

A.B.P.A.

Volume 18 No. 1
Australian Bush Poets Association
February - March 2013

TAMWORTH 2013





2013 CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Hosted by the North Pine Bush Poets



Come see, Come hear, the best of Australian Bush Poets at the Norths Leagues and Services Club

1347 Anzac Avenue Kallangur Qld 4503.

16th 17th 18th August 2013

Sat and Sun Novice Intermediate and Open Competition

Gala Concert Saturday Night. 17th AUGUST

FEATURING

CAROL HEUCHAN & MILTON TAYLOR

Workshops Writing and Performance Friday 16th

Camping at Pine Rivers Showground

On your way to the Gympie Muster, stop over you'll love Our Scenic and Historic,
Moreton Bay Region,

Further info: Noel Stallard 07 3351 3221 email noel@noelstallard.com

or John Best 07 3886 2660 email longjohnbest@bigpond.com

Specifics and Entry Forms - ABPA Website later.

DATE CLAIMER 16th, 17th and 18th August 2013

18th BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER

2013

JULY 5TH - 6TH - 7TH

at

ACROSS THE WAVES SPORTS CLUB

MILLER STREET

BUNDABERG

2013

Performance Competitions

- Open (Male & Female)
- Intermediate
- Novice
- Junior Categories (U/ 8 Yrs. & 8 Yrs to U/16 Yrs.)
- Yarn Spinning
- Duo Competition
- One Minute Cup



Competition Enquiries & Entry Forms

SSAE to:
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.
PO Box 4281
BUNDABERG SOUTH 4670

BUSH LANTERN AWARD - WRITTEN COMPETITION FOR BUSH VERSE

ALSO

BUSH LANTERN AWARD - JUNIOR CATEGORY

(Primary & Secondary School Students)

- **Closing date** for written competitions May 31st, 2013. Results announced on July 7th at Presentation of trophies Muster week-end.

Entry forms : SSAE to
Bush Lantern Co-ordinator
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.,
PO Box 4281
BUNDABERG SOUTH. 4670

All phone or e-mail enquiries:

Sandy Lees (Muster Co-ordinator) .. 07 41514631 or leesjds1@yahoo.com.au
Edna Harvey (President) .. 07 41597198 or edna_harvey@hotmail.com
Jayson Russell (Vice-President) .. 07 41550778 or blanata@bigpond.net.au
OR ... ABPA website



The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. is proudly supported by Across the Waves Sports Club, Miller Street, Bundaberg

President's Report



Once again we meet in the wake of catastrophe. Previous years it was drought and flood and now to fire. Doubtless that cycle will continue as it has in the past. Our hearts go out to all affected, particularly the families in harm's way. Our hearts also swell with pride for the many professionals and countless volunteers who step up to the crease and give their all in the service of others.

On the sick list, Cay Ellam had a fall and broke her knee while hanging the washing, but she is wrapped in plaster and on the mend. Dot Schwenke is up and about again. Jill Neville is in hospital for tests. Glori O'Brien is doing well after her treatment, as is Kym Eitel our treasurer. Milton is up and about and back in Longreach. Ellis is spending more time at home and is reading rather than writing. Frank, our VP is also on the mend and is taking each day as it comes.

Tragically, we lost Johnny Norman during the year. John and Cath(Mum) were a delightful fixture at many festivals across the eastern States and will be missed.

The ABPA Committee met five times through the year, mostly under technically challenging conditions. Nevertheless ABPA business was still conducted.

During the year two sub-committees were formed. One was for the review of the ABPA "Guidelines for Competition" by Glenny Palmer, Kay Ellem and Graeme Johnson. The results of the sub-committee have been tabled and are yet to be reviewed by the full committee. The "Guidelines" will be made available to the membership for comment later this year.

Thank you to Kay, Glenny and Graeme.

The second sub-committee was for the ABPA Strategic Plan. This was set up to definitively determine where we are, where we want to get to and what it will take to get there. The members of this sub-committee were Maggie Daley, Gary Fogarty & I. Wider membership comment was sought through the Membership Survey. The survey results are on display here at the AGM. The full Strategic Plan will be presented to the membership for comment before ratification later this year.

Thank you to Maggie and Gary.

Out of the survey there was an overwhelming request from the membership that we have an annual ABPA Awards or major 'event'. This will benefit the ABPA in at least two ways: first, generate much needed funds, and second, raise the profile of our Association. While on the subject of lifting the profile of the ABPA - the ABPA Float will be rolling out at the Cavalcade on Australia Day. I know that many will be involved with the Golden Damper Awards and will miss it, but there should be sufficient friends and family to man the float and wave our banner for us.

We have renewed our Group PLI insurance for Performers and renewals remains at \$100 for 2013

The 2013 ABLA Entries were scrutineered in accordance with the Letter of Agreement in place with the Bush Laureates.

Due to health issues earlier in 2012, Frank Daniel felt the need to relinquish his Magazine responsibilities. Frank has been collecting Bush Poetry material for publication since before the early Imperial Hotel days. He embraced technology and at one time he created and maintained the only Bush Poets website in Australia. He also had the fore-sight to add a 'Forum' so Poets could communicate with each other from across our Land. They STILL do!
Thank you Frank.

It was no trivial exercise in finding someone appropriate to step into the breach. Neil McArthur jumped in, boots and all and has endowed the magazine with new ideas and a fresh look. It is no mean task maintaining our magazine as it's success is dependant on articles and input from us all.
Thank you to Neil and thank you to all the contributors.

Last January we were approached by the Tamworth Reading Group and offered the opportunity to carry on an already established tradition - The Golden Damper Awards. The membership and committee felt that this would be good for the ABPA to carry on. The Committee decided to retain the original format for this year. This is to give us an opportunity to assess this year's relative successes and decide the future format of the Awards. With the Committee already spread thin, it was much appreciated that Graem Johnson was able to step up and lend a hand in co-ordinating the many people needed to share the workload. A more permanent core of volunteers would be required to ensure the Golden Damper's ongoing success.
Thank you Graeme, and thank you to all the volunteers and workers for this event.

Next year, 2014, The ABPA will be twenty years old I believe this needs to be celebrated. How? Well, I would love to know what you think and if you agree.
Contact me at manfred@abpa.org.au or on 04111 60 510

Thank you to the Executive, Committee & State Representatives for your input and effort in 2013
And thank you to the Membership for your support this past year. I'm hoping that 2013 will see much accomplishment for our Association, so that it will indeed be well on the way to being around in fifty years time.

Kind Regards,

Manfred.

EDITORIAL



Happy New Year to all our members, old and new.

2013 has launched into the Bush Poetry Calendar with a very hectic and very successful Tamworth Country Music Festival. From the Longyard Hotel to The Tamworth Bowling Club to St. Edwards Hall, Bush Poetry was once again a highlight of the Festival for such a great amount of people. Sam Smyth is again to be congratulated on the wonderful efforts put into running his Poets Breakfasts and Mid Morning shows at the Bowls Club and each year his line up gets stronger with both Poets and Balladeers.

Bush Poetry continues to thrive at the big Festivals and has become an integral part of the entertainment line ups. And it is now apparent that many Balladeers are looking to certain poets for lyrics for songs, with Ray Essery leading the way with a wonderful song co-written with Golden Guitar winner, Geoff Brown, 'Soldier On The Western Front'. Ray and Clelia Adams are also having wonderful international success with 'River Valley Rambler'. Other members such as Manfred Vajirs, Gary Fogarty and Merv Webster are also flying the flag.

It is a wonderful thing to be a part of such a great Association, although there is still much more that can be done. I do hope our members have all renewed their Memberships and, if required, their Liability Insurance. Some I know of have been giving Memberships as gifts to Family and Friends.

