

# ABPA

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



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Magazine - (since 1994)

## ABL AWARDS 2008



Pictured: Award winners Carol Heuchan - Marco Gliori - Frank Daniel and Murray Hartin

The winners of the 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Bush Laureate Awards were announced in a gala concert and presentation in the famous Tamworth Town Hall on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

The Australian Bush Laureate Awards were launched in 1996 to encourage, promote and recognise excellence in Australian Bush Poetry.

Each January during the Tamworth Country Music Festival, a major presentation concert is staged where the highly sought-after Golden Gumleaf trophies are presented to Australia's finest bush poets.

The 2008 Finalists were (in random order) - **Book of the Year** - Phillip Rush, Winton Tourism, David Campbell, Carol Heuchan and Kym Eitel.

**Album of the Year** -

Vic Jefferies, Marco Gliori, David Campbell, Terry Regan and Mark Thompson.

**Single Recorded Performance of the Year** -

Terry Regan, Marco Gliori, Greg North, Murray Hartin and Jim Brown.

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . . ON PAGE 5

**BUSHPOETS in POETRY SLAM**  
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**DEAN TREVASKIS WINS  
BLACKENED BILLY** P. 2

## TO BLAZES WITH BUSH POETRY

### TAMWORTH POETRY GROUP CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

The Tamworth Poetry Group was formed in November 1983 to revive the custom of poetry recitation which many of the members recalled from their childhood days, when everyone had a dad or an uncle who could rattle off a few Paterson or Lawson poems.

The tradition was obviously just below the surface of the group's social psyche and it really didn't take anything more than a bush poetry competition at the Tamworth Country Music Festival to unleash what has now become an Australia-wide modern bush poetry movement.

In 1987 when the group presented its first Bush Poetry Competition at the Longyard Hotel (with the resultant, 'don't call us, we'll call you) little thought was given as to the heights to which it would climb reinstating bush poetry as a popular vehicle for capturing the social history of country Australia.

Ever persistent, and for want of a new venue, the group moved to the Kentucky Fried Chicken car-park (1989), the Imperial Hotel until 2004, West's Leagues Club's Outback Bar in 2005 (it was too small) and finally, in 2006, with a seating capacity of over a thousand, to West's 'Blazes' Auditorium. (to P. 5)



## THE POWER OF KOKODA

By Dean Trevaskis, Ocean Shores NSW

Winner of the 2008 Blackened Billy Verse Competition

I'll never know the sickening sound a fifteen-pounder makes  
That blows a mate to pieces as the ground around you shakes.  
Or how the memories haunt you if you chance to make it back.  
I'll never know the price they paid to walk Kokoda Track.

I've slogged across its gruelling, steep, uncompromising grind,  
That stretched the outer limits of my body and my mind.  
But I wasn't being shot at in surprise attacks at night;  
My name's not on a headstone in Bomana's rows of white.

I know about the stifling heat and oozing, rancid mud,  
But not the putrid stench of death or rivers running blood.  
I went to thank my Granddad and the other Diggers who  
Withstood, then beat, the Japanese in nineteen forty two.

My group was drawn from family. My aunts and uncles came,  
With cousins and a sister, bearing 'Hec's Mob' as our name.  
We walked in Hector's footsteps with humility and pride,  
Prepared to conquer challenges with history as our guide.

We spoke about the thirty-ninth and what they'd given here.  
They overcame their low morale, malaria and fear  
When told to fight until the death, until the job was done,  
And fight they did, against the odds, outnumbered, six to one.

I watched my cousin cramp, then spew, three hours along the track,  
His pallid face and sunken eyes reflecting an attack  
Of crippling dehydration and a lack of self belief;  
He focused on the blokes who fought and therein found relief.

He rose above his doubts and pain to redefine his best,  
The spirit of the thirty-ninth was beating in his chest.  
Their aura, undeniable, profoundly touched us all.  
Their stories lifted weary legs each time we hit the wall.

Like Corporal Johnny Metson. On his bandaged hands and knees  
He scabbled on the jungle floor, avoiding Japanese

For weeks with fifty comrades forced to head off track and hide;  
With ankles shot to pieces, he refused a stretcher ride.

And gallant Captain Bisset. He was leading from the front,  
Entrenched at Isuarava when his stomach bore the brunt  
Of enemy machine gun fire; the morphine eased the pain.  
He died within his brother's arms in drenching Papuan rain.

When Kingsbury turned a charging horde with Bren gun on his hip,  
He lost his life and won a cross for selfless leadership.  
The ripples of his actions had extended sixty years.  
My sister raised the flag as past and present merged in tears.

She'd never travelled overseas, she'd scrimped all year to come.  
Her struggle was the stigma of a teenage single Mum.  
In that moment she was everything she thought she couldn't be!  
With Kingsbury's spirit in her veins she cut her demons free.

My aunts were an inspiration plodding down the back,  
They sang to keep their spirits high, they understood the Track!  
The rest were fighting stomach bugs, collapsing knees and pain.  
They'd say "don't worry, I'll be right" and soldier on again.

Brigade Hill saw us silenced by the mist which rose and cast  
A melancholy shadow. Was it ghosts of Diggers past?  
The likes of fallen heroes: Langridge, Lambert, Wilson, Nye,  
Who went to help their stranded mates, aware that they would die.

My stomach churned for what they gave upon that sacred hill.  
I'd not felt more Australian and I doubt I ever will.  
Those Diggers are my reference point, a temple in my head.  
I don't complain when things get tough, I think of them instead.

Our journey in their footsteps has instilled an attitude,  
Of daily viewing ups and downs through eyes of gratitude.  
It taught us much about ourselves demanding that we pause  
And focus on our core beliefs, our inner strengths and flaws.

We felt a force along the track that pushed us all beyond  
Our limits and our breaking points to form a closer bond.  
We came back better people for a price those Diggers paid,  
I never will forget them or the sacrifice they made.

## DEAN TREVASKIS Winner 2008 Blackened Billy

Dean's father used to say 'Life is just a journey, son', and looking back on his near forty years, Deano reckons it's been a fantastic journey. A journey that has taken him across Australia and across the world; from his first day as a Novice reciter to winning one of the nation's most prestigious writing awards, The Tamworth Bush Poetry Clubs 'Blackened Billy'.

Congratulations Dean Trevaskis.

He was born in Melbourne and raised in Victoria, Queensland and NSW in the cities and the country attending in the process nineteen different Primary Schools. This gave him the opportunity to develop a broad perspective of the world.

After losing his father at seven, Dean, his mother and sister, a close-knit family, made the most of what were sometimes tough situations. His mother was, and still is, an inspiration. She taught him the gifts of self-reliance, resilience, compassion, gratitude for what he has and the ability to see the glass as being half-full.

Eventually settling in the 'Fruit Salad City, Mooropna, on Victoria's Goulburn River, Dean did his spell of wearing the Goulburn Valley Cross. (The sweat mark left on the back of your shirt by the straps of a fruit picking bag full of apples, pears, peaches or apricots).

The mood of change stayed in his blood in adulthood, perhaps a link to his Grandfather who humped his bluey in the Depression before WWII.

Constantly changing jobs brought

him in contact with an amazing array of characters and situations. He has seen life as a deck-hand on a scallop trawler, onion peeler in a hamburger factory, a garbo, bank teller, brickies labourer and abattoir worker before making a natural transition to Registered Psychiatric Nurse.

At one stage he managed a roadhouse in the Kimberley's but the most rewarding job to date has been that of a Funeral Celebrant. "It is a great privilege to stand up at a funeral and present the story of someone's life".

Currently Dean is working as a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor in Tweed Heads. Outside work most of his time is spent happily with his family, surfing, having a punt or trying to finish one of about twenty half-written poems.

(Continued on page 23)

## The PRESIDENT'S REPORT



G'day Members,

At the AGM in Tamworth in January your 2007 committee was returned unopposed as your 2008 office bearers.

We thank you for your confidence in what we are doing and hope that we can continue, on your behalf, to further the cause of bush poetry. Could I urge members to consider taking on the role of officer bearer of our ABPA. Those of us who take on the role have a limited store of initiatives and it is a healthy sign of any organization if there are members with innovative ideas that could increase the membership or improve the performance, the writing or the attendance at bush poetry events.

The Final Draft of the Criteria Sheet for Performance Competitions was discussed, debated and finally passed at the AGM. I don't have the time to include with this Newsletter the agreed upon Criteria Sheet as our Editor is screaming for this President's Report so the Newsletter can go to the printer but the only amendment to the Draft Criteria in the October-November issue concerned, *Choice of Poem*. This will now read: CHOICE OF POEM: Material should not generally offend and is appropriate to the presenter (The judge will place a tick in the respective column).

Members this new criteria sheet is intended to emphasise the techniques we believe are necessary when one is presenting an excellent performance of bush poetry. By detailing these techniques the hope is that performers will consider their relevance when preparing

a poem for competition. All members will get a copy in the next Newsletter and when Festival organisers apply for their festival to be run under the auspices of the ABPA then it will be this criteria sheet that we will supply.

During the year I would like to raise, for performance competitions, a different process in establishing the winner and place-getters from the scores that judges provide. Like the Criteria Sheet, I will be making this suggestion in the hope that it will improve the *fairness* in determining results of competitions. As always, I hope you will furnish me with your opinions as we, your committee, are dependent on your honest comments with regards these suggestions.

It was brought to my attention in Tamworth of some problem that occurred in 2007 at one of our ABPA competitions. Members, as with all associations, there will always be problems and at times we are all guilty of less than appropriate behaviour. The fact that there was a problem is, for me, not the issue. My disappointment was, that as your President, I was not informed. As President I believe it is my role, with my committee, to congratulate and applaud the successes you achieve and to attempt to resolve differences that might arise.

But I need to know. I have made it clear to all committee members that if they become informed of such problems I, and all members of the committee, need to be told so we work together at resolving the differences and if the ABPA needs to apologise for the lapse of one of its members then it is the role of the President to give this apology.

Members you have spent years building up positive rapport and support for bush poetry amongst the general public. When we have our differences we need to keep in mind the *big picture* and whether the action we take is appropriate.

May we all have a very enjoyable 2008

With gratitude,

*Noel Stallard*

**Did you know** that 'Banjo' Paterson was paid the magnificent sum of thirteen shillings and sixpence (\$1.35) for his poem '*Clancy of the Overflow*'.  
... that the Overflow Station is located north-west of Condobolin in NSW.  
... that the Overflow is normally a dry

lake in Central NSW in the Lachlan - Bogan River system south of Nyngan.  
... that 'Banjo' in an annotation to Angus and Robertson (18.1.1913) wrote 'Overflow is not intended to refer to any particular run. It was just used as a typical name.'

## KIDZONE



**No. 1 - Thomas Wigney**  
2007 Victorian  
Junior State Champion

### ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

by Thomas Wigney  
(Grade 1 - Maiden Gully Primary)

Let me tell ya', let me tell ya'  
About the animals of Australia.

Snakes slide,  
Possums glide,

Cockatoos screech,  
Whales breech.  
Kangaroos bounce,  
Bandicoots pounce.

Koalas sleep,  
Lizards leap.  
Galahs squawk,  
Emus walk.

Wombats shuffle  
Echidnas snuffle.  
Scorpions sting,  
Magpies sing.

Platypus' splash  
Goannas dash.  
Dingoes hunt,  
Camels grunt.

So let's all give a mighty big cheer,  
For all the great animals we have  
here!

### Quotes from Muhammad Ali

- \* It's hard to be humble, when you're as great as I am.
- \* Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer.
- \* I am the greatest, I said that even before I knew I was.
- \* My toughest fight was with my first wife.



## The Bush Poet Speaks

by Tom Collins (Joseph Furphy)

Tell me not in future numbers  
That our thought becomes inane,  
That our metre halts and lumbers,  
When the Wattle blooms again.

