

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 12

No. 1

Feb - March 2005



Golden Damper Awards A Blazing Success

2005 saw a new turning for the CountryEnergy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition. In making the big break from the old Imperial, we ventured into the cool comfort of The Outback Bar at West League Club. Well, it was comfortable for everyone except those in the audience who had to cram into the standing room only spaces. The Club management was quick to see our dilemma and by Friday they



David Proust

had moved us into the main auditorium, Blazes.

Wow, what a venue! The Finals on Saturday was the most spectacular event we have ever staged and we almost packed the auditorium out. At this stage, we can't guarantee the same venue next year, but we will be negotiating with the Club very

shortly. So keep your collective fingers crossed for us!

Befitting our brilliant surroundings, the poets put on an equally brilliant display of their talents and produced a program that delighted the large audience and our sponsors, CountryEnergy, who have guaranteed their support again next year.

You can't keep a good man down, even when he is dressed in a navy singlet and telling a disgusting story about a shearer's cook. That was Dave Proust, who took out the first prize, and Golden Damper Award, in the Original Section.

Second in the Original was Garry Lowe, with his very moving poem telling about his special relationship with Bobby Miller, entitled Precious Memories.

On a completely different tack was our third placegetter, Gregory North, with his poem, My Ute, a very funny clash of bush and urban cultures.

The Golden Damper for the Traditional Section was won by that hard-to-beat Roderick Williams, reciting Paterson's In the Droving Days. Garry Lowe came in second again with Bobby Miller's Raymond, and third was Gabby Colquhoun with a hilarious rendition of The Ballad of Pedalling Pete.

In the past I have commented on the continued popularity of the old traditional poets in our competition. But this year it was "Move over



Garry Lowe

Paterson, Lawson, and Ogilvie, because here come Bobby Miller and Bill Kearns, proving themselves to be up there with the greats of Established Poets. Bush poetry lives on.

Thanks to all the poets who supported us. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Jan Morris



Roderick Williams

**The Australian Bush
Poets Association Inc.**

(Established 1994)

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Membership: Annual subscriptions
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payable to the Treasurer.

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month prior to printing.)

**Note:** Every endeavour is made to  
inform readers, poets, competitors etc.,  
of functions, written and performance  
competitions and so on. Space does not  
provide to print competition entry terms  
and conditions, or details beyond the  
closing dates and dates of such event.  
Further information in regard to such  
can be obtained from the organizers by  
sending an SSAE (stamped self-  
addressed envelope) to the addresses  
supplied.

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

*G'day all,*

It is with pleasure that I  
present my Presidents Report for  
the year 2004.

It has been a rather  
hectic year for both the  
Secretary and myself dealing  
with matters continually arising.  
Many letters emails and faxes  
come to hand requesting  
information about our association,  
Public Liability Insurance, advice on  
conducting festivals, competitions and  
membership.

During the year we also conducted four additional meetings via  
means of the internet or telephone, regarding advertising, rule changes,  
state representation, State and National Titles, and so on. These were  
referred to during the course of the AGM in January 2005.

We were saddened by the loss of an old stalwart in the death of  
Bill Glasson in December. Bill turned eighty earlier last year.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Carol Heuchan for the loss of  
her son in New Zealand, and to Ed Parmenter whose mother passed away  
in October.

The lack of support by members for the selling of the ABPA Inc  
Annuals saw it's demise in 2004, with a motion on the books to produce  
it once every five years.

Thanks to Ron Selby for the splendid efforts he put in to  
publishing the ABPA Annuals over ten years. Approximately 900 annuals  
are still available for purchase.

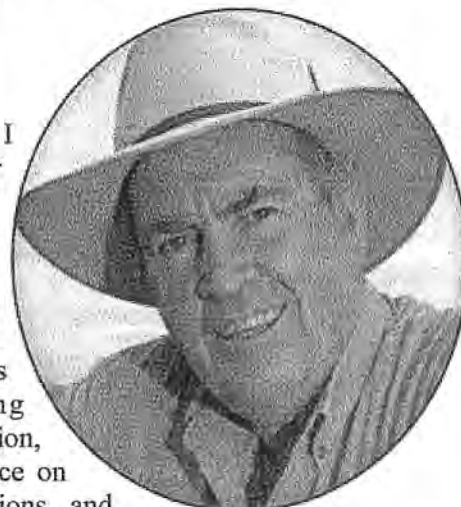
In general, reports from the different states that conducted bush  
poetry titles in 2004 were good. Lot's of good feedback has come from  
them all allowing further consideration for the ABPA book of Rules  
which I hope will be accepted for publishing early in 2005.

I'm pleased to report that Terry Regan of Blaxland NSW is now  
on the road to better health since his accident some months ago, and that  
the neurosurgeon doesn't want to see him any more, and with continual  
physio and hydrotherapy he should be back around the festivals before  
too long.

I'd like to thank the outgoing committee for their support this year  
and wish them and the incoming committee and all members of the  
association a healthy and happy 2005.

Keep on writing and keep on reciting,  
Sincerely,

*Frank Daniel*



## NOTICE

The price of half page advertisements has risen to  
\$40. All other advertising rates remain the same.  
(See back page for current rates.)

## Poetry in this Issue

5. www.broxburnbash.com - Mary E Mott
9. Shearing In The Bar - H P ('Duke') Tritton
10. The Guardians - Alec Raymer
12. Just a Thought Harry Donnelly
14. Fire - Dorothea Mackellar
14. The Shearer's Cooks Revenge! - Dave Proust
16. True Blue Aussies - Kym Eitel
18. Glenny - Jim Hasson

## NEW BLOOD at the LONGYARD

The fourteenth annual Traditional Bush Poets Breakfasts held at the Longyard Hotel in Tamworth during Country Music week were once more a resounding success.

The first poets breakfast at the Longyard was conducted by Jim Haynes and held in the Duri Harbour Bar in 1992.

Performers that year were Marco Gliori, Bobby Miller, John Philipson, Marion Fitzgerald, Murray Hartin, Gertrude Skinner, Charlee Marshall, Col Newsome and Blue the Shearer.

It ran for 4 days in 1992 and by the last day the little bar-room was filled to capacity with eager poetry fans.

In 1993 June Smythe opened the Goonoo Goonoo Room to the poets where she also served breakfast for the audience – hence the first real Bush Poets Breakfast in Tamworth

began, hosted by Jim Haynes. It ran for 5 days up to and over the long-week-end of the festival.

Jim hosted the breakfasts until 1997. When he moved to West's Leagues Club in 1998 the Longyard came under the control of Frank Daniel and the late Judith Hosier. Since then Frank has been the host of the breakfasts which have grown to nine days during the festival and have seen many talented new faces appearing.

2005 was no exception, with a good line up of first timers at the Longyard; poets such as Queenslanders Harry Donnelly (Sunrise Beach), Anita Reed (Holland Park), John Lloyd (Calen), Ron Liekefett (Lawnton) and New South Welshmen, Gabby Colquhoun (Gloucester), the 2004 NSW Ladies State Champion Kathy Edwards of Merewether, Michael Darby (Manly), Graeme Johnson (The Rhymer from Ryde), Jimmy Brown (Gilgai), Gregory North (Linden), Paddy & Glori O'Brien (Murrwillumbah), Murray Suckling (Dorrigo) and Harold Briggs (Musswellbrook).

In all some ninety performances were conducted for an approximate 365 individual poems.

Two very talented Tamworth schoolboys, Angus (10) and Cameron (8) Young presented themselves on two occasions to the delight of the large audi-

ence. These boys not only recite but also write and choreograph their own performances with the skill of veterans.

## Waltzing Matilda Country – Winton Qld

After ten years the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival in Winton has seen need for change in 2005.

The Bronze Swagman Award for written verse, still going strong since inception in 1972, will be accepting entries up until 31st March for this year's competition. Entry forms are now available.

The Junior Bush Poetry Festival, the largest written and performance Junior Festival in Australia will be held on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th March 2005.

The Waltzing Matilda Festival which started back in 1995 to celebrate the centenary of the writing of Waltzing Matilda, will now be held during the Outback Festival from 10th to 18th September 2005.

