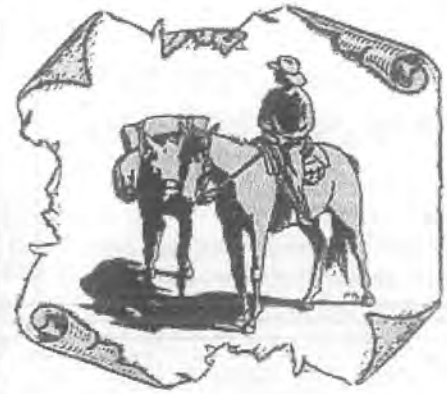


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -



Volume 11

No. 6

Dec 2004

MELANIE & MILTON TAKE HONOURS

2004 National Performance Titles

Held at Digger's Camp, WA from 22nd October

With the usual expected hiccups for a first time event, the feedback to organizers of the 2005 Australian Bush Poetry Championships has been quite positive.

The week long celebrations started off with a 'Meet the Poets' night at Diggers Camp, the home of Rod and Kerry Lee. Interspersed with musical items from Pat Drummond, poets shared the stage with performances. The night was filmed by ABC Television, along with several interviews that will be screened nationally at a later date.

The competition opened with the Novice Original Section which was won by Colin Carrington of Bendigo Vic., followed by Arthur Leggett. Teresa Proust of Forresters Beach won the Other Novice Section with Alex Allitt of Deniliquin runner-up.

The Championships were conducted in the prestigious old theatre 'The Regal', with the three women's sections held on the Friday, the six finalists then going

on to perform an original item in the finals which were held during the Naked Poets Show prior to the interval that night.

The same format followed for the men, with their finals held on the Saturday night at the Naked Poets Show.

Results.

Original Serious. Male. 1. Milton Taylor. 2. Noel Stallard. 3. Ron Liekefett.

Original Serious. Female. 1. Melanie Hall. 2. Carol Heuchan. 3. Cathy Edwards.

Original Humorous. Male. 1. Dave Proust. 2. Noel Stallard. 3. Peter Capp.

Original Humorous. Femal. 1. Carol Heuchan. 2. Melanie Hall. 3. Kerry Lee.

Australian Classic. 1. Jim Brown. 2. Noel Stallard. 3. Milton Taylor.

Australian Classic. Female. 1. Kerry Lee. 2. Cathy Edwards. 3. Melanie Hall.

The Men's Finals were decided between Milton Taylor, Col

Milligan, Jim Brown, Noel Stallard, Ron Liekefett and Dave Proust.

The finalists in the Women's championship were Melanie Hall, Anita Reed, Chris Sadler, Kerry Lee, Carol Heuchan and Cathy Edwards.

The overall Champions for 2005 were Melanie Hall and Milton Taylor.



Keith Lethbridge (Halls Creek, WA), winner of the Written Competition. His poem and other results of written competition on page 5..

Poetry in this Issue

- 5 OLD MATE - Keith Lethbridge
- 9 DARE TO BARE FOR CANCER FUNDS - Heather Corfield
- 10 HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY - Evan Schnalle
- 15 BALLAD OF THE TOTEMS - Oodgeroo Noonuccal
- 16 BEFORE A REDFERN MONUMENT - Brian Beesley
- 18 ENCOUNTER WITH WHALES - Max Merckenschlager
- 19 SEEING RED - Carol Hutcheson



**Annual
Membership**
Due 30th Dec 2004

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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,

Well, 2004 didn't last too long did it? We'll have to find a way to put the brakes on in 2005, especially during autumn when the weather is best.

Christmas is always a busy time in my neck of the woods with different types of celebrations and local activities, plus planning for the coming new year with The Longyard Hotel Traditional Poets Breakfasts followed almost immediately by the Poets Breakfasts at Elmslea Homestead, Bungendore on 5th February.

I'm looking forward to Tamworth this year and hope to meet up with as many of you as possible. Hopefully the AGM at St. Edwards Hall in Hillvue Street will see a bumper crowd attending, with the long awaited new Rule Book finally set for printing. If you have proposals or ideas to put forward please send them to the Secretary for inclusion in the Agenda.

Please don't forget to send in your annual subscriptions as soon as possible and for those performers requiring Public Liability Insurance, please remember that your present policy will be void after December 31st., leaving no allowance for late payments. It still stands at \$70 pa. and is still the cheapest available.

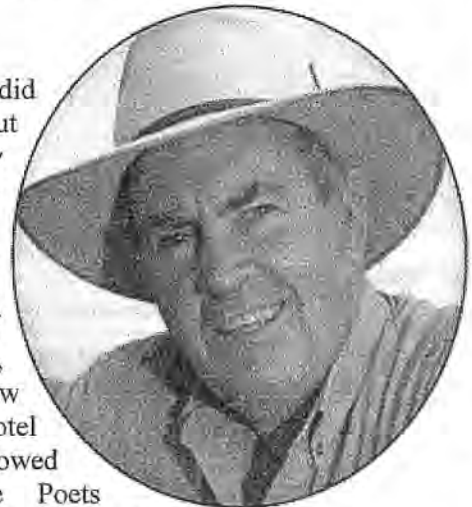
I would like to say thank you to Ed Parmenter and his wife Margaret for being the supporters that they are and for the amount of hard work they instill into the running of the ABPA. The same goes for our Treasurer Marie Smith of Dorrigo for her dedication and willingness to do the job properly. Thank you also to Leanne Jeacocke for her input as Editor, it's not an easy slog Leanne, you've done well. May they and other committee members accept my gratitude for their input during 2004.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to the many committees who have helped with the conducting of State and National Titles, for the rough roads we have trodden, and for the suggestions and input that will go a long way towards helping with future competitions. One thing that I think committees should keep in mind is that of expensive trophies vs. prize-money. As I have been reminded so many times "Trophies don't put petrol in the tank", and in these times of inflated fuel prices we need to look more at the dollar to see our competitors travelling and competitions flourishing.

On behalf of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc I would like to extend my heartiest best wishes for the coming season, and wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2005.

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'

Frank Daniel





TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

After fifteen years or so at the Imperial Hotel, the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group has relocated to Wests Leagues Club for their annual Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition in 2005.

Acknowledged as one of the best and most sought after awards in the country, the 'Imperial' competition, as it has been known for so long, will no doubt see an inevitable 'change of name' to go with its new surroundings.

The Outback Bar at Wests will be the new venue and heats of the competition will be run on Tuesday 18th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of January 2005 at 9.30am.

The Blackened Billy Written Poetry Awards will be announced prior to the Finals of the Performance Competition at 10 am on Saturday 22nd of January.

The Poetry Reading Group is looking forward to a long and satisfactory union with the Wests Leagues, the leaders in entertainment in Tamworth.

It is expected that the new, more comfortable, air-conditioned surrounds of the fabulous Outback Bar will attract even bigger crowds than in previous years.

Entry forms for the Performance Competition and for the famous Blackened Billy Written Competition can be obtained by sending an SSAE to Jan Morris PO Box W1 West Tamworth 2340.

Thanks

For your contributions

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for sending contributions and encouragement throughout the year.

If you haven't sent an article or poem I would encourage you to take the time to do so next year. It's often a struggle to find short stories and photographs to fill in the "little blank spots" and remember - it's *your* newsletter. I am, of course unable to attend all events so if you want our readers to hear about your event you'll have to let me know.

Leanne Jeacocke
Editor

LOCALS SHINE at SA State Titles

Di Jenke was the hard-working coordinator of the first performance and written event. To quote Carol Reffold, one of the adjudicators, "Our women blew us away, and they would have given their interstate counterparts a strong run for their money in a face-to-face contest!"

Judges for the competition were Carol Reffold, "The Patchwork Poet", and Graeme Johnson, "The Rhymer From Ryde", and everyone appreciated their input and experience.

Although the day was somewhat blustery and unseasonable, the audience was treated to a fine display of performance poetry from all competitors throughout the day. The marquee was beautifully decorated with large displays of local flora, generously donated by SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLOWERS, and other native vegetation grown in the district. With the "SA BUSH POETS" banner in place behind the stage, all was set for the day.

The first category of Traditional, Contemporary or Modern with 11 entrants was completed before lunch,

with judges also taking to the stage to fill in some time. They certainly set an example with their clever and witty performances.

After the lunchbreak, Graeme Johnson performed a selection of works from his recently released CD "Lager, Laughs and Lies", and had the captive audience in stitches with some of his antics on the stage.

Then it was back to competition with the original serious section being performed by 7 competitors, and this was followed by the original humorous category with 9 performers.

Local identity Rob England admirably compered the proceedings for the day, and filled in any time lapses with his vast array of one-liners and short jokes.