Time may change this loyal jernal  
From religious to profane;  
But a rhythmic law eternal  
Makes the Wattle bloom again.

Trust no Flossie, howe'er pleasant;  
Sweeps are treacherous;  
  totes are vain;  
Banks and scrip are evanescent --  
But the Wattle blooms again.

Cultivate no fair ideal;  
Own no country seat in Spain;  
All these things must go to Sheol,  
Whilst the Wattle blooms again.

This, you see, austere and lonely,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
One great fact is certain only --  
That the Wattle blooms again.

First published in *The Bulletin*,  
27 August 1898

## MORE from HIPSHOT

From 'Between the Lines' in the Daily Telegraph comes the story of a chap named Joe who was jailed for looting.

While in jail he became extremely good at playing the flute, and after his release he became a rich and famous flautist, and he bought a farm where he liked to plough on weed-ends.

His mother lived with him for years, until she suddenly entered a convent in Barcelona, and that's how he became known as:

The Haifa lootin', floatin', tootin',  
son of nun from Barcelona, part-time  
ploughboy Joe!!

© Hipshot!



## GIPPSLAND WATTLE BUSH POETRY AWARD

The second annual Gippsland Wattle Bush Poetry Awards for open written competition (2007) attracted 179 entries compared to 159 in its first year.

The standard of entries was again very high although it was noticeable that a surprising number of poems contained poor or half-rhymes.

The Gippsland Club members scrutinized each submission, narrowing the list to fourteen, which were sent to last year's winner, Greg North of Linden NSW, who selected the winners, those highly commended and commended.

Arthur Green of Warana Q. was awarded first prize of \$1,000.00.

None of the Gippsland Bush Poets members were eligible for entry in the competition which was sponsored by Australia Post with whom all attempts are being made to encourage ongoing sponsorship.

### BELATED GIPPSLAND NEWS

The Gippsland Bush Poets annual performance competition was held at The Great Aussie Pub in Rosedale on 25th November. The afternoon's competition was followed by fun performances which really entertained the good crowd. Well known "poette", Carol Reffold, did the judging before entertaining the crowd with her own unique, gentle style of poetry.

Carol had already judged the club's written competition. While she was in the district she travelled to Bairnsdale

## WILEY WORD PLAY

Mahatma Ghandi, as we know  
walked barefoot round his beat.  
This gave him an impressive set  
of badly calloused feet.

The hunger strikes that he went on,  
made bad breath this prognosis:  
A super calloused fragile mystic  
hexed by halitosis !!

© Hipshot



Chris Draper

with club secretary Ross Noble and performed at the "Relay For Life" cancer fundraising function.

Russell Heathcote took out the Men's Performance competition while Marg Adams won the Women's section.

Chris Draper was the most successful junior poet and Des Bennett added the written bush poetry to his growing list of wins.

Gippsland Bush Poets President, Russell Heathcote said that 2007 had been a great year for the club.

The highlight was the great success of the second annual Gippsland Wattle, Australia Post written bush poetry com-



Sarah Draper

petition. "We are doing our best to maintain Australia Post as our sponsor for future years" he said.

The "Seniors Week" poetry function held in Rosedale in October resulted in the room being filled to capacity. Many people who attended last year came back again and had a great time.

GBP member, Ed Walker, won the Victorian Bush Poets Male Performance Championship in Benalla in October. Junior member, Sara Draper won the Victorian Junior Written Competition.

## ABL AWARDS 2008

All nominations had to be commercially released and were judged on such criteria as quality of verse, presentation and production, entertainment value and Australian character of the verse.

In **BOOK OF THE YEAR**, for the best original Australian work in book form, the winner was *'Touching Tales'* by Carol Heuchan. From the NSW Hunter Valley, Carol's first book *'Horseplay'* led her to the world of bush poetry and success followed success, to the point where now she has won numerous awards and is acknowledged as one of the foremost writers and performers of bush poetry in Australia.

In **ALBUM OF THE YEAR**, the winner was *'Cowpokes and Indians'* by Marco Giori. For 10 years, Marco has travelled Australia with his original poetry and comedy performances. He is a record four times winner of the Tamworth Country Music Festival Poetry Performance Award and has completed more than 2000 shows for young Australians by courtesy of both the Queen-

sland and Victorian Arts Councils Artists in Education Program.

For **SINGLE RECORDED PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**, the winner was *'Rain from Nowhere'* by Murray Hartin. For years, Murray has been making audiences laugh, cry and visualise the spoken word with his unique style of Australian storytelling. Through his extensive travels around Australia, he has met a vast and varied collection of remarkable Australians who are the inspiration for his stories. *'Rain From Nowhere'* addresses the issue of rural suicide and has touched the hearts of people Australia-wide. It is already being spoken of as one of the most significant pieces of Australian verse in recent memory.

Winner of the **JUDITH HOSIER HERITAGE AWARD**, for outstanding achievement in nurturing Australia's heritage of verse, went to Frank Daniel, for his many years of work and dedication to the bush poetry cause. Frank is recognised as one of Australia's greatest exponents of bush poetry. He has appeared at all the major festivals nationally and has also won many

awards and accolades.

The new category for **CHILDREN'S BOOK OR ALBUM OF THE YEAR** was *'You've Gotta be Kidding'* by Kym Eitel. Describing herself as a typical horse-crazy female, Kym spent most of her youth on horseback. Following a bout with cancer, she wrote *'Wild Horse Rain'* and has since won many awards for her work.

The Australian Bush Laureate Awards were first staged in 1997 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

The 14th Australian Bush laureate Awards will be held in Tamworth on Tuesday 20th January, 2009.

A star-studded line-up of bush poets and special guest country artists appeared during the gala awards concert including poets Trisha Anderson, Marco Giori, Murray Hartin, Carol Heuchan, Garry Lowe, Peter Mace, Terry Regan, Frank Daniel and Noel Stallard with Country Music favourites Troy Cassar-Daley, Pat Drummond, Amber Lawrence and Michael O'Rourke supported by Melanie Dyer, Casey Watt and compere Jim Haynes.

## TO BLAZES WITH BUSH POETRY (from p.1)

### THE BLACKENED BILLY



Now one of the greatest, most sought after Performance Competitions in the country, the Golden Damper Performance competition and the Blackened Billy Trophy for written works, has seen the original aim of the group to nurture and preserve the works of Lawson, Paterson and their like, grow beyond all expectations, with poets from all over Australia converging on Tamworth each year.

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group is proud of the part it has played, and continues to play, in the promotion of bush poetry, and in providing vehicles for the established poets, and up and coming poets who are ready to keep the bush poetry tradition going on and on.

The 2008 Blackened Billy Written Competition received three hundred and sixty entries including one from Thailand and another from New Zealand, making it a formidable task once more for judge Keith Jones. (Judges report p. 23).

This year the Blackened Billy was won by Dean Trevaskis of Ocean Shores NSW with his deeply moving poem *'The Power of Kokoda'*. (p. 2) Placed second and third were Catherine Clarke (*Hear My Story*), Thailand, and Graeme Johnson (*The Voyage*) from West Ryde.

The Highly Commended list, with the exception of a couple of 'newies', reads like a *'who's who'* of our leading contemporary poets, indicating an example of the adjudicators onerous task, and reflecting that our poets are able to come up with disciplined work and a constant stream of highly original topics.

Congratulations to the following highly commended writers (in random order):

David Campbell, Beaumaris V.  
Dick Lewers, Blaxland NSW;  
V.P. Read, Bicton WA;  
Alec Raymer, Plainland Qld;  
Allan Goode, Nerang Qld;  
Daan Spijker, Mt Eliza Vic;  
Arthur Green, Warana Qld;  
Don Adams, Paraparaumu Beach NZ;  
Val Wallace, Glendale NSW;  
Reeve McLennan, Arana Hills Qld

The 2008 Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition (The Golden Damper Awards) turned out to be one of the most exciting programs

ever, with an abundance of very talented performers which delighted the large audiences every day. It was a real pleasure to see, not only our old tried and true friends, but lots of very talented newcomers, giving the competition a first or second go. The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition has always considered it one of its most important roles to encourage new poets and, over the past twenty years or so, has given this encouragement to newcomers like Bobby Miller, Ray Essery, Dave Proust and many, many more.

Performances ran the gamut of emotions from laughter to violence to patriotism to sorrow, with the stage awash with tears a couple of times. The audience was carried along with it all and showed that they appreciate all the varying aspects of the wonderful genre of Bush Poetry.

Guest comperes John Major, Gary Fogarty, Frank Daniel, and Ray Essery added a professional touch to the show and the organisers appreciate their support. Thank you to all the competitors who made an effort to get to Tamworth and we hope we'll see you again next year.

Jan Morris Tamworth Poetry Reading Group



## Joseph Rudyard

**Kipling** (1865 – 1936)

was an English author and poet, born in Bombay, India.

He is regarded as a major "innovator in the art of the short story"; his children's books are enduring classics of children's lit-

erature; an increasing recognition of his extraordinary narrative gifts made him a force to be reckoned with.

Kipling was one of the most popular writers in English, in both prose and verse, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The author Henry James famously said of him: "Kipling strikes me personally as the most complete man of genius (as distinct from fine intelligence) that I have ever known."

In 1907, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, making him the first English language writer to receive the prize, and he remains its youngest-ever recipient.

Among other honours, he was sounded out for the British Poet Laureateship and on several occasions for a knighthood, the order of Merit, all of which he rejected.



The 'TIN HARE'

and from the festival.

During Saturday, Tim Fischer will use one of the Tin Hares to host the "Mark Twain Junee Boree Creek Express", in salute of Mark Twain's journey in 1895.

In Junee, the festival will include music, dancing, craft stalls, markets and exhibitions as well as some unusual events, including Living Museum, Fashion Thro' The Ages at Monte Cristo House, Antique Road Show where you can bring your antiques or memorabilia for valuation and sale, Wind In The Roundhouse Concert, featuring the Riverina Concert Band and jazz group Velvet. On Sunday morning will be a **Bush Poets Breakfast**, Interdenominational Church Service, featuring the African Choir from Wagga and the Gundagai Anglican Choir, and a dance display by Wagga Academy of Dance.

There will be two Guinness Book of Records attempts, the longest piece of liquorice at the Liquorice Factory and the largest number of guitars playing a single tune in Junee centre.

Enquiries to the festival office – 6924 4572 during office hours or 0403 019 315 after hours

## THE TRAINS ARE COMING

### Junee Rhythm 'n' Rail Festival

To celebrate Junee's unique rail history and the wealth of artistic and musical talent in the area, the first annual "Junee Rhythm 'n Rail" festival will be held on the weekend of 7 - 9 March 2008. The festival will be a celebration of Junee's strong railway history and of the depth of artistic talent in the area.

Vintage and steam trains will bring visitors from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Griffith and Cowra. Three 1928 vintage "Tin Hares" (Rail Motors) from the Lachlan Vintage Railway will travel from Cowra to Junee via Harden and Cootamundra, on Friday 7th March.