Successful performers will still be able to win a trip to Elko, Nevada USA to attend the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in January 2006.

All enquiries for the Waltzing Matilda Festival to:

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

Phone: (07) 4657 1296

Fax: (07) 4657 1541

E-mail:

bushwookatook@bigpond.com



Gabby Colquhoun (Gloucester),

Such is the popularity of the Traditional Breakfasts they now run for two and a half hours (sometimes longer) from 8am, with patrons sticking it out until the end and even then not wanting to leave.


With the gates opening at 7am the early morning 6am rush that was a familiar site for many years has disappeared and the cooked breakfast starts earlier in a more relaxed atmosphere.


The Longyard is the place to be in Tamworth in January.


Frank

# Your Two Bob's Worth

Have all write-ups, submissions and ads for April-May issue to the editor by 20<sup>th</sup> Mar

 07 4995 8407

 jarby@cqnet.com.au

 PO Box 96,  
THANGOOL, Qld. 4716

## PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

We hear a lot of criticism about winning written poems but how often do we give praise where it's deserved? Two winning poems in particular, of late, have touched me greatly – David Campbell's "Shadow Boxing" and Brian Beesley's "Before a Redfern Monument". I came third to "Shadow Boxing" (Euabalong) and second to "Before a Redfern Monument" (Coee Gilgandra) and although thrilled, feel I was a mile behind these beautiful poems. My hat off to you, fellas.

*Carol Heuchan*

P.S. Great letter, Ellis.

## Sincere thanks

Dear Frank and all at the ABPA

A Sincere thank you from the family of Bill Glasson [6th February 1924 – 2nd December 2004]

We wish to thank you most sincerely for the care, friendship, love, prayers and support that we received.

*Del Glasson and family.*

(On behalf of the association Ron Selby purchased and presented a wreath of flowers at Bill's funeral in Toowoomba)

## FAREWELL BILL GLASSON

Bill Glasson passed away after a long battle with illness that he fought with the loving support of wife Del and his family. Bill passed away 3rd December and was buried on 8th December in Toowoomba. A former winner of The Bronze Swagman Award in 1979, Bill was a rather late starter on the performance scene, but instantly made many friends and admirers due to his amiable character, his genuine interest in meeting other people and hearing their stories, and a rustic voice that presented very well on stage. I had the distinct pleasure of assisting Bill in recording his first and only album just a year or so before he passed away. The album is a fantastic collection of intriguing renditions that swallow you up in a real Bush atmosphere. The album is complimented by comforting country sound effects and includes a beautiful performance of one of Bill's poems by Carmel Dunn titled 'Only Ten Miles To Go' which is a 'haunting' story that may well have depicted many of the emotions involved in Bill's last days. Bill was well aware when recording his album that his health was poor, so the poems he recorded at Righttrack Studios Yangan, offer us an insight to the poems he himself was drawn to the most. To express your sympathy to Del and the family or to order a copy of Bill's poems just write to 3/60 Bunya St Dalby 4405.

*Cheers Marco Gliori*

## Notice of motion

At the next general meeting, I intend to move the following motion.

That the current rule that limits the awarding of the title "State Champion" to residents of the state in which the Championships are being held, be rescinded and the following rule be applied.

That State Championships be open to all competitors irrespective of their State of residence.

My reasons are as follows:

We, the Bush Poets of Australia are a close-knit group of people who share common interests.

The fellowship enjoyed by our members at all of our poetry gatherings is unequalled in any other group of which I have been associated with.

When we plan a festival or

gathering of poets, we look forward to meeting old friends and enjoying their company.

When we restrict our competition to only state based competitors, many people, despite the fact that they can still compete for section prizes, decide that the long trip is unwarranted.

If a poet lives in Coolangatta, he or she is eligible to be crowned Queensland State Champion. If he or she lives in Tweed Heads, they cannot. If a poet lives in Wodonga he or she can be crowned Victorian State Champion. If they live in Albury, they cannot.

I understand that there are other valid reasons for leaving the situation as it is, but I feel that a fresh motion on the subject may allow some further discussion.

*Sincerely, Ron Liekefett.*

This motion was seconded by *Dennis Carstairs* of Stratford Vic.

## www.broxburnbash.com

© Mary E Mott, Pitsworth, Qld

Do you like country music?  
Can you sing a song or two?  
Have you songs that you have written  
That could be a hit for you?

Do you like to hear bush poets  
With the stories they have penned?  
Well, head on off to Broxburn  
On the May-day long weekend.

There are categories aplenty  
Sponsored by the local folk.  
A chance to have your own CD  
Produced by a local bloke,

Who this year went to Tamworth  
With two artists on records  
To do battle with the best of them  
At the Golden Guitar Awards.

Bring your ute along this year  
In what category you pick.  
From 4x4 to work ute  
And one for the local chick.

There is food and drink and camping,  
So no matter where you're from,  
Find out what is happening on  
www.broxburnbash.com

For more information phone Mary on  
(07) 4693 1997

## STUMPY FESTIVAL

2005 SA Championships

Saturday 5th and Sunday 7th  
August at Murray Bridge.

- ★ SA State Bush Poetry titles.
- ★ Stumpy bush poetry and free form poetry awards
- ★ New prose competition.
- ★ New bush song competition.
- ★ Poets breakfast with tastings of Banrock Wines
- ★ Supper concert on Saturday night
- ★ Afghani Art and International Photography exhibitions
- ★ Ngarrindjeri cultural displays, activities.
- ★ Two Australian one-act plays, acapella singers, etc.

more details, entry forms  
www.lm.net.au/~stumpy/  
or email stumpy@lm.net.au

Max Merckenschlager

## MURRAY MUSTER

**2005** Organised by the **Mulwala Services Club**, the Festival offers poetry, or, song only sections. With an innovation; of a further two sections where either; a poem, song, or yarn may be performed. This will ensure maximum opportunities for performers, with the variety adding to the entertainment of all.

Traditional, Original and Novice poetry sections will be judged as per ABPA guidelines. However, different assessment sheets will apply for; song/music and yarn sections; in which each judge will have up to 600 points to award. Thus ensuring fairness and relativity for entrants in the Champion Jillaroo and Jackaroo sections.

Perpetual trophies for the Champion Jillaroo, Jackaroo and Yarn Spinner, are both 'different' and substantial in size.

The organisers are committed to ensuring success and longevity of the Festival, to be held annually, over the second weekend in May.

The inaugural winners will gain considerable prestige from their success.

In addition to an Open Written Section, there are Junior Written Sections for both Primary and Secondary school students.

Performance judges will be:- Carol Reffold, Graeme Johnson, Geoffrey Graham, plus at least one other.

See ad on page 19 for more details or request full program details from:

Mulwala Services Club

PO Box 19

Mulwala NSW 2647

(03) 5744 2331

marketing@mulwalaservices.com.au

Debbie Williams & Karen Bromley

- Mulwala Services Club

## Australia Bush Laureate Awards

### 2005 WINNERS

Winners in the 2005 Australian Bush Laureate Awards were announced before a capacity audience in the Tamworth Town Hall on Tuesday 18th Jan.

In Book of the Year, the winner was Poems Of Bob Miller The Larrikin by Bob Miller (published by Saddlesaw Productions for Sandy Miller).

In Book of the Year, Original Verse, the winner was Poems Of Bob Miller The Larrikin by Bob Miller (published by Saddlesaw Productions for Sandy Miller).

In Album of the Year, the winner was On The Road Again by Ray Essery (Restless Music, produced by Roger Ilott).

In Single Recorded Performance of the Year, the winner was Not Gone by Janine Haig (from the Janine Haig The Eulo Poet album, Janine Haig Recording J Haig/M Haig).

Winner of the Judith Hosier Heritage Award (named in honour of Australian Bush Laureate Awards

founder) was Kelly Dixon, a long time writer of bush ballads.

This was the 10th anniversary year of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards which were instigated in 1996 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

Winners receive an attractive, finely crafted sculpture of a pen in the shape of a gum leaf giving the trophy the name "the Golden Gum-leaf".

