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# A.B.P.A.

The Australian Bush Poets  
Association Inc.

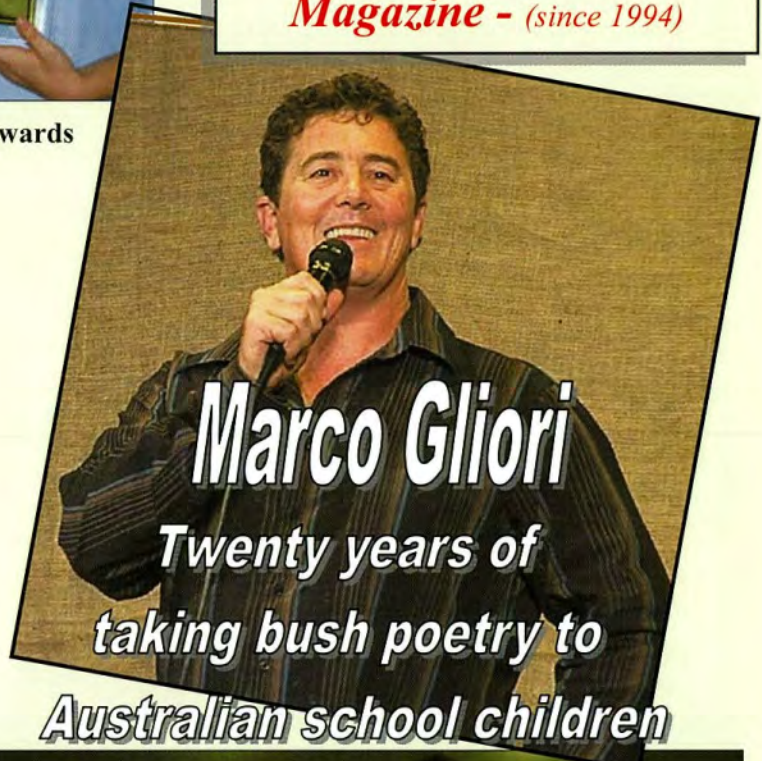
*Magazine - (since 1994)*



Placegetters in the 2010 Waltzing Matilda Little Swaggies awards held at Winton Qld.



Above: Gemma Cusack from Winton State School and Holly Hitson from Ilfracombe State School  
Below successful Stamford State School poets



Competition Judge and retired drama teacher Carmel Randle of Toowoomba Qld with finalists in the Clover Nolan Awards at Winton Qld.

The Bush Poetry EVENTS CALENDAR can be found on the ABPA website at [abpa.org.au](http://abpa.org.au)  
Please send details of your coming events to webmaster Andy Schnalle at [web.abpa.org.au](http://web.abpa.org.au)

## STORYTELLERS

© Brenda Joy, 2009

*This poem is addressed to my son who died from the affects of Cystic Fibrosis – so it is part of his story – but it is told as a tribute to country people and to all the bush poets and balladeers who tell their stories.*

When I'd finished performing a lady gave praise -  
"...for the stories you tell and the issues you raise,  
'cause your poems convey things that I have been through."  
This response that she felt, I attribute to you.

To be genuine bushy is more than just looks,  
or of taking on habits from fashions or books.  
You can't fake being country – it comes from inside.  
You could wear an Akubra with true Aussie pride.

I had always loved space and felt kinship with land,  
but though you were a child you helped me understand -  
you can't judge other people by status or wealth.  
You could give love regardless of age or of health.

As you taught me the worth of just living each day  
with no show or pretence - in the real country way -  
so you taught me to listen and open my heart  
to the worries and troubles that others impart.

Your own trials were not fires or flooding or drought –  
but the struggle to live - your whole life was about.  
Those with Cystic Fibrosis will die when they're young -  
all who battle this illness are heroes unsung.

But the courage and valour that others apply  
to the rigours of farming and getting on by,  
you applied to your suffering - smiling each day  
of the nineteen short years of your brief earthly stay.

Now when I do bush poems in parks or on stage,  
you are right there beside me just turning each page;  
and you would have been proud to see 'Mum' play her part -  
but it's thanks to you son – you're the child of my heart.

You live on in my memories – clear in my dreams  
and my outer *façade* may not be what it seems –  
but that's my own experience gained at the cost  
of forever surviving the love I have lost.

It's so hard to recite our true stories out loud  
- for we don't want to break down in front of a crowd -  
and I'm not there to pass on my personal grief  
or to use an occasion to give me relief.

But to thank you my son for the warmth that we shared  
and to thank you for depth that your parting has bared.  
It's the people like you who are sent here to show  
how the pains of humanity help us to grow.

For each share of life's laughter there must be the downs,  
and it's always the hardship that forms the best clowns,  
while the best storytellers will always ring true  
for they've gained understanding from what they've been through.

And the best country people will feel in their hearts  
all the joy and the sorrow that living imparts.  
As their stories are told in the verse and the rhyme -  
so their spirit endures through the annals of time.

Winner Jim Angel Original Performance Award Narrandera 2010.

## Ellis Campbell's New Book



When I published *The Final Muster*, winner of Book of the Year, Original Rhyming Verse, Bush Laureate Awards, 2009, it was meant to be exactly as the name implies.

I am, however, very fortunate that Fate has smiled so kindly upon me and, at 83 years of age, I am still winning some good competitios, including the 2010 Blackened Billy at Tamworth.

As a result I have decided to publish my seventh book of verse. This one will differ slightly to my other books of prize-winning verse, in that the first 72 pages will contain 30 of my first and second placed Bush Verse poems, including all my recent winners, while the final 16 pages consist of several other genres of writing where I have met with success.

While I believe I am fairly well known as a writer and performer Bush Verse, it is not generally known I have had some success with at least 14 other genres. *Autumn Collection* is now available. . .details page 20.



## URALLA Thunderbolt Festival 2010 Saturday and Sunday 30-31st October

### POETS BREAKFAST AND COMPETITION

for latest details  
Contact Frank Daniel  
editor@abpa.org.au  
Ph. 02 6344 1477



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Pauline Begg of Tuncurry NSW, aged 83 years. Pauline and her husband Reid were foundation members of our association in 1994.

Reid and Pauline were more than instrumental in fostering and contributing to the welfare and future of young poets and young writers in the Central Coast Region.

Sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to Reid and family - may she rest in peace.

## President's Report



G'day,

Easter's come and gone and we're well into the year. Life picks up the pace and I'm sure all the competitors are practicing and fine tuning their performance pieces for the ABPA Championships in Bundaberg (9th 10th and 11th of July). Just talking with Sandy who mentioned that the written comp has already attracted entries from the USA and New Zealand, as well as across the country. Applications have already been received from groups in New Zealand planning to make the trip to compete in the performance sections in Bundaberg.

### PRESENTING TO SCHOOLS

Several members have indicated an interest IN performing to schools. Requirements for presenting and performing to children in schools vary across the country (even within the States themselves). Members need to be aware of basic legislation within their respective States. As a guide, I've included some web-sites, hopefully to steer interested members in the right direction. We would welcome any guidance from members already presenting in their respective States.

### Queensland

In QLD The purpose of the blue card system is to promote safety for children and young people in environments where they are required to be (such as schools and child care centres) and those that promote their physical, social and cultural development (such as sporting or community groups). Applies to, volunteers, trainee students, paid employees and people operating a business may need a blue card to work with children in certain environments. <http://www.ccypeg.qld.gov.au/>

[employment/bluecard/applications.html](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyls/employment/bluecard/applications.html)

### Australian Capital Territory

The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support works in partnership with the community to provide care and protection services to children and young people, and family and community support to meet the needs of the people of Canberra. In addition, the Office is responsible for youth justice services and the monitoring and licensing of children's services.

<http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyls/>

### New South Wales

The Department of Community Services works to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Department views the protection and welfare of children as one of their most important tasks.

<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/>

### Northern Territory

More information on child protection services is available at <http://www.health.nt.gov.au/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/ChildProtection/index.aspx>

### South Australia

Families SA

Department for Families & Communities  
Phone: (08) 8226 8800

[www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/](http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/)

Department of Education, Training and Employment [http://www.dete.sa.gov.au/decs\\_home.asp](http://www.dete.sa.gov.au/decs_home.asp)

### Tasmania

Commissioner for Children

<http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/>

Office of Children and Youth Affairs

<http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/ocya>

### Victoria

Department of Human Services Children, Youth and Families Child Protection and Family Services

Working With Children Checks

<http://www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/wwcc.htm>

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren>

### Western Australia

Department for Child Protection

<http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/>

Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004

<http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/Resources/WorkingWithChildren>

[Act2004/](http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/Act2004/)

For employment Child-Related Areas

<http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/Resources/Child+Protection/>

[The WA approach.htm](http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/Resources/Child+Protection/TheWAapproach.htm)

### ARCHIVING THE ABPA MAGAZINE AND WEB-SITE

The National Library of Australia

considers the ABPA Website of National significance and cultural value, and have approached the ABPA for permission to retain the publication in the Archive and to provide public access to it in perpetuity.

The Library will take the necessary preservation action to keep the publication accessible as hardware and software changes over time. They will catalogue the publication and add the record to the National Bibliographic Database (a database of catalogue records shared by over 5,200 Australian libraries), as well as to their own online catalogue. This will increase awareness of the ABPA among researchers using libraries.

The National Library set up PANDORA in 1996 as Australia's Web Archive to enable the archiving and provision of long-term access to online Australian publications. More information about PANDORA, Australia's Web Archive, can be found at: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/index.html>

The ABPA Magazine is already being submitted to the National Library.

### JUDGES COMMENTS IN WRITTEN COMPETITIONS

The issue of judge's comments in written competitions was raised. The judges have no easy task wading (and grading) sometimes hundreds of submitted entries. It was suggested that an additional amount above the entry fee be negotiated between the competition organisers and the judge/s. In country music competitions it is commonplace for competitors to have the option of a critique of their work for which they'll pay.

### WEBSITE REVIEW

We'll be reviewing the ABPA website design and navigation a little later this year.

For those who will be on the road to Bundaberg, and any other venues across the country ...

Cheers and Safe Travelling,

Manfred.

# Marco Gliori

## /SCHOOL PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

Marco Gliori auditioned for the Queensland Arts Council in 1991, and was immediately offered a contract to tour Secondary Schools the following year. He went on to design a Primary School show as well, and over the following decade performed in excess of 2500 shows for both the Queensland and Victorian Arts Council.

These were exhausting professional engagements, with Marco's first Primary School tour on The Sunshine Coast lasting 8 weeks and comprising 120 x 60 minute shows to in excess of twenty thousand children. During this decade, many schools followed up wanting Marco to visit as a Writer in Residence, a service he offered for all ages Pre- 12.

Marco's appeal was that he was a Performance Poet, so his Writing Workshops were a mix of writing and performance, the aim being that classes would see their original ideas and raw stories evolve through the drafting of a poem to the finished product, a performance in front of their classmates. Marco's belief is that a poem is only half alive in a book and that it really comes to life when you take it out and share it with others.

