

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 No. 3

June - July 2005



## 2005 ABPA AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS

### MELANIE HALL & RON LIEKEFETT

#### CHARTERS TOWERS

April 2005 will be a memorable occasion for the Gold City Bush Poets, visiting poets and the general community for three great days of tense competition for the National Titles of the Australian Bush Poets Association.

Many of the "best of the best" poets ventured to the deep north of Queensland's historical mining city of Charters Towers, some for the first time, to accept the challenge in competition and a share of the \$8000 in prizes.

While the open division attracted most attention, a team of a dozen juniors were impressive, and a few showing a 'touch of class' for future years.

The 2005 event actually commenced on the Sunday evening 24th with a well attended "Around the Boree Log" - a meet and greet with walk-up poets and a hearty barbecue at the Charters Towers Tourist Park.

Monday being Anzac day, saw several poets taking part in the annual march in the morning, and entertaining at the RSL, concert that evening.

Day-1, Tuesday, the competition became a reality at the 650-seat air conditioned World Theatre from 9.00am following the local federal member, Bob Katter MP performing the official opening at 8.30am.

Wednesday and Thursday were also taken up with competition, three sessions each day, with presentations ending the final day.

Of the four championship categories (Classical, Modern/Traditional, Humorous and Original) the defending title holders, Milton Taylor and Melanie Hall were out to repeat their claim to fame at Perth last November. However, others with high ranking issued a strong challenge with ladies such as Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong NSW, and local Jean Lindley trying their best to unseat Melanie. But the champ was adequately prepared, in winning three sections and 2nd in the other to retain the national Title for a 2nd term with a margin of 99 points.

Melanie of Townsville and runner up Jean Lindley of Charters Towers make North Queensland very proud.

Whilst Milton Taylor may have been the favourite to clinch another title, other contenders for the "Crown" made the pressure tougher than ever, with blokes like Dean Trevaskis of West Chermiside Q, Ron Liekefett Lawton, Q, and Dean Collins of Bundaberg Q out unseat the unbeatable.

Milton went into the Original Humorous set to hold his Title but a slight error made a difference and he was runner up to Ron Liekefett 43 points in front.

Hence another chapter in bush poetry championships ended, with all participants lauding accolade upon Gold City Bush Poets for a well organised and smooth running event.

One must not neglect to mention the efforts of both junior and novice poets. The Collins family, Amy, Laura and Matthew, of Bundaberg who dominated the juniors with some impressive performances.

Townsville's Ashley Walmsley and Eileen Flynn could be said to be the better 'novices' with Ashley taking himself into the open now with two wins.

For those attending, the highlight of entertainment came from the Concert Spectacular held on the Wednesday night attracting almost 500 patrons. Performing were Ray Essery, Shirley Friend, John Major, Noel Stallard and John Best. Many judged it to be best entertainment seen in Charters Towers for a long time.

To complete the 2005 promotion it was fitting to end with a "Breakfast with the Poets" that were still in Charters on the Friday morning.

The committee of the Gold City Bush Poets, after lot of planning can justly say ---

MISSION COMPLETE.

More results Page 6.

*Harold Jackson  
President Gold City Bush Poets*

## **The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**

(Established 1994)

ABN: INC 9877413

ARBN 104 032 126

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

Email: [abpa@bushpoetry.com.au](mailto:abpa@bushpoetry.com.au)

**President:** Frank Daniel

P.O. Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804

Ph.02 6344 1477 Fax. 6344 1962

Email: [bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au](mailto:bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au)

**Vice President:** Milton Taylor

**Secretary:** Ed Parmenter

1 Avenue St Coffs Harbour 2450

Ph/fax. 02 6652 3716

Email: [edandmarg@hotmail.net.au](mailto:edandmarg@hotmail.net.au)

**Treasurer:** Marie Smith

PO Box 403 Dorrigo NSW 2453

Ph. 02 6657 2139

**Editor:** Leanne Jeacocke

PO Box 96 Thangool Qld. 4716

Email: [jarby@cqnet.com.au](mailto:jarby@cqnet.com.au)

Ph 07 4995 8407

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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.

## **From the Editor**

Computers are wonderful things  
... when they work. However our rou-  
tine can be thrown into utter chaos  
when they don't. This issue of the  
ABPA newsletter has been plagued by  
uncooperative computers and this is  
partly the reason it is a little later than  
usual. Also due to similar problems  
there is no president's report from  
Frank so I will do what I can to fill the  
space.



When I first took on the task of Editor I was a little apprehen-  
sive, knowing that I had been involved with poets and poetry only a  
short time. I felt my computer skills should be adequate to produce the  
newsletter and agreed to take on the job for two years and produce 12  
issues. I expected the part of "reporter" or "journalist" would be placed  
in the hands of members and all I would have to do would be to arrange  
the layout.

This is now my eighth issue and in general I've been pleased  
with my efforts, and greatly value all I have learned along the way. I  
have found that probably the most difficult part of the task has been  
getting the stories and photographs to fill the pages. Many of the event  
organisers are always prompt with write-ups and immediately after  
their show send well drafted stories, photographs and winning entries.  
Unfortunately many others seem to think that once their event is over  
it's time to relax or get into planning their next event and fail to inform  
the ABPA of how it all turned out. Please, if you are in a club or on a  
committee that is organising a poetry event, make sure someone has  
been nominated to write a story and send winning written entries and  
photographs either to the President or Editor for inclusion in the next  
newsletter.

But it's not all about the events and poems. If you have an inter-  
esting story, perhaps about a poet from the past or a funny yarn your  
grandfather told you when you were a kid, send it along. It would be  
great if in the last days before I take an issue to the printers I had to  
make the decision "which of these articles can I put aside for a future  
issue?" rather than wracking my brain and surfing the internet for a sto-  
ries and graphics to fill the empty spaces.

Although with each issue I have gained skills and confidence, I  
still feel that I would like to hand over the reins to someone else next  
year and perhaps take it on again a few years down the track. I would  
encourage anyone with at least moderate computer skills to consider  
taking on the task for a few years. It isn't really that difficult or time-  
consuming and Frank and I (along with other past editors and many  
others) will be close at hand with support.

During my time as editor I have received many words of en-  
couragement and support and for this I am very grateful. You are a  
fantastic mob and I really look forward to every opportunity to get to-  
gether. There may be more news coming up soon about an informal  
gathering, poets' breakfast and possible concert at my parents property  
near Tannum Sands, Qld in November this year.

Keep on writing, reciting and sending stuff in for the newsletter.

*Leanne Jeacocke*  
Editor

## 2005 MURRAY MUSTER at MULWALA

The package sent to poets was very enticing – a good program, well organised, clear and with attention to detail (even publishing judge's names). Consequently, it was well supported and an excellent festival. The inaugural Murray Muster Festival hosted by the Mulwala Services Club from 13 to 15 May was an outstanding success. Poets, songsters, musicians and yarn spinners swarmed upon Yarrowonga / Mulwala like a plague of locusts. Endorsing the innovative format, which included 2 song sections and 2 mixed sections. The variety of performances, in addition to many high quality traditional and contemporary poems, delighted audience and entrants alike.

Contestants came from 3 states. On Friday evening some very entertaining and creative yarns were spun for the \$500 prize money. Greg North had everyone in stitches, winning the Yarn Spinning with a very humorous "History of Mulwala". Betty Walton and Don Anderson were 2nd and 3rd.

Original Song, 1st Jill Meehan 2nd Peter Klein 3rd Jim Brown.

Saturday saw an incredible total of 71 performances, over 5 Sections. Not experienced before was, more poets contesting the Original Poem,

than the Traditional. Many poets entered the spirit of the Muster with seldom performed poems.

First up, the Traditional had them rolling in the aisles with 'The Pitcher Show'. 2nd was Greg North with another C.J. Dennis, 'The Silent Member' and 3rd went to Rick Raftis with 'The Ride of the Rebel'. Carol Heuchan's 'Pocket Size Edition' brought much emotion to judges and audience alike and won the Original Section from Col Milligans hilarious "Beer" with Don Anderson 3rd.

Other Song, which included the option of Bush Music, was won by Peter Klein, from Les James, who played a great medley of harmonica and guitar.

The Murray Musterer, where the item performed required relevance to stock, the land, or the Murray River produced some great songs, poems and short yarns due to the 6 minute time limit. With the multi talents of many performers, the audience did not know what to expect next!

Lisa Quast scored another win for the ladies, followed by Greg North and Don Anderson. Don's yarn 'The Farm Advisor' was a beauty. Any intending cockies present would now have second thoughts!

The Australian Bush Comedy – with option of a poem, song, yarn or act, was won by Barry Tiffen from Leeton, with a true blue rendition of 'The Thong', closely followed by Carol Heuchan who performed 'The Saga of Cecil'.

The Novice Poem drew 10 entrants. Alex Allitt took the honours with Jack O'Connor 2nd and Junior Todd Klein 3rd.

The One minute poem was won by Carol Heuchan.

Todd Klein, the only Junior to enter other performance sections received the Encouragement Award.

A total of 16 different performers shared the prize money which totalled over \$3,000 in cash and accommodation packages for next years Muster for each of the Champion Jillaroo and Jackaroo.

Geoffrey Graham's 'Man From Ironbark' show on Thursday evening was a sell out.

Graeme Johnson and Carol Reffold each MC'd a poets breakfast in fine style.

Entrants were keen to participate in a Bush Variety Concert, anchored by Geoffrey Graham on Saturday evening. The Concert was preceded by 'The Rhymer from Ryde' Graeme Johnson, launching his new CD 'Lager Laughs and Lies'. The concert drew a large audience, with many who had not witnessed any part of the competition, returning on Sunday.

The concert was closed with the outstanding duo of Ric Raftis singing 'The Band Played Waltzing Matilda' interspersed with Jim Brown reciting verses of 'Clancy of the Overflow'.

The Mulwala Services Club and the Murray Muster Festival Committee were delighted with the success of the Festival and wish to thank all who attended. They look forward to seeing more performers and followers of all genres at future Musters, which will be held annually, over the second weekend of May.

### Poetry in this Issue

- 6 - **CROSS COUNTRY JUMPING** - Kym Eitel  
Larrikin Award, Man From Snowy River Festival, 2005.
- 8 - **JUMP ON TWENTY-THREE** - Veronica Weal  
1st in ABPA National written poetry competition, 2005
- 12 - **A DROUGHT IDYLL** - George Essex Evans
- 14 - **CHARTERS TOWERS** - Dan O'Donnell
- 15 - **THE SAUCEPAN CUPBOARD** - Col Wilson
- 16 - **THE LAST RED GUM** - David Campbell  
1st in Mulwala Murray Muster Written Competition
- 19 - **MURRAY** - Carol Heuchan  
1st Mulwala One Minute Cup
- 20 - **DUSTY** - Roderick Williams
- 22 - **ROUGHING IT** - Ron Stevens  
1st in Katherine Country Music Muster written Comp

# SCONE

## Yarns Night During Horse Week

The local schools get behind poetry and Tuesday is Competition Day for kids. And the talent is awesome! Nick Pritchard, Clyde Vaughan and Stacey Ferris were outstanding. The Hunter Bush Poets Junior Performer of the Year went to Nick Pritchard.

Great atmosphere in the Royal Hotel and chockers by 6 o'clock! The overflow go to other rooms in the pub to watch on closed circuit TV. Unfortunately our usual compere, Blue the Shearer (Col Wilson) was unable to drive due to a (last min.) badly sprained ankle. Get well, Blue. The Hunter Bush Poets took the reins with Ron Brown the chief organiser and others sacrificing one section each to compere.