But we still do need more contributions of interest for the Magazine. You may notice that there is no young writer of the month this issue. If you do spy a young talent then please let us know. We really want to make this a Magazine of interest, just not a compilation of results and events. A magazine of people with medals or trophies does not draw the wider audience for Bush Poetry that we should be striving for. So PLEASE contribute, no matter what the article, opinion or poem.

For example, even with an extended deadline this issue, many organisers did not send results for their Bush Poetry Events and Shows around Tamworth. This is most frustrating, as I know how many people look forward to reading the Festival write-ups. As I seem to be saying time and time again, this is your magazine; this is your Association, but I can only print what I receive. If you are hosting Events this year or have finished running an event, then PLEASE send us a report so we can make other members aware of it and so we can promote the event for the following year. Thanks and may Bush Poetry be kind to you in 2013.

Neil McArthur - ABPA Editor

Dear ABPA Editor

In the October/November issue of the magazine last year I wrote about the role of women in society as portrayed by our traditional male poets, providing a number of examples. It has to be said that, despite such brilliant creations as Doreen in C. J. Dennis's Songs of a Sentimental Bloke, women didn't feature prominently in the verse of the time. In very general terms, poetry was written by men about men, with the womenfolk very much in the background. And, given the era, that was hardly surprising.

There were a few female poets (for example Mary Gilmore and Dorothea Mackellar), but their work tended to be overshadowed by the verse of the likes of Dennis, Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson, John O'Brien, John Shaw Neilson, and so on. In some ways the situation regarding poetry was similar to that which existed in golf clubs and yacht clubs until not so long ago, when women were treated as second-class members and relegated to titles such as 'Associate'. They were allowed to be involved, but it was the men who ruled the roost.

Fortunately, times have changed. Bush poetry, for example, currently has a number of top-class female writers and performers, women who can match any of the men word for word and performance for performance. In other words, we operate on a level playing field.

However, given a few stories I've heard around the traps, perhaps that's a point which still needs to be stressed in some quarters. That's where Gary Fogarty's excellent article on ethics from the same issue of the magazine is relevant, along with the reference in the ABPA core values to the importance of integrity, professionalism and fairness.

I interpret that to mean "respect". We need to respect our fellow poets...male and female, old hands and beginners...for what they can contribute to the world of bush poetry.

David Campbell

LOST in Tamworth

One ABPA Banner, last seen in Blazes Auditorium. If anyone picked it up or has any info as to where it may be please contact Manfred on 04111 60 510

**Also LOST in Tamworth
One green foolscap size note-book, last seen in St Edward's Hall
This book contains Manfred's To-do lists and various notes.
If anyone knows it's whereabouts please contact Manfred on the above number.**

ABPA Committee Members 2013

Executive;	
President - Manfred Vajirs	manfred@abpa.org.au
Vice-President - Frank Daniel	
Secretary - Tom McIlveen	secretary@abpa.org.au
Treasurer - Kym Eitel	treasurer@abpa.org.au
Editor - Neil McArthur	editor@abpa.org.au

Members on Committee;	
...John Peel	peel_jg@hotmail.com
...Murray Hartin	muz@murrayhartin.com
...Cay Ellem	cayandbarry@gmail.com

ABPA State Delegates;	
Queensland - Wally Finch	wmbear1@bigpond.com
NSW - Tom McIlveen	portalarms@gmail.com
Victoria - Jan Lewis	poetfarm@corryongcec.net.au
Tasmania - Philip Rush	auspoems@bigpond.com
W.A. - Irene Conner	iconner21@wn.com.au

Web Admin - Manfred Vajirs manfred@rocketfrog.com.au

RATHDOWNEY HERITAGE AND COUNTRY MARKET- EASTER SUNDAY 2013

On Sunday the 31st March, Easter Sunday, 2013, the little township of Rathdowney will be transformed for the Rathdowney Heritage and Country Market. Rathdowney is 96 km south west of Brisbane and 32 km south of Beaudesert. Rathdowney is linked to Tenterfield and Stanthorpe by the scenic highway drive through the mountains of the border ranges; to Kyogle and Lismore by the Summerland way; and is within comfortable driving distance of the hinterland national parks and the Gold Coast. In 2013 the Rathdowney Area Development and Historical Association, INC will run its fourth bush poetry competition. The competition will include two children's events (primary age) with their own entry forms at www.rathdowney.org.au and the following open events:

1. **An Oral Poetry Reading Event:** For contestants who love to read bush poetry. (Prizes and Certificates to third place)
2. **A Novice Event:** A novice is a competitor who has not won a novice or open event. Poet must attempt to memorise poem but can refer to poem on sheet. (Certificates and cash prizes to third place)
3. **An Open Original Event:** Bush Poetry written by performer. (Certificates and Cash to third place)
4. **An Established Poetry Event:** Bush Poem written by someone else. (Certificates and Cash to third place)
5. **YARN Spinning:** Not a poem, but a humorous story where the truth may be handled carelessly! (Prize and Certificate for winner)
6. **Minute Poem:** Must contain the words Rathdowney, Heritage, and Country market. (Can be read). (Prize and Certificate)
7. **The Rathdowney IDLE.** This event can be a funny poem or song does not have to be original. (Trophy)
8. **A Written Event.** Original Bush Poems written with a heritage theme. (Entry to be received by March 1st Entry fee \$10. (Certificate and large cash prize for winner and six highly commended certificates.) All writers will be given written feedback! All winning poems will be published in an E-booklet which will be available on the internet. A Heritage Certificate and prize will be awarded for the best traditional performance poem throughout the entire day, this includes poems from the walk-up's.

For more information about the day go to www.rathdowney.org.au. Any questions email Gerry or Jim at geraldineking@virginbroadband.com.au or jimtonkin@virginbroadband.com.au or ring Gerry on 07 55478342.

2013 Queensland Bush Poetry Championships

Following the success of the 2012 Queensland Bush Poetry Championships, the Townsville Bush Poetry Mates Inc will once again be the hosts for the 2013 Championships. These will be held in Townsville on the weekend of 14 – 16 June 2013.

If it is anything like last year's Championships, then I would recommend to anyone who can attend to do so. There is no more welcoming and competent hosts in Australia than the Townsville Bush Poetry Mates. Further details will be published next issue, although there is no better time than now to bring this wonderful weekend to Poet's attention.

Entry Forms will be available shortly on the ABPA Web Site

Included this year will be a written competition open to anyone in Australia over the age of 18 years. First prize will be \$250 and the entry fee is just \$8 per poem or 3 for \$20. Entries are to be received by close of business on Friday 12 April 2013. All enquiries to:

Lyn Tarring
Phone: (07) 4723 7879
Mobile: 0448 790 564
Fax: (07) 4725 6266
Email: bushpoetrymates@bigpond.com



Join in our Forum Chat or post your poems for others to enjoy at
www.abpa.org.au

JACK RILEY - SNOWY RIVER MAN

©Noel Stellard 2002

Nineteen-eleven was the year to Albury came the cry,
"Some bushman near Kancoban is expected soon to die.
He's Irish and would like a priest before the other side
but Albury to Kancoban takes at least a week to ride."

The bushman was Jack Riley, out from Ireland he did sail.
He worked the Kosciusko slopes and tourists he'd regale.
His mates had brought this dying man across those dangerous hills,
to Hickey's Hut where priestly rites might ease his soul of ills.

The Parish Priest at Albury said to Father Pat, "You go
and swop the horse and buggy for your car you call Renault.
That eight horse-powered Renault, if it travels as it ought,
should halve the time to Hickey's Hut where priestly rites are sought."

A bloke called Joker Byrne would ride shotgun with Father Pat,
he'd open gates and shut them and keep up a friendly chat.
But should the engine trouble them the priest was on his own,
for Joker, that thing they called "car", was just one great unknown.