On Saturday, the trains will operate a shuttle service between Junee and Wagga Wagga, bringing people to



Works in the Herald 1930

## THE BARBER'S STORY

"Mornin'," I sez to 'im,  
Gloomy, 'e seemed to be.  
Glum an' unsociable. Comes in the shop  
"Mornin'," I sez to 'im.  
'E don't say anythin'.  
"You're next," I sez; an' 'e sits with a flop.  
"Great Cup?" I sez to 'im.  
Shakin' the wrappin's out.  
'E don't say nuthin'; but jist give a grunt.  
"Great win?" I sez to 'im,  
Smilin' encouragin'.  
"Wonderful way that 'e come to the front."  
'E don't reply to me.  
Sits sorta glarin' like.  
"Phar Lap," I sez to 'im. "Wonder 'orse. Wot?  
'Ave a win yestidy?"  
Still 'e don't answer me.  
"Phar Lap," I sez, "'e made 'acks of the lot."  
"Champeen," I sez to 'him.  
"Wonderful popiler ...  
This 'ere Tregiller, 'e never showed up ...  
Phar Lap," I sez to 'im,  
"Mus' be a wonder 'orse.  
But this Tregiller run bad in the Cup."  
"Wot?" 'e come back at me,  
Lookin' peculiar --  
Red in the face, so I thought 'e would choke.  
"Cab-horse!" 'e sez to me,  
Nasty an' venimous --  
Reel disagreeable sort of a bloke.  
"Tregiller!" 'e sez to me,  
Glarin' reel murderous.  
"Tregiller!!" 'e barks at me. "That 'airy goat!!"  
Surly, 'e seemed to me --  
Man couldn't talk to 'im. . . .  
"Air-cut?" I sez to 'im.  
"No!" 'e sez. "Throat!"

"Den" - Herald, 5 November 1930

## Clarence Michael James Stanislaus Dennis

- better known as C. J. Dennis, (1876 - 1938) was an Australian poet famous for his humorous poems, especially "The Sentimental Bloke", published in the early 20th century.

C. J. Dennis was born in Auburn, South Australia. His father owned a hotel in Laura, and his mother suffered ill health, so Clarrie (as he was known) was raised initially by his great-aunts, then went away to school, Christian Brothers College, Adelaide as a teenager.

At the age of 19 he was employed as a solicitor's clerk. It was while he was working in this job that, like banker's clerk Banjo Paterson before him, his first poem was published. He later went on to publish in The Bulletin, as Paterson and Henry Lawson had also done. The three are often considered Australia's three most famous poets; though Dennis's work is less well known today, his 1916 publica-

tion of The Sentimental Bloke sold 65,000 copies in its first year, and by 1917 he was the most prosperous poet in Australian history.

The Sentimental Bloke and numerous spin-offs published subsequently related the everyday adventures of the title character (name unknown), his girl Doreen, his friend Ginger Mick, and other characters. The poems are written in dialect, and present the Sentimental Bloke as a typical larrikin.

*This ev'nin' I was sittin' wiv Doreen,  
Peaceful an' 'appy wiv the day's work  
done,*

*Watchin', be'ind the orchard's bonzer  
green,*

*The flamin' wonder of the settin' sun.*

*Another day gone by; another night  
Creepin' along to douse Day's golden  
light;*

*Another dawning when the night is  
gone,*

*To live an' love--an' so life mooches  
on.*

(from "Songs of a Sentimental bloke")



## DON'S PARTY

**"Don's Party" will be incorporated into the farewell get-together on the last evening of the John O'Brien Bush Festival.**

Don Anderson (1931-2007) passed away on Monday 16th July, 2007, 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.

The John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera will pay homage to Don in a special tribute in March.

Poets attending the Narrandera Festival are asked to join in the tribute with one of Don's favourite poems as a mark of respect. If you want to take part please contact the editor for a list of Don's favourite poems.

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 therefore 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**

## The John O'Brien BUSH FESTIVAL

NARRANDERA

Dubbed by the media 'Narrandera's amazing festival', the John O'Brien Bush Festival celebrates Irish-Australian culture through poetry, music, humour, dance and bush craft.

For the uninitiated this means there'll be busking, bush dancing, poet's breakfasts, and comedy shows. There'll be get-togethers, pub sessions, luncheons and singalongs.

There'll be a parade, a craft fair, an art exhibition and an Anzac tribute. There'll be antique machinery, street performers and a parade. And there'll be a touch of the Irish, evident in music and in song. This festival has a reputation for friendliness and fun.

There's lots for poets as always at the festival with two performance competitions on the program.

The Country First Credit Union Performance Competition offers \$500 first prize, \$300 second and \$200 third. All entrants who perform their original work are also eligible for the Jim Angel Award for Original Poem.

The Boree Log Poetry Competition invites poets to perform a John O'Brien poem. There are lots of these

and the organisers would like to see some of his less well known poems performed.

As always there'll be two welcome walk-

ups in the park. These are a great festival tradition and a chance for both poets and musicians to get up.

Poets and partners as always have free entry to the poets' breakfasts and the 'Cuppa with the Poets' sessions.

Programs are now available, so call the festival staff and volunteers on 1800 672392 or 02 69591766 to have it sent by mail or download a festival program and ticket order from the [www.narrandera.nsw.gov.au](http://www.narrandera.nsw.gov.au) under 'About Narrandera Shire'.

You can also download the Performance competition entry form.

Members will remember Don Anderson, a talented and energetic performance poet from the Riverina town of Leeton, just a few kilometres down the road from Narrandera, who passed away in 2007. Poets will perform Don's favourites in a tribute to Don, an entertaining and committed bush poet.





## From the Editor:

### BETTY WALTON - 2007 VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPION BUSH POET

In the December issue I erred in reporting Annette Roberts as the Victorian State Champion. My apologies to the actual winner Betty Walton (pictured) of Tintaldra, Vic.



The results, as posted, were those supplied by the organization responsible. I can't do any better than report on what is sent to me, so again, Betty, my apologies.

\* From Keith McKenry I received news Ron Edwards passed away on January 5th. Ron had been unwell for some time – not that mere severe illness stopped him writing/painting/publishing/working and celebrating life generally for a second – but nonetheless his death comes as a shock.

Ron was a wonderful man, an irrepressible larrikin and pathological worker whose contribution to Australian folklore and bush craft was without peer. This is not the time for a detailed essay on his life, so suffice here to say that in a career that spanned over 55 years Ron's Rams Skull press published over 400,000 copies of over 350 books on folk song, yarns, bush craft, travel

and art, most of which he wrote and illustrated himself.

His passing literally draws the final curtain on the pioneering era of the Australian folk revival.

\* **Queensland country woman,** author and poet, **HEATHER CORFIELD** of Taroom, Q. gave me a call last month advising that her sixth volume of bush verse since 1993, '**COUNTRY CHARACTERS**', published in May last year, has gone into reprint. Her book contains seventy two pages with numerous photographs associated with her poems, the many characters she has come across and the places she has seen in her travels, recalling the memories of the pioneering days as seen through the eyes of this modern day Gran.

**COUNTRY CHARACTERS** at \$18.50 post paid can be purchased direct from Heather Corfield of 'Windrush' MS 53 Taroom Qld. 4420

\* Jennifer Haig reported from the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Nevada that she and Milton Taylor were flat out teaching American children about Australia and our bush poetry. They'd completed twelve school workshops along with another character named Pop Wagner, a singer and a deft hand with the guitar and fiddle who does rope tricks with his lasso.

At the Gathering different poets are featured each night and the daytime matinees. There are six venues with

different people for different themes, one being a Down Under theme which of course starred Milton and Jennifer.

\* **SCHOOLBOY POETS** and musicians **Angus and Cameron Young** of Tamworth have had another very successful school year.

Angus, now 13 years started at Oxley High School in 2007, realizing that many awards come from lots of hard work. He has done a lot of Bush Poetry, played Jazz as well as performing in the Schools Spectacular. He finished sixth grade on Clarinet and has been doing some singing as well. Later this year Angus is planning on recording a CD at LBS Records (Lindsay Butler) featuring 14 original tracks (words and music).

Cameron (11) completed his final year in primary school as school captain, where he had lots of representative obligations, had a great year with academic successes as well as being a State finalist in the Primary Schools Public Speaking competition. He also completed his grade 5 Saxophone examinations with credit and piano with Honours.

Cameron capped off 2007 as Gavroche in the Tamworth Musical Society's *Les Miserables*. (He 'died' very well from all reports).

The brothers made over eleven appearances during the Tamworth Country Music Festival appearing with Jim Haynes, Grant Luhrs, Frank Daniel and Noel Stallard.

## WOODFORD 2007

### Warm, Wet, Wonderful Woodford

It's like nowhere you've ever been. Not just the sights, the sounds, the smells, the tastes, but the feel of the place. Once visitors settle in they feel the quiet magic – the happy lifestyle, the love of nature, the sharing, caring atmosphere and the appreciation of some of the greatest talent in the world. It is enormous – with over three thousand performers!

And the poetry? So much more and so much better than last year thanks to Ian McKay's broadening of the Spoken Word content.

The audiences are so appreciative. Not just sitting back to be entertained but really absorbing it, being part of it and soaking up the workshops.

And amongst the dreadlocks and the drums, the sushi and the sarongs, the mud-wearing hippies and the million

croc-clad campers, were the bush poets.

Among them the cream of Australia's best with the likes of Milton Taylor, Marco Gliori, Shirley Friend, Ian McKay, Harry Donnelly, Carol Heuchan, Mark Both, Trisha Anderson, Max Strong and others including the awe inspiring wordsmith David Hallett. Certainly not your 'chops and three veg.' type poet but even the staunchest traditionalists would be impressed by David's brilliance.

The two poetry groups visited each other's venues and workshops and formed great bonds with Miles Merrill, Ha Ha, Ghost Boy and Crazy Elf. Any uneasiness about being part of the Bush Poets Team were soon allayed when challenged by 'that other lot', the performance slammers, the hip-hop, rap and free verse mob to a "Slam Off"; and the Bush Poets won!

And 'they' loved Carol's satiric send

up of them with her scoring the only perfect 10 - earning her the nickname of 'The Woodford Bo Derek!'

## A POETS CONFESSION

by Author Unknown

"Hello! I'm sure you know me,  
I'm a poet, widely read,  
you would have read my poems,  
they are 'classics' it is said.  
I'm the most prolific writer  
on the bush verse writing scene,  
and the critics all agree,  
I'm the best that's ever been.  
My work is in anthologies  
from the East out to the West,  
and Paterson and Lawson  
are really second best.  
My poems are outstanding,  
you could say they 'stand alone',  
and I always use the 'nom-de-plume'  
of 'Author Unknown'.



## BUSH POETS SHOWCASE 2008



The 2008 Bush Poets Showcase Concerts organized by Ed and Margaret Parmenter of Coffs Harbour and held at St. Edwards Hall in Hillvue Road Tamworth during the country music spectacular on Monday 21st and Wednesday 22nd of January saw a large roll up of patrons each day with a good number of new poets to the festival.

(Pictured: 'The Coffs Mixture' Ed and Margaret Parmenter).



Originally set up to give 'other' poets a chance to perform at Tamworth, the Bush Poets Showcase Concerts held during the afternoons on the Monday and the Wednesday of the festival have become very popular with performers as well as the festival crowds. Designed to give writers and performers a chance to do their stuff when they find it hard to get in at the more professional shows, lesser known poets gathered at St. Eddies to full houses with Noel Stallard and Frank Daniel as MC's.

### THE POETTES

The Poettes Concert grows bigger and better each year with the girls always looking forward to each new year. The Poettes under the guiding hand of Trisha Anderson of Brisbane performed at St. Edwards on Friday 25th January with a number of new faces to be seen.

### POETRY CLUBS SHOWS

The Poetry Clubs Shows organized by Carol Heuchan were held each morning in West's Leagues Blazes Auditorium from 7.30am leading up to Grant Luhrs and 'The Biggest Bloody Bush Poets Show'.

The Clubs Show is made up of a network of poets supporting the various poetry clubs around Australia giving them an opportunity to perform. Groups from Gosford bush poets, Singleton Writers, Free Xpression, Coffs Harbour, The ABPA, Hunter Bush Poets, North Pine and Palma Rosa were well represented by fifteen poets.

### THE IRISH CONNECTION

The Irish Connection, an Irish-Australian concert of song and verse in Tamworth, starred Maria Forde and Noel Stallard.

Maria says she was packaged in Ireland and delivered in Australia and both the colleen and the sheila can be detected in her songs.

With something for everyone, Maria sings both the traditional and the contemporary, and once heard, her voice will remain with you forever.