The gala Awards presentation in Tamworth featured performances by Beccy Cole, Travis Collins, Kelly Dixon, Pat Drummond, Ray Essery, Shirley Friend, Jim Haynes, Glenn Jones, Paddy Ryan and Brendon Walmsley.

The 2006 Australian Bush Laureate Awards will be staged in Tamworth on Tuesday, January 24.

Further details are available from the organisers, Max Ellis Marketing and Singabout Australia phone

02 6766 1050, email

info@bushlaureate.com.au or visit

http://www.bushlaureate.com.au.

## Secretary's

### Report

My duties of Trade Model Rules with approved amendments. This sub-ject will be discussed in more detail in General Business. The Annual Report forms required by

the Dept. of Fair Trade and ASIC were compiled and submitted.

I received several requests to investigate electronic transfer for membership payment. While it is feasible, the suppliers of the service charge a set monthly fee, regardless of the transactions. Our membership is heavy for about 3 months spread over the months of November, December, January. This would mean we would be paying for the service for 9 months without any such need.

Once again I must thank all the members who corresponded with me sharing poetry, snippets of information and questions and suggestions. In my opinion this shows a healthy interest in our Assoc.

I would be remiss if I did not give a special mention to our President, Treasurer and the Secretary's helper, Margaret.

It is very pleasing to see new venues conducting events, I hope this trend continues.

I wish everyone the best of health and happiness for 2005.

*Edward Parmenter.*

## The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc.

Presents

### VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 12th & 13th 2005

at

Bowling Club BENALLA

In conjunction with the "Benalla Rose Festival"

### POET'S BREAKFASTS

with Col Milligan "Men's Champion 2003 & 2004" and others from the Snowy Mountains

Bush Poetry Club Inc

7.30am till 9.30am

### PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

10.00am start

SATURDAY NIGHT  
CONCERT  
Bush Poetry & Comedy Show  
7.30pm start

Come and see some of "Australia's best in action"

Hear them perform Original Poetry – written by themselves and Traditional Poetry as written by Paterson, Lawson etc.

Entry Gold Coin Donation – Lucky Door Prizes each day...

General Enquiries: Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508

Accommodation enquiries: Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre  
03 5721 5718

Over  
\$2500  
prize pool

## Treasurer's

### Report for Year Ending 31-12-04.

The nett assets of the Association have increased this year with an operating surplus of \$4,436 to the sum of \$19,946.00. This indicates a gain of \$1361.00 over the previous year's surplus.

In the receipts membership fees remain basically the same along with book sales. Badge sales have slipped, probably due to the new item interest in 2003. Members insurance payments decreased by \$890.

On the payments side while the overall income is down on 2003 by \$1,234.00 outgoings have also decreased by \$2,596. Public Liability Insurance costs decreased by \$991. Postage and stationery costs also decreased by \$1,412, and the cost of newsletters \$347.

In conclusion the strong financial position of the Association reflects enthusiasm in both the members and committee.

*Marie Smith, Treasurer*

## 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.

## AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION ANUAL GENERAL MEETING 22nd January, 2005

Around 30 members attended the Associations meeting held at ST EDWARDS HALL, HILLVUE ST., TAMWORTH with apologies from a further 10 members.

**Special Meeting** opened 2.16 p.m.

A member brought to the attention of the Sec: by email on 29th April, 2004 that an anomaly may have existed in respect of the registration in NSW and the adoption of the NSW Model Rules by the ABPA. Legal advice was sought and also the Office of Fair Trade, Bathurst was contacted. The advice obtained from the Solicitor suggested that the A.B.P.A should have conducted an extra-ordinary meeting to adopt the Model Rules. However, a Special General Meeting prior to the AGM. should correct the situation. The Fair Trade Dept. were contacted at Bathurst and an Officer advised that the proposal to ratify adoption of Model Rules with amendments at the next AGM is reasonable in the circumstances. (Sgnd) Bernadette Denman, 3.6.04. Motion to formally adopt the Model Rules for Incorporated Associations under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984, including amendments carried at the 2004 A.G.M. (m) E. Parmenter. 2nd D. Carstairs. Carried.

All other matters to be considered at the Special Meeting were transferred to the AGM agenda.

Meeting closed at 2.22 p.m.

**A.G.M. opened at 2.24 p.m.**

One minutes silence observed for deceased members and close relatives of members.

The minutes of 2004 AGM read by E. Parmenter.

Amendment re Winton trophy. Correction on English by adding ? mark re R.M. Williams sculpture. (m) D. Carstairs. 2nd Ron Brown. Carried.

President announced that existing committee would vacate positions,

and Murray Suckling was appointed Returning Officer.

Nominations were called for all positions. The retiring officers and committee members were returned unopposed.

President. **Frank Daniel.**

Vice President. **Milton Taylor.**

Secretary. **Edward Parmenter.**

Assist. Sec. **Margaret Parmenter**

Treasurer. **Marie Smith**

**Committee members:**

Dennis Carstairs. Stratford Vic.

Ron Liekefett. Lawnton Qld.

**State Representatives.**

SA Maurice O'Brien.

Vic Dennis Carstairs.

NSW. Carol Heuchan

Qld Ron Liekefett.

WA Rusty Christensen.

The President and Editor verbally agreed that Leanne Jeacocke be appointed for another 12 months as Editor.

Motion from Milton Taylor that 3 months notification be given in advance for approval for Aust. Championships. 2nd Andy Schnalle. Carried.

Motion from Milton Taylor that the date of the Aust. C'ship be fixed to a calendar month either side of a specific date each year, so that every C'ship will be held no earlier than 11 months prior to, and no later than 13 months after the previous one. 2nd Glori O'Brien.

Discussion by meeting of other issues involved e.g. annual festivals etc. and difficulty of changing dates Motion defeated.

Secretary left the meeting at 4.00p.m. as protest against non-adoption of meeting procedure. Marg. Parmenter took the minutes to conclusion of meeting.

Motion from Leanne Jeacocke that regarding written competitions, it should be necessary to have three judges. 2nd Ross Davidson. Carried.

Frank Daniel requested copy of

Tamworth Writers Group's judging sheet for perusal. (no motion).

Frank Daniel spoke on rules of memorisation. No motion.

Leanne spoke on email magazines. PDF format. (see page 11)

Murray Suckling spoke on expanding magazine to 24 pages to provide more information for members. Also advertisement of monthly events.

Frank Daniel spoke on event dates coming out separately (twice a year.) New members will receive copy.

Leanne said she would like 24 pages, but must have information sent to her.

**Discussion on membership drive** Membership stays static at approx. 450.

Pass your newsletters to interested persons. Flyers needed to hand out at Tamworth. A.B.P.A. doesn't have a profile in Tamworth Would shirts with logo be good advertising?

Submission received from Murray Suckling to hold the 2005 State Championship at Dorrigo in October. 2nd Margaret Parmenter. Carried.

Interest in Aust.C'Ship. Could it be announced? Give email address to enquirers. Ads and stories in papers. No one advertises A.B.P.A in Tamworth venues. Frank Daniel gives good coverage to A.B.P.A at Longyard. Advertising should occur at all performers' venues. Join forces with Jan Morris group. Membership form in magazine. New members' register should be resumed in magazine. (None of the above suggestions was moved as a motion.)

Ron Brown commented that events such as Poettes concert was a great success. 86 people attended this concert at the Masonic Hall, and other events of this kind should be encouraged in the future.

Carol Heuchen - requested letter of thanks for Margaret Finucane for her involvement of the Poettes concert.

Meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

# Chinchilla Central Poets Breakfast & Performance Bush Poets Competition

## Prize money

First \$300  
Second \$150  
Third \$50



Enquiries:  
Ena Brown  
Office hours  
07 4662 7088

Middle Street

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2005 7am

Limited number for competition.  
Written Nominations close 14 February '05

Entires to:  
Chinchilla Melon Festival  
PO Box 556  
CHINCHILLA QLD 4413

Please provide phone number & address  
Nomination Fee: \$5.00



Chinchilla Branch of the  
Qld Cancer Fund Breakfast

*Where fun grows on the vine*

PUT THIS  
ONE IN  
YOUR  
DIARIES!



