FamousPoets.com' or 'National Library Of Poetry' or 'Publishers Clearing House' or 'Famous Poets Society' or 'Stephen (Steve) Michaels' or 'Howard Ely' or 'Nigel Hillary' then it is certainly a scam. If the email does not mention any of these organisations or individuals but contains non-specific waffle about your "achievements",

it is very likely a scam.

By scam I mean that the advertiser is not capable of delivering any level of satisfaction to match the hopes generated by the promotional material. By scam I mean that the only aim of the promotional material is to separate poets from their money. Dealing with these people can only lead to disappointment. Sadly, potentially great poets may be permanently discouraged after being burned by the scammers.

The best you can hope for from this lot is that for around US\$50 (plus and extra US\$25 if you want your biography included), your poem will be printed in 8pt type in a scrappy, unformatted book which will be distributed only to those poets who have paid for the privilege, a book which is unobtainable from any bookshop anywhere in the world.

One way to protect your interests is to send back a return email along these lines: "Thank you for making reference to my outstanding achievement in poetry. Please specify the outstanding achievement to which you refer." I tried this and the lack of a reply confirmed my early suspicions.

If you wish, investigate the or-

ganisations and individuals using any search engine, or ask your local library or bookshop to show you the relevant publication. Be wary of reports in newspapers which say something like "Local schoolgirl Samantha Farnsbarnes has been honoured by an invitation to participate in the International Society of Poets Summer Convention." After gushing her excitement to the education reporter, poor Samantha will be disappointed and disillusioned like every other victim.

Here are some of many websites which support my opinion of the poetry scammers:

<http://poetrynotcom.tripod.com/>
<http://www.thepoetsanctuary.net/scams.html>

<http://www.bld.lib.ca.us/poetsscaml.htm>

<http://fox61.trb.com/news/wtic-73102poetryscam,0,3289258.story>

If you have already been conned by the scammers, get revenge by writing a poem about them!

Yours in poetry
Michael Darby
PO Box 401 Manly 1655
Phone 0413 348 843
Member, Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance

PERTH GET THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN!

The Australian Bush Poetry Championships to be held in Perth at the end of October have fired the enthusiasm of a large number of Eastern States Poets, anxious to attend in the "far off land" of the West.

Standing in the way of these intrepid traveller poets is the expansive Nullarbor Plains. The plains have always been a barrier, much like the Berlin Wall, separating East from West. However, Australian Bush Poets are a determined lot and they'll be bridging that travellers "no man's land" in many different ways.

Some will fly, some will drive, some will travel by train and a small group will be pedalling bicycles! Our ABPA Treasurer, Marie

and her partner Murray from Dorrigo will be meeting some friends in Ceduna and cycling across the Nullarbor to Norseman. The group will be leaving Ceduna on October 9th and plan to reach Norseman two weeks later. From there they'll motor into Perth in time to attend the Bush Poetry event.

For those who may be driving over about that time, make sure you keep an eye open for this group of cyclists. You may see them on the road, at a roadhouse or camped along the way.

They have asked that drivers try not to run them over. Give them a friendly wave, stop for a chat or better still offer them a cool drink from your esky.

Most of the cyclists come from around the Coffs Harbour area and their greatest anticipated pleasure on the trip will be the lack of hills for 1200km.

SEE YOU IN PERTH.



47th CELEBRATION THE BIRTH OF A POET

Weddin Shire pays tribute to a favourite son

The Henry Lawson Festival of Arts celebrated the birth of one of Australia's greatest poets, Henry Lawson on the Long-weekend in June.

The life of Henry Lawson began with his birth on the Grenfell Goldfields in 1867 and he later achieved fame as one of Australia's noted writers and poets - his pen and words epitomising the joy, the drama, the excitement, the tough times of living in the bush.

The Festival programme focused on the arts through a diverse range of activities catering for the talents of budding artists in the fields of poetry, creative writing, craft, drama, art, photography, music and entertainment.

Grenfell is



hailed as the longest continuing festival in NSW and the programme of events and attractions is always set to enhance the high reputation built up over those years.

A highlight of this year's event was the presence of the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, who performed the official opening.

ABPA Members noted among the prizewinners in the numerous verse writing sections were David Campbell of Beaumaris Vic with a highly commended in the Traditional Verse Section which was won by Allan Mackay of Gerrin-gong NSW.

The Free Verse section was won by John Bird of Ocean Shores NSW with Ron Stevens of Dubbo and Quendryth Young of Alstonville NSW both Highly Commended.

For Authors who have not previously won a prize Anita Reed of Holland Park Q gained a Highly Commended from Brian Dinsmore of Townsville Q. Ted Webber of Young received a Commended for his Short Story, 'Poetry of Australia', an amusing yarn about a visit to a demolition yard in search of a second hand circlip. *Frank Daniel*

PEDANTIC & FRANTIC

© Vivienne Sawyer

I've always written poetry –
mostly doggerel type of stuff
But, after attending Poet's Breakfasts,
admitting it was rough
Decided to write proper poetry
and, wanting to do it right,
Opened my encyclopaedia
& studied most of the night.
Learned about poetry's metre –
meaning it has measure & rhythmical pattern
Free verse doesn't have this style –
call it verse libre, if you speak Latin

There's Quatrains – Quintains
 Tercets – Triolets
 Rondel, Rondeau, Clerihew
 Sestinas – Sestets
 Stanzas – Sonnets
 Tanks, Octaves, Haiku.

Verse can be Quantitative
 Alliterative
 Dactylic
 Iambic
 Syllabic &
 Trochaic

By now my head was spinning,
I knew I wasn't winning.
Proper Poetry was being elusive.
Things were looking crook,
so I quickly closed my book
When I found myself abusive.
Mopping my fevered brow,
I muttered "Holy Cow,
It appears, doggerel is my only style."
This project is now aborted –
proper poetry no longer courted.
I'll just talk my own poetry mile.

Monto Comes Alive

The quiet country town of Monto in Central Qld swelled to the size of a small city on the June long weekend when it hosted both the Dairy Festival and Country Music Festival.

The Dairy Festival, conducted in the main street began with a search for a "Bush Idol" at a concert on Friday night. The hall was packed to standing room only and the enthusiastic crowd witnessed some great musical acts and a couple of Poets. And Bush Poetry left its mark with Leanne Jeacocke being presented with a runner-up prize. Her son Cory entertained with a couple of Neil McArthur's poems while the Judges made their final decisions.

