

ARPA

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



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NEWSLETTER



NEW PROFILES Australian Bush Poetry has always been male dominant with the likes of Dorothea Mackellar, Mary Durack, Dame Mary Gilmore, Mary Hannay-Foott and other great 'women of the west' whose poetry has been overshadowed by the popular works of Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie, Morant, Dennis, O'Brien and others.

Today of course there has been a greater increase in the numbers of female poets in both written and performance competitions. Six profiles have been included in this issue, not necessarily for their prowess as writers or performers, but for their determination in setting and achieving goals, taking, not only their own work, but the poetry of our traditional and contemporary masters to large audiences at festivals and competitions either as organizers or as competitors.

Pictured left to right above, Sandy Lees - Bundaberg, Qld.; Trisha Anderson - Brisbane, Qld.; Jan Morris - Tamworth NSW. Below (L to R) Jan Lewis - Corryong, Vic; Louise Dean - Winton Qld.; Julie Briggs - Narrandera NSW.



HENRY LAWSON FESTIVALS



Henry Lawson
1867 - 1922

GRENFELL & GULGONG



Henry Hertzberg Lawson was born on 17 June, 1867 in a tent on the goldfields at Grenfell, New South Wales.

Because of its close proximity to Henry's birthday, the June Long Weekend has been chosen by the local towns people of Grenfell as the time when they hold the annual Henry Lawson Festival of Arts.

The aim of the Festival is to promote and attain recognition for aspiring Australians in various fields of arts such as verse, short story, song, art, photography and television. Children are especially catered for in their various artistic endeavours.

The first Henry Lawson Festival of Arts was held in 1958 and it has continued every year since, organised by a committee of volunteers with assistance from local organisations in Grenfell and the Weddin Shire Council

During the history of the Festival, Grenfell has welcomed many distinguished guests. They have come to officially open the Festival, as judges, performers or recipients of awards. Among the many identities Grenfell has welcomed Henry Lawson's daughter, Bertha Jago in 1967 and his grand nephew Peter Lawson in 1985.

Grenfell's Henry Lawson Festival of Arts has done much to perpetuate the memory of one of Australia's illustrious sons.

The Weddin Shire Council, and in particular, Grenfell celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Henry Lawson Festival of Arts on the June Long-weekend.

It would hardly have been believed all those years ago that the Henry Lawson Festival would still be entertaining, educating and thrilling up to 15,000 visitors to the town on the Queen's Birthday weekend fifty years after the original event.

The reasons for this are by no means an accident. No event of this magnitude can continue to run on an annual basis without a dedicated band of volunteers who make it happen each year. The committee consists of over 20 members, with their tasks and responsibilities increasing each year, as the Festival continues to grow in stature and popularity.

Over the years the festival has emerged as a huge 'family' do with many families and visitors reuniting to take in the festivities and entertainment.

The annual written verse competition with \$2,400 plus statuettes for the winners attracted hundreds of entries nationally.

The Henry Lawson Society of NSW was inaugurated on 19th June 1976. In addition to a Local Schools Competition the committee decided to conduct an Open Literary Essay and Poetry Competition. Entries closed for this on 31st August, 1977. First prize for the Essay was \$100 and Best Poem \$50. It was believed that the competition would attract state-wide interest in the Henry Lawson Centre which is a unique and useful memorial to one of Australia's greatest literary figures, who went to school, and spent his youthful years working in the area.

Theresa Lane was considered to have been a driving force in the early days of the Society and credited by some to have involved Leonard Teale & The Norwegian Embassy in the awards

Leonard Teale expressed an interest in becoming involved after his 1977 visit when he came to Gulgong seeking material for his one-man show *'While the Billy Boils'* for the Adelaide Festival. For four years he toured this one man show based on the life of Henry Lawson.

In the May 14, 1994 Henry Lawson Society Newsletter Theresa Lane (Secretary) referred to Teale's death as 'A sad loss to Australia and, in particular, Gulgong. He was associated with the Henry Lawson Society for 25yrs. In that time he did not miss one Henry Lawson June Long Weekend Festival. His readings of the winner's poetry and short stories at the Henry Lawson Festival just made them come alive in a way that no one else could possibly achieve.'

Leonard Teale was the second patron of the Henry Lawson Society; the first patron being Bertha Jago, Henry Lawson's daughter.

Originally, the Leonard Teale Memorial was a poetry competition for students, later becoming the Leonard Teale Memorial Spoken Word Competition and now as the Country Energy Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Poetry Competition.

The first of the beautiful Henry Lawson statuettes (provided each year by The Land Newspaper) came about in 1984.

Leonard Teale performed the works of Australian writers and poets, particularly the Bush Balladists, from 1952 onwards.

To his credit are eleven recordings of which three albums are devoted to the works of Henry Lawson.

The Henry Lawson Centre has a set of cassettes tapes for sale; spoken by Leonard Teale, *'A Treasury of the Work of Henry Lawson'*.

Lawson was arguably the first Australian-born writer who really looked at Australia with Australian eyes, not influenced by his knowledge of other landscapes. He was the first to interpret the 'Australian' character. Born of the bush, he lived on a selection of the characters and lifestyles he talked about. was brought up in bush poverty, suffered hardship and unemployment, and knew of the characters and lifestyles he talked about.

The President's Report

G'day Members,

How good was last months addition of colour to our newsletter? As one member wrote to me saying, we have moved from a paper rag to a classy magazine. Thanks to the members at the AGM for suggesting it and especially thanks to Frank for achieving this result.

You have certainly responded to my request for comments on the proposed amendments to the Criteria Sheet for Performance Competitions. You will find SECOND DRAFT with this newsletter. There will be no third draft so any further suggestions you have need to be made within the next month as I will submit to the Committee in September the final Criteria Sheet.

I encourage members to register with the Forum on the ABPA website as Andy has set up a process where members can communicate and debate issues that could improve many aspects of Bush Poetry and the running of the ABPA. I hope by now all Committee Members have logged on as it is on this Forum that we hope to hold our Committee Meetings.

Ed Parmenter has made me aware that the number of members taking out Liability Insurance has dropped and in 2007 we are just covering the cost for the policy. Those of us who are performers know how so many venues now will not accept performers without current public liability insurance.

The \$70 is the cheapest cover you will get anywhere so please in 2008 take out this insurance so we can maintain this service to our members.

My involvement with fund-raising to build a John O'Brien Centre attached to the Visitors' Centre in Narrandera is gathering momentum. A recent series of concerts that I performed with Maria Forde, a beautiful Celtic music singer, was very successful. We had performances in Inooroopilly, Caloundra and the Irish Club in Brisbane City. At the Irish Club we had 325 on the Sunday afternoon and the three concerts made a profit of \$11 000.

Our current funds total is \$26 644. The first target is \$36 000 when we can hire an architect and display designer to give us plans for the Centre.

When these plans are approved by the Council then we will get a Prospectus out and approach Government agencies and big business to get the necessary monies to complete the project. At Tamworth in January Sam Smythe and the poets at the Bowls Club donated the morning's raffle money to the Centre and if any of the Bush Poet Groups feel they could assist in this fund raising project I would be only too happy to travel and perform for their local people. This Centre is for current and future generations and will be designed to inform, using modern dramatic displays and multimedia presentations. It will tell the significance of the life, times and contribution Monsignor Patrick Hartigan (John O'Brien) made to the annals of Australian Literature.



Editor's Letterbox

from

Olive Jean Shooter

Life membership recipient, ABPA Inc
AGM Tamworth 2007.



The Editor,
Australian
Bush Poets
Association Inc.
Newsletter

Dear Frank,

I extend my grateful thanks to President Noel Stallard, and Members for the honour of life membership bestowed on me at the Annual meeting. I did not expect it. I have only done what I wanted to do and enjoyed doing it. The citation is hanging on my wall where everyone can see it. And the beautiful badge. Well, it is something special and I have worn it with pride a few times already. It always draws attention and I'm pleased to tell all about the ABPA.

I treasure the mates I have made in the Bush poets. It is one of the friendliest gatherings I have known, and from the first time I became involved in Toowoomba, I have felt welcome. The very best of poets are the first to encourage and rally round those of us who need help.

Congratulations to my fellow life members. Ron Selby who began as the first Secretary, Treasurer and went on to become President, also put together the ten Bush Poets Annuals. He is dedicated to bush poetry and gives his all to its betterment. Frank Daniel who has served us as Editor as well as President and makes a good job of all he takes on. He gives his time and talents generously. I have enjoyed working with these two fine members and they always made my job easy with their co-operation. Both are worthy recipients of life membership.

Best wishes to the ABPA for continuing success and acclaim as they promote bush poetry in all its' forms and keep the culture and traditions of the bush alive so others may come to appreciate the endurance of our pioneers and those who came after them.

Fondest regards to all,

Leonard Teale was born September 26, 1922 in Brisbane and died May 14, 1994 in Sydney. Leonard was a well-known Australian actor on radio, television and films.

His radio roles included the voice of 'Superman' in the 1950's and the lead role in 'Tarzan' along with regular appearances in radio variety programs such as the 'Bonnington's Bunkhouse Show'. He did voiceovers in countless commercials. He also appeared in the feature film 'Smiley'.

Leonard Teale was a regular in the Bobby Limb show in a number of comedy roles. He is best remembered for his long-running role as Detective Sergeant Dave Mackay in 'Homicide', Australia's first ever television police drama.



1600 Light Horsemen stand sentinel at the Light Horse Interchange - Walgrove

Poles & Wires, written by Graeme Johnson of West Ryde NSW, the winning entry in the 2007 Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc Literary Awards, Adult Written Competition.

(Preface: The "Light Horse Interchange" is a sculpture that sits between the lanes of the M4 & M7 Motorways in Sydney's West. It is a memorial to the Light Horse Regiments of WW1 and their valiant horses)

POLES & WIRES

© Graeme Johnson West Ryde NSW 2007

I was driving back from Gulgong, through the Goldfield's
Central West,
and for days I had been lonely on the road.
I was headed back to Sydney down the mountain's winding
crest,
and from Penrith on the traffic's pace had slowed.

See I didn't know what time it was. I'm vague along that
way,
and the date was even dimmer in my mind.
When the voice spoke on the radio and said "Remembrance
Day".
I had missed the minute's silence I would find.

I had hit the morning peak hour of the workers' laboured
rush,
as the freeway on my right raced by at speed.
So I pushed the music silent as I sought a calming hush,
for I found I had an overwhelming need.

I had had enough of idling so I turned the car to rest,
as I pulled off on the Wallgrove's north south track.
So to stretch my legs and saunter and to light a smoke at best,
with the Light Horse Interchange now at my back.

For I stood there at the crossroads where the 4 & 7 meet,
at the junctions where the road's expressways cross.
And I looked down at the sculpture stretching out in rows
complete,
that we dedicate to servicemen and loss.

For the Light Horse and their riders they were trained at East-
ern Creek.
All those regiments of mounted infantry.
And this sculpture bears a witness to the debt of which we
speak,
as a prompt recall for memories reveille.

So I wandered down the pathway to the broad expressway's
flanks,
as I slipped beneath the knotted wire fence.
So to walk amongst the sculpture where it stands between the
banks,
so to truly make of it some commonsense.

For when pelting down the motorway it's sure to catch your
eye,
with its metal markers painted poppy red.
With their strands of sliver wire sprouting upwards to the
sky,
in a solemn fitting tribute to the dead.

Of that Sinai desert battle in the war to end all war.
In that mighty charge of 1917.

When the proud Australian Regiments that numbered 12 & 4,
at the storming of Beersheba they were seen.

So now here along the highway stand some fifteen hundred
poles,
with a centerpiece a 50 metre mast.
Ranked in squadrons like a sea of marching soldiers' long
lost souls,
who had finally found their way back home at last.

And the height of them is 18 hands. A rider and his horse.
Those old remounts killed so never to return.
Shot in thousands by their riders due to quarantine of course,
in a lesson hard that life's not meant to learn.

They are absent here those "walers" bred at home and sent
abroad,
from a mix of draught and scattered pony breeds.
They are missing from this tableau as a form of mute reward,
so we reflect on their brave and sterling deeds.

And those baked enamel struts are glazed a Flanders shade of
hue,
as a legacy of sacrifice supreme.
And each represents a soldier that's departed from our view,
that are held now in the highest of esteem.

For the artist drew a parallel 'tween present and the past.
In the construct there are figures and there's facts.
So the setting tells a story that was written hard and fast,
in the annals of our history and its acts.

For in detail they are mirrors of our army's circumstance.
Poles are grouped in sets of 4, 5 yards apart.
In the format just as troopers rode in cavalry's advance,
from the South East to the North West as per chart.

And the poles are crowned by plumage like the khaki dig-
gers' hats,
with their emu feathers fixed upon by hand.
And there circled by these white reflective collars or cravats.
And they glint like bayonets at the command.

There is method in the madness of an artist's driven mind,
for he helped me understand or so it seems.
As he led me to the battlefields of Palestine to find,
how our nationhood was forged by soldiers' dreams.

So next time that you are driving down that thoroughfare so
fast,
with those poles and wires flashing by at speed.
Take a moment to remember they are echoes of our past,
and our freedom wrought by mans' unselfish deed.