Jingellic saw them make a stop, some sixty miles away,
where Father asked the locals, "Should we travel on or stay?"
"You wont get through!" a local said, "the road becomes a track,
and if you miss it in the night, you'll fall to no-come-back."

When bushmen say, "It's not too bad", you'll lose things from the rig
and if they says, "It's not too good.", what's left will not be big.
And should they say, "It will be rough", make sure your will's to date,
but when they say, "You wont get through", that's full-on Gospel mate.

Next day the road became a track where station drays had been,
the hills were high, the slopes were steep, a rugged mountain scene.
At times the Murray fell away some hundred feet below,
some times the river was so close you'd touch its sluggish flow.

Huge cattle stared in disbelief as Renault rattled past,
young thoroughbreds raced past them, 'cross those mountain valleys vast
Those sole surviving brumbies, of Australian Stockhorse breed,
proud relics of a time when horse was all a man would need.

Outside Kancoban was the hut and Riley did perceive
that Father Pat had made the trip; he'd gained his hoped reprieve.
Back to the flock this lost sheep came who'd strayed for many years
and absolution would relieve this bushman of his fears

A big surprise was still to come, for Father not for Jack,
as darkness had descended, far too late to journey back.
Around the fire, in that hut, the silent bushmen sat,
most smoked their rough tobacco, while some, "spat-across-the-cat".

The Man From Snowy River", Father Pat then did recite,
but on completion heads were bowed, the mood as black as night.
"I've obviously offended", said embarrassed Father Pat
"Please show me how to make amends, I merely tried to chat."

"That man from Snowy River - yeah, the one that did the ride,
is Jack you gave the last rites to, that old bloke there inside.
He told his ride to Banjo when he was his touring guide,
now Banjo has immortalized Jack Riley's famous ride."

And oft in years that followed Father Pat was proud to tell,
about this Snowy River man he steered away from Hell.
And Pat made sure his listeners knew, this mountain man of fame,
was Irish, County Mayo, and Jack Riley was his name.

Hully's Trek

A Walk In The Footsteps Of Lawson

According to Henry, "If you know Bourke, you know Australia". So, it was a privilege to join the "Poets Trek" out from Bourke organised by Andrew Hull and his team of dedicated historians/Lawson/Ogilvie/Morant buffs. Over three days, we were able to visit Toorale, where Henry worked as a roustabout. Hungerford, the famous trek Henry and Jim Gordon took from Bourke and back. Then through Kidman Country, the plains Will Ogilvie and Breaker Morant worked together. On our way to Hungerford, we had lunch Ford's Pub, a side trip to Lake Eliza and Clifton Downs. An overnight stay at Hungerford was followed by a 'dip' in the Paroo River – with just as much success as Henry and Jim.

Poetry was shared all along the way with readings from the thoughts of Henry about the very places he passed through, all the while I was trying to teleport back in time. I imagine that nothing would have changed much in the landscape since back then, except I had the luxury of an air-conditioned bus a very short walk away.

From Hungerford the trek took us through "Kidman Country". The very plains where Will Ogilvie and 'Breaker' Morant rode. The shack that Will and the Breaker shared is still standing as is Ogilvie's debt of One Guinea to the Barrington Race Club.

As a Nation we tend to live by the ocean yet our Heart is in the Centre. This "Poet's Trek" is a trip, I believe, that every Poet should take. Being able to 'stand in the footsteps of ...' gives a wonderful perspective and deeper insight into the writings that we are familiar with.

My congratulations to Hully and the crew for their passion to share the treasures of our Cultural Heart.



The Breaker's Hut



The Hungerford Pub



Hully At Midnight's Grave



Toorale Homestead

www.abpa.org.au

Brenda Joy from Charters Towers won the Written Serious section at the Corryong Australian Championships. The following is her winning poem. Congratulations Brenda!

CURIO — THE LEGEND WILL SURVIVE

© Brenda Joy 2011

There's a tale they tell around Marrabel where the byways weave their course.
'Neath a cobalt sky, rising proud on high is a bronze of man and horse.
It's a statue cast for the deeds long past of a brumby, strawberry mare
and for Woods' short ride when he stayed astride as the man who won the dare.

It evokes the thrills of success and spills at the yearly rodeo
and I hear a song from the thousands strong for the Waler, Curio.
Of the Aussie breed, line of strength and speed, from the Kidman, outback stud,
through the origin of her kith and kin, courage flowed within her blood.

Never servile horse, for another course she was destined to fulfil.
When 'R.M.' first chose her for rodeos he foresaw her innate skill.
In far north S.A. – Oodnadatta way – on Macumba's vast expanse,
at the desert's rim where all live at whim of the Simpson's dry advance...

...as a three year old she was wild and bold in the land of harsh extremes,
but those days would end with her southward wend to a world of man-made dreams.
Once at Marrabel, early trials would tell, as each victim took his fall,
from the very start she could break the heart of each man of guts and gall.

So she'd graduate to a higher state in the span of just one year,
as the word was spread with a sense of dread of a 'Feature Horse' to fear.
Like a ball of fire with just one desire with unique and lethal flair,
her distinctive buck with its twist and suck tossed her victims in the air.

To be put to test the rough-rider, best of contenders nation-wide,
would by invite come hoping she'd succumb to that brief ten second ride.
But their hopes were slain. Curio would reign as a legend in her time.
'Queen of Rodeo' for eight years she'd know no defeat whilst in her prime.

But in fifty-three, so it came to be, that a man, above the norm,
in a battle fraught with upheavals fought through to weather out the storm.
Though controversy marred the victory Alan Woods, against all odds,
overcame the force of the gallant horse through the blessing of the gods.

Then in fifty-four he returned once more set to re-attempt the feat.
He out-rode K.O. and went on to show that the honour was complete.
It was heard expressed she was past her best, but all doubts were put aside
when for six more years she would reap the cheers as she ruled the ring with pride.

To the stirring strain of her own refrain emanating from the stands,
with her crowd appeal she could stir their zeal. She exceeded their demands.
Then her sons could take on the buckjump stake, as her age impinged her flare,
but she'd earned her fame and the throngs still came for the legendary mare.

That's the tale they tell around Marrabel for the magic has not gone
when the crowds arrive and the riders strive and the rodeo is on.
And within the grounds where the sights and sounds bring the little town alive,
as her praise still rings, "Curio!" crowd sings — so the legend will survive.

THE GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS

The 2013 ABPA Golden Damper Competition (Proudly sponsored by Essential Energy) was held in the West Tamworth League Club. The competition was spread over four days with three days of heats and the finals held on Australia Day.

There are two open categories in the Golden Dampers, Original and Established. Entrants for the Original section must perform a piece that was written by themselves. The piece can be either humorous or serious. The Established section can be any piece not written by the entrant. This could be a classic piece from the pen of Lawson, Paterson or other traditional masters. Or it could be from the pen of more contemporary writers (alive or dead).

The finalists from the heats were ...

Tuesday 22nd

Established: Jacqui Warnock, Robyn Sykes and Brian Langley.

Original: Brian Langley, Robyn Sykes and Max Pringle.

Thursday 24th,

Established: Rhonda Tallnash, John Peel and Claire Reynolds.

Original: Rhonda Tallnash, Jim Brown and John Peel.

Friday 25th,

Established: Anita Reed, Tom McIlveen and Janeen Mapson.

Original: Maggie Walsh, Tom McIlveen and Janeen Mapson

The placegetters from the finals held in Blazes Auditorium on Saturday 26th were ...

Established: 3rd - Anita Reed, 2nd - John Peel and 1st - Robyn Sykes.

Original: 3rd - Robyn Sykes, 2nd - Brian Langley and 1st - John Peel.

The winners of the 2013 ABPA Golden Dampers (Proudly sponsored by Essential Energy) are,

Original - John Peel

Established - Robyn Sykes.