Gabby Colquhoun ran the Traditional which was won by Adrienne Casey. 2nd to Carol Heuchan and 3rd to Tim McLaughlin.

Carol compered the Contemporary which went to Greg Scott for "The Wingen Pub".

2nd to Ken Jones Third place in the Contemporary section was shared by "H" and Adrienne Casey.

"Aitch" took the reins for the Original and Carol Heuchan's "Tractor

Factor" was a popular win. Greg Scott was 2nd and 3rd to Gabby Colquhoun.

Margaret Finucane ably controlled the Yarn Spinning with Ken Jones and Carol Heuchan dead heating first and "Aitch" 3rd.

A fun night - Ken Jones stayed intact (In the throes of doing Neil McArthur's "Most Popular Bloke in the Bar" Ken had a massive heart



"Aitch"

attack last year.) When he took the stage though, the girls came out with Dr.'s coats and stethoscopes and irons to keep him going in case! Local doctor, Steve Sylvester who helped Ken through last year, documented his "Night out with Ken" telling an entertaining and poignant poem he wrote encouraging Ken to "keep on".

## Editors stuff up too

Apologies to "Skew Wiff" for omitting the last line of his poem "The Other Cheek" in the April-May issue of the ABPA. Astute poets may have guessed what it was to be but could you kindly pencil in the last line so that anyone browsing your issue doesn't miss out - "I'll send you down some more!!".

*Editor*

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



07 4995 8407



jarby@cqnet.com.au



Leanne Jeacocke

PO Box 96,

THANGOOL, Qld. 4716

# ❁ ❁ WANTED ❁ ❁

## AUSTRALIA'S FUNNIEST BUSH POEMS

Travel writer, author and publisher Ian Hamilton is currently travelling around Australia compiling the first of a series of high quality publications based on Bush Poetry

Established and emerging writers are encouraged to submit their funniest Bush Poems for inclusion.

All submissions would be greatly appreciated.

Pics/editorials of each writer will also be included.

Please contact Ian Hamilton

Phone: 0412048400

thehammies@bigpond.com

Ian Hamilton

PO Box 125

Suffolk Park

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**ABPA Inc. BADGE**

Have you got one on your hat or Lapel?

## Man From Snowy River Bush Festival ANZ Bush Poetry & Music Events

There were grumbles up 'round Corryong because we moved the Banjo's Block to set up next to Lions' Youth Hall down the street.

They called the old one 'Buskers' Point' with market stalls and music opposite the Info centre – a happy place to meet!

At Banjo's campfire there was yarning and playing up a storm, poets and singers competing thick and fast.

Some favourite performers and new blood in the mix made our 'Snowy' Festival even better than the last.



Greg North

WOW - it worked! Despite all the cold feet and worries – the poets and the poet followers voted the Poetry and Music at the Man from Snowy River Festival (held on 17th April, 2005) the best in Australia! Sponsored by the ANZ Bank, many of Australia's favourite poets, yarn-spinners and songwriters pitted their talents against a handful of keen locals and newcomers in 14 sections of competition in the Bush Poetry & Music events at the 10th Anniversary Man From Snowy River Bush Festival.

Our local performers were forces to be reckoned with. Local legend Betty Walton won the Jack Riley Heritage Award and the female 'Matilda' award, while Trevor Best's win was for Original Song, and members of Corryong Regional Amateur Performers (CRAP!) collected a number of awards.

Banjo's MFSR poem recital results were a repeat of 2004 - Greg North (this time with a traditional rendition) and Rod Williams as runner-up. Don Anderson's triumphant return won him the male Clancy's Choice award.

Featured guests and judges were Frank Daniel, President of ABPA,

Geoffrey W. Graham (the Banjo), SA songwriter Ian McDowell & daughter Bridget, musician Tracey Harris, singer Sue-Ellen White, Sydney entertainer Margaret Bradford, Graeme Johnson (the Rhymer from Ryde), Poet/Playwright Len Kenna, Patchwork Poet Carol Reffold, Jill Winnett, along with locals Dave Scott and Bob Kaighin.

The popular Banjo's Block with Maurie Foun's great bush stage was built next to the Lion's Youth Hall with plenty of car parking. This saw free flow of audience between the Youth Hall and Banjo's Block campfire, especially when it rained on Sunday - such a scramble to get trophies and people inside quickly! The Simpson family's amazing bush hospitality kept the campfire entertainment buzzing.

The 'cloudy sky' (wedding décor) added romance to the atmosphere in the hall, helped by greenery, the spectacular MFSR community quilt and Carol Reffold's artistic direction.

Busking along the main street, concerts in the park, performances in restaurants, clubs and hotels by performers brought the town to life, and the farewell at Colac Colac Caravan Park on Sunday night with more than a hundred people rounded off an excellent weekend.

Thank you to all sponsors and trophy-makers, and everyone else who helped in any way at all – it couldn't happen without you.

If you are inspired, please join a Bush Poetry group to hone your writing and performance skills and join us for the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival 2006!

Jan Lewis

[poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au](mailto:poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au)

## BERRY POETRY DAY

Friday the 1st of April saw the township of Berry hold its now annual "Poetry Day" and what a day it was!

Thirty eight school children from Berry Public School and Nowra Anglican College, together with a sprinkling of adults, performed original and traditional poetry at the historic Berry Court House in what proved to be an extremely close competition.

Judges for the day: local poet Irene Wilkie and guest poet Vic Jefferies were hard pressed to determine the winners of each section and were both greatly impressed with the quality of the original work and the standard of presentation.

They were also very pleased to hear among poems by Mary Gilmore; Bruce Dawe and Banjo Paterson a selection of "Blue The Shearer's; Glenny Palmer's; Philip Rush's and Bob Magor's works.

The day which is organised by volunteers to assist with the restoration and maintenance of the very beautiful Berry Court House concluded with a dinner in the Berry Hotel where Vic Jefferies performed and was ably supported by local poets: Rick Gainford; Dawn de Ramirez and Tony Byrne.

A great day and a wonderful opportunity to see and hear the next generation of extremely talented young poets.

Vic Jefferies.



Rod Williams

## ABPA National Titles

### COMPETITION RESULTS

Section u/12 Serious—1st Amy Collins, 2nd Laura Collins & 3rd Kate Cusack

Section u/12 Humerous—1st Tom Vinson, 2nd Kate Cusack & 3rd Laura Collins

Section 12 to 18 Serious—1st Matthew Collins

Section 12 to 18 Humerous—1st Matthew Collins & 2nd Susan Peterson

Section 12 to 18 Original—1st Matthew Collins & 2nd Scott Alford

Classical Novice—1st Ashley Walmsley, 2nd Eileen Flynn & 3rd Val Dart

Section Moder/Traditional Novice—1st Eileen Flynn, 2nd Val Dart & 3rd Jill Perren

Section Original Novice—1st Ashley Walmsley, 2nd Jim Cosgrove & 3rd Jill Perren

Open Male Classical—1st Ron Liekefett, 2nd Milton Taylor, 3rd Barry J Ellem & 4th Dean Collins

Open Female Classical—1st Jean Lindley, 2nd Melanie Hall, 3rd Anita Reed & 4th Carol Heuchan

Open Male Modern/Traditional—1st Dean Trevakis, 2nd Ron Liekefett, 3rd Milton Taylor & 4th Dean Collins

Open Female Modern/Traditional—1st Melanie Hall, 2nd Carol Heuchan, 3rd Lean Lindley & 4th Carmel Lloyd

Male Original Serious—1st Milton Taylor, 2nd Dean Collins, 3rd Ron Liekefett & 4th John Lloyd

Open Female Original Serious—1st Melanie Hall, 2nd Carol Heuchan, 3rd Jean Lindley & 4th Laree Chapman

Open Male Original Humerous—1st Dean Collins, 2nd Ron Liekefett, 3rd Jim Tonkin & 4th Tom Oliver

Open Female Original Humerous—1st Melanie Hall, 2nd Carol Heuchan, 3rd Laree Chapman & 4th Jan Facey

Open Yarnspinning—1st Melanie Hall, 2nd Dean Collins, 3rd John Lloyd & 4th Milton Taylor

Poets One Minute Brawl—Cay Fletcher

1st, Larrikin Award (Humorous Written Section), Man From Snowy River Festival, Corryong, 2005.

### Cross Country Jumping

by Kym Eitel

I take my kids to Pony Club, and Jumping all the time.  
I used to love cross country jumps, but now I'm past my prime.  
Then one day Kristy said to me, "Hey Mum, go for a ride!"  
I hadn't jumped for twenty years! I shivered deep inside.

With age comes wisdom, aches and pains (and also paranoia),  
I said, "Nuh-uh, no thanks, no way!" and then to just annoy 'er,  
"I spent up all my cash on you, I can't afford a horse!"  
She quickly offered Outlaw-Man, "He loves to jump this course!"

My pride was on the chopping block. She'd think that I was chicken  
if I didn't climb aboard that horse (my eyelid started flickin').  
I led him to the loading ramp, and pushed him in real close,  
then from the ramp – a mighty leap, then bid Earth "Adios!"

I scrambled on my chestnut mount, a feat all on its own!  
Poor Outlaw sank, and swayed a bit, and then began to groan.  
Those scary jumps looked smaller then, from six feet in the air,  
I tried to not look sickly, as I challenged Kristy's dare.

Then full of phoney confidence, I took those big jumps on -  
yes, three long k's of scrub and logs – a jumping marathon.  
We somehow cleared the Welcome log, the Tricky Timbaktu,  
the Ski Ramp and the Sunken Road, and then the Shark's Tooth too.

As we approached the Wagon Wheel, I thought, I'm gunna die!  
I felt old Outlaw gather strength, and then I felt him fly.  
The Wagon Wheel is so ... so ... high, I almost blew a fuse  
when past my eyeballs flew a flock of screeching cockatoos!

Atop my equine ferris wheel, I saw some friends below,  
I yelled out "Help me please!" but they all waved, and called "Hello!"  
I rode just like a yoyo which was swinging in mid-air -  
my bum hit saddle each fourth step, but Outlaw didn't care.

The reins went flying overhead, I lost all brakes and steering.  
He gathered speed, and then I heard – the bloody crowd was cheering!  
We jumped Helsinki, Lumber Yard, we cleared the Solitaire.  
The Coffin was around the bend (but why were Ambo's there?)

Then just for fun (so Outlaw thought), we jumped the Ambo's van.  
The crowd thought that hilarious, when both the medics ran.  
I must have landed backwards, as his mane had turned to tail,  
and when I tried to grab the hair, I jabbed him with my nail.

I guess it poked him "you-know-where" – a part that's rarely seen.  
Poor Outlaw freaked and bucked like he was on a trampoline!  
Yes, miracles do happen, and I landed right way round.  
I saw my stirrups flapping free, so I looked down and found –  
my feet had crawled and lodged themselves inside the horse's girth!  
I caught a glimpse of Kristy's face, contorted with sheer mirth.  
I tried to free my shaking feet and quickly disembark,  
but then I saw the water jump, called aptly, "Noah's Ark".

My feet were stuck! If Outlaw rolled, I knew I'd bloody drown!  
My heart rate rose, and tears welled up, then something trickled down.  
My johds were wet. My saddle too. I must have sprung a leak!  
But never mind, a quick disguise was water from the creek.