*"Primary School children are the easiest to work with in this process. They are usually very keen to get up on stage and perform, so the exhilaration at that possibility drives them*

*through the workshops with great enthusiasm. I tell them poems, then have them acting out a poem, then launch into a series of word 'theatre games' I have designed myself. After having warmed them up, we then write, simple rhymes at first, and generally by that time I have no trouble spurring them on. My greatest thrill is walking to the staff room during a break and hearing children reciting marching poems and ditties they have written either by themselves or in groups, with the aim of auditioning for me in a later workshop, hoping to be selected to perform in the finale concert. It is exhausting work, but once I walk into a classroom I simply surrender, get down to their level, and before long they have swept me off into that wonderful field of dreams that I never tire of playing in"*

As well as being published in Education manuals and curriculum books, many of the poems Marco publishes in his own books have been inspired by his visits to schools. Marco has published three books for children, culminating in Rise n Rhyme, a collection of 134 of his favourites. Marco has been a featured author at Somerset Literary Festival, Voices on The Range, Voices on the Coast and Whitsunday Voices, and this month was a featured presenter at The Ipswich Poetry Feast, and is a regular feature at Education conferences as a presenter.

Marco also works with intellectually challenged youth when possible, and the following poem was written with 'Joe' who works at the Endeavour Foundation, and lives in an assisted living facility.

**Marco's first poem** was written at age fourteen at school; because he had to. This poem won a competition in conjunction with the Warwick Rodeo.

At age 21, whilst suffering a bout of homesickness travelling New Zealand, he wrote a comedy poem about a rodeo. That poem (Thompson) was published a year later in the Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse and has encouraged many novice poets. And so, our first successful kid poet, then and now!

## IMAGINATION

© 1998 Glenny Palmer

I have the most wonderful  
friend in the world,  
a friend that I'll never replace.

He takes me away to a magical land  
made of wishes and beautiful lace.

He takes me wherever my fancy decrees  
in an instant, one second of time;  
he lives in the heart of my hopes and my dreams,  
in the heart of each story and rhyme.

I'll bet if you try, and you listen, you'll find  
that you have a friend like my mate;  
close your eyes and pretend anything that you like,  
that's imagining, isn't it great?

Be King of the world, or a princess or queen,  
a pirate, and Peter Pan too;  
you can fly, be invisible, travel in Space,  
take your pick, yes it's all up to you.

So the next time a grown-up says you're telling fibs  
when you say that you've flown to the moon,  
just tell them to try out imagining things,  
and they'll see that they've spoken too soon.

For imagining isn't for children alone,  
some grown-ups can do it as well,  
they might need you kids just to show how it's done,  
if they practice—you never can tell.



## Tom The Rooster

(written for Joe)

Upon our farm at Junabee  
We used to sleep quite peacefully,  
Till Tom the Rooster, each new day  
At 4am would crow away!

He had a fancy, cosy pen.  
He fussed and doted on each Hen.  
His life was great there is no doubt  
He had so much to crow about.

He'd crow before us kids got up  
To milk the cows and feed the pup.  
He'd crow before my folks awoke,  
(They lay there wishing he would choke).

But Tom the Rooster, early riser,  
Suddenly grew much, much wiser  
When our smart mum placed by the tree  
Her sharpest axe for Tom to see.

Now... being old and sensible,  
Tom knew he was dispensable,  
So he shut up and stayed alive,  
And now sleeps in... till half past five.

Marco Gliori

## The Apple and the Mandarin

© Stephen Whiteside 2006

The apple and the mandarine were locked in contest wild  
Regarding which was better as a snack food for a child.

The apple said, "I'm juicy, and I do not make a mess."  
The mandarine replied, "I'm juicy too, you must confess."

Said the apple, "Yes, you're juicy, but my taste is very sweet."  
The mandarine said, "I'm sweet too. I'm quite a tasty treat."

"It is true you're very handy, but you have this awkward core."  
"For awkwardness, your peel and pips are greater, I am sure!"

The little girl, she heard them, as they bickered forth and back.  
"I think I'll take a bunch of grapes to school today for snack!"



... this true tale was told to me by a little bloke one day at a Bush School, and the emotion of it all later hit me driving down the highway.

The 'loyalty' shown by his mate, was indicative of the sacrifice the Diggers made for their loved ones in times of war.

Pets can teach us so much about responsibility and gratitude yet we often take them for granted



## Courage

© 2006 Marco Gliori

He got the dog when just a pup  
He too a babe, they both grew up  
And ventured down each newfound track  
Like, they were never turning back.

The dog knew when his bus was due  
And scored a stolen snack or two  
But like the faithful mutt can boast  
She knew when she was needed most.

The boy was nine, two bucks he got  
To mow the lawn, the day was hot.  
An angry Brown Snake came behind,  
The bitch shot out and went in blind.

She broke its back with one wild flick,  
Yet even so, that snake was quick.  
It nailed her too, three bites she copped.  
She staggered, wagged her tail, and dropped.

Oblivious, the boy mowed on  
Till soon he turned and stumbled on  
His lifeless mate, his only pet  
And a snake that begged the sun to set.

He watched it twitch until the end,  
Then hugged with grief his fearless friend,  
Left alone to testify,  
And ponder, for whom he might die.

# Poetry for Kids

## Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards 15th Annual Junior Festival

The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards – Junior Performance Section, was held in Winton on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st March 2010.

Overall, there were a total of **385 student performers** – 171 Individuals and 19 Groups, which demonstrates a huge commitment to the idea of promoting bush poetry and public speaking for our younger generation.

This year, 11 schools from across the outback region participated, plus the two local Winton schools. There was also the special Teachers Section, where 10 teachers braved the stage to perform for their students.

Janine Haig from Chinchilla and Carmel Randle from Toowoomba were our judges this year, with Kate Cusack from Winton working as our Compere.

Our Sponsors for this event were Corfield and Fitzmaurice, Mrs Jean O'Connell, Winton Shire Council, Wookatook Gift & Gem, Winton Business & Tourism Assoc Inc., the Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton Electrical Service, Camara Pastoral Co., Outback Festival Inc.

Any event is not possible without volunteers who help to make the Festival a wonderful

success. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

Join us on **Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April 2011** for the 16th Annual Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards – Junior Section. For further information please contact:

Louise Dean, P.O. Box 120, Winton, Qld. 4735  
Ph: (07) 4657 1296 Fx: 4657 1541  
Email: [wooka2@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wooka2@bigpond.net.au)

Rich in history, Winton was originally known as Pelican Waterhole and was first settled in 1875.

The Outback town is best known as the place that AB (Banjo) Paterson wrote Waltzing Matilda in 1895, while staying at Dagworth Station outside Winton. The first performance of the ballad was reported to be at Winton's North Gregory Hotel on 6 April of the same year.

Winton is recognised as the 'home' of Australian bush poetry, hosting the annual Bronze Swagman Award, one of the country's most prestigious literary awards.

The Waltzing Matilda Centre, in the heart of Winton, is the world's only tourism attraction dedicated to a song.

## GOOD OLD CUP OF TEA

© Duncan Williams 2007

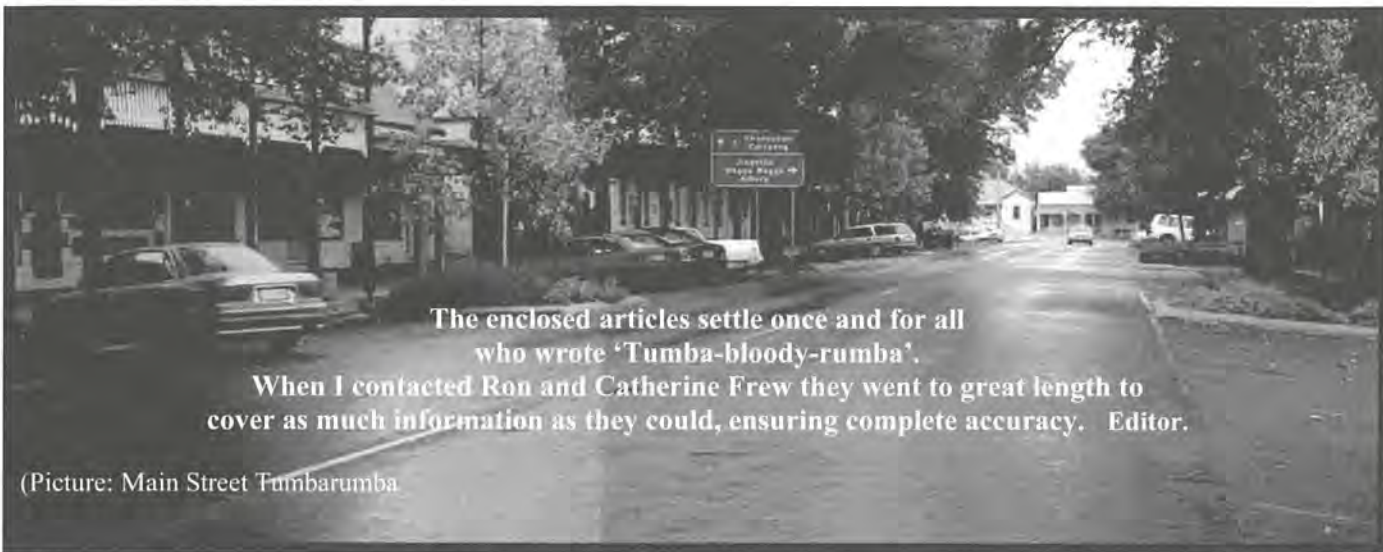
Early morning when I wake up,  
There's a brew that waits for me,  
There's nothing like the flavour,  
Of a good old cup of tea.

From the kettle when it's boiling,  
Brews my tea leaves to the taste,  
That first cup in the morning,  
Is the one I wouldn't waste.

My favourite brand is Tetley,  
'All Rounder', rich and strong,  
Sweetened with a dab of milk,  
Satisfaction to belong.

Early morning when I wake up,  
There's a brew that waits for me,  
There's nothing like the flavour,  
Of a good old cup of tea.





The enclosed articles settle once and for all  
who wrote 'Tumba-bloody-rumba'.

When I contacted Ron and Catherine Frew they went to great length to  
cover as much information as they could, ensuring complete accuracy. Editor.

(Picture: Main Street Tumberumba)

Ron and Cath wrote saying "here it is as it stands. Next time we are near a Bulletin we will check the 1958 editions to close that gap. The only other question unanswered in our mind is whether Warren Fahey called Wolfe's 'Man from Tumberumba' - *Tumba Bloody Rumba* - when he set the poem to music or did Wolfe change the name of his poem for his later publication. Nit picking we know but people are apt to do that.

A little about ourselves"

**Ron and Catherine Frew** came to Tumberumba as teachers twenty-seven years ago and have become engrossed in the history of the area.

Publications include:

- Sons to the Empire's Cause - Tumberumba in WWI
- Mountain Bike Rides in the Tumberumba Area (R Frew and G Harris)
- Sergeant David Maginnity - Documents of a Murder
- Tumberumba (a pictorial history)
- Time Walks - History Trails around Tumberumba

Annual Historical Calendar for eleven years

Other research interests include Tumberumba soldiers of the Boer War, small local schools, the Southern Cloud and work with the Tumberumba Historical Society and its museum.

Currently they are working towards a publication featuring the prose, poetry and life of Will Carter.

They can be contacted at PO Box 15, Tumberumba, NSW 2653. Phone: 02 69483262.

**Don't miss Hunter  
Bush Poetry Festival  
15-17 October at  
Morisset!**

**Yarnspinning, Sing-around-the-Campfire,  
full competition program, concert & dance,  
Walk-up Brekky and 1 Minute Cup. -  
mayhem and madness!**

Entry forms, written and performance on  
ABPA and Hunter Bush Poets website.