GRENFELL AWARDS

Grenfell's annual written verse competition with \$2,400 plus statuettes for the winners attracted hundreds of entries nationally to the 50th Anniversary Henry Lawson Festival.



Des Bennett of Morwell Victoria was the overall winner of the coveted statuette and first prize with a poem entitled 'The Possum'.

Judges awarded 'The Possum' for its energy and drive, the dramatic comedy of its story and the cleverness of its expression. Judge especially liked the possum's 'rampageous retreat' and the description of the freeway's 'conglomerate lanes'; because it retained its liveliness, verve, and ability to delight and amuse after repeated readings. (Brook Emery) (To page 8)

The Harold Goodwin Memorial Short Story winner was Dorothy Rosenberg of Bright in Victoria with 'A Piece of Cake'; a story of loneliness in old age, of a man who has been lonely all his life. 'The writer held great control over the material of the story, both in its gentle, sincere understated emotion and honesty, as well as in the actual mechanics of storytelling; the pace at which the information was relayed, the introduction of characters, the mixture of humour and tragedy, of dialogue and description and flashback. All these elements unfolded one by one, leading up to a kind of twist at the end. Truly memorable, convincing and expertly told'. (Ursula Duborsarsky)

Performance poetry was in good hands with Frank Daniel of Canowindra NSW, at the Friday night concert and at the two-hour *Poetry in the Club* breakfast on Saturday morning.

Frank was joined by the most delightful of singers Eileen McPhillips (p.17) of Mount Macedon, Victoria, who rendered a number of Henry Lawson ballads as well as songs of her native homeland Scotland and her father's homeland Ireland.



WEE WAA NSW

The Wee Waa and District Historical Society was so impressed with the roll-up and the number of entrants in their annual show's Poetry Competition they are now contemplating another competition in 2008.

Juniors were well catered for with traditional and original sections; with most of the honours going to the Murie family. The Open section saw some great performances from locals and visitors alike.



Geoffery Walker Graham, 'The Man from Ironbark' compered the event making it a memorable occasion with his vast knowledge and expertise in poetry and song.

Book Launch: John Seers of Padstow launched his new book at Grenfell's 50th Henry Lawson Festival on the June Long-weekend at the Grenfell Motel. He also performed some of his work at the Memorial Park poets gathering on the Saturday morning.

Joining the line-up of poets at Grenfell was ABPA member Brian Dore of Port Sorrell, Tasmania.

On the Sunday of the June long-weekend at Gulgong, the Hunter Bush Poets conducted a Poets Breakfast and a 'Just Henry' session where only the masters work was permitted. A 'Tales of the Swag' concert that night saw Des Kelly & friends present the song, verse and humour of the Australian bush as seen in Lawson's times.

The Festival was also visited by Melbourne school teacher and thespian James Howard who had taken on the persona of Henry Lawson for the weekend and performed in costume on many occasions. It truly took one back in time to see the new 'Henry' slouched on a bench in the main street or leaning from the door of a public house enticing fellow poets to join him. Most did.

Organised by the Henry Lawson Society of NSW and run by Secretary Cheryl Peters, her committee and volunteers, the event is indeed a drawcard for the best writers and performers in the country.

PROFILE: Louise Dean



I was born in Hughenden, North-West Queensland, and consider myself fortunate to have been raised in a country town. I was the fifth child, with a five year age gap to my nearest sibling, and my parents had the name 'Stewart' picked out being positive that I was a boy. Surprise, surprise..... so I'm sure I got my name from a nurse passing by at the time. I was always disappointed that my five brothers and sisters got good solid Scottish names and I was just... Louise.

My younger sister was born four years after me, making 6 children in the family.

My parents struggled financially during the 60's and 70's, and although we did without a lot of things, I remember my childhood with fond memories. Christmas gatherings were treasured and we made a lot of our own fun and activities.

My father worked for the local Shire Council, and loved the bush life. He would often take me with him on his weekend trips. I learned to operate a chainsaw cutting wood for the old wood stove, to shoot a rifle with accurate ease, to haul in a pot of yabbies, cook a damper in the coals, and to boil a good brew in Dad's favourite old

Friday 13th July saw three likely lads entertain a full house at the Tottenham Golf Club. Paddy Ryan, Des Kelly and Frank Daniel combined forces to produce a non-stop evening of bush poetry, yarns and song in an Australian Presentation with a repast of bush tucker entrees, a good old Aussie baked dinner and plenty of puddin' to boot.

You know you've had a good time when you go home in pain, with full bellies and sides splitting and still wanting for more.

billy. I have special memories of spending time with my father - sitting together on the bank of a creek, drinking billy tea and watching the bush come alive at dawn on a beautiful winter's morning.

I was a Brownie, a Girl Guide, a Queen's Guide and later became a Girl Guide Leader for many years.

I enjoy a good game of tennis, I love reading and gardening, but most of all I love walking (I walked 360kms from Winton to Boulia on the Camel Trek in 2001) and my passion is my artwork - Pen & Ink drawings of the outback icons such as windmills, sheds, old houses etc. I am now starting to experiment with other mediums and have had some success with incorporating my pen and ink work with pastels and watercolour pencils. Some of my works have been purchased by overseas clients.

Education:

I was educated at Hughenden State School until Grade 10. My favourite, and best, subject was English, and although I was also very artistic, I failed to recognize that Art could be a viable career path and didn't pursue any furthering of my artistic ability, which I have come to regret. I am now taking studies to extend my skills.

My secondary education was completed in Townsville at Pimlico High School. Wow, what a culture shock that was! From a school of 300 students in a small country town to being thrown in with 65 city-wise Grade 11 students, I was way out of my league, and didn't really enjoy those two years although I passed with moderately-high marks.

I was always studying something during my working life in Brisbane, and in 1990, after completing a 3-year Management Diploma, I graduated as Dux of Queensland.

All of this, though, doesn't prepare you for the big-wide-world of running your own business, which we have been doing successfully for the last 8 years.

Married Life:

I met Graham (he told me he was going to be a millionaire, so I thought I'd go along for the ride) and moved from Townsville to Brisbane in 1980, where we settled for 17 years. We moved to Karumba (Gulf of Carpentaria) in 1997 to escape the grind of city living and moved to Winton in January 2002.

We have now lived in Winton for the last 6 years, operating our own business

Wookatook which incorporates a Gift Shop, Art Gallery, Opals, Souvenirs, Travel Agency, Open-Air Theatre and the newly opened Royal Coffee Shoppe.

This year, we celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary. Life is good!

Bush Poetry:

When I first met Graham, I knew that he was keenly interested in Bush Poetry, and I have boxes and boxes filled with scrawled pieces of poetry to prove it.

In 1996, Graham heard an advertisement on the radio about some people wanting to form a Poets Group at the North Pine Markets at Petrie. Venturing out there that Sunday, we met John and Patti Coutts, and Sue and Russell Plunkett, and after much discussion, the six of us formed the North Pine Bush Poets Group. We started with poetry gatherings every first and third Sunday of the month at Dad and Dave's Billy Tea and Damper, where at times we even read our poetry to gain experience.

With the assistance of the Pine Rivers Shire Council, we organized the inaugural Camp Oven Bush Poets Festival in August 1997 which was a huge learning curve for us all. Now, the North Pine Bush Poets Group has a large membership and has achieved many successes.

I played a fairly minor part at all the poetry gatherings, but in 1997 Graham decided to head to Winton to the big poetry festival out there, and Carmel Randle (bless her) talked me into learning a certain number of poems to enter the Novice Competition as they were short of female competitors.

To my shocked surprise, I won the Novice competition and then in 1999, I won the Ladies Championship that sent me to Nevada, USA, to perform at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in January 2000. I have won, or been placed, in several other competitions including Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Townsville and Bundaberg.

I started writing Bush Poetry as well, and although I find it extremely challenging, I have achieved a small amount of success with my poems. Graham and I have our own book "Gone Wookatook" which was a finalist in the Bush Laureate Awards and I have illustrated the four "Co-Operative Books of Verse for Aussie Children", and the latest edition "Favourite Poems for Aussie Children".

I have been involved in the collation

and illustrations of the Bronze Swagman Books of Bush Verse since 2001, and am currently putting the 2007 edition together.

In 2000, Carmel Randle approached me about taking over the organiser's role of the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards in Winton (an initiative of Winton Business and Tourism Assoc), which had been running since 1995.

I took on the role, and this is my seventh year involved with organizing Winton's poetry events, which include the Junior Performance Competition, the Junior Little Swaggies' Written Award, and the Senior Waltzing Matilda Awards (being held in September 2007 at the Outback Festival).

I am also the co-ordinator for the Bronze Swagman Award, a prestigious written competition promoting original works, which has been running since 1972.

In January 2006, Winton Business and Tourism Assoc won the Judith Hosier Heritage Award for their support and commitment to fostering the ideals of Bush Poetry for 35 years.



Dear Frank,

I'd like to thank ABPA for your support and assistance in my first year as Secretary, I get the vibes that I'll still have the job next year. (Oops)

My aim this year to stabilise the awards and build a foundation for following years. With near record entries overall, from all states & territories (except NT), Thailand, New Zealand & England I think that has been achieved. Now to grow & expand.

As always we can't present the awards without the help of sponsors and the support from our major sponsors The Land Newspaper and Country Energy has been instrumental in the success we have achieved. Having said this, however, we can't overlook the support from businesses & individuals in Gulgong and surrounding areas.

Cheryl Peters,
Secretary,
Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc,
147 Mayne St,
Gulgong NSW 2852

PS Thanks for including us in next years Calendar of events. Aiming for bigger & better things and that was a great start.

THE POSSUM

By Des Bennett - Morwell Vic.

Winning Poem - Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts 2007

(see p. 6)



The possum descended the chimney,
while looking for somewhere to nest,
he slid down the flue, akimbo askew,
the missus was less than impressed.
The possum was feeling bewildered,
and more than a little non-plussed,
he'd hit with a thud, as would a dud skud,
was dizzy and lightly concussed.

The time had now come for reaction,
of positive nature and more,
and so with great speed, regardless of heed.,
I opened the fire box door.
I lunged with a towel and I grabbed him,
but suddenly springing to life,
he led with a roar, deep throated full bore,
an ominous prelude to strife.

He twisted he squirmed and he bit me,
he struggled and clawed with his paws,
I let out a yell, cried out 'what the hell',
while fielding repeated encores.
I threw off that possum with gusto,
I had to admit my defeat,
and then man oh man, things king hit the fan,
he made a rampageous retreat.

He landed quite high on the mantle,
and flew into gear at top speed,
he rampaged along, a midget King Kong,
intent on a jungle stampede.
My prized mantle treasures went flying,
in every which way and then some,
he flew through the air, in manic despair,
the wife was about to succumb.

He savaged poor Felix our feline,
who'd seen fit to enter the fray,
as both of them fought,
I had the wild thought,
that blasting would not go astray.

They scratched and they clawed at the lounge suite,
the damage was starting to mount,
when into the room, came wife with a broom,
determined to bring to account.

I scrambled to open the doorway,
to let this tornado pass out,
I wasn't to know, this wouldn't be so,
with Bluey the heeler about.
He shot through my legs at that doorway,
at not quite the warp speed of light,
he entered the fray, caused more disarray,
as down came the curtains from height.

A tumble-ball quickly developed,
or was it a scrum I'm not sure,
whatever the case, they soon picked up pace,
and cartwheeled at speed out the door.
They landed quite hard on my roadster,
wide open and parked down below,
this thumping mistake, unloosened the brake,
with ev'rything now set to go.

And go it sure did with a vengeance,
as freed from its shackles and chains,
it first hit the drive, and then with a dive,
the freeway's conglomerate lanes.
The crash that came next was almighty,
with ev'rything so far implied,
I fell out of bed, fair square on my head,
a nightmare, but boy what a ride.

CLAIRE REYNOLDS Queensland Ladies State Champion



Claire Reynolds owes it to her father for instilling in her a love for bush poetry. His recitations of traditional poetry by the fire on winter's nights on the family farm at Coolah NSW and the one-teacher primary school where the teacher often read to the class and taught them lots of poetry from other lands.

Whilst boarding in Mudgee during her high school years she was popular as a room mate reciting to the other girls after "lights-out".

A visit to Tamworth's Imperial Competition in 1999 gave her a real taste of 'live' bush poetry awakening her to a new and exciting pastime for her retirement.

Claire started competing at Tenterfield that year and has been a regular in

the winner's circle at the Oracles of the Bush annually since then.

Since Claire retired she has been able to travel to many of the well known festivals and competitions and, during a round Australia trip in 2004 with husband Coll, she included the Waltzing Matilda celebrations at Winton and the Australian Championships in Perth. It was a brilliant experience all round and participating in the poetry was icing on the cake for Claire.

Claire was the NSW Ladies Bush Poetry Champion in 2005

Consistently placing in competitions during the past two years has seen Claire Reynolds of Gloucester NSW add another five medals to her collection with wins in the Queensland State Championships this year at Beaudesert.