My trusty gelding pawed to roll, I whacked him on the rump -  
he got a fright and leaped straight up, and cleared the water jump.  
The Steps were next, carved in the hill that's known as Sally's Fright.  
So, JUMP stride, JUMP stride, JUMP stride, JUMP, and then a real sharp RIGHT!

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

The other side of Sally's Fright – the Blind-Man's Bluff's a thrill - a nasty jump you can't see past, while jumping DOWN the hill. I screamed a scream of painful pitch – I think I scared the crowd. (Yeah, Tarzan would be pleased to make a bellow quite so loud!)

The scream, it echoed through the hills – a whistling steam-train freighter, and echoes were still calling as I rode past two jumps later. Old Outlaw knew the whole damned course, and took me for a ride. No stirrups, reins or voice box left, I felt a rush of pride.

A dismal equitation ride, but still my ride to fame, we galloped to the finish, through the wooden Picture Frame. I don't know which was bigger, all my bruises or my grin, but getting off was quite a task – rigor mortis had set in.

Guess what? I won a sash for first! I never thought I'd win it! Now don't go telling Kristy this, but ... no-one else was in it!

## ORACLES OF THE BUSH TENTERFIELD

Although entering the poetry, from a competitor's point of view, is a little hard to follow, Tenterfield really gets behind this festival with great prizemoney and terrific promotion.

It's standing room only at all the breakfasts as the performing judges earn their keep giving great entertainment. The heats, also to capacity crowds, are held in "Pete's Barn" an authentically reproduced 'shed' with the best possible atmosphere for Bush Poetry.

The final, booked out weeks ahead, literally bulges with audience.

Paddy O'Brien gave a great performance to win the Traditional but the big one, the Original, went to Carol Heuchan with her very moving "Pocket Size Edition" The prize was \$1,000 and a beautiful wall clock made from a piece of cork from the largest cork tree in Australia, which of course grows in Tenterfield.

President of the Oracles committee Phil Ainsworth said the weekend saw the largest crowds ever at the Oracles with large numbers turning up at all venues.

The local and visiting poets enjoyed Garry Fogarty sometimes called Queensland's best kept secret returning for the fifth time.

Noel Stallard - who has a strong belief that, if we want to know where we are and where we are going, then we need to know who

we are and where we come from. Thus the importance of our traditional Bush Poetry being handed

down.

Bob Magor - Bob says he began writing Bush Verse in the late 1980's after a personality clash with his dairy cows. He spends about half the year on the road and the other half breeding sheep and cattle at Myponga, a little "blink and miss" town on the south coast below Adelaide.

John Best describes himself as a late comer to Bush Poetry. He re-



Paddy O'Brien

cently won the Waltzing Matilda Competition at Winton culminating in a trip and performances in the U.S.

Other results of the competitions include the Humorous Written Section which was won by Trevor Shaw with 'Rev Head Butch'.

The Written, with a theme

## "EKKA" BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

AT  
BRISBANE EXHIBITION

ON SAT 13TH AUGUST  
9.00am FOR 9.30am START

The "EKKA" Bush Poetry Competition is on again -

There are Three Categories

- ★ Traditional
- ★ Original
- ★ Novice

\$350.00 for top three Performers in the Open Category

\$150.00 for top two Performers in the Novice Category

A prize of \$200.00 will be awarded for the most Humorous Recital in any Category.

ENTRY FEE \$5.00 FOR EACH SECTION

CLOSING DATE - JULY 13th

Entry Forms available from  
TRISHA ANDERSON

113 Manson Rd. Hendra 4011  
PHONE/FAX (07) 3268 3624

email:

trisha.spencer@bigpond.com.au

(Please include a stamped, addressed envelope)

'Fighting Spirit' was a wonderful poem "Remember the Horses" by Kim Eitel with 2nd to Carol Heuchan's "Mark of Courage".

Performance of previously published work went to Paddy O'Brien. Junior Legend in the Secondary section was Catherine McCowen with 'Taming the Brumbie.' and Primary Jessica Tselepy for 'A Farmer's Work.'

Calvin Grogan (profiled on page 14) was also a winner with 'See Tenterfield.'

2005 Looming Legend was Carol Heuchan. Congratulations to Carol on her superb performances over the weekend.

# BIG WEEKEND FOR STANTHORPE in JULY

Bush Poetry will be big news in Stanthorpe again on 22nd and 23rd July in the heart of Brass Monkey Season.

Friday evening the 22nd will see the launch of Volume 1 of Jack Drake's new book "The Wild West in Australia and America" at the Stanthorpe Art Gallery. Jack's latest work is a two volume historical set that explores the early days of Australia compared to the much better publicised American frontier. The books are being published by Central Queensland University Press.

Bush Poetry will be well represented at the launch with guest appearances by Neil McArthur, Gary Fogarty and John Major. The launch itself will be performed by Queensland's Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Lawrence Springborg. Saturday the 23rd July gets off to a start with the final heats in "O'Mara's High Country Poets" Junior Performance competition followed by the finals of the primary and secondary school divisions. These comps are now in their seventh year.

The competition is open to all school students residing within 100 kms of Stanthorpe. Sponsored by O'Mara's Hotel, Granite Belt Tyre Service and the Stanthorpe Wine Centre, the contest is aimed at giving young people from the area a chance to gain an interest in Australian poetry and experience in public speaking. The Overall Champion trophy is kindly donated by the Stanthorpe chapter of the Ulysses Club. Saturday night in the Civic Centre sees the first Stanthorpe performance of the hilarious "Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry Show" of Tamworth fame. The Ratbag of Rhyme, Neil McArthur, The Millmerran Mongrel Gary Fogarty, John Major and Jack Drake will all be performing as well as Award winning muso and vocalist Mike Horswood from Chinchilla.

For more information call Jack Drake on 07 46837169.

## Winner of ABPA National written poetry competition 2005 JUMP ON TWENTY-THREE

© Veronica Weal

I motored down the highway in a mood of black despair.  
Behind lay home and duty, and ahead lay – anywhere.  
I thought of those I'd left behind, and pain began to burn.  
I'd sworn that I was gone for good, and never would return.

The wipers beat a rhythm as they swept away the rain.  
"It's over – over – over!" kept repeating in my brain.  
I'd nothing left to live for now that love and trust had died,  
Betrayed by sheer stupidity, intolerance and pride.

The headlights showed a massive gum tree looming up ahead.  
"Go on! Just put your foot down!" said a voice inside my head.  
So tempting! End this dreadful pain by driving way too fast!  
I wrestled grimly with the thought, and then the moment passed.

Ahead a glaring neon sign announced a small motel,  
And there I spent a restless night, immersed in private hell.  
Could I have purchased slumber, I'd have given all I had.  
I couldn't find oblivion. My thoughts near drove me mad!

The magpies' chorus roused me, and I cursed the slender throats  
That praised another morning with their pure melodic notes.  
My thoughts returned to haunt me. Any chance of sleep had gone.  
I shivered as I left the bed and pulled some clothing on.

I drew aside the curtains to reveal a perfect day.  
The sky was palest eggshell blue, a morning mist still lay  
Across a turquoise swimming pool – an unexpected sight.  
I opened up the double doors. The magpies all took flight.

The trees and bushes sparkled with their weight of morning dew.  
I knelt beside the swimming pool, and trailed my fingers through  
The tempting crystal water. It was cold as melted snow!  
I shivered as a sudden breeze drove ripples to and fro.

I sought the shelter of my room, and made a cup of tea.  
The beauty of another day held little charm for me.  
My thoughts were bleak. My tea, untouched, was quickly growing cool  
When two young kids came out to play around the swimming pool.

A girl whose age, perhaps, was six, a boy of maybe four  
Were playing on the patio, and both the children wore  
Their swimming togs and floaties, and I watched them, feeling old.  
The girl checked out the water and announced, "It's freezing cold!"

The boy was disappointed, and his freckled face looked sad.  
He knelt to test the water, then he said, "It's not too bad."  
"It is!" his sister argued, but he said, "Oh, Annie, please!"  
She shook her head and firmly said, "No, Ben. We're gonna freeze!"

He begged with her and pleaded, and refused to be ignored.  
Young Annie seemed devoted to a brother she adored.  
I glimpsed in her the woman she would one day grow to be –  
She took his hand and said, "All right. Let's jump on twenty-three."

Their voices rose in unison. I watched and wondered why  
The little girl decided on a number so darn high.  
To give her time to steel herself – or time to change her mind?  
I heard her slow the counting when Ben's voice got left behind.

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

With interest I sat and watched the small charade unfold.  
I knew for sure they wouldn't jump – the pool was way too cold!  
I felt a rising tension as the count rose steadily,  
And then they didn't hesitate – they jumped on twenty-three!

I couldn't help but smile to hear a wild, triumphant shout.  
The children splashed around a while before they both climbed out.  
They'd done it! And he hugged her as I sadly turned away  
From one small touching interlude. No reason now to stay.

I paid my bill and found my car. The road ahead seemed black.  
I had to keep on going – there could be no turning back.  
But as I sat inside the car, a vision stayed with me,  
And then a voice inside my head said, "Jump on twenty-three."

I thought about the courage that the girl and boy had shown.  
They'd overcome together what they couldn't face alone.  
I felt the grief and anger start to ease inside my mind –  
I turned, and slowly drove back home, unsure of what I'd find.

I knocked upon that well-known door. My knees were feeling weak,  
And then – her arms were round me, and her tears were on my cheek.  
Two children shouted, "Daddy!" and I kneeled to hold them tight,  
And then I knew for certain my decision had been right.

So that's the way it happened, how a marriage on the skids  
Was salvaged by the courage of two little Aussie kids.  
I told my wife the story, and she's made a pact with me.  
We face our troubles hand in hand – and jump on twenty-three.

## Drink Driving

One night, a police officer was stalking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible violations of the driving-under-the-influence laws. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb, and then tries his keys on five different cars before he found his. The fellow then sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, everyone left the bar and drove off.

Finally, he started his engine and began to pull away. The police officer was waiting for him. He stopped the driver, read him his rights and administered the Breathalyser test. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be.

The driver replied, "Tonight, I'm the designated decoy."

JULY  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2005

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

Across The Waves Sports Club

Miller Street,  
BUNDBERG

Special Guest Poets

**Glenny Palmer**

Noel Stallard

Presentation of  
**Bush Lantern  
Written Awards**  
Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>



### FREE Poetry Workshops:

In conjunction with the Muster weekend Milton Taylor will conduct a FREE children's story telling session and a poetry workshop at the library in the preceding week. Contact organizers for times.

**Performance Competition:**  
Open (men & women separate categories)  
Intermediate, Novice, Juniors,  
One Minute Dark & Stormy Cup  
& Yarn Spinning

**HUGE cash prizes  
and beautifully  
crafted trophies in  
all categories**



Competition enquiries SSAE to :

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.,  
PO Box 4281,  
South BUNDABERG. 4670



Ph. Sandy 07 41514631  
or Laree 07 41527409.

## NEW BREKKIE

The Coonamble (NSW) Streets Ahead Committee has set its sights on introducing bush poetry to the locals with a Workshop, a pub session and a bush poets Breakfast on the June Long Weekend to coincide with the Annual Coonamble Rodeo and Campdraft.

The committee has engaged the services of Carol Heuchan for the weekend. Carol will be a great ambassador for the ABPA with her expertise and performance skills. On the Friday afternoon she will hold a writing and performance workshop with the students at the local high school, encouraging some of them to join in the walk-ups at the Saturday morning's Breakfast.