Presentations to all category winners by Terry Anderson, secretary of the SA Bush Poets, completed the day. Both of our judges commented that they were very impressed with the standard of competition and suggested that South Australian poets could compete favourably anywhere in Australia.

Then came the announcement that everyone was waiting for. Di Jenke of Lucindale had won the 2004 Champion Bush Poet and was presented with a beautiful watercolour

of "Lucindale Waters", painted by another local identity, Wendy Wilson. Runner-up for the championship was Anne Rogers from Owen.

The poets' breakfast on Sunday morning was well attended by poets and overnight campers, and the audience was in fits of laughter at some of the performances, including Graham Strauss' renditions of a couple of contemporary poems and Graeme Johnson's performance of two "Blue The Shearer" poems on chainsaws and sheepdogs.

In 2005 the joint performance and written event will be staged in Murray Bridge as part of the Stumpy Awards in early August, where they will continue the (new) tradition of pitting mere-males with their better-fancied other-halves.



Graham Strauss
Waikerie, SA

Your Two Bob's Worth

In answer to Maureen & Tom

As a consistent (and reasonably successful) entrant in literary competitions around Australia I'm afraid I must concur, in part at least, with Maureen and Tom Stonham's concerns re poetry judges. While organising committees continue to assume that university lecturers, school teachers, politicians, ministers of religion and radio announcers automatically make good poetry judges we will have this problem. These people may all be excellent performers in their own particular field, but what has that to do with Bush Verse?

A few months ago I heard two radio announcers discussing Bush Verse. "Why do you suppose it has become so popular?" queried one. "Oh," the other replied carelessly, "because anyone can write it." This ignorant fool is the type likely to get invited to judge.

Good metre is essential to Bush Verse. It is the soul of poetry. Good rhyme is equally important and should be comparatively easy to understand, yet winning poems sometimes appear with half rhymes, forced rhymes, site rhymes and some words that bear little resemblance to rhyme, Regulated syllable stress order, regular pattern, rising and falling rhythm, elimination of archaisms and inverted phrases, absence of ambiguity, consistent tense, searching for new metaphors, finding new approaches to an old theme, an interesting opening stanza, logical transgression through the body of the poem to a satisfactory concluding stanza, using the best word are only a few of the things that go to make a good poem.

Poets like Veronica Weal, Ken

Dean, Ron Stevens, Brian Beesley, Max Merchenschlager, Don Adams, David Campbell, Arthur Green, Quendy Young – and many others – lovingly hone and polish their work until they have ironed out the kinks to the best of their ability. Imagine their dismay to see a poem with twenty or more technical defects declared the winner. All they can do in shake their head bewilderedly, try to smile and say, "Oh, well – maybe next year."

One judge, in announcing the winner, was actually heard to say, "In judging this competition we did not take rhyme and metre into consideration." Bush Verse without rhyme and metre?

However, Maureen and Tom, the news is not all grim. Many competitions are still being won by worthy winners. I have several times been told by reputable judges, "the standard was very good and it was hard to separate the last twelve to fifteen entries."


I regard you as an excellent judge, Maureen, and have often recommended you to committees inquiring about a judge. How often have you judged a competition where you found no good entries?


I believe the standard of Bush Poetry is the highest it has ever been and still improving. I consider at least fifty poets are presently writing good verse.


But how much of it are you seeing? For example I have won ten competitions this year but only two of those appeared in ABPA magazine. Surely no one can comment on something they have not seen? Frank Daniel has appealed many times to organisations to send the winning entries in, but they do not appear.

I believe there is some wonderful poetry being written by a fair number of different poets, yet sadly

Have all write-ups, submissions and ads for Dec - Jan issue to the editor by 20th Nov

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much of it does not appear in our magazine or collections of poetry elsewhere.

I do not pretend to know all the answers. I am still learning. I think poets should be encouraged and helped at all levels, but awarding poets wins they have not earned in not helping them – other than financially. And readers can only understand and value what they see – if they are not exposed to the best poetry how do they learn to evaluate it?

A great writing New Year to all

Ellis Campbell

Don't forget to send it in!

I would like to emphasize Frank's request for written poetry competition organizers to forward winning and outstanding entries to the Editor for possible publication. If I don't receive the poems I can't print them. And that goes for write-ups about your events too. One of the most challenging aspects as Editor of this newsletter is filling in the spaces. The job is made all the more difficult if I have to go back through the previous issue and chase up stories, winning poems and photographs. All is simplified if submissions (text and images) are sent by email, but I have access to a scanner so if you have photographs of members and/or your favourite poets, please send them (Include a SASE and I can return printed photos.).

Leanne Jeacocke
Editor

Results of 2004 ABPA National written competition held in WA

The winner of the Written Competition was Keith Lethbridge.(Halls Creek, WA). Highly Commended-were Keith Lethbridge (Still Alive); Dan O'Donnell (Please Don't Wash Your Body Parts), Donald Crane (The Old Timer); Brian Langley (Moore River Blues); Ellis Campbell, (Farewell Packhorse Drover) Congratulations for the standard of work submitted by Carol Heuchan, Val Read, Des Bennett and Roderick Williams

Old Mate

© Keith Lethbridge

I've travelled this land from the east to the west,
From the plains to the mountains high,
Down in the gullies where wallabies rest
And out where the broilgas fly.
I've dined in style at the finest pub
That ever unfurled a flag,
But I'm not well suited to fancy grub
And sleep just as well in a swag.

"There's a little bush river that runs to the sea,
And they tell me the yabbies taste great,
By a blazing log fire with a billy of tea,
But not without you, old mate."

Remember those times when we worked on the road
And the gravel was hotter than Hell?
When I caught the lurgy, you shovelled my load.
Oh yes, I remember it well.
From station to station, from wool-shed to town,
With many a yarn and a song,
But when there was only one job to be found,
Then we just kept moving along.

When the money flowed easy, we squandered the lot,
And forgot about taxes and rates.
We didn't keep records of who paid for what;
That's never a problem, with mates.
Remember the time we fell foul of the law,
When sour-belly syrup was sold?
It cost us six days and it could have been more,
But at least we kept out of the cold.

The wages were low and the yakka was hard,
And youth has a reckless pride.
Remember that brawl in the mustering yard?
It was good to have you by my side.
And now that we're older, I'm timing my run
To that beautiful pearly gate.
I'll call to Saint Peter: "Don't hurry me son,
I'm waiting for my old mate!"

"There's a little bush river that runs to the sea,
And they tell me the yabbies taste great,
By a blazing log fire with a billy of tea,
But not without you, old mate.
No, not without you, old mate."

NSW STATE TITLES NARRANDERA 2004

The New South Wales State Titles for Australian Bush Poetry were decided from a very strong field of competitors at Narrandera on the 16th and 17th of October 2004.

Comments from the Judges, Herb McCrum of Kyabram, Sue Gleeson of Albury and Ron Jones of Leeton indicated that the quality of the performances, the delivery and the choice of poems was by far the best they had encountered in some time. 'Adjudication gets harder with every competition' said Herb, a veteran judge of numerous challenges.

And, indeed, the poetry was superb, with the emphasis placed more on serious bush poetry than on humorous, which was well accepted by appreciative audience members.

Poets came from as far as Benalla and Shepparton, from Port Macquarie and the Hunter Region as well as Sydney and the Riverina.

Intrepid train and bus travelers from the central coast braved the long journey via Sydney and Wagga Wagga from 1am on the Friday morning. Unswayed by these hardships, it was pleasing to see their efforts rewarded with the State Titles going home on the train with Kathy Edwards of Merewether as 2004 Ladies State Champion, with last years title holder, Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong, as runner-up.

The Classical section was won by Kathy Edwards followed by Carol Heuchan. The Modern Traditional section was won by Lisa Quast of Narrandera followed by Gabby Colquhoun of Gloucester.

The Original section saw some marvelous creations by all competitors with first place going to Lisa Quast followed by Kathy Edwards.

Milton Taylor of Hartley NSW won all three sections in the men's titles, with Gregory North of Linden NSW close on his heels followed by Graeme Johnson, 'The Rhymer from Ryde'. Milton is now the 2004 State Champion for NSW.

The Written Section was won by Ken Dean of Marrangaroo NSW with 'Their Badge of Pride'. Ellis Campbell ('The Toll') of Dubbo was second with Grahame Watt of Kyabram in third place.



Graeme Johnson,
'The Rhymer from Ryde'

CANOWINDRA PERFORMANCE BUSH POETRY

Canowindra's first ever performance bush poetry competition was not quite the attraction that it was hoped it would be.

The full-on Springfest programme in the main street kept visitors busy and the day time poetry presentation was possibly not the best idea.

Telstra Country Wide came to the party with a \$2,000 sponsorship and not to be perturbed by the lack of support, have promised

increased support for next year. Perhaps a better time and place will help.