The Country Music Festival, held at the show grounds was a knock-out success with "Almost Naked Poets" (Ray Essery, Marko Gliori & Shirley Friend) conducting a performance competition and taking to the main stage at the festival. Congratulations to Lyndon Baxter, Cory Jeacocke & John Lloyd. Great job, guys.

CLERMONT Gold Fest

The Clermont Gold Fest is an annual festival celebrating the gold mining heritage and current gold fossicking activities in Clermont, Central Queensland and this year will be held on August 20-21. The event is staged in Rose Harris Park in Capella Street - the main street in Clermont - and local businesses decorate their shop windows to add to the atmosphere in the town. Gold is the theme for the weekend, with a gold bangle as the major raffle prize, a Lucky Gold Nugget Wheel offering nugget prizes both Friday night and Saturday, nuggets and gold nugget jewellery for sale and a Detecting Competition on Sunday, sponsored by Minelab Electronics and Coiltek. Local and well known popular performers will provide musical entertainment Friday night and throughout Saturday. Well known bush poets Chris & The Grey and locals will entertain you while you enjoy a Bush Poets Breakfast on Saturday morning, and for the kids, special children's entertainment will run throughout Saturday. The festival atmosphere is enhanced by rides and sideshows, and stalls selling craft, jewellery, food, clothing and books, and the Clermont Rodeo continues the fun on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Merv Webster

Qld ABPA State Championships

August 22nd 2004

Country Music Hall
**North Pine
Country Park**

Dayboro Rd, Petrie
Open & Junior Comps
Written Comp

Contact:

John Best - Bush Poet
"Kumbaya"

1 Whiteside Road
Whiteside.Q.4503.

Phone 07 3285 2845

Email longjohnbest@dodo.com.au



History of the Beardies

In the Early Days Two Ex Scottish Convict Stockmen named Duval & Chandler were one of the first settlers to arrive in Glen Innes, Duval & Chandler were employed by Captain Dumaresq of Tilbuster Station north of Armidale they became known as the Beardies because of their long flowing Beards

Glen Innes Lions Club Land of the Beardies Festival stage a beard Growing Competition during the Festival in honor of our two early Scot pioneers and are currently seeking Bush Poets ,Unshaven to participate in the Beard Growing Contest , The Beards will be judged on Saturday the 13th November 2004 King Edward Park

A contest may well be arranged between the Bearded Poets and the Clean Shaven Poets on Sunday the 14th November

FAMILY TRADE

The Scobie family has been whip makers for probably one hundred years, the first whip being made by Alec Scobie, the father of Monty Scobie who is still plaiting whips at the age of eighty five years. Monty's father taught him to plait at ten years of age, and still works from his home in Clare SA.

Monty also spent some time driving the mail truck up and down the Birdsville Track.

2004.in King Edward Park Glen Innes.

Glen Innes being the home the Australian Celtic Festival & Standing Stones enjoy the rivalry between the Scottish Ancestry and the Celtic Ancestry it brings goodwill and spirit to the Glen Innes & surrounding districts. Further information may be obtained by contacting Neville Campbell 02 -67322663 or E Mail

nevillecampbell@hotmail.com

Neville Campbell

BUSH POETS Scoop the Pool at GULGONG'S "HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL"

The annual "Henry Lawson Society Festival" over the Queen's Birthday weekend in June 2004 was again an outstanding success. The awards for written work were again vigorously contested as was the 'Leonard Teale Performance Award.' On this occasion the results were a triumph for traditional work based on the ballad or metre and rhyme style. Alan Buggy from Canberra won the "Henry" for adult verse with a very humorous poem "Zero Oh Dot Zero Oh" and the short storey was won by Ivor Morten from

Woodford.

The 'Leonard Teale Performance Award' conducted during the Saturday evening dinner saw a full line up of Finalists drawn from as far away as Tasmania and Queensland performing a large variety of work covering free verse and ballad. The top four places for this were taken out by 'Bush Poets' and were awarded as follows:-

1st Geoff Sharp, Beechmont. Qld.
2nd Ron Stevens, Dubbo. N.S.W.
3rd Terry Regan, Blaxland. N.S.W.

Highly Commended, Shirley Drake, Woy Woy. N.S.W.

A big thankyou to the Henry Lawson Society and their sponsors "The Land Newspaper" and "Country Energy" for another highly successful weekend

Geoff Sharp

THE SCOBIE WHIP

© Slim Jones. Mackay Q.- Winner 2004 Bronze Swagman Award.

This years Judge was Mr. Colin Munro, Regional Service Manager ABC Sydney.

From the squatters chair the old man saw the gidyea thick and dense;
but his mind was elsewhere - looking out toward the border fence
where a lazy sun takes time to set further out on the red dust plains
and a sigh is all you could hear from him from the memory that remains.

"Tell me grand-dad, tell me again, how life was away back then
when a horse would die before he'd quit; and those handy cattlemen.
Tell me about those droving trips in a country harsh and dry
when a thousand head from V.R.D. came through the Murrarji".

"well! Sit down lad, but before we do, to save my gammy leg
would you reach me down from off the wall, that whip from off the peg".
"What's so special about that, Pop, and it's kangaroo hide strips?"
"Lad this is from another time, for this is a Scobie whip!"

"Now Monty's his name, and he learned to plait as a kid in the time I speak,
he honed his skill in the droving camp with mobs on the Coopers Creek;
then further south were the shifting sands marks a bushmans true Outback,
on endless runs from the Kidman time to the north of the Birdsville Track.

The ease with which that lash would fall from the ground or from horse-back
every man who was worth his salt could tell when the Scobie cracked.
Till a work of art those hands produced from the handle to the tip
and only the man who was invited to, ever touched a Scobie whip.

The long dry spells on the Barkley Run always took a heavy toll
on men not up to the hardship, and many a swag was rolled.
But the ones who mastered the loneliness and beat nature at her tricks
you can bet your life for the most part trailed one of Monty Scobies whips.

That whip, lad, has never touched the ground - nor the red hide fall itself;
and the turks head there on the handle, boy, don't come from a 'Williams' shelf.
While the drovers pushed the tailers on with a gentle silent flick;
no need to flog at a weary move - they respected the Scobie whip.

I've seen good men from the Clermont side when the days were long and hard
who'd hang their whip on the top most rail of the Epping Forest yard;
and the scrubber bull from the Laglan Run would scorn the crush and dip
but met in the midst of a headlong charge with a six-foot Scobie whip.