This is a new venture, though with the late notice, we trust that those who are within the region might come along and give the event a huge boost.

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



## North Pine

### Gears up for QLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 19th-21st August, 2005

The Queensland State Championships with prize money in excess of \$3000 will get underway at the Country Music Hall at the North Pine Country Markets (half an hour north of Brisbane) with a Welcome Function from 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Friday 19 August, followed at 7 p.m. by the Junior Competition and

## C'MON WRITERS Get Started NOW!!

Writers of Australian Bush Poetry are wanted now. The organisers of this year's NSW Bush Poetry Championship are inviting writers of bush poetry from all States of the country to enter in the written section of the competition.

This is an "OPEN" competition and not restricted to those domiciled in NSW. There is also no restriction on the type of poem, so come on, let's have a good mix of both serious and humorous subject matter.

All entries will be appraised by two

then the Novice. The Junior Section will be non-competitive for 8 years and under, with competition sections for 9-12 years and 13-16 years.

The Open Competition on 20 and 21 August will be limited to 15 in each category so competitors are urged to get their entries in early. The One Minute Poem Competition will take place on Sunday.

Motel accommodation is available nearby and we usually have a happy band of campers right next to the hall.

See ad page 24 for more details or phone.....

Anita Reed (07) 3343 7392 or  
John Best (07) 3285 2845

competent adjudicators with an aggregation of their marks to decide the winners. Assessment sheets and comments will be returned to the authors along with their entries within two weeks of the announcement of results.

Good prize money is available with \$200 for the winning entry. Your entries are needed to make this a successful competition so contact the organizers now for your entry form and get those poems in by the closing date of 15th August.

The response to the Performance section of the competition has been robust, to say the least, and only a

limited number of places remain available. If you'd like to visit Dorrigo and enter the performance competition then the "good advice" is DON'T DELAY!!

Dorrigo is "geared up" and ready to turn on a memorable weekend of Bush Poetry on October 7th 8th and 9th. Come along for a festival of fun and the chance to enjoy the cream of NSW Bush Poetry performance.

Contact Murray Suckling, PO Box 403, Dorrigo, 2453. Ph 02 66572139 and become a competitor in this event to be held in the unique and beautiful part of Australia.

*Murray Suckling*

## ABPA SA State Championships 6th & 7th August 2005 Closing date extended to June 15th



**CLOSING DATE** for entries (written and performance) is extended to JUNE 15th 2005 for all classes except FREE-FORM written poetry, which must be received by JUNE 1ST.

There are new offerings to entice you to participate as an entrant and as an attendee. Details and entry forms/conditions are available on the stumpy website [www.lm.net.au/~stumpy/](http://www.lm.net.au/~stumpy/)

Cash prizes plus an expertly crafted Stumpy trophy to winners of written

& performance sections. Certificates will be issued to other highly commended entries.

All prizes will be presented at a Murray Bridge riverside concert on Sunday, 7th August 2005 (or forwarded if the recipient is not present).

Any queries may be directed to:  
Max Merckenschlager  
117 Murray Drive MURRAY  
BRIDGE SA 5253  
Or email at [stumpy@lm.net.au](mailto:stumpy@lm.net.au)

# More than words alone...

Winter is upon us and so is the hankering for warmer climes. What better way to shed the doldrums than by attending the annual Byron Bay Writers Festival? Spread across the lush seaside gardens of the Byron Bay Beach Resort, this ninth Festival will take place from 4th till 7th August. Be challenged, entertained, informed and enthralled.

The Byron Bay Writers Festival traditionally explores the big questions facing contemporary society and individuals. For the 2005 Festival, writers have been asked to consider moments of great change and significant decisions. Above all, the Festival celebrates the art of writing and its value to us all, against one of the most spectacular backdrops nature can provide.

Over one hundred writers will gather to share their ideas and perspectives. Jill Eddington, Festival Director, has captured some of the brightest stars, both familiar and emerging, of the Australian literary firmament. In her own words "With audiences from overseas and all over Australia, I am proud to say that this has become one of the most well attended and well-received

Writers Festivals in Australia. This is the festival to which writers request an invitation and I urge all readers to join us in Byron Bay for an extraordinary literary program."

Who can you expect to see? Celebrated Australian author Kate Grenville will participate in several panels and will also deliver the inaugural Thea Astley lecture. Kate won the Orange Prize in 2002 for *The Idea of Perfection* and her new novel, *The Secret River*, will be released in time for the Festival.

A Festival favourite is Booker Prize-winning Tom Keneally. Tom's conversation with Irena Dunn in which he reviews a lifetime of writing (over forty books and numerous screenplays) will be a Festival highlight. A helping of fun will be served up with the broadcaster and comedienne Wendy Harmer. Her first adult novel, *Farewell My Ovaries*, is already a best seller and Wendy herself has become the pin up girl for pre menopausal women. A must-see panel event is that in which Wendy and three contemporary writers examine *Sex: different approaches to an age old subject*. Who better to chair the discussion

than author and sexologist Gabrielle Morrissey?

Some of the most hotly contested seats of the Festival will be those for the forum in

which Wendy, Australia's king of satire John Clarke, television's irreverent John Safran and ABC's Guy Rundle combine in an event chaired by Radio National's Mick O'Regan. The topic? Comedy, script versus improvisation and what in today's political and social landscape tickles the funny bone. Bound to change the way you perceive the world!

Human rights and issues of fundamentalism spur many writers. Exiled Iranian playwright Shahin Shafaei will join with QC Julian Burnside, one of Australia's most respected and outspoken opponents of mandatory detention, to unravel *The Refugee Issue: social justice and change*. Julian is known to readers for his love and mastery of language as exemplified through his book *Word Watching* and is a passionate supporter of the rights of the refugee. This session has the potential to change lives.

Major writers to bump into include Matthew Reilly, Delia Falconer and Isobelle Carmody. Sonya Hartnett, Robert Drewe and Mandy Sayer. Peter Fitzsimons, Sally Neighbour and John Birmingham. And because writers love the Festival and its Byron Bay locale, Festival patrons have numerous opportunities to get up close and conversational with literary legends.

Plan your visit now: every year Festival organisers post "House Full" signs.

Australia's fastest growing literary Festival at Australia's breathtakingly beautiful beach resort. The Byron Bay Writers Festival 2005, 4th-7th August.

Early Bird prices for Three Day Passes are currently available and full program and tickets go on sale from June 9 at [www.byronbaywritersfestival.com](http://www.byronbaywritersfestival.com) or call 02 6685 6262

## FAR NORTH BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

29th - 31st July

The Mareeba Tropical Savannas and Wetlands

- Friday School Workshops
- Saturday Bush Poetry Workshop
- Saturday Night Concert
- Sunday Bush Poet's Breakfast
- Sunday Performance Competition
- Clancy of the Overflow Written Comp.

### Performance:

U12yrs - 12-17yrs -  
Local over 18yrs  
Open traditional  
Open Original

### Written:

U12yrs - 12-17yrs -  
Over 18yrs

Download Entry forms and programme from [www.mareebawetlands.com](http://www.mareebawetlands.com) or

Contact: The Co-ordinator

FAR NORTH BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

P.O. Box 8211

Bargara Qld 4670

Ph: 07 41591868

or email: [bushpoets@go.to](mailto:bushpoets@go.to)

## George Essex Evans (1863 - 1909)

George Essex Evans was born in London on 18th June 1863. His father, John Evans, Q.C., who was for five years a member of the House of Commons, died when George was only a few months old.

George attended school in Wales and in Jersey, and in April 1881, at the age of 17 he immigrated to Queensland. Settling in the rural City of Toowoomba, he gained some experience on the land before obtaining a position on the journal, "*Queenslander*". George spent most of his adult life within the Darling Downs, mixed extensively with the local people and became very involved in the cultural and political life of the regions' premier city. He entered the Public Service in 1888 and afterwards became District Registrar in Toowoomba.

His first volume, "*The Repentance of Magdalene Despar*", was published in 1891, and in 1892 and 1893 he was associated with J. T. Ryan in the production of an annual, "*The Antipodean*". In 1898 Evans published "*Loraine and Other Verses*", and in 1901 he won a prize of £50 for his "*Ode for Commonwealth Day*". He later published "*The Secret Key and Other Verses*", which included part of the Loraine volume.

Evans is best known for his verse, in particular "*Women of the West*", but in his time he was a respected man of letters who used his literary skills in many forms and in aid of different interests. In addition to the poetry he produced articles and short stories, wrote travel books for the Government Tourist and Intelligence Bureau and became one of the founding members of the Austral Association for the advancement of art, science, music and literature, which drew thousands of people to its annual festivals in Toowoomba. Evans edited the agricultural section of "*The Queenslander*", several issues of an illustrated journal, "*The Antipodean*" and his own weekly "*The Rag*".

He also wrote for the "*Darling Downs Gazette*" and the "*Toowoomba Chronicle*", and still found the time to write some plays for the Brisbane theatre. He married Mrs. Blanche Hopkins in 1899 and they had one son, Bowen.

During the last two years of his life he did much writing for the Queensland Government on the resources of northern areas of the state. There is a monument in Webb Park, Toowoomba, to Evans who died on November 10th, 1909 in Toowoomba and his grave may be found in the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. On his death, Alfred Deakin, one of his many political patrons, eulogized him in Federal Parliament as Australia's national poet. And until recently he was honoured by an annual pilgrimage held under the aus-



pices of the Toowoomba Ladies Literary Society.

An edition of his "*Collected Verse*" was published in 1928.

### A Drought Idyll George Essex Evans

It was the middle of the drought; the ground was hot and bare,  
You might search for grass with a microscope, but nary grass was there;  
The hay was done, the cornstalks gone, the trees were dying fast,  
The sun o'erhead was a curse in read and the wind was a furnace blast;  
The waterholes were sun-baked mud, the drays stood thick as bees  
Around the well, a mile away, amid the ringbarked trees.

McGinty left his pumpkin-pie and gazed upon the scene:  
His cows stood propped 'gainst tree and fence wherever they could lean;  
The horse he'd fixed with sapling forks had fallen down once more;  
The fleas were hopping joyfully on stockyard, path, and floor;  
The flies in thousands buzzed about before his waving hand;  
The hungry pigs squealed as he said, "Me own, me native land!"

"Queensland, me Mother! Ain't yer well?" he asked. "Come tell me how's --"  
"Dry up! Dry up!" yelled Mrs Mac, "Go out and feed the cows."  
"But where's the feed?" McGinty cried, "The sugarcane's all done --"  
It wasn't worth the bally freight we paid for it per ton.  
I'll get me little axe and go with Possum and the mare  
For 'arf a ton of apple-tree or a load of prickly-pear."

"The prickly-pear'll kill the cows unless yer bile it right,"  
Cried Mrs Mac, "and I don't mean to bile it all the night.  
They tell me fer a bob a bag the brewery will sell  
Their refuse stuff, like Simpson 'ad -- his cows is doin' well.  
Yer get the loan of Bampston's dray and borry Freney's nags,  
And fetch along a decent load, McGinty -- thirty bags.

McGinty borrowed Bampston's dray and hitched up Freney's nags  
And drove like blazes into town and fetched back thirty bags.  
The stuff was mellow, soft, and brown; and if you came too near  
It shed around a lovely scent till the air seemed full of beer,  
McGinty fetched each feedbox out and filled it to the brim,  
Then lit his pipe and fell asleep. That was the style of him.