Maria was inducted into *The Legend of the Lake* for her contribution to Celtic music in Australia.

As John O'Brien, the pioneering poet-priest Noel brought to life the early Australian characters from 'Around the Boree Log' such as Said Hanrahan, The Little Irish Mother and the housekeeper Josephine.

In all, a dramatic performance of humour and pathos that contained all the ingredients of genuine Aussie entertainment. Noel makes our past relevant to our present.

### YOUNG CHERRY FESTIVAL

### Poetry Competition BEST EVER

Since its inaugural Bush Poetry competition in 2002 the organizers of the Young Cherry Festival bush poetry competition have been more than proud of the quality of verse and the ability of the presenters in entertaining large appreciative audiences with original, classical and contemporary bush poetry, keeping our heritage of rhyming verse alive and well.

The Sixth Annual Young National Cherry Festival Bush Poets competition was held on the 1st. December 2007 at the Young Golf Club in front of a full house, with visitors from Sydney, Canberra and Southern regions.

A new format restricted to twelve entrants in a two-go-round contest over two sections, Serious and Light-hearted, gave each an equal and ample opportunity to exhibit their reciting skills, irrespective of whom the author

might be, in the Saturday night presentation.

[Participants paid no entry fee and were given two free passes to the competition and two free tickets for the Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning].

For the third consecutive year Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong NSW was the winner with her two entries, 'Horse Flu - Not Just' (original) and 'Bronco Harry's Last Ride' (Jack Drake).

Greg North of Linden NSW was runner-up with two originals, 'Gundungurra Man' and 'Answers In Space'.

Third place went to Alex Allitt of Deniliquin who presented the AB Paterson Classic, 'In the Droving Days' and 'Blue and the Sheep' by Bob Magor.

Three local judges, Margaret Roles, Kym Johnson and Gerry Bailey, acquitted themselves favourably while the final adjudicator was Heather Bailey.

At the helm acting as compere was Frank Daniel of Canowindra NSW who capably added the final touches to a great nights entertainment.

A new highlight at Young was the introduction of a magnificent Perpetual Trophy which now bears the names of all past winners to date. It will be kept on display at the Young Tourist Centre. This beautifully hand crafted trophy, as suggested by Ted Webber, is the creation of two talented locals, Harry Rowe (woodwork) and Sharon Fensom (Artwork).

Highly commended went to Terry Regan, Blaxland, Bernie Keleher, Eagleby, Richard Taubman, Murringo and Greg Broderick, Young.

Welcome guest at the festival was bush poet Bernie Keleher of Brisbane who recited 'The Stockman's Tale' (Anonymous) and 'Blind Date' by Gary Fogarty.

Sunday morning's cooked breakfast saw a larger than usual crowd in attendance, including two tourist coach loads from the north coast, enjoying and appreciating the humour and relaxed atmosphere, particularly the long and extremely funny yarn told by John Smith from Forbes.



## ABPA REPRESENTED NATIONAL POETRY SLAM

### Twisted word scores Victorian poet first national slam title & Opera House gig

Australia's first national Slam has unearthed the best spoken word talent in the country. Hosted by Miles Merrill, spoken word artist and Slam co-organiser, the heats were conducted throughout the States from June 2007.



**Kathy Edwards**

All contestants were given a mic, a live audience and just two minutes to impress the judges with their original word artistry. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding & advisory body.

Marc Testart from Victoria won the first ever national poetry slam competition – the *Australian Poetry Slam 07* - at the State Library of NSW in Sydney on Friday night 7th December last.

Marc secured the Slam title, \$5,000 and a gig at Sydney Opera House after 'out-rhyming' 16 talented spoken word artists, unearthed via the national competition.

According to NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Regina Sutton: "Marc blew everyone away with his playful poem about spirituality."

"I thought I was born 300 years too late, and this contemporary poetry competition gives me hope I was born right on time," said Marc.

A sell-out crowd gathered at the State Library of NSW to witness the two top poets from each state and territory battle it out spoken-word style.

The national finalists had just two minutes to impress the judges (selected at random from the audience) with their original spoken word, poetry, hip-hop, monologues and stories.

The ABPA was proud to have representation at the finals with two finalists from New South Wales, Kathy Edwards of Merewether, Newcastle and Greg North of Linden, in the Blue Mountains. Kathy won her heats in Newcastle and Greg at Katoomba, each successfully taking out the slam Titles for NSW at the State Library on Friday, 30th November.

The *Australian Poetry Slam 07*, an initiative of the State Library of NSW, saw more than 800 emerging poets and spoken word artists compete via 45 heats held in regional areas and city centres in every state and territory.

The competition was coordinated via state and public libraries, with state-based professional spoken-word artists hosting the heats and running workshops in schools, libraries, pubs and theatre spaces.

"The *Australian Poetry Slam 07* has been a great success for the State Library of NSW, and I'm personally



**Greg North**

thrilled that state and public libraries are collectively driving this highly creative and dynamic art form at the national level," says Mrs Sutton.

The *Australian Poetry Slam 07* winner will perform in the *Night Words Festival* at the Sydney Opera House, The Studio, from 6 to 8 March 2008. For details:

<http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/Nightwords.aspx>

### LAUGH A LITTLE EVERY DAY . . . . SPECIAL POEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS!!

A row of bottles on my shelf  
Caused me to analyze myself.  
One yellow pill I have to pop  
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.  
A little white one that I take  
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.  
The blue ones that I use a lot  
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.  
The purple pill goes to my brain  
And tells me that I have no pain.  
The capsules tell me not to wheeze  
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.  
The red ones, smallest of them all  
Go to my blood so I won't fall.  
The orange ones, very big and bright  
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.  
Such an array of brilliant pills  
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.  
But what I'd really like to know.....  
Is what tells each one where to go!

It's nice knowing that wrinkles don't hurt.

"You know it is summer in Ireland when the rain gets warmer."

"In youth we run into difficulties, in old age difficulties run into us."

"The best way to convince a fool he is wrong is to let him have his own way."

"Advice is seldom welcome, and those who need it the most, like it the least."

"The cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

# HORSE FLU - Not Just . . .

© Carol Heuchan October 2007  
(E.I. - Equine Influenza)

I'm not **just** a rich man's trinket  
to fulfil a greedy goal,  
I am more - much more - to many,  
I'm Australia's heart and soul.

I'm companion, partner, soul mate;  
I'm desires beyond just dreams.  
I am overcoming hardships;  
I'm life's lessons in extremes.

Once my shoulders bore the burden  
of the plough to plant the seed  
that would grow the golden wheat fields  
to fulfil this nation's need.

And I laid the precious bore drains  
giving lifeblood to this earth;  
as I forged the great traditions  
then, that gave this country birth.

I have borne your sons to battle,  
heard their brief emblazoned cry,  
seen the futile, reckless slaughter,  
shared the mothers' anguished "Why?"

I helped you tame this wilderness  
- hauled, carted, did your will.  
Used, abused and treated lightly,  
yet I am your servant still.

I have brought you pride and glory  
and a wealth you couldn't measure,  
and a heritage and history  
in a partnership to treasure.

Every sport that you've invented,  
(oft' with consequences grim),  
still I've jumped and turned and twisted  
as I've met your every whim.

I have taught your children caring,  
how to put another first,  
to take the falls and try again  
and cope with best and worst.

I've kept your daughters off the streets  
and on the straight and narrow.  
I've put my heart in all I've done  
- and thrilled you to the marrow.

And yet you turn your back on me  
in this - my hour of need.  
All you think of is **your** losses  
in your all-consuming greed.

Won't you listen to my pleadings  
for the horseman of this land?  
This will change their life forever.  
Won't you try to understand?

For E.I.'s the nine eleven  
that will change life as we know it.  
The effects are catastrophic,  
though the media don't show it.

There are hordes of Aussie battlers  
who'll go under in this strife  
and they'll lose much more than money.  
They will lose their way of life.

I am what makes life worth living.  
I'm their every waking thought.  
I am what they go without for  
and that just can not be bought.

Whether hobby, sport or business,  
through the fires and drought and flood,  
I'm the way of life they've chosen  
that is deep within their blood.

We have known the devastation  
when a farmer loses all.  
Horsemen follow in their footsteps  
with their backs close to the wall.

There's a rumbling now, of anger -  
and horse people are not meek.  
Will they sink in deep depression?  
Will they turn the other cheek?

You have **caused** this thing to happen,  
cutting corners with your greed.  
Quarantine laws bent to suit you,  
consequences guaranteed.

And so now, I pay the price  
for your decisions made in haste.  
Yet again I am surrounded  
by the suffering and the waste.

Once more greed clouds your judgement,  
with your selfish 'purple zone',  
throwing caution to the winds with  
your indulgence overblown.

Do you care about us really?  
Now that pride's before the fall?  
Do you really want to help this?  
Or do dollars say it all?

We can't stop this raging virus;  
all we ask is justice metered.  
Let **not** the vested interests  
dictate how this should be treated.

**Demand** consideration for  
the Racehorse **AND** the scrubber.  
Vet. treatment shouldn't be denied  
a much loved Pony Clubber.

I sympathise with milliners,  
and with trainers. Yes, I'm trying.  
But it pales in insignificance  
when cherished friend is dying.

No, I'm not **just** a rich man's trinket  
to fulfil a selfish goal.  
I am Horse. I am your brother.  
I'm Australia's heart and soul.

## JOHN O'DEA SINGS CAROL'S POEMS

When renowned South Australian singer/songwriter John O'Dea came across bush poet Carol Heuchan's heartfelt tribute dedicated to the plight of the horse and horse owners alike through the Equine Influenza epidemic, he immediately requested permission to record her words in song.

Working closely with Carol, John transformed the poem into an anthem-like ballad, '*Rich Man's Trinket*', getting right into the heart of the matter with Carol's amazingly touching words.

John comes from Orroroo which borders the Flinders Ranges in the upper north of South Australia; a town with a population of about six-hundred in a district of about a thousand people. A strong sense of community exists in this area where much of the spirit of John's music has evolved.

With a distinctive Australian style 'John O' has been described as a storyteller with a unique raw voice who paints pictures with words about people, places and situations in everyday life.

John O'Dea was born in Peterborough, South Australia and was raised on the family farm near Pekina. He has been playing music since he was fourteen. He has a great love for his family, the land, his friends and the country lifestyle, not to mention music itself. His album is a combination of all of those things.

In June last year John won the Songwriting Award and the Frank Harding Award of Excellence at the S.A. Country Music Festival in Barmera. John won five SA song-writing awards and two Frank Harding Awards for Excellence in 2005/2006 with songs from his albums.

John's great four tracker, *Australia's Heart and Soul* contains two songs by Carol Heuchan, '*Rich Man's Trinket*' and '*Charlotte Brown*' and John's interpretation of Rolf Harris's '*Two Little Boys*' and one from Eric Bogle, '*As If He Know's*'



## WA 2007 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2007 WA State Championships were originally planned for the end of September but, unfortunately, insufficient entries made the Performance Section a non viable event. The closing date for the Written Section was extended to November 30th with a good number of entries in the Junior and sixty-two in the Open sections.

### Judge's Comments (Open Section)

"It is a rare privilege to share the reflective thinking of creative minds, especially when that thinking is in the form of rhyming verse. The wonderful collection of wit, nostalgia, concern, subtlety and delightful disarming vulgarity reflects a richness of the Australian spirit, which is clearly alive and well.

The competition provided a healthy balance of the humorous, with the sad and painful, which invariably led to a greater understanding and awareness of what it means to be human. And therein lies, for me the greatest value of the writings - an exploration of some aspects of the human condition.

Our cherished values that are closely connected to family, friends and animals with which we share our lives are more than worthy of the time and effort that it takes to properly describe them. And so it is in the winners poem. This poem is so apparently simple in essence, yet establishes those emotional links that we experience with those we love in a most graphic and poignant reality.