Thank you to all the competitors and the many supporters who travelled great distances to attend this event. And on behalf of Graeme and I, thank you to the many members and friends who assisted in the running of this, our first ABPA Golden Damper event.

Manfred.



Maggie Walsh mesmerises the Audience with her wonderful performances



Robyn Sykes and John Peel receive their first place awards from Matt Patterson, Regional Manager of Essential Energy ...



The Winners

TAMWORTH 2013

THE POETTES SHOW

Well, another wonderful Tamworth Festival is over - It's always such an exciting and exhilarating time - with a tinge of sadness knowing it will be another twelve months before many of us catch up again -

Our POETTES SHOW for 2013 was again held at ST EDWARD'S HALL - a fabulous venue with no parking problems AND with air-conditioning !! It was a great success with an enthusiastic audience of approximately 100.

We had sixteen Fantastic Female Poettes - amongst them Past and Present Australian Ladies Champions and all the female Finalists from the Tamworth Poetry Competition - We also had a surprise visitor as the "Tamworth Lady Mayor-ess" - Beryl - (alias Ray Essery) - arrived to perform her favorite poem !!

It was a great afternoon of laughter and tears as the Ladies performed their beautiful poetry. I must thank my wonderful helpers, Sandy Lees and Glennie Best, who, with the help of some of the Poettes, prepared a lovely Afternoon Tea for the guests -and also thanks to John Lees and John Best for doing such a great job with the washing up !

All in all, another very successful POETTES SHOW - and thank you to all the POETTES who helped to make it so.

Looking forward to seeing you all again next year -

Cheers, Trisha Anderson



Mel, Trish & Susie at The Poettes



The Poettes Audience are all smiles!

The Longyard Hotel Bush Poets Breakfasts

Another wonderful year at the Longyard Breakies. Never a dull moment with Australia's most entertaining Poets taking the stage each morning, stopping only for a Comic Musical interlude from Dave Prior and Errol Gray, which added to the raucous laughter of the full houses each morning.

Congratulations to our first time performer, Janeen Mapson from Townsville who slayed the audience with both her character and her unique poetry, Also a big congratulations to our guest band 'Murdena' who played their first Tamworth gig with us and went on to win the Battle Of The Bands and runner up in the Busking Comp.

With the likes of Ray Essery, Brad Maclean, Jack Drake, Bill Kearns, Prousty, John & Carmel Lloyd, Marco, Muzza, Peter Mace, Garry Lowe, Col Driscoll, Col Milligan and the highlighted return of our Two Short Sheilas, Susie & Mal and all the others involved, the crowds flocked in each day and kept the Longyard as the home of Bush Poets Breakfasts.

A big thanks to Sandy and John Lees for all their help and to Craig and his staff at the Longyard for all their support. Now it's onwards and upward to an even better show for next year!

Neil & Colleen McArthur



First time Longyard performer, Janeen Mapson, slays the crowd with here unique character and poetry.

2013 BLACKENED BILLY RESULTS

1st Prize 'The Passing Of A Legend'
Milton Taylor - Hartley NSW

2nd Prize 'Farewell'
David Campbell - Beaumaris Vic

3rd Prize 'To My Son'
Val Wallace - Glendale NSW

HIGHLY COMMENDED

'Sisters In The Mist'
Catherine Lee Clarke - Bangkok

'James'
Allan Goode - Narang, Qld

'The Rev Head Cockatoo'
Leonie Parker - Brassall, Qld

'That's How It Is'
Brenda Joy - Charters Towers, Qld

'A Bush Poet'
Val Wallace - Glendale, NSW

'The Last Farewell'
Terry Piggott - Canning Vale, WA

'Lazing By The River'
Leonie Parker - Brassall, Qld

'Parking'
Allan Goode - Narang, Qld

'The End Of An Era'
Terry Piggott - Canning Vale, WA

'Soliloquy From A Digger's Sweetheart'
Val Wallace - Glendale, NSW



Judge's Comments

There were 208 entries this year in the Blackened Billy. The standard was again very high and, as usual, created difficulties in selection of the final places.

Entries were again covering a diversity of subjects. Quite a number of entries were emotional and sensitive and, I admit, brought a tear to the eye. Others were extremely humorous and entertaining. I applaud writers for their creativity and construction of wonderful narratives, ballads and historical subjects. I do hope that you will continue to express your imagination and skill to keep the poetical dream alive.

In the final adjudication, there were thirty-three entries that were of highly commendable standard and, once again, my commiserations to those writers who did not quite make the list. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication, and keep writing.

Congratulations to Jan once again for her untiring effort in another year of efficient organisation.

FIRST PLACE: THE PASSING OF A LEGEND by MILTON TAYLOR, Hartley, NSW

I was captured by the very first stanza in this entry. It was the opening to a very well constructed and humorous story. The meter and rhythm did not falter during the entirety of the narrative and enhanced the enjoyment. The writer steps around a couple of part clichés, but retains the subtlety throughout. I was impressed by the very descriptive adjectives to set the scene, appropriate linear content and the clever selection of the topic. A worthy winner of the 2013 Blackened Billy.

SECOND PLACE: FAREWELL by DAVID CAMPBELL, Beaumaris, Vic

I must admit shedding a tear towards the ending of this story. The writer has engaged the reader in the strong relationship between father and son. And highlights the son's inner strength after the loss of the mother.

The story is written in simple prose, but retains the reader's interest with good command of rhythm and balance throughout. It builds to a moving climax, and has the desired emotional effect on the reader. A well deserved place in the final adjudication.

THIRD PLACE: TO MY SON by VAL WALLACE, Glendale, NSW

This entry is extremely well written and highlights the problems and the agony that faced single Mums in those early days. The story outlines the hardships, but cleverly intersperses with delicate humour leading to the final happy conclusion.

The writer handles the scene with ease, using good structure, and shows ability and flair to convey the right emotions throughout the prose. I enjoyed this immensely, and particularly the ending.

Keith Jones
Adjudicator



From left: Keith Jones, BB judge, Jim Brown, collecting for David Campbell (2nd), Terry Piggott (2 H/Cs), Brenda Joy (HC), Val Wallace (3rd and 2 H/Cs)
Front: Melanie Hall, who collected 1st Prize for Milton Taylor and read the winning poem

A.B.P.A PARADES FLOAT

The ABPA was represented for the first time this year in the annual Tamworth Parade, which is absolutely huge! It provides great exposure to the tens of thousands of spectators lining the main street of Tamworth on Australia Day and is the pinnacle event of the Tamworth country music festival (aside from the Saturday night golden guitar awards of course).

We had the ABPA banners flying at full mast for all to see and to tell the world that the 'AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION...HAS WRITERS..PERFORMERS AND SUPPORTERS TO HELP KEEP OUR HERITAGE ALIVE!

We lined the truck (which was kindly provided by Tamworth local builder and farmer Kevin McIlveen ...Tom's brother), with bales of hay and our yet to be famous ...' POETREE'. We managed to find a sober driver (Kev's foreman) and Tom's son Joshua supervised the float with Tom's niece Karen and her friends providing impersonations of poets, whilst mimicking nursery rhymes (the only poems they knew.) Sadly all of our poets missed out on seeing the float as the time of the procession (Saturday morning 9am) conflicts with the Golden Damper Poetry Performance finals at the Leagues Club and also conflicts with morning poets performing around various venues. Thank you Manfred for the excellent banners; they truly did stand out and I am convinced that most of Tamworth and the visitors got to see the banners on our float and are now aware that Australian Bush Poetry is alive and well and getting bigger and better each year in Tamworth and throughout the country. Next year will be huge !!!!