The actual competition was more than successful with only two sections contested, Original Serious and Original Humorous.

Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong NSW won the Serious section from Dave Proust (Forrester's Beach), Milton Taylor (Hartley NSW) and Greg Broderick (Young NSW).

In the Humorous section Milton Taylor had a win with his popular 'The Saga of Cecil', Garry Lowe of Berkley Vale came second followed by Gregory North (Linden NSW) and Dan O'Donnell (Brisbane).

The written results were published last issue.

Longyard Laughs

The stage at the Longyard Hotel will be set once again for the laugh-a-minute breakfast show that has been a huge hit for many years. Frank Daniel will lead all-star cast each morning from Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd January as Australia's favourite rhymesters step up to the microphone for the fifteenth successive year of the Traditional Bush Poets' Breakfast shows at Tamworth's famous Hotel.

The shows start at 8am. Doors open 7am - but be early as most mornings they are expecting to perform to a full house. Most artists will be well stocked with their latest books and CDs and all are welcome meet the entertainers after the shows.

bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au

WRITING WORKSHOP

The Beaudesert Bush Bards are holding a writing workshop

On Saturday,

29th Jan. 2005

Starting 9.30am - Poetry Writing -
metre, cadence, scansion

Tutored by Beau's

Glenny Palmer

holder of many titles

Including Australian Ladies
Champion Poet

Winner of 'Blackened Billy' -
Tamworth 2001

Author of two books and featured
in three anthologies of
Australian Bush Verse

3 hours of tuition followed by
Sausage Sizzle and
Networking Fellowship

Informal Performance Practice
Saying Poetry, Telling Jokes.

Where - Beaudesert Arts &
Information Centre
Cost - \$10

Bookings essential

telephone Pamela 5541 2662 or
Betty 55412664

Sponsored by:

- ◆ Queensland Government
- ◆ Arts Qld
- ◆ Beaudesert Shire Council

INVERELL'S "CELEBRATION OF THE OUTBACK" FOR THE RESCUE HELICOPTER A BIG SUCCESS

Inverell held its "Celebration of the Outback" from 10th-12th September to raise funds for the Rescue Helicopter Service.

Visitors were treated to the talents of Jack Drake, Murray Hartin and Don Lloyd as well as demonstration performances by the talented Bush Balladeer, Melissa Bajric, and the local Bush Band, "The Rabbit Trappers".

Bush Poets' Breakfasts were held on Saturday and Sunday at the town's Pioneer Village which provided a beautiful backdrop to the performers and contestants.

The Performance and Presentation Night on Saturday was very well attended. The "Golden Angel" trophies, an abstract of a helicopter with a sapphire, mounted on an engraved, solid glass base, were presented to winners along with the healthy prize money.

One of the hits of the celebration was the Poets' Pub Crawl held on Friday Night. Patrons of the town's 7 pubs were treated to a program of Bush Poetry and Bush Music while extra donations were collected for the Rescue Helicopter. The Pub

Crawl will be a regular part of future festivals.

Following its success, the "Celebration of the Outback" will be an annual event on Inverell's calendar. It will be held on the second weekend in September each year. For a great weekend in a friendly and attractive bush town, put Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September 2005 in your diary.

Information on next year's program will be available early next year and can be accessed by contacting: Burt Candy - PO Box 92 Inverell 2360 PH: (02) 67 211127 email: candyb57@yahoo.com

Winners of the various competitions were:

Written Work: Ellis Campbell ("Outback Reflections")

Original Poetry: Max Taylor ("Small Space")

Yarn Spinner: Paddy O'Brien

Traditional Poetry: Paddy O'Brien

Junior Poet: Jack Brown

Next year it is hoped to include competitions for Bush Balladeers and Bush Bands.

Burt Candy

Beatin' 'round Euabalong NSW

The inaugural 'Beatin' 'round the bush' Festival was held at Euabalong on Sunday and Monday 2nd and 3rd of October.

Poets and spectators came long distances to this tiny little Lachlan River town in the Heart of New South Wales, not far from Lake Cargelligo.

With a population of 110, the towns ranks swelled bringing tears to the eyes of local organisers Julie Ingram and Patty Bartholomew.

"It was totally beyond all expectations, far beyond our wildest dreams" said Mrs. Ingram who runs the Café Melaleuca, the towns only business house apart from the Hotel.

The performance competition was held in the magnificently landscaped gardens of the Café, home of Trevor and Julie Ingram, and attracted eighteen competitors from all quarters, some of whom had taken part in the Canowindra

Competition the day before.

Bush Poetry and Yarn-Spinning was the order for day one, with no holds barred from the competitors.

Placegetters in the Open Non-original section were Lance Parker, Carol Heuchan, Garry Lowe and Greg North.



The Original section was won by Carol Heuchan followed by Lance Parker, Gregory North and Garry Lowe.

The open yarn-spinning went to John Rennick of Forbes with Lance Parker, Greg North and Dave Proust filling in the ranks.

Monday morning saw a Poets Breakfast with a big difference. Compere extraordinaire, Frank

Daniel of Canowindra saw to it that the thirty or so attending the sausage sizzle in the dining room of the Café were thoroughly entertained not only by the MC and poets, but also by themselves as he introduced them to what he grew up on 'Talkin' 'round the Kitchen Table' - where poets and visitors alike were asked to contribute simply by introducing themselves and telling each other some of the funny things that happened in their lives.

From this came a couple of closet poets, three new members for the ABPA and a couple of singers and a recital by Don Anderson of Leeton with his mini set of bagpipes.

It was a great success and lasted just under four hours, no one wanted to stop but time and distance prevailed.

Euabalong stopped on the Sunday night for the NRL Grand Final and most were jubilant at Canterbury's success. Up the Doggies.



Poetry in the Park

on Beautiful Norfolk Island

20-27 February 2005

Featuring renowned bush poets Glenny Palmer, and Milton Taylor, plus Les Murray & Dorothy Porter

from \$905 per person ex Brisbane

from \$1068 per person ex Sydney

Holiday package price includes:

- ★ return airfare to Norfolk Island
- ★ 7 nights twin share accommodation
- ★ airfare taxes (excluding Norfolk Island departure tax),
- ★ return airport transfers
- ★ meet and greet at Norfolk Island airport
- ★ complimentary 'A Walk in the Wild'
- ★ complimentary miniature golf.

Please note: prices are current today and subject to change without notice. Conditions apply.

Poetry Festival Registration Kit \$195 and Poetry Workshop Pass \$40 is optional and additional to above holiday package price.

No better time to come to Norfolk Island! Join us for 'Poetry in the Park' plus be on the island for the extraordinary 'Opera in the Ruins'.

For more information phone toll free 1800 1400 66 or contact
The Travel Centre, PO Box 172, Norfolk Island 2899, South Pacific
Phone: 0011 6723 22502 Fax: 0015 6723 23205 Email: rebeccatravelcentre.nf
Website: www.travelcentre.nf

Australian Camp Oven Festival Millmerran, Qld

The fourth Bi-annual Australian Camp Oven Festival was run in Millmerran Qld on the 2nd and 3rd of October, and by any measurement would have to be considered a runaway success. Crowd estimates for the two day festival range from 4000 to 6000.

As has been the case in previous years, the Bush Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning proved to be one of the highlights with a crowd in excess of 800 people on hand at 7:30 am to be entertained by the combined talents of a pumped up Marco Gliori, an ever cheeky Shirley Friend and the versatile Gary Fogarty who doubled as the Festival's roving announcer/comper. Amongst the handful of walk-up poets during the breakfast was one Ned Winter, the legendary Camp Oven Cook around whose reputation the Festival was originally formed. Ned is a more than handy yarn spinner and poet and his appearance on main stage delighted Festival patrons.

The Telstra Country Wide Yarnspinning Competition saw the five invited poets adding to the growing reputation of this unique event. Each of the invited poets was given fifteen minutes on main stage, asked to perform an original poem, spin a yarn and then fill out the fifteen minutes however they liked. Judging criteria was simple with each contestant judged solely on entertainment value and this year's contestants kept the

audience enthralled for over an hour. Debbie Anderson, Jin Brown, Ron Liekefett, Noel Stallard and Melaine Hall gave of their best and in another innovative facet of the competition all walked away with a share of the \$1200 prizemoney.

As usual the telling of the yarn proved to be the deciding factor, proving a stumbling block to those trying to predict the outcome. In the end the judges' decision was unanimous with Jim Brown taking first place on the back of a vividly painted yarn of a phantom Bullock team, Debbie Anderson highlighted her much improved confidence with a close second in front of an unusually nervous Noel Stallard. Ron Liekefett and Melaine Hall ensured the integrity and quality of the event would only be enhanced by putting in two very professional performances to take the Highly Commended awards.