PROFILE: Trisha Anderson

Trisha Anderson, at first glance, is probably not what people are expecting when meeting an Australian Bush Poet ! - firstly, she doesn't have a "cork-adorned Akubra", although she does occasionally wear a hat - she doesn't often wear jeans and riding boots and she wasn't born in the bush !

She is, however, the daughter of well-known Cartoonist, Naturalist and Author Ian Gall, and it was his love and knowledge of Nature, Animals and the Australian bush that Trisha grew up with and which inspired her love of all things Australian.

Trisha was born and educated in Brisbane, "majoring" in Sport ! - Swimming and Athletics in particular - and after completing her Education at Clayfield College she went on to do her Nursing Training at St Martin's Hospital in Brisbane. She later opened

a Children's-wear shop and also had a Floristry business - she then entered the world of Fashion retailing from which she eventually retired in 2002.

Always interested in the wonderful stories and poems of early Australia, she was drawn to the genre of Bush Poetry when it was enjoying it's "rebirth" about 15 years ago. For quite some years she was content to be in the audience until Robert Raftery - a great Queensland poet - wrote a piece especially for her to perform - after a few months of "panic" and with Robert's and the late Bobby Miller's encouragement, she eventually found herself on the stage - and, as they say, the rest is history !!

She then became a keen performer and competitor, achieving many successes at Festivals from Winton to Tamworth to Perth and many places between.

Her love of Traditional poetry is evident in many of her performances, as she relates these wonderful poems from such writers as Banjo Paterson, Will Ogilvie and Dorothea Mackellar to audiences across Australia. They are sometimes serious, sometimes humorous, but they always challenge the emotions of her audience.

Trisha is the founder of *Palma Rosa Poets* and for the past eleven years she has been inviting guest poets

from all over Australia to perform in Brisbane in the beautiful, Heritage-listed Palma Rosa at Hamilton - always a popular and entertaining evening.

For the last seven years she has organized *Bush Poets* at the *EKKA* - where poets perform on various Stages around the Ekka - Brisbane's Royal National Show - during the 'ten days of the Ekka'. She also organizes, with the help of fellow poet Noel Stallard, the RNA 'EKKA' *Bush Poetry Competition* held on the first Saturday of the Ekka - this year (2007) it will be held on Sat. 11th August.

Over the past 5 years, during the Tamworth Country Music Festival, Trisha has organized *The Bush Poetes*. As the name implies, this is an exciting afternoon's entertainment showcasing all the Female Talent performing in Tamworth.

Even though she still travels around Australia with her fellow poets, she loves being at home in Brisbane with her husband Spen and being able to spend maximum time with her two children and their spouses, Peter and Julia and Sally and Mark and her five beautiful grand children Jack, Matthew, Sam, Timmy and little Josephine Grace.

MARK THOMPSON Queensland Men's State Champion



After many years wandering in the bush poet's desert, it would seem that Mark 'Bushie' Thompson is back.

'Bushie' turned up at Tamworth this year, putting to rest the many rumours regarding the state of his health and the amount of freedom readily available. It was pleasing to note that he has not been injured or killed whilst riding his motorcycle, nor has he been a guest of Her Majesty.

His fiancée, Shona, decided that she would like to move back to the Mackay area to be close to her mother and family. So the big move was made from the Gold Coast to the small town of Walkerston, west of Mackay. 'Bushie' entered a few local area Bush Poetry competitions, but without his usual intensity, and this showed (for him), in very ordinary results.

But, Tamworth this year seemed to put the spark back. After talking to Frank Daniel, Ray Essery and Paul Ensby (from 'Bullamakanka'), he decided to return to the scene and entered the Queensland State Championships held at Beaudesert over the June (Queens Birthday) long-weekend.

At the end of the competition, his results were 3rd in Male Contemporary, 1st in Male Traditional and most important to him as a writer, 1st in Male Original Serious. These results gave him the Queensland State Champion Male for 2007.

He hasn't decided what to do for the next 12 months, but he hopes to continue travelling and presenting Bush Poetry to all Australians, both new and old, in his very unique style. Congratulations, Mark 'Bushie' Thompson. (Photo Beaudesert Times)



HENRY THOMAS GREEN

In 1846 Henry Thomas Green, then aged 16, lied about his age so that he could join the British army. He stated his age as 18.

In 1856 he was sent to fight in the Crimean War, but his contingent arrived after peace was declared. However, as a member of the Royal Horse Artillery, he saw action at the Sepoy rebellion, the siege of Delhi, and the relief of Lucknow.

In 1870, after 25 years with the British Army, he was discharged with the rank of sergeant and given an imperial pension.

A few months later he migrated with his family to New South Wales, planning to take up land as a settler. However, at the formation of the New South Wales A Field Artillery Battery, Henry Green abandoned the farmer plan, and became the Battery's first volunteer.

As Battery Sergeant Major, Henry Green was sent to the Sudan in 1885 as a member of the first Australian contingent to fight overseas.

He helped select New South Wales horsemen to fight in the **second** Boer War. The mounts for these soldiers were chosen by "Banjo" Paterson.

Henry Green also supervised the placement of guns on South and Middle Heads, Sydney. He was retired in 1897 with the rank of Lieutenant. Twenty

one years later he died aged 87, and according to his granddaughter, Miss Ida Green, "He was every inch a soldier, and until his death in 1918 he carried himself ramrod straight."

Ida remembered him as an amiable old gentleman. She would sit on his knee as a child and comb his formidably long whiskers, which he usually tucked under his helmet when on Parade or riding his horse.

His medals are part of the collection at the Army Museum at Victoria Barracks, Sydney - and "The Henry Green Room" at Holsworthy Army Barracks contains much of his army and personal memorabilia. A Field Battery is still in existence at Holsworthy Army Camp.

Great-Great Grandson, Ed Parmenter of Coff's Harbour NSW, who completed his National Service training at Holsworthy Camp, remembers Henry Green's youngest daughter, Martha, as she lived her later life at Bargo with his grandmother. She died in her eighties. Henry's portrait takes pride of place over Ed's fireplace.

Descendants of Henry Green were invited to Sydney in 1985, where the 100 year anniversary celebrations of departure of the Sudan Contingent took place.

The Australia Post issue of Colonial Military Uniforms Stamps co-incided with this event.

KIDS IN CHURCH



A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. The boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home and I wanted to stay with you and mum!'

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Thomas 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Tommy, you be Jesus!'

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

INAUGURAL \$2,500 UPPER LACHLAN BUSH POETS' WOOLWAGON AWARDS 7th - 9th SEPTEMBER 2007 CROOKWELL NSW

Australian Bush Poets will compete with local poets for substantial awards and prizes. They will compete in traditional, contemporary and written classes. Young Poets from the local schools will also have the chance to compete, culminating on Saturday with all the poets having the chance to show their skills in the finals at the Crookwell Services Club.

Poets, poetry lovers and visitors will experience Crookwell's great country hospitality while laughing and crying at some of Australia's best bush poets.

The Upper Lachlan district is the birth place of famous Australian poets such as Dame Mary Gilmore, Nellie Evans (the Gypsy) and Archibald Nixon and trophies will be named in their honour. For more information call 0427 110637

The Committee of the fledgling Upper Lachlan Bush Poets have received a boost to conduct their inaugural Bush Poets 'Wool Wagon Awards'. 'We have secured funding to the tune of \$1,500 annually for two years from the local 'New Event Funding Program'



PROFILE: JAN LEWIS

'Lowanna Park' Cudgewa.

For ten years Jan has been the coordinator of Corryong Neighbourhood House and loves to use poems to tell the stories about Community Development work.

Two examples are 'Mrs K' (about a kindergarten teacher ultimately taught by her student) and 'The Interview' (Centrelink Handing on the Farm interview of an elderly man) Currently Jan writes little, but has a folder of ideas and poems on serviettes, backs of envelopes and 'sticky' notes, ready for later. (Retirement is in her sights!)

Jan is the eldest of 8 children, raised in the Dandenong Ranges, Melbourne, finishing her formal schooling (Year 9) at Upwey High. Although not particularly interested in poetry or writing, she was good at 'reading aloud', and still feels the embarrassment of hearing her voice back over the brand new reel to reel her English teacher used to record

her reading.

Jan spent 28 years on parent committees and classrooms at 9 different schools attended by her 5 children; an apprenticeship for the Upper Murray, where volunteers rule!

She started writing poetry in 1977 after hearing a friend read his bad poem and thought she could surely do better! Early poems were personal or for special events, and never recited aloud.

Jan moved to Walwa in NE Victoria in 1989 and produced local newsletter 'Walwa World' for 10 years and started writing rural poetry (inspired by Tammy Muir at an Adult Education conference). He recited about his dog, ute etc, so Jan wrote about rural life from a female point of view, through her 'Blow In' eyes.

Since 1994 Jan has written 'Chatting with Emmy' in the weekly Corryong Courier. 'Emmy' an older lady, writes about her good friend and neighbour Florrie, family, volunteers in general and her community. She pats people on the back, 'lives' in Corryong, reports on community happenings, promotes old fashioned values, and advertises 'learning for life' activities for the Neighbourhood House.

Jan's poetry book 'A Rural Woman's Reflections' and CD are dedicated to the people, especially the women - of the Upper Murray, principally in Walwa-Jingellic, who taught her so much. Jan writes about ordinary

life (people who think they're ordinary, when in fact they are brave, persistent, talented, hilarious etc)

Holder of the title of Victorian Bush Poetry Female Champion in 2003 and also 2005, Jan encourages women to participate as Bush Poetry attracts more male performers.

"I thought that a good way to encourage more female artists was to perform and enjoy the friendships. I love bush poetry and high country story telling and feel very lucky to live in an inspiring part of Australia. The Upper Murray is alive with Man From Snowy River history and today's characters provide great material and opportunities for bush poetry" says Jan

Jan continues to encourage everyone - males, females and children, to perform at Corryong's Man from Snowy River Festival each April. Her main volunteer role for the past decade has been as Event Manager of Poetry and Bush Music Events. "I wouldn't have a hope of pulling those events together without the help of my wonderful Bush Poetry family from many parts of Australia - it's a great group to be a part of".

'A Rural Woman's Reflections' \$15

'Beyond the Gate' CD \$15

Postage \$2 per item from:

Jan Lewis - 'Lowanna Park'

CUDGEWA Vic 3705.

email - poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au

said committee spokesman Paul Anderson.

The New Event Funding Program is sponsored by the Upper Lachlan Tourism Association. The 'Wool Wagon Awards' competition will run over the weekend of Friday 7th to Sunday 9th September 2007. Already Bush Poets from the far corners of New South Wales have returned entry forms for the big event.

The 'Wool Wagon Awards' will be conducted at the Services Club, with local Hotels encouraged to participate. Friday evening will see the Poets arrive in town which will be featured with a welcoming BBQ at the Services Club.

'From there we turn the Poets onto our town, which will make for an interesting Friday night', said Paul.

Competition proper will commence at 9.00am Saturday 8th September at the Services Club. There will be an Open Competition of Sections Traditional,

Original Serious, Original Humorous, plus junior competitions.

The day will culminate with Crookwell Services Club Performance Competition and night concert (7.30pm, to 10.30pm).

Sunday will see the Poets Walk-up Breakfast, the Contemporary Competition and then at 12.30pm the winners of the Written Section and presentation of awards will take place.

The Overall Champion Bush Poet will receive the Wool Wagon Award, which is to be the Perpetual Trophy.

Local wag and bush poet of note, John Brennan has the set task of organising local schools for ultimate participation in the special juniors section to be conducted on the Saturday 9th September between 11.00am and 12 noon. Those under 18 will be admit-

ted to all poetry events free of charge.

'Our big weekend is a registered event with the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc' said President Barry 'Spud' Murphy.

The Wool Wagon Awards have been born from the presentation of bush poets by the AP &H Society at the 2007 Show.

Bush Poet Garry Cullen was heavily involved with the show's presentation. He has been a driving force behind this latest local event. (Go to p.12)



'Monarchs of the Air'

was written by Arthur Green of Warana Qld. who based the poem on 'The Brahminy Kite', a completely fictitious short story written by him some seventeen years ago which seemed to win the hearts of everyone who read it.

After finishing 'Monarchs' (the poem) Arthur entered it in the Literary Awards Written Competition at Gulgong this year, hoping for a win and the opportunity to share it with the audience to see their reaction. The awards presentations saw him as runner-up with no chance of a recital at the ceremony but, after bending the rules a little he read it at the Poet's Breakfast on the Sunday morning to a very heartfelt response.

The Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*), also known as the Red-backed Sea-eagle, is a medium-sized bird of prey from the same family as eagles, buzzards and harriers. This kite is a familiar sight in the skies of India and southeast Asia and as far south as New South Wales, Australia, through which region it is widespread and resident.

It has a typical kite flight, with wings angled, but its tail is rounded unlike the Red Kite and Black Kite, which have forked tails. The Brahminy Kite is an attractive bird, with chestnut plumage except for the white head and breast and black wing tips.



MONARCHS OF THE AIR

(from the diary of an 'outback' Aussie teenager)

© Arthur Green Warana Qld.

Awarded second place in the Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc 2007 Literary Awards Written Competition



One month in which to cram a lifetime's worth of hopes and dreams is really so unfair to kids around my age it seems.