From the unfenced runs in the western gulf where the north bound rivers run,
where time is judged by an eastern glow and judged by a setting sun;
no place for one who knows not how the ways of bushmanship
in the hands of youth or the average man - no place for my Scobie whip.

Lad, you hold some history there, the like never seen again
who'd echoes never returned to home and were lost on the open plain.
But I'd face up to the worst there was and I'd even face old Nick -
You'd hear him say as he backed away 'no way, that's a Scobie whip!'

When the herds came in to Camooweal and the drovers cropped their rolls -
turned horses out through the common gate and made for the watering holes
you could tell the ones who knew their stuff without a word from lip
around their shoulders curled and smooth would be a Scobie whip.

I've had that whip for fifty years. It's as good as the day it was made
and I wouldn't swap for a pound of gold that polished leather braid.
But a busted leg and some broken bones have made me come to grips
and never again will I ever swing a roo hide Scobie whip.

But when I go, and it won't be long, I've one request to make
to bury the whip beside me lad, when I go I would like to take.
Already I've asked the Lord above when I make that final trip
if He's got any strays need rounding up, course I've got my Scobie whip.

SLIM JONES

BRIEF HISTORY

The 2004 winner of the prestigious Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Award, Slim Jones of Mackay Qld., was born in Bathurst NSW in 1937.

Leaving home at fifteen years he worked on various cattle properties around the Clermont area in Queensland as a ringer, drover and stockman. He rodeoed for a few years but as he says, 'wasn't much good at that!' though some of his trophies might attest that Slim is a rather modest character.

Slim married at twenty-one and fathered two boys and a girl, two of which were lost under tragic circumstances.

Leaving the stock-camps he went into livestock transport, later opting for the heavy-haulage and the construction industry.

He worked in the Kimberleys for some time and was a company manager at Port Hedland for three years before starting up a motor wrecking business. Taking the big leap, he moved his family to the USA where he was again involved in heavy haulage for some fifteen months.

Subsequent return visits to America saw him spend time with the Le Garde Twins in Nashville, and meeting up with some of the big names in country music.

Slim has been a successful songwriter and poet for many years but it took a lot of encouraging to have him present one of his poems to the Bronze Swagman Awards.

He has songs released by a number of artists, and it was Slim who inaugurated the Mackay Country Music Club thirty years ago.

These days he runs a Road Pilot Escort Service and there isn't a road in the country that he hasn't seen, let alone notching up fifty-four trips across the Nullabor Plain.

With three world trips up his sleeve visiting sixteen countries at the same time, Slim reckons it's about time he retired and settled down to some serious writing.

Frank Daniel

HERITAGE DRIVE GRENFELL TO GULGONG

The Fourth Annual Heritage Drive departed from Grenfell on its historic journey to Gulgong on June 1st.

Part of the Henry Lawson Festival held annually in both 'Lawson' towns on the June Long-weekend, the drive attracted horsemen from all over, with no less than twenty wagons, buggies and sulkies and more than a dozen riders lining up for 2004.

Travelling via centres such as Gooloogong, Toogong, Manildra, Molong, Stuart Town, Wellington, Commobella and Gollan - the trip

culminated in leading the Gulgong Henry Lawson Festival Parade on Friday 11th June as an opener to the Gulgong Henry Lawson celebrations.

The history of the drive is closely associated with the Lawson Festivals running in alternate directions year to year.

All the little towns and schools along the way benefit from the drive as do many of the small town and district halls which open up for big celebrations and bush entertainment. It has become a tradition with



the schools to welcome the drive giving students a first hand impression of life in the 'slow lane', experiencing part of our living history first hand.

Frank Daniel

BINNA BURRA LODGE

HOSTS POETS WEEK-END

Following the success of the 2003 event, held at Binna Burra Mountain Lodge, on the edge of Lamington National Park, an even better program is planned for November 5th, 6th and 7th of 2004, against the backdrop of this World Heritage listed Park.

The program will consist of an open performance competition limited to 20 participants in two heats, workshops for writers and performers, two concerts, the traditional and highly successful junior competition and a special treat on Sunday morning.

The weekend is being designed to give guest and visitors a large dose of traditional humour, excellent performances of Australian verse, encouragement to our young enthusiasts and a flavour, this year, of the work of 'Henry Lawson.'

By no means will the weekend be dominated by Henry's works, just a touch of his exceptional talent and skills which will occur in two ways. There will be a special prize for the best Lawson performance over the entire weekend judged by our celebrity guests, and on Sunday 7th we will

have the pleasure of listening to the Grovely Choir in short brackets, singing some of the many works, which over the years have been put to music, at various venues around the Lodge and Park. They will also have a short set in the Sunday concert. Guest Poets for the concert and Judges for the weekend will include Noel Stallard (ABPA National Champion) that master of comedy Ray Essery (The Mullumbimby Bloke) the old rogue formerly from Baralaba, now retired to the Sunshine Coast, Mr. John Major and the "Leonard Teale Award" winner for 2004, Geoff Sharp.

Details of the program and competitions including prizes are being finalised and will be available together with entry forms in August and should be obtained early as competition entries will be limited to the first 20 received.

A full range of accommodation is available at Binna Burra from camp sites to all-inclusive packages and should also be booked promptly.

Contact :- Binna Burra Lodge ph. 07 55333622 or 1800 074 260-

Email

www.binnaburralodge.com.au

Geoff Sharp phone 0755333565

Email

www.geoffsharp@ozemail.com.au

BUSH BARDS & BALLADEERS in KEMPSEY

As part of this years Kempsey Country Music and Trucking Festival a Bush Poets and Balladeers Brunch is planned from 8 am - 11 am on Sunday 12th September at the Kempsey Macleay RSL Club.

Feature performer and comper this year will be Grafton's Bill Kearns, 'The Master of Bull' and many regular patrons will be happy to see this talented bush poet return with his very humorous repertoire.

The morning's entertainment will be compered by Kempsey Bush Poet Sam Smyth. Also performing will be poets John Lloyd and Cay Fletcher and local balladeer, Ken 'Chainsaw' Linday.

Special guest, well know country music personality Felicity will also perform.

An open mike session will be available for walk-up performers who may like to come and share their poems or those of other authors.

Admission for the show is \$12.00 and includes a hot breakfast meal which will be served at 9.45 am. Please book in advance to assist with catering, by ringing the club on 02 6562 6900

Other enquiries to Sam Smyth - phone 02 6562 6861

Maureen Stonham

GOLDEN SUCCESS

Nine months of careful planning culminated with the staging of the 2004 Festival of Australian Bush Poetry held in Charters Towers, Friday 18th to Sunday 20th June.

