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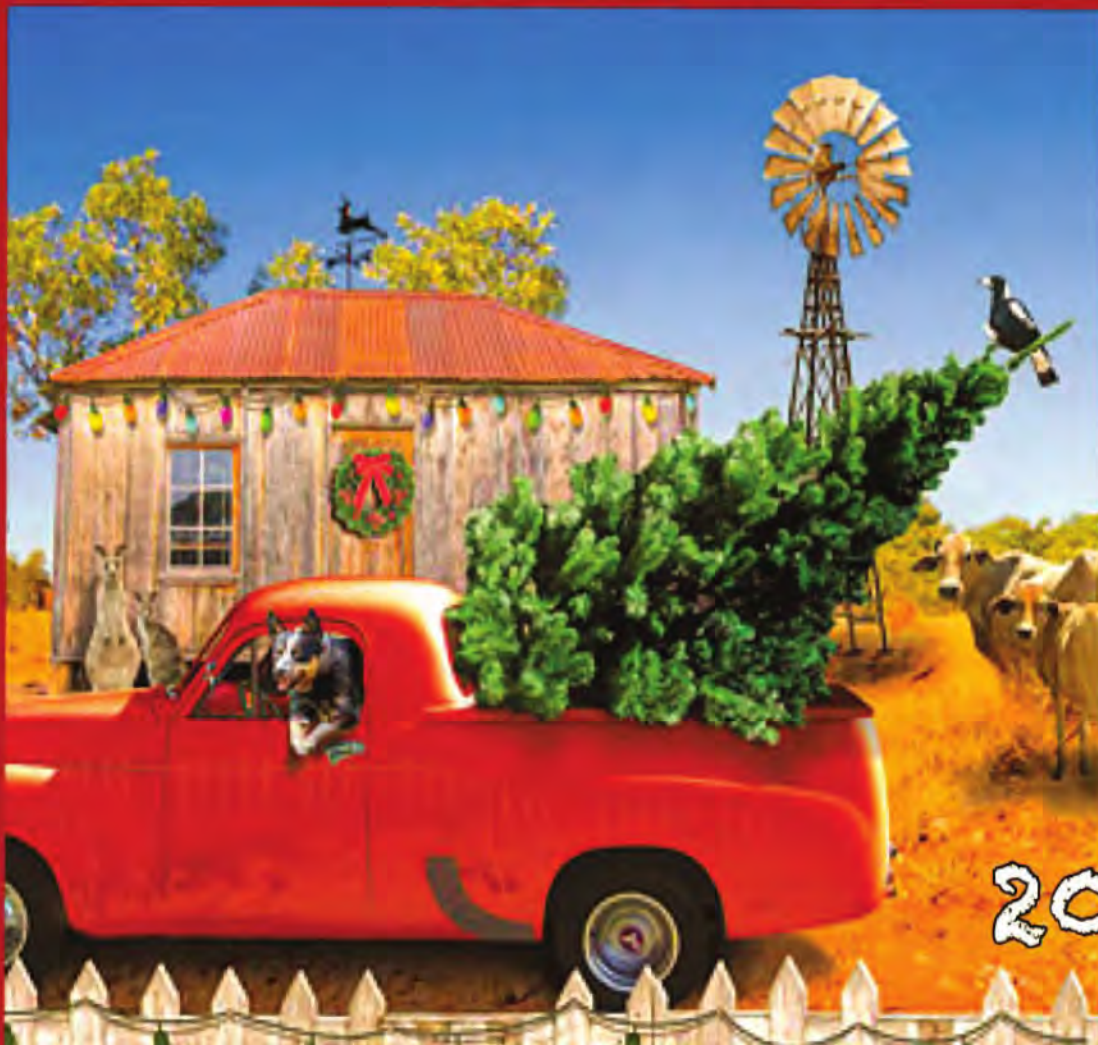
Australian Bush Poets
Association
Volume 18 No 6
December 2013 - January 2014



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Merry christmas & a
happy new year to all
ABPA members



2013

QUEENSLAND BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

in conjunction with

2014

19th BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER

JULY 4TH - 5TH - 6TH

at

ACROSS THE WAVES SPORTS CLUB

MILLER STREET

BUNDABERG

2014

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 23rd, 2014. Results announced on July 6th 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



!Where the best and boldest riders take their place' AB Paterson"

Bush Poetry Competition 29th – 31s December, 2013

“The Station”, Jindabyne NSW
(Heart of the Snowy Mountains)

Various categories available, with both written serious and humorous categories \$150.00 first prize.