Enq. Trevor 0417 758 966 camping bookings  
[morissetshow@yahoo.com.au](mailto:morissetshow@yahoo.com.au)

## THE INTEGRATED ADJECTIVE

by John O'Grady.

I was down on Riverina, knockin' round the towns a bit,  
An' occasionally restin' with a schooner in me mitt;  
An' on one of these occasions, when the bar was pretty full  
An' the local blokes were arguin' assorted kind o' bull,  
I heard a conversation, most peculiar in its way,  
Because only in Australia would you hear a joker say,  
Where yer bloody been, yer drongo? 'Avent seen yer fer a week;  
An' yer mate was lookin' for yer when 'e come in from the creek;  
'E was lookin' up at Ryan's an' around at bloody Joe's,  
An' even at the Royal where 'e bloody never goes.  
An' the other bloke said, 'Seen 'im. Owed 'im 'alf a bloody quid.  
Forgot ter give ut back to 'im; but now I bloody did.  
Coulda used the thing me-bloody-self; been orf the bloody booze,  
Up at Tumba-bloody-rumba shootin' kanga-bloody-roos.'

Now their voices were a little loud, an' everybody heard  
The peculiar integration of this adjectival word.  
But no one there was laughin', an' me I wasn't game,  
So I stood around an' let 'em think I spoke the bloody same.  
An' one of them was interested to ask 'im what he'd got -  
How many kanga-bloody-roos he bloody went and shot -  
An' the shootin' bloke said,

'Things are crook; the droughts too bloody tough;  
I got forty-bloody-seven, an; that's good e-bloody-nough.'  
An' this polite rejoinder seemed to satisfy the mob  
An' everyone stopped listening an' got on with the job  
Which was drinkin' beer and arguin' an' talkin' of the heat,  
An' boggin' in the bitumen in the middle of the street;  
But as for me, I'm here to say the interestin' news  
Was Tumba-bloody-rumba shootin' kanga-bloody-roos.'

**Claiming the Date  
NSW Open Bush Poetry  
Championships**

**Dunedoo 3-6 March 2011**

# Tumba-Bloody-Rumba Shootin' Kanga-Bloody-Roos

That a town is universally recognised by such an epithet is sad but that no two people, even those in Tumarumba, can agree on the phrase's origin is tragic.

All agree it is 'poetic' in origin but the question; 'Who wrote Tumba-bloody-rumba?' causes considerable confusion.

For a start there are three (at least) poems that use the phrase.

Two of these are to be found in John Wolfe's *The Land of the Brolga*.<sup>1</sup> **The Man from Tumarumba** is printed in two versions which Wolfe called the original and the second. The original version is described by Wolfe as being 'first published in the Sydney Bulletin 1958 and put to music by 'The Larrikins'.<sup>2</sup> Warren Fahey adapted the tune of British origin and commonly known as 'The Jack of all Trades'.<sup>3</sup> In *Bush Melodies*<sup>4</sup> by John Wolfe he renames the original version **Tumba-Bloody-Rumba** and includes a music score. Whether this change of name is the work of Wolfe or Fahey - or both - is a matter for the nitpickers. The words are Wolfe's.

Wolfe's original version begins 'He asked for work at muster time, We tried him as a rider,' and ends with the useless braggart being shown the gate. He was last thought to be 'Perhaps back on the lumber, Or shooting kanga-bloody-roos At Tumba-bloody-rumba.' As a song these words are very well known and often performed by bush bands.

In the second edition of *The Land of the Brolga* (1992) Wolfe presents the second version, still called **The Man from Tumarumba**, which looks at the situation from the other perspective. It begins: 'I took a job at muster time/ They tried me as a rider.' The chorus contains the line 'And chased emus and kangaroos/ At Tumba-bloody-rumba.' In this version the experienced but shiftless farmhand 'bogged the dray and ran away/ And took the boss's daughter.' Perhaps this is his view of justice for such poor treatment.

John 'Dusty' Wolfe is not related to the Tumarumba Wolfes, as many have suggested. John's friend, Doug Crawford, relates that John had been with the Scottish Forestry Commission in the '50s, was an outback tour guide, a prolific writer of songs and poems who also played a two-row button accordion. He settled in the Moe, Mallacoota and

Lakes Entrance districts of Victoria and died in 1999.

The third poem and probably the one most Tumarumba people identify as the source of the phrase in question is the one which begins: 'I was down on Riverina, knockin' round the towns a bit,/ An' occasionally restin' with a schooner in me mitt;' The traveller is intrigued by the language as he eavesdrops on the locals in the bar. He concludes; 'But as for me, I'm here to say, the interestin' news/ Was "up at Tumba-bloody-rumba shootin' kanga-bloody-roos".'

Often incorrectly called 'Tumba-bloody-rumba' this poem is in fact John O'Grady's **Integrated Adjective** and there is more than enough O'Grady attribution to dispel all doubt.

- *The Bulletin* first published the poem on 17 June 1959 over the name John O'Grady (AKA Nino Culotta),
- John O'Grady used it in his *Aussie English* (1965) and described it as a poem by the author, i.e. by O'Grady himself reproduced by permission of the Bulletin
- It can be seen in his own handwriting in the O'Grady Papers held by the National Library of Australia. (NLA MS 8046 Box 3 Folder 22)

**Integrated Adjective** somehow morphed into **Tumba-bloody-rumba** to add further to the confusion.

Much of the confusion over the origin of this last poem probably stems from Tumarumba itself. Jim Haynes in his *Book of Australian Popular Rhymed Verse*, (ABC Books 2001), attributes it to Will Carter. He reports to us that the information came when he phoned someone (unnamed) in the Tumarumba Historical Society. Geoffrey Wright, *Weekly Times* columnist, likewise attributed it to Carter as do several Internet sites. Wright's 1990 article that included the poem was written after his 'recent' visit to Tumarumba. It is highly likely he got the same misinformation from the Tumarumba source.<sup>5</sup>

Will Carter, (1867-1956), teacher from Middle Adelong, Courabyra, Batlow, Sutton Forest and Kurrajong North and founder of the first NSW Correspondence School, was no slouch as a poet in his own right having often been published in *The Bulletin* alongside

the likes of Henry Lawson. He became the inaugural president of the Henry Lawson Literary Society.

Being a 'local' he was probably a sentimental favourite. The poem is not in his papers held by the Mitchell Library<sup>6</sup> and even his descendants do not think he could have written it. He was after all a very respected and influential school principal whose composition was often directed at young readers. Not one of Carter's many poems comes close to using the language of Tumba-bloody-rumba.

It is still unproven who first used the phrase 'Tumba-bloody-rumba'. It certainly was not Will Carter and it seems as if it was most probably John Wolfe who coined the epithet by which we are so widely known.

**Ron and Catherine Frew  
Tumarumba Historical Society 2010**

## References

1. John Wolfe, *The Land Of The Brolga*, Green River Books, Mallacoota, 1986.
2. Note. We have not verified this statement to date.
3. Warren Fahey, *Eureka The Songs That Made Australia*, Omnibus Press, 1984.
4. John Wolfe, *Bush Melodies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, Green River Books, Mallacoota, 1992.
5. Geoffrey Wright, 'Tumarumba a town on the hop', *Weekly Times*, 14 March 1990, p.64.
6. William A Carter Papers, Mitchell Library, Sydney, MLNSS 3372.1(1)



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See page 12.

 City of Ipswich

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **BUSH POETRY into the EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Australian Bush Poetry Association member, Jack Drake, has just released a novel Teaching Package featuring Australian Classic bush Poetry.

Following the release of Jack's latest CD in which he presents classic works by A.B.Paterson, Henry Lawson, Will Ogilvie, John O'Brian, H.G."Ironbark" Gibson, C.J.Dennis, H.P."Duke" Tritten, George Essex Evans and Lex McLennan, he has collaborated with Jenna Towers B.Ed to bring a Teaching Package to Australian classrooms.

The package contains Jack's CD "Australian Bush Poetry Classics", a DVD with tips on performing Bush Poetry, a one hundred page, spiral bound booklet containing scaffolded student activities using Blooms Taxonomy, biographies of each poet, history and terminology of the times, support material and blackline masters. An electronic copy of the booklet is contained on the DVD.

Jenna Towers has worked in the Education Department from Early Childhood through to Adult Education including Distance Education and classroom based learning teaching English.

Since releasing the package Natonally in early April, interest has been shown from both city and rural schools. Jack and Jenna have been pleased to see their faith in the project justified by orders coming in from all over the country.

Jenna and Jack spent seven months producing the programme with a view to satisfying three modules of the new proposed National Curriculum. These being Poetry in English Literature, History and Australiana. There are more details on Jack's web site [www.jackdrake.com.au](http://www.jackdrake.com.au)

What better way to bring these subjects to our children than the exciting, story telling medium of Bush Poetry.

**CONTACT:**

Jack Drake  
Ph 07 46837169  
P.O. Box 414,  
Stanthorpe Q 4380



## **THE MAN FROM IRONBARKS FESTIVAL**

**Stuart Town NSW - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2010**

The inaugural Man from Ironbarks Festival was a great success. The organiser's spokesperson, Kate Allan expressed some doubts when first the idea was raised. It was to be held on Easter Saturday, already a busy time for stall holders, exhibitors, and performers, with competing functions such as The National Folk Festival in Canberra, and many local functions.

One of the highlights of the festival was the Poets in the Pub, held in the afternoon in the legendary Ironbarks Inn.

As an old Wellingtonian, and a regular visitor to the pub, Kate thought I might be able to contribute something towards the afternoon's entertainment. I had written a book called The Stuart Town Collection for the Bicentenary celebration back in 1988 so I updated it in time for the festival, and presented it during the Poets in the Pub.

A source of inspiration was to ask my old mate Frank Daniel to come along and compere the afternoon. Frank, a Golden Gumleaf recipient from the Tamworth Festival Poet Laureate Awards brought with him Greg North, multi award winner, both State and National, and poets Bernie Kelleher and Dulcie McLean.

Col Poyner, old friend, and retired Wellington Vet took part in proceedings. He is an accomplished

reciter and raconteur, and as some of his acquaintances would claim, an acknowledged B S Artist.

I had not heard Bernie and Dulcie before, and I was impressed with their performances. The crowd loved them, and they also welcomed Greg North with great enthusiasm. I've been back to Stuart Town since the Festival, and quite a number of those who were there at the Poets in the Pub want us to come back again next year. Their request might have been coloured because we were in the Ironbarks Inn at the time the requests were made.

I was pleased to see the afternoon so well supported. My boss from ABC Orange, Brooke Daniel attended, as did Angela who presents the morning program from that station. Local Television Stations were also represented.

From my perspective, it was a great afternoon for us, and a good festival for the town. It was especially pleasing to catch up with Frank, Greg and Col again, and to meet up with Bernie and Dulcie.

A special thanks to the organising committee, and to Rod and Rhonda, mine hosts at the Ironbarks Inn. It's always great to have a new venue for our religion, bush poetry.

BLUE - the  
s h e a r e r  
(s o m e t i m e s  
k n o w n a s c o l  
w i l s o n)



### **Stuart Town (including Mumbil and Mookerawa Park)**

Stuart Town is a small town of about 300 people situated in a hillside hollow, 34 km south-east of Wellington in the Central Western Slopes of NSW where sheep and cattle farming and orchards are the major enterprises. There are two general stores and an hotel. (pictured)

Stuart Town (like Mookerawa) sprang up when a goldrush was sparked in the 1870s, although it is claimed that the gold was first found in the 1840s by a shepherd who did not know what he had.