Tom McIlveen



A POET-TREE planted in Tamworth by Peter Mace, Tom McIlveen and Johnny Peel got off to a flying start on Australia day 2013, when Peter Mace took a red hot crow bar, (which had been laying in the 43 degree Tamworth sunshine) and turned the first sods of a hole that didn't want to be dug! Not a bad effort for a city slicker! He swung that bar, like he had been doing it all his life. Being the current Australian champion performer (not post hole digger), we gave him the honour of striking the first blow. Johnny Peel came in next with a shovel, befitting the recently awarded Golden Damper winner of 2013, from that very morning... Johnny was still on a high and got stuck into that hard baked drought stricken Tamworth dirt like it was Tumut mud. He dug like a man possessed! Next came Tom McIlveen, who was foreman of the crew and had to conserve his energy for the critical role of tree locator and waterer. As a seeming good omen for our tree, much needed rain started falling the day after we planted it. The hard - packed, sunbaked 43 degree dirt that we had struggled with 12 hours earlier had become mud overnight. If only we had waited another day! It may have saved Peter and John some blisters.

NEW CD

JOHN DAVIS

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Finalist in both Album of the Year and single recorded Poem of the Year in Bush Laureate Awards, Tamworth 2013.

*Available from John Davis 37 George Avenue
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\$20 Inc. Postage and Handling



AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 2013

Winners in the 2013 Australian Bush Laureate awards were announced in Tamworth today (January 22). Leading Australian bush poet Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong, NSW, was the biggest winner taking out Album of the Year for her current work *Partners* which also won her the Single Recorded Performance of the Year Golden Gum-leaf for the album's title track. *Partners* is a live recording of Carol and her poetry.

Book of the Year went to *Around The Campfire* by Terry Piggott of Canningvale, WA. The well-produced work includes a dozen or more of Terry's photos as well as his highly regarded bush poetry.

Collected Verse Book of the Year was won by *Award Winning Bush Verse*, a compilation by Max & Jacqui Merckenschlager of Caloote, SA. The work, described as "a first anthology of award-winning bush poems and bush-themed stories" is published by Melbourne Books.

Published Poem of the Year went to *The Truth About Waltzing Matilda* by David Campbell of Beaumaris, Vic. Children's Poem of the Year winner was named as Stephen Whiteside of Glen Iris, Victoria, for *The Sash*, a poem about a young Ned Kelly's "sash".

The winner of the Judith Hosier Heritage Award - for outstanding achievement in nurturing Australia's heritage of verse — was named as Jan Morris of Tamworth for her long association with bush poetry especially as a judge and administrator of the Blackened Billy poetry competition and Golden Damper Awards.

The new award, for Recorded Australian Song Lyric of the Year, went to Luke O'Shea from Sydney for *The Drover's Wife*. Luke wrote the lyrics to this meaningful and widely recognised song which is also up for the Heritage Golden Guitar this Saturday night.

This year was the 17th year for the Bush Laureate Awards which were established in 1997 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

The Australian Bush Laureate Awards will be held in Tamworth again next January, with nominations scheduled to open in August.

Full details of finalists and nominees can be obtained from the website www.bushlaureate.com.au.

Further media information, including contact detail for winners, call Max Ellis on 0438 667 314 or Bob Kirchner on 0419 998 386



Terry Piggott - Winner of Book Of The Year



Carol Heuchan took out both Album Of The Year and Single Recorded Performance.

Tom McIlveen Presents St. Edwards Hall Walk Up Poetry

I hired the hall this year for the full week from Friday through till the following Saturday 26th ,January ...in an attempt to provide a venue for both the public and for poets to attend. As well as being entertained by well known performers, all poets were given the opportunity to get up and recite in front of an audience during the walk up session. We even had several standing ovations for first time performers. This is an opportunity for them to get up and have a go and who knows ?? there may be another Golden Dampier winner out there waiting to be discovered from amongst the ranks of the general public. Without an opportunity to get up in front of people, they may never get past square one. Walk ups are the lifeblood of Bush Poetry and without them we will stagnate. Overall, St Edwards hall this year has proven to be very successful and popular, with plenty of interest shown and having gotten over the initial teething problems ; we will all be much the wiser next year and be able to iron out the unforeseen bugs, having learnt the DO's and DON'Ts through trial and error.

I will be advertising more extensively in the gig guide next year with more information provided to draw the general public who have an interest in bush poetry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the advertised performers who kindly donated their time and performed and MC'd for us; namely Greg North, Peter Mace, Ray Essery, Pat Drummond and Jack Drake. They all gave unselfishly of their time and despite the mix up in appearance times in the gig guide (which I promise won't happen next year).. the show went on regardless.

I am aware now that we need to keep Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons free for the Bush Laureates, AGM and Poettes, respectively... Next year I will incorporate some morning programmes of performing and writing workshops specifically for poets as well as walkups and try not to compete and draw crowds away from the other morning Poetry venues.

St Edwards Hall is going to be a winner for all of us and I have already booked it again for next year and would appreciate any suggestions on ways of improving and extending our programme, e.g; we could even extend into some evening time frames if performers are available ?? We had plenty of prospective ABPA members coming in who have an active interest in bush poetry and next year I intend to be a little more proactive in approaching them with an information kit and hopefully sign up some new members . It was also suggested at our AGM that we need an A4 page liftout guide specifically dedicated to bush poetry events throughout the festival...this could be distributed with gig guides, posted on shopfronts, caravan parks, motels etc..to make the public more aware of our venues. This will be discussed in committee meetings throughout the year. All opinions and suggestions welcome and can be emailed to me at.....secretary@abpa.org.au

Tom McIlveen

Editors Note:- with the waning amount of venues for walk up Poets in Tamworth over the previous few years, it is vital that those who are able, can help Tom get his Walk-Up shows going over the next few Festivals. These venues take time to build a following and get bigger audiences, so, again, it is vital that any poet who has the time can help Tom out. And a big congratulations to Tom on getting a much needed event up and going!



Tom McIlveen with his growing collection of trophies

THREE RANDY POETS

Once again the Three Randy Poets, Ray Essery, Peter Capp and Errol Gray took their madcap and unique show to the Nemingha Hotel where the audiences were treated to a wonderful array of poetry, comedy and music. Now in their third year, these three ratbags are drawing great audiences wherever they perform and no doubt will be back at Tamworth with an even bigger and better show next year.



FOUR FUNNY BUGGERS

And the Comedy Poetry Shows kept drawing in big crowds, with the Four Funny Buggers, aka Marco Gliori, Murray Hartin, Brad Maclean and Alan Glover drawing packed houses to their shows at the Tamworth Golf Club. With a mixture of old favorites and brand new material, these four funny buggers proved their name correct and had the punters rolling around laughing with a non stop ride through the insanity of our society. From the Naked Poets to the Naked Truth and now onto the Four Funny Buggers, the Golf Club shows just keep the crowds rolling through the doors. Next year will be even bigger and better, so don't go to Tamworth without missing one of the highlights of the Festival.



HOG'S BREATH COUNTRY COMEDY SHOW

And yet another Comedy Poetry and Music show at Tamworth was the Hogs Breath Country Comedy Show, featuring Dave Proust, Dave Prior and Neil McArthur. The first time it was held in the afternoon didn't do any favours to the numbers, but the quality of the audiences, with such faces as Adam Harvey and Kevin 'Bloody' Wilson, showed just what a great mix of Comedy, Music and Poetry was on offer. Congratulations to Liam and Prousty for continuing on with the concept, which will only get stronger in the future.



YOUNG NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL BUSH POETS COMPETITION.

The 11th. annual National Cherry Festival Bush Poets competition was held on Saturday, 1st. December at the Young Golf Club, with an enthusiastic and attentive audience. As in keeping with this competition, performances were up to the usual high standard and poets came from all parts of the state and inter-state and also included three new poets, who were warmly welcomed.

The judging panel comprised Cliff Sheridan, Sue Duff and Joyce Cavanagh. Thanks must go to Dennis and Lynn Foster, from the Lions Club, who carried out the ushering, Robert Duff, for collating the scores and Ted Webber for his very valued contribution leading up to and on the night .