A highly successful Festival, an enormously popular Bush Poets Breakfast, and a unique competition between five very talented Poets, this can only mean one thing. We'll see you in Millmerran on the first weekend in October 2006.

Gary Fogarty



NORFOLK ISLAND POETRY IN THE PARK

20th – 27th February 2005.

Annually 'Norfolk Island Community Arts' co-ordinates a week long poetry festival, with afternoon and evening poetry performances and readings at selected scenic locations around Norfolk, including some of the island's most beautiful national parks.

Workshops, discussions and performances will be conducted by former Australian Ladies Champion Glenny Palmer, five times Australian Champion Bush Poet Milton Taylor, and renowned Australian Poets Dorothy Porter and Les Murray during the week long activities. Tug Dumbly will be organizing a special Poetry Sprint at a local book shop luncheon on Wednesday 23rd.

The Fourth Annual 'Poetry in the Park' will be held on Saturday 26th February in the magnificent grounds of Government House, featuring the talents of the local children and poets, some, direct descendants of the Bounty Mutiny, in particular, one Archie Bigg.

'Opera in the Ruins', a dinner and concert, hails a fantastic live performance by Operatif!, a musical company renowned for performing favourites from the musicals and operetta, ballads and popular song – set amongst the beautiful historic convict ruins of Kingston. More information: Ph. 1800 140 066 or rebecca@travelcentre.nf

**Don't Let this
be your last
issue**

Annual renewal of \$30
falls due on Dec. 31st.

Please send subscriptions to:

ABPA Treasurer
Marie Smith
PO Box 403
Dorrigo NSW 2453

YARRAWONGA / MULWALA

Murray Muster Festival 2005

AUSTRALIAN SONG, YARNS & BUSH POETRY

Friday 13th May - Sunday 15th
May 2005

The 2005 Murray Muster
Festival offers variety and value
for both entrants and audience.

Competition kicks off Friday
evening with yarn-spinning
which is expected to draw a
strong field with great prize
money up for grabs. The mixed
program of song, poem & yarn
will give something for
everyone. The pinnacle of
achievement for the Muster
Festival will be for the Lady and
Man declared the "Champion
Jillaroo" and "Champion
Jackaroo". This is not a

performance section. The
highest 3 scores of entrants will
be totalled and the winners will
be the Lady and Man with the
highest aggregate score. The
Program will be run in
accordance with ABPA
guidelines. This will be an
annual event to be held on the
2nd weekend in May. It is our
goal to develop the Festival into
one of the premier events on the
bush poetry calendar. We are
totally committed to this event
and we look forward to the
support of performers and
followers, and to welcoming
you to Mulwala Services Club.

Debbie Williams
*Mulwala & District Services
Club*

10TH ANNIVERSARY AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

10 years after the first Awards were
staged, "our poetry of the bush" is
enjoying an ever increasing
following all over the country.

This year, the published
nominations range from a fine hard
cover edition of an anthology "Lost
in Thought" published by the
Poetry Institute of Australia to the
32nd edition of the famous Bronze
Swagman Awards winners along
with many more modest, self
published volumes such as
"Horsing Around" by Carol
Heuchan, "Bush Spirit" by Janine
and Jennifer Haig and "Baffle a
Bandicoot" by Philip R Rush.

A special publication records the
work of a man widely recognised
and loved as one of our top poets
and performers, the late Bobby
Miller. "Poems Of Bobby Miller,
The Larrikin" is edited by fellow
bard Marco Gliori and illustrated by
Judith Trew.

In the recording sections, the
overall quality is again
excellent, according to
organisers, with high
production standards. "For
example, Dave Proust's live
recording has been engineered and
produced by one of the country's
top record producers Rod
McCormack," the spokesman said.
The fourth volume of the award-
winning Naked Poets is vying with
the likes of The Mullumbimby
Bloke, Ray Essery's latest CD,
brother and sister team Paddy and
Alli Ryan from near Tamworth
(Thicker Than Water), while
Graham Johnson, The Rhymer
From Ryde, Harry Donnelly, Jim
Brown, Janine and Jennifer Haig,
Max Merckenschlager and previous
Original Verse Book Of The Year
winner Rod Williams, are among
those nominating for the Golden
Gumleaf trophies.

DARE TO BARE FOR CANCER FUNDS © Heather Corfield - "Windrush" TAROOM, Qld

A night out for folks, Where? Do tell.
It's down at the local hotel
Yes, lots of fun, the night of nights
Fund raising, fun under the lights.

A night of anticipation
Folks of any occupation
Who lost a beard, or their hair
To raise some cash for cancer care.

Doctor, chemist, stock agent too,
Other locals, there were a few
One man had his beard for years
Lose it for charity, no fears.

Hairdressers were snipping that night
There were lots of bald heads in sight
Cut and shaven hair on the tiles
Donated cash heaped in piles.

Courtesy cabbie for the night
Drove folks home, they didn't feel bright,
As each one left, just one short pause
To donate gold coins to the cause.

They all had a wonderful night
And piles of coins and notes in sight,
Locals wanted to do their share
Raising money for cancer care.

More cash came in the next few days
Locals helped in many ways
Theirs was the special chance, to share,
To help raise funds for cancer care.

This year categories are Album of
the Year, Single Recorded
Performance of the Year, Book of
the Year and Original Verse Book
of the Year. The Judith Hosier
Award will also be presented to an
individual or organisation for an
outstanding contribution to
Australian Bush Poetry.

The 10th Anniversary Bush
Laureate Awards presentations,
featuring poets and well-known
performers from the previous 10
years, will be staged in the historic
Tamworth Town Hall on Tuesday,
January 18 at 2pm.

Tickets are available from Tourism
Tamworth on 02 6754300 or on-
line at www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au
(click on the "tickets" button).

First Time Voter

The recent federal election was the first that Evan Schnalle voted in. At the beginning of the campaign he heard Mark Latham say that this election would be fought on truth and honesty. As the campaign progressed and he listened to the politicians, he was prompted to write this poem.



Honesty is the best policy

© Evan Schnalle 2004

Our prime minister has spoken we are going to the polls,
to stoke the political fire and refresh the burnt out coals.
There's slogans flying at you, it's a political attack,
and the most trying question facing you, is who will you back.

After studying government bills that don't make sense to you,
you start to wonder if any politician's have a clue.
Will you vote for your electorate or the good of the nation,
you wonder, will your vote really change Australia's situation?

They'll take more positions, than there are in the Kama Sutra,
believe me, they won't rest, until they've managed to recruit ya.
You've heard them say they'll listen, and they can see your point of view,
that's hard to believe when you know it's not what they're gonna do.

Speeches full of promises continue throughout the campaign,
it's the truth within their words that is difficult to obtain.
So many empty promises have been made to you and me,
we need pollies with a commitment to total honesty.

We need sincere politicians to explain things as they are,
and to take the wrap for taxing fuels and not spending it on tar.
We don't want to vote for promises that we know won't be kept,
or for slimy politicians who are crooked and inept.

They've had turns at running the country but nothing's changed at all,
you need to fill out ten forms instead of making one phone call.
We need a good Australian pollie who calls a spade a spade,
then we could clone some more pollies and they'll all be tailor made.

Yes, a mob of honest pollies that will surely do the trick,
a party which will fix all the problems, properly and quick.
Two houses of honest pollies, Governor General on top,
who'll also be an honest clone once the old one gets the chop.

And hard working civil servants that's what we need, by jingo,
we need one's that only speak the sensible Aussie lingo.
Then we'll all be feeling bonza and I'm sure that you will see,
with governments like that in the world we'd live in harmony.

But one person alone can't make this fantasy come true,
so let's just listen to the info and do what we can do.
If you vote for the wrong candidate and submit to their charm,
the consequences may cause our electorate serious harm.

Beaudesert BUSH BARDS

The bush poetry group, formed one year ago, is growing steadily and enjoying great fellowship. Twelve members attended our last meeting day.

The format of one performance gathering – at the local Market – and one reading and writing meeting per month, is working well. We have found that the Markets have provided contact with prospective members.

Most of our members are inexperienced and are reluctant performers. We have declared the BBB's a 'pressure free zone' so there is no compulsion. We have been fortunate to have several visiting poets help with the Markets and have appreciated their assistance.

We plan to run a writing workshop in Jan. or Feb. with our own Glenn Palmer as tutor. We will require extra people to attend to make the workshop viable.

If anyone is toying with the idea of forming a bush poets group in their area, I can truly recommend it. The friendships, support and laughter make the effort well worthwhile.
Pamela Fox

ADVERTISING RATES

1/3 column	\$10.00
2/3 column	\$15.00
Full column	\$20.00
Half Page	\$30.00
Book Shelf	\$10.00

Poets Calendar and Regular Events:
Free. Limited to one line only.