Generally, it was a pleasing result in most ways, the only 'down side' being lesser nominations received in some of the thirteen sections for performance poetry.

While nominations were lower than last year, it has been acknowledged the standard of the poet's performances were superior to 2003, indicating more are concentrating on improving their skills on the delivery of poems in competition.

The committee felt there should have been more in the under 18 year categories, as this is the start for the junior poets to become more proficient in how best to gain the maximum benefit from the adjudicators.

Carmel Randle of Toowoomba and 'local' Tonya Burgoine were part of the adjudicating team with the guest poets.

In the two sections for the 'juniors' the Vinson children, Tom, John, and Meg enjoyed sweet success, with Tom assessed the Best Overall Junior.



Melanie Hall, Townsville

Both Novice and Open poets contested the four sections for each, with several 'surprise' performances.

Local lady poet, Jean Lindley drew unreserved acclamation on her humorous entry, apart from the more serious styles that gained her the Best Female Poet of the festival.

Jean took to the stage again at Winton and will also embark on a trip to Perth in October for the 2004 Australian Championships. All the best Jean!

Regular competitor from Alice River, Townsville, Dan Thompson made it back in back 'wins' for the Best Male Poet.

He lost none of his talent from 2003, and although not winning a section, his aggregate points placed him in front.

Locals, Connie Larsen Stainkey and Harold Jackson also impressed all, as did newcomers from Calen, John and Carmel Lloyd.

Competition aside, the 'guest' poet, Milton Taylor of Hartley NSW, Janine Haig from Eulo, SWQ and Melanie Hall of Townsville were a 'gift' to the audiences over the weekend.

Their vast repertoire of the many styles of Australian Bush Poetry thoroughly entertained all in attendance.

Several who had never witnessed 'poetry-alive' by those poets were amazed with the talents of the trio, remarking 'People who were not present to see how poetry of today is performed in a most entertaining style - really missed out on fabulous event'.

The written poetry, four sections, were judged prior to the festival, attracting almost sixty entries from southern NSW to Mossman NQ.

Local junior scooped the prizes - Ellie Rea with "Brumbies of the South" placing first in the

u/12's; "The Little Kangaroo" by Sarah Risdale successful in the 12 to u/15 category and Rebecca Blackman's "The Windmill" first in the 15 to u/18.

One of Australia's better known poets, Ellis Campbell from Dubbo NSW made it a unique double in the open section, placing 1st and 2nd from forty-eight entries. "A Champion's Lament" won him first prize, with "Overheard" in second, with Veronica Weal of Mt Isa, a consistent and successful writer in our festival, placing third with "Gentle Giants".

The Gold City Bush Poets committee are pleased with the overall response, the Sponsors were most generous in support, and attendances over the three days were increased.

After everything is tidied up, the committee will commence early planning for 2005, by granted the privilege of hosting the National Champion for the Australian Bush Poets Association.

'SPRINGFEST' CANOWINDRA NSW

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2. Open Humorous. \$550

WRITTEN SECTIONS

3. 'Mining in Australia'. \$400
4. Open Bush Poetry. \$500

Entry forms

Email: bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au
Or SSAE to

Short Street Productions
PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804
Enquiries: Ph. 02 6344 1477

(Conducted under the auspices of the
Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.)

Kempsey Country Music & Trucking Festival

Bush Poets & Balladeers Brunch



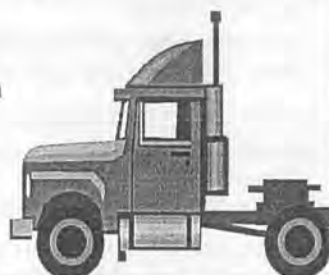
8.00am to 11.00am
 Sunday 12th September 2004
 Kempsey Macleay RSL Club

Compered by Sam Smyth
 featuring

"The Master of Bull" Bill Kearns
 with John Lloyd, Cay Fletcher,
 balladeer Ken "Chainsaw" Lindsay
 and special guest Country singer Felicity U

Open Mic session for walk-up performers
 Admission \$12.00
 Includes a hot Breakfast meal served at 9.45am
 Please advance book to assist with catering
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FAIRDINKUM AUSSIE BUSH HUMOUR



2004 New South Wales STATE BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS PERFORMANCE & WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

16th – 17th October
 Narrandera Race Club

Entry forms SSAE
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 Fax. 02 3959 2788
 email:
 tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au

(Conducted under the auspices of the
 Australian Bush Poets Assoc. Inc.)

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY

The inaugural Southern Highlands Festival of Australian Bush Poetry was held in the village of Sutton Forest on Sun 30/5/04.

Organised and run by Garry Barnsley OAM and the hardworking, "Little Piece of Scotland" committee, the Poetry Festival was co-ordinated to occur within the framework of the Southern Highlands "Australian Festival of the Book" Festival.

Garry Barnsley stated that the Festival "Was started to honour the greats of the classic Bulletin era of Australian Bush Verse".

The Sutton Forest Hall was filled to capacity. The appreciative audience enjoyed a programme of Bush Poetry, banter and fiddle music (courtesy of Bob McInnes) that began right on 10 am through

until 3pm.

Frank Daniel proved to be a superb Master of Ceremonies. With humour and grace he introduced each element of the programme like a jeweller stringing together a chain of pearls.

Contestants were judged on a combination of their written and performance skills with regard to each individual poem entered, making the judges work doubly difficult on the day.

The crowd were treated to the work of contemporary writers and performers who in Garry's words were "every bit as good as the great traditionalists of the Bulletin".

Judge Phillip Yeo said, "The Poets attending represented the old

Traditional Section:

1st Graeme Johnson,

Original Serious:

1st David Campbell

2nd Graeme Johnson

Original Humorous:

1st Gregory North

Salute the ute!:

1st Ellis Campbell

Robert Burns-Bush Poet?

1st Ellis Campbell

Wherever Green is worn:

1st Dan O'Donnell

Remembering the "Don" (Bradman):

1st Trevor Sweeney

Books, Books, Books:

1st Gregory North

Overall Winner: Best poem on the day:

1st Ellis Campbell

and new guards of this new Australian "subculture" who write and perform regularly and are utterly devoted to capturing, preserving and extending the rhymes, rhythms and subject matter of the Bush Poetry tradition."