## INVERELL'S

# "CELEBRATION OF THE OUTBACK"

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th SEPTEMBER, 2005

- ✦ TOP VISITING ARTISTS
- ✦ BUSH POETS' BREAKFASTS in the beautiful pioneer village
- ✦ COMPETITIONS WITH BIG PRIZE MONEY
- ✦ "GOLDEN ANGEL" TROHIES in all categories
- ✦ POETS' PUB CRAWL Fright night
- ✦ BIG NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT Saturday
- ✦ BUSH POETS, BALLAD-  
EERS AND BUSH BANDS



Visit "THE GEM OF THE TABLELANDS" for  
a great weekend of Australian entertainment

ENQUIRIES: Burt Candy PH: (02) 67211127  
e-mail: candyb57@yahoo.com

Mail-out Programs available in May





## Shearing In The Bar

© H P ('Duke') Tritton

My shearing days are over, though I never was a gun:  
I could always count my twenty at the end of every run.  
I used the old Trade Union shears, and the blades were running full  
As I shoved them to the knockers and I pushed away the wool.

I shore at Goorianawa and never got the sack;  
From Breeza out to Comprador I always could go back;  
But though I am a truthful man I find, when in a bar,  
That my tally's always doubled but -- I never call for tar!

Now shearing on the Western Plains, where the fleece is full of sand  
And clover-burr and cork-screw grass, is the place to try your hand;  
For the sheep are tough and wiry where they feed on the Mitchell grass,  
And every second one of them is close to the 'cobbler' class;

And a pen chocked full of 'cobblers' is a shearer's dream of hell,  
And loud and lurid are their words when they catch one on the bell;  
But when we're pouring down the grog you'll hear no call for tar,  
For the shearer never cuts them -- when he's shearing in a bar!

At Louth I got the bell-sheep, a wrinkly tough-wooled brute,  
Who never stopped his kicking till I tossed him down the 'chute.  
Though my wrist was aching badly, I fought him all the way;  
I couldn't afford to miss a blow -- I must earn my pound a day;

So when I took a strip of skin, I would hide it with my knee--  
Gently turn the sheep around so the right bower couldn't see,  
Then try to catch the rousy's eye, and softly whisper, "Tar";  
But it never seems to happen -- when I'm shearing in a bar!

I shore away the belly-wool, and trimmed the crutch and hocks,  
Then opened up along the neck, while the rousy swept the locks.  
Then smartly swung the sheep around, and dumped him on his rear--  
Two blows to chip away the wig -- (I also took an ear!)

Then down around the shoulder and the blades were opened wide,  
As I drove them on the long blow and down the whipping side;  
And when I tossed him down the 'chute he was nearly black with tar  
But it never seems to happen -- when I'm shearing in a bar!

Now when the season's ended and my grandsons all come back  
In their Vanguards and their Holdens -- I was always 'on the track' --  
They come and take me into town to fill me up with beer,  
And I sit on a corner-stool and listen to them shear:

There's not a bit of difference! It must make the angels weep,  
To hear a mob of shearers in a bar-room shearing sheep;  
The sheep go rattling down the race and there's never a call for tar,  
For they still don't seem to cut them -- when they're shearing in the bar!

Then memories come crowding and they roll away the years,  
And my hands begin to tighten and they seem to feel the shears:  
I want to tell them of the sheds, of sheds where I have shorn,  
Full fifty years, or maybe more, before the boys were born.

I want to speak of Yarragreen, Dunlop or Wingadee,  
But the beer has started working and I find I cannot see.  
So I'd better not start shearing -- I'd be bound to call for tar;  
Then be treated like a blackleg -- when I'm shearing in a bar!

## Special Guest

at

## PALMA ROSA POETS

Thursday 3rd MARCH 2005

7pm - for 7.30 start

9 Queens Road, Hamilton,  
BRISBANE

## BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

\$20 00 (including supper)  
BYO Drinks

The next Palma Rosa Poets evening will be a MEMORABLE one - They are to have as their Guest Performer the GREAT Poet, Yarnspinner, Author and Entertainer SANDY THORNE.

Sandy is the author of 8 books about varied, but all fascinating subjects - Poetry "I've met some Bloody Wags" the Bush "On the Shake of a Hand" and her time as a Detention Centre warden "Beyond the Razor-wire".

She is in great demand as a Key-note Speaker at many Conventions, Seminars and Functions throughout Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

She has appeared on Television and Radio Shows throughout these countries with the likes of David Letterman and Michael Parkinson.

IT WILL BE A GREAT NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

ph. Palma Rosa (07)32623769

Trisha Anderson (07)32683624



## Annual Membership

fell Due 30th Dec 2004

If you have not paid 2005 membership this will be your last issue

## JUDGE'S COMMENTS - BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

Being in the audience each day of the Bush Poetry performance competition never ceases to amaze me with the continued unearthing of new talent. Noel Stallard reminded us of the opportunities given to aspiring performers and how the growth of Bush Poetry is lending to such wonderful entertainment in this form of Australian culture.

I am especially privileged to be given the added bonus of judging the award winners in the Blackened Billy Verse Competition, the Tamworth Poetry Group's written competition, as an adjunct to the Golden Damper Performance Awards. Since both competitions have been operating around sixteen years, we now find that many of our poets are competing in both competitions. And what a wonderful array of talent has been discovered through the Tamworth Poetry Group's foresight and the generous assistance given to us by our sponsors, CountryEnergy, and the provision of our newest venue by West League Club.

We are crying and laughing, we are emotionally affected by this wealth of talent and we cannot wait for the Festival to be back again from year to year.

177 entries were received for the 2005 Blackened Billy competition. They were digested, absorbed, re-read and mentally mulled over in this mind-bending myriad of mixed messages. A large percentage of the entries were well crafted and covered a wealth of subjects.

39 entries were left for the mulling over in the final stages of selection. Every one could have won an award. It was necessary to be reluctantly ruthless to finish with thirteen award winners. Maybe just a key word or a missing rhythmic phrase or perhaps an inconsistent metre led to the final selections.

It is my humble conviction that an interesting creation is where the reader can feel the full impact of the writer's thoughts. He or she has placed the reader in the central or key position to absorb the full effect. We should be under the spell of the wordsmith's artistry.

Congratulations to the award winner and the runners-up. Keep writing and entering the various verse competitions. It may be your turn just around the corner.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jan Morris and her committee for their tireless efforts in the organisation of the Blackened Billy Verse Competition. I look forward to watching the success of writers in future years.

THE WINNER—

**ALEC RAYMER** with his poem "The Guardians"

In my opinion, a beautiful and lyrical poem which held me spell-bound right throughout. You can

almost feel the sheer intensity of the Centre and the hopelessness of Lasseter's quest. A wonderful choice of appropriate imagery and a lyrical respect for the guardians of The Centre.

SECOND—**ELLIS CAMPBELL**  
"Farewell to Youth"

Constructed with great feeling and emotion to tell the story of a friend's passing, and the memories of their youth. The lyrical phrasing held my attention right throughout the story.

THIRD—**NOEL STALLARD**  
"The Art of Sport"

A very clever composition in sporting style commentary to try and place musical art and its composers in the rightful place in media, particularly with respect to our ABC. Will need to be performed with the expertise of a good racing commentator.

*Keith Jones - Judge, Blackened Billy Awards 2005*

Winning poem for the Blackened Billy Wrieen Verse competition announced in Tamworth 22nd Jan, 2005

### THE GUARDIANS

by Alec Raymer of Maroochydore Qld

There's a stillness to the Centre and a sense of timeless peace  
In a land that rolls forever to horizons never reached,  
But the hand of man lies heavily on the places where it falls,  
And the ripples in its stillness shocks the Red Heart most of all.

To this place of ancient Dreaming came a seeker with a dream,  
In his heart a hope of fortune, in his eye a golden gleam,  
And his coming caused a stirring in the land through which he moved,  
For his journey through the Centre was not Guardian approved.