Copy regarding festivals and events should be accompanied by a paid advertisement. Where possible all material should be emailed direct to the Editor mailto

jarby@cqnet.com.au

Please remit payment to the
Secretary, ABPA,
1 Avenue Street
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

"Meet The Ladies"

NAMBUCCA HEADS BOWLO'S EASTER BUSH POETS BREAKFAST

'Gabby', (Colquhoun), from Gloucester and Marg Parmenter of Coffs Harbour, will next year feature at the annual Bush Poets Breakfast at 8 a.m. on Easter Sunday, 27th March at the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club.

Margaret, who has been performing comedy for over 20 years, is well known and respected by bush poetry audiences at both local and national levels for the humour and wry wit she expresses in her highly original performance poetry.

"Gabby", recently entertained an audience of over 1,000 at a National View Club Convention

held in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra. Some of her most hilarious times however have been shared with much smaller audiences, often in competition where she has been justifiably awarded for her humour and originality. She writes poetry that her audiences can relate to and does it in fine style, both as a regular entertainer on local ABC radio and on stage, when performing as her special character, 'Dame Gabby'.

She and Marg will also introduce to the audience their 'silent sister', Amanda B. Rekondwyth and they guarantee you will enjoy meeting them.

Rhyming poets are invited to join the Ladies on stage to read or recite their own work or the poems of another author.

Admission, including a breakfast of cereal, toast, a hot serve and tea or coffee is \$10.00. You will find the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club, who generously sponsor this event in Nelson St., facing the beautiful Nambucca River.

The club has indicated that bookings for breakfast are absolutely essential as past audiences have reached the auditorium's capacity. Book by ringing the club 02 6568 6132. Other enquiries should be directed to Maureen, 02 6568 5269 or Lorna, 02 6568 7069.

We look forward to the pleasure of your company when you come to "Meet the Ladies" of Bush Poetry.

*Maureen Stonham,
Nambucca Heads NSW*

Like a good laugh? Its on again!

Breakfast
8.00am

From
14th Jan

To
23rd Jan

Brunch
10.15am

Sam Smyth's Bush & Poets Balladeers

Tamworth City Bowling Club - Cnr Brisbane & Napier Sts

Bush Poets

Featuring

Sam Smyth, Bill Kearns, Cay Fletcher, Don Lloyd, Gabby Colquhoun, John Lloyd, Col Milligan, Garry Lowe, Emily Breckell-Smyth & guest Poets

Balladeers

Special guests - Jack Drake & Noel Stallard

Martin Oakes, Karen Lynne, Ernie Constance Marilyn Steele, Ken Lindsay, Ronni Rae Rivers, Ron Nash, Nicki Gillis, Carol Donovan, Doublevision, Brian Elkington, Rob Wilson, Darren Colston

**Don't miss it, family entertainment loaded with
Fairdinkum Aussie Bush Humour**

Not all Artists on every show - see Official Program, Artist listings or
phone Sam on: 02 6562 6861 or 0407 974 833 for show details and bookings

COOMBA PARK CONCERT & COMPETITION October 16th 2004

The Bush Poetry concert and competition held on Saturday 16th October in the tiny village Coomba Park, on the shores of Wallis Lake, Forster NSW was reportedly one of the most entertaining and best organised local events ever. Held in the village's community hall as an annual fundraiser for local charities, this year's concert featured a Country Harvest theme and as usual, was organised by the local line dancing group, 'The Coomba Cowgirls' whose membership numbers only 18. The event, ably compered by Christine Rands, featured guest appearances from local bush poetry identities Reid 'Rusty' Begg and Roderick Williams who were well received by a crowd of over 140 people. A further 15 local performers took part in two competitive sections. Congratulations in the Traditional Section to Ken Filbee, Connie Dixon, Janice

Downes and in the Original, Judy Donnelly, Frank Atchison and Bob Manners. Meg Coulter received the evening's Encouragement Award.

It was an absolute pleasure to listen to and enjoy the many well delivered performances, particularly in the original section which featured some extremely well disciplined material.

As is usual at most country events, the supper table was simply groaning with the weight of country cooking, all provided or arranged by 'The Cowgirls'. Well done ladies!

The end result, including proceeds from a raffle, was in the vicinity of \$1,400 which was to be donated equally to The Coomba Park Community Hall Extension Fund and the Pacific Palms Surf Lifesaving Club.

If you enjoy fun, bush poetry and good company, be at Coomba Park next year for this event.

Maureen Stonham

PREPARATIONS for 2005 Championships at Charters Towers FNQ

With the end of 2004 fast approaching, the next several months will be a hive of activity for Gold City Bush poets committee in the planning for the hosting of the 2005 National Championships under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets' Association Inc.

At the recent AGM, Harold Jackson and Arthur Rekow retained the positions of President and Secretary respectively, with Iris McDonald voted vice President and Nonee Burton as Treasurer.

One of our greater 'obstacles' to overcome, or should it relate to 'our' bush poets in general – in the vast distance many may have to travel to our 'deep north' of Queensland.

For 2005 the committee decided to hold the three day event (Tuesday 26th to Thursday 28th April) as part of the 'Ten Days in the Towers' promotion.

The All Australian Jamboree (Aussie country music) will commence on the Saturday 23rd April – concluding with the Charters Towers Country Music Festival Friday 29th to Sunday 1st May.

The Bush Poets' activities will centre on the Tuesday and Wednesday, in the air-conditioned World Theatre 650-seat auditorium, with competition sections both days, ending with a concert on the Wednesday evening.

Sponsorship is high on the agenda, and hopefully the committee will achieve their goal, assisted by various fund raising events and some grant funding.

Whilst the prize money 'target' is \$5 000, the final decision will depend on the amount raised in the interim, with \$1 000 cash prizes to each Male and Female 2005 ABPA Australian Champion.

The 10-day promotion will also see a wide variety of activities, tours etc held during the period, with visitors advised to secure early accommodation bookings.

The community of the historical mining city of Charters Towers and the Shire of Dalrymple will be out to provide 'fair dinkum' North Queensland hospitality for 2005 23rd April to 1st May – see you there!!! (contacts & details page 16.)

Arthur Rekow

Results

SA BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

held at Lucindale in conjunction with
the Great Southern Muster
on Saturday, November 13th, 2004.

Traditional, contemporary or modern

1st	Di Jenke	The Pearl Of Them All
2nd	Graham Strauss	The Sick Stockrider

Original serious

1st	Anne Rogers	Boots In Bronze
2nd	Di Jenke	The Old Shelter Shed

Original humorous

1st	Di Jenke	My Husband's Holiday
2nd	Anne Rogers	Bad Timing

Open written

1st	Max Merckenschlager	Encounter With Whales
2nd	Max Merckenschlager	River Of Dreams

Under 17 written

1st	Rachel Bronca	Black Bush
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Under 12 written

1st	Allana Southall	Holiday in Selenton Wood
2nd	Alec Ross	Rouseabout

POETS IN TAMWORTH

It's no secret that the Tamworth Country Music Festival isn't all about Country Music. There will also be a lavish display of poets at their best scattered throughout the city.

The Hunter Bush Poets together with the Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club have booked the Masonic Hall in Peel Street Tamworth for Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd January.

This venue will be used to accommodate a 3pm Poet's Concert on Friday, hosted by the Women from the Hunter. As Trish Anderson is unable to attend the Tamworth festival she has asked Carol Heuchan to host the Traditional Women's Concert.

Carol will be joined by Kath Elliot this year's NSW State Champion and friends to put on a show of hard hitting and entertaining performance poetry. Further details contact Carol Heuchan Ph: 49773210.

At 7:30pm there will be Folk Club Concert Night hosted by the Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club this event will be open to poets and musicians to share an evening of quality entertainment.

Poet's and performers wishing to take part should contact Ron Brown Ph: 49261313. And on Saturday at 7pm a line up of the best yarn spinners and poets will insure an evening of laughs and riotous rhyming amusements. There will be a special prize for the best Yarn presented on the night. Bookings are essential Ticket price \$30 adult, \$25 Concession. Bookings Ph: 49261313.

Other Poetry too look out for in Peel Street include Chris and The Grey putting on a couple of shows each day and Cory and Leanne Jeacocke and others strutting their stuff on the foot path. Make sure you stop by and say g'day.

The Naked Poets' shows are sure to

have the audience at Golf Club rolling on the floor. This year they will be staging 10 shows from Mon 17th to Sat 22nd. Laugh along with Shirley, Murray, Ray, Marco and Pat as they once again present their unique routines. Their shows have been sold out in past years so if you like poetry that is a little risqué make sure you book ahead. For more information contact Marco Giori by email giori@inet.com.au or phone 07 4661 4024

Of course the Tamworth "Sex Lies and Bush Poetry" Show will be on again. There is an evening show and a different matinee show with 7 actual performances. It is held at the Tamworth Golf Club and has up and coming Country Singer Adam Kilpatrick as the musician. Poets include Jack Drake, Gary Fogarty, Neil McArthur and John Major. It is a 'split yer sides laughin' show and in reality this is stand up comedy done in verse. Contact Gary Fogarty. 07 4695 1228 fogartygary@hotmail.com.