The settlement was originally known as Ironbarks, after the trees in the area. As such, it is the

'Ironbark' mentioned in 'Banjo' Paterson's well-known poem, 'The Man from Ironbark'.

It has been claimed that there were as many as 6000 persons working the local fields at the peak of activities, though this may well be an exaggeration. At any rate it is clear that they were of very mixed origins, including many Chinese.





# Narrandera 2010.

## Narrandera John O'Brien report.

Geoffrey W Graham

Narrandera was once again the place to be. What an ideally situated place for a festival. Lodged in the Riverina on the main road between Sydney and Melbourne, it's a Mecca for travellers, and so has the accommodation and setup for the tourists and travellers alike.

The John O'Brien festival had now become an institution amongst travellers, poets, poetry lovers, and those who have some drops of Irish blood in their souls.

John O'Brien was born Patrick Joseph Hartigan on October 13, 1878 in Yass and died in 1952. He took the last sacraments to Jack Riley of Bringenbrong. Station which adjoined Tom Groggin station. Jack was rumoured to have been A.B. Paterson's "Man from Snowy River". Hartigan was appointed priest in charge of Berrigan in 1916 and was made parish priest of Narrandera in 1917. He was a much loved figure in Narrandera and his years there were ones of contentment. Writing under the pen name of John O'Brien he wrote many poems including 'Said Hanrahan'.

The pivot of the festival was Noel Stallard performing as Father Hartigan with his priestly garb as well as performing under his own name, so Noel was kept busy for the duration of the festival.

The festival was attended by a range of quality performers, some new faces and some old faces. Ami Williamson returned to present a polished performance showing a combination of her classical background with the effect of a famous father with his true Blue heritage.

Brenda Joy, the Jim Angel Award and three generations of the Angel family.



Maria Forde presented the authenticity of a true Irish presenter, with a voice of milk and honey and the passion of the Irish in her soul. Maria presented her own shows and performed with others including Geoffrey Graham in a show called The Shamrock and the Wattle. Gregory North returned to present his unique blend of verse and comedy and had a blinder with Noel.

The Stiff Gins were new faces to the festival and what a pair. Their music could be described as indigenous music meets Jazz scat. The passion and soul of these two made for remarkable performances. The orange Blossoms gave us a touch of bluegrass. Maureen O'Brien shared her amazing musical journey with us.

Jason and Chloe Roweth returned with their original style and once again left their mark on the audiences with their warmth and freshness.

Poets were in plenty with the likes of John Peel, Tomas Hamilton, Wendy Kilroy, Tom O'Connor, Jack O'Connor, John 'the joker' Pampling, Cay and Barry Ellem, Brenda Joy, Ian Thomson and many others.

The Pioneer Hall was an appropriately named venue for the much-loved Poets Breakfasts. As was the park with its free performances and the Parade, always a big hit with the public. The weather was kind to us and the new masters at the Helm (Joan and Paul

Graham) held the John O'Brien ship with full sail.

Themed shows were the order of the weekend, from Greg with his Fully sick show to Women of the Bush and Geoffrey with his Wool, Sweat and Tears performance.

The Anzac tribute was once again a highlight, hosted by Geoffrey Graham though Frank's presence at the fore was sorely missed. The Irish singalong returned after an absence from last year's programme and the Poetry Competition was well attended with a range of judges, including Greg North, June Factor and Narelle Payne.

The competition was fierce with First overall won by Barry Ellem of Brisbane, whose delight was evident after many close calls in other competitions.

Keeping it in the family was Cay Ellem running second and a tie for third with Bill Allitt of Leeton and Brenda Joy from Charters Towers.

Brenda also took out the Jim Angel award forth best original poem.

The Bush dance featured the Tin Shed Rattlers. The Arts and photography exhibition was up in entries and attendance. The Busking competition was well supported along with many other activities. Overall another successful festival with congratulations to the organisers and a host of fantastic volunteers.

March 2010 Geoffrey W Graham

Barry Ellem, Cay Ellem, Brenda Joy, Bill Allitt and Geoffrey W Graham



# "UNDER WIDE SKIES"

LIMITED EDITION REPRINT COLLECTED VERSE OF

## JIM GRAHAME



Limited edition reprint of the collected verse of Jim Grahame, one of Australia's great but almost forgotten poets is being organized by his descendants.

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OR

**JOHN DAVIS** Ph 02 44552013 mob 0425 299 829  
Email: jda76436@bigpond.net.au

## NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER GYMPIE

The National Country Music Muster once again plays host to the Bush Poets Breakfasts this year from August 24th – 29th. The Poets attending are Marco Giori, Bob Magor, Gary Fogarty, Peter Mace, Dave Proust, Murray Hartin, Ray Essery, Shirley Friend, Last year's Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award Winner Irish Joe Lynch, Col Driscoll, singers Kelly Fogarty and Darren Colston, plus Neil McArthur, Brad McLean and Bill Kearns.

Without doubt this is the one of the biggest line-ups of paid poets at any festival in the country. The Muster will host 6 x 2 hour breakfasts featuring Poets Brawls, Limerickathons, and heaps of spontaneous fun in what is a relaxed bush atmosphere in the Amamoor State Forest just minutes from Gympie.

The Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award will be contested again with \$1000 prize money on offer and opportunities for campers to write, perform, and vie for prizes which include a free season ticket to next year's muster.

Marco would like to thank all those Poets who have been applying, and looks forward to receiving not only individual applications for 2011 but also any group 'show concepts' which he is always happy to put to the organizers. See you at the Muster!  
Cheers!  
Marco.

## THE ORGANIST AND ME

By Jim Grahame

Last Sunday night I went to church;  
I'd worked throughout the day,  
And seven days all working days  
Leave one unfit to pray;  
I struggled hard to keep awake  
To please my family;  
There were but two men in the church—  
The organist and me.

But it was filled with women folk,  
And some had contrite hearts;  
Some came to flaunt their finery,  
And some to play their parts;  
The organist with hands and feet  
Stuck to it manfully;  
But when we sang you could not hear  
The organist or me.

Of course the minister was there,  
So tall and gaunt and slim  
(Some say they are a sex apart,  
And I'd forgotten him);  
He preached against the sins of men  
And their iniquity;  
I'm not sure which he blamed the most  
The organist or me.

My thoughts kept straying as I sat  
To women's ways and whims;  
I reckoned up the length of tongue  
They wagged to sing the hymns;  
And then I dozed and dreamt a dream,  
A great calamity,  
For all the tongues were nagging at  
The organist and me.

A deaconess took round the plate;  
I felt her gliding by,  
And as I fumbled for the coin

I quailed beneath her eye;  
The freewill offerings were small,  
The modest thrippeny—  
The only copper coins came from  
The organist and me.

I am not sure about the text,  
For it was getting late—  
'twas of the days when Philip had  
A eunuch for a mate;  
And when the parson mentioned him  
I was inclined to flee—  
The way the women glared at us,  
The organist and me.

I heaved a sigh when they began  
To chant the vesper hymn,  
And saw the parson slinking out  
So gaunt and tall and slim;  
And when he wished us all good-night  
(The women tenderly),  
And shook the hand of all except

## Boyup Brook Country Music Festival

How fantastic to see a small town go all out to support a country music and bush poetry festival. The little town of Boyup Brook (3 hrs south of Perth) boasts 300 local volunteers and the friendliest festival atmosphere you will find. And best of all, bush poetry is a major feature of the event. Congratulations to Rhonda Parker and Bill Gordon for organising so many excellent events.

The Thursday morning walk-up had an audience of around 200 and its only

the second year that event has been held! It featured many excellent local poets including Brian Langley, Peg Vickers, Rob Gunn, Peter Blythe and Irene Cook.

Friday morning started early at the Harvey Dickson Music Centre, a must-see if you are in WA, for a concert by Pixie Jenkins featuring Dave Proust, Melanie Hall and Susan Carcary before an enthusiastic crowd of 800.

The Hot Brekkie on Sunday morning is by far the biggest bush poetry event in WA and boasted an audience of over 1200. Dave, Mel and Susie were wowed by the responsiveness of the crowd and their enthusiasm for bush poetry.

Don't fall off your chairs in surprise but Dave Proust, so well known for his special brand of humour, performed a beautiful, original song "It's All I Know"

Of the two issues of the ABPA Magazine (Dec/Jan and Feb/Mar) more members than ever reported not receiving their copies. Naturally I wouldn't accept the blame, why should I, when I can blame the . . .

## THE LITERARY RUSTLERS

© Frank Daniel – Canowindra NSW 8.4.2010

What's going on at Australia Post?  
I'm just about giving up the ghost.  
I'm copping heaps from coast to coast  
and members are blaming me the most.  
So I won't be raising a single toast  
to the rustlers who work for Australia Post.

Our magazine just goes astray  
and doesn't arrive on its destined day;  
Not like it should in its usual way  
whether it's going to Perth or Hay  
it seems to me that the Posties prey  
on our magazine when it comes their way.

Perhaps it's the plastic bag we use  
that gives them an insight to our news  
or the poetry that they may well choose  
for placid relief from their daily blues.  
Where the mag. goes I have several views  
but I hate the thought of the few we lose.

There's no need to pinch our communication  
they only need join our organization,  
we'd openly welcome their affiliation  
whatever may be their infatuation.  
Hopefully our mail will reach its destination  
once they have joined our association.

*This is my first completed poem in over three years of ill health; I just needed a bit of a shove, and I thank our Blackened Billy Judge, Mr. Keith Jones for the inspiration. Joe.*

for the first time on stage. Dave and Susie sang the moving duet and believe it or not, Dave had tears in his eyes.

Thanks to all the volunteers in Boyup. Put it in your diary and tell your caravan club about the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival - it's the best kept secret in the west!

### Congratulations to Rhonda Parker

Special congrats to Rhonda Parker, organiser of the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival. Rhonda was nominated for an Australia Day Award this year for her many years of dedicated community service. Rhonda got through her state final and is one of an elite group of Award recipients who travel to Canberra later this year to meet the Prime Minister and receive her Award. Good on you Rhonda and keep on promoting country music and bush poetry.



# Carmel Wooding (nee Dunn)



'Little' Carmel — NOW! and with her first 'Little Swaggies Award' in 1996.

Carmel Wooding (nee Dunn) has been writing & reciting Australian Bush Poetry since she was 12 years old. Her love of Australiana stems from her rural upbringing and the influence of her parents and grandparents who exposed her to events such as the Tamworth Country Music Festival from a young age. Carmel began performing poetry at local community events such as a senior citizen and local council functions. Carmel's flare for the stage combined with a love of verse to ensure she poured her heart and soul into each performance.

In 1995, Carmel met her first bush poet friends at the Gympie Muster and was hooked. Since that time, she has performed at festivals throughout Queensland and New South Wales and has twice represented Australia at the American Cowboy Poetry

Gathering in Elko, Nevada. Carmel has gone on to become a primary school teacher and shares her knowledge of our great Aussie art form with children — tomorrow's champions — whenever possible.

Today, Carmel's written work often reflects issues of importance in modern day Australia. Her passion for social justice means her poetry tries to touch the hearts of an audience, making them consider and question topics that affect the lives of those around us. Carmel also enjoys imaginative fiction, creating characters that tell their own stories.

Since her marriage in 2006 and the birth of son James in 2007 Carmel has not been as active on the poetry circuit as she would like. Despite this, her love of Australian Bush Poetry has not waned.