(Continued on page 13)

## Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards

### Winton Outback Festival

September 14 – 18 2005

The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards in Winton has taken on an exciting new format for 2005 and the future. Due to the fact that Qantas sponsorship has been difficult to obtain, it has forced us to take a new direction. With new sponsorship, we can offer our contest-

ants prizes and trophies to the value of \$10,000 including our famous Bronze "Jolly Swagman" Statuette valued at over \$3000 each for the Male & Female winners.

We have now become a part of the famous Winton Outback Festival which draws huge crowds to Winton every two years. The Outback Festival is renowned for its fantastic action-packed 5 days of events, sponsored by some of the

"biggies" in the business! From typical Aussie events like broom throwing and crayfish racing to the hilarious unique Dunny Derby – it all happens at the Outback Festival.

And now our Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards will add some more entertainment to the Festival. All the entertainment and competitions will be held in the Beer Garden of the North Gregory Hotel, an excellent venue situated in the heart of town, where Banjo Paterson's Waltzing Matilda was first performed.

The Performance Competition categories have also taken on a new format. We still have the traditional section of Banjo Paterson (limited performances of any one poem), but now we have an Original Section and an Open Section (bonus points awarded for a poem from any of the Bronze Swagman Books of Verse). Points from all three categories will be added together to establish a winner in both Male and Female Sections. The Australian Yarnspinning Championships are still part of our Awards, and we have added in a One-Minute Poem section due to popular demand as well as a Junior Category.

The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards have been running since 1995 and we always have the best time – so join us at one of the biggest Festivals in Outback Queensland – lots of spectators, heaps of competition and loads of fun!

*(see advertisement on page 21 of this issue for more details)*

The cows, they lurched off fence and tree and staggered in to feed,  
The horses tottered after them -- old, feeble, and knock-kneed.  
But when they smelt that sacred stuff in boxes on the ground  
They smiled and neighed and lowed and twirled their hungry tails around.  
You would have walked a hundred miles or more to see and hear  
They way McGinty's stock attacked that stuff that smelt like beer...

"Wake up! Wake up! McGinty man! Wake up!" yelled Mrs Mac.  
She held a broom and every word was followed by a whack.  
McGinty had been dreaming hard that it was Judgement Day  
And he was drafted with the goats and being driven away;  
The Devil with a toasting fork was jabbing at his jaw,  
He rose and yelled and fled outside -- and this is what he saw:

The brindie cow, with spotted tail, was trying to climb a tree;  
The spotted cow, with brindled tail, to imitate a flea;  
Old Bally who had lost one horn engaged in combat stout  
With the Lincoln ram whose only eye McGinty had knocked out;  
With tails entwined, among the trees, went Bessie and Basil,  
Singing, "Goodbye, McGinty, we will come back with the milk,"

McGinty, trembling, viewed the scene in wonderment and funk,  
Then lifted up his voice and roared, "Mother, the cows is drunk!  
Look at that bloomin' heifer with 'er 'ead 'ung down the sty,  
Telling the sow she loves 'er but she some'ow can't tell why.  
Three of 'em snoring on their backs, the rest all on the loose --  
Ain't there no police in these parts when cows gets on the boose?"

McGinty viewed the orgy with a jealousy profound --  
Cows in various states of drunk were scattered all around;  
But most his rage was heightened by the conduct of the horse  
That stood and laughed, and laughed, and laughed -- and laughed without remorse -  
That horse so oft he'd lifted up and propped with logs and boughs  
Now leant against a tree and mocked McGinty and his cows.

"Bring soda-water, Mother," cried McGinty, "Bring a tub"  
(Forgetting that he lived about a league from any pub).  
"I swear by soda-water when the drink illumes my brow,  
And if it fixes up a man it ought to fix a cow."  
But as he spoke a boozy steer approached with speed intense  
And helped McGinty over to the safe side of the fence.

Regret and hate and envy held McGinty where he sat.  
"To think," he said, "these purple cows should have a time like that!  
For months I couldn't raise a drink -- it wasn't up to me;  
Yet every bally head of stock I've got is on the spree.  
This comes when you forget to keep a bottle on the shelf."  
Inspired, he rose and smote his brow and fetched a spoon and delf --  
"My word!" he said. "It's up to me to feed on this meself!"

There was an old swaggy walking down a dusty outback road. A cocky pulls up in an old beat-up Ute and says, "Would you like a lift mate?" The swaggy thinks for a minute and replies, "No way mate, you can open and close your own bloody gates."

## Bush Bards Rekindled PATERSON-LAWSON Tradition

'So you're back from up the country, Mister Lawson, where you went and you're cursing all the business in a bitter discon-

tent' ... these words were the opening reply

from Banjo Paterson to Henry Lawson's poem 'Borderland' and appeared in the Bulletin on the 23rd July 1892. A debate had been fuelled when Henry Lawson, after his return from the Bourke district had expressed his particular view of the outback ... how its sunbaked earth was gasping like a creature in its pain and ... the miles of thirsty gutters blocked with sand and choked with mud. Both men had different views of the outback and a serious of poems by both bards had a run in the then popular Bulletin newspaper. Though there was an ulterior motive on Lawson's part in initiating the debate, as he was always short of a bob and Archibald, Editor of the Bulletin, was paying a penny a line for the verse. It kept Lawson in drinking silver until Archibald cottoned on and put an end to it.

One hundred and thirteen years later the battle will continue when bush poets from all over the country will converge on the Mareeba Tropical Savanna Wetland Reserve on the 29th to the 31st of July this year to match their wits in verse against each other at the Inaugural Far North Bush Poetry Festival. Multi award winning and Bush Laureate finalists, Chris and Merv Webster alias, Chris and The Grey, have been invited by the Festival Committee to host this years gathering of the Bards.

Entries for both competitions and information on the Festival are available from The Co-ordinator, Far North Bush Poetry Festival, P.O. Box 8211, Bargara, Qld, 4670 or Far North Bush Poetry Festival, The Mareeba Wetland Foundation, PO Box 175, Mareeba, Qld 4880. You can also download them from the Internet by logging onto [www.mareebawetlands.com](http://www.mareebawetlands.com)

SEE YOU THERE.

### CHARTERS TOWERS, 24-29 April 2005

© Dan O'Donnell

"Spend ten days in the Towers!" the tourist brochures said and I booked six days at Charters with comfy room and bed to take part in a contest for ev'ry keen bush poet, and all the different sections there I planned to have a go at! The standard was exceptional and I ended in the pack - well, that's an over-statement - I was somewhere near the back - and with Judges Best and Stallard, Essary, Major, Friend, (the best in all Australia), I was stupid to attend.

From Sundee right thru' Fridee, I saw the Gold Citee and I have to tell you straightaway it left a mark on me for Charters is as Dinki-di as any place in OZ and brings to mind the heart and soul of a nation that once was: with a friendliness of spirit, a neighbourly harmony, a kind and gentle courtesy in ev'ry company, a smile of warmth and welcome, good-fellowship and trust, an absence of dark scowls and frowns, boastful bumming and bulldust.

On Anzac Day (the Mundee), the parade went up Gill Street, and blokes who really hate all wars were there to meet and greet their kindred spirits, all good men and first-class Dinki-di's and those of us who watched them march wiped moisture from our eyes. The parade was led by Bikies, all clad in jet-black leather (their special garb of honour) who always stick together and ride their growling Harleys no matter where they go: those blokes would stir up terror in the heart of any foe.

That night there was a concert at the Towers RSL and I bummed a lift with Richard and his good wife (Champion Mel) but grey hairs had their timeless way and I thought I'd head off early to practise all me lines of verse away from hurly-burly. Well, the road I took was not to town as I had boldly thought and I finished up completely lost, at Charters Towers Airport. A truck pulled up. A voice rang out: "Are you sure you're right, Old Mate? You're heading off to nowhere fast and it sure is very late!"

The truck was full of Bikies. They'd been knockin' back the grog but those battle-hardened warriors saw me as underdog: "We're goin' to the RSL before they close tonight and there you'll get a taxi, and at least you'll be all right!" Those black-clad leather Bikies whom we sent off overseas then treated with such cruel contempt as though they had disease were worried that I'd wander off again to get back home. [I wonder if they'd heard me as I said a bloody pome?]

"Now don't go wand'ring off again. We'll get you home, Old Mate. We'll put you in a taxi 'cause we'll be here till late!" They'd adopted this old bugger - bush poet, small and fat: "If you haven't got the fare, Old Man, we'll pass around the hat!"

## BLUE THE SHEARER

Blue the Shearer was once known as Col Wilson, Senior Public Servant, good husband, father and grandfather - respected citizen of the country town of Wellington, NSW.

Came the realisation that his poetry (so scorned by family and friends) was appreciated in other quarters. Blue was introduced to ABC Regional Radio, first in Orange, then Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and more recently, Canberra. He now has a weekly spot on these stations, where he waxes poetic about everything from prawn deveiners to politics, banks to bastardry, cross-eyed bulls to a cat named Josephine, and many other subjects you might care to mention.

### THE SAUCEPAN CUPBOARD

BLUE The Shearer (© Col Wilson) 11/2/05

There's a corner in our kitchen, a dark and sombre place,  
Where frying pans and saucepans disappear without a trace.  
I'm sure that goblins live there, maybe gremlins, I don't know,  
But that corner saucepan cupboard is a place I'm scared to go.

I used to think the cupboard underneath the sink was bad,  
Trying to find a dishcloth could nearly send me mad,  
But that corner saucepan cupboard, where the goblins dwell,  
Is, to a sensitive new-age guy, a sure foretaste of hell.

The frying pan I'm seeking's at the bottom of the pile,  
And as for finding saucepan lids --- Oh! It's O.K. for you to smile,  
But I'll bet somewhere in YOUR house, the goblin/gremlin clan  
Is setting up an ambush for the unsuspecting man.

It doesn't seem to matter with what care I pack them in,  
I open up the door and there's an avalanche of tin.  
I scream with fear and horror, as I leap out of the way,  
And think maybe Kentucky Fried should be the meal today.

That way, I wouldn't have to cook, use pot or frying pan.  
Kentucky Fried, or Fish and Chips, that seems a decent plan.  
But what about those pots and pans strewn around the floor?  
I pick them up, and throw them in, and try to close the door.

My darling says I'm paranoid. It could be that she's right,  
But I'll swear I hear those Goblins in the wee hours of the night,  
Working with their gremlin mates at sabotage, so when  
I open up that cupboard door, they all fall out again.

I know there's something in there. The cat is terrified,  
And won't go near the cupboard for fear of what's inside.  
Cats understand the occult. I explain this to my wife,  
She says she's never heard such stupid rubbish in her life.

If frying pans, and saucepans, and the other things in there,  
Were only made disposable, I wouldn't have a care.  
I'd do away with saucepan cupboards, make use of the space,  
The goblins then, might go away, to haunt some other place.

Now I don't want to scare you, but keep the kids away,  
From dark and sombre cupboards where the goblins like to play.  
If frying pans can disappear, so can little kids,  
To be held forever captive amongst those saucepan lids.

## FORSTER TUNCURRY

### BUSH POETRY EVENTS

The Midcoast Sundowners Bush Poets will be holding a *Dinner and Bush Poetry Concert* on Saturday 11th June at the Tuncurry Foster Sport Club in Beach Street, Tuncurry. Funds raised during the evening will assist with costs of a Junior Bush Poetry workshop which will be held in the coming months.

Feature poets Roderick Williams, Cay Fletcher, Gabby Colquhoun, and Reid Begg will be performing and will be joined by other guest poets throughout the evening, commencing at 6.30 pm. A two course dinner will be served at a cost of \$25.00 per head and bookings are essential so please ring the club on 02 6554 9270.