Congratulations to every entrant for the achievement of capturing your thoughts, ideas and feelings and then harnessing them into the strict disciplinary form of the "bush poem" They are all worthy of proud presentation in any venue throughout our vast land. *Brian Wolfenden*

### Junior Competition:

The numbers of entries was disappointing. Even though information about the competition was made available to the WA Education Dept, it never got to the students.

While the subject matter was surprisingly broad and most entries had good to excellent rhyme, consistent rhythm defeated all but a couple of the under 13s. In many cases it would have been better to have written a shorter poem rather than start well but lose the rhythm as the poem progressed. In some cases, the topic along with the length are perhaps a bit too ambitious.

We would like to congratulate all prize winners. To all entrants, Well done for your interest, participation and the effort that you have put into your poems. You have all started on a journey which if you continue will give you and others great enjoyment and satisfaction. We wish you all success in the future and hope you continue your obvious love of Australian Rhyming Poetry.

*Brian Langley & John Hayes*

## LET THE CHILDREN PLAY

© Catherine Clarke

I have seen the children playing in the hot Australian sun;  
Run freely over golden glinting sand,  
Heard excited carefree laughter as they somersault and spin  
Or splash along the shoreline hand in hand.

And in England and America the picture is the same -  
They prance through lush and springy fresh green fields,  
Playing pirates, or white knights who rescue ladies in distress;  
Imagining their trusty swords and shields.

I've seen chubby well-dressed children there in pristine Singapore  
On city field designed for them to run,  
Or to kick their balls and fly their kites, and with delighted squeals  
Collapse exhausted under humid sun.

In each memory of my own land I recall familiar scenes;  
Remember childhood with nostalgic sigh -  
We competed with each other as we pulled the coloured strings,  
To urge kites soar and caper in the sky.

All those riverbanks and woodlands, concrete playgrounds by the score,  
The parks with painted swimming pools and swings;  
With an endless choice of roundabouts and see-saws, huts and slides,  
And tree-houses - such fascinating things.

But these images grew dim last week at different, touching sights;  
My eyes took in some new and poignant scenes,  
As I drove through filthy streets and saw the children at their play  
In city of Manila, Philippines.

Laughing gaily as they hurdled rotting garbage in the drains,  
Dodged jeepneys, buses, tricycles and cars,  
With their brown eyes lifted upwards to polluted, darkening sky  
Lit brightly - full of devilment and stars.

With my own I traced their gazes to the source of their delight -  
A plastic bag was soaring in the sky,  
Tied up roughly with a length of torn and glittering brown tape  
Just salvaged from cassette from days gone by.

It was makeshift kite - a clear result of innovative thought,  
Yet obviously a source of joy and pride.  
As the plastic rustled, danced and bobbed and struggled to be free,  
Defying me to turn my head aside

All the things we take for granted hit me right between the eyes,  
And later I thought long upon the way  
In the midst of dust and squalor, so much poverty and crime  
The children still found stimulus to play.

What the children of the world can teach if we'd but look to see -  
To put aside each hurt and battle scar,  
To attempt to seek the positive; the hope that still remains,  
No matter what our circumstances are.

Through the drought; in war-torn countries; famine; terrorism; flood;  
No matter what they've seen or where they've dwelt,  
I would like to think the search for laughter every child desires  
Might build their armour for the hand fate's dealt.

I would like to think that all of them, no matter what their age -  
From carefree toddlers to the glowering teens,  
May each know at least one moment of that startling perfect bliss  
I witnessed in Manila, Philippines.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

© Des Fairful - Lismore NSW

I received an information sheet; it came through on the fax;  
'Hazardous Material' was the heading – Scientific Analysis and facts.  
The substance named was woman – chemical symbol WO<sup>2</sup>,  
long ago discovered by Adam in the year of 'one' or 'two'.

It further claimed poor Adam had been deprived of one rib-bone  
used by God to create the element – henceforth man lost his throne.  
A list of physical properties in an ordered, numbered index  
further reinforced my thought, WO<sup>2</sup> was extremely complex.

Its surface is often covered in layers of powder and paint,  
with a boiling point of nothing, followed by a sudden faint.  
Freezing seems to be quite common, for no apparent reason,  
despite enhanced appearance at night in full moon season.

Will turn bright pink if discovered in a raw and natural state;  
if placed beside a better specimen, shades of green will permeate.  
Must be handled with great care, or will turn from sweet to sour.  
To date no one can calculate the full extent of woman power.

The schedule noted Atomic Mass - 50kg was the norm -  
but specimens are often seen from small to multi-form.  
Various grades are sighted everywhere

including virgin and common ore.

Will yield to pressure gently applied by a wealthy bachelor.

Has an absorption rate remarkable of liquid with alcohol content,  
but the extra activity created often results in embarrassment.  
Plus a great affinity for carbon, in its bright and polished state,  
precious gems and gold or silver, also help to stimulate.

May explode without any warning, even when conditions are stable.  
WO<sup>2</sup> contains a rogue neutron; scientists are not yet able  
to isolate the atom - the cause of this disease.

A Nobel Prize to the physicist who can prove with guarantees  
that the genes in WO<sup>2</sup> can be harnessed and put to good use;  
a great leap forward for man; no more will he be the cooked goose.

A hazard with which many men daydream they could abscond,  
especially if the variety is a shapely blonde.  
Has often been the downfall of many talented men,  
who failed to heed the nagging, and the element turned on them.

A highly ornamental element, renowned as a relaxation  
that can strip a man of assets leaving him in ruin.  
WO<sup>2</sup> is like a loose cannon, and slightly misguided as well;  
intimidating say most men, best described as the hazard from Hell.

And lastly, the fax mentioned 'ownership', no more than one at a time.  
It is considered illegal and dangerous, and wives declare it a crime  
for a man to have one he has married

and another on which to hold tight.

A very foolish arrangement –  
his mother in law would shoot him on sight.

## GET MORE KIDS INTO BUSH POETRY

It is pleasing to see more and more competitions making better of their junior competitors. For bush poetry to continue to grow younger members must be encouraged to learn, write and perform bush poetry. Never, apart from the Waltzing Matilda Celebrations in Winton Q. and Dunedoo in '07 has there been such an opportunity as exists at Pine Rivers in August when for the first time kids will have a special competition for themselves at a higher level, the Australian Bush Poetry Championships, with one day set aside for the event.

## ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE TO BENEFIT

Bush Poet John Davis of Ulladulla NSW has offered his support throughout 2008 with a generous offer of \$5.00 for each and every direct sale of his book 'A Bushman's Tales'.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Aus-



tralia is a not-for-profit charitable service providing aeromedical emergency and primary health care services together with communication and education assistance to people who live, work and travel in regional and remote Australia.

The Australian Council is the national coordinating body and through this Council, the Service communicates with the Commonwealth Government on national issues, including negotiation for funding.

Established in 1928 and developed on a national basis in the 1930s, the Service soon provided not only emergency medical aid to the people of the Inland, but also a comprehensive health care and community service.

The development of the Inland was in many ways made easier by the presence of the Flying Doctor. Previously, serious illness or accident often meant death and the Inland holds many graves of people who might have lived had they been able to receive medical aid quickly enough.

The RFDS was the first comprehensive aerial medical organisation in the world and to this day remains unique for the range of primary health care and emergency services it provides and for the huge area of sparse population and climatic extremes over which it operates - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Royal Flying Doctor Service only had eight bases prior to 1950 mainly for the benefit of isolated families and communities. Today there are twenty-three bases Australia-wide.

Medical help from the RFDS is often available more readily than can be obtained in metropolitan areas.

The service is heavily reliant on donations, continues to provide a much needed facility in the bush.

To this end Poet and Author John Davis of Ulladulla on the NSW South Coast has offered to donate the sum of \$5.00 for every direct sale to the consumer during 2008.

More information page 22.



## IRISH TRIO SOUTHBOUND

If you are an inveterate world traveller and you take on Australia with an Irish road map as a guide – then you must be akin to Paddy and Glori O'Brien, more affectionately known as The Irish Trio (Yes! The whole two of 'em).

Paddy and Glori O'Brien of Murwillumbah in Northern NSW, have enjoyed a number of successful years travelling throughout Queensland and New South Wales with their comedy variety show of song, dance, music, poetry and stories of actual events that never really happened.

2007 was one of their biggest years with a proud moment at the Glenn Innes Celtic Festival in May when their six-year-old grandson Jason (O'Brien, to be sure!) led the grand parade accompanied by the Town Cryer, and then appeared on stage at the Poets Breakfast standing on chair (To be taller . . .) reciting poetry.

The Trio (aka 'The Two of Us') took on the Apple Isle last year with such aplomb that they were actually asked to come back – and that's exactly what they will be doing in 2008.

Following some 'early' Saint Pats day shows at Burleigh Heads and Murwillumbah Bowls Clubs on 14th and 29th March respectively. They will then fly to Tasmania for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 'Stage Door' Theatre Restaurant in Burnie.

In November this year they will venture south once more with four shows in Hobart and several more around the southern state. This year they intend promoting Australian Bush Poetry to the kilt (sorry – hilt) incorporating more of our traditional and contemporary verse because of its popularity in their 2007 tour.

As an added bonus for the Taswegians the group has invited Australia's tallest performance poet Long John Best of the Pine Rivers Group to join them as a guest in their three hour show; not because of his poetry success here and abroad, nor for his personality, but purely to show that there are 'Tall' people on the mainland.

Paddy reckons 'Besty' should be a big hit, especially when they disguise him as a Leprechaun in the special suit Glori made up for him.

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008 Paddy and Glori have invited all poets with time to spare to join them for the celebrations on the Mother's Day weekend at 'Wandilla' Eulo.

There'll be walk-up poetry, entertainment and concerts every day.

For further information phone 07 4655 4833 (to be sure)

## NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL (CANBERRA)

The National Folk Festival is celebrated every Easter, when Canberra is frocked up in its golden autumn best. Australia's festival flagship, the 'National', draws together people from all around Australia and the world. They come to share in the songs, dances, tunes, and verse that have flowed through the ages from many communities into Australian folk culture.

For five days Exhibition Park in Canberra dresses up and becomes a magic place, filled with colour and

sound. Hundreds of the world's best musicians perform daily, in a non-stop flow of entertainment across twenty two fabulous venues. Every day is packed with workshops and sessions, where you can join in the dancing, singing and playing and become part of the celebration. It's all there for you; once you've bought your ticket and come through the magic time portal you won't need to leave.

[www.folkfestival.asn.au](http://www.folkfestival.asn.au)

Be part of the largest Bush Poets Breakfasts in Australia - all four of them. Enjoy four days of Yarn-spinning, music, song and dance.



## INSTANT HYGIENE

HOUSEKEEPING HINTS  
from LANCE PARKER

I guess that most of you have worried at times about one of the yuckiest of household jobs?

I speak of cleaning the toilet! But worry no more - I have discovered the perfect solution.

This method is especially recommended to cat lovers as the final result is both a sparkly clean toilet and a squeaky clean cat.

Proceed as follow:

1. Raise both lids of the toilet bowl and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.

2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.

3. In one swift movement put the cat in the toilet and close both lids.

You may have to stand on the lid.

4. The cat will agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet; the cat is actually enjoying this.

5. Flush the toilet three or four times.

This provides a 'Power Wash' and a 'Rinse'.

6. Have someone open the front door of your home.

Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.

7. Stand behind the toilet bowl as far as you can and quickly lift both lids.

8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom and run outside where he will dry himself off.

9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean - guaranteed and works every time.

Catherine Clarke was placed second in the 2008 Blackened Billy Awards behind Dean Trevaskis with her poem 'Hear My Story'.

Third place went to Graeme Johnson, 'The Rhymer from Ryde' with 'The Voyage'!