Dave Proust - Susie Carcary - Bill Gordon - Melanie Hall

## IPSWICH POETRY FEAST INFORMATION

FIRST prize winners in this year's Ipswich Poetry Feast competition will receive a special memento.

The Ipswich Poetry Feast is an annual event co-ordinated by Ipswich City Council and the Ipswich community.

Along with the prize money on offer for their category, the competition's first place winners in 2010 will receive a copy of a special poetry CD featuring iconic Australian actor Jack Thompson reading the poems of famous Australian poet Henry Lawson. This CD edition features Lawson's Ipswich inspired poem *The Babies of Walloon* written in 1891 based on the sad and true story of two young girls who drowned in a waterhole at Walloon at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Aged six and nine, the two daughters of a railway lengthman at Walloon, Bridget Kate and Mary Jane Broderick, were sent on an errand by their parents and it is believed that they were attracted by some water-lilies in a waterhole near their home.

Potential entrants in the Ipswich Poetry Feast competition are encouraged to start work now on their poems as the organising committee is hoping for a strong showing from poetry enthusiasts from throughout Ipswich, Australia and overseas.

The Ipswich Poetry Feast encourages and rewards excellence in poetry writing and offers both young and aspiring poets an opportunity to gain experience and skills in the art of poetry writing, showcase their work and talents and have their work published.

Entries for the 2010 competition close at 5pm on July 30.

As part of Ipswich's 150 celebrations the competition's judges will be looking out for the entries submitted in any category which best reflects the theme: *Life in Ipswich: Proud past, exciting future.*

Entry to the Ipswich Poetry Feast is free to school-aged categories while entries for the open age categories cost \$5 per entry.

A total of more than \$5000 in prize money is on offer for the winners of the competition's different age categories.

For the third year a mentorship worth \$1050 will be awarded to one successful Queensland entrant.

This year's mentorship will feature 15 hours of tuition with Australian champion bush poet Noel Stallard.

Registration forms can be accessed on the Poetry Feast website at [www.ipswichpoetryfeast.com.au](http://www.ipswichpoetryfeast.com.au) and entries also can be lodged online.

Inquiries about the Ipswich Poetry Feast or the Jack Thompson CD can be directed to 07 3810 6761.

## A Tweet to Compete in the Bush

There's more than a little Twittering going on at Twitter these days as friends are Tweeting their rhymes in preparation for this years Bush Slam competition at Folk in Broke.

Here's a couple of our individual favourites:  
*The Bush Slam Comp...it is no joke...there's prizes for a-winning...at this years Folk in Broke*

*Foot on the gas...let out the choke ....its full steam ahead...for Folk in Broke.*

*Wake up Geoff...give him a poke...its time to get tickets...for Folk in Broke!*

In case you're not aware of it, there's been a resurgence in popularity of Australian Bush Poetry, and an increase in Slam competitions worldwide. The **Hunter Bush Slam** is one of the feature events in this year's program at the **Folk in Broke Music Festival**.

Consisting of 3 heats over the weekend of the festival, the competition will be co-ordinated and judged by multi-award-winning poet **Carol Heuchan**. Carol travels extensively throughout Australia and overseas, and is acknowledged as one of the foremost writers and performers in Australia. Her co-judges will be Arch Bishop – popular on the festival circuit – and noted Novocastrian wordsmith Clark Gormley.

The competition will be held in the festival's new **Word Zone** which has a full weekend program of word-based events including workshops, storytelling and comedy.

Visitors, who have been watching the ABC1 program Bush Slam, will be familiar with the format where Poets are given a topic or series of topics on which to write a poem. All styles of poetry are welcome to participate in the Hunter Bush Slam – not just bush ballads. However, poets must register in advance in order to get a special discount on their festival tickets.

The fourth Folk in Broke Festival happens again this year at the Nightingale Winery, Milbrodale Road, Broke on the **5,6,7<sup>th</sup> November**. Audiences will enjoy over 150 performers, musicians, dancers and poets over 2 days /2 nights and across 8 stages.

To find out how to get tickets – including big ticket discounts – go to [www.folkinbroke.com](http://www.folkinbroke.com)



Henry Lawson's great nephew Peter Lawson (left) and Ipswich Poetry Feast national patron Matt Foley celebrate the launch of the 2010 competition and the new Henry Lawson CD by Australian actor Jack Thompson which features the Ipswich-inspired Lawson poem *The Babies of Walloon*.

# Stuart Nivison

I was born in Alice Springs; there were no nursery rhymes for me. Instead my Dad always used to read me "The Man from Snowy River". From here I embarked into the world of A.B Paterson and the bush, and my journey into Australian Bush Poetry began.

At age 11, the Cleveland Strawberry Festival of 1998 first saw me on stage, reciting "Mulga Bill's Bicycle". It was here my parents and I first met Ray Essery and Shirley Friend. With their encouragement and guidance I ventured onto the Australian Bush Poetry Circuit.

In 2002 I achieved the Australian Junior Bush Poetry Champion award at the Malwalla-Yarawonga National Championships. In 2003 I was runner up in the Clover Nolan Award in Winton.



Stuart Nivison 1999

My various performances from 1998 to 2003 included the Northpine Bush Poets, Stanthorpe Amara's High

Country Bush Poetry Competition, the Gympie Muster, Tamworth Country Music Festival including the Longyard Hotel and Jim Hayne's Big Bush Brekky, and the Palma Rosa Poets at Hamilton.

By the age of 17 I had learnt the spirit and camaraderie of the Australian Bush Poetry Circuit; I was grateful to have been part of what was like one big family. Year 12 had come upon me, and I took this time to focus on my studies, stopping the Circuit however not my passion for it. After Year 12, I moved to Kings Creek Station in the Northern Territory for twelve months, working as a station hand, tour guide and entertainer for their nightly shows, and around the campfires.

With a new experience under my belt, I headed home and joined the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service as a Part-time Firefighter at age 19. Two years later, I was successful in my application as a Permanent Firefighter in the Brisbane Region, and have been there ever since. Life is kept fairly busy with the small hobby farm that I live on with my partner and parents, although not under the same roof!

As well as this I have created a small water-ski and wakeboard retail business, and try to get the ski boat out to Somerset Dam in whatever time is left in between!

Although far from the days of the Bush Poetry Circuit, I still perform occasionally at Fire Service Functions and around the station. I look forward to reading "The Man from Snowy River" to my own kids one day as my Dad did for me, and endeavour to keep Australian Bush Poetry alive for generations to come.

## DINKI - DI

(c) Maurie Foun Corryong Vic. 16.1.10

I'm proud to be Australian  
to be labelled as true blue;  
to express my heartfelt feelings  
and to cherish freedom too;  
to have known my independence  
reaped with pride my country's worth,  
known the value of true mateship  
in this greatest land on earth.

To have wed and raised my family  
in the knowledge that they too  
can see towards a future where  
the dreams they wish come true;  
where their work and dedication  
are rewarded honest pay,  
where a man will be respected  
for delivering 'his say'.

From snowcapped snowy mountains  
where streams in secret rise,  
I've witnessed devastating droughts,  
seen bushfires swift demise  
of the efforts of the battlers  
who toiled to earn a crust;  
sensed the silence of the outback,  
known its wonder lust.

Proud of my ancestry;  
the Anzacs tragic glory;  
found the vision to express my thoughts,  
the wealth to pen this story;  
felt the towering sense of being  
emanating from the land,  
been part of her disclosure;  
to have featured in her band.

And I hope that in the future  
when my final race is run,  
my descendants still acknowledge  
the Earth and Sky and Sun;  
to be proud of their inheritance,  
to be honest in their goals,  
unequivocally 'AUSTRALIAN'  
imprinted in their souls.

## Dennis & Paddy

On Saturday, 27th March, two well-known Tweed residents; Poets Dennis Scanlon from Tyalgum and Paddy O'Brien, FFC Phd. from Mt. Burrell arrived in Tenterfield all fired up for the 2010 Oracles of the Bush. They drove into that little town like hired guns from the wild west, taking up positions in the crowd where swarms of spectators hovered around to hear and see what they were really up to.

Before sundown, at the shootout on stage in the Tenterfield Soldiers Memorial Hall, with nerves well

trimmed and pumping chests they had won their way in the first two heats of the poetry competition. By High Noon on Sunday, with sweating brows and armpits they again faced the judges and audience rising in 'TRIUMPH' with Dennis taking out the 2010 Traditional Section and his mate Paddy winning the shootout in the Major Award for Original works.

Paddy and his wife Glori have been travelling and performing poetry Australia wide with their well-known show 'The Irish Trio: Just the Two of Us'. They have several CD's and books to their credit available at the Tumblegum Gallery and Murwillumbah

Information centre.

If you are an inveterate traveller, you can catch them for one or all of their performances in July - **in Canada.**

Dennis grew up a south Queenslander moving into the Agency industry after leaving school, later becoming marketing manager with the Australian Agricultural Co. He finished full-time work in 2003 and released a book, 'You Know You're in Australia' in 2006.

The book is a tribute to Australia: the Country and the People.

Paddy. 02 6689 7274

Dennis. (07)3286 3346

## CARNT THEY GIT IT RITE? On the History of Australian

Poetry web site I found two mistakes in the first two lines.

"*Australian Poetry, telling our history through words of Banjo Patterson, ... convict billiardist Francis McNamara (who used the pen name Frank the Poet). ...* What? Two T's in Paterson, how many times do we have to endure this mistake? and a Billiard playing convict? Come on you historians!!



On 2BS Bathurst a little while back I heard the presenter announce that Henry Lawson was one of the explorers who found the way over the Blue Mountains.

## ABPA DATA

Since its inception in February 1994 the Australian Bush Poets Association Magazine has published in excess of 1900 poems and Bios.

Of these, the majority have been winning entries in competitions or runners-up along with many submitted by readers; plus a good number of works from Anonymous and our old masters dating back to the early 1800's

### ONE 'T' IN PATERSON

© Frank Daniel. Canowindra NSW 2008

'An error' you say, or a 'typo'!  
Careless is my point of view.  
'Banjo' saw fit to use only one,  
Many persist using two!

It's blasphemy, that's what I call it.  
Irreverence comes to my mind.  
He only used 'one' in his signing,  
How many of you are so blind?

You can see by the sample above,  
third letter after the 'P'  
Whenever you write the bush bard's name  
remember - there's only one 'T'.

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# Evan Schnalle



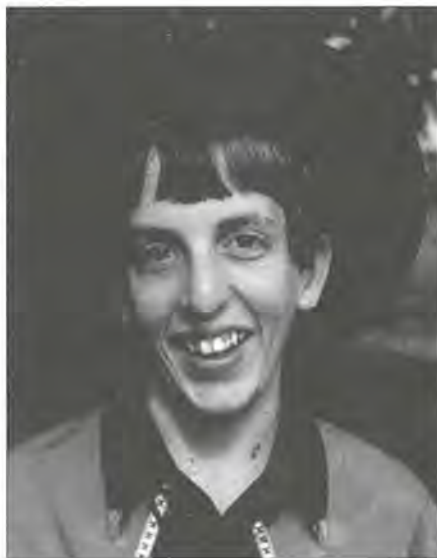
Evan Schnalle was born in 1986 in Rockhampton, Queensland. He is a multi award winning performer and writer who specialises in country comedy and bush verse. Evan recorded his first CD at the age of thirteen. He has written some award winning humorous and serious poems, as well as songs which he has added to his large repertoire.