YARRAWONGA—MULWALA

Murray Muster Festival 2005

AUSTRALIAN SONG YARNS & BUSH POETRY

Friday 13th May - Sunday 15th May 2005

Held at Mulwala Services Club

CLOSING DATES:
Performance

FRIDAY 29TH APRIL 2005

Written
FRIDAY 1ST APRIL 2005

FRI 13TH MAY 7.30PM START

YARN SPINNING - Max 8min (Entry \$10.00)

SAT 14TH MAY 9.30AM START

TRADITIONAL POEM - Max 8min

ORIGINAL SONG - Max 6min

ORIGINAL POEM - Max 8min

ONE MINUTE POEM - Max 1min

OTHER SONG - Max 6min

HUMOROUS POEM - Max 8min

SUN 15TH MAY 9.30AM START

NOVICE - Max 8min

CHAMPION JILLAROO

CHAMPION JACKAROO

WRITTEN OPEN (Own work)

JUNIOR WRITTEN (Own work) FREE ENTRY

Total Prize
pool over
\$2500

ENTRY FEES

Yarn Spinning—\$10
All Others—\$5
Junior Written FREE

All entrant's are required to sign and return the declaration with entry money order/cheque enclosed by
For further enquiries (03) 5744 2331 email: reception@mulwalaservices.com.

Debbie Williams or Karen Bromley

MULWALA SERVICES CLUB P O BOX 19MULWALA NSW 2647

Kath Walker

1920-1993

Oodgeroo Noonuccal was born Kathleen Jean Mary Ruska, on North Stradbroke Island (known as Minjerribah) on 3 November 1920.

She was best known for her poetry, although she was also an actress, writer, teacher, artist and a campaigner for Aboriginal rights.

Oodgeroo began writing poems when she was young, but it wasn't until she was in her forties that a well known writer encouraged her to publish them.

Leaving school at the age of 13, she worked as a domestic servant until 1939, when she volunteered for service in the Australian Women's Army Service. Between 1961 and 1970, Oodgeroo achieved national prominence not only as the Queensland State Secretary of the Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (CAATSI), but through her highly popular poetry and writing. With her 1964 collection of verse *We Are Going*, Oodgeroo became the first published Aboriginal woman. Selling out in three days, her book rivalled the previous record for a publication of Australian verse set in 1916 by C. J. Dennis and his *Moods of Ginger Mick*.

The Dream Is at Hand (1966) was her second volume of poems. *My People* (1970) represented verse from the earlier editions as well as new poems, short stories, essays and speeches. *Stradbroke Dreamtime* was published in 1972. Oodgeroo also wrote a number of children's books - *Father Sky and Mother Earth* (1981), *Little Fella* (1986), and *The Rainbow Serpent* (1988) with her son, Kabul Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Vivian).

The theme of many of her works is the hope for understanding and peace between black and white Australians.

*"But I'll tell instead of brave and fine
when lives of black and white entwine.
And men in brotherhood combine,
this would I tell you, son of mine."*

Oodgeroo kept writing, and became

recognised around the world as an outstanding poet.

Her Aboriginal upbringing was her main inspiration. Oodgeroo grew up on North Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane.

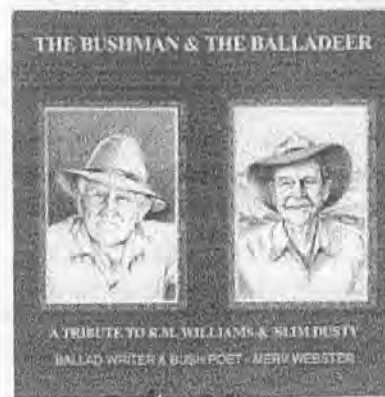
Here, surrounded by the sea and the bushland she'd wander off for hours exploring. Nature became very important to her.

Oodgeroo used to say she got her stubbornness from her

(Continued on page 15)



THE BUSHMAN & THE BALLADEER



New Release

Bush Poet and Ballad Writer, Merv Webster, alias The Goodiwindi Grey owed a debt of gratitude to two of Australia's finest sons, for the fine role models they gave us. RM. with regards to his bushman skills and Slim for his bush ballads. Merv had the opportunity to meet both men in their lifetimes and penned these two songs R.M. Williams - *A Man Who Tried* and *I Never Cried For Elvis But I Shed A Tear For Slim*, as a personal tribute. Merv wishes to thank Buddy Thomson of Outback Studios for engineering the album and acoustic guitar. Lynne Bennett for backing vocals and bass guitar, Michael Pincott, lead guitar, Jason Kastner, sketch work and John and Eleanor Briskey, Sundown Records. Lest we forget *The Bushman and The Balladeer*. Contact Merv

Webster, PO Box 8211, Bargara Qld 4670 or phone 41591868 or email bushpoets@go.to \$12.00 INCLUDES P&H

TAMWORTH BUSH POETS SHOWCASE A Bush Poet's showcase featuring Chris & The Grey and Friends will be a feature of this year's Tamworth Country Music Festival. The venue will be The Salvation Army Hall on Goonoo Goonoo Road next to LBS Studios. Chris and Merv Webster will be joined by other bush poetry members of The Australian Bush Balladeers in a two hour showcase starting at 5.00 p.m. on the 22nd of January. Chris and Merv will also feature in Buddy Thompson's Showcase at the same address on Monday 17th January. This venue will also be the headquarters for the Australian Bush Balladeers throughout Tamworth and a number of other bush ballad artists will be appearing in concerts as well. This will be our ninth year at Tamworth and Chris and I will again be outside Target with our show *Laughter & Tears From The Bush*. We look forward to catching up with many old friends. More info available on web site <http://www.bushballadeers.com.au/default.htm>

Merv Webster

(Continued from page 14)

father. It came out at school when the teachers forced her to write with her right hand, even though she was left handed. Young Oodgeroo suffered many blows across the back of her left knuckles before she finally gave in.

Her father also taught her to be proud of her Aboriginality.

In the 1960s Oodgeroo campaigned for Aboriginal rights travelling across Australia, giving as many as ten talks a day. The campaign was successful. In 1967 Aboriginal Australians had the right to vote.

Continuing her fight she travelled the world, telling others about the dreadful conditions Aborigines were living under.

Frustrated that her voice wasn't being heard, she decided to go back to the place she loved, her tribal land on North Stradbroke Island. The Noonuccals call their land Moongalba, which means 'sitting down place'. It's very sacred to them.

At night time you can hear the old people talking lingo down here, especially on a calm night, you can hear it, the spirits are all around here."

but the Government said it owned Moongalba and Oodgeroo wasn't allowed to build anything there. She wanted to turn it into an Aboriginal museum.

The only way she could stay on her land was to camp there, in a caravan and tents.

Oodgeroo invited children, both black and white, to share her land and learn the Aboriginal ways.

"Over thirty thousand children have been here in the last twenty years...if they only come once it's embedded in their mind because here no one passes judgement on them, they have to be their own judge and jury."

Oodgeroo spent her last days on Stradbroke Island where she established a cultural and environmental education centre known as Moongalba (resting-place)

Her memory stands today as a shining role model for all Australians as someone who strived for true respect and understanding between both the white and black communities.

2005 KATHERINE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER STOCKMAN AWARD WRITTEN COMP.

Entries Forms are now available



for the 2005 competition run in conjunction with the Bush Poet's Breakfast to be held on the 1st May. Poems will be judged by three judges and comments will be available from at least one judge on each poem plus the results of score sheet from all judges for each poem if entry is accompanied by a SSAE.

Entries close 1st April 2005 and entry forms are available from The Co-ordinator, KCMM Stockman Award, P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld, 4670 or you can download from the Internet site

<http://www.kcmm.com.au/default.htm>



Ballad of the Totems

Oodgeroo Noonuccal (KATH WALKER)

My father was Noonuccal man and kept old tribal way,
His totem was the Carpet Snake, whom none must ever slay;
But mother was of Peewee clan, and loudly she expressed
The daring view that carpet snakes were nothing but a pest.

Now one lived right inside with us in full immunity,
For no one dared to interfere with father's stern decree:
A mighty fellow ten feet long, and as we lay in bed
We kids could watch him round a beam not far above our head.

Only the dog was scared of him, we'd hear its whines and growls,
But mother fiercely hated him because he took her fowls.
You should have heard her diatribes that flowed in angry torrents
With words you never see in print, except in D. H. Lawrence.