We would like see you all on stage in the best Poetry Performance Competition alongside special performances by well known Bush Poet Carol Heuchan, and including a great line up on other entertainment for everyone all weekend alongside the Stockmans Challenge over the 3 days.

Full details and entry forms available on the website -

www.snowymountainsmuster.com Or email admin@snowymountainsmuster.com

Entries Open now till 22nd November, so don't miss out,

President's Report



G'day,

How quickly the year has flown. Christmas preparations are well on their way here at home and doubtless many of us will be in varying stages of frustration for a good outcome. I keep telling myself – "The effort will be worth it" – and it usually is.

Sadly this last year, some among us have lost their life's partners, Paddy O'Brian, Neville Briggs and Tricia Anderson (that I know of). Christmas may seem a bit empty this year, so, on behalf of the Membership, I'd like to extend our collective, comforting thoughts and good wishes. May they give comfort in your loss.

Many will be travelling to Tamworth in January for the Country Music Festival. Preparations are well in hand for the Golden Dampers Competition (see the article in this edition). This is the second year that the Golden Dampers have been run by the ABPA under the guidance of Graeme Johnson. Volunteers are still needed, so if you're in Tamworth and are inclined to lend a hand, please call Graeme on 0419 415137.

We have a listing in the Tamworth Gig Guide as "ABPA Golden Dampers Bush Poets Performance Competition" under Artists. This listing will be in the 'Official' guide, the Tamworth Country Music Festival web site as well as daily in the Tamworth Leader.

Tom McIlveen will be running the ABPA Float in the Cavalcade again this January. The Cavalcade will be held on the Saturday of the finals of the Golden Dampers, so if anyone is not involved with the competition, or has family that would like to ride in the Parade, please make yourselves known to Tom on 0417 251 287.

Doubtless some may have heard that our Treasure, Kym Eitel (also our treasurer), has stood down from this role and will not be standing again in the position in January. Kym has unfortunately, had ongoing health issues. These have taken considerable toll on her and her family. Kym has been a dedicated, meticulous treasurer through all her trials, we will certainly miss her. We wish her well in a speedy recovery. In the Interim, Gregory North has stepped up to the crease and is working (competently) in that capacity until the 2014 AGM.

I also will not be raising my hand for the President's position in January 2014. There are a number of personal projects that need completion. There is a bit of research and travel involved and it would be remiss of me in attempting to juggle the ABPA responsibilities with my own. Invariably something would suffer.

I'm grateful for the support of the ABPA Executive and Committee and the work we have been able to accomplish. Our Skype meetings do have connectivity issues, connecting AND drop-outs, yet the Committee persist patiently. Thank you.

And, "Thank You!" to YOU, the Membership, for your support and encouragement these last four years. Anything worthwhile seldom comes easy and our humble little organisation has the charge of, "Keepers of the Culture". This IS worthwhile.

I read your stuff here in our mag and from off the 'Net' Somehow you all are known to me (and yes, there's lots I've met) I feel your aspirations, read your hopes and trials and falls; and know your journeys, like my own, will weather many squalls.

The Festive Season that we're in makes me reflect again. So, my melancholy mood dictates that I take up the pen - and wish us all a heartfelt Peace and hope we may recall the object of this Season, "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to ALL!"

A Merry, Safe and Joy-filled Christmas New Year Season to all,

Manfred.

NOTICE

2014 ABPA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Incorporated will be held at St Edwards Church Hall, Hillvue Road, South Tamworth at 2:00 pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2014. At that meeting, all executive and committee positions will be declared vacant.

Any financial member can nominate or be nominated for a position.

Nomination and Proxy forms are included in this edition of the ABPA Magazine

EDITORIAL



Well, here we are! Coming into the Christmas/New Year Festive season before embarking on a huge 2014 of Bush Poetry events, kicking off with the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Submission, again, were very light on for our Christmas issue, which is rather disappointing. Some members have asked for more poetry content, which is hard when very few poems are submitted for publishing. I don't know why people refrain from having their Poetry placed in the magazine for other members to enjoy.

Some contributors have also pointed out spelling mistakes within their poems. But because of the unique nature of our Australian Bush Poetry and our unique 'Lingo' I cannot put the poems through a spell check, therefore it is up to the Poet to submit the poem in a form which is ready for publication. Also an apology in advance for any typos this edition as I have been working from 7am to 12 midnight every day and starting to feel the pinch!!