\*\*\*\*\*

A *Bush Poets Breakfast* will be held in the Forster Tuncurry Memorial Services Club in Strand Street, Forster on Sunday 18th September 2005 from 8 am. The program will, as usual, feature the presentation of awards and performances by the winners of the Great Lakes and Taree District Written Bush Poetry Competition for School Students. In addition local and visiting poets are invited to perform. A barbecue breakfast will be available for \$5.00.

This year a *One Minute Brawl* will be held as part of the morning's performances. Prize money will be as follows: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$30 and 3rd - \$20. Topic for the Brawl poem will be available by phone, one week prior, on Saturday 10th September between 9 am and 7 pm, from Reid Begg, 02 6554 9788. Entry is \$3.00.

Bookings for the One Minute Brawl, Breakfast, and other enquiries should be directed to Reid.

The Midcoast Sundowners Bush Poets wish to express their appreciation to this years event sponsors, Ware Building Pty. Ltd. of Tuncurry, Forster Tuncurry Memorial Services Club and Country Energy.

Submitted by  
Reid Begg, Tuncurry NSW.

# Easy Peezy!

It's looking like being a dead-easy task judging the bush poetry written and performance poetry this year, so far (including awarding the two state championships)! With only 3 weeks to the REVISED DEAD-LINE of June 15th, we have TWO South Australian entries in written bush poetry and ONE in the performance bush poetry. I remember about 45 years ago winning a State Lightweight Eights rowing championship by default, only having to row over the course in a comfortable time to take out the event. True, we were a very strong combination and hadn't been beaten that year. But it was a rather hollow victory. Is 2005 going to be the year we remember when a bush poet from SA only had to take the stage and perform to become the state champion for that year ... another row-over?

I look forward to more entries BEFORE JUNE 15TH!

PS: entries from other states are much healthier in bush and freeform poetry, and interstate and SA prose and bush song. Is there a message in there for bush poets from SA?

Comp Details Page 10.

*Cheers, Max*

## THE PROMISED LAND

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BUSH POETS RETREAT

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**Ph/Fax: 02 66551090**

[www.bellingen.com/crystalcreek](http://www.bellingen.com/crystalcreek)

David Campbell's winning poem from the Mulwala Murray Muster Written Competition.

### The Last Red Gum

© David Campbell – Beaumaris Vic. 2005

We are children of the river, the meander, and the creek,  
of the floodplain and the gully and the stream.  
We are symbols of a landscape once abundant and unique  
that now threatens to be no more than a dream.

We have known the hand of hunters as they shaped their swift canoe,  
when the sap was running early in the Spring,  
and we've watched the wiry stockmen as they're boiling up a brew  
while the pelicans greet sunrise on the wing.

We have listened in the evening to the thunder on the range  
that foretells to all the coming of the rain,  
with the air alive and crackling in the lull before the change...  
and the flood comes down the Murray to the plain.

We have stood here by the river since before the white man came,  
through the years of surging flood and searing drought,  
but our lives have all been altered, they can never be the same...  
with the levee-banks our future is in doubt.

It will only take a moment in the history of time  
and we'll reach that final point of no return.  
We'll be victims of a cancer, of a slow and silent crime,  
of the failure of mankind to look and learn.

Take a step into the future, to a bleak and barren place,  
where the floods are but a memory from the past,  
and there's nothing to be seen now but an empty, arid space  
as the mighty river red gums breathe their last.

For the water has long vanished as the dry leaves turn to dust,  
irrigation is the law that rules the land,  
and the Murray-Darling Basin has betrayed an ancient trust  
that the world of men could never understand.

At Mulwala and Chowilla there are remnants of our kind  
in a place where verdant floodplains used to be.  
Now a ghostly red gum graveyard is the only thing you'll find  
and a desert is the only sight you'll see.

In the Warrego and Paroo all the waterholes are dry  
and the billabongs and swamps have turned to sand,  
while the sun burns ever hotter in a blue, remorseless sky,  
and the drought grips all in cracked and withered hand.

It's the same down in the Coorong where the birds once lived and bred,  
for salinity keeps getting worse each year.

All the egrets and the ibis and the cormorants have fled,  
while the Murray cray and blackfish disappear.

We are dying, slowly dying, as the salt begins to rise,  
and erosion strips the land of all that's green.  
For the wind blasts all the topsoil in a dust storm through the skies,  
and the earth is left a carcass that's picked clean.

So we stand, me and my brothers, just the bones of ancient trees  
that have lined the riverbank since time began.  
In a bare and barren landscape, fed by red dust on the breeze,  
we've been ravaged by the careless hand of man.



## Start 'em Young

Eleven year old bush poet Calvin Grogan of Tenterfield has been performing bush poetry for approximately 4 years. He has won a number of poetry events including Junior Looming Legend at Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush in 2002, 2004 and again in 2005.

He has also taken out the written section for his age group at the Oracles of the Bush Festival for the past two year. One of Calvin's most coveted achievements has been winning the Lawson Bronze for Junior Poets at Stanthorpe in 2004.

Junior competition hasn't been the only field Calvin has taken out prizes in, he has taken out the Poes Brawl at the Oracles of the Bush the last two years. He won the Novice Performance Section at Beaudesert in 2003 and the Novice Encouragement Award at Stanthorpe High Country Bush Poets event in 2003.

Calvin has had no formal poetry training but has picked up skills in bush poetry performance from attending poets work shops.

Calvin puts his love of bush poetry down to spending time with his late grandfather who often told

Calvin poems and they would spend hours listening to Slim Dusty records together and some of their favourite songs were originally Will O'Gilvie poems.

Calvin performs works by contemporary poets such as Jack Drake, Don Lloyd and Bobby Miller, he also performs works of earlier poets such as Colleen McLaughlin and local poetry from the Tenterfield area.

In his spare time he enjoys helping out with the stock work on farm, horse riding, motor bike riding and fishing. He is a year six student at St Josephs School in Tenterfield.

He has been helped out along the way with advice and inspiration by poets such as Jack Drake, Don Lloyd, Gary Fogarty and Milton Taylor.



## Mid-Age Crisis

A middle aged woman standing nude, looks in the bedroom mirror and says to her husband, "I look, horrible. I'm fat, my boobs and my backside are getting more saggy by the day, I find a new wrinkle every morning and I think I'll have to go up yet ANOTHER dress size". Sitting down with her head in her hands she continues, "I just feel so old and ugly ... can you please at least pay me one compliment?".

The husband replies "Well if it's any conciliation, your eyesight is spot on!".

## 4th Annual Hampton School Bush Poetry Competition

**WRITTEN SECTION:** 1st. \$250 2nd \$100 3rd \$50

For poems that have not won a written contest or been published for the writer's financial benefit.

Entry fee: \$5 per poem. No line limit. No limit to number of entries. No entry form required. Enclose cover sheet with name, address, etc. of author and poem title. Author's name not to appear on the poem.

**Entries close last mail August 26th 2005.**

The writer of the winning poem will be invited to recite their poem at the performance competition at Hampton on September 17th 2005. Send SASE envelope for results. Entries will not be returned.

Send entries to: Secretary, Hampton Poetry Comp.  
126 Cullenbenbong Rd,  
Hartley 2790.

**PERFORMANCE COMPETITION** will be held at Hampton school on Sept 17th. **Junior** sections plus **Novice**, **Traditional/Contemporary** and **Original** sections will be held.

Over **\$700** in prize money for performance section.  
Entries taken on the day.

Further details contact the secretary: Michelle Duff at the above address or phone 0263 593 395 or email [miltonpoet@yahoo.com.au](mailto:miltonpoet@yahoo.com.au)



Eleven year old Calvin Grogan,  
Tenterfield

# The Jim Haynes Workshop

Hosted by Singleton Bush Poets and Writers Society  
Singleton Heights RSC, Alroy Park Complex, Singleton Heights  
From Friday 15th to Sunday 17th July 2005

Times: Friday Night-8pm-10pm  
Saturday 8.45am-3.30pm  
Sunday 9am-11am

Maximum of 40 people. (Cost: To be advised)

Dinner and Concert With Jim Haynes: Saturday night at Singleton Heights RSC (Cost to be advised)

Bush Poets Barbecue for Workshop Students and Special Guests: Midday Sunday.



See ya there!!

Contact Details: John and Isabella Bailey.  
B/H Baileys Electrical (02)65712669  
A/H (02)65733873 or (02)65732011  
e-mail bailey.electrical@hunterlink.net

## Writing and Performing Aussie Verse

With Jim Haynes and special guest Frank Daniel

Writer/entertainer Jim Haynes has conducted many successful writing workshops for Universities, community groups and writers' and songwriters groups'. He has two masters' degrees in literature, from the University of Wales (UK) and The University of New England.

The programme is designed to give valuable information and practical assistance to writers and performers of rhymed verse. The following areas will be covered

WRITING - developing ideas, writing methods and formulas for verse, methods of brainstorming, handling punchlines, punctuating, rhyme schemes, scansion and rhythm, drafting and editing techniques, finding your audience, placing your poetry, Writing for radio, print media and stage presentation.

PERFORMING - voice development and projection, timing, character, memorising, practice techniques, microphone technique, acting and reciting techniques, gesture and visual aids, evaluating your performances.

There will be an historic overview of verse but the course is basically designed to be practical and there will be writing, performing and evaluation sessions.

## About Jim Haynes

Jim had ten years teaching on the Darling River and in the New England area before his thirst for knowledge led him to study in the UK. After two masters degrees and quite a few years living in Britain and Europe he threw in the academic life to return to Australia.

While teaching in country NSW, he formed the legendary Bandy Bill & Co Bush Band, which had some impressive hits. He also had a solo hit with "Mow Ya Lawn", a song that was snapped up by Sunday morning radio show 'Australia All Over', and led to a job on the program which enabled Jim to quit teaching and focus on a new career as full-time entertainer.

Jim has released many albums of verse and humour. His verse column was a feature of Aussie Post magazine, he has worked for many years in radio, including two years on Australia All Over, and is currently 2UE's resident Australiana humourist. He appears regularly on television and tours his own shows as well as touring with performers such as Slim Dusty and Melinda Schneider. He originated breakfast shows at the Tamworth festival and now hosts the very successful Big Bush Brekky Show. Jim has won 'Bush Laureate Book

of the Year' 3 times (1996 I'll Have Chips, 2001 Australian Heritage of Verse, 2003 Australian Treasury of Popular Verse). He is the author of a volume of stories, Memories of Weelabarabak, and compiled and wrote All Aboard! Tales of Australian Railways, The Great Australian Book of Limericks, and Great Australian Drinking Stories. He has also written for radio and theatre and has over 100 published songs to his credit.

Jim has just completed a book on the Gallipoli campaign and another of racing stories for ABC Books. He has also produced albums of verse for other artists and for the ABC and won Bush Laureate Album of the Year for an album he produced in 1998.

National Party President, Helen Dickie, calls him, "... simply the best genuine Australian Comic Entertainer we have," but, according to journalist Sue Jarvis, Jim's real talent is his ability to cut through to the heart of our national spirit - that larrikin streak with which we all can identify. It's a skill he's developed over years of songwriting and singing, performing verse and stand-up comedy and writing and compiling successful collections of Australian stories and verse.

"I've been lucky to have a varied background and the chance to see a lot of Australia and the world over the course of my life. That's helped me to understand what makes people tick, and write about it and make comedy from it," Jim said.