But rather than complaining 'bout the things I'll now not do, I plan to use those thirty days to share my thoughts with you.

Why just one month? Well that's the time that now remains from when those tests revealed what lay ahead, three months ago, back then.

"Leukaemia is just a word," they'd said with artful guile, "though chemo might require a change of hair-style for a while."

"We're sure to find a donor whose bone marrow matches yours."

Oh, yeah? I thought, that's great if you believe in Santa Claus.

But let's not dwell on stuff like that, or what I look like now.

Perhaps they'll find that donor and we'll beat this thing somehow.

Instead, I'd rather tell you just how Shaka won my heart.

I guess the day he first arrived might be the place to start.

It happened just two weeks ago, one day when I was 'down' – a kite with small, white-feathered head and wings of reddish brown.

I've always felt that birds of prey were monarchs of the air,

though Brahminys like Shaka, 'round these parts, are rather rare.

I wonder if he'll stay a while perhaps and be my friend?

The doctors know I haven't long, despite what they pretend.

It's five days now since last I wrote and something weird's occurred.

I think my Brahminy's convinced that I too, am a bird.

Last week while doing chores I taped his cry from our back deck, and ever since, each time I play it, Shaka comes to check.

He watches while I sketch him and try tempting him with meat.

I've never had a friend like him and find this really neat.

And he's not had a friend like me to teach him all the ways that teenage girls on borrowed time employ to fill their days.

Dear Diary, it's day thirteen and there's still no match in sight.

My doctors simply sigh now when acknowledging my plight.

That marrow-matching miracle that offered such high hopes, has been, it seems, confounded by unfriendly isotopes.

My mum's advanced my birthday bash to just two weeks from now.

"Why wait that extra week," she says, "let's hold it anyhow."

And though she smiles and laughs as if it isn't all that strange, she isn't fooling me about the reason for the change.

This coloured beanie cap Mum bought is really super cool.

I'll bet I'd wow the kids if I could wear it back to school.

"Of course," the doctors say, "that might not be for some time yet," though mum and I both know, at best, that's just a sucker bet.

Day sixteen and last night I dreamt of places far from here; devoid of needles, scans and drips and things I've come to fear; of soaring, just like Shaka, free from pain and earthly care, through fluffy clouds and multi-coloured rainbows way up there.

A piece on our relationship might help to pass the time, and maybe with some photos and a verse or two of rhyme, I'll be, if it gets published (and I plan to persevere), a posthumously famous, teenage female balladeer.



Enjoy a great weekend at the
Upper Lachlan Wool Wagon Awards
Crookwell NSW
7 - 9 September 2007

<http://www.spudmurphysinn.com>

Ph. 02 4832 1004

Crookwell is situated 2½ hours from Sydney, 41 kays north-west of Goulburn on the highest point on the Great Dividing Range at approximately 960metres. Crookwell is surrounded by small country villages and has a population of approximately three thousand people, 3 hotels, an RSL club, good restaurants, a bowling club, squash courts, tennis courts, hockey fields, football fields and an excellent golf course.

The first white settlers arrived in the region as early as the 1820s. In 1860 the town of Crookwell was officially named. When the region was first settled, wheat, potatoes, sheep and cattle were the main produce of the Shire. Today, Crookwell is home to more unusual industries. The first fully commercial grid-connected wind farm in Australia was erected in Crookwell and generates enough power for 3,500 homes. The massive 36-tonne steel towers are 45 metres high and have a blade diameter of 44 metres.

Just twenty days and twenty nights have now elapsed since when I started on this diary and life's changed so much since then. "Oh, Shaka, who'll look out for you, when I'm no longer here to sit and scan the sky each day in hopes that you'll appear?"

"Who'll play my tape-recording of your penetrating cries that so befit my very special monarch of the skies? Your story's almost finished and though Mum is really grand, her muffled sobs at night are almost more than I can stand."

Dear Diary, it's now lunchtime. Shaka's waiting to be fed. Mum's in the kitchen, phoning, though I can't hear what's been said. My birthday bash was so much fun – more so since Shaka came. I'll tell you, one day, what it was that made me choose that name.

I've only just a few more days before my month's complete. Perhaps I'll leave the rest for now, 'cause really, I'm dead beat. I think I hear mum coming, which is good, 'cause Shaka here, is giving me the strangest look, though why, I've no idea.

"Jess! Jess! They've found a donor." Footsteps echo down the hall. "They say there's still a chance we'll beat this Cancer after all." A sense of peace enfolds Jess at her mother's happy cry, which seemingly grows fainter, though she can't imagine why.

Concerned at no response, her mother pauses at the door. The pages filled with Shaka's tale lay scattered 'round the floor – a sacrilege her daughter would not knowingly allow, while in amongst them lies the tape-recorder, silent now.

Her daughter's eyes are closed. Her journey's end has come to be. Her smile of joy and happiness is plain for all to see. The kite is nowhere to be seen. It seems their new-found friend has shed the bond that held him there until the very end.

Then joyous kite cries draw her eyes towards the sky above, where two kites swoop and soar in bird-like rhapsodies of love. Two shapes, now bonded, where existed only one before – a gift of hope – a sign that none but cynics could ignore.

"Oh, Jess, could that perhaps be you with Shaka way up there? Could I pretend that you are both now monarchs of the air? And if such things could ever be (as mystic scribes foretell), whatever now awaits you, Jess ... God bless ... and fare thee well."

Harry Donnelly has portrayed the late Cedric Friend better than any artist or photographer ever could. For those of us who knew Cedric this poem has captured the man as we will remember him. He was always quiet, always unassuming, always happy, always there. He enjoyed the role he played as Shir!s 'uvver 'alf' casually taking the brunt of her jokes lovingly in his stride.

Harry Donnelly, from Weyba Downs, Queensland, is an informal, strikingly unconventional bush poet whose quirky poems leave his audiences in complete wonderment as to what he is really on about - and immediately wanting to hear more.

Harry started performing at the Gympie Museter in 2003 where he entered and won two competitions in his first time on stage. He lives on the Sunshine Coast but prefers to write rather than recite.

This poem came to mind after a conversation with Shirley Friend. It is how he witnessed Cedric watching her perform. Harry Donnelly has a CD 'The Thoughts of 'H' and you can contact him on Ph: 0417 162 997 or email readh@tpg.com.au

'and words were Ced'

*and he sat there – watching – listening,
hanging on her every word,
as though it were the first time,
not the countless time he'd heard.
and he did it always – every time,
his darling, precious spoke,
t'was him – down to his bootlace,
such a fiercely loyal bloke.*

*and his face would hide, but nothing,
moving 'cross each spoken rhyme,
sharing every syllable
every heartbeat of the time.
and I watched him, as he watched her,
fascinated by the man,
his eyes lit each expression –
her staunchest, proudest fan.*

*and he never deviated,
he would die when e'er she died,
if a word lay lost – forgotten,
urging seconds to subside.
and as I watched – I marvelled,
at each played out metaphor,
the trainer and his boxer,
intensely guarding from the floor.*

*and I wonder – in the future,
as I glance his empty chair,
if something from my memory
conjures Cedric sitting there,
and he's quietly watching – listening,
hanging on her every word,
as though it were the first time...*

*harry donnelly
16-6-07.*

PROFILE: SANDY LEES



Sandy Lees was born in Bundaberg in May 1950; her Scottish ancestors being some of the original settlers in the area after first moving to Bathurst NSW. Family reunions are held every five years on the site of the original homestead.

Sandy was educated at the Bundaberg Primary and Secondary schools and was elected House Captain whilst at the Primary School.

She joined the workforce on February 14th, 1966 working as a Private Secretary to the Manager for Toft Bros. Pty. Ltd. (founders of the mechanical cane harvester) for many years before marrying and moving away from Bundaberg. This marriage produced three children – Scott, Sonia and Paul Fox.

Sandy returned to Bundaberg with the children in 1980 to be closer to her family, the beaches and away from the hustle and bustle of Brisbane and this is when her life took a big change for the better.

She says “good things happen when you least expect them”.

When the children’s trampoline mat needed some stitching, enquiries led her to an upholsterer ‘just down the road’. The rest is history, here she met her second husband John, the upholsterer and ‘the man to see’. He told her to come back in a week, but this stretched to three weeks and each time the meetings seemed to last a little longer.

Encouraged by her parents, Sandy and the children went along to a square dance evening where the caller was starting new classes. This new association with square dancing lasted for twenty-four years during which time Sandy acted as publicity officer for twenty years and as President for twelve. John and Sandy spent many enjoyable week-ends away at square-dance festivals. Sandra also took up Clogging, an American form of tap-

dancing, which was sadly put to an end after a number of years when she injured her knee in a fall on Great Keppel Island.

Sandy has always been involved in sport. With tennis from an early age, School Netball and Saturday and evening fixtures, basketball and squash. As a member of the local swimming club she would rise at 5am, ride to the swimming pool for training, then home for breakfast and off to school. These days she walks fifteen kms a week and swims another couple of kays with friends.

Sandy and John became interested in Bush Poetry in 1997 when, because of a graft to one of her eyes, they were unable to attend square-dancing and, in response to a television commercial advertising the Bundy Muster, Sandy suggested they go along to see what the fuss was all about.

John, who was always keen on poetry, thought ‘Sandy won’t like this’, but how far from the truth he was; from the moment they entered the concert hall they couldn’t stop laughing throughout the entire evening.

The next morning Sandy moved to ‘sign them up for the club’ but when she arrived home they discovered they had joined the ABPA and not the local Bundaberg Poet’s Society. In hindsight it couldn’t have been a better move as after their first Newsletter arrived they hooked the van on to the car and headed for the North Pine Camp Oven Festival, then on to the Gympie Muster and later to Tamworth where their association with ‘The Naked Poets’ started, a most rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Poetry festivals have taken them all over Queensland and parts of NSW where they have been blessed with many wonderful friendships. ‘It’s just like an extended family’ says Sandy.

The Lees finally got around to joining the Bundaberg Poets’ Society and have been involved with the running of the Bundy Muster in some way since 1998. The Bundy Muster was the instigation of Bette Shiels back in 1995 and carried on by Merv Webster, Liz Ward and Jim Lysaght. Sandy first took on the position of Publicity Officer, was Secretary for a few years, followed by Vice-President for a number of years now President, as well as the Muster Co-ordinator with John playing a very supportive role. This year is the 13th Bundy Bush Poetry Muster and each

year it gets bigger and bigger.

Sandy doesn’t write poetry or enter performance competitions although she has entertained at different functions in Bundaberg. John on the other hand dabbles with a bit of writing.

Sandy & John have a caravan and just love going away on holidays either on their own or with friends.

When Sandy manages to find time for herself she likes nothing better than to sew or knit for the grandchildren. Reading is another passion but sadly doesn’t get as much time to do this as in the past although rarely does a day go by without her reading something.

Apparently John has been known to tell people that he has yet to find the ‘off’ button for Sandy. She does enjoy a good chat and a laugh.

Sandy says she is most proud to be a wife, mother and grandmother and what she enjoys most is to see family and friends happy and enjoying life.



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PROFILE: JULIE BRIGGS



Julie Briggs is a name synonymous with one of Australia's best known festivals; the John O'Brien Bush Festival held annually in the Riverina town of Narrandera.

One of four children, she was born in Mildura on the Murray River. Julie was raised at nearby Merbein on a grape and citrus block and later on a rice farm at Coleambally. Her schooling was by correspondence until her final two years which she spent at a boarder at Scots School in Albury.

From school she worked as a bank officer in Leeton, Narrandera and Canberra before joining a TV station in Griffith in advertising and sales. She has worked as an office administrator and as a waitress when the kids were little and gained her Bachelor of Social Science at the Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

Julie has worked for the Narrandera Shire Council for the past seventeen years as a Community services coordinator, a tourist officer and events manager and now as Manager of Communications, Events and Visitor Services.

Currently for something to do, she is learning to play the bodhran while studying communications and media.

Julie is married to 'a lovely man', Dexter who works for the Narrandera Fisheries Centre; a great festival volunteer and chief cook in the Brigg's household. They are lucky to have both sets of parents, the Thompsons and the Briggs, living nearby at Coleambally and Narrandera.

Julie and Dek have two great kids in Chris (27) and Andrea (23) and boast a lovely daughter-in-law Tracey (26) and a granddaughter Mia.

Andrea and Tracey both work for the Council while Chris works next door for an employment agency.

It was back in 1994 that her boss Gwen Nielsen (now retired) thought they should do something to recognise John O'Brien aka Father Patrick Joseph Hartigan, the poet-priest who lived in Narrandera between 1917 and 1945.

It was in Narrandera that he published his first collection of poetry entitled "Around the Boree Log" and it was in his second collection 'The Parish of St. Mels' that his Narrandera Parish was so honoured when it was published posthumously.

The John O'Brien Poetry & Prose Competition came first in 1994 and then the first John O'Brien Festival (Heritage and Arts Festival) in 1995. It was a hit locally and Gwen and Julie felt that there was an audience out there. The following year it was named the John O'Brien Folk Festival and the next it picked up its present name and character with the replacement of 'Folk' with 'Bush'. It truly is a bush festival, now boasting five poet's breakfasts, a number of walk-ups, concerts, an Anzac Tribute, bush dancing, a busking competition and heaps of bush music.