Some of Evan's work has been broadcast on several radio stations including the ABC. Evan has performed at Charity Concerts, Private Parties, Clubs, Pubs, Poet's Breakfasts, Festivals and Concerts throughout Eastern Australia from Charters Towers, North Queensland, to Nelligen in Southern NSW. Since the age of twelve Evan has performed at the Tamworth Country Music Festival at many venues including The Long Yard Hotel, West Tamworth Leagues Club, Coca-Cola Stage, City Plaza, City Bowls Club and most other bowls clubs in Tamworth. Evan has also performed at a number of Agricultural Shows including the Brisbane Exhibition, Queensland Heritage Rally 2008 and Beef Australia Rockhampton 2003 and 2006. Evan entertained audiences at the Village Arts Festival 2003, Yeppoon.

Evan has shared the stage with the popular entertainers such as Darren

Coggan, Adam Brand, Alan Caswell, Tania Self, Lyn Bowtell, Slim Newton, "Bananas in Pyjamas", Seaman Dan, Ray Essery, Gary Fogerty, Mark Gliori, Neil McArthur, Jack Drake, John Major and the late Bobby Miller as well as many others throughout Eastern Australia.

Evan's third album *The Masters of Yesterday* was released in January 2008. Evan performs on a number of radio stations including Tamworth's Festival FM 101.5 during the Tamworth Country Music Festival every year. He has performed on Chris Lawson's show, "Bush Yarns and Bulldust broadcast on ABC Capricornia - (827 AM). Also Evan



has performed on Jeff Goodwin's show, "Talk of the Town" and on Michael J Bailey's show, "Michael in the Morning" which is broadcast on Rockhampton 4RO - (990 AM).

Evan has developed his talents as an entertainer specialising in country comedy, monologue songs and bush poetry, continually adding to his large repertoire. This young performer is making a big impact throughout Eastern Australia with his unique style entertaining audiences wherever he performs. Evan brings the "Bush to the City", which many performers do well, but Evan also brings the "City to the Bush".

# LEN MORRIS



2010 WINNER:

"RECITER OF THE YEAR"

award at the National Folk Festival Canberra, a trophy well earned.

Len, from Beauty Point, on the NSW far south coast was adjudged the reciter of the year for his superb rendition of the 'Blue the Shearer' poem, 'The Wingen Competition' which is based upon a whinging competition held at the Wingen Pub at Wingen which is near Scone in NSW.

Len is well known in his locale for his poetry performances at a variety of venues. He first started reciting poetry over thirty years ago at the water industry conference in Melbourne and at various functions around Victoria; school reunions; art venues; Union meetings; vintage tractor tours; the Montreal Goldfields; Narooma Oyster festival and poets breakfasts throughout NSW and Queensland.

Len was introduced to the folk scene fifteen years ago by the late Ces Cox from Brogo when he formed the Yuin Folk Club and has been involved in the Poets breakfast at the Cobargo Festival since. He enjoys reciting the works of Banjo Paterson; Henry Lawson; John O'Brien; Ed Walker; "Blue the Shearer" (Col Wilson) and the late Harry Bowers.

## 2010 BLAKE POETRY PRIZE

The NSW Writers' Centre and the Blake Society will award a prize of \$5000 to the poem or suite of poems of up to 100 lines that best explores the religious and spiritual in poetry. The Blake Poetry Prize is non-sectarian but does expect poems entered will have a recognisable religious or spiritual integrity. Entries displaying a critical awareness of issues relating to the religious or spiritual (e.g., satirical or

ironic views) or those sympathetic to the concepts are equally welcome.

Entry forms at

[www.nswwriterscentre.org.au](http://www.nswwriterscentre.org.au) or at [www.blakeprize.com.au](http://www.blakeprize.com.au)

or on (02) 9555 9757. Entry: \$20 per poem.

Closing date: 11 June 2010



## LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS RIGHT.

If you cross the North Korean Border illegally you get 12 years hard labour.

If you cross the Iranian Border Illegally you are detained indefinitely.

If you cross the Afghan Border illegally you get shot.

If you cross the Saudi Arabian Border illegally you will be gaoled.

If you cross the Chinese Border illegally you may never be heard from again.

If you cross the Venezuelan Border illegally you will be branded as a spy and your fate will be sealed.

If you cross the Cuban Border illegally you will be thrown into political prison to rot.

If you cross the Australian Border illegally you get a job, a drivers license, a social security card, welfare, food stamps, credit cards, subsidised rent or a loan to buy a house, free education, free health care, a lobbyist in Canberra, billions of dollars worth of public documents printed in your language, the right to carry your countries flag while you protest that you don't get enough respect and, in many instances, you can vote.

I just wanted to make sure I had a firm grip on the situation.

Joe.

### LIMERICK © Grahame Watt

There was a young girl from Gilgarre,  
Whose doctor said, "You'd better marry"  
She said "Marvellous news.  
But who do I choose?  
I don't know if it's Tom, Dick or Harry.

### The Titanic © Dennis Kevans

Down on the wharf when they mention strike,  
Some of the new fellers panic.  
As my grandfather said, long years ago,  
"They wouldn't walk off the Titanic!"

### WURST SAUSAGE-

*In Germany they're somewhat cursed,  
With sausages that are the 'wurst',  
Like Bockwurst, blatwurst, blutwurst, Fleiss,  
Zungen, liver, mettwurst, weiss;  
Why they're 'wurst' I cannot say,  
But Germans eat them night and day,  
So I'm putting them all to the test,  
To see which 'wurst' is really best.*

Big Russ

## AFTERMATH *By Trevor Shaw*

There's no movement on the station; eerie silence; not a sound.  
Small wisps of smoke rise calmly, through the scene:  
devastated, blackened landscape, from the tree stumps to the ground,  
with a pile of rubble, where the house had been.

All the greenness of the gardens; all the painted walls and rooves,  
now reduced to different categories of char.

Buckled sheets of corrugation, soot and blisters in the grooves,  
partly camouflage the melted family car.

Gone forever are the stockyards – turned to ash each post and rail  
by the fierceness of the fire-balls, and the heat.

While the remnants of the bound'ry pose, in architectural *braille*,  
the playing ground on which one must compete.

There's no sign of living live-stock. Roasted corpses tell the tale  
of the energy released, when fires swept through.

No chances for survival - not on hill, in creek nor vale.  
Death had dealt her hand, before they even knew.

We are conscious of the casualties: the deaths, the burnt and maimed;  
the houses lost; and many townships razed.

We are conscious of the lightning strikes, and those who must be blamed  
for evil acts. We're stunned, dismayed, amazed.

And we cannot find the vocab that expresses how we feel.  
"Compassion" is emotion, and a word.

We've nearly been defeated by an enemy unreal,  
but surrender, to our minds, has not occurred.

For the folks who toiled before us, who established something grand,  
rebuilding has to be the way to go.

The spirit of the pioneers will again transform this land,  
though progress will be tedious and slow.

And movement on the station will be evident again,  
founded on this phrase: "*Lest we forget*".

As we turn the first sods over, through our memories and pain,  
we'll grit our teeth ... for we're not beaten yet!



## BARDS, BALLADS AND BULLDUST!



Milton Taylor headed up another great line up at this years Bards, Ballads and Bulldust Festival in Central Otago in New Zealand's South Island. Dunedin musicians Mike Moroney, Anna Bowen and Marcus Turner wowed the crowd with their witty lyrics and exquisite musicianship. Milton, Melanie Hall and Susan Carcary all featured on the program. Milton said "We wanted to include some NZ material this year. The poem 'Gallipoli' by Frank Fayes speaks of the ANZAC alliance and

the enduring friendship of our two nations, we broke it up as a trio and I think it worked well".

Other festival favourites included Dusty Spittle, Phil Garland and Roger Lusby. (Rumour has it that Roger may come over to Bundaberg for the Australian Championship this year). Well known local identity and poet Ross McMillan held the audience entranced with his poems of high country life above the snow line.

New Zealand has a very strong folk tradition but has no national poet. They don't have a Banjo or Lawson equivalent and there is no single verse that all Kiwis can recite the way we all know verse 2 of 'My Country'. Modern NZ poet, Sam Hunt, is well known and loved all over the country





## 2010 Victorian Bush Poetry Championships



The Victorian Perpetual Trophy  
fashioned from a burl of a  
Murray River Red Gum.

The historic central Victorian gold mining town of Wedderburn will host the 2010 Victorian Bush Poetry, Yarn Spinning and Song/Music Championships over 15 – 17 October.

The change of venue from Benalla was due to Wedderburn Tourism offering the Victorian Bush Poetry and Music Association, of which all six Victorian bush poetry groups are members, an attractive incentive package to relocate.

The VBPM A executive and Jim Brown, have been working closely with Wedderburn Tourism to ensure the championships will be a rip roaring

success. Wedderburn, once a populous and rich gold mining town, can again shout *Eureka!* We've struck it rich, by becoming the new home of bush poetry in Victoria.

V B P M A President Carol Reffold said, "In addition to most of our regular competitors and audience, we are expecting a strong attendance from 'first time' performers in the Bendigo region; Western Districts, Mildura area, and South Australia."

Many exciting new concepts are already organised. Most events will be held outdoors with inclement weather plans in place.

One of the main attractions for tourists is the Hard Hill Reserve, where by using a little imagination visitors can experience a sense of what it was like in the roaring days, when miners sought their fortune while living in tents on the goldfields. A working eucalyptus still and puddler are on site. Close by is an ancient quartz crushing battery. Included among the old diggings is a rarely seen adit, a horizontal shaft, dug into the side of a hill in search of quartz reefs.

In more recent times power has been

connected to the reserve, and a stage, along with audience seating constructed.

Boasting a population of approximately 1,400, Wedderburn offers motel, hotel and caravan park accommodation options.

Wedderburn Tourism encourage contestants and audience to arrive early, or remain longer to meet the friendly locals and soak up all the region has to offer. Lady Luck may smile upon those who bring, or hire a metal detector. For nuggets of gold are regularly found.

Competition commences with Yarn Spinning 'around a camp fire' at Hard Hill on Friday evening.

Hot breakfasts will be available on Saturday and Sunday mornings and various meal or snack options at other times.

With the exception of a variety *Australiana Concert* on Saturday evening at the Wedderburn Hall, the poetry competitions, including poets breakfasts will be at Hard Hill.

Three Novice sections, an Intermediate Section and Song sections will be held.

The ranking scoring system will apply. Entry forms will be on the ABPA website by August. Full details to appear in August/September magazine.

Enquiries: Jan Lewis, Secretary, Tel. (02) 60774332

Email: [janlewis1@hotmail.com](mailto:janlewis1@hotmail.com)

but there is no history of rhymed verse establishing the national character the way that 'Clancy' or 'The Man' or 'The Sentimental Bloke' have done in Australia. Of course we have a totally different history – NZ was never a penal colony, they had a treaty with the Maori and they had no state borders to deal with; none the less you'd think that the very newness of nationhood and the wonder of new flora and fauna would inspire would-be bards and become an integral part of the emerging Kiwi identity but...there is no national poet in New Zealand – I find that odd! Perhaps it helps explain why they love Aussie bush poetry so much.

from Susie . . .



Milton Taylor

## BURKE AND WILLS book deal for members

The Burke and Wills 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary anthology of bush poetry and short stories has been given the 'thumbs up' by Jack Thompson who will write the foreword.