Graeme Johnson

10th BUNDY MUSTER

The 10th Bundy Bush Poetry Muster held on the week-end of July 2nd, 3rd & 4th at Across the Waves, Bundaberg was most successful with fifty poets registering for the week-end performances. Judges for the Open & Intermediate categories were Milton Taylor, Janine Haig and Gary Fogarty with Ron Selby, Trisha Anderson and John Best judging the Novice and Under 15 categories.

BUSH LANTERN AWARD FOR BUSH VERSE 2004 was won by Veronica Weal of Mt. Isa Qld. with her poem "River Songs". Ken Dean, of Marrangaroo NSW ("Their Badge of Pride") and David Campbell of Beaumaris Vic ("Second Chance") were awarded Equal 2nd place. Among the Highly Commended was Dean Collins, with the poem which also gained him 1st place in the Men's Open Performance - "Two Spirits - One Land"

Dean Collins of Bagara was a sensation, not only being awarded two 2nd places and a 1st in Open Male sections, but also Yarnspinning champion, 1st place in the Dark & Stormy One Minute Cup, 1st place in the Duos (with his son Matthew) and of course overall champion for the weekend.



Jan Facey, Bargara

The KYABRAM & district BUSH POETS GROUP. (VIC)

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Another favourite performer was Leanne Jeacocke of Thangool, who was awarded 5 trophies (two 1st & three 2nd places) from the 6 events she entered. Other winners included Lyndon Baxter (Monto), John Best (Whiteside), Anita Reed (Holland Park), Lee Miller (Bargara) and Manfred Vijars (Morningside). Jan Facey (Bargara) and Suzanne Honour (Scarborough) were well rewarded in the Novice Sections.

Milton, Janine and Gary entertained a near capacity crowd on the Saturday night and kept us all laughing with their comments about participants and or choice of poem for the "Walk-Up Poetry" concert on the Friday night. Poets travelled from Perth, Melbourne, Dubbo and Winton to take part in the performance competitions. The after party/sausage sizzle at John & Sandy's was attended by over forty poets and family members and proved to be just what was needed to finish off a great week-end. Paddy played his accordion as well as singing, Milton, Janine and Rusty displaying their singing talents and Sandy giving a clogging demo.

Thanks to those who attended as without the dedication of these poets week-ends like the Bundy Muster just wouldn't happen

Sandy Lees



Dean Collins, Bagara
Overall Champion

The Bundy Muster

I've just got back from Bundy
Now they are a 'you beaut' mob,
And the team that runs the Muster
They sure do a super job.
The venue is so perfect
And the entertainment great,
While Sandy keeps things moving
From sun-up until quite late.
There was only one small failure
In the Muster I could see
When the Judges made their choices
Well - they left out 'little old me'!!!

*Just kidding. Had a great time
Pamela Fox*

MUSTA BIN' A GOOD IDEA - EH?

From the humblest of beginnings in April 1982 when the Webb Bros. celebrated twenty-five years of music together along with the centenary celebrations of their property 'Thornside', has grown Australia's Premier country music celebration.

The idea flourished and twenty two years later the Toyota National Country Muster, attracting over 30,000 people annually, is still going strong at Amamoor Creek State Forest Park, south of Gympie.

As the Muster grew, so too did a fringe atmosphere created by patrons arriving earlier and earlier each year to gain vantage points and of course seeking some form of entertainment whilst waiting for the 'big show to begin'.

Now held over six days, much of the muster's success is attributed to an ever changing face, with organizers continually focusing on change, encouraging new talent and rotating headline performers.

Part of this change saw Marco Gliori, as a result of an appearance at the Maleny Folk Festival, invited by the committee to comper the daytime shows at 'The Crowbar' during the 1990 muster. As a result of his popularity, Marco was invited back the next year and as such the first Bush Poet's Breakfast was held at Gympie Muster, and the inaugural 'King of Rhyme' Bush Poetry Competition was held as a prelude to the muster's Talent Search.

That first year Marco invited Jim Haynes (who was performing at the Muster) to comper the finals of the King Of Rhyme which was won by 'The Larrikin' himself, the late Bobby Miller.

Subsequently the annual Poet's Breakfasts grew, the tents were packed to capacity at all times, the Bush Poets had firmly established themselves at the Muster.

Among the 'King of Rhyme' winners in those earlier days were Ray Essery of Mullumbimby NSW

and Gary Fogarty of Millmerrin Qld.

Within a few short years the huge muster crowds forced an expansion of the entertainment programme and seeing the 'fringe' development taking the bush poetry back as far as the Tuesday prior to the actual festival. With Marco Gliori off touring with the Qld. Arts Council, Jim Haynes compered the 'early bird' breakfasts.

Two years later, Marco was back, compering and co-ordinating the Poets while Jim was touring and promoting 'Since Cheryl Went Feral' and other hits.

The six days of the 'brekkies' still continue with regular appearances by Marco, Gary Fogarty, Neil McArthur, Murray Hartin, Ray Essery and many others.

The title 'King Of Rhyme' was not a popular one with the poets, and it was not until Marco brought about some clever changes creating the 'Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award', which continues on to this day. Recent winners being Harry Donnelly and Arcadia Flynn.

The Naked Poets have featured several times at the Festival, and in 2003 The Gympie Muster paid special tribute to a 'Muster favorite', the late Bobby Miller.

Bob was a great one for 'whooping up the crowds' and back when winning poets were allowed to compete in the Talent Search finals he very nearly took home the award.

The amazing response that followed encouraged the organizers to give bush poetry far greater exposure during the festival. As well, feature shows such as the 'Muster Poet's Brawl' and 'Beatin' Around the Bush' were added in order to cater for the growing numbers attracted to the poetry.

Whatever the future holds for the Muster, the lingering images of the poets affable camp, their fireside debates, Shirley doing ballet on stage, those struggling

bodies marching back along the track each morning with a gutful of laughter, an armful of books and a hearty Muster wake-up for hung-over heroes, whatever, Gympie will always be remembered as the best Country Music Party in Australia.

The 2004 Gympie Muster will run from August 24th to 29th with Marco and his regular mates sharing six two-hour breakfasts as well as seeing the return of the 2003 'Mustabeenbloodygood' winner Harry Donnelly of Sunshine Coast.

Marco has an excellent line up of first timers in Denise Picconi of Townsville Qld., Dave Proust of Foresters Beach NSW and Victorian State Champion for 2003 and 2004, Col Milligan of Benalla.

Bill Kearns of Grafton NSW will be making a very welcome return.