You will find another Membership Renewal Form included with this Magazine and if you have not yet renewed your membership for next year, then please use this latest form, as Greg North will be handling the Treasurer Position now that Kym Eitel has resigned due to ill health. And I am sure you are all with me in wishing her well and wishing her a speedy recovery.

I wish every member a Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year.



For your copy of this CD, send a cheque, postal order etc. \$25 (postage and packing included) to

Manfred vjars
PO Box 701
Morningside
Qld 4170

BARGO BARGO & Other Rhymings, *a new CD by Manfred Vjars*

An eclectic selection of original verse dedicated to the hopes, aspirations, desperation and whimsy of fellow travellers and other burned out poets lost in the human condition.

(Produced by Pixie Jenkins)

- 1. Bargo Bargo***
- 2. No More Musters***
- 3. Our Culture's Alright***
- 4. Bushie***
- 5. Canis Major***
- 6. Affectionate Derision***
- 7. Where Barty Played***
- 8. Lost Love of Durandur***
- 9. The Shout***
- 10. Shackles of Consent***
- 11. Merry Christmas Son***
- 12. No Regrets***

Bonus Track - Our Home Australia

G'day Manfred,

Your pieces on dwindling numbers attending competitions and the like really hit home when I went to the North Pine Festival in August and saw the same people doing the same jobs. It really got me thinking what happens when they are gone. I have thought a lot about it and come up with a couple of ideas that crystallised this weekend speaking to a fellow named Paul who is a professional Folk Musician in the UK.

Firstly I think we need to preserve the remarkable talent out there. I think this can be done with some quality videoing that being two to three cameras capturing a performance. Also keeping the same format so people know what they are getting when they download bush poetry on you tube. It needs to be posted in the same format, same principle as McDonalds I guess, package it up so it is fast to access and easy to digest. I think a way to do this could be big national gathering or State by State. Either way the idea is a week or weekend of performance with Poets having the opportunity to do a number of poems that will be captured by a dedicated film crew. It could be open to the public to attend and split into sessions. No competition as it consumes too many resources and excludes some of our best performers. It would require the commitment to the wider cause of Bush Poetry from all the poets. We could capture original, traditional, humorous and serious. All coming together to make a vast collection of poetry that is then downloaded into user friendly clips on you tube. That in itself preserves some of our great performers. It would be a case of inviting as much bush poetry talent as possible to be part of it. It also allows a massive audience to experience the performance.

The second point is poetry in the schools. I have done some at my daughters and while I enjoyed was daunted by the enormity of the task. Too few poets and too many schools. What I did see though was Teachers trying to do the mandatory poetry element of the curriculum without much support or much idea of what to do. I also saw them accessing smart boards and utilising direct you tube clips in class. The idea is a series of how to writes and how to performs on film. Again in user friendly format easily accessed and downloaded from you tube. We have some great teachers out there, Milton Taylor, Marco Gliori, Noel Stallard. Lesson one needs to look the same as lesson ten. They can be all targeted, having a year 3 and 4 category, and a year 5 and 6. It could be put together at the same time of the national gathering.

I am still churning ideas in my head but would be keen to here your feedback. I would obviously be prepared to be involved in the organisation of it all.

Let me know what you think.

Cheers

Dean Trevaskis

A COLLECTIVE COLLECTION OF AWARD WINNING POETRY

A wide selection of first-prize winning poems in written competitions from 2008 onwards may now be viewed in the new section Award Winning Poetry accessed through the Home Page of the ABPA Website.

www.abpa.org.au

To the end of 2012 there are currently 153 poems from 44 different poets being transmitted to the site and the collection to date is a wonderful eclectic display of some of the bush poetry being produced by contemporary ABPA poets. Members of the ABPA are very grateful to Manfred as President and to the ABPA Committee for allowing this collective enterprise to proceed.

The project is on-going and to assist with its compilation it would be greatly appreciated if, where possible, competition organizers and winning poets in any future bush poetry competition (or bush poetry section of an open Australian competition won by an ABPA member) could relay the relevant information to me via email halenda@live.com.au or by post to PO Box 1727, Charters Towers, Q. 4820.

Thank you to all the poets involved for your willingness to co-operate in this venture by sharing your poems in this way.

Brenda Joy

Christmas Decorations

©Zondrae King (Corrimal) 10/07

"Oh! can I help you Grandma?" I heard our Matilda say.
It's getting close to Christmas and I find that, in a way,
it's little ones who give us all the will to carry on
in times when we are weary and our energy is gone.

The time is here. Out comes the tree and ornaments of old
all packed away year after year, such memories they hold.
It takes so long to get them out. Each one brings memories dear.
That's why they're wrapped so carefully and kept from year to year.