I kill that robber,' she would scream, fierce as a spotted cat;
'You see that bulge inside of him? My speckly hen make that!'
But father's loud and strict command made even mother quake;
I think he'd sooner kill a man than kill a carpet snake.

That reptile was a greedy-guts, and as each bulge digested
He'd come down on the hunt at night as appetite suggested.
We heard his stealthy slithering sound across the earthen floor,
While the dog gave a startled yelp and bolted out the door.

Then over in the chicken-yard hysterical fowls gave tongue,
Loud frantic squawks accompanied by the barking of the mung,
Until at last the racket passed, and then to solve the riddle,
Next morning he was back up there with a new bulge in his middle.

When father died we wailed and cried, our grief was deep and sore,
And strange to say from that sad day the snake was seen no more.
The wise old men explained to us: 'It was his tribal brother,
And that is why it done a guy' - but some looked hard at mother.

She seemed to have a secret smile, her eyes were smug and wary,
She looked as innocent as the cat that ate the pet canary.
We never knew, but anyhow (to end this tragic rhyme)
I think we all had snake for tea one day about that time.

Country Boy

From the City

Brian Beesley was born in Sydney and spent his early years at Leichardt Primary before later moving to Gladesville where he completed his Intermediate Certificate at Hunters Hill High. He entered the family business started by his father in 1948 and began a trade course in Fitting and Machining before completing a final stage in Toolmaking. He spent two years in the army from 1968. The family business was sold in the mid 1990's and Brian turned his hand to general handyman activities – anything from hanging pictures to building small pergolas.

Brian is married to Kathy and



Brian Beesley

BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2005

JULY 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Competitions:

- ✦ Open (Male & Female)
- ✦ Intermediate
- ✦ Novice
- ✦ Under 15's
- ✦ Yarn Spinning
- ✦ Duo Competition,
- ✦ One Minute Cup



Competition enquiries:

SSAE to Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., PO Box 4281, South Bundaberg. 4670 Ph. Sandy 07 41514631 or Laree 07 41527409.

Bush Lantern enquiries: Lorraine 07 41535397

BUSH LANTERN AWARD FOR WRITTEN VERSE

Written competition will close on May 27th, 2005

Results announced on July 3rd at Muster week-end.

Entry forms available: SSAE to PO Box 4281, South Bundaberg 4670.

between them have raised five wonderful children of whom they are extremely proud.

There was nothing in Brian's formal schooling that suggested he might some day be writing poetry, let alone receiving awards for doing so. He began writing seriously in 1996 after attending a creative writing class. Since then he has been fortunate enough to receive more than forty awards.

Luckily, Brian has the support of Kathy who is not afraid to criticize his work and offer her opinion should something not sound right. He seeks and values her opinion with much anticipation.

In 2001 Brian was included on the Australian Bush Poetry Awards

CD sponsored by Sony Records and Asthma NSW.

"One of the most pleasing aspects of writing poetry," says Brian, "is that it has taken Kathy and me to so many country areas that we may not have had the opportunity to visit, and in so doing we have met up with a wonderful group of talented people."

City born and bred, Brian has always had a yearning for country living and in believing that country Australia is the 'real Australia', not diluted by 'political correctness' or the unwanted consequences of 'multiculturalism', Brian and Kathy have secured an area of land at Black Springs near Oberon where they intend building and settling down in 2005.



FIRST PLACE in Coo-ee March section of the Coo-ee March poetry competition at Gilgandra

Billy Hunter, referred to in the following poem, went out west from Redfern looking for work and subsequently joined the Coo-ee march at Gilgandra. During the march, Billy received the news that both his brothers had been killed at Gallipoli. When the Coo-ees reached Harris Park, they were treated to a rousing reception and banquet, followed by a recruitment drive. Billy's mother was there and said she wished she had more sons to give to the cause and called upon others to come forward and take the place of her two boys. Billy went to France and was killed somewhere near Mouquet Farm. The three brothers are remembered on a monument in Redfern.

Before a Redfern Monument

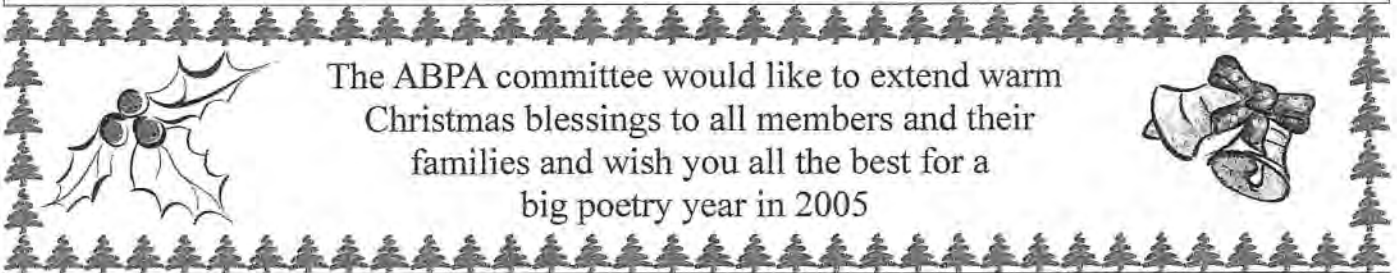
Brian Beesley, February, 2004

What do I make of stone and marble then?
This monument to those who once were men
responding to the Empire's righteous cause,
who went to fight the war to end all wars.
How can a chiselled name, (or three), convey
the noble actions of a distant day
that now provoke profound solemnity,
engraved upon the heart and soul of me?
It says they fought somewhere in northern France,
near Pozières, with hardly any chance
against the German guns, by razed old towns
where fate adorned itself in swarthy gowns.

(Continued on page 17)

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 4 -5 **YOUNG** Cherry Festival \$1,500 competition. Ph. Greg Broderick. 02 6382 3883 ah 02 6382 2506
Jan 14 Closing date **ADELAIDE PLAINS** Cup Fest Written Comp Ph Carolyn Cordon 08 85272006
Jan 19-22 **TAMWORTH** Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition (Page 3)
Feb 5-6 **BUNGENDORE** NSW Elmslea Homestead elmslea@elmslea.com.au 02 6238 1651 or Frank Daniel
Feb. 20 Closing date. **DUNEDOO** NSW Written Competition. dddgroup@bigpond.com 02 6375 1975
Feb. 21 **SHEPPARTON** Vic Ph 02 6043 3220
Feb. 28 Closing date. **MIDLANDS** Literary Competition. SSAE. PO Box 1563 Ballarat Vic. 3354
Mar 27 **NAMBUCCA HEADS** Bowling Club 'Meet the Ladies' Bekky 8am Ph. 02 6568 5269 or 02 6568 7069
Mar 5 Closing date **IPSWICH** Poetry Feast - \$2,600 Written Competition. Ph. 07 3810 6761
Mar 10 Closing date. **HENRY KENDALL** Poetry Award. SSAE Central Coast Poets Box 276 Gosford NSW 2250
Mar 10 Closing date. **GRENFELL** NSW Short Story and Verse Written comps. SSAE PO Box 77 Grenfell 2810
Mar 17 **NARRANDERA** NSW John O'Brien Festival & Competition www.johnobrien.com.au Ph. 1800 672 39
Apr 1 - CLOSING DATE **KATHERINE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER** Written Comp (Page 15)
Apr 2 **DUNEDOO**. Great Dunny Classic. 02 6375 1975
Apr 5 **CORRYONG** Vic The Man From Snowy River Festival
Apr 26-28 **CHARTERS TOWERS** 2005 National ABPA Championships(Page 19)
Feb 20-27 **NORFOLK ISLAND** Poetry in the Park Ph. 1800 140 066 or rebecca@travelcentre.nf (Page 8)
May 1 **KATHERINE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER** P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld, 4670 (Page 15)
May 13-15 **YARRAWONGA / MULWALA** Murray Muster Festival (Page 9)



The ABPA committee would like to extend warm
Christmas blessings to all members and their
families and wish you all the best for a
big poetry year in 2005

Romantic names like Albert and Fromelles
do not describe the butchery or tell
about the squalid refuge of the trench;
the nervous wait on firing lines; the stench
of rotting flesh; the crawling lice and mud;
the spreading stain of young Australian blood.
I see three brothers' surname standing out
above the rest and one I read about
enlisted with the Coo-ee march at 'Gil'.
He was the youngest of the three but will
we ever know the like of him again?
Did God and King believe they had such men?

Young Billy Hunter joined the thrumming throng
on Bridge and Miller streets, before the long
demanding march to Sydney. Twenty six
Gilgandra boys lined up at first - a mix
of stockmen, shearers, swagmen, young and old,
prepared to risk it all on what was told
to them about the brutal Huns - 'Your mates
are calling,' urged the speakers, 'he who waits
will suffer the remorse which they deserve.'
Gilgandra cheered her boys who went to serve
but time has blurred our view of history
and values now aren't what they used to be.