Like all bush poems, the following 'Skip the Auctioneer' from Marco Gliori is about a fair-dinkum character from Warwick Qld. It's short and sweet says Marco and in keeping with his catch-cry 'Poets Never Lie' it's absolutely and positively the truth.

Frank Daniel



Marko Gliori

SKIP THE AUCTIONER

*(Does your town still have a weekly
'Pig and Calf Sale' ...
Warwick Qld., does)*

Here comes Skip the Auctioneer
Accepting bids like he drinks his beer.
Smooth and fast, he'll take a half
When perched down there
at the 'Pig and Calf'.

In goes Skip the Auction God
To give that tightarse one more prod.
"What'll it be, boy? Spend up big!
Make yourself another bid."

Off Skip goes along the rail
Where half the bloody farm's for sale
And pockets open wide with cheer
To spew up cash for the auctioneer.

The Charities rely on Skip.
The Saleyards like to hear his lip.
The Rodeos and Shows round here
Know his mouth has but one gear.[†]

Hang on Skip, there's a raging war
For a pair of chairs you bloody swore
Had all these fancy antique marks,
(That I suspect read Crazy Clarks).

Now up goes Skip the auctioneer
And does the deal like he buys his beer
Slow and sure he checks it out...
Then let's some other sucker shout.

*Written for David (Skip) McIvor
by Marco Gliori*

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1/3 column	\$10.00
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Half Page	\$30.00
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HIGH COUNTRY VERSE AND VISUAL CELEBRATION

"The High Country" Bush Poetry and Art exhibition held at Wagga Wagga Art Gallery was an outstanding success.

The pastel 'paintings' by George Tuck and bush poetry by Neil Hulm was the result of many months of work and the forty 'pieces' on show were certainly worth the effort.

The exhibition, which opened on 20th June, ran for three weeks and was opened by Sir Robert Woods who spoke about his work in the mountains during the 1950's and 1960's with the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

According to staff at the Art Gallery this exhibition has broken all previous attendance records with a tally of 2,352 visitors.

Remarks and quotes from the gallery Visitors Book were absolutely amazing, with visitors from America, England, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and it seems also, from anywhere and everywhere.

Without doubt, two of the highlights to make the exhibition so successful were the hundreds of very interested people who came along to listen and chat with anyone available.

'Top of the Range' bush poet, Jim Weatherstone from Canberra, held the crowd in awe with his 'from the heart and soul' recitals of 'Where the Eucumbene Flows' and 'Bradley Bullocks' which followed Neil Hulm's recital of 'The Call of the Mountains'.

The advertising received was tremendous. We were given an excellent amount of time on Prime T.V. on both Wagga Wagga and Albury stations. The write-ups in the 'Daily Advertiser' were wonderful. Front page news in the Corryong Courier and Tumbarumba Times. The Holbrook

'Beatin' 'round the Bush' EUABALONG NSW

PERFORMANCE & WRITTEN
BUSH POETRY
COMPETITION

\$2,000

PRIZEMONEY

Café Melaleuca

10 am - 3rd October

PERFORMANCE SECTIONS

Open Non-Original B/P \$450.00
\$100 ea. Juniors u.12 & 12 - 16 yrs.
Open Original Bush Poetry. \$450
Yarn-spinning. \$350.
Encouragement award - \$100

WRITTEN SECTION

Open Written Competition. \$450

SSAE for entry forms
Short Street Productions
PO Box 16
Canowindra NSW 2804 or email:
bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au

Chronicle and Tumut Times also ran articles and all radio stations in Wagga Wagga were involved.

Many thanks to them all for the enormous amount of coverage.

With my poetry on display with the beautiful paintings by George Tuck, I felt this was one of my most pleasant and never to be forgotten experiences in Bush Poetry.

Dr. Harry Gardiner, the former vice principal of Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga was M.C. and he summed up, "Great paintings, great combination, poems to remember and one of the greatest gatherings of old mountain hands for a long time."

A special thank you to staff at the Art Gallery for their continued help and also to Mrs. Isabel Tuck for her many months of organising.

*Regards to all, Neil Hulm,
Lavington NSW.*

SUMMING UP SUTTON FOREST

By Honorary Judge Phillip Yeo

The inaugural bush poetry competition held at Sutton Forest (NSW) was a delightful surprise for all who enjoyed the five hours of entertainment provided by those whose passion is to keep the tradition of Australian bush poetry alive and flourishing.

Not all the poets who entered the various sections of original poetry competition attended to recite their verse but those that did performed with a passion and enthusiasm in the tradition and their attempts to recreate and extend bush verse into modern context play an important part in their everyday life.

Master of Ceremonies Frank Daniels magic sustained the interest of the audience throughout as he interwove his own performance of traditional bush ballads and his own original works with delivery of poems entered in the competitions, by the poets present and others, and with spontaneous performances by those in the audience who Frank obviously recognized as 'dying to have a go'.

The poets attending represented the old and new guards of this 'subculture' who write and perform regularly and are utterly devoted to capturing, preserving and extending beyond that special period of the Bulletin era the rhymes, rhythms and subject matter of bush poetry tradition.

The skill, passion and flair of those devotees provided five hours of entertainment for an appreciative audience, none of whom was concerned about time but sad that such a great day's involvement should finally come to an end.

Attention Student Poets

To keep bush poetry alive it's imperative that we encourage our young writers and a small group of bush poets who operate on the mid-north coast of NSW are certainly doing their part.

The Midcoast Sundowners will once again be presenting their annual school students poetry competition for the 4th year which will take place on the 19th Sept. 2004 at the Forster - Tuncurry Memorial Services Club, Strand St. Forster. The competition is open to all school students with categories for Primary School to Year Six (max 50 lines) and High School to Year Twelve (max 80 lines) with over \$500 worth of cash prizes.

In the past this event has always been blessed with the attendance of many fine and outstanding bush poets who have come to bolster their meagre ranks and recite on the day. Their presence also helps bolster the confidence of those junior prize winners who will recite their prize winning poems.

Closing Date: All entries to be received no later than 21st August, 2004.

All entries and enquiries to be directed to:

The competition co-coordinator
Mr. Reid Begg
5/14 South St.
Tuncurry 2428
Ph (02) 6554 9788

Goobragandra Calling

© Neil Smith, January 2004

As the paper piles around me, and the boss with jobs does hound me
With a brief respite from the phone's incessant ring
My attention starts to wander, while precious time I squander
Drifting off to a place that makes me sing.