Now this one, I hung as a child, a real treasure true.
It started out as one of six but now it's one or two.
It's felt has long been faded but I see that little elf
as bright as when I first saw it, still new, on DJ's shelf.

and deep down in the bottom of the trust storage chest
are some that I no longer need to hang with all the rest.
Some stars we drew and coloured in that year we were so poor
A time when I thought Santa and his sleigh would pass our door.

Though we had little money we could make do if we planned.
We painted up a kiddies bike that we got seventh hand.
Some brand new stickers made it look, to our small child at least
just like a famous, really wanted brand they called 'The Beast'.

Some paper chain around our tree and pop corn on a string:
Remember Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ our King.
Our children were so happy with such simple things back then;
Some lollies and a picture book, a puzzle and a pen.

I've added many ornaments and treasures through the years.
I find that some are wrapped with laughter and are filled with tears.
There's just one decoration that I always hope to see
a happy family gathering around my Christmas tree.

I quickly took some photos as we shared that special day
to add to other Christmas treasures that we pack away
I hope that one day she'll look back, as Christmases unfold
on Christmas decorations and the memories they hold.



'Tis Christmas O'Leary

© Neil McArthur 2010

'Tis Christmas, O'Leary, a time to be cheery,
Not drowning yourself in the memories of home!
'Tis Christmas, begorra! and though we be poorer,
There's riches unknown in this pile of loam.

And not as a failure will I leave Australia,
I've come here for gold, and 'tis gold that I'll find!
With patience and caution we'll stumble on fortune,
We've the luck of the Irish, so never you mind.

'Tis Christmas O'Leary, no time to be teary,
For I miss my family as badly as you.
Keep the Emerald Isle, out of mind just a while,
And drink to our future and raise up your brew!

With windlass and bucket, we'll raise that great nugget,
That seems to elude us in every shaft
But there's time left a plenty, to rise to the gentry,
A miner needs patience to ply out his craft!

'Tis Christmas O'Leary, now don't look so dreary,
Drink to our Lord and the Ireland you grieve.
There's gold to be found in this Ballarat ground,
So let's drink some ale 'fore taking our leave.

Don't dwell in the clover, Eureka is over
Though many a digger is now in the ground,
Great works are to follow, so take that last swallow
A toast to the fallen, then buy the next round.

So here's to the gold and to Ireland the Bold,
And here's to the toil that makes us both cuss.
'Tis Christmas O'Leary, and though we be bleary,
The Luck of the Irish is riding with us!



GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



"Kidman: The Forgotten King" by Jill Bowen (Angus and Robertson 1987) is the story of the greatest land owner in modern history.

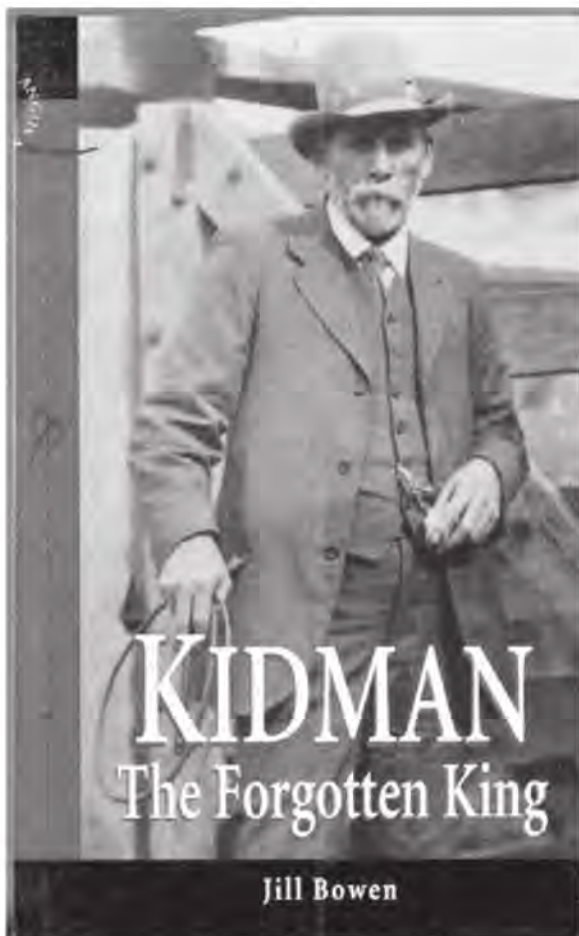
Sir Sidney Kidman 1857-1935, left home at thirteen years of age with five shillings in his pocket and a slim swag slung across the saddle of a one eyed horse. By the time his incredible life journey came to an end, he owned or had a controlling interest in, well over 200,000 sq kms of outback Australia.