Are we too spoilt because our time and place
prevents us staring duty in the face?
Our battle lines are drawn from discontent
against the rise of mortgages and rent.
But if those Coo-ee calls were made again,
could we enlist a breed of humble men
prepared to march for life and liberty,
or will we sit and wait pretending we
are free of obligation to maintain
our chosen way of life? I can't explain
my feelings for the men who volunteered,
or Billy's mum who gave with conscience cleared.

It's difficult to understand the mind
of Annie Hunter - patriotic, blind
to the reality of her remark
about her sons, that night at Harris Park,
with Billy still to join the 'glorious dead' -
today she would be scorned for what she said.
But standing here before this monument,
I feel ashamed to read of those who went
because, a dozen streets away from here,
a riot, caused by drugged-out youths and fear,
erupted in defiance of the law -
Is that what Billy marched to Sydney for?



First Place SA State Written Championships 2004

Whaling was SA's first important industry. It was critical to the state's early economic survival and growth, with Encounter Bay being the focus of activities. In 21st Century SA, whales are still important to our economy, but in a more environmentally-acceptable way.

Encounter With Whales

© Max Merckenschlager

The air was drunk and heavy as it idled round the Bay,
where whalers lounged and chatted on a warm September day.
Like dancing flames, the sunlight played on seas of polished glass
and frowning Look-Out spied the coast for spouting fish to pass.
A shout rang from the blacks' camp stirring whalers in the shed,
as yonder whiff was hoisted high above Rosetta Head.

In rush to launch their wooden crafts, the headsman made it first;
he tested kegs of water lashed to slake their toiling thirst.
And cookie puffed with scranbags that he'd packed to give each crew,
with salted pork and jerky beef the hungry hands could chew.
The boats upon the rollers creaked as extras pushed them down
and every black was whooping in their camp outside of town!

They met each line of breakers, plunging onward for the deep;
the helmsmen carving furrows with a circle of the sweep.
And muscles locked in tension from the straining tug of oars,
on track for interception when they crossed Encounter's shores.
A flagger waved to guide them out - they heard his distant shout;
below the boats' horizon, hidden whales began to spout.

For lolling down the coastline came a lazy pod of five,
their graceful flukes suspended in each convoluted dive.
A mother nudged the newborn calf that nestled by her teat;
their world was finely balanced and maternity was sweet.
But then within her vision flashed a panic-stirring sign;
the leading boat was bearing down, with death upon its line.

They broke for open water to escape the jagged spears,
as sweating whalers cursing oaths confirmed their mortal fears.
The cow had started strongly, leaving daylight in her wake,
but wearying her infant son was risk she wouldn't take.
So quickly though, a harpoon struck with cruel and sick'ning thud;
her precious child lay wallowing in crimson waves of blood.

The whalers call it instinct, but perhaps a higher drive
prevented her from swimming off, ensuring she'd survive:
by lingering in loyalty she chose to share his fate;
the tryworks at Encounter and Balaena had a date.
As bloodied dusk descended on the weary crews' return,
her carcass rolled ignobly, behind the leader's stern.

Those whaling days are history; museums hold their lore
yet through the breakers peering still are lookouts on the shore.
They tune their car transistors in and scope with optics fine,
in flukish hope of sighting whales that frolic down the line.
And fingers press on triggers that will shoot the wondrous prey
they'll store as album memories - Encounters in the Bay.

BITS AND PIECES



NSW MID NORTH COAST BUSH POETS CHRISTMAS

Local and visiting bush poets along the Mid North Coast of NSW are invited to a Christmas gathering which will coincide with the regular monthly meeting of Hasting Macleay Bush Poets on Saturday 11th December, commencing at 12 Noon in the Senior Citizens Centre, Munster Street, Port Macquarie. Bring a plate to share and your poetry. Dress: Festive. Enquiries to Janice Downes 02 6581 3552.



WATCH YOUR STEP

Accidents certainly make one realise how quickly your life can change and no one knows that better than Terry Regan of Nowra, NSW. One minute he was stepping from the ladder on to his daughter's roof, and slight movement of the ladder, loss of balance and a few seconds later he was on the ground with a fractured spine, collar bone and ribs.

With the help of a brace and physiotherapy he is on the road to recovery.

We wish you all the best, Terry and hope to see you back on track real soon.



VALE: GORDON LYON. 1922 - 2004

Noteworthy Western Victorian Poet Gordon Lyon passed away in recent months.

He was well known for his poetry and a lifelong love of music and was recorded for the National Archives in Canberra.

He lived at Hamilton Vic and after discharge from the Army became a loyal and conscientious Ansett employee serving 45 years of his life.

His contribution to various charities included the Asthma Foundation, Anti-Cancer Council, the Scouting Association and Meals on Wheels.

Gordon is survived by his wife Elva and four children.

* * * Gold City * * *

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SEEING RED © Carol Hutcheson
(nee Stratford) now in Kingaroy, Qld.

The blue heeler cradled her minutes-old brood
in the warmth of her army coat nest.
We shared her delight as her soft busy tongue
guided each trembling pup to her breast,
And thoughts of their parentage never were formed
in the dim glow the kero lamp shed:
Come dawn, she presented eleven of blue –
leaving no doubt that one would be red.

I've seldom heard Dad using language chartreuse –
says his 'plans have been all bugged-up',
He's 'spent the deposits on twelve pure-bred blue' –
and 'to hell with this bright purple pup!'
Dark black was his form as he cast his mind back
checking pedigree lines till he bled,
His intellect carked when enlightenment dawned –
'that cursed dog of Jack Drake's must be red!'

'What a load of palavering nonsense' he's told,
'that will crutch and sling back in your face!'
'Revenge will be sweet,' Dad succinctly replies –
then a wild 'it's a barking disgrace!'
The case is still pending, could go on for years,
all the pups have thrown shades that we dread;
I've claimed the runt pup, called her "Caramel Plum",
cause it's bad around here to say red.

ABPA AGM

Reminder that the Australian Bush Poets' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at Tamworth in St Edwards Hall, Hillvue St. Tamworth on Saturday 22nd. January 2005

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AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS

PLEASE SPREAD the WORD

The Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition has a new venue. The Outback Bar, Wests League Club, Phillip St, West Tamworth

Heats: Tuesday 18 Jan, Thursday 20 Jan, Friday 21 Jan starting at 9.30 a.m. Finals: Saturday 22 Jan starting at 10.15 a.m.

The BLACKENED BILLY AWARDS will be announced at 10am prior to the Finals SATURDAY 22nd JANUARY 2005

More info page 3

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ABPA

Annual Bush Poetry



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FAIR DINKUM ENTERTAINMENT

Final Fair Go Concert For 2004 at Woy Woy

The idea to hold the Sunday Afternoon Fair Go Concerts, which were held from June to October, at Woy Woy, came from the final impromptu concert held at the National Folk Festival in Canberra this year. Vic Jefferies was the master of ceremonies for the morning and after encouraging people such as Milton Taylor, Neil McCarthur, Bob Magor and a plethora of other poets, assorted singers, musicians and dancers to perform in a very ad hoc fashion, it was suggested that we should organise something similar on a regular basis during the winter months in connection with our folk club, The Troubadour, at Woy Woy.

The basic idea was that artists (from poets through to singers, musicians, dancers or drummers) could contact Vic during the month leading up to the concert and be guaranteed a maximum twenty minute spot or less if they so desired. The result has been that over the last five months they have provided an exciting venue for many new performers and also

some of the best poets, musicians and artists in the Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney scenes.

Each Sunday saw eleven acts (some of which were groups) perform to enthusiastic capacity audiences and we hope to return with a similar program next year from May through to October.

Vic Jefferies

jeffries@tech2u.com.au

Bush Poetry on the Internet

Bush Poetry has been taking the internet by storm with new sites popping up all the time where you can share your poetry for critique, advertise your products and promote yourself as an artist. You can also view the works of many traditional and modern writers and learn a great deal about the old masters. Frank Daniel's site at www.bushpoetry.com.au includes biographies and works of the masters as well as a popular forum for clubs to advertise and for poets to discuss a variety of topics related to Bush Poetry.. Ric Raftis' www.bushverse.com site has been receiving more hits each week and offers an online newsletter to keep you informed. He also provides a "Poets' Registry" so don't forget send your information while you are there.

Other great sites offering a host of information, opportunities and inspiration include www.bushpoets.go.to, www.rodwilliamsbushpoet.com.au, and www.wabushpoets.com and I'm sure there are many more. If you are online, take advantage of the information out there.



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