Julie now works as Council's Manager of Communications, Events and Visitor Service. She still works on the John O'Brien Bush Festival, but these days other staff play major roles in getting the festival off the ground each year, in particular, Marie Lipscombe

and Brent Lawrence. There is also now a team of 38 volunteers.

The festival will be in its 14th year in 2008 and promises to be as entertaining as ever.

And, from Noel Stallard:

'Having been involved with the John O'Brien festival for twelve of its thirteen years I have been privileged to have witnessed first hand the significant contribution Julie Briggs has made. Julie is insightful as to what works and what does not work at the festival. She readily canvasses comment from those involved as to how the festival can be improved and will take a calculated risk with innovations. One of the reasons why this festival continues to grow is the critical evaluation Julie makes after each festival. She is not adverse to dropping an unsuccessful venture or introducing an emerging talent. Julie epitomises 'the quiet achiever' who graciously, modestly and unpretentiously oversees the many facets of this gem of a festival. She delegates authority, empowering others to be responsible for venue operations but is readily available to solve the problems that will invariably arise.

Narrandera community owe much to Julie Briggs for what she had done, through this John O'Brien Bush Festival, to attract Australians to return with friends to this country town each year in March.'

THE PIG

'Twas an evening in November
As I very well remember
I was strolling down the street in
drunken pride
But my knees were all a-flutter
So I landed in the gutter
And a pig came up and lay down by
my side

Yes, I lay there in the gutter
Thinking thoughts I could not utter
When a colleen passing by did softly
say:

"Ye can tell a man that boozes
By the company he chooses"
And the pig got up and slowly walked
away!

'The Pig' is an American Song, written in 1933 by Benjamin Hapgood Burt. It was performed or sung by a bloke named Frank Crumit.

Its original title appears to be 'The Pig Got Up and Walked Away'

VALE: Don Anderson

1931 - 2007

It is with deepest sympathy that we inform members of the passing of Don Anderson of Leeton NSW. Don passed away on Monday 16th July; he was 76 years old.

Don was the heart and soul of Leeton. He was active in many aspects of the local community as bus driver for the aged, recording newspaper items, books for the sight impaired and helping to raise money for many different charities through his bush poetry and entertainment skills.

He was a keen follower of bush poetry and appeared at many of the southern NSW and Northern Victorian festivals.

Don was an avid and accomplished player of the bagpipes and played at many weddings, parties and funerals, it was there for fitting that there was a piper from his pipe band to play, as his coffin was carried from the church and again at the grave side.

Don loved his Bush poetry and his forte was Traditional poetry. May he rest in peace.

QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Queensland Open Bush Poetry State Championships were conducted by the Beaudesert Country & Horse Festival committee with the assistance of the Beaudesert Bush Bards and the sponsorship of AJ Bush and Sons.

The Championships were decided at Woodhill Country Hall via Beaudesert from the 9th to 11th June; a perfect venue for a week-end of poetry, fellowship and fun.

The competition judges Noel Stallard, Ray Essery, Glenny Palmer and Carol Heuchan stated the poetry performances were of a very high standard.

The Bonza Bush Bash on the Saturday night was a sell-out with the capacity crowd enjoying soup and damper during the supper break.

As well as the poetry, the week-ends entertainment was in good hands with Fay Janson, Paul Ensbey (of Bulamakanka) and 'H' and Jane McAllister sharing their music and poetry.

Claire Reynolds of Gloucester won the Open Ladies State Champion title and the men's title went to Mark 'Bushie' Thompson of Palmerston in north Queensland. (See page 8 & 9)

A welcome return to the competition stage after a considerable break was that of ABPA Life Member Ron Selby who took home three silver medals.

Full results can be found on page 20.

TUNCURRY BREAKFAST 'n' BRAWL and Presentation of Awards Great Lakes and Taree District Written Poetry Competition for Primary School Students 8 am Sunday 23rd Sept Tuncurry Memorial Hall, Point Road, Tuncurry Brawl Prizes

1st \$120, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$40

Brawl topic available from Reid on Saturday 16th September from 9 am - 1 pm.

Brawl Entry \$3

Barbecue hot breakfast \$6.00

Breakfast bookings essential

Ph. Reid Begg 6554 9788

Inaugural BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Conducted under the auspices of the ABPA Inc
Bowling Club

**Milton - Ulladulla NSW
Sunday 30th September
2pm - 6pm**

Any mix, 1 Classical - 1 Humorous

\$1000.00 PRIZEMONEY

1st. \$500.00 2nd \$300.00 3rd \$200.00

Contact: John Davis

37 George Avenue

KINGS POINT NSW 2539

Ph. 02 4455 2013

email: jda76436@bigpond.net.au

SSAE for Entry Forms

ENTRIES CLOSE 15th September

Entry Fee \$5.00

Audience admission Gold Coin
or Cash Donation

A NSW Regional Flagship Event

BUNDABERG A BIG SUCCESS

Forty poets registered for this year's Bundy Muster held on the weekend of 13-15 July.

Milton Taylor, Gregory North & Melanie Hall were the judges for the Intermediate & Open Categories as well as being the performers for the Saturday night concert. Just under 300 attended the concert on the Saturday night.

The trio also kept the audience in stitches with their madcap antics on Friday night at the Walk-Up Poetry Concert which was attended by nearly 200.

Terry Regan, Trisha Anderson & Anita Reed were the judges for the Under 15's and Novice categories.

Terry Regan was the overall champion poet for the week-end. Poets came from as far away as Port Sorrell in Tasmania and north to Longreach for the competition. Bundy is just getting bigger with each passing year. An all time record of 203 entries were received for the Bundaberg Bush Lantern Awards. Ages of the entrants ranged from 10 years to 89 years.

These figures auger well for Australian Bush Poetry and all the writers are to be congratulated.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/3 Column	\$10.00
2/3 Column	\$15.00
Full Column	\$20.00
Half Page	\$40.00
Book Shelf	\$ 5.00

Full page ads not available

Poet's Calendar and Regular Events free. (One line only)

Poets Calendar Booklet free.

(Deadlines Apr 30 and Oct 30)

To allay costs, copy regarding a festival or event would be appreciated if accompanied by a paid advertisement.

**Terms strictly C.O.D. with ad.
(Invoiced with Receipt)**

Send all details in plain text along with payment

The Editor.

PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804

email. editor@abpa.org.au

Ph. 02 6344 1477



Entries are limited so an early definite response is necessary with limited free accommodation for early-bird performers. Entry to the State Park and the Inaugural Competition are free. Further information can be obtained from Frank Daniel email editor@abpa.org.au or Phone 02 6344 1477

BURRINJUCK GOLDEN JUBILEE BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Burrinjuck Waters State Park

The Centenary celebrations of the commencement of the Goondah to Burrinjuck Railway will be an action packed weekend full of entertainment for the whole family.

For performance bush poets it will certainly be a welcome change of venue with a \$1,500 performance competition on 1st and 2nd of September 2007.

The competition will run from 11am on Saturday with an Open Classical section followed by an Open Humorous section (original or contemporary). On the Sunday morning a Poets Breakfast will feature a one-minute brawl, walk-up poets and a final with the top eight poets from the Saturday.

For those not attending the Night of Wizardry at the Conference Centre on the Saturday night, a walk-up get-together open concert will take place.

Frank Daniel of Canowindra will comper and coordinate the weekend's poetry action.

The Burrinjuck Shuffle kicks off at 10am Saturday after registrations at the Conference Centre. Entry fee is \$10 with \$500 prize-money to be shared equally by the first male and female runners.

The Poets luncheon (competition) will commence at 11am followed by Free Folk Music from 4.30pm and a Bush Band at 6pm.

A Night of Wizardry in the Conference Centre includes a two course dinner and wine at 6pm.

An extra prize of two nights accommodation at the State Park will be offered to Amateur Poets in a special walk-up breakfast at 8am on Sunday.

The usual festival activities and attractions will be on hand over the two days.

For a release from the stresses of modern life, Burrinjuck Waters State Park offers relaxation among stunning scenery overlooking the giant Lake Burrinjuck, surrounded by bushland that has changed little since European settlement.

Burrinjuck Dam is twice the size of Sydney Harbour. The park is home to many native animals, which you can see up-close, and a paradise for bird-watchers.



Eileen McPhillips

Since being 'discovered' at the 'John O'Brien Bush Festival' in Narrandera, NSW in 2006, Eileen McPhillips has forged a reputation as a gifted interpreter in song, of the works of some of Australia's finest poets such as Henry Lawson and A.B. Paterson.

In March this year she returned to Narrandera as a featured act and has wowed audiences there and at 'The Man from Snowy River Festival' in Corryong.

Her repertoire also includes many songs from her childhood days in Scotland, as well as from her father's homeland in County Donegal, Ireland.

Whatever the origins, Eileen's soft, melodic voice complements her ability to emotively convey the meaning behind the lyrics she sings.

Eileen lives in Mt. Macedon in the beautiful Central Highlands of Victoria where she enjoys keeping alive the old custom of homespun music around the fire-side.

She has an album of ten songs and poems which she carefully selected to convey her love of traditional folklore.

Whether it be the songs of her native Scotland or of her father's homeland in Ireland, or indeed of her adopted country, Australia, she embraces each one with equal devotion.

Her songs and poems transcend national and language barriers and tell familiar stories of the heart as well as the hearth.

Enjoy these tales of love and longing, of great endeavour and of course immense love of country from her album *Eileen McPhillips sings around the boree log*, which is available from her at

'Clonandra' 553 Barringo Road
MOUNT MACEDON Vic. 3441
03 5426 3453 www.clonandra.com.au
\$25.00 post paid.

CANADIAN COWBOY POET TO VISIT



Ken Mitchell, a new member of the ABPA, is one of the leading cowboy poets in the Canadian West, and is looking forward to his next trip to Australia to study the national genre of Bush Poetry. Raised on his father's cattle ranch near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Mitchell kicked off his spurs at 17 to go to university, and went on to become a prolific author and playwright.

He's a good mate of Roderick Williams and we'll have more about Ken in the October issue of the ABPA Newsletter.

The Turning Wave

Festival of Irish and Australian music and the related arts

12-16 September 2007

HISTORIC TOWN OF GUNDAGAI NSW

Earlybird discount: Weekend ticket \$60 ADULT \$20 YOUTH (12-18 YRS)
until COB 31 August. Day and Night tickets also available.

www.turningwave.org.au

Tickets TEL 02 6944 2200 Accommodation TEL 02 6944 1447

music • song • dance • spoken word • literature • celtic fringe

The Turning Wave is taken from a poem by Colleen Z Burke and an anthology of the same name edited by Colleen and Vincent Woods and is used with the kind permission of the authors.



A Festival of Irish and Australian Music & the Related Arts Celebrating Irish Australia

In September 2007 all the tracks will be winding back to the historic township of Gundagai as it comes alive to the sound of jigs and reels and the rhythmic beat of step and set dancing when it hosts the Turning Wave, a festival of Irish and Australian Music and the Related Arts. The festival celebrates Gundagai's connections with early Irish settlement and its unique place in an emerging Australian national identity.

Gundagai is one of the very few places in Australia that has been immortalised in the Australian psyche by the many songs and poems written

about it. "Along the Road to Gundagai" written by Jack O'Hagan was once considered the first Australian hit-song and has been sung by generations of Australians. Jack Moses' poem Nine Miles from Gundagai, and the folklore surrounding the famous dog on the tuckerbox, have also been woven into the rich tapestry of Gundagai history.

The Irish influence is entwined in the fabric of Gundagai from convicts, Irish orphan girls to bushrangers, such as Captain Moonlight and Johnny Dunn. The streets of the old township are named after poets, with the main street named after the Irish poet Sheridan.

The Irish connections and the unique culture and history of Gundagai provides the perfect stage for the Turning Wave Festival and some of the best songwriters, poets, storytellers and performers in Australia.

The Festival program will encompass a wide range of events both traditional and contemporary, with an amazing line-up of performers with over sixty top-class acts from around Australia and Ireland.

Special guest from Ireland, Ruth

Boylan will head the list of 2007 performers and will also teach master classes in concertina, providing a unique opportunity to learn from and interact with one of Ireland's finest musician.

Further information on all festival events, master classes, special ticketed events, full performer list is available on the festival website and discounted festival and master class tickets can be purchased until close of business 31 August 2007. For more information visit the Turning Wave Festival website www.turningwave.org.au or email twf@greginc.org.au



PROFILE: Zondrae King



Zondrae King was born in Sydney, her father was an Italian migrant and her mother, of Irish descent, born and raised in Wollongong. Her parents settled in Port Kembla when she was 12 mths old. Zondrae was educated in Catholic schools, leaving at fifteen years to enter the workforce.

Zondrae worked in many and varied positions, starting as an office junior in a travel agency and finishing as an Australasian paymaster for a medium sized manufacturing company. (David Brown Gears).

She left paid employment in 2002 partly because of the increasing effects of Parkinsons, and partly because her husband had just had treatment for Non-Hodgkins' Lymphoma. He has been in remission for six years.

Deciding they didn't want to work until they dropped, the couple are now happily enjoying their retirement.