Sitting in Dubbo's new airport waiting room, Hipshot asked a waiting lady, 'Have you got a timetable?' 'What's the use of a timetable' she snapped, 'when the planes are never on time?'

Bursting with pride, Hipshot replied 'Well, what's the use of a waiting room when they are?'



## CATHERINE CLARKE

ABPA Member Catherine Clarke is currently living in Thailand with her partner Andrew, who works in the hospitality industry. Catherine and Andrew met whilst working at the same hotel in Sydney in 1988, and since then have been transferred to many places continuing a nomadic existence. . . . from Sydney to Daydream Island in the Whitsundays, then Port Moresby, Singapore, the Philippines; and Darwin for a short time, until a very appealing offer came to return to Asia, to the Holiday Inn Resort, Regent Beach Chaam. ([www.holidayinn.com/chaam](http://www.holidayinn.com/chaam)) The Cha-Am/ Hua Hin area is famous for its kilometers of white sand beach along the sunrise side of the Gulf of Siam, located two and a half hours drive from Bangkok and 15 minutes from Hua Hin International Airport.

It is a big resort of 700 rooms, right beside the sea, which Catherine has always loved and is making the most of while she has it, as she never knows to where they might be transferred next. (Life is never dull!)

Catherine's career started in Human Resources, becoming Personal Assistant to the General Manager for several years. With postings overseas it was no longer possible for her to work full time in the various places so the career is now a long way behind.

Catherine attended a six week creative writing course in Sydney in 1994, as she has always loved to write, particularly rhyming poetry, since she was a child. Through this she joined the FAW Manly branch, near where she lived, and began entering poetry and short story competitions, later joining the ABPA and subscribing to Free Xpression.



Sometimes it has been difficult to meet deadlines for competitions whilst living overseas, but she has managed to keep up with many over the years.

Receiving her ABPA Magazine has always been such a pleasure, in order to stay in touch with what people are doing and who is taking out all the prizes! Catherine has made some lovely friends through this, despite the fact that they never meet each other!

With poetry she has enjoyed several cash prizes over the years and many Highly Commended certificates.

Catherine has been published several times in Woman's Day, That's Life and the Singapore Women's Weekly.

Whilst living in Papua New Guinea it came up in conversation that she wrote poetry and, subsequently, was asked to read some of her poems at a meeting of the 'Aussie Wantoks' group.

Never having shared her poetry before this time, and not being a public speaker or a performance poet (even now) she was very nervous. However, the enthusiastic response was a total surprise and from this she self-published a little A5 book which sold with considerable success at the local market. Now revised, this book remains one of her most rewarding experiences.

A number of her articles and poems were published in local magazines, although, in general, she does not write many articles at all.

During her time in Moresby she worked on a project for the judge in charge of the Sandline Affair, compiling and typing up his enormous report for the Commission of Inquiry.

In Singapore Catherine focused more on short stories and had her best ever week earning \$1,000 with the publication of three of these stories. She also joined a Writer's Group whilst there and the group published a book of their stories.

In Singapore she started freelancing as a proof-reader and editor for the company for which Andrew worked, so whilst based in the Philippines, became editor of their quarterly on-line news-

letter for all hotels throughout South East Asia, Australia & New Zealand. She also proofed their massive Accounting and Procedures Manual, worked on a few projects for an internal airline magazine and the Australian & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce.

This job with the company magazine continued on for two and a half years until eventually they turned it into a full time job based at head office, so bringing an end to this lucrative and enjoyable project.

On to Darwin and legally able to work again, Catherine was signed on as a temporary secretary, and continued with her freelance work by doing the annual 'Brolga Awards' for the six hotels across the Northern Territory. This involved the compilation, editing, re-writing, researching and proofing of the submissions, and to her delight resulted in three wins at the Australian National Tourism Awards evening. She also proofed and edited the Human Resources Employee Handbook for the company.

Via a Correspondence Course she qualified with straight A's in a Professional Proofreading and Editing Certificate enabling her to source work from other companies wherever she might be living in the world, however the move to Thailand has made it difficult to gain many contracts or receive a decent wage when she does.

'There are few things more satisfying than completing a good poem' says Catherine, who enjoys living her nomadic life, the variety of cultural experiences and the people she has been privileged to meet. Her life has been greatly enriched making her feel very blessed indeed.

There are times when she misses her home, her own culture, family and friends but being as adaptable as she is there is no time for boredom.

Her main hobbies are writing, reading and music so, as long as she has a computer, plenty of books and her piano she is happy wherever she is.

(see pages 5 - 12 - 24)



## JUNIORS' DAY AT AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



Children and young people are the future life blood of bush poetry. Because of their importance to the Bush Poetry movement, the North Pine Group have set aside a whole day, Friday 22 August, as the special day of the Australian Championships for Junior Competitions. North Pine Bush Poets, with many award-winning writers and performers as members, have been running competitions for many years very successfully, including three Queensland Championships. On the Juniors' Day, one or two North Pine members will also entertain the young competitors by presenting poems with appeal to the young.

Workshops will be available during the year to schools interested in encouraging their students to participate in either the performance or written competitions. For more information about the workshops, phone (07) 3351 3550 or 0419 642 869, or [heritagepoetry@dodo.com.au](mailto:heritagepoetry@dodo.com.au) as early as possible.



If you are in contact with someone at your local school, you might like to make them aware of this possibility.

The Juniors' Written Competition has two sections, the Secondary School Section with prizes of \$100, \$60 and \$40, and the Primary Section with prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20. The Performance Competition has three sections, Under 18 and Under 13 with total prize money in excess of \$600, and the Under Sevens have a non-competitive event to enjoy and show what they can do. For entry forms giving full details send a S.S.A.E. to M. Vijars, P.O. Box 701, Morningside, Qld. 4170, or email [manfred@rocketfrog.com.au](mailto:manfred@rocketfrog.com.au)

Several members of North Pine live on the Redcliffe Peninsula.

Historic Redcliffe, only twenty minutes from the Championships venue, was the site of the first European settlement in Queensland. With an excellent historical museum, whale watching, picturesque headlands and pleasant beaches. Redcliffe has many attractions to offer visitors. Lots of little coffee shops and restaurants overlook Moreton Bay near the jetty, and you can also enjoy some of Australia's best fish and chips, on the western side of Scarborough, while watching the sun set over the water with the Glasshouse Mountains silhouetted in the background.

If you're coming to the Australian Championships, come a little earlier or stay a little longer, and enjoy!

**NOTICE: CONTACT DETAILS  
THE AUSTRALIAN  
BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
North Pine Bush Poets is still  
**Manfred Vijars**  
**PO Box 701 Morningside Q. 4170**  
(0411 160 510)



## IT'S ON IN CORRYONG

Arts Upper Murray Presents a Whacko Weekend of Bush Poetry, Art, Music, Concerts, Buskers, Market Stalls and much more.

**3rd - 6th APRIL 2008**

Written Competition to 300 Words  
(Theme: CORRYONG)

Performance Competitions  
(Limited to Fifteen entries)

**OPEN BUSH POETRY - YARN-SPINNING**

**Three Poets Breakfasts**

*Accommodation enquiries*

CORRYONG VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

(02) 6076 2277

fax (02) 6076 2152

Email: [vic@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:vic@towong.vic.gov.au)

**For full programme and further details contact Betty Walton**

Ph/fax (02)60779201

[info@tintaldrastore.com.au](mailto:info@tintaldrastore.com.au)

## IT'S ON IN CORRYONG ALRIGHT!

Make no mistake about it. Bad news travels fast and did it go when the Co-ordinators of the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival decided to call off the annual event without considering the Business Houses, the Sponsors, the locals, the Tourists or, of course, the Bush Poets.

Whoever could imagine Corryong without Bush verse. With encouragement from outside sources residents decided to create a new festival and competition, and so with three town meetings behind them and more support than was ever envisaged, Corryong is set to go in April.

A new committee has been elected, a new name chosen and a new standard of enthusiasm has developed to present a high standard Bush Poetry Competition.

This will help to reduce the economic impact on the community with the cancellation of the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival due to the outbreak of Equine Influenza which curtailed the horse events in 2008.

Significant prize money will be offer for both written and performance sections. A National Golden Pencil Award will be presented to the best written entry of 300 words or less on the theme of CORRYONG.

See the accompanying ad. for more details.

**Restricted entries - Don't delay -**

**if we sell out - you miss out!**



## PIONEERS

by Frank Hudson

We are the Old-world people,  
Ours were the hearts to dare;  
But our youth is spent,  
                    and our backs are bent,  
And the snow is in our hair.

Back in the early fifties,  
Dim through the mists of years,  
By the bush-grown strand of a wild,  
strange land,  
We entered - the pioneers.

Our axes rang in the woodlands,  
Where the gaudy bush-birds flew,  
And we turned the loam of our new-  
found home,  
Where the Eucalyptus grew.

Housed in the rough log shanty,  
Camped in the leaking tent,  
From sea to view  
                    of the mountains blue  
Where the eager diggers went.

We wrought with a will unceasing,  
We moulded, and fashioned,  
                    and planned  
And we fought with the black  
                    and we blazed the track  
That ye might inherit the land.

There are your shops and churches,  
Your cities of stucco and smoke;  
And the swift trains fly  
                    where the wild cat's cry  
O'er the sad bush silence broke.

Take now the fruit of our labour,  
Nourish and guard it with care;  
For our youth is spent,  
                    and our backs are bent  
And the snow is in our hair.

## LONG MAY SHE RAIN

Local shearing contractor Lloydie Brown was telling me that things are pretty crook up in the Culgoa area.

He said he struck one old grazier who could hardly speak.

Lloydie asked "What's the trouble mate?" and the old cockie said "I got the roof of me mouth sun-burned watchin' for storm clouds!"

So Lloydie gave him the phone number of a doctor he knew in the Water Constipation and Irritation Commission.

© Hipshot

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A RINGER?

© A Rogers SA 23.4.07

So you want to be a Ringer, lad  
And learn the "ringer's" trade,  
You want to go to northern climes  
Where all the best are made.  
You want to learn to rope and brand  
And cut them from the mob,  
You want to learn the stockman's craft  
And take a 'ringer's' job.

Well let me set you straight me boy  
The life is hard and tough,  
And you think you've learnt it all  
You'll find it's not enough.  
For days and weeks with saddle sores  
You'll trek behind the mob,  
And eat your share of dust and flies,  
Out in a 'ringer's' job.

When in the must'ring camp you'll find  
No niceties of life  
And when the cold wind blows at night  
'Twill cut you like a knife.  
And in the wee small pre-dawn hours  
Pray nothing spooks the mob  
For naught will scare you more than  
that  
Doing a 'ringer's' job.

Then when the brumbies running wild  
Are mustered to the yard  
The job of breaking saddle broncs  
Will find you falling hard,  
And then on mustang barely broke  
You'll chase strays from the mob,  
And risk your life a dozen times  
Workin' a 'ringer's' mob.

But sill you say that's what you want  
A life that's wild and free,  
You want be a ringer, son,  
A ringer just like me.  
You said you'd hate to be like them  
That pallid City mob.  
You want to follow in my steps,  
And take a 'ringer's' job.



The grave of Jack Riley,  
the Man from Snowy River  
in the Corryong cemetery.

## THE SONG OF THE SUNDOWNER

TE Spencer

I'm the monarch of valley, and hill,  
and plain,  
And the king of this golden land.  
A continent broad is my vast  
domain,  
And its people at my command.  
My tribute I levy on high and low,  
And I chuckle at Fortune's frown;  
No matter how far in the days I go,  
I'm at home when the sun goes  
down.

In the drought-stricken plains of  
the lone Paroo,  
When the rainless earth is bare,  
I take toll from the shepherd and  
Jackeroo,  
And I sample their humble fare.  
Not a fig care I thought the stock  
may die,  
And the sun-cracked plains be  
brown;  
I can make for the east, where the  
grass is high,  
I'm at home when the sun goes  
down.