Yes it's Goobragandra calling, the mountain bush enthralling,
And my heart it yearns to be there with friends I love so dear,
It's a magic summer playground, a secret place that we've found,
Our pilgrimage takes us once a year.

The bush wraps itself right round you while above a sky so brilliant blue
You feel alive in this most special place
The creek so crystal clear has you grinning ear to ear
As you revel in Australia's native space.

A place of family and friends, long days that have no end.
Where reading and relaxing is the order of the day.
Interspersed with swimming, and time absolutely brimming,
With talk & food & drink & of course play.

Children splashing and cavorting, tyre tubes and sunburn sporting,
Lazy cruises down the creek, wildlife watching on the way.
Lizard watch as sun is setting, drinking scotch & tiddly getting,
Games and laughs a plenty to finish off the day.

While the setting can't be beat it's the people that we meet
Friends old and new, age it is no limit
The chance to talk and interact Tee Vee and phone intact
The picture pales without the people in it.

So I've drifted for a while lost in thought as work it piles
Then the phone cuts through my reverie
I'm brought quickly back to work for now I will not shirk
But Goobragandra is the place I'd rather be!

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug 1 **MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL** Ph. (07) 4271 3737
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 (Pg 8)
Aug 20-22 **Qld STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** Nth Pine Ph (07)3285 2845 longjohnbest@dodo.com.au
Aug 24-29 **GYMPIE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER** General Enquiries - phone 07 5482 2099 (page 14)
Aug 21 **BOWRAVILLE THEATRE** Bush Poetry Soiree Ph (02) 6564 7828 or (02) 6568 5269
Aug 21 Closing Date **FORSTER** - Midcoast Sundowners Student's written Comp (details below)
Sep 12 - **GALSTON** Country Music Festival - Bush Poets Breakfast - Ph Graeme Johnson on 0419 415137 (pg 3)
Sep 12 - **KEMPSEY BUSH BARDS & BALLADEERS** phone Sam Smyth - 02 6562 6861 (details page 10)
Sept 10-12 **INVERELL** - CELEBRATION of the OUTBACK Ph Jimmy Brown - (02) 67 223550
Sept 15 Closing date Written ABPA 2004 Championships
Sept 24-26 **DORRIGO** Round-Up Featuring Gary Fogarty Ph Murray (02) 6657 2139
Oct 2 - **GILGANDRA COO-EE FESTIVAL** Workshop and Readings Ph. (02) 6847 308
Oct. 2-3 **CANOWINDRA** \$2,000 Performance Comp. Ph. 02 6344 1477 bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au (Pg 18)
Oct. 2-3 **EUABALONG BEATIN' 'round the BUSH'** Julie (02) 689 6604 email: yenbo@westserv.net.au (Pg 19)
Oct 4 Closing date **HAMPTON** Public School Written BP Comp (Details page 18)
Oct 16-17 **NARRANDERA** - NSW State Championships - 1800 672 392 (Page 18)
Oct 23-31 **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
Nov 10 Closing date **LAND OF THE BEARDIES** Bush Poetry Written Competition (Ad Back Page)
Nov 13 **LUCINDALE** Great Southern Muster SA Championships Ph Di Jenke: 08 8769 6030
Nov 14 **GLEN INNES** - Land of the Beardies Festival - Ph Colin Newsome (02) 67322417
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

OWED (and Paid) to a Bottle

Henry Lawson -The Bulletin 1910

I've sung of the wattle
Since long, long ago;
But an ode to the bottle
Is the ode that I owe -
An ode to a bottle,
And I ought to know.

I've carried it home
On nights dark and wild,
Well hugged to my bosom,
Like a mother her child.
I've fought for it raging
And fought for it mild.

I've stuck to it empty,
When friends were in vain,
Till I had the tray bit
To fill it again.
And it stuck to me
Both in sunshine and rain.

I've sung of the wattle
Since long, long ago;
But a song to the bottle
Is the song that I owe -
An ode to a bottle,
And I ought to know.

Don't forget to log-on to
www.bushpoetry.com.au the site
maintained by Frank Daniel and his team to
keep Bush Poets informed, in tune and in
touch.



There is opportunity to express your views,
share your poetry and keep informed of up-
coming events.

**Have all write-ups, submissions and ads for
Oct - Nov issue to the editor by 20th Sept**



07 4995 8407



jarby@cqnet.com.au



PO Box 96,
THANGOOL, Qld. 4716



NSW BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Narrandera will host the 2004 NSW Australian Bush Poetry State Championships from October 16th to 17th at the Narrandera Race Club, in Racecourse Road.

Famous for its annual John O'Brien Bush Festival, historic Narrandera, the gateway to the Riverina, is fast becoming known as a festival town, with full credit going to its most enthusiastic hard working Tourist Centre staff.

A friendly Riverina town,

Narrandera extends a warm welcome to visitors and in October especially to the bush bards and their followers.

For the early arrivals, a meet and greet gathering will take place at the Narrandera Services Club on the Friday 15th October from 6.30 pm.

The Championships will get under way at 9.30am on Saturday 17th at the Race Club on Racecourse Road, a nice quiet venue with plenty of facilities available.

A film evening will take place on the Saturday evening with a presentation of Jim Brown's Australia - 'Banjo's Australia' and

TIP OF THE MONTH

Borrow money from pessimists- they don't expect to get paid back.

'Lawson's Australia' - both featuring some of their most famous poems and an outline of their work.

The competition will continue on Sunday morning followed by a presentation of awards and farewell.

Phone 1800 672 392 for entry forms (see advert page 12) and info package.

Email:

HAMPTON

NSW

Public School Annual Bush Poetry Competition

11am Saturday 23rd October, 2004



Junior Written Section

- ◆ \$2 Entry fee
- ◆ Up to Grade 4
- ◆ Grades 5-7
- ◆ Up to Year 12

Open Written Section

- ◆ \$5 Entry fee

Entries close Fri 4th October

Performance Sections

- ◆ Up to Grade 4
- ◆ Grades 5-7
- ◆ Up to Year 8-12
- ◆ Novice
- ◆ Open Traditional/Modern
- ◆ Open Original

For more information contact:
The Secretary,
126 Cullenbenbong Road
HARTLE, NSW 2790
Ph - 02 6359 3395

CANOWINDRA SPRING-FEST

The inaugural Canowindra Springfest in 2003 was such a success that it was more than imminent a follow-up would occur in 2004.

Again the Long-weekend in October has been set as the focal point for the main part of the celebrations.