Travel saw them in Malaysia, Singapore and Borneo during 2004 and in China and Hong Kong in June and July 2005.

In the mid 60s Zondrae opened her own business which was a coffee lounge by day and a Disco, (try google-ing "Zondrae") featuring live music three nights a week, catering for the under 18yrs age group. Here she met her husband through a band who came to play there and brought him as their bouncer. They married after only seven months and have led a most adventurous life. Her husband, Wayne, came from Narooma and is still a country boy at heart. They have lived in several places throughout NSW including Lightning Ridge.

Zondrae and Wayne have three grown up children and three grandchildren.

Their first born, a daughter, is also called Zondrae: her husband works for Bluescope steel.

Their second daughter Amanda lives at Wollongong and is married to Dan Dubowski, an instrument maker. Through them, Zondrae started going to Folk Music Festivals as a way to spend more time with them. Dan has his instruments on display at festivals.

MY MAGPIE FRIEND

© Zondrae King Corrimal NSW (May 2006)

My Magpie friend, the whole world sleeps,
but still I hear you call,
as morning steals in through the mist,
from eucalyptus tall.

In pairs dressed somberly in black, with shiny shawls of white,
you praise the dawn and stretch your back and call to greet the light.

You rouse me long before the suns first warm life-giving kiss.
My rested spirit rises free from dreams and slumbers' bliss.
We yawn, then, with your murmuring caress of chortled song,
my presence here, my place and yours, you bless, and we belong.

My magpie friend, watch over me and open up my mind,
to see and hear the stirring earth. Don't let me become blind.
Awaken me so I can see, the clouds first blush of day
and always let me love to be with children as they play.

In spring your raucous call warns clear. You call "Kooraw-Kooroo"
if I should chance too near your babes already dressed like you.
You hide them safe, tucked in your nest, protecting, guarding yours.
You drive away unwanted guest, with beating wings and claws.

My Magpie friend with piercing eye, I know your puzzled look,
in waving branches held on high or from some rooftop nook.
When worries wound my weary soul, when everything seems wrong,
with ebony coat glistening, come, sooth me with your song.

You perch upon the phone wire, in formal black and white
and meet to form the choir that will usher in the night.
Then, gathering among the trees, as evening shadows creep,
in groups of fours or twos or threes, you sing the world to sleep.

My Magpie friend your sweet refrain, is ringing in my ears.
In winters chill or springtime rain, through all the passing years,
o'er rolling hills and valleys deep it echoes mile by mile.
"Cooroolleekee karalooocoo" it always makes me smile.

When in the Snowy Mountains or on Opal fields out west,
round apple tree, on forest floor, in native scrub, at rest,
we travel free, cross rivers, plains, green mountains, dry red sand,
you welcome me. To me you are the spirit of the land.



A son, Adam is a High School teacher in Canberra teaching Science.

Zondrae's first introduction to Poets Breakfasts was at Major's Creek in 2001, where she was amazed at the number of people writing and performing Australian poetry. The following year she made her debut reading two of her own pieces. A love of playing with language and playing word games, doing crosswords and scribbling a bit of verse here and there has been the foundation of her upcoming poetry career.

Festivals attended by her in the last few years include Jamberoo, Majors Creek, Cobargo and The National Folk Festival in Canberra.

Zondrae says she owes a lot to the professional poets, in particular Vic Jefferies and Frank Daniel for their encouragement. Since becoming a member of the Australian Bush Poets Association and the Bush Poets web site, she has started writing more, and gained confidence enough to tackle the performance side of poetry, and is now able to share it with a wider audience.

PROFILE: JAN MORRIS



Jan Morris is a member of the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group and coordinates the running of the Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition and the Blackened Billy Verse Competition held in January each year.

She was born and educated in Sydney and, as she says, 'although I run two bush poetry competitions, that is the only running I ever did. As a child I was hopeless at sport and couldn't run to save my life.'

Jan was moderately successful academically and a bit of a reader. As a teenager she bought a second-hand copy of *'The Bond of Poetry'* and from this little volume a love of poetry developed.

Jan moved to Tamworth to live about forty years ago and had two children, got a divorce and worked as a Librarian at BAE Systems Flight Training. She met Cliff Hathaway who introduced her to the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.

The poetry group had already started running its two competitions at the time and they were run to coincide with Tamworth's Country Music Festival. The group had no idea what an impact on the Festival bush poetry would have.

The organizing was mostly done by Maureen Quickenden and Cliff Hathaway with other members lending a hand. Jan was soon roped in to the administrative side of things and before she knew what was happening, Maureen had handed over the running of the performance side of the competition at the Imperial Hotel so that Maureen could fully concentrate on

the Blackened Billy Written Competition.

The Imperial Hotel was the setting for the genesis of the modern bush poetry movement. At times it was beery and noisy but there were moments of sheer brilliance and exhilaration, as the group watched the emergence of the people we now recognise as the masters of the performance of bush poetry. More and more poets arrived on the scene, performances became more and more professional, and audiences grew and grew and became more and more appreciative of the art of bush poetry.

The Imperial Hotel became the "home of bush poetry" and bush poetry became a major aspect of the Country Music Festival.

As time went on 'The Impy', as it was known, became too 'rough and ready' and with the help of their generous sponsors, Country Energy, the poetry group found themselves under the umbrella of the West Leagues Club where the fun still continues.

In more recent years Jan has been organizing the Blackened Billy Written Competition as well.

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work involved with the two competitions, but Jan still calls it fun and has met so many wonderful people.

While Jan feels she has helped to develop the careers of many of the poets who have become highly respected as entertainers, she is happiest when she is helping a new performer get started.

'There are so many talented writers and performers out there' she says, 'I'm sure there are many more to be discovered'.

Jan's family has grown up and married and she now has five grandchildren all living close to Tamworth where she can spend a fair bit of time with them.

As well, Cliff and Jan are now partners in more sense than just in bush poetry. They lead a fairly quiet life, with a bit of tripping around. He plays golf and she knits and listens to classical music (not country music!). They both have a lot of community involvements and have a couple of dogs.



TUNCURRY BUSH POETS BREAKFAST 'N' BRAWL

Midcoast Sundowners Bush Poets will hold a Bush Poets Breakfast in the Tuncurry Memorial Hall, (old theatre), Point Rd., Tuncurry on Sunday 23rd September 2007, commencing at 8 am. The mornings entertainment will commence at 9 am and will include performances by local and visiting poets and awards for the eighth annual Great Lakes and Taree District Written Poetry Competition for Primary School Students with successful youngsters presenting their entries.

Another One Minute Bush Poets Brawl will also be held and offers increased prize money this year, 1st - \$120, 2nd - \$50 and 3rd - \$40.

Topic for the Brawl poems will be available by phone, one week prior, on Saturday 16th September between 9 am and 1 pm from coordinator Reid Begg, phone 02 6554 9788.

Entry for the Brawl is \$3.00 and will be sponsored by local accountancy firm, Harrison, Main and Macarthur of Tuncurry.

Breakfast will be available for a very reasonable \$6.00 and will be cooked by one of our event sponsors, Tuncurry Mud Crabs Swimming Club. Please ring Reid to book in for breakfast.

Local or visiting bush poets are also most welcome to come along and perform.

The organisers wish to express their appreciation to their other event sponsors who are Ware Building Pty. Ltd, of Tuncurry and Country Energy. They also wish to acknowledge the valued ongoing support of the Coomba Park Cowgirls.

Submitted by Reid Begg, Tuncurry NSW.

(See ad page 16)

PERFORMERS PLEASE NOTE. Public Liability Insurance is available through the ABPA from January to December each year. **Are you financial?**

SNOWY MOUNTAIN MAGIC

© max merckenschlager

Winning entry 2007 Bundaberg Bush Lantern Award.

There are alps abroad more showy
than our humble slopes of Snowy
and her mountains pale a ghostly gray
when others strut the stage.

For compared to grander players
like those awesome Himalayas,
Kosciusko is a novice – falling short beneath their gauge.
Yet this icon of our nation draws a feeling of elation
from the pilgrim when he greets her,
and a burning lump that grows.

His Australian chest is swelling
as a modest pride is welling -
there is magic in our sweetheart that instinctively he knows.

Over time we've rung the changes
from our Snowy Mountain Ranges
and those mountain-folk that settled her
with fortitude and grit,
who as pioneering strangers took their daily dose of dangers
and recorded life in folklore with their dry, laconic wit.
Tucked away beyond detection

on each rampart-rimmed selection,
there were some who coaxed a living
from their fragile Snowy soils.
Out of step with crowds and prattle,
down her gullies trailing cattle,
rode our ballad-making drovers wringing cracks
from leathered coils.

Once, her golden specks and seamers
lured a canny draft of dreamers -
though the treasures most uncovered weren't in nugget,
lode or pan.

But the vibrant forests' singing
wed the strike of picks a-ringing
in her crucible of nature, gilding metal-hearts of man.

There've been rhymers and romantics,
with their brushes and semantics,
painting images of Snowy in a time of legends gone;
when a plucky pony shuffled

and the rising mist was snuffled,
as he stamped the ground impatient
for a chase to start at dawn.

Later migrant tongues of many -
shipped ashore without a penny -
rattled silent isolation while our Range was disembowelled
and from caverns carved & grouted,

Snowy's lifeblood gushed & spouted,
in a dizzy dash of gravity as turbines hummed and howled.
We've known bitter days and tragic

sent to balance those of magic,
when our Snowy's wrapped and sold us
in her chillers lashed by sleet.

For her fickle disposition flicks to fury from remission,
as she signals not to trust her - even modern lovers cheat!

And though barren peaks and covered
in the smoky hazes smothered,
over valley floors are soaring still like spirits from our past,

lately pencil-plumes of Boeings
frame the comings and the goings
of a trade-up generation groomed for living now, and fast:
swapping lathered hides and flannels
for the brightly-polished panels
of their paint-and-metal brumbies,
ironing wrinkled roads of tar;
sporting fibreglass and polys -
in designer-wear with brollies -
for the current crop of faithful worshippers Banjo from afar.

Not the billy-tea and damper
for each power-pointed camper,
not the lonely swag in mountain scrub
a week along the trail.

Not the icy fords for dipping -
into heated spas he's slipping -
and the rigours of the saddle
conjure thoughts that leave him pale!

Now it's bunker down in chalets,
tipping waitresses and valets,
watching electronic bushrangers relieve us at their tills,
while the snow-machines are spraying
to prepare her slopes for playing,
and a GST's been added to our hinterland of thrills.

Yet beyond the tourist hustle
where her wrens and robins rustle,
in a download operation cutting cords of phone and car,
we can ride the range of fancy
with our hero-ghosts like Clancy,
and the smell of eucalyptus to remind us who we are.
By the tarns and rills of Kosci,

where the air could stall a mozzie
in a swirl of flakes that happen any random summer's day,
we may spot the ochre-painted
and perhaps become acquainted,
when her black and gold Corroborees
are "ribbitting" at play.

In the reaches of her rivers,
where the duckbill delves and quivers,
by leafy tracks

where wombats pile their droppings up on stones,
we may cast aside pretensions and reliance on inventions -
take a smoko from reality and pacing with 'the Jones'.

Yes, a spell off-road in dreaming
where her water's gently streaming
over sands that yielded pickings

in those panning days of old,
stirs a sense of awe and wonder
in each present day down-under,
as that Snowy Mountain magic claims another in its hold.

"Snowy" (in shortened form) was one of my earliest poems, returning to writing decades after my childhood efforts. I remember reading it at an Australia Day ceremony in Murray Bridge just months after the snowfall tragedy at Thredbo Village. Jacqui and I passed through Thredbo a matter of weeks before the dreadful event, and I wrote "Snowy" as we drove home. I dedicated the poem at the January 26th reading to families of the Thredbo victims, so it's perhaps appropriate that I dedicate my Bush Lantern win to them too. Max.



SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL

'On the banks of the
Snowy River'
Dalgety NSW



Relive our
Snowy River Heritage with

Bush Poetry and Yarn-spinning from Frank Daniel

* The Sunny Cowgirls * The horsemanship of Heath Harris *

* Bush Dancing * Art Exhibition * Snowy River Heritage *

Stockman's Challenge * and exciting bush activities

16-18 November 2007

New Bush Poetry format

Enter the 'Snowprint Book Shop' - Bush Poetry Competition

\$1,000.00 Cash and Prizes

Entries close 17th October 2006

Contact: Bush Poetry Manager - Lee Taylor-Friend

Phone. . . . 02 6456 7310

Download entry forms from www.snowyriverfestival.com

Listen to the Bush Poets . . .

When Banjo Paterson's epic poem 'The Man From Snowy River' was first published, it captured the imagination of men and women both here and abroad. The Snowy River Festival will keep that legacy alive with the 'Bush Poetry Competition' and story

telling from yesteryear with 2007 Australian Champion Yarnspinner Frank Daniel as master of ceremonies.

Poets and story-tellers are invited to enter the Snowy River Festival 'Snowprint' Poetry Competition.

Poets will be required to perform their work at Dalgety Saturday the 17th November 2007, or allow it to be read by the MC, with a winners circle on Sunday 18th November 2007.