## More from MULWALA

The One Min. Cup rounded things off at the Murray Musterer at Mulwala with all contestants (including judges) drawing from the topics "Murray" "Muster" "Jillaroo" and "Jackaroo". Carol Heuchan won the crowd's strong majority vote with a crazy "Murray"

### MURRAY

by Carol Heuchan

The Murray's a mighty river  
but it don't flow like it oughta,  
'cause all along the length of it,  
they're nickin' all the water.

But that's a touchy subject  
and they don't know who to blame,  
So I'll talk of other "Murrays" who  
have taken on its name.

The first a terrific dancer  
by the name of Arthur Murray.  
You all know the slogan -  
'He taught dancing in a hurry.'

Now ballet dancers wore these tights  
That Arthur thought were faggy.  
So his were 'Strictly Ballroom' -  
Nice and wide and pretty baggy.

Then there was a fishy one  
With job decreed by God -  
to protect the nation's future  
and it's called the Murray Cod.

Cricketers wear them down their pants  
a piece made out of Cod.  
They keep the crown jewels nice and safe,  
like two peas in a pod.

The next, another Murray  
that they call the Murray Grey.  
Don't know what the heck it is -  
Bull...., I should say.

The last of all my Murrays,  
its well within the theme,  
'cause he's a Naked Poet  
and his life is but a dream.

Yes, he's a top notch writer  
by the name of Murray Hartin.  
He wrote a poem called... Flatulence",  
famous for its.....wind.



Carol Heuchan

### ABPA

**Annual Bush Poetry**  
publications from the Secretary.



Any 5 for \$10  
Some issues sold out!!!  
Get your copy of those remaining  
before they're all gone.....

## INVERELL'S

# "CELEBRATION OF THE OUTBACK"

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th SEPTEMBER, 2005

Visit "THE GEM OF THE TABLELANDS"

for a great weekend of Australian entertainment

Once again Inverell will be holding its "Celebration of the Outback" to raise funds for the Rescue Helicopter Service.

There will be plenty of TOP VISITING ARTISTS including bush poets Milton Taylor and Dave Proust, Bush Balladeer Bob Easter, the fabulous Bush band, "The Rabbit Trappers", "Scrubby Gully" and "Bandy Bill's Bush Band" from the '80's will be reunited for the festival.

The BUSH POETS' BREAKFASTS to be

held in the beautiful pioneer village will be Emceed by Jimmy Brown.

COMPETITIONS with BIG PRIZE MONEY and "GOLDEN ANGEL" TROPHIES in all categories.

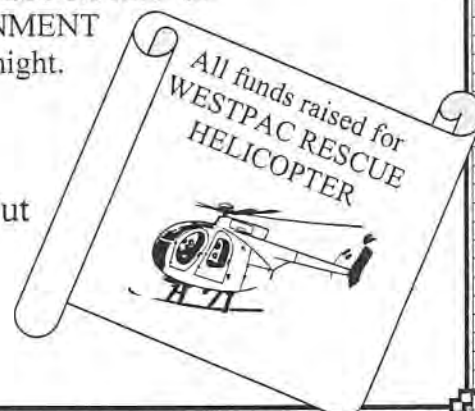
Don't miss the POETS' PUB CRAWL Friday night and the BIG NIGHT OF ENTERTAINMENT on Saturday night.

Programs and Entry Forms Now Available For Mail-Out

ENQUIRIES: Burt Candy

PH: (02) 67211127

e-mail: candyb57@yahoo.com



# DUNEDOO

The banner at the approach to Dunedoo tells you it's going to be a fun festival –

## **"The Great Dunny Classic!"**

A barbecue at the caravan park started the ball rolling with poetry and square dancing!

Apart from the controversial rule that no poet must EVER perform the same poem twice EVER at Dunedoo (tough for those who have been going for a long time) they also decided to have heats and finals in each of the three main sections, with three from each going on to the finals. This meant finalists had to perform new poems again.



The Open Traditional or Contemporary (choice) was won by Carol Heuchan with Garry Lowe 2nd and Cay Fletcher 3rd. Original Serious went to Carol Heuchan with Kathy Edwards 2nd and Ted Webber 3rd. Original Humorous was also won by Carol. Kathy came 2nd and Dan O'Donnell from Brisbane 3rd. Garry Lowe got the Dunedoo theme and the best poem award. Carol got 2nd and Ellis Campbell 3rd in the Dunedoo theme.

The Written Comp., from a large field of competitors throughout Australia, was won by Dean Trevasakis of Queensland with "Cutting Coal" David Campbell Vic was 2nd with "Aftermath of War" Carol Heuchan's "Keepsakes" was 3rd and another of hers got Highly Commended.

# DUSTY.

(C) Roderick Williams. Nov 2003.

Dusty was the long Red Road - broken axles, heavy load.  
Dusty was the link between - towns in drought or towns of green.  
Dusty was the face of kids - smiles that you can't buy for quids.  
Dusty was the station song - where it always will belong.

I've been out in camp and shed - on the track with swag for bed.  
Nighttime sounds as cattle low - Dusty on the radio.  
As a boy at Burringbar - hearing Slim and his guitar.  
Over 2. M. W. - "Winter Winds" will cry for you.

Songs for you that sadly sigh - cloudy tear-streaked springtime sky.  
Hurt, because it's just not right - that the news came through tonight.  
I sang "Fire of Gidgee coals" - just to try and fill the holes.  
Emptiness within my frame - at the mention of your name.

Then from Cobar came a call - lis'ning in my cold dark hall.  
As the voice of an old mate - softly talked of Dusty's fate.  
Then he launched into a song - with eyes closed I rode along.  
Rain came 'tumbling in July' - like the tears I heard him cry.

Staunch as anyone could be - solid as a blackbutt tree.  
Warmth and happiness you'd bring - every time we'd hear you sing.  
Loved by all from far and wide - cities to the country side.  
People on the lonely track - waiting for you to come back.

Songs to drivers on the roads - cattle trains, container loads.  
Play all day and fill each night - warning of the 'blinding light'.  
Cargo loads and endless freight - Dusty travels as a mate.  
Tears tonight as they recall - saddened drivers on each haul.

Beaming eyes in faces black - welcomed you along the track.  
Little towns or the reserve - where you sang with heart and verve.  
You felt humbled by the way - that your presence made their day.  
Concerts on the lonely 'Run' - often was their only fun.

Eager kids on stations far - "C'mon dad, get in the car"!!  
Through the bulldust holes they go - in to see "The Dusty Show".  
Hail or fire or snow or drought - never contemplate a doubt.  
Slim and Joy and all the clan - stick like glue to each new plan.

Inspiration paved the way - for the kids that live today.  
Messages received from you - keeping 'Country' straight and true.  
They will sing in polished boots - you their guidance and their roots.  
Keeping live your memory - from 'The Centre' to the sea.

Stock whips crack on plain and ridge - 'neath the rock wall wails a didge'.  
Grieving with a mournful Howl - shivers shot down to your bowel.  
Stockmen raise a mug of 'brew' - not one dry eye salutes you.  
Silence in the campfire night - while your spirit takes its flight.

In the wilga winds out west - as the hot land takes a rest.  
Darkness steals the day away - min-mins dance in disarray.  
Haunting, darting to and fro - fractured rhythm, tortured glow.  
By the sounds and songs now hurled - deep into the spirit world.

Awards? Need I speak at all - you are tallest of the tall.  
Accolades throughout the years - well earned praise with 'Joy' and tears.  
You will always sing for me - with the wind, from tree to tree.  
Blowing down The Great Divide - to The Lachlan river side.

Rain and changes will bring back - green and gold upon the track.  
Seeds that germinate in sand - poppies on the "Ancient Land".  
Colours of the softest hue - pictures painted just for you.  
Country bursting forth in praise - homage for your tireless days!

## Results of the Katherine Country Music Muster's

### Stockman Statue Award

The Katherine Country Music Muster Committee decided to make Bush Poetry a part of the 2004 Muster and again in 2005 invited Multi Award Winning, Bush Laureate Finalists, Chris and Merv Webster, alias Chris and The Grey, from Bargara, Queensland, to coordinate a written competition for Open and Junior poets. It was decided that the written competition would be called the Stockmans Statue Bush Poetry Awards and sponsors came forward and two rather striking statuettes for the winners and two pen sets of naturally carved timber for the runner ups. Merv and Chris also conducted two days of workshops with students from four of the local schools. The couple also ran the bush poet's breakfast on the Sunday morning of the Muster. Local

and visiting poets were invited to join them as guests and were given the opportunity to perform as well. A number of entries from all around Australia were received in both the Open and Junior Written Competitions and the awards were announced on the morning of the Breakfast. Three judges were involved in evaluating the entries and they came up with the following results.

1st Place in the OPEN WRITTEN COMPETITION was Ron Stevens of Dubbo, N.S.W. with "Roughing It" and Runner-up was Veronica Weal from Herberton, Qld with "Destiny". Max Merckenschlager, Murray Bridge, S.A. recieved Highly Commended for "The Road Scholar". Other commended entries were from Joyce Alchin of Corrimall N.S.W., Ellis Campbell of Dubbo N.S.W. and once again Max Merckenschlager.

## The COONAMBLE NSW

Streets Ahead Committee  
Welcomes all  
Bush Poets  
Poets in the Pub  
(Club House Hotel)

7pm Friday June 10th

Poets Breakfast

St. Pats Hall Tooloon Street  
Saturday 8am  
Ph. Liz Markey  
02 6824 1550  
More details on page 10

1st Place in JUNIOR WRITTEN COMPETITION went to Renee Eitel, from Goovigen, Qld. for "Mother's Love" and Hayden Riggs from Katherine, N.T. was Runner-up, with "Summer In The N.T."

*Merv Webster*

## Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards

### Winton Outback Festival

September 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2005

- ◆ Bush Poets Breakfasts
- ◆ Walk-up Concert
- ◆ Announcement and presentation of the prestigious Bronze Swagman Award for written verse
- ◆ Waltzing Matilda Awards for performance bush poetry – Male & Female winners receives a Bronze "Jolly Swagman" Statuette valued at over \$3000, plus various other sponsored prizes and trophies
- ◆ Categories for the Competition Performance Awards are:

- ✦ Banjo Paterson (limited performances of any one poem)
- ✦ Original (Bobby Miller's Larrikin Award to be won in this category)
- ✦ Open (bonus points awarded for a poem from any of the Bronze Swagman Books of Verse)
- ✦ Australian Yarn Spinning Championships
- ✦ One-Minute Poem
- ✦ Junior Section

**\$10,000**  
of prizes & trophies  
to be won

For more information, please contact:

David Strang: Ph: (07) 4657 1375

Louise Dean: Ph: (07) 4657 1296

Fx: (07) 4657 1541

Em: bushwookatook@bigpond.com

All events will be held in the  
Beer Garden at the North  
Gregory Hotel

## BITS AND PIECES



### HAMPTON BUSH POETRY 17 Sept 2005

The 4th Annual Hampton Bush Poetry Day will be held on September 17th this year. Junior, Novice and Open reciters will be catered for and a written section is again being staged. Good prizemoney is once more available for contestants to compete for with over \$700 for the spoken word and \$400 for writers on offer. This event has continued to grow and we anticipate a larger attendance this year. See page 17 in this issue for further details.