When river and creek their banks  
o'er leap,  
And the flood rolls raging by;  
When the settlers are mourning  
their crops and sheep,  
I can watch them without a sigh.  
What matter to me if their fences  
go.  
I can find a good meal when the  
sun is low,  
And a home when the sun goes  
down.

So I wander away at my own sweet  
will,  
Be it northerly, south or west;  
When I'm hungry my paunch I can  
always fill,  
When I'm tired I can always rest.  
I care not what others may do or  
think,  
I'm a monarch without a crown;  
I can always be sure of my food  
and drink,  
And a home when the sun goes  
down.

# Don't Forget!

Closing Dates:

Adult Sections: 12th March, 2008

Student Sections: 5th April, 2008

## Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc Literary Awards 2008

including

countryenergy

Leonard Teale Memorial

Performance Poetry \$1,000 First Prize

Short Story Competition First Prize \$400

Written Poetry First Prize \$400

Primary Student Section First Prize \$200

Secondary Student Section First Prize \$200

SSAE to Literary Awards PO Box 235, Gulgong 2852 or email [henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au](mailto:henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au)



### THE 'BARE' FACTS

© Graeme Watt

It was Ladies day at the Bowling Club,  
The sun was shining bright,  
A perfect day for bowling,  
With the girls all dressed in white.  
There were cries of "Good shot Betty",  
And very quiet applause,  
There were draw shots and a drive or two  
All within the laws.

The day was quiet, as usual,  
No trouble so it seems,  
But you'd never guess what happened,  
Not in your wildest dreams.  
Just as Doreen played a fine shot,  
The best that you have seen.  
A man devoid of clothing,  
Dashed across the green.

'A STREAKER, YES!, A  
STREAKER!'

The ladies screamed as one,  
As the Streaker flashed his hairy chest,  
And showed his pale white bum.  
He made a dash across the green,  
The girls could only stare,  
As he displayed his twiddly bits,  
With everything quite bare.

Well, the ladies got excited,  
Some fainted with the fright,  
Some looked away in horror,  
Some cheered with sheer delight.  
Judy made a mighty lunge  
And tried to grab the bloke,  
Margy called excitedly,  
"I nearly had a stroke!"

Colleen took a piece of chalk  
And chased him down the track,  
She said, "I'll mark his toucher  
I think he moved the Jack!"  
A lady said "It's not my husband,  
I had a look and I can tell",  
And Saucy Sal, the redhead said,  
"He's not a member at Sawtell!"

As the Streaker disappeared from sight,  
Shirley was heard to say,  
"That streaker brought back memories,  
I'd forgotten 'til today!"  
Now on Ladies day there's trouble,  
You'll see lots of wayward bowls,  
They simply cannot concentrate,  
They wander off -- Poor Souls!

Their form is quite erratic,  
Their shots are getting weaker,  
They're praying for a nice warm day,  
And another young buck Streaker.

### Beaudesert

#### Bush Bards

#### New Meeting Place

An increase in membership and the extra weight gained over the festive season means that the Beaudesert Bush Bards can no longer fit inside their meeting room at McDonalds restaurant.

They have moved their meetings, on the third Friday of each month, to the Beaudesert Community Arts & Information Centre on the corner of Mt.Lindesay Highway and Enterprise Drive, Beaudesert.

This is where the BBB's have conducted their poetry writing workshops in recent years and where their next one is scheduled for 16th February under the tuition of champion poet Glenny Palmer. Glenny's workshops are very instructive and great fun.

Contact Pamela at 5541 2662 for details of the group.

The Beaudesert Bush Bards wish their many poetry friends verse with perfect rhyme and rhythm in 2008.

## The Branch from Hell

© Neil and Judy Carroll - Dubbo NSW

A bus-load of ladies from the C.W.A  
on a trip to a neighbouring fete,  
had a head-on collision - and needless to say  
they arrived at the Pearly Gate.

And Saint Peter said, as he scratched his old head,  
"There's just no accommodation.  
With Bin Laden's army, and then the tsunami,  
we're doing a big renovation.

So you'll just have to go with Old Nick down below  
where at least you'll be nice and warm.  
And girls . . . sure as Hell . . . I'll give you a yell,  
as soon as we get back to norm!"

As they dawdled downstairs, all full of self pity,  
the Treasurer rang the bell.  
"We'll elect a chairperson, then form a committee,  
and call it the *Branch From Hell*.

Before we begin it, we'll read out the minute,  
and vote by a show of hands.  
The heat here's not funny . . . we'll rake up the money  
and purchase a couple of fans!"

When Nich rang Stain Peter he said "Man alive!  
these sheilas you sent at a joke!  
With their street stalls, and raffles, and lamington drives,  
they've got all our residents broke!

With their pickles, and pikelets and card afternoons,  
I've just about reached breaking point.  
And they told me today if they don't get out soon,  
they'll air-condition the joint!!"

(Continued from page 24)

## DYLAN CARTLEDGE

One of his highest achievements was winning the CASPA 'I'm a Star Talent Competition' in 2006, a local competition for all talented children and young adults from 6 years to 18 years in all fields of performing arts and again with his original poems.

He also does several events for local charities just because he loves to perform.

Dylan had never performed outside his local area until 2006 when he made his first appearance at Tamworth's Country Music Festival as a busker outside Target.

At the 2007 Australian Championships in Dunedoo, Dylan (aged 14 yrs) won the under 16 years Bush Poetry Championships. He also competed and performed at the Upper Lachlan Wool-Wagon Awards in Crookwell taking out first place in the under 16's age group and placing third in the Open Contemporary section.

With enough original material up his sleeve and the help of his parents Shirley and David, Dylan recorded an album of his works 'Evolution' which he released at Tamworth.

Dylan continues to do speech and drama, and choir at the local conservatorium of music (Grafton) and does perform-

## ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

On the eve of its opening the Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli received a personally signed letter from the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

The PM who lists folk as his favourite music genre has said that that the Festival now in its 23rd year, "Makes a valuable contribution to the cultural life of the region and has established itself as a premier event on the NSW Calendar.

Through a remarkable range of performances and activities, visitors of all ages can experience the delights of live music, dance, poetry and storytelling."

Mr Rudd commended the Illawarra Folk Club for organizing the 2008 Festival and sent his best regards to all those participating in the weekends absorbing events.

The historic Slacky Flat at Bulli Showground north of Wollongong burst into party mode from the 17-20th January with over 500 performers converging for the award-winning festival.

The festival showcases some of the greatest folk music, song, verse and dance; storytelling, events, and instrument workshops available in Australia and the world. With a diverse range of cultures and a hearty dose of both the old and the new there was something for everyone to savour at the 23rd Illawarra Folk Festival.



All this action transformed at the Bulli Showground, north of Wollongong; a magical world of festive colour and song. Whether it's just for one day or four, the continuing tradition, established in 1985 is now an integral part of the Illawarra identity.

Every year the festival improves and builds upon the past, with eleven venues over four days, 180 different events five-hundred artists and performers the festival celebrated the return of many treasured favourites including Eric Bogle, Bernard Carney, Joe Dolce, Frencham Smith, Kate Fagan, Wongawilli, Martin Pearson, Pat Drummond, Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock and Chloe and Jason Roweth.

The festival hosted a number of international artists from Scotland, Ghana, Nepal and the White Top Mountaineers from Virginia, USA.

Featured highlights were the ever popular Poets Breakfasts, a hilarious Comedy and Limerick competition, a Tripe Eaters Association Dinner, Bush Dancing, Folk Music and dance.

ing arts and song writing courses during the school holidays.

His love for rhyming verse has been a great source of fun and he loves playing with accents and words, always writing with performance in mind.

In 2007 he appeared at the Oasis Hotel with Gary Cullen and made two appearances at the famous Longyard Hotel. He had another successful season in Tamworth this year at the same venues as well as appearing in the Bush Poetry Showcase at St. Edwards Hall with the Parmenters.

He was a popular busker again at Target and was more than pleased with the sales of his new Album.

**'EVOLUTION' \$22.00 pp. Ph. 02 6649 3640  
5 Middle Creek Road COUTTS CROSSING NSW2460**



## COMPETITION RESULTS

### GIPPSLAND

#### GOLDEN WATTLE

(Written Competition)

First Prize \$1000.00

Arthur Green

*Monarchs of the Air*

2nd. David Campbell

*The Ballad of Mulligan's Pub*

3rd Dean Trevaskis

*The Power of Kokoda*

#### Highly Commended

David Campbell *Requiem*

David Campbell

*The Photograph*

Catherine Clarke

*Black Dingo Gorge*

(see page 12 & page 15)

#### Commended certificates

VP Reid *A Farmer's Reply*

Tom Chapman

*The Timber Cutter's Wife*

Ellis Campbell

*Ne'er the Twain Shall Meet*

### WA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Written Competition)

The Results were:

#### Junior Under 13

1st Alanna van Mierlo

*The Tiger's Tale.*

2nd Hannah Th'ng - *The Prime Ministers of Australia* 3rd

Joshua Th'ng - *Robert and the Gold-Rush Bunyip*

#### Junior 13 - 17

1st Violet MacDonald

*Ballad to the Soldier Crabs* 2nd

Violet MacDonald

*Akubras on Windy Days*

3rd Celina MacDonald

*Cyclone Leslie*

#### Open Section

1st VP Read

*A Tribute to Jillie*

2nd VP Read - *A Chat*

*Between Two Old Mates*

3rd Keith Lethbridge

*John Crothers*

#### Highly Commended.

John Hayes *More Care for Esperance*

Keith Lethbridge

*Lambo Station*

VP Read - *Grievances of a*

*Babbling Brook*

### BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

1st. *The Power of Kokoda*

Dean Trevaskis

Ocean Shores NSW.

2nd. *Hear My Story*

Catherine Clarke

3rd. *The Voyage*

Graeme Johnson

West Ryde NSW

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

*The End of Midnight*

David Campbell

Beaumaris Vic.

*The Lord of Murrwolga & the*

*Maiden Made of Steel and Fur*

Dick Lewers Blaxland NSW

*I've Ridden Curio*

VP Read Bicton WA

*Seven Suns to Roma*

Alec Raymer Plainland Qld

*Brocky's Revenge*

Allan Goode Nerang Qld

*The Startbroke Cup*

Daan Spijer Mt Eliza Vic

*In Mulga Scrub, Behind the Pub*

Arthur Green Warana Qld.

*The Fate of the Brumby*

Don Adams

Paraparaumu Beach NZ

*Don't Judge Books by the Cover*

Val Wallace Glendale NSW

*All's Fair in Love - and Politics!*

Reeve McLennan

Arana Hills Qld.