This year there will be a 'Spin-A-Yarn' Competition directly following the Bush Poetry to be judged on the day-by-day crowd response.

Enjoy folk and country music entertainers; exhibitions and heritage displays; the Sunny Cowgirls; all-day B.B.Q's and full bar facilities - this truly is a non-stop good ol' fashioned Aussie Family celebration not to be missed!!!

For contacts and more information refer to the advertisement above.

A BUSHMAN'S TALES

"The Way I See It"



The Australian Outback and life in the bush over the past 60 years as told by a true 'bushy' in a memorable selection of poems and short stories

by **JOHN DAVIS**

Finalist: 2006 South Australian Bush Poetry Championships

\$22.00 Posted

37 George Avenue
Kings Point NSW 2539
Ph 02 44552013



DALGETY BOOK LAUNCH



Lee Taylor-Friend with her boys
Ben (5) and Jake (3)

Snowy Mountains poet Lee Taylor-Friend rose to National attention in 2006 when she penned the heartfelt 'Don't Sell Our Snowy Hydro'. She became a prominent face and voice in the successful campaign to stop the sale of this national icon.

Since 2004 Lee has been playing a vital role in recording our Snowy Mountains history and stories through her bush poetry.

Lee is passionate about keeping our 'High Country' heritage alive and her first book 'Tommy's Girl' will share some of these remarkable stories of courage and resilience as well some of her more personal experiences and reflections of life in the bush.

'Tommy's Girl' - 'Stories of the High Country - Stories of my life' is Lees' much anticipated first book of poetry due for release November, 2007, in time for the Snowy River Festival at Dalgety. Lee will be doing a 'Festival Launch' and recitals from her book over the festival weekend as well as signings and sales of her book.

The third annual Snowy River Festival will run from the 16th - 18th November with \$1,000 in cash and prizes on offer to Yarn Spinners and Bush Poets. Contact Lee Taylor-Friend PO Box 946 Jindabyne NSW 2627 Ph. 02 6456 7310



NEW SPONSOR

The profile of Australian bush poetry has been given a welcome boost with the announcement by the Gippsland Bush Poets club that Australia Post has agreed to come on board as a sponsor for its second annual bush poetry competition.

The Gippsland Bush Poets club was formed in 1998 with the aim of promoting Australian Bush Poetry by writing and performing verse as well as performing the works of traditional and contemporary poets.

"Our members also perform poetry to clubs and organizations and school groups where we encourage budding young writers and performers," says club secretary Ross Noble.

"A number of our members

have performed interstate at national competitions and the famous Bush Poet's Breakfast at "The Longyard" in Tamworth," he says.

"This is the second year of our competition and once again we are proud to offer the largest prize purse for any written bush poetry competition in Australia, with \$1,000 on offer for first prize.

Entries are now open for the Gippsland Bush Poets' second annual Gippsland Wattle Bush Poetry open written competition. Entry forms are available by sending a stamped, self addressed envelope to: Gippsland Bush Poets written competition, PO Box 453, Maffra VIC 3860.

Em.bjdraper@netspace.net.au
Entries close on 31 October 2007.



YOUNG CHERRY FESTIVAL 2007

The sixth annual Bush Poetry Competition will be held at the Young Golf Club on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd December as part of the town's 58th National Cherry Festival. Since inception the poetry competition has played a prominent role in the success of the Cherry Festival with good roll-ups of quality poets playing to full houses each year.

This year performers will be asked to present two poems in the competition, one of a serious nature and the other in a more light-hearted or humorous vein. Prize-money will total \$1,000.00

The Poet's Breakfast, on Sunday morning, will also be at the Golf Club, where an Encouragement Award will be given. The breakfast is being catered by the Golfing Ladies.

It is stressed that this competition will be limited, so early entries are advised. The judging panel will comprise three locals, who have no connection with the competing Bush Poets. Frank Daniel of Canowindra will again be the compere for the weekend.

To enter, please contact Greg Broderick via email gbroderi@bigpond.net.au or ph. 02 6382 2506 all hours. Widely known as the 'Cherry Capital of Australia' the area boasts many cherry and stone-fruit orchards, some offering 'pick your own'. Highlights of the year include Cherry Blossom in September/October and the National Cherry Festival late November/Early December.

GIPPSLAND BUSH POETS

2nd Annual

GIPPSLAND WATTLE BUSH POETRY AWARD

OPEN WRITTEN COMPETITION

\$1,000.00 First Prize

Minor prizes:- \$250.00 and \$100.00

(Also Highly Commended and Commended awards)

Entry cost is \$10.00 per poem or \$20.00 for up to 3 poems.

For an entry form, send an S.S.A.E. to:-

Gippsland Bush Poets written competition,

C/o P.O. Box 453

MAFFRA Victoria 3860.

Or email:- bjdraper@netspace.net.au

Entries close on October 31st 2007

Gippsland Bush Poets members are ineligible to enter.



Proudly sponsored by



COMPETITION RESULTS

2007

QUEENSLAND OPEN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Female Champion:

Claire Reynolds Gloucester NSW

Male Champion:

Mark 'Bushie' Thompson Walkerton Q

Open Written Competition

'The Last Pit Pony' Carol Heuchan

2nd 'Old Rusty' John Roberts

3rd 'The Shadow of the Pine' Joyce Alchin

Patron's Award:

'Truck Driver' Claire Reynolds

Themed Poem:

'The Last Pit Pony' Carol Heuchan

PERFORMANCE CLASSES (Female)

Traditional

1st Carmel Wooding; 2nd Claire Reynolds
3rd Anita Reed

Contemporary

1st Carmel Wooding; 2nd Claire Reynolds
3rd Anita Reed

Original (Humorous)

1st Sue Carcary; 2nd Cay Fletcher;
3rd Claire Reynolds

Original (Serious)

1st Jan Facey; 2nd Claire Reynolds
3rd Anita Reed

PERFORMANCE CLASSES (Male)

Traditional

1st Mark Thompson; 2nd Ron Selby
3rd Manfred Vijars

Contemporary

1st Jim Tonkin; 2nd Ron Selby
3rd Mark Thompson

Original (Humorous)

1st Bernie Keleher; 2nd Dennis Scanton
3rd Manfred Vijars

Original (Serious)

1st Mark Thompson; 2nd Ron Selby
3rd Dan O'Donnell

Novice Original

1st Shannon Iedema; 2nd Geraldine King
3rd Daphne Dennis

Novice Traditional

1st Shannon Iedema; 2nd Geoff Eastgate
3rd Betty Markwell

CHILDREN'S WRITTEN Competition

High School 1st Violet Macdonald;

2nd Megan Lincez; 3rd Celina Macdonald

Primary School 1st Damon Robinson;

2nd Libby O'Brien; 3rd Monique Simms

Themed Poem: Monika Holmwood

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Traditional. 1st Anne Rogers, 2nd Tim Strauss,
3rd Jill Wherry

Original Humorous. 1st Jill Wherry, 2nd Anne
Rogers, 3rd Judy Strauss

Open Serious. 1st Anne Rogers, 2nd "Snake"
Lovis (NSW), 3rd Jill Wherry.

SA State Performance Champion

Anne Rogers

SA Open Performance Champion

Anne Rogers

2007 GRENFELL NSW

HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL

Written Competitions -

Class 1 - Traditional Verse

1st Prize and Statuette Winner

'The Possum' Des Bennett - Morwell V

2nd 'Home' Sherry Clarke, Brookton WA

Highly Commended 'Drought' Jim Kent

Commended Elizabeth McIver Griffith Stephen

Whiteside Glen Iris V

Class 2 Free Verse

1st Ron Stevens Dubbo NSW

2nd John Millett Southport Q

HC John Egan Ashfield NSW

C Mark Miller Shoalhaven Heads NSW

Class 3 Humorous Verse

1st Jacqueline Winn - Possum Brush NSW

2nd Geoffrey Graham - Eaglehawk V

HC Sam Stocks OAM - Nanango Q

C Stephen Whiteside - Glen Iris V

C Sherry Clarke - Brookton WA

Class 4 Restricted Verse

1st Neil Carroll - Dubbo NSW

2nd Patricia White - Fairy Hill NSW

HC Mike Barr - Elizabeth East V

C Geoffrey Graham - Eaglehawk V

C Kevin Pyke - Mudgee NSW

Class 5 High School

1st Henry Beilby - Newington College

HC Mathew Anthis - Newington College

Monika Holmwood - St George SA

Myles Hunter - Henry Lawson HS Grenfell

Class 6 Primary School

1st Autumn Napier, Mayfield NSW

HC Jesse Webb-Smith, Dongarra WA

CHARLEE MARSHALL

Bush Poetry Competition 2007

Golden Cockatoo Award (Adults)

1st. Ellis Campbell, "Jack Sampson's Grave"

2nd. Jan Napier, "Elemental"

Highly Commended:

Kym Eitel, "A Bell In The Mist",

Kym Eitel, "Texting Clancy",

Kym Eitel, "A Pocket Full Of Kisses", Joyce

Alchin, "Outback Celebration", Ellis Campbell,

"Spectre From The Past",

Don Adams, "The Fate Of The Brumby"

Silver Budgie Award (Juniors)

1st. Trent Jenkinson, "Down Beside The Sea"

2nd. Lucy Day, "One Time"

HC: Genevieve Corfield, "Grandma's Undies",

Isabelle Johansen, "Dry ... Wet Land", Imogen

Johansen, "What I See When I Look Out My

Window",

Tara Williams, "A Horses Tale",

Richard Martin, "In The Dry Scorching Out-

back",

Chris Morris, "Across The Open Floodplain",

Violet MacDonald, "Ballad To Insomnia"

WEE WAA NSW

Traditional U17

Liam Murie 'A Bush Christening'

Original U17 1st Megan Murie;

equal 2nd Shaun Roden and Elise Murie

Open Section

1st Jacqui Warnock

'The Tractor Factor' (Carol Heuchan)

2nd. Max Pringle

'The Drover's Lament' (Bruce Simpson)

3rd. Julie Butler

'My Country' (Dorothea McKellar)

Original Section

1st Max Pringle 'U - Useless'

2nd Jacqui Warnock

'Collaredabri via Pockataroo'

3rd Phyllis Hannaford

'The Prisoner's Letter Home'

2007 GULGONG NSW

HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL

Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc Literary

Awards

2007 Adult Written Poetry Award Results

Winner: 'Poles and Wires'

Graeme Johnson, West Ryde NSW

2nd 'Monarchs of the Air'

Arthur Green, Warana Qld

3rd 'Jumping the Rattler'

David Campbell, Beaumaris Vic

Highly Commended:

'The Bouganvillea'

Melanie Hall, Townsville Qld

'Master Stockman'

Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW

'What's for Dinner Love?'

Jacqueline Winn, Possum Brush NSW

Commended:

Allan Buggy, Waramanga ACT;

Vivienne Ledlie, Thornlands Qld

Vivienne Ledlie, Thornlands Qld

Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW

Joyce Alchin, Corramal NSW

Ian Ridgway, Port Macquarie NSW

Irene Timpone, Aroona Qld

2007 Country Energy Leonard Teale

Memorial Performance Poetry

Results & Finalists

Winner: Lisa Quast, Narrandera NSW 2nd Terry

Regan, Blaxland NSW

3rd Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW

Highly Commended:

Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW

Graeme Johnson, West Ryde NSW Tony Price,

Pyramul Via Mudgee NSW

Commended:

Ivor Morton, Woodford NSW

Mieke Boynton, Kensington Vic

Jessica Staniforth Coonabarabran NSW

W.A.R.M. Awards Winners.

Best Fiction Writer - Betty Birkys, 'At the Island'

Best Non-fiction Writer - Sarah Farrant, 'The Vital Truth'

Best Book - Rhonda Oldfield, 'Overboard'

Best Young Writer - Bridget Di Certo, 'The High School Lover'

Best Poetry - Arthur Green, 'Riding the Wind'

Highly Commended Young Poet - Sophie Nugent-Siegal, 'Oracle'

Best Play of the Year -

Jim McDonald, 'A Doorknock Away'

BUNDABERG BUSH POETRY MUSTER

Bush Lantern Written Awards

1st. 'Snowy Mountain Magic'

Max Merckenschlager, Caloote SA

2nd. 'Alone' David Campbell, Beaumaris V

3rd. 'A Bell in the Mist' Kym Eitel, Thangool Q.