We are very grateful for a major sponsor this year, that being Verto. Their manager, Sarah McAlister was in attendance and helped with the presentation as did Cherry Festival Queen, Madison O'Hara.

Co-sponsors for the evening were Gordon, Garling and Moffatt, Solicitors, Hamblin's Amcal Pharmacy and South West Fuels.

Special mention must be made of Mary and John Wark of "Tyronne Orchards", who donated a much appreciated box of cherries to the champion poet and a smaller box to all of the other contestants.

The champion poet on the night was Robyn Sykes from Binalong. This is the second time Robyn has won and as she is the Australian Women's Champion poet, this adds to her list. Runner-up was John Peel from Tumut and a first timer, Ken Tough, from Pretty Beach was in third place.

As usual, a great night and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning, in conjunction with the IGA Big Breakfast, was held at Anderson Park where the audience consisted of tourists from all parts of the State, as well as many locals. Most of the competition poets performed again.

A Junior Poet's Competition is always held at this function and again the standard of these performers was excellent. There were six entrants this year, the winner being Reid Noyce, second was Will Metcalf and third was Briannah Griffin. An added attraction was a performance of Banjo Paterson's "A Bush Christening" by the Wombat School.

The sponsor of this event was the Wombat Pub Poets.

A great weekend of bush poetry ensuring the old romance of the Australian bush is never forgotten.



L/R - Cherry Festival Queen – Maddison O'Hara, Ken Tough from Pretty Beach, third. John Peel from Tumut, second, Sarah McAlister representing Verto – major sponsor, Winner Robyn Sykes from Binalong.

Many thanks, Greg Broderick.

Thursday 4th - Sunday 7th April 2013 MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL CORRYONG, NE Vic

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\$4,000 prize money using ABPA sections and rules

Email info@vbpma.com.au or phone Jan Lewis 0260774332

www.bushfestival.com.au for entry forms (closes 15th Feb)

(Late entries may be accepted for Yarn, Intermediate & Novice)

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\$25 - (inc. Postage)

THE TESTAMENT

©B. J. Stirling

Her yellow Ferrari, quite out of control,
Was written off, racing the Highway Patrol,
And a realist always, acknowledging fate
She smiled at the ambo. Said: "Bugger! I'm late!"
Then remembered the changes she'd made to her will,
Burst out laughing, breathed deeply and then became still.

Will reading isn't much practiced of late.
A letter or phone call arrives to relate
That you've profited and if you have not, won't disclose
Why you haven't, so hopefully nobody knows.
But Kimberly Robinson, always a wag,
Had resolved on a reading, to dole out the swag.

Her solicitor seemed just a little embarrassed,
While those who'd been summoned all looked rather harassed.
He dawdled and hemmed but at last seemed to find
The courage to say that she'd been of sound mind,
When explaining, defining, the terms of her will,
Which he now was empowered by law to fulfil.

"Mrs Robinson made this short film," the man said,
"To reveal all her legacies, once she was dead."
Then he turned on the video. Everyone there
Beheld Kimberly perched in an antique arm chair.
Wearing jeans, her Akubra and chinchilla coat,
With a gleam in her eye that was more of a gloat

The solicitor nervously turned up the sound,
Sipped a mouthful of water while looking around
And light hearts grew heavy, were suddenly leaden.
"We're for it" one muttered. "Here comes Armageddon."
And as Kimberley spoke, there was great apprehension,
No one daring to guess the late lady's intention.

"I want you to know that this will is airtight,
You'll be wasting your time if you think you can fight
My lawyers, whose expertise doesn't come cheap.
Their charges are high, tell the truth, bloody steep.
I alone am empowered to share out my pelf
And I'm pleased to assure you I'm pleasing myself.

I was left quite well off by my first husband, Rhys,
Whose passing I felt was a blessed release.
A creative accountant whose doubtful transactions
Most probably triggered his killer's reactions,
And though I don't love her as well as I oughter,
My jewels and furs I bequeath to my daughter.

The house I'm afraid, is not mine to leave.
That's a shock for my second I've kept up my sleeve.
I'm afraid it is on a life tenancy lease
That terminates, sadly, upon my decease
And reverts to be part of my brother's estates
With the coal mines, white slaving and shares in Bill Gates

Now, although he was only the putative father
Of my son Banjo Lawson, I thought that I'd rather
Not wholly dismiss the good times that we've shared,
Though annulment was imminent if I'd been spared.
Still, in spite of those plans for a speedy divorce
I have left him my cash box. It's empty of course.

Young Banjo, of course, as most of you guessed,
Was conceived at a Hunter Bush Poetry Fest
By a bard. Though his written work's not recommended,
His performances scored him a Highly Commended.
I thought for old time's sake I'd leave him a trifle,
Until learning his wife's a dead shot with a rifle.

To Banjo, I'm leaving his daddy's string vest
And his leopard skin jocks, they're the ones I liked the best,
As well as my Rolls and my brewery shares
And a warning to always conduct his affairs
With discretion. For nothing, I tell you, is worse,
Than a public exposure in metre and verse.

Now my Borgia ring's for my mother-in-law.
Not the present incumbent, the one from before,
To remind her of Rhys, her deceased eldest son
Who gave it to me; he'd a great sense of fun.
I expect that she'll manage to fathom the lock,
But be prepared, dear, for a bit of a shock.

As for the rest, a substantial amount
Is stashed overseas, in my Swiss bank account,
Which I leave to the man who has tended my grounds,
Kept the garden up faithfully, doing his rounds.
An expatriate Pom who has worked bloody hard,
To keep up appearances in the front yard.

He's getting on now, and he wants to retire,
Indeed sometimes it seems he's about to expire,
And truthfully, when he applied for the job,
I thought him too old. Not to mention a snob.
But his background revealed, I was thrilled to discover,
In the Old Dart he'd been Lady Chatterley's lover!

Now if anyone here feels you've been overlooked,
Cheer up! For the local hotel has been booked.
There'll be poetry walk ups, unlimited booze –
You can stay on as long as you bloody well choose.
Guess my spirit will be there to share in the fun,
For although I am dead, I'll be damned if I'm done."

SPOTTED AROUND TAMWORTH



All the way from WA - Brian and Dot Langley with Valma and Terry Piggot



John Best, needing onlt three more dwarfs to make a Fairy Tale.



Carmel & John Lloyd



A shy Brad Maclean calling the Greyhound Races from behind a curtain



Murray Hartin meets his Fan Club



Peter Mace yells "Everyone!! I dug a hole!"



David & Rhonda Tallnash



A Thorn between two Roses



The Bullcrap Brothers plan their strategy



Marco Giori asks "How long does it take to make a hamburger?"



Funny man Alan Glover has the crowd in stitches - as always



Neil McArthur tells Brad Maclean, at The Lonyard, "Mate I've heard EVERY ear joke!"

I'm sure SOMEBODY saw him!



BEAUDESERT BUSH BARDS POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP

Beginners and experienced poets wishing to improve their writing skills are invited to attend a one day workshop on writing with rhyme and metre with award winning poet

Brenda Joy



On Saturday, 16th February, 2013 from 10am.

At the Arts & Information Centre, Enterprise Drive, Beaudesert.Qld.

Adults —\$20. Year 11 and 12 Students —free. Sausage sizzle lunch

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Phone Judy 07 3297 6894 or Pamela 07 5541 2662



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Scenic Rim Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture.

THE BIG AVOCA DO

Plans are already well underway for the 3rd Annual Big Avoca Do, to be held at the Shire Hall in Avoca, a small town in Central Victoria, on March 23rd 2013.