### THE GOLDEN DAMPER

#### Traditional Section

1st Carol Heuchan

2nd Rod Williams

3rd Reid Begg

#### Original

1st. John Peel

2nd Mark Thompson

3rd Carol Heuchan

#### AUSTRALIAN BUSH

#### LAUREATE AWARDS

#### Judith Hosier Heritage Award

Frank Daniel

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## BUNDABERG BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2008

**JULY 11th - 12th - 13th**

### Performance Competitions

- **Open** (Male & Female)
- **Intermediate**
- **Novice**
- **Under 15's**
- **Yarn Spinning**
- **Duo Competition**

**Bundy Rum One Minute Cup**



**BUSH LANTERN AWARD for WRITTEN VERSE**

### WRITTEN COMPETITION

**Closing date: 30th May 2008**

**Results announced**

**Muster Weekend**

**All enquiries:**

**John & Sandy** (Muster Co-ordinators)

07 41514631 or lees@interworx.com.au

**Dean** (Bush Lantern Co-ordinator)

07 41591705 or dino123@dodo.com.au

**Jayson** 07 41550778 or blanata@bigpond.net.au

### Competition Enquiries

**SSAE to:**

**Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.**

**PO Box 4281**

**BUNDABERG SOUTH 4670**

**Closing Date: 20th June**

The

**14th BUNDY MUSTER**

### ENTRY FORMS:

**SSAE to:**

**Bush Lantern Coordinator**

**Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.**

**PO Box 4281**

**BUNDABERG SOUTH 4670**

**The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**

(Established 1994)

Abn: INC 9877413

Arbn 104 032 126

**Website: [abpa.org.au](http://abpa.org.au)**

**President: Noel Stallard**  
11 Cestrum St, Arana Hills Qld. 4054  
Ph 07 3351 3221  
[heritagepoetry@dodo.com.au](mailto:heritagepoetry@dodo.com.au)

**Vice President: Frank Daniel**  
PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804  
Ph. 02 6344 1477  
[fda70930@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fda70930@bigpond.net.au)

**Secretary: Ed Parmenter**  
1 Avenue St Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph/fax. 02 6652 3716  
Email: [coffsmixture@hotmail.net.au](mailto:coffsmixture@hotmail.net.au)

**Treasurer: Margaret Parmenter**  
1 Avenue St Coffs Harbour 2450  
Ph/fax. 02 6652 3716  
Email: [coffsmixture@hotmail.net.au](mailto:coffsmixture@hotmail.net.au)

**Editor: Frank Daniel**  
PO Box 16 Canowindra NSW 2804  
Ph 02 6344 1477  
[editor@abpa.org.au](mailto:editor@abpa.org.au)

**Webmaster: Andy Schnalle**  
Ph. 07 4934 1335  
[web@abpa.org.au](mailto:web@abpa.org.au)

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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. 15th January for February magazine.

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.

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## YACKANDANDAH FOLK FESTIVAL.

Yackandandah in north-east Victoria is approaching its eleventh annual folk festival. This festival is becoming known as one of the best little folk music gatherings in the country. Over forty performers from around Australia and overseas have been booked for the

weekend of March 14th - 16th.

As in the past, there will be Poet's Breakfasts and a poetry workshop, both compered by the 2007 National Bush Poetry Champion, Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong, NSW.

A Primary Schools poetry competition has been included with the winners able to recite their work at a Poet's Breakfast.

An innovation this festival will be a yarn-spinning/story-telling session and workshop in the experienced capable hands of Marie Finlay of Western Australia.

Details are available on the website: [www.folkfestival.yackandandah.com](http://www.folkfestival.yackandandah.com)  
Poets and Yarns-spinners are encouraged to come and entertain.

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Changes to  
Poets Calendar

AUGUST 2-3 Mt. **KEMBLA** Mining/Heritage Festival. SSAE Cate Stevenson 9 Araluen Avenue Mount Kemplla Village 2526 Ph.02 4271 3737 - [mt.kembla@bigpond.com](mailto:mt.kembla@bigpond.com) [www.mtkembla.org.au](http://www.mtkembla.org.au)

AUGUST 26-31 The **GYMPIE MUSTER BUSH POETS** - Tuesday to Sunday

Contact Marco Giori - PO Box 999 Warwick Q. 4370 - 07 4661 4024 [giori@in.com.au](mailto:giori@in.com.au)

**SECRETARIES:**

**PLEASE ADVISE EDITOR of your CORRECT FESTIVAL or FUNCTION DATES ASAP!**



## THE BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION 2008

### Judge's Comments

It hardly seems a year since we were standing on stage to present the 2007 awards. I remember being excited about last year's entries amounting to just over 300. This time, we have exceeded that number by over sixty. There were two entries from New Zealand and Thailand respectively. This speaks volumes for the initiative and hard work of Jan and her Committee, and their ability to seek the interest and passion of writers to enter the competition.

And there were, as usual, a multitude of subjects, ranging from personal experiences to fiction, to well-constructed ballads and expressions of how writers perceive the magnitude and beauty of this great land. There were expressions of wonderful imagery, of hard times and many entries of entertaining humour. I did enjoy reading and re-reading the majority of entries.

I found most entries were of good standard. **After much deliberation, I was left with about ninety entries that needed to be looked at in more detail. This number was reduced to forty one, and then to twenty three. When the final thirteen entries were chosen,**

**it was a case of retracing my steps and going back to those I had eliminated and to read them again, in the event that I had overlooked a possible finalist.** It has been a great honour for me to adjudicate again, and I trust that my selections will be well received.

#### Third Place:

**THE VOYAGE - Graeme Johnson,** West Ryde NSW

A very cleverly constructed narrative, written in the language of the time. The writing is full of imagery in the form of a letter to his sweetheart and conveys the hardship experienced by the convict Thom Spicer, on board a Prison Hulk, bound for Australia, as part of his penal reform. And his subsequent life in Australia after his pardon by the Governor of the day. I was extremely impressed by the pathos, the lyrical prose, and this profound version of those cruel times in our history.

**Second Place: HEAR MY STORY - Catherine Clarke,** Thailand.

A wonderful and vivid description of Arnhem Land beginnings and the formation of the great Kakadu by the spirits and the creators of indigenous history. Each descriptive stanza takes you on a wonderful journey through this fascinating area within the Northern

Territory. You can feel the peace and sanctity as the writer weaves the stories and paints the pictures of sacred spirits who should not be disturbed, and the animal and bird life in their natural habitat. A vivid and descriptive story, of historical significance.

#### FIRST PLACE:

**THE POWER OF KOKODA -**

**Dean Trevaskis,** Ocean Shores NSW

In recent times, our younger generation have become more amenable to Australian history, and in particular the horror and sadness experienced by Australian war heroes. A significant symbol of these experiences was the epic Kokoda track walk by our gallant diggers. In modern times, more and more of our young, and not so young, population are making a small sacrifice to undergo this challenging walk. I was deeply moved by this poem, and although the prose is simple, it is profound in its meaning. I was not left wondering about the hardship and challenge, and I think that this poem assures to-day's generations of Australian, that the message of sacrifice is not lost. A worthy winner of the 2008 Blackened Billy.

*Keith Jones*

*Adjudicator*

(See page 2)

(Continued from page 2)



His travels have been fertile soil for his poetry, in particular two trips to Gallipoli and a trek with family members in his Grandfather's footsteps across New Guinea's Owen Stanley Ranges.

He hitch-hiked round Australia at twenty-one and lived in the UK for a few years working in England's largest facility for the criminally insane. His nursing career has been particularly

good to him. At the end of one shift he was given his one and only tip when a relative of a patient slipped a fifty-dollar note into his back pocket. He was stony broke at the time and decided to catch up with some mates who were out on the town. It was here that he met his wife Suez (Suzette). That was nine years ago and *'the best thing that has ever happened to me'* says Dean.

Dean and Suez have a four year old angel named Molly and a two-year old larrikin named Jimmy. Dean had a couple of six-month spells as a home Dad and loved every minute of it.

He also has a fourteen-year old daughter named Courtney who lives in Biloela with her Mum.

Suez and Dean moved from Brisbane to Ocean Shores in Northern NSW last year, bought a block of land and will start building in March. After nearly forty years of roaming he finally feels like he is home.

His love for reading and reciting Bush Poetry was passed on through the

genes from his Grandfather. He wrote a few poems through the turmoil of adolescence.

In 2002 he penned a poem about a troublesome rooster he had as a kid. He performed it in the novice section at the Bundy Muster with knees shaking uncontrollably and, as terrifying as it was, he won an encouragement award and was hooked.

Suez and Dean were on a trip around Australia at the time and it was in Winton Q. that he spent a week sitting under a tree in the Matilda Caravan Park with Milton Taylor absorbing as much as he could about a bloke who has become his mentor and a wonderful mate.

The North Pine Bush Poets have also been a fantastic source of support and inspiration to Dean as well. He has been lucky enough to have some competition wins in both written and performance poetry. Dean reckons he is still serving his apprenticeship and looks forward to many years of writing, reciting and being part of the Bush Poetry community.

# DYLAN CARTLEDGE

lives on a small farm near Coutts Crossing, a tiny village south of Grafton located on the banks of the Orara River on the main Grafton to Armidale Road. Situated in a pastoral district, Coutts Crossing has about fifty houses, a general store, a tavern, a Union Church and nine-hole golf course and a sporting complex.

The area was occupied by the Gumbaingirr Aborigines prior to European settlement.

At eight years of age Dylan started speech and drama classes due to having a very low self-esteem through bullying at school because of his disabilities.

He has always loved words and use to laugh at new words and repeat them constantly in his cot as a baby.

He found that he loved performing and once said he was happiest when he had lots of people to entertain and a stage.

When he was about ten years old he wrote his first poem which he still performs today. Entitled 'A Premie Kid', it is about his disabilities and how he coped with them. He has performed at many local events winning several competitions with is own work.

(Continued on page 19)



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ABPA

Inc.

**ELECTED OFFICERS: 26.1.2008**

**President** – Noel Stallard.

**Vice-President** – Frank Daniel.

**Secretary** – Ed Parmenter.

**Treasurer** – Margaret Parmenter.

**Committee** – Cay Fletcher, Peter Mace, Melanie Hall.

### STATE REPS.

**Queensland** – Manfred Vijars.

**Victoria** – Dennis Carstairs.

**N.S.W.** – Carol Heuchan.

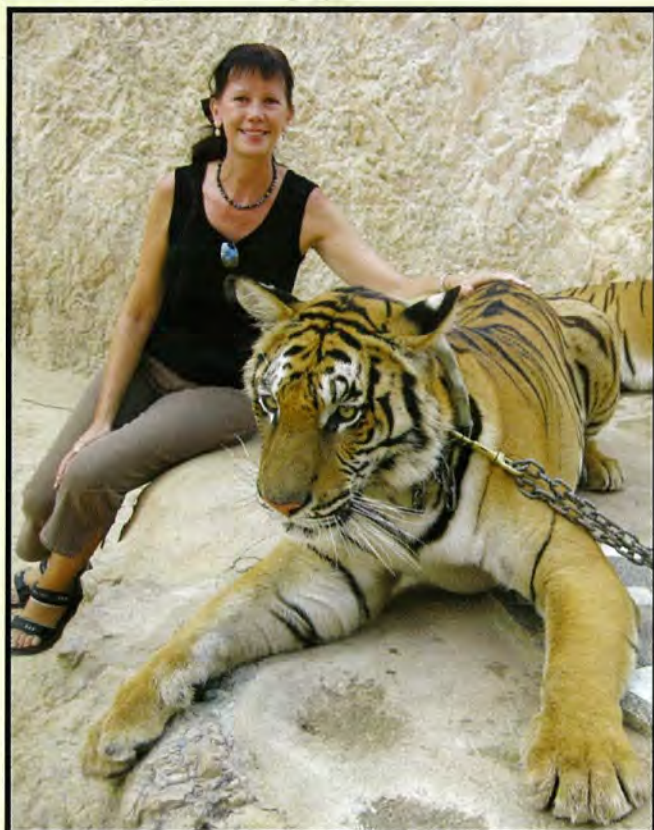
**South Australia** – Maurie O'Brien.

**Western Australia** – subject to confirmation.



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Pictured left is ABPA member Catherine Clarke during a privileged visit to the Tiger Temple deep in the heart of the Kanchanaburi province in Western Thailand, where lies a Buddhist temple with a difference.

Here the monks have been doing a wonderful job of taking in and rearing injured or mistreated cubs for many years. Visitors are able to sit with and actually touch these magnificent beasts.

Depending on the number of visitors the tigers normally are not chained.

Not only is this temple home to monks who spend their time in prayer and meditation, but over the last 7 years it has become a sanctuary for tigers.

When villagers found an orphaned tiger cub, they went from place to place seeking help. Upon arrival at the monastery, the cub was welcomed out of compassion and saved from certain death. Since then many more orphaned tigers have found refuge under the abbots loving care.

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