As a wind cried through the canyons of red ranges where he passed,  
Sounding warning to a sleeping land of danger come at last,  
The intruder found his dream fulfilled - a gleaming golden reef  
Lying there before him - Lasseter was rich beyond belief!

It would seem to be the noise he made at this great lode he'd found,  
For I'm sure he yelled and shouted at this vast wealth in the ground,  
Or perhaps it was the ripple and the change that ripples make,  
But whatever was the cause it brought the Guardians awake.

As the dying sun fell westward in the death of afternoon,  
Came the failing light of evening, then the rising of the moon,  
Bathing all the land in silver from its vantage point on high  
As it had done since the Dreaming, in the vastness of the sky.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# The John O'Brien Bush Festival

Narrandera in the NSW Riverina



Singalongs,  
sessions and lot's  
of good humour

16th - 20th March, 2005

Dubbed by the media "Narrandera's amazing festival", the John O'Brien Bush Festival celebrates Irish-Australian culture through poetry, music, humour, dance and bush craft. For the uninitiated this means there'll be busking, bush dancing, poet's breakfasts, and comedy shows. There'll be get-together's, pub sessions, luncheons and singalongs. There'll be a parade, a craft fair, an art exhibition and an Anzac tribute. There'll be whipcracking, antique machinery, chainsaw sculpture, street performers and a parade. And there'll a touch of the Irish, evident in dance and in song.



Poet's Brekkies and  
walk-ups galore,  
Friendly and fun

Winner of the  
Inland NSW  
Tourism Award  
for best event.

For more information contact

Julie Briggs

Tourism Manager & Events Coordinator  
Narrandera Visitors Information Centre

PO Box 89

NARRANDERA NSW 2700

Ph: 02 6959 1766 Fax: 02 6959 2788

[tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au)

[julie.briggs@narrandera.nsw.gov.au](mailto:julie.briggs@narrandera.nsw.gov.au)

*(Continued from page 10)*

Then upon the land a sound began; a murmuring grew there  
Like a chant of wordless voices filling all the silvered air,  
But so softly, ever softly, till the muted voices mixed  
In a rolling rhythm, rising to the clicking of the sticks.

Then the air around the golden reef that Lasseter had found  
Seemed to thicken, and a floating mist came rising from the ground,  
And the chant renewed and rose and fell and all around that site  
It enclosed all it encountered in a misty veil of white.

Was it purely chance that Lasseter, when he returned to claim  
The vast wealth he had discovered in the reef that bore his name,  
Was unable to locate the place no matter how he tried?  
Was it fate that made him wander in that country till he died?

It is peaceful in the Red Heart now, no ripples mar the calm  
That pervades the sleeping Centre - there's no cause now for alarm,  
And the rocks and land lie baking in this timeless landscape fanned  
By a hot wind's breath that blows its heat across the brooding land.

If you seek to find the lost gold, well then, that's the chance you take,  
For your journey there will surely cause the Guardians to wake,  
So be mindful of the stillness, for the mind plays funny tricks,  
And perhaps you'll hear the chanting and the clicking of the sticks.

## ELECTRONIC PDF NEWSLETTER

### *Available soon*

It has been requested that the newsletter be available in PDF format via the internet. The suggestion that this would reduce postage was also mentioned but I would point out that that the reduction would be minimal as few members would elect to have only an electronic copy, preferring to receive it by mail as well. As a compromise I hope to have the next and subsequent issues available in PDF format. All members wishing to receive it to make request via email to [jarby@cqnet.com.au](mailto:jarby@cqnet.com.au). You may receive their electronic newsletter a few days earlier but will still get one in the mail.

*Leanne Jeacocke, Editor*

Start making plans now for the  
**NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005 DORRIGO**

October 7th-9th ph. Murray 02-66572139

# NAKED

## AT THE GOLF CLUB

The Naked Poets were hamming it up at the Golf Club in 2005 with their new night show that featured lots of new material including Pat Drummond's sentimental song saga 'He Sent Home His Washing From Perth', which served as another opportunity to bag Ray Essery, and let's face it...Ray deserves everything he gets.

The Naked Poets are very grateful that both their lunch time 'Best Of' shows and the night shows were well supported, during a festival that seemed up and down as far as crowds go.

The Naked Poets featured prominently again at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards with Pat, Ray and Shirley Friend performing on the concert, and Ray finally nailing an individual Award for the Album Of

Winner of the one minute Brawl at the Tamworth Golf Club on Wed. 19th Jan

### Just a thought

Harry Donnelly © 21-11-04

Have you ever thought of trying  
to control your every thought,  
or thinking of your thoughts a different way.  
Or maybe thought of thinking  
what a previous thought had brought,  
to your ever thoughtful thinking thoughts that day.

'Cos thinking thoughts of thinking  
though they thankfully be thought,  
can throw the thoughts of thinking out per se.  
So - think about the things you thought  
those thousand thoughtless thankless sort,  
and throw the thoughts you thought you thought - away.

Then - though you threw away those thoughts  
the sort you thought you thought you thought,  
then thought you'd think them back another day.  
You may not think those thankless thoughts  
that caught your thoughts and taught you naught,  
that you thought you thought you'd finally thrown away.

'Cos - the way you thought through countless thoughts  
the sort you fought and finally caught,  
you'd think you probably thought them anyway.  
The thought you threw away those thoughts  
could thwart the thoughts you thought you thought,  
and keep the thoughts you'd thought you thought - at bay.

The thought of thwarted thoughts - of course  
would fraught your thoughts - though any thoughts  
of thwarted thoughts would probably thwart them anyway.  
So - think about those thwarted thoughts  
the sort you thought you'd never thwart,  
and have yourself a thoughtful, thinking, thankful,  
thwartless day.

The Year. Bobby Miller may well have been a short skinny bloke, but his big reputation continues to be the stuff that folklore is made of. His book was edited by Marco Gliori (that's me and what a privilege it was to do it) and published by Saddlesaw Productions, run by my wife Julie (quickest typing finger in the west) and myself. Saddlesaw Productions was awarded both



Harry Donnelly  
SUNRISE BEACH, Qld

the Original Book Of Bush Verse Award and the big one...Book Of The Year.

Sales of the Poems of Bob Miller 'The Larrikin' went through the roof at the festival and since returning home and conducting interviews, I've seen Bob's book selling fast and suddenly his work is being introduced to a new audience while Bob's wife Sandy is phone-bound at the moment fending off orders and enquiries. The success of the Naked Poets has allowed us to again donate \$1000.00 for the Poets Brawl which this year was taken out by Harry Donnelly from the Sunshine Coast, with Greg North, Graeme Johnstone, and Col Milligan in hot pursuit.

In 2006 The Naked Poets celebrate 10 years since the first Naked Poets Show which was held at the Wamuran Hall via Caboolture, organized by Shirley Friend, and compered by a naked Radio Station DJ (except for a fig leaf). And check this out, Bruce Forbes Simpson was a guest artist on that first Naked Poets Show... sorry Bruce...you've been outed!

*Cheers, Marco Gliori*

Don't Forget!!