Competitions and publishing of the anthology of the best poems and short stories based on the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition written by adults (open) and Victorian students is a project of the Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets Inc.

Competition organiser, Colin Carrington said, "Many of the poems and short stories by adults that have been received are exceptional. School student entries adjudged 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective sections – four sections for each genre – will add to the collection.

Additional adult poems and stories will now be published. A minimum of ten adult poems, six short stories, and also fifteen school student poems and stories. With entries permitted to be a

blend of fact and fiction, this has resulted in some truly remarkable entries being received. Others are entirely based on known facts. Some additional unpublished factual incidents have been brought to light.

The book will be bound, contain approximately 140 pages, and be professionally printed in Australia. Magnificent relevant colour paintings by Brian Nunan, a Castlemaine based artist famous for bringing outback scenery to life will adorn the front and back covers. Included will be some of Mr Nunan's sketches of; the Menindee store, Menindee Hotel, Dig Tree and other relevant scenes.

ABPA members have the opportunity of purchasing pre publication copies of this truly unique Australian book at a heavily discounted price, \$15 includes postage. Offer expires 15 August. Receipts will assist BGBP in paying for first print run. RRP is \$24.95. Profits from the project will be used to supply school libraries with a copy of the book.

## Vale – Pat Britton 1925-2010

On 1<sup>st</sup> April our Bush Poetry Family lost a wonderful member.

Patrick Henry (Pat) Britton, late of Cape Three Points Road, Avoca Beach, NSW, was diagnosed with the big C several years ago but never lost his spirit as his body suffered the roller coaster ride that is the inevitable effect of cancer treatment.

All through chemotherapy treatment, Pat entertained the medical staff and his fellow sufferers with his poetry and yarns.

An ex shearer, carpenter, prospector and fisherman, Pat still attended the Poetry Nights at Yarralong Manor and put on shows with Carol Heuchan and Bruce Walker of Wyong even in the last six months when aged eighty four.

He was a real trouper right from the early days when he travelled to the United States performing his very Aussie poems to an enthralled audience. Pat will be sorely missed by his wife of sixty four years Amy, his family and a multitude of friends.

Pat was born into an Irish family at Bankstown on 4th May 1925 to Amy Doherty from the Cudgegong River and Alec Britton a widely travelled ex-sailor and a great yarn-spinner.

Pat was the youngest of two sisters and an older brother that he loved and admired.

Part of his growing up included living in the village of Goolma NSW. He grew up hearing and knowing many bush stories and learned to love the country he knew so well and the many bush characters he met in those years.

During World War II he served with the Catalina Flying Boats in the RAAF as a flight mechanic. Later in life he was recognised with a sixty year medal for WWII service.

After this and marriage to Amy they settled on the Central Coast of NSW and there they raised a family of three daughters.

Pat was a much valued citizen of the town in which he lived and was always busy with community efforts and hobbies.

He built many houses in the town, served with the Bush Fire Brigade for over thirty years and was interested in other pursuits such as the Life Saving Club and Rotary International.

## BUSH POETRY IN SCHOOLS

New South Wales South Coast bush poet and ABPA member, Mr. John Davis of Kings Point, Ulladulla has had several enquiries regarding the junior Australian Bush Poetry competitions that he has been running for the past four years.

John hopes that the following information might help others who are contemplating following suit with similar events.

As he points out that Australian Bush Poetry is not included in school curriculums and that teenagers, when approached, know nothing of our iconic poets and he believes we need to encourage our kids and foster their knowledge of rhyming bush poetry.

High schools he finds are not inclined to be proactive whilst primary schools are fertile ground and get involved with enthusiasm.

He is fortunate to have four primary schools in his area and they all participate, with one school providing the venue, the PA, stage and spectator seating as well as afternoon tea.

In running and organizing this competition John draws sponsorship from several local businesses for prize-money and two trophies with the criteria being for written and performance poetry. The Written Original section is for ages 11/13 years and the performance section is for 13 yrs and under.

In the latter section props and dress ups as well as duologues and group performances are permitted. One trophy is for the best dress-up and animated performance. This prize can be won by a child who hasn't made the top five, as well as any of the winners.

The second trophy is a perpetual shield for the best overall performance on which the winners name is inscribed and is held by that student's school for a period of twelve months. A smaller trophy is given to the winning student to keep.

The scores of the top four placegetters from each school are assessed and the those with the highest overall score wins \$100 for the purchase of books for their school library.

Performance pieces can be by any author from any time with rhyme and rhythm preferred, but not necessarily restricted to Australian themes and the Australian idiom.

The written judge is always a



completely unbiased, competent person living well away from the area. Winning entrants are asked to read their poems to the audience. Age grouping is not strictly adhered to as it would not be fair to preclude a child who turned fourteen just prior to the event, or a ten year old who wants to submit a written entry. Mostly the schools work on a class age basis.

The number of written entries is unlimited with the recitals restricted to twenty-five or thirty entries, being sufficient number for a two to two and a half hours show. As a guideline the four local schools are asked to send their best 6 or 7 performers.

No entry fees are charged for the competition and spectators are admitted free.

John does workshops at the schools if requested and insists that they be kept simple so as not to frighten the kids away.

Anyone seeking help from John Davis can find him on

02 4455 2013 or email

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14 improbable parodies of  
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## GIPPSLAND BUSH POETS

5th ANNUAL

GIPPSLAND WATTLE BUSH POETRY  
OPEN WRITTEN COMPETITION

# \$1,000.00 First Prize

Second prize \$200.00 Commemorative coin from Australia Post

(Also Highly Commended and Commended Certificates)

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

Entry forms - send an S.S.A.E. to:-

Gippsland Bush Poets Written Competition

c/- P.O. MAFFRA Victoria 3860

or Email:- [bjdraper@netspace.net.au](mailto:bjdraper@netspace.net.au)

**CLOSING DATE 29th October 2010**

**Veronica Weal**

has agreed to be this years sole judge

**RAVIN' AT  
RAVENSWOOD**

**The 2010 Queensland  
Bush Poetry Titles**



**RAVIN' AT  
RAVENSWOOD**

**The 2010 Queensland  
Bush Poetry Titles**

**July 30th, 31st & August 1st  
Prizemoney over \$2500**

Sections for Male & Female Traditional & Original, Best Novice, Best Junior,  
One Minute Burdekin Brawl & Overall Qld. Champion

Friday Evening Meet & Greet



Poet's Breakfasts Sat & Sun

**Saturday Night Concert**

featuring Melanie Hall, Gary Fogarty, Ron Odgers & Neil McArthur.

All Accommodation enquiries to Martin & Tracey  
at Ravenswood Imperial Hotel on 0747702131

Entry details and enquiries to Neil McArthur  
0400 131 852 or [macpoet@iprimus.com.au](mailto:macpoet@iprimus.com.au)

(Charters Towers will be holding the Written Competition  
for the Championships in 2010.)



### Members Special

Pre publication purchase of:  
**BURKE and WILLS**  
Award winning bush poems  
and short stories by  
adults and school children  
Camp 6 Mia Mia Competitions

**Approx 140 pages**

At least 10 adult & 15 children's poems

At least 6 adult and 15 children's stories  
All based on Burke & Wills expedition  
A unique book commemorating the  
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Burke & Wills

Retails at \$24.95

Your price till 15<sup>th</sup> August

**\$15** Post paid

Money back guarantee if not satisfied  
Stock up for Xmas presents and gifts!

Send cheque/money order to:  
Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets Inc.  
PO Box 1152, Bendigo 3552  
Multiple purchases welcome  
Books will be posted till mid August  
Enq. Email: [col@mulgabill.net.au](mailto:col@mulgabill.net.au)  
Colin Carrington (03) 5433 2427  
*See story page 17*

## A TASTE OF COUNTRY HARDEN NSW

Oct. 23 2010

Performance Poetry  
Poets Brawl

Connie McFadyen 02 6386 2575  
e-mail: [conniemcfadyen7@bigpond.com](mailto:conniemcfadyen7@bigpond.com)

HARDEN ARTS COUNCIL  
PO Box 205  
Harden NSW 2587

Further details from  
Frank Daniel  
[editor@abpa.org.au](mailto:editor@abpa.org.au)  
Ph. 02 6344 1477

## Bushmans Heritage & Camp Oven Festival 13 - 15 August 2010

Recitations  
Poets Breakfast  
Workshop  
Amateur Poets Competition  
Poets Brawl and more.

Check out our website for more details  
[www.casinovillage.com.au](http://www.casinovillage.com.au)

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C.D.

### "Australian Bush Poetry CLASSICS"

Presented by Jack Drake

13 tracks including  
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Snowy River", Henry Lawson's  
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Recited in campfire atmosphere  
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\$20 plus \$2 p/h



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GLEN INNES NSW

Saturday 6th November  
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Bush Poets Breakfast and  
Competition

Sunday 7th November

Entry forms from  
[www.beardiesfestival.com](http://www.beardiesfestival.com)

Neville Campbell  
02 6732 2663 0403 409 880

## COMPETITION RESULTS

### POETRY & MUSIC EVENTS AT MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

Three poets & reciters who were new to Corryong's Man From Snowy River Bush Festival won the main Bendigo Bank Poetry and Music prizes this year at a cracker turnout of festival fans. Heading our Poetry line-up was Geoffrey Graham as 'The Banjo', Noel Cutler with his poems and whips and Bob Magor with his ridiculously relateable poems.

Will Stanfield from Kenmore, Queensland was the MFSR Recital winner, Peter Mace from Empire Bay, NSW took out the Clancy's Choice Award for best overall male and Jenny Markwell from Wangi Wangi, NSW for best overall female in the very high standard competition.

The competition fills a major part of the weekend, but numerous non-competitive events are squeezed around the packed program. A highlight was installing a Brett Garling \$100,000 bronze MFSR statue of a lifesize horse and rider in the park.

For the future of Bush Poetry, we need more novices like Robert Hunt, son of local Walwa residents Barbara Pritchard and Dr Dave, who burst onto the stage with high energy performances which earned him the Lawrie Sheridan Encouragement Award. Local children delighted the audience in the Junior Competition, and we'll do more in the schools to inspire and assist them this year.

Albion Park Camp Cooking Club provided a great wow factor for Banjo's Block, with their cast iron cooking equipment and Heritage display. They easily rose to the challenge of selling food at dinnertimes and three Poets' breakfasts including the record crowd of around 300

#### TENTERFIELD

##### Written Humorous

1st Peter Mace  
'A Bushy's Trip to Sydney'

##### Highly Commended:

Zondra King,  
'Chocolate'  
Joye Dempsey,  
'Pearls Before Swine'  
Written Poem  
celebrating a Caring Legend.  
1st Lionel Euston,  
'The Ballad of Bernard O'Reilly'.

##### Highly Commended:

Maureen K. Clifford  
'The Legend of Glasshouse  
Mountains'

##### Performance section

Novice. Tom Taylor.

Open Original work

Paddy O'Brien.