The Big Avoca Do is the brainchild of Victorian Bush Poet Col Driscoll and local Bush Poetry enthusiast Bruce Field as a way of bringing the community together for a fun night out. Along the way they raise funds for local causes. In fact the first 2 shows have raised over \$10,000 for flood recovery and the local Kindergarten upgrade and next year they hope to raise over \$5,000 for the Avoca Mens Shed.

But it's not just about raising money; it's also about raising the profile of Bush Poetry within the Pyrenees region of Victoria. With guest Poets such as Neil McArthur, Ray Essery and Bush Balladeer Errol Gray amongst the big names to grace the stage over the last 2 years, the locals are fast becoming addicted to the spoken word. Throw in musicians such as Dennis O'Keeffe, Jill Meehan, Maria Ford and Graeme Coates and you have the recipe for a very successful show.

Col has also created the 'Pyrenees Poet Written Bush Poetry Competition' aimed at encouraging the locals to try their hand at writing a poem or two. The finalists get the opportunity to recite their works on stage at the Big Avoca Do, much to the delight of the encouraging crowd. A trophy and cash prizes are also up for grabs.

And to add to the momentum, local businessman Steve Donaldson has started up the Avoca Music Festival on the same weekend, providing Col and his guest poets with an opportunity to perform a Poets Breakfast to festival goers on the Sunday morning.

2013 promises to be another ripper show with a top line up of local and interstate artists including Gary Fogarty, Col Milligan and musician Greg Storer on the Bill. Of course Col and Neil McArthur will be there to keep things on the road. It's good to see that Bush Poetry is alive and well in Victoria.

For further info contact Col at myfire@colindriscollbushpoet.com.au

Henry Lawson Society of NSW Inc.

Annual Literary Awards 2013 @ Gulgong NSW



Closing Date 27th March 2013



THE LAND Open Written Poetry Award

The Clyde Oakley Memorial Emerging Poet's Award

The LAND Open Short Story Award

The Clyde Oakley Memorial Emerging Writer's Award

The Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Poetry Competition, proudly supported by Essential Energy

* The Clyde Oakley Memorial Audience Selection Performance Poetry Competition (run in conjunction with the Leonard Teale Memorial Competition finals) * a new competition in 2013

Student sections: Primary and Secondary (Short Story or Poetry accepted) Closing Date 12th April 2013

Entry forms required in all sections. All Writers and poets are invited to enter. Please send SSAE to Literary Awards, PO Box 235, Gulgong, NSW 2852. For further information email :

henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au



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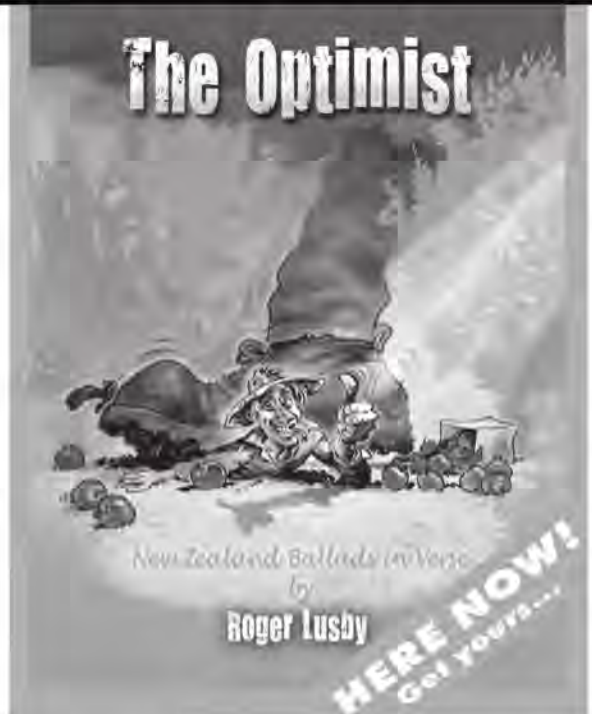
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- * Free professional bush poetry performances
- * Free workshops for writing and performing bush poetry
- * Competition for amateur bush poets - free entry
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- * Poets Brawl
- * Camp oven cooking demonstrations and taste tests plus a camp oven meal on Saturday night

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Roger Lusby - poet, bush balladeer, songwriter and musician, has entertained many people with his original poems and songs. These have a wide range of content, from thought-provoking, nostalgic and humorous, to sad and poignant. His book of poems "The Optimist" including a CD of selected poems is for sale for \$25.00 NZ plus postage please contact Roger email rlusby@xtra.co.nz for copies of his book

ATTENTION WRITERS OF BUSH VERSE AND STORIES!

Melbourne Books is calling for submissions from individuals and/or competition organisers for Award Winning Bush Verse and Stories 2013, which will be edited by David Campbell.

Submissions are sought as set out below:

1. Any poem that won first prize in a bush poetry competition during 2012.
2. Any 'bush' short story that won first prize in a competition during 2012. For the purposes of this exercise we'll borrow the ABPA definition and define a 'bush story' as one about Australia, Australians and/or the Australian way of life.

Submissions should be sent to David by March 31 at:
camwriter@hotmail.com.

Please check your submission(s) carefully for any errors and then send the poem or short story as an attachment in .doc or .docx format.

In a separate attachment the following information is requested (as relevant):

- full contact details for a responsible person from the awarding organisation;
- full contact details for the award recipient;
- a 100 word (approx) biography of the award recipient;
- a 100 word (approx) description of the competition.

'THE COPPER CROC' Poetry Awards.

April 26/27/28, 2013.

At 98 The Boulevard Theodore Qld.

**Written Competition: 1st prize \$200 + trophy
2nd & 3rd prizes Certificate & Poetry Books/CD's**

Entry Fee: \$5 per poem or 3 for \$10.

Closing Date: (Postmarked) March 31st 2013.

No entry form. Please ensure you attach a Cover Sheet detailing Name, Address, Phone Number/s, Email address & TITLE/S of your poem/s & amount enclosed.

All metred & rhyming poems are eligible, except for past first prize winning poems &/or poems published for the profit of the author.

Make cheques out to: The Copper Croc Poetry Awards & post to: The Copper Croc Poetry Awards

PO Box 198

Theodore QLD 4719

Enquiries: 0407557315

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BARDS, BALLADS
& BULLDUST FESTIVAL**



Blue Jeans

Calling all Australian Bush Poets.

Bush Poetry is alive in New Zealand! We invite you and offer free accommodation and meals to performers over a weekend of Bush Poetry, Stories, Songs, Dance and Fun, 17 - 19 May 2013. Celebrate with us New Zealand's history and acknowledge the work of Ross McMillan (Blue Jeans) NZ's high country Bush Poet of Naseby.

A Maniototo Project www.maniototo.co.nz

For information accomodation and performance bookings contact :-

Roger Lusby 03 5440191, 0274100889 email rlusby@xtra.co.nz
or write Roger at :- 27 Te Aro Lane RD1 Richmond Nelson 7081 NZ



Hunter Bush Poets Inc. Present 2013 International Written Poetry Competition

Section 1 : Serious Entry \$10 per poem

Section 2 : Humorous Entry \$10 per poem

Critiquing is offered for an additional \$10 per poem

Prize money and awards will be announced soon!