**VIC BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

will be held at  
**BENALLA**

in the Snowy Mountains  
**March 12th & 13th**

More Details Page 6

**SA 2005  
Bush Poetry  
Championships**

**August 5th and 7th**

**Murray Bridge**

More Details Page 5

# Tropical Far North

## BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

29-31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2005

The Far North Queensland Bush Poetry Festival will be a three day

event held in the grounds of the picturesque Mareeba Tropical Savanna Wetlands Reserve, North of

**\* \* \* Gold City \* \* \***

**Bush Poets Inc. Hosting the**

**\*\*\* 2005 ABPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS \*\*\***

**Charters Towers, FNQ**

Conducted under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets' Assoc. Inc

**Tuesday 26th - Thursday 28th April 2005**

At the air conditioned "World Theatre" Auditorium

\$\$\$\$\$\$  
Total Prize Pool  
\$6000

**Noel Stallard, John Best,  
Ray Essery, Shirley Friend  
and John Major**

\$1000 for  
Male & Female  
Champion

### Written Sections

U/12 - 12-15 - 15-18 - Open

### Performance Sections

**Juniors U/12**

\*Modern Traditional and \*Humorous

**12-18**

\*Classical & Modern Traditional and \*Humorous

**Novice**

\*Classical \*Modern Traditional \*Original

\*Yarn Spinning

**Open (M&F)**

\*Classical \*Modern Traditional \*Original Serious

\*Original Humorous \*Yarnspinning

Enquiries SASE to:

PO Box 38

CHARTERS TOWERS, Q 4820

Or phone: 07 47872409 or 07 47873211

Or email: dawnharry\_5@hotmail.com

Major Sponsor

**Geaney's**



Mareeba with multi award winning and Bush Laureate finalists, host poets Chris & the Grey. It will feature a bush poetry writer's workshop at the local schools on the Friday as well as on the Saturday for adults and children at the reserve. There will also be a barbeque and concert Saturday evening and a walk up bush poet's breakfast and performance competition on the Sunday. The Clancy of the Overflow written competition will also be run in conjunction with the festival. Written entries will be critiqued by at least one judge and score sheets will be available to those wishing them. This will give writers an opportunity to know more than who won the award, but how their poems fared. The performance competition will have 5 categories, U12yrs, 12-17yrs, Local over 18yrs, Open Traditional and Open Original. The written competition will run 3 categories. U12yrs, 12-17yrs and Open. There is a total of \$1000.00 in cash and trophies up for grabs. It is hoped that this will become an annual festival and give people and poets from the far north an opportunity to share their bush verse with others. Visiting poets and bush poetry enthusiasts are welcome to join in and experience the hospitality and beauty of the far north and meet some of the Far North Bards. For more information and entry forms send a SSAE to:

## Katherine Country Music Muster

**K.C.M.M.**

29th APRIL TO 1st MAY 2005



### STOCKMAN AWARD WRITTEN BUSH VERSE COMPETITION

Entries Forms are now available for the 2005 competition run in conjunction with the Country Music 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. Send SSAE for Entry form available from The Co-ordinator, KCMM Stockman Award, P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld, 4670 or you can download from the KCMM web site  
<http://www.kcmm.com.au/default.htm>



THE COORDINATOR,  
FAR NORTH BUSH POETRY  
FESTIVAL, P.O. BOX 8211, BARGARA, QLD 4670 or phone 07 4159 1868 or email [the-grey@tpg.com.au](mailto:the-grey@tpg.com.au) You can also download from [www.mareebawetlands.com](http://www.mareebawetlands.com)

# Casino Beef Week

May 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2005

Once again Bush Poetry will feature among the celebrations held during the Beef Week Festival at Casino with Poets Breakfasts Thursday, Friday and Saturday and a performance competition on Sunday. The Breakfasts will run from 9-11am and there will be great prizes for Sunday's competition.

Thursday evening's entertainment will include a "Bull Yarns" competition as 7:30pm with great prizes.

Guest poets include **Murray Hartin, Jack Drake** and **Ray Essery**.

**For more information  
Phone Ray 02 6644 8285.**

## Fire

Dorothea Mackellar

This life that we call our own  
Is neither strong nor free;  
A flame in the wind of death,  
It trembles ceaselessly.

And this all we can do  
To use our little light  
Before, in the piercing wind,  
It flickers into night:

To yield the heat of the flame,  
To grudge not, but to give  
Whatever we have of strength,  
That one more flame may live.

## Mark your Diary

ABPA 2005 National Titles  
**Charters Towers FNQ**

Tues 26th-Thurs 28th April

Make your plans  
**NOW!!!**

**Details Page 13**

Winner in the Original section of the Golden Damper Performance competition, held at West Leagues Club, Tamworth, Saturday 22nd January.

## The Shearer's Cooks Revenge!

*Dave Proust © December 2004*

Lousy Les the shearer's cook from out near Werris Creek  
He cooked the boys the basic stuff that got them through the week  
Well there was always plenty of bacon, eggs and ham  
But what he was most proud of was his Sunday Roasted Lamb.

He'd get up Sunday morning and get the wood stove on  
The lamb hung in the meat shed and it weighed a bloody ton  
Well he cut it into pieces and put it in a tray  
And covered it with herbs and spice his boys liked it that way.

Well the lamb would cook for hours and was something to behold  
The shearers knew their feed was near and they where never told  
To wash their hands and face real clean they'd even change their shirt  
It was a feast like, Roman times, and surely spread their girt.

The boss's cat came wandering in from underneath the house  
And in his jaws his latest find a three day old dead mouse  
He leapt up on the table and then onto the feast  
Then dropped the mouse for his new find the Sunday roasted beast.

With all four paws dug into hold the cat it took a bite  
When Les came round the corner and he saw this awful sight  
His lovely roast deflowered by this mangy feral stray  
And the soggy mouse was bubbling in the bottom of the tray

Enraged by this Les lunged and grabbed this dirty moggy thief  
And what he'd do to this feral cat was quite beyond belief  
He held it out in front of him to dodge its teeth and claws  
And ran towards the electric fence to ply the bush cooks laws

The cat it spat and howled and fought as Les stretched his arm  
With a look of rage and vengeance he meant to do it harm  
The mayhem of the struggle aroused the old pig dog  
Who was looking quite bewildered by the dirty dialogue?

Les thrust the cat onto the fence he'd make the bastard burn  
It took all his strength to hold it when things began to turn  
Les did not stop to think in his CURRENT state of mind  
See a cat is a conductor of the four legged furry kind.

A charge of electricity went surging through his frame  
He stiffened up like Frankenstein as it cooked his brain  
His dentures flew out of his mouth and landed in the dam  
His hearing aid tuned into FM Vietnam.

His hair stood up like Einstein and smoke came out his ears  
Another part went rigged that hadn't worked in years  
The charge went through his hairy legs and threw him in the air  
He felt like he had just survived death by electric chair.

His heart regained its rhythm as he slowly looked around  
While the blackened cat lay motionless beside him on the ground  
When suddenly it went berserk attacking Les's head  
It scratched his face, his neck, his ears before it turned and fled.

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

The cat it tried to get away but in its panicked flight  
Met Eugene the old pig dog who didn't mind a fight  
Eugene wasn't like a shearer who got the Sunday roast  
But this singed a battered pussy cat was what he'd love the most.

Well Les was scratched and stunned and sore and he could make no sense  
Of how he had been bitten by the cat and by the fence  
But back he went to serve the meal the crew would soon demand  
Their weekly chance to stuff themselves with juicy Roasted Lamb.

Les based the Lamb just one more time to hide the trace of cat  
And all the fur and bits of mouse where covered up with fat  
The boys sat down to eat their meal this one they'd surely savour  
It's your best roast yet and we won't forget the slightly different flavour.

The boss asked old Les why it was he didn't join the feast  
This is your greatest effort your best to say the least  
As Les scratched the pig dogs ear feeling sore and beaten  
I couldn't touch another bite ... Eugene and I have eaten....

Entry forms and full details for the Yarrawonga/  
Mulwala Murray Muster Bush Festival to be con-  
ducted from 13 – 15 May 2005 are now available.  
Over \$3,000 in prizes, which includes a \$500 Yarn  
Spinning section, is on offer.

Details page 5.

## Luddenham Brekkie

The Luddenham (NSW) Show turns 104 years old in February this year and the Annual Poets Breakfast turns two. Milton Taylor ran last years breakfast and it was so successful that he has been asked to come back with a repeat performance.

The two-hour Poets Breakfasts will be held on both the 12th and 13th February at 9am and all poets are invited to help make this an even bigger show than last year.

Luddenham showground is on the corner of Park Road and Campbell Street. This is the one time of the year that the town of Luddenham really gets together and the small group of dedicated volunteers give up a lot of their time to help keep their community and the local show together.

Entertainment lasts all day long from the Poets Brekkie to the Bull Ride and the Band till late at night.

**Don't miss it.**



**ANZ**



**10th  
Anniversary  
Celebrations**



**THE MAN  
FROM  
SNOWY RIVER  
BUSH FESTIVAL**

Where Legends perform!