Traditional work

Dennis Scanlon

#### CORRYONG MFSR

##### FESTIVAL

**Silver Brumby Award** Written

Greg North 'Today'

Runner-up

David Campbell 'Walking Away'

##### Humorous Written

David Campbell 'The Pollie  
Plague'

Runner-up

Ron Stevens 'Public Phone Boxer

#### PERFORMANCE SECTIONS

##### AB Paterson MFSR Recital

1st Will Stanfield

2nd Barry Tiffen

3rd Peter Mace

##### Jack Riley Heritage Award

1st Jenny Markwell 'Surviving  
the Somme'

2nd Ted Webber 'An Angel's  
Smile'

##### Aussie Bush Poem

1st Jim Brown

'The Overlander' WH Ogilvie

2nd Barry Tiffen

'The Road's End' CJ Dennis

##### Non-original poetry

1st Jenny Markwell

2nd John Peel

##### Aussie Comedy

1st Alex Allitt

2nd Peter Mace

##### Matilda Award

1st Jenny Markwell

2nd Betty Walton

##### Clancy's Choice Award

1st Peter Mace

2nd Barry Tiffen

3rd Graeme Johnson

##### One-Minute Poem

1st Robert Hunt

2nd Hugh Gladman

##### Photo-story with sound

1st Peter Mace

2nd Betty Walton

#### Aussie Gumleaf Playing

Will Stanfield

Sandra Vonthien

#### Novice Performer or singer

James Norton

Stan Gray

Neil Higgins

#### Lawrie Sheridan Award

Robert Hunt

#### Seniors Award

Rob Markwell

#### Jan Lewis Award

David O'Connor

#### Self Published Award

Betty Walton

#### JUNIOR BUSH POETRY

Primary - Alison Budworth

Secondary - Michelle Roberts

#### JUNIOR WRITTEN

5-6 years. Niam Foxcroft

2nd Ava Byrne

#### JUNIOR PERFORMANCE

Grade 3-4 1st Ashley Burke

Gr. 5-6 Ava Byrne

Yr. 7-12 Michelle Roberts

2nd Anna Stephens



people on Saturday morning and 200 Friday and Sunday. We were lucky to have very capable MC's like Graeme Johnson & Carol Reffold on hand. Some informal lessons and one timetabled Gumleaf Playing workshop tutored by current Australian Champion Jeffrey Wilmott and runner-up Wendy Eva, was a crowd favourite, attended by 40 people of all ages keen to learn. Several managed to get a sound, and two played a short item in the Award ceremony as their debut to



Robert Hunt - Walwa NSW

this old P/L, Megas Music Wodonga Australian & Jack Jackson, USA. art.

(Of course, the Poetry & John Music is only one aspect of our bush festival - there is the Dave MFSR Challenge (horse Brannigan comp) with \$15,000 won this kept the fire year by local David Mitchell burning and 70 competitors; a the music and fantastic Re-enactment of The yarning on the hillside; Riley's Ride; the Street Parade full of happy proud locals and their kids, horses & vehicles; a coming back to that marvellous Art & Photography exhibition, campfire Aussie Bush Idol, Buskers, camaraderie concerts and market stalls). that they love.

Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers meet occasionally and are available for community events/tourists. We'd love more members, and visitors, so if you are inspired by our efforts, or are passing through our area please ring me, Jan Lewis 0260774332



2010

NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY  
PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hosted By

**JULY 9th, 10th & 11th**

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. - Queensland

At

Brothers Sports Club Inc., Takalvan Street, Bundaberg.

Performance Competitions

- Under 8 - Recite favourite poem
- 8 years to under 16 Years
- Open - Traditional, Modern & Original
- Novice - Traditional, Modern & Original
- Billy Hay Memorial Yarn Spinning
- Duo Competition
- One Minute Cup

Performance Enquiries

SSAE to:  
 The Co-ordinator  
 Bundaberg Poets Society Inc  
 PO Box 4281  
 BUNDABERG Qld 4670  
Closing date for Competition  
**June 18th 2010**



No Intermediate Category in 2010 due to National Australian Championships



ENTERTAINMENT

Shamrock Room at Brothers Sports Club

**7.30 p.m.**

FRIDAY EVENING: Walk-Up

Poetry/Variety Concert

Admission: \$3-00

SATURDAY EVENING: 'The Concert'

**7.30 p.m.**

featuring

**Milton Taylor, Neil McArthur & Melanie Hall**

Admission: \$15-00



Sandy Lees (*Muster Co-ordinator*) 07 41514631 or lees@fastel.com.au  
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Entry Forms also available on ABPA website: [abpa.org.au/bushpoetry/entry.htm](http://abpa.org.au/bushpoetry/entry.htm)

## Re The Judges/ Quality of Competition poems debate:-

In making the following comments I should mention that I rarely enter any written competitions, nor have I entered a formal performance competition for over 17 years. I have however been fortunate enough to win two highly publicized awards and I am certain my winning poems were both celebrated and criticized.

I am predominantly a writer of doggerel. I know my strengths. I write popular pieces for performance. My greatest influence was not Banjo or Henry but Pam Ayres. I saw her on TV when I was fifteen and knew that's how I thought poetry should come across to an audience, good natured and entertaining.

To the ear, my poetry technique has always sounded fine. My good mate Charlie Marshall however, after seeing my first book of poetry, commented at the Mapleton Yarn Festival 'it's bloody

doggerel', and he was bloody right. I was young and raw and through ignorance didn't even know what doggerel was, nor the difference between it and 'proper' verse.

Charlie was one of the very few of us who could write popular pieces that were also good enough to win major written awards. When I began working in Education I felt a little embarrassed by my lack of knowledge. I read about techniques and formulas and attended workshops, but I didn't seem to retain the facts or possess the discipline needed to rein in my extra long lines, or chip away at my written work. I much preferred to be marching around classrooms with excited little storytellers, scribbling madly and revelling in the emotion of sharing our lives, and I found this was exactly what teachers wanted, a child-like approach, engendering enthusiasm.

I thought about studying literature once until my mate the late Folklorist, Poet, and author Bill Scott advised, "Don't do it mate, it'll spoil ya'".

My forte, like many of

you, has always been in the 'telling', and as we have seen with the evolution of the rhyming ballad into rap, hip hop, and various other strands of popular 'poetry', change invigorates a new generation, and as we seem to be steeped in tradition, herein may the demise of The Bush Poets, or at least our relegation to a clichéd art form with a niche market.

Some time ago I was at a festival and was asked to announce and read the winning poem for the written section. Beforehand an official gave me two poems and asked me which one I thought *had* won and which one I thought *should* win. I picked the same poem in both cases, knowing full well that the other poem may well have been the better crafted, but did not stir me, excite me, or have me envying the writer like the winning poem did, which incidentally was 'The Cattle Dog's' revenge by Jack Drake.

Congratulations to that judge for recognizing something that cannot be imprisoned in a formula, the ingredient of 'passion' and

congratulations to them for breaking the judging mould, bucking tradition, and making what was obviously a hard decision.

So my friends, let us ask ourselves - Are we writing simply to win and become noted writers? Are we performing simply for adulation and approval - or are we inspired to contribute because we have an urgent story or message we are passionate about passing on?

These are questions I frustrate myself with everyday in critiquing my working life as a poet, writer and entertainer, and I need to sometimes give myself a slap around the chops to remind myself what to concern myself with, and I am glad to say the judging of any competition where the result is a subjective view, barely rates a second thought. All competitions and most results will have their controversy. Just do your best for now, and allow the passing of time to dictate what poems were and weren't worthy of remembering.

Cheers,  
Marco Gliori.

## OF DREAMS AND MEMORIES

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The remnants of the orchard were first to catch my eye,  
planted on the northern side, I never fathomed why,  
and while I stole their juicy fare when I was still a child,  
I've never forgotten Nan's nurturing grin and the wonderful way she smiled.

Her face shone like the sun aglow, her hair of silvered gold;  
her affection for every living thing abundance to behold.  
Her kindly manner, softly voice could calm the harshest pain;  
this saintly soul, mother of six, won't ever come again.

Her compassion given generously for all folk or creatures in need,  
one whose love spread far and wide, no limits to colour or creed;  
one whose fortitude was often displayed and to her man she stayed true;  
defeating the hardships presented to her, yet never a day did she rue.



I was twelve when Nan passed away; five years before Pa had gone;  
and while youthful grief assailed my heart, I knew the sun's light still shone.

Her purpose meant upon this earth had finally been fulfilled,  
her descendants task, to persevere, just as she had willed.

The farm passed down to Jonathon, reluctant when forced to accept,  
but parents bequests are also commands, ( though his efforts were never inept;)  
Jonathon chose to walk away, his inheritance rife with neglect...  
dilapidated, far beyond repair; embraced by the orchard he wept.

He felt the anguish commonplace, men in his quandary feel too;  
the choice he'd to make tortured his soul, there was nothing else he could do;  
for guilt had plagued his inner mind, but his character carried the day;  
the tears he shed were left behind the day he walked away.

I seldom drive by the farm anymore, though my children know where it was;  
memories dulled with the passage of time; maybe that's because life moves on, in its ever evolving scheme,  
but I often ponder the vision shared, by Nan and Pa ... and their dream.



# Wyatt Hall

**Twelve years old Wyatt Hall of Stratford NSW.**  
Just one more of the talented newcomers to the ABPA



A great time was had in Gloucester NSW at the end of March with Gabby Colquhoun, Clair Reynolds, Gregory North and a youngster by the name of Wyatt Hall from Stratford NSW performing to over 240 people at the local saleyards in a Rotary Club fundraiser for 'Helping Hands for Hillcrest', a local nursing home.

Wyatt performed four pieces, two by Frank Daniel ('I'm the Man' and 'Hunt with the Hounds'), Marco Gliori's the 'Mr. Whippy Rip-off' and 'Banjo' Paterson's 'The Man from Ironbark'.

Wyatt is twelve years old and lives at Stratford on a property breeding Australian Stock Horses and beef cattle. Wyatt competes in camp-drafting events and enjoys showing cattle from his own small stud Hereford herd. He has just started high school. His other interests include swimming, leatherwork and whip plaiting.

Wyatt began reciting bush poetry of

his own volition. The first his parents, knew of it was at a stock horse event when somebody commented on Wyatt entertaining people at lunchtime.

They found Wyatt in the midst of a small crowd of onlookers reciting poems he had learnt. He was ten years of age at the time.

Shortly after Greg North visited the small primary school at Stratford to give a poetry clinic and perform some poems. When Greg had finished Wyatt asked could he have a turn and stood up and recited Marco Gliori's 'Mr Whippy'.

At the time his parents wondered if part of the attraction with reciting was that he got away with using some swear words. 'Unfortunately' says his mother Kim, 'his memory talent does not extend to his times tables'.

Since then Wyatt has recited at education week performances, sporting club functions, Probus Club dinners and for the past 2 years at 'Bush Poetry at the Saleyards' at Gloucester alongside Greg, Gabby and Claire.

He enjoys reciting items by Jack Drake, Frank Daniel, Marco Gliori, Murray Hartin and 'Banjo' Paterson.

Pictured left: To be short and to the point, Dennis Scanlon of Tyalgum and at length Paddy O'Brien FFC Phd. from Mt. Burrell took out the honours at Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush in the Traditional and the Original sections respectively. See p. 13.



**Around the Traps!** The judging of the 39th annual Bronze Swagman Award is currently under way in Winton Qld.

Melanie Hall and Susie Carcary are stationed at the Matilda Caravan Park, Winton until the end of September.

Milton Taylor of Queensland and New South Wales is hibernating in Longreach - Find him on the Longreach Paddle-wheeler.

Our best mate 'Lowie' is spending the winter months working at the Mitchell (Qld.) Caravan park. Make sure you visit them if you're in their areas.

Go to the ABPA Website [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au) for information about coming events and the Bush Poets Calendar.



**Below: Competitors from the Longreach State School Group at Winton**



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