Highly Commended

'Monarchs of the Air' Arthur Green, Warana Q

'Ne'er the Twain Shall Meet'

Ellis Campbell, Dubbo NSW

Performance Competition Results

Yarn Spinning:

3rd - Cay Fletcher 2nd - Ron Selby

1st - Dean Collins

Duo Performances

1st - Dean & Matthew Collins

Bundy Rum One Minute Cup

3rd - Jennifer Haig 2nd - Susan Carcary

1st - Dean Collins

Novice Traditional

3rd - Jack O'Connor 2nd - Dot Schwenke

1st - Eddie Budgen

Novice Modern

3rd - Shannon Iedema 2nd - Dot Schwenke

1st - Eddie Budgen

Hunter Bush Poets

Performance

Poetry Competition 2007

1pm Saturday

3rd November

The Miners Museum

James Street, Teralba

Classical - Contemporary

Original Humorous - Original Serious

Open and Junior Sections

\$600 in Prize Money

Enquires: Shop 3/187 King Street,
Newcastle. 2300

Ph: 49261313 Fax: 49261316

Email: ntp@kingnet.com.au

Web: www.hunterbushpoets.org.au

Hunter Bush Poets

Written Poetry Competition - 2007

Open Serious - Open Humorous

Junior Poem Junior Short Story

Entries Close 15th October 2007

\$300 in Prize Money

Winners will be announced at the Performance Poetry Competition at Club Macquarie at 3pm on Saturday 3rd November, 2007

Enquires: Shop 3/187 King Street,
Newcastle. 2300

Ph: 49261313 Fax: 49261316

Email: ntp@kingnet.com.au

Web: www.hunterbushpoets.org.au

Novice Original

3rd - Eddie Budgen 2nd - Jack O'Connor

1st - Dot Schwenke

Intermediate Traditional

3rd - Shannon Iedema 2nd - Mary Hodgson

1st - Jack O'Connor

Intermediate Original

3rd - Jack O'Connor 2nd - Dot Schwenke

1st - Shannon Iedema

Open Traditional - Men

3rd - Ron Selby 2nd - Terry Regan

1st - Dean Collins

Open Traditional - Women

3rd - Jan Facey 2nd - Anita Reed

1st - Jennifer Haig

Open Modern - Men

3rd - Ellis Campbell 2nd - Manfred Vijars

1st - Terry Regan

Open Modern - Women

3rd - Jennifer Haig 2nd - Susan Carcary

1st - Anita Reed

Open Original - Men

3rd - Lynden Baxter 2nd - Dean Collins

1st - Terry Regan

Open Original - Women

3rd - Trisha Anderson

2nd - Leanne Jeacocke 1st - Jennifer Haig

Overall Champion Poet

Terry Regan

Entry forms now available

WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS

Now part of the

Outback Festival - **WINTON** - Outback Queensland

26-30 September 2007

Wednesday 26th September

WALK UP CONCERT

Friday 28th September

POETS BREAKFAST, ORIGINAL SECTION COMPETITION

plus **THE SWAGGIES DASH**

Saturday 29th September

POETS BREAKFAST

BANJO PATERSON SECTION COMPETITION

plus the

ANNOUNCEMENT of BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD 2007

Sunday 30th September

PRESENTATION CEREMONY for all COMPETITIONS

Join poets

**Ray Essary, John Major, Bob Magor, Melanie Hall,
Glenny Palmer and more.....**

Contact:

LOUISE DEAN, P.O. BOX 120, WINTON. QLD. 4735

Ph : (07) 4657 1296 Fx : (07) 4657 1541

Email : wooka2@bigpond.net.au

CHANGES to POETS CALENDAR of EVENTS

SPRINGSURE Bush Poets Breakfast Old Rainworth Fort 9th September 2007 (see ad)

KATOOMBA - 3rd Saturday 3pm Parakeet Café, Katoomba Denis Rice 02 4782 6623

KILCOY 1st & 3rd Wed 7pm Jack's Place Restaurant Mary St Ph Graham 07 54971045

Carol 07 54971982

REDLANDS Poets .3rd Tues. Vivienne 07 3488 2061 - Dennis 07 3286 3346

April 29-May 1 2008. **QLD STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** Heats and Presentation of awards.

Harold Jackson Ph 07 47873211 0419 130 770 PO Box 620 Charters Towers Q 4820 Closing date 31st March.

NORTH PINE - AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

September 9 SPRINGSURE Q. Poets Breakfast. Old Fort Rainworth.

Ph Colleen McLaughlin 07 4984 1274

Burrinjuck Waters State Park

GOLDEN JUBILEE

INAUGURAL BUSH POETRY

COMPETITION

Sat 1st - Sun 2nd September

(see page 17)

\$1,500.00 Prizemoney

Entries restricted
early entry advised

2 Sections

Classical and Humorous

One Minute Brawl

Amateur Walk Up Comp

Contact:

Frank Daniel

editor@abpa.org.au

Ph. 02 6344 1477

58th National Cherry Festival

YOUNG NSW

Cherry Capital of Australia

BUSH POETRY

COMPETITION

Young Golf Club

Saturday & Sunday

1st & 2nd December

\$1,000.00 Prizemoney

Entries restricted
early entry advised

Contact Greg Broderick

02 6382 2506

gbroderi@bigpond.net.au

**The Australian Bush
Poets Association
Inc.**

(Established 1994)

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Membership: Annual subscriptions
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payable to the Treasurer.

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The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc Newsletter is set-up, published and posted direct to subscribers bi-monthly by the ABPA Inc.

Deadline for copy—20th of month preceding the month of issue.

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 can be obtained from the organizers by sending an SSAE (stamped self-addressed envelope) to the addresses supplied.

Life as it is
away from the city lights

Take a stroll through the pages
and meet the country
characters anywhere
in Australia

Country Characters

Heather Corfield

MS 53 Taroom Qld. 4420

ABPA Inc. BADGE

It's Copper
It looks like a penny
It's the colour of a penny
It's the size of a penny
- It looks great -
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Send payment to the
Secretary - ABPA Inc.
Ed Parmenter

VICTORIAN OPEN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Benalla Bowls Club
BENALLA

20th - 21st OCTOBER

\$3000 Prize money + trophies

Lady's, Men's and Junior

Performance Competition

Inc. novice & intermediate

Closing Date October 12th

Adult and Junior

Written Competition

Closing date September 22nd

Contact: The Secretary

V.B.P.M.A

113 Clarke St Benalla Vic 3672

Email: colmandy@people.net.au

NEW ANNUAL EVENT

Inaugural

\$2,500

Upper Lachlan
WOOLWAGON
AWARDS

CROOKWELL NSW

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th
September

Friday 7th September

Poets Meet and Greet

Town Gathering & BBQ Tea

Saturday 8th September

Crookwell Services Club
Performance Competition
& Night Concert

OPEN COMPETITION

Entry fee: \$10.00

(Limited to first 15 entries)

Closing date 26th August

Traditional - Original Serious -
Original Humorous

(\$150 - \$100 - \$60 - \$40)

Plus: Junior Competition (\$100)

Sunday 9th September

Poets Walk-up Breakfast

Contemporary Competition

(4 Heats \$150 - \$100 - \$60 - \$40)

Winners Presentations

\$400.00 Overall Champion

Wool Wagon Award

Perpetual Trophy

(Archibald Nixon - Dame Mary Gilmore
Nellie 'The Gipsy' Evans Awards)

Open Written Competition

(\$400.00 plus 5 x \$40.00)

Entry Fees \$10 No forms

(Please use cover note)

Closing date 8th August

Entry Forms and other details from

Paul Anderson

189 Goulburn Street

Crookwell NSW 2583

Mob: 0427 110637

Each of the named poets in the
Awards Section were local identities -
Crookwell is very proud of them.

Major Sponsor - Crookwell Services Club

HARDEN NSW BIGGER AND BETTER \$2,000 Prizemoney

The annual Taste of Country festival at Harden NSW has given the bush poets an even bigger 'taste of country' with \$2,000 sponsored by the Kruger Trust to be shared amongst the most successful performers.

The competition and dinner will run on Saturday night 27th October from 6pm with an Open Classical Section followed by an Open Humorous Section (original or contemporary).

On the Sunday morning a Poets Breakfast will be held at Ben Stocks Nursery and Native Restaurant and will include walk-up poets, a one-minute-brawl and performances by the top eight performers from the previous

night. Charges for the dinner will be \$30.00 and the brekkie will be \$10 each with free admission to all performers. Entry fee for the competition will be \$10.00

Comperre for the weekend will be Frank Daniel of Canowindra.

Those wishing to take part in the competition must show their intentions by letter and include name, address and contact details to Mr. Rob Provan of the Harden Arts Council with a **CHOICE OF THREE POEMS** for the Classical Section. (no entry forms).

Entries will be restricted so it is advisable to get in early.

Entries close on October 1st so don't delay.

As always this competition is run under the auspices of the ABPA Inc. See you there!



**TASTE OF COUNTRY
HARDEN NSW
27th 28th October
Saturday Night Competition
Sunday Morning Finals**

Rob Provan - Harden Arts Council
PO Box 205
Harden NSW 2587
Phone 02 6386 5092
ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 1st

BOOK REVIEW: COLLEEN McLAUGHLIN



Seventy Eight years old Colleen McLaughlin, of 'Burnside', Springsure Q, stands alongside Bruce Forbes Simpson as one

of the great writers of horse and bush poetry stemming from the early days of the Hoofs and Horns Magazine.

To quote Bruce Simpson, 'I have always been an admirer of Colleen

McLaughlin's poetry. She is a fine writer of traditional bush verse, while her knowledge and love of the Australian bush endows her work with a unique quality.

Lovers of poetry will be delighted with the music of the bush and the sound of hoof beats that echo from every page'.

Many of the poems were written some fifty years ago, and some were printed in the North Queensland Register when 'Bill Bowyang' (Alexander Vindex Vennard) ran a page called 'On the Track' where he fostered bush verse and prose.

Hoofs & Horns, first published in the mid-nineteen forties, when edited by RM Williams and Keith Stevens was another outlet for publication.

Her favourite poet has always been Will Ogilvie, 'The Horseman's Poet' and many of the poems in her book meet his criteria.

*'Give us a ballad that swings along
With the bound of a galloping steed.
Give us, whether it's right or wrong
Rhymes that our hearts can read'.*

W.H.O.

'Kroongi Flats' was Colleen's first poem written when she was sixteen. All her primary schooling was done at home in the company of her younger sister and under the strict supervision of two ex-teachers - her mother and grandmother.

Lessons were obtained from the Primary Correspondence School in Brisbane, later superseded by the School of



BUSH POET'S BREAKFAST

September 9th 2007

Old Rainworth Fort

Springsure Queensland

Preceded by

Written & Performance Workshops

September 8th

with

Noel Stallard - Geoff Sharp

Gary Fogarty - Tom Oliver

Contact:

COLLEEN McLAUGHLIN

Ph. 07 4984 1274

Traditional Bush Ballads

IN

Tracks of Yesterday

by
Colleen McLaughlin
'Burnside'
Springsure Qld 4722

Finalist

Australian Bush Laureate Awards
Tamworth 2007

\$25 post paid

Ph. (07) 4984 1274

Colleen McLaughlin

Distance Education. She attended the Presbyterian Girl's College in Warwick where completing her secondary education was a very different scenario.

She was desperately homesick. With forty-three girls in her sub-junior class she was far removed from familiar things - horses, cattle, dogs, adults. A

Always a reader of poetry, she translated her trauma into verse. 'Kroongi Flats' won first prize for verse writing that year. Colleen sent her poem to 'Bill Bowyang' and it was published in the North Queensland Register. This was followed by many poems mostly written after she had left school and went home to 'Burnside' and 'Old Rainworth'. (See June issue).



SUCCESSFUL WRITERS

Gulgong 2007

Back Row: Ian Ridgway (Port Macquarie), Ron Stephens (Dubbo), Vivienne Ledlie (Thornlands Qld); Alan Buggy (ACT); Ellis Campbell (Dubbo)

Front Row: Graeme Johnson (Ryde NSW); Arthur Green (Warana Qld.) David Campbell (Beaumaris Vic)

SUCCESSFUL PERFORMERS (Below)

L-R Standing : Cheryl Peters, Secretary Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc, Jessica Staniforth Coonabarabran NSW (Commended), Mieke Boynton Kensington Vic (Commended), Ivor Morton Woodford NSW (Commended), Tony Price Pyramul via Mudgee NSW (Highly Commended), Graeme Johnson West Ryde NSW (Highly Commended), Ron Stevens Dubbo NSW (Highly Commended), Helen Rhodes Manager Community Relations, North-Western Country Energy. L-R Seated: Ellis Campbell Dubbo NSW (Third), Lisa Quast Narrandera NSW (Winner), Terry Regan Blaxland NSW (Second Place).



Terry Regan of Blaxland in the Blue Mountains of NSW was the Overall Champion Poet at the 2007 Bundy Muster. Terry is pictured at right with the 2 litre barrel he won as the Overall Champion Poet for the week-end which included a bottle of Bundy Rum. The other trophies are for the two (2) first places and one 2nd place that he received



POETRY PAGES

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There's no rush in Cowra NSW

Arthur Green, at the Presentation dinner at Mooloolaba on June 30th, shown holding his First Prize Winner's trophy, awarded for winning the Poetry Section of the inaugural W.A.R.M (Writers and Readers Month) Literary Awards, with an edited version of his Anthology of poems, titled *'Riding the Wind'*. The evening was the culmination of a month long Festival held by the Sunshine Coast Literary Association, organised by judging coordinator Tom Hampstead of the S.C.L.A, and Janine Symons of Awards Absolute Pty Ltd.

Cheques and striking, red and black, handcrafted trophies by Lucas Salton of Liquid glass, were presented to the winners of the seven categories during the evening, before an audience whom Wendy Harmer had in stitches, sharing hilarious anecdotes and advice culled from her own books and literary career. Results and more page 12 & 24