**Mar 31 – April 3 in Corryong, NE Victoria**  
14 sections of ANZ Poetry & Music competition.


**Featured poets Geoffrey Graham & Frank Daniel  
& Other Top poets, yarnspinnners and musicians**

Poets' Breakfasts, walkups and concerts (inc. **Steve Forde and the Flange**)  
Banjo's Block now next to Lions' Youth Hall & camping area opposite  
Bush Music guests and campfire music sessions  
Art & Photography Exhibition & sale

Re-enactment of Banjo's 'Man From Snowy River' poem  
Experience real bush friendliness and flavour.

See you at the festival, weekend AFTER Easter

for further info & entry forms:  
Email [mfsrbf@bigpond.com](mailto:mfsrbf@bigpond.com)  
Phone Festival office 0260761992  
[www.manfromsnowyriverbushfestival.com.au](http://www.manfromsnowyriverbushfestival.com.au)



**\$4000 total prize  
money closes Feb  
27**

**Unique Telstra Country  
Wide 'Challenge' horse  
competition to find the  
modern 'Man'  
\$25,000 prizes**

Jan Lewis, Poetry & Music events.

**First place** in the Banana Shire Australia Day Poetry Competition (celebrations held at Moura, Central Queensland).

### **True Blue Aussies**

*Kym Eitel - Goovigen, Qld*

So what makes me an Aussie? I was born on Aussie soil,  
but others born in foreign lands are just as Aussie loyal.  
We're Irish, Kiwi, African, Malaysian, Swiss or Greek,  
just blend them all together, you get "Aussie" - quite unique!

Yes, most of us are "Bitser Breed", with many different kin,  
a rainbow full of vibrant colours - nations, all mixed in.  
Take red and yellow, black and white, and shades of brownish hue -  
when mixed, they make another shade - Australian "True Blue".

My husband, born a foreigner, chose Aussie for his breed.  
Although he still speaks funny, he's an Aussie, guaranteed!  
My husband's made from German stock, and Cherokee (or Sioux),  
a little touch of Polish, and a lot of Texan too.

My Mother gave me English blood, from cold and pebbled shores,  
my Father's folk were Danish though, and gave me Viking roars.  
It's great to know my heritage, traditions and my past,  
but now, I love my Aussie home - it's paradise so vast.

But what makes us all Aussies? - is the question asked today.  
It's oneness with the land itself, that makes us proud to say,  
"I'm Aussie!"

The pride we feel within our hearts, burns with a passion grand,  
just like the scorching Aussie sun that burns the desert sand.

The blood that's pumping through my veins, pounds with the sleepy beat  
of oceans, blue and powerful that kiss my sandy feet.  
My lungs are full of warm, fresh air that's swooped the open plains,  
then crossed the mighty mountain tops to bring us soaking rains.

The dirt that grows our food for us, and stains our sweaty hand,  
is Mother Earth - it's life itself - the heart-beat of this land.  
You're part of this great country - feel its spirit and elation!  
We all feel proud to live in this, our sunburnt, snow-capped nation.

It's how we feel, not how we look, that makes us Aussie's true.  
It's pride that makes us Aussie's. I can feel it. How 'bout you?  
It's the colours of our hearts, not skin, that bonds us all as one.  
It's the laughter, smiles and kindness, that we share with everyone.  
It's back-yard barbies, cricket games and buzzing flies and mozzies.  
Let's stand up tall and tell the world - "We're Dinkum True Blue Aussies!"

### **NSW STATE TITLES DORRIGO**

Last September the Dorrigo Bush Poets Roundup was truly a poetry festival of fun.

Dorrigo Maintain Top Bush Poets have successfully applied to the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. and have been awarded the right to conduct the 2005 NSW State Bush Poetry Competition.

The event will be held in Dorrigo in conjunction with the popular

Roundup and will take place on October 7th, 8th and 9th.

Be sure to mark these dates in your diary and start planning a trip to this beautiful and unique rainforest country and township.

Full details of the competition, both written and performance, will be in the next edition of the newsletter along with entry information.

For any additional information - phone Murray Suckling on 02 66572139.

## **MILES AHEAD**

The Miles (Qld) Bush Poetry Group was formed in 1999 with five Bush Poets and two Country Music vocalists. The contrasting mixture of bush poetry and song goes a long way with the show they've created and present to Tourists, especially Coach Travellers, on an almost weekly basis. In 2004 the group entertained forty-three times.

Although they come from Guluguba (yes, there is such a place) between Miles and Wandoan, the venue for their performances is the Miles Tourist Bus Stop where four buses stop each Friday and the two hour show gets under way with sometimes an added 'skit' thrown in.

Busking is the main stay financially and the group finds the tourists to be very generous.

Many of the visitors are from overseas and find it almost unbelievable to come across such a group and, not having seen anything like it in their lives, naturally enough, have to record the show with their video cameras.

Three of the group, 'The Condamine Kid', 'Banjo' Maloney and 'The Wattle Bender' (Ray Wright) competed at the Waltzing Matilda Festival in Winton in June 2004 and were most impressed with their first outing away from home.

If you happen across some bush poets wearing red jackets, be assured they come from the Miles Poetry Group in Queensland.

*Frank Daniel*

Don't forget to logon to



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



## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 12-13 Luddenham Poets Breakfast Details on Page 15  
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 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 12-13 **VIC CHAMPIONSHIPS BENALLA** Snowy Mountains Details Page 6  
Mar 17 **NARRANDERA** NSW John O'Brien Fest. & Comp www.johnobrien.com.au Ph. 1800 672 39 Page 11  
Mar 23-24 - Junior Bush Poetry Festival **WINTON** Ph 07 4657 1296 bushwookatook@bigpond.com Details P. 3  
Mar 27 **NAMBUCCA HEADS** Bowling Club 'Meet the Ladies' Bekky 8am Ph. 02 6568 5269 or 02 6568 7069  
Mar 31 Closing Date **BRONZE SWAGMAN** Written Verse PO Box 120 Winton. Qld. 4735. Page 3  
Mar 31-Apr 3 **CORRYONG** 10th Anniversary MFSR Festival - Jan 0260761992 www.bushfestival.com (p. 15)  
Apr 1 - Closing date **KATHERINE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER** Written Comp  
Apr 2 **DUNEDOO**. Great Dunny Classic. 02 6375 1975 More next issue  
Apr 26-28 **CHARTERS TOWERS** 2005 National ABPA Championships Page 13  
Feb 20-27 **NORFOLK ISLAND** Poetry in the Park Ph. 1800 140 066 or rebecca@travelcentre.nf  
May 1 **KATHERINE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER** P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld, 4670 Page 13  
May 13-15 **YARRAWONGA / MULWALA** Murray Muster Festival contact details Page 5  
May 26-29 **CASINO Beef Week** Poets Breakfast and Competition Phone Ray 02 6644 8285 - Page 14  
May 28 Closing date **BUSH LANTERN AWARD** for Written Verse 2005 Bundaberg Poets Society - Page 6  
June 30 Closing date **BOREE LOG** (page 7)  
July 1-3 **BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER** ph Sandy & John 07 41514631; Other contacts and info Page 6  
July 29-31 **MAREEBA FNQ** Bush Poetry Festival phone 07 4159 1868 or email thegrey@tpg.com.au Page 13  
Aug 5-7 **MURRAY BRIDGE** Stumpy Awards SA State Bush Poetry titles email stumpy@lm.net.au Page 5  
Sept 10-18 **WINTON** Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival Page 3  
Oct 7-9 **NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005 DORRIGO** ph. Murray 02-66572139

Since 1995 we've celebrated Banjo's famous poem with the real scenery and dinki-di bush folk putting on a unique show of the 'Challenge' horse competition (\$15,000 prizes) and displays.

Corryong is a lovely little town and everyone is very friendly. Don't take my word - ask Matt Hollis, Greg North, Terry Regan, Rod Williams, Milton Taylor, Aitch, Barry Lake, Carol Reffold or Molly Sparks, some of our winning poets.