### WALLA WALLA WRITTEN COMP

A written competition will be held in conjunction with the Lions Club of Walla Walla Heritage Festival on Nov 13 2005. There are 3 sections:- Junior (under 12 yrs), Senior 13 to 18 yrs & Open. Entries must be received by 20th October. There is no entry fee or entry form but entrants in the Junior and Senior sections must give age, name of school attended and their school year. Frank Daniel will perform and conduct the walk ups etc. Last years winners were Donald Crane of Toowoomba and Joyce Alchin of Corrimal. For more information contact Erica Nadebaum on (02)60292119 or at PO Box 22 Walla Walla NSW, 2659 or email den53@austarnet.com.au



### RIVERLAND

Some of SA Poets' group will again be travelling to Cobdogla for the Country Music Festival early in June. They will be performing at a Poet's Breakfast, a campfire evening and a couple of Poet's Showcases. It is always a great time. Think about coming along next year as they plan on the SA Bush Poetry Championship.



### CABOOLTURE URBAN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL 29/4-1/5/05 WRITTEN COMPETITION RESULTS

Adult Open Category: 1st: Graeme Johnson; 2nd: Graeme Johnson; Encouragement Award: Dan O'Donnell  
Junior Category: 1st: Ricky Pride; 2nd: Kristian Carbery  
Encouragement Award: Kristian Carbery

## Open Section Winning Poem for 2005 Katherine Country Music Muster

### Roughing It © Ron Stevens

Six thousand K (or miles equivalent) they planned to drive a thousand head of cattle through a land in 1883 still partly unexplored and wild, to reach a distant Kimberley reward. McDonalds -- Charles and Will, two young McKenzies, plus McGeorge and Thompson, Pickles, led the exodus of stock Clifford's Creek near Gouldburn, then across to Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, Bourke, without loss.

In Northern New South Wales they had bought five hundred head which brought the herd then needing to be watered, fed, to almost treble that: and Queensland deep in drought! What's more, with Federation only dreamed about, a border poll tax was imposed on every beast. Some hostile Aborigines were not the least of difficulties met across the border where the locals feared the mob would graze their pastures bare.

At Elderslie, near Winton, Charles McDonlad called a halt and there at Nine Mile Water Hole, they stalled the frive for three distressing months awaiting rain. The drought reduced the herd by half, imposed a drain upon their cash reserves, so leaving only Will and Charles of those who'd started out. Another ill befalling them was having to abandon one of two supply drays which was damaged on the run.

With rains, there came a mix of luck: A Chinese cook they'd hired was speared but then two stockmen undertook to help, so George and Charlie Hall now joined the drive. Malaria hit Charles McDonald. Half alive and roped upon his horse, with Charlie Hall who set a course for Palmerston, they luckily soon met prospectors who relieved the stockmen of this job. so Charlie Hall back-tracked and soon rejoined the mob.

Yet all too soon the Halls reluctantly withdrew on reaching Victoria River's Wallaroo. Malaria had struck at George who was replaced by Joseph Edmonds. Will and he then grimly faced the dangers of the West Australian border stage. They met the Duracks (subjects of another page of history) who helped them safely to the Ord. -- a staging point, with further milestones to record.

In Wyndham, Will McDonlad found his brother Dan, with news that brother Charles was well again, the clan had raised more badly needed capital and so the drive could now continue. Which it did, though slow, with Edmonds and a native youth in charge, as Will (his turn!) was laid up with malaria, until when he rejoined, the party reached the Kimberley lease holding -- Fossil Downs (so named by Will's decree.)

*(Continued on page 23)*

## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 11 **TUNCURRY** Bush Poets Dinner and Concert. \$25.00 per head. Bookings essential 02 6554 9270  
June 15 Closing date for **STUMPY AWARDS** written competition, Murray Bridge, SA Details page 10  
June 17-19 **BEAUDESERT COUNTRY FESTIVAL** Contact Glennie 07 55432606 glennypalmer@dodo.com.au  
June 27 **MT LARCOM** Poets Breakfast & Comp. SSAE Secretary Show Society. PO Box 49 Mt Larcom Q 4695  
June 28 **QANTAS** Waltzing Matilda Competition. SSAE PO Box 120 Winton Qld. 4735  
June 30 Closing date **BOREE LOG**  
June 30 Closing date **NIMBIN** Agricultural and Industrial Society Poetry Competition  
July 1-3 **BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER** ph Sandy & John 07 41514631; Other contacts and info Page 9  
July 3 **DERBY** Bush Poets' Breakfast Contact Margaret on 08 9191 1611 or robowco@optusnet.com.au  
June 10 **COONAMBLE** Poets in the Pub Ph. Liz Markey 02 6824 1550 More details on page 10  
July 11 Closing date **QLD STATE WRITTEN COMP** Details page 24  
July 16 **BOWRAVILLE THEATRE** - Bush Poetry Soiree Ph 02 6546 7828 or 02 6568 5269  
July 22-23 **STANTHORPE** Bush Poetry WEEKEND Ph Jack Drake on 07 46837169 page 8  
July 29-31 **MAREEBA FNQ** Bush Poetry Festival phone 07 4159 1868 or email thegrey@tpg.com.au  
Aug 4-7 **BYRON BAY WRITERS FESTIVAL** 02 6685 6262 www.byronbaywritersfestival.com page 11  
Aug 5-7 **MURRAY BRIDGE** Stumpy Awards SA State Bush Poetry titles email stumpy@lm.net.au  
Aug 19-21 Qld State Championships, **NORTH PINE** Camp Oven Festival Ph. Anita (07)3343 7392 page 10  
Aug 26 Closing date **HAMPTON** School Bush Poetry Competition, 126 Cullenbenbong Rd, Hartley 2790  
Sept 9-11 **INVERELL** "Celebration of the Outback" Contact Burt Candy ph: (02) 67 211127 Page 19  
Sept 10-18 **WINTON** Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival. More details on page 21  
Sept 17 **HAMPTON** Bush Poetry Competition miltonpoet@yahoo.com.au Michelle Duff 0263 593 395 page 17  
Sept 17-18 **FORSTER** One Minute Brawl & Bush Poets Breakfast. Bookings & Enquiries Reid 02 6554 9788  
Sept 30 F.A.W. Soapbox Written Comp.c/o Miriam Mc Goldrick 32 Mackie ST, W't Moorooka Q. 4105  
Oct 1-3 **EUABALONG** Beatin' 'round the Bush bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au Ad page 23  
Oct 7-9 **NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005 DORRIGO** ph. Murray 02-66572139. Page 24  
Oct 20 Closing Date **WALLA WALLA** Heritage Festival Written comp PO Box 22 Walla Walla NSW, 2659  
Nov 13 **WALLA WALLA** Heritage Festival Written comp den53@austarnet.com.au Ph. Erica 02 6029 2119

*(Continued from page 22)*

Three years, three months to drive the cattle overland  
and but a third survived, yet who can understand  
today the breadth of such a task, the strength and skill  
of those McDonalds; and appreciate the will  
required in fording rivers, slogging mile on mile  
through scrub and sand, aware of dangers all the while?  
Six thousand K they rode to reach their western goal,  
and struggled then to keep it under their control.

Stock losses due to heavy floods were one set-back  
and then in 1894 the first attack  
by Jandamara (renegade? black patriot?  
depends onpoint-of-view.) who blazed a bloody trot  
throughout the Kimberleys -- guerilla type of war.  
No battles raged at Fossil Downs, except two score  
of innocents were slain by bellicose police.  
The Gooniyandi tribe had never breached the peace.

They held no sympathy for Bunubans, the clan  
supporting Jandamara's white-extinction plan.  
He failed, of course; Inspector Lawerence claimed his head  
which ended up in London, home for trophied dead.  
McDonalds graze their cattle still on Fossil Downs.  
The bones of blacks and whites, of yellows, shades of browns,  
still join the fossil fish of aeons that defy  
the clocks and laws of man, his brief existence -- aye!

### **'Beatin' 'round the Bush' at EUABALONG**

**Long weekend in—October 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Over \$1500 prize money**

Last years event was a tremendous success  
and once again poets and spectators are ex-  
pected to travel long distances to this tiny  
little Lachlan River town in the Heart of New  
South Wales to attend. There will be the  
usual Written and Performance competitions  
as well as arts & crafts exhibitions and work-  
shops.

**Don't miss this fantastic function.**

**For further details contact**

Frank Daniel

0263441477

or email bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au

**Or SASE to:**

Short Street Productions

PO Box 16

Canowindra NSW 2804



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Bush Balladeers Vol 5	\$27.00

### BOOK

A Muster of Australiana	\$23.00
Excuse Me! It's Gidyea	\$12.00

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Web Site - [www.bushpoets.go.to](http://www.bushpoets.go.to)

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

**AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS**

## Derby Bush Poets' Breakfast

Sunday 3rd July

### Derby Memorial Pool

Breakfast starts at 7am

Poetry at 7.45am

Featuring: Rusty Christensen  
Ron 'The Late' Evans  
and the Kimberley's own  
Keith 'Cobber' Leithbridge

Local and visiting poets welcome.

Contacts:

Margaret on 08 9191 1611  
or [robowco@optusnet.com.au](mailto:robowco@optusnet.com.au)

### ADVERTISING RATES

1/3 column	\$10.00
2/3 column	\$15.00
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material should be emailed direct to  
the Editor: [jarby@cqnet.com.au](mailto:jarby@cqnet.com.au)

Please remit payment to the  
**Secretary**

(See page 2 for address details)

### BUSH POETRY CONCERT & DINNER

Tuncurry Foster Sport Club,  
Beach Street, Tuncurry.

6.30 pm Saturday 11th June.

2 Course Dinner \$25 per head

**Bookings essential**

Please ring club - 6554 9270

### POETS BREAKFAST

& ONE MINUTE BRAWL

incl. Presentation of Awards

Great Lakes and Taree District

Written Bush Poetry Comp. for

School Students

8 am Sun. 18th September 2005

Forster Tuncurry Memorial Serv. Club

Barbecue hot breakfast \$5.00

Ring Reid Sat 10th for Brawl

topic. Brawl Entry \$3

Please book for breakfast with

Ried Begg Ph. 6554 9788

## QUEENSLAND BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

In conjunction with

### North Pine Camp Oven Festival

Performance Competitions -

Open (Male and Female)

Serious and Humorous Originals

Serious and Humorous by another person

Novice

Junior (16 and under)

One Minute Poem

### CAMP OVEN AWARD

FOR WRITTEN POETRY

Closes 11 July

Send entries to J. Hansen,

35 Goodfellows Rd,

Kallangur, Qld. 4510

Enquiries - June (07) 3886 5150

Entries to for performance comp to:

John Best

1 Whiteside Road

Whiteside. Q. 4502

Enquiries: Anita (07) 3343 7392

John (07) 3285 2845

Prize Money  
in Excess of  
\$3000

19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
August, 2005



The Dorrigo Bush Poetry Roundup  
*incorporating*

**THE NEW SOUTH WALES**

**BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005**

Dorrigo Community Centre – Dorrigo NSW

**7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

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



ENTRY FORMS NOW AVAILABLE.

Closing Dates: WRITTEN: 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2005 PERFORMANCE: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2005

### PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

LADIES AND GENTS Section 1. Classical 2. Contemporary 3. Open Original Junior Section (Under 16yrs)

**PERFORMANCE SECTION WINNERS MAY BE RESIDENTS OF ANY STATE**

**CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS MUST BE RESIDENTS OF NSW**

FOR ALL INFORMATION CONTACT: MURRAY SUCKLING – P.O. BOX 403, DORRIGO, NSW 2453  
Ph. 02 6657 2139