- 1.) Poetry must have regular, consistent meter and rhyme. Qualified judges will mark for story, rhythm and correct rhyme (allowance being made for accepted U.S. or Australian pronunciation). The degree of difficulty of the metric and/or rhyming pattern, the imagery, impact, appropriate use of vernacular, word use, grammar, spelling, punctuation, presentation, etc. may be taken into consideration as would be expected in a literary competition. Material which is deemed by judges to be inappropriate or offensive is unacceptable.
- 2.) This whole event is for Bush Poetry or Cowboy Poetry. For the purposes of this competition only, all poems must have a rural theme e.g. primary industry activities, animal husbandry, farming, the bush, the outback, mining, logging, droving, bushrangers, the West, ranching, outlaws, country life or country characters in various settings - cowboys, Indians, shepherds, loggers, miners, farmers, station hands, rouseabouts, jill/jackeroos, ranchers, rangers and other similar trades and occupations. Poems can feature 'country characters in urban settings' as well as 'urban characters in country settings,' - past present or future.
- 3.) Poems must be the original work of the author alone.
- 4.) Poems which have won a first prize in a written competition or which have been published for monetary gain are ineligible.
- 5.) There will be a limit of 120 lines (on the basis that judges tend to doze off.)
- 6.) Poems must be typed (on one side only) in plain font (or handwritten), with no drawings, pictures, or identifying marks.
- 7.) Each poem will require a cover sheet stating the name of the poem, S for Serious or H for Humorous, the name of the author, and contact details. Each author will also need to complete an entry form listing poems and amount paid and full contact details.
- 8.) Entrants who would like their poem critiqued must mark the cover sheet of that poem accordingly and include the \$10 per poem fee and suitable self addressed envelope (stamped for Aust., \$3 to cover postage back to U.S.).

ENTRY FORM ENTRIES CLOSE 18th SEPTEMBER, 2013

Name.....

Address.....

.....zip/post code.....country.....

email address.....phone.....

Title/s of Poem/s (mark H or S)

.....

I have read the conditions of entry and certify that each entry complies. Signed.....

No. poems entered.....@ \$10 each equals.....

No. poems to be critiqued.....@ \$10 each (plus \$3 to U.S.) equals.....

TOTAL of Chq. or M/o to Hunter Bush Poets Inc., included \$.....

Postal address: Trevor Harragon, Secretary ICPR,

6 Dalmeny Drive, Macquarie Hills. NSW 2285 Australia.

enq: tharragon@bigpond.com

Winners announced at the International Cowboy Poetry Rodeo, Morisset, NSW. 18-20 October 2013!



*Bush poetry
versus
cowboy poetry*

2013 International COWBOY POETRY RODEO

The Yanks are coming!!

Yep, 18-10 October 2013, Morisset, NSW.

Plans are well underway for what is expected to be one of the most exciting events ever!

U.S. have a National Cowboy Poetry Rodeo every year and founding co-ordinator Sam Jackson, of Kenab, Utah, has been negotiating with our Carol Heuchan for quite a while to have a truly International Poetry Competition right here in Australia.

And it's happening!

Dave Proust and also Bob Skelton have been over to compete and each brought a coveted silver buckle back to Australia. Well, the gauntlet's been thrown. Five Americans have already booked to come.

Yes, it's poetry but 'rodeo style'! We're working through the fine print to make it a level playing field for all competitors but basically there will be four events or sections – Classical, Modern, Original Serious and Original Humorous. Each event will stand alone but will have a Team component built in. If there are ten Aussies and five Yanks in, for example, one event, the five cowboys will compete for U.S. From the ten Aussies in that event, five names will be drawn to be the Oz team for that event. (That means each Bush Poet will get a chance to 'come out of the chutes' for Australia.) The Ladies will have their chance too, as well as their own award. And hey, there will be a Non-Pro division and a Pro-Am division (explanations later).

How does that sound for starters?

This event though, will be unlike any other. First up, 'Cowboy Poetry' (and music) is as much about preserving the actual heritage of the West as it is about the poetry itself. So, just for this competition, we're sticking to that concept too. All poems must have a RURAL theme – primary industry activities, animal husbandry, farming, the bush, the outback, mining, logging, droving, bushrangers, the West, ranching, outlaws, country life or country characters in various settings - cowboys, Indians, shepherds, loggers, miners, farmers, station hands, rouseabouts, jillaroos/jackeroos, ranchers, rangers and other similar trades and occupations. Poems can feature 'country characters in urban settings' as well as 'urban characters in country settings' – past, present or future.

The locale is the perfect venue that has been home to Hunter PoetryFests for the past two years – W.E.C. International (Yarabah) Camp & Conference Centre. Accommodation for a couple of hundred people, cabins and camping, performance hall and dining hall, all set in forty four acres, well kept and surrounded by natural bushland. And cheap as chips.

The first step is an International Written Competition.

***Entry form attached and up on hunterbushpoets.org.au (and soon to be on ABPA website).
Enquiries Carol Heuchan carol@carolpoet.com.au or Trevor Harragon tharragon@bigpond.com***

Regular Monthly Events

NSW

Illawarra Breakfast Poets meet every Wednesday at 7am at Coniston Community Hall, next to Coniston Railway Station. Ample parking, no steps, everyone welcome.

"Bush Poetry In The Upper Lachlan." The Laggan Pub, Laggan NSW. The 1st Wednesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. For further details contact Mike or Elaine on (02) 4837 3397

Gosford Bush Poets meet at 7pm the last Wednesday of every month at the Gosford Hotel, crn. Mann and Erina Streets Gosford. All welcome. Contact Vic Jefferies 0425252212 or Peter Mace (02)-4369356

Port Macquarie (Hastings-Macleay) Poetry Group now meets 2nd Sunday afternoon 1pm to 4pm, Port Macquarie Senior Citizens Club (Pioneer Room), south end of Munster St, Port Macquarie. Contact Rod, Janice, Ian, Tom or Bessie 6584 5425

Milton Ulladulla Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Group First Sunday Every Month at Ex Servos Club Ulladulla 2pm start visitors welcome contact John Davis 02 44552013

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poet Group meet from 9am on 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at the True Blue Cafe, Kurwongbah

Kuripia Poets - last Sunday of the month 2pm to 4.30pm, Croquet Hall, 91 Codelia St. Sth Brisbane. Contact Marilyn 0458 598 683

Geebung Writers - 9.30 am every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Geebung RSL. Contact Jean (07)32654349

Kilcoy Unplugged - 7pm 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at Kilcoy Bowling Club, 11 Royston St. Kilcoy. \$2 donation Contact John (07) 54651743

Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. 2nd Saturday of the month. Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street. Contact Edna (07) 41597198; Jayson (07) 41550778 or Sandy (07) 41514631.

Beaudesert Bush Bards meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9.30am at the Beaudesert Arts & information Centre, Mt.Lindesay H'way, Beaudesert. Phone 07 5541 2662 or 3272 4535.

Redcliffe Peninsular Poets - 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm to 9pm. Winton Room, Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Downs Street, Redcliffe. Contact Trish (07) 38847790 or Trish1942@gmail.com

Russell Island Writers Circle - 2nd Thursday of the month at 9.30 am. St. Peters Church Hall (Next to IGA). \$2 donation. Contact Trish (07)34091542

Shorncliffe Cafe On The Park - 3rd Monday of the month from 6pm, 6 Park Pde, Shorncliffe. Contact Peter (07)32676204

Victoria

Kyabram Bush Verse Group- First Monday, every second month, namely Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. at the Kyabram Baptist Church meeting room, crn Fenaughty Street and Lake Road Kyabram 7.30pm. Contact Mick Coventry 0427-522097

Gippsland Bush Poets meet Monthly, 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the RSL Hall in Hood St. Rosedale

Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers (TOMPABS) meet Monthly (mostly Tuesdays in Corryong) for writing workshops Monthly on 3rd Sunday for Music and Poetry at Maurie Foun's 'Poets' Paradise' also for ukelele, accordion, Older Day Care entertainment etc. If you're up our way, contact Jan Lewis (02) 60774332

WA

Albany Bush Poets Group 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact Peter 98446606
Geraldton Growers Market Poetry Gig - 2nd Saturday of month. Contact Catherine 0409200153
West Kimberley Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners - 1st Sunday of the Month at Broome RSL Contact Peter 0407770053

Perth monthly muster, 1st Friday at the RSL Club, Fred Bell Pde, East Victoria Park at 7pm. Contact Dave 0438341256 or Terry 0894588887.

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