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

The Poetry and Music program keeps to the Aussie 'Bush' theme. \$4000 prize money is offered

## **MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL**

*Corryong - Where Legends Perform!*

Thursday 31st to Sunday 3rd April, 2005

across 14 sections of written & performed poetry, song, yarn, drama - closing end of Feb, but there's walkups or busking for poets & musos at Banjo's Block, pubs and cafes as well.

You don't have to attend - Written Serious and Humourous sections available.

Poetry & Music Entry forms have been posted to those on our database

To be added to that database, phone the Festival Office, 0260761992 or email

mfsrbf@corryongcec.net.au or log on to www.bushfestival.com

Jan Lewis.



*Harold Briggs hands his 2003 Jack Riley Heritage award to his mate Matt Hollis, 2004 winner.*

(Jack Riley award is for Song, Poem, Yarn or Skit which must be about "The Man", The Poem, Jack Riley, or the Snowy Mountains/Upper Murray).

# BEAU'Y BUSH BARDS BEAUT BASH

The poetry writing workshop held in Beaudesert on Sat. 29th Jan. was an outstanding success. While outside temperatures soared, twenty-nine people learnt and laughed in air-conditioned comfort.

Champion poet and excellent teacher, Glenny Palmer was engaged to share her extensive knowledge of the craftsmanship required to produce quality poetry.

Her students ranged from very beginners to others who compete regularly in poetry writing competitions. They also ranged in age from high-school students to Senior Citizens.

Glenny has the ability to explain the intricacies of poetry in a very entertaining way.

She kept them all enthralled – so much so that there was oodles of tea, coffee and biscuits left over. They just did not want to take the anticipated 'tea breaks'.

Although most of the participants were Beauty Shire residents, two came from the Gold Coast (Jeff the Poet and Mandy) and two (Anita and Suzanne) from the North Pine Poets group. All enjoyed their company.

Because of a grant from the Regional Arts Development Fund, the cost of the course was kept to a minimum and the BBB's thank Arts Queensland and the Beaudesert Shire Council for this support.

They also thank the members of the ABPA and others who helped publicize the event and wished us well. Many poets from other groups have offered supported throughout the sixteen months that the BBB's have existed and for this they are very grateful. They feel that their infant group is up and running!!!!!!!

They plan to hold a Performance Workshop in the near future. The BBB's invite anyone interested in



Glenny Palmer

Bush Poetry to join their group. Details can be obtained by telephoning Betty on 5541 2664 or Pamela on 5541 2662 or e.mail [email]pamelafox@bigpond.com[ /email].

Happy writing and performing to all engaged in the promotion of our Australian Heritage especially through Bush Poetry.

*Pamela Fox  
for the Beaudesert Bush Bards.*

## Glenny

*Written by Jim Hasson after attending the Beaudesert Bards Bush-poetry Workshop conducted by Glenny Palmer on 29th January 05*

She is the kind of lady, that could make a lamp post laugh  
Her tongue can move so swiftly yet she never makes a gaff  
She can tell so many stories with artistic flair complete  
And all respect and love her, from her head down to her feet  
When it comes to recitations, her work is never ever dull  
And she entertains an audience without assistance from a bull  
Over miles or kilometre's there is mirth where she has been  
She has them laughing in the isles, when she tells about her dream

In her dream she has a husband, who is a shining knight  
Who knows he is always wrong, and she is always right  
He makes no protestations, when she goes off to work  
As far away as Timbuktu, or even west of Bourke  
He never interrupt's her, when she is searching for a line  
He is tall and broad and robust, and that just suits her fine  
At all things he is world class, but still remains true blue  
And just to keep her happy, there is nothing he won't do

Glenny well deserves her dream, or maybe even two  
But I hope they do not get mixed up, or there will be a blue  
Just imagine how they would fight, just to save her honour  
A battle raging day and night, till one of them's a goner  
There'd be a queue for T.V, rights going to the winner  
So they could sell some more soap, or try to make you thinner  
Keep on dreaming Glenny and put your dreams in print  
When you get a book full I am sure you'll make a mint

## Poet's Profile

### Proud to become an Aussie

**James Joseph Hasson** was born in Ireland in 1925. He moved to England in 1942 and married Edith, who hails from Manchester, in 1943

He served in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm during WWII, later migrating to Australia in 1951 where he worked with earth moving machinery before moving on to Power Stations and Oil Refineries.

Jim started his own engineering business in 1967 becoming well established. He was advised by his doctor to take it easy but the doctor had made a big mistake, Jim had just bought a house and five hundred acres 'to get away from it all'. and so became a sheep farmer. It was a new life and he still misses it today.

Jim says that Politicians who say Austra-

*(Continued on page 19)*

Thurs. & Sat. night  
**BUSH CONCERT**  
by Geoffrey Graham

## YARRAWONGA/MULWALA

Murray Muster Festival 2005  
AUSTRALIAN SONG, YARNS & BUSH POETRY  
13th - 15th May 2005 at Mulwala Services Club.

Total Prize Pool  
**Over \$3000**

**CHAMPION**  
**JILLAROO & JACKAROO**  
Total Prize Pool Approx \$650 each  
Perpetual Trophies  
Highest aggregate wins.  
No finals.

**CLOSING DATE**  
Performance Fri 29 April  
Written Fri 1 April

**JUDGES:-** Carol Reffold,  
Graeme Johnston,  
Geoffrey Graham  
+ other TBA

Enquiries Entry Forms etc  
(03) 5744 2331  
[marketing@mulwalaservices.com.au](mailto:marketing@mulwalaservices.com.au)

- ☞ YARN SPINNING (Prize Pool \$500)
- ☞ TRADITIONAL POEM
- ☞ ORIGINAL SONG
- ☞ ORIGINAL POEM
- ☞ "MURRAY MUSTERER" Any Bush Poem, song, yarn, or, act  
(Some relevance to stock, land, or, Murray River)
- ☞ OTHER SONG - (or bush music)
- ☞ AUST. BUSH COMEDY Bush poem, song, yarn, or, act
- ☞ NOVICE (any bush poem)
- ☞ JUNIORS (UNDER 18 YRS) May enter any sections from 1 to 8.
- ☞ WRITTEN OPEN (OWN WORK) Entry \$5.00
- ☞ JUNIOR WRITTEN - Primary School & Secondary (OWN WORK)  
FREE ENTRY Prize Pool \$50 each section
- ☞ One Minute Poem \$100 1st. Draw for topic from Friday evening on.  
Entry \$2.00 Poems to be performed after Novice on Sunday.

Conducted by:-  
Mulwala Services Club PO Box 19 Mulwala NSW 2647

(Continued from page 18)

Citizen over 30 years ago" boasts Jim. "I have tried to write poetry since I was a teenager and I'm still willing to learn."

On Saturday 29th January Jim attended a work shop with a good number of poets in Beaudesert (Q) not far from where Glenny Palmer lives.

"We got more than an education

from Glenny" he says, "we got inspiration. I wasn't feeling too well that morning but came away feeling I had met some wonderful people and felt a lot better."

As Jim says, 'it's hard to put a lifetime into a sentence' but we are

grateful that he bothered to share this much with us at bushpoetry.com.au and allowed us to pass it on to our members.

Goodonya Jim.

Frank Daniel



Jim Hasson

First prize \$200  
plus trophy and  
certificate

### The 2005 Eastwood/Hills Boree Log Award for Bush Verse

Ballad to be in perfect rhyme and metre, max. 80 lines.  
Australian Bush Theme.

Entry fee - \$5 per entry.

**Closing date 30th June, 2004.**

No entry form required, however, separate sheet stating name, address and phone number of entrant, together with title of poem must be included.

Results published in The Australian Bush Poets Ass. Newsletter and Writers' Voice.

Max. 3 entries  
per entrant.

Entries To:  
Comp. Sec.  
Eastwood/Hills F.A.W.,  
P/O Box, 4663,  
North Rocks 2151. Tel. 96718470.

No name to appear on the manuscript.  
Entries to be in English, original work  
of the entrant and not to have won a  
cash prize in any other competition

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## BUSH POETS BREAKFAST

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