But, with the overwhelming enthusiasm generated in the local region, the number of events planned and venues seeking inclusion in the Springfest Programme having exceeded all expectations, the festival will now be a six week event, taking in activities in other nearby towns as well.

The inaugural Springfest Bush Poetry competition will be conducted on Saturday 2nd October at the Canowindra Bowling Club, which boasts one of the best Chinese Restaurants in the Central West.

Canowindra is rapidly developing as an Arts Centre and is often referred to as the Paddington of the Central West.

Canowindra is famous for its street parties and the main street will become a hive of activity from about 4pm onwards.

With its Heritage listed main

street and wide historical background of early settlement, exploration and bushranging, Canowindra will come alive with workshops, bush ballads, folk music, Bush Poetry, concerts, music, dancing, a street party, vineyard tours, wine-tasting and hot air balloons.

'Springfest' is the brain-child of Canowindra Art Network and will draw on the remarkable talents and resources of its people. Local schools, community groups and service clubs have combined their resources to ensure the success of yet another great 'party' in Canowindra.

Local artists will conduct workshops in various mediums and Contact Bob Craven 02 6344 1000 for the Canowindra Springfest colour brochure. Tell 'im Joe sent ya!

Honoring our Sponsors Newcrest Mining, a special \$400 written competition with a 'Mining in Australia' theme will run alongside the \$500 open written competition. (See ad. this issue)

PS. Don't forget the 'Beatin' 'round the Bush' Festival to be held at Euabalong on Sunday 3rd October, which combined with Canowindra will make a great weekend for poets with a total of \$4000 over the two days. (See separate article next page)

'BEATIN' 'round the BUSH'

THE HEART OF NSW
NEW COMPETITION

The October long weekend will become a hive of activity when the tiny Central Western NSW township of Euabalong presents its inaugural "Beatin' 'round the Bush' Festival of the Heart of NSW.

Euabalong has long been recorded in verse and song. In the 1880's a celebratory dance was held in the Lachlan River township, and A.L. Lloyd adapted his long remembered folk-song 'The Euabalong Ball' from an earlier song 'The Wooyeo Ball'.

*"Oh, who hasn't heard of
Euabalong Ball,
Where the lads of the
Lachlan, the great and
the small,
Come bent on diversion,
from far and from near,
To forget their troubles for
just once a year."*

The printed original reports a lively but not uproarious dance focused on the squatters and jackeroos rather than the pastoral workers.

The organisers, a small but dynamic group of people, have already established a \$2,000 Performance and Written Bush Poetry and Yarn-Spinning Competition, hosted by well known central western identity Frank Daniel of Canowindra.

The Bush Poetry competition will start at 10am on Sunday 3rd October with two Open Sections, two Junior sections and one for Yarn-spinning.

Section 1. Open Non-Original Bush Poetry - \$450.

Section 2. Juniors under 12. \$100.

Section 3. Juniors 12 - 17. \$125

Section 4. Open Original Bush Poetry. \$450.

Section 5. Yarnspinning. \$350.

Section 6. Open Written Competition. \$450

A Poets Breakfast will be held on Monday 4th at 8am with a \$100 encouragement award on offer.

Murrin Bridge Wines will be holding a display and wine tasting along with Quilting displays and demonstrations. Patchwork quilters are encouraged to bring their quilts, prizes to be awarded to the best exhibits. As well there will be displays of Fine Arts, Fabric Dying, Aboriginal Totem, the playing of the Didgeridoo and stories on its history, chain saw carving and many more events.

Local Harley Riders have been asked to come along, inviting members of their groups to join the weekend celebrations, entering in the HOG of the day competition.

The Festival shall become an ongoing event celebrating the culture, history, nature, music and crafts of the Heart of NSW.

The local Aboriginal communities are organizing a good number of events including bush-tucker, music, dance and arts. Stalls shall provide a market atmosphere to coincide with the many interactive and interesting participative workshops for visitors.

For more information contact Julie Ingram on (02) 689 6604

email: yenbo@westserv.net.au

SSAE for entry forms to Short Street Productions.

PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804

Ph. 02 6344 1477

Email

bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au


Remember to keep this weekend free to travel to Canowindra for 'Springfest' and then to Euabalong for 'Beatin' 'round the Bush' and enjoy the festivities of the October Long-Weekend.


Frank Daniel


BITS AND PIECES

 The Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group held its 10th Annual meeting on Monday 7th June. It was well attended and membership is ever growing. Mick Coventry has organized the Schools Bush Verse Recitation competition which culminates in August. Well done, Mick! There will be trophy prizes and cash prizes to the winning schools. The meeting was followed by a night of Verse and Yarns (and Supper). Col Milligan floored everyone with his story of his Mother-in-law on the SCOOTER (Super-charged and fitted with Bull Bars). Our members are looking forward to the "Around the Campfire" night on September 16th.

Graham Watt

 Another great Palma Rosa poets evening was held on 25th May when their own poet laureate – the great Robert Raftery performed for the group. What a wonderful night – full of humour, Pathos and feeling – Robert tells some amazing yarns too and he was the motivational for the Atlanta & Sydney Olympics. Trisha Anderson performed two of Robert's poems – "A Phone Call From Home" and the great ballad about Sydney Kidman "The Cattle King"

 Did everyone see Geoff Sharp on Channel 7's "Sunrise" on Monday 19th July? The nation-wide morning program was broadcasting their weather segment live from Binna Barra Lodge and Geoff did a great job of putting Bush Poetry in the lime light with his fine live performance and the breathtaking display of the World Heritage-listed rainforests of the Gold Coast Hinterland provided a fitting backdrop. Onya Geoff.

 Scotty McGuigan from Dingo joined Chris and Merv Webster and others for the Gems of Country weekend at Emerald in June. The poet's breakfast at Kiely's Animal Sanctuary was a great success.

LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL

POETS BREAKFAST
King Edward Park

GLEN INNES NSW
Sunday the 14th November.
2004

commencing at 8.00am

Poetry Competition

Nomination \$5.00 per Entry

Entries Close 10th Nov.

Sections will include -

- Traditional
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- Open Original - Serious
- Humorous

Contact Neville Campbell

02- 67322663

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RSD 1125,

LUCINDALE, 5272.

Phone/Fax: 08 8769 6030

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Featuring Gary Fogarty

Sept 24th - 26th 2004

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Performance Workshop

Poets Brawl



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response at Poets'
Walk-up



More info on page 15 or phone -
Murray 02 66572139.

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