Jill Bowen has produced the definitive work on this amazing Australian's life. Kidman's story has been told before in "The Cattle King" by Ion Idriess (Angus and Robertson 1936) but like a great deal of Idriess' work, the author never let a good yarn get distorted by strict adherence to the facts. Jill Bowen, however, has told "The Cattle King's" story in an excellently researched and very entertaining manner. Her book presents Kidman's life and times, warts and all, cataloguing his triumphs and his failures.

Sid Kidman's grand dream was to defeat drought by the simple concept of owning enough land to always have grass and water for his herds and flocks. Not an ambition for the faint hearted and not always successful. The outback has ruined paupers and princes with uncaring impunity. However, Sid was one of the original battlers and a bloody hard man to stop.

"The Forgotten King" follows his progress as a station owner and stock dealer, coaching magnate second only to Cobb and Co in Australia, his forays into construction and shipbuilding as well as his feuds with bureaucrats, politicians, unionists and other lesser beings who snapped at the heels of the old bull like mongrel dogs.

"Kidman: The Forgotten King" is a marvellous ride through the life of a truly exceptional Australian with enough inspiration for hundreds of poems. A great Aussie read about a great Aussie.



Jack Drake

SIR SIDNEY KIDMAN

Sidney Kidman built an empire of more land and more cattle than any other man, before or since. He left home at 14 with nothing but a few coins in his pocket, astride a horse he had saved 50 shillings to buy. At the age of 23, in 1880, he brought his first property and discovered his genius as a pastoralist. He steadily extended his holdings in Australia's centre until they totalled almost 150,000 square kilometres. His good fortune was legendary. It was said that if he bought a drought-stricken property, the skies would open. 'The luck of Kidman' became a common expression in the outback.

For The Love Of Horses

AWARD WINNING BUSH POETRY



Kym Eitel won the title of Australian Bush Poetry Champion two years in a row (2010 and 2011) and her new book is completely chock full of her award winning bush poetry about horses (and some of her personal favourites). Historical, hysterical or heart-breaking, brumbies, rodeo broncs, cross country jumping, miniatures, Clydesdales - there are poems about everything.

She is very proud to have forewords written by Bart Cummings and Guy McLean, two of Australia's best known horsemen.

\$23
inc postage

If you love horses, poetry or artwork, you'll love this book!



It is overflowing with full colour illustrations of amazing and awesome horse artwork, using all sorts of mediums you will never have even imagined, which were collected from around the world.

It is available in a choice of his/or'her covers - "The Kiss" for girl/lady readers, and "Light Horseman" for men. If you love horses, poetry or artwork, you'll love this book!

\$23 (inc postage). Post a cheque to Kym Eitel, 24 Sneddon Road, Limestone Creek, Qld, 4701 (don't forget to specify which cover you'd prefer). Or you can email her at kymetel@yahoo.com if you have any queries.

Kym Eitel Releases Her New Book

Anyone who knows Kym Eitel, knows that she is obsessed with horses (even though she's supposedly a "grown up"). She spent most of her childhood days on horseback and nights were spent with her nose in a good horsey novel. Now, her obsession is now available for all crazy horse lovers in her new book, "For The Love Of Horses". She reckons that when she was a kid in pony club, she would have LOVED this book. She says that when her kids were in pony club, they would have loved this book too, so she's assuming that young people of today are just as horse crazy as they ever were!

This book is packed with prize-winning poetry and awesome artwork. Her bush poetry has won many prizes over the years, culminating in the title of Australian Bush Poetry Written Champion - two years in a row (2010 and 2011). One of the winning poems is in the book, "The Black Horse In The Lead".

Whether you like horses in pony club, cross country jumping, racing or rodeos, whether you prefer miniature ponies or Clydesdales, or brumbies in the mountains, there will be a poem in here for you. Heck, you might even learn a little about the amazing contributions and sacrifices Australian horses (and donkeys) provided during the various wars. A lot of research and tears has gone into those poems.

And awesome artwork! She have scoured the world to source some of the most amazing artwork available.

You will see fantastic paintings, sculptures, photographs and photo-shopped images, as well as horses made out of opal, scrap metal, sand, topiary, cake, ice, copper wire, chrome bumper bars, intarsia wood art, coins, chocolate, glass, driftwood, corrugated iron, origami, horseshoes, and incredible images of horses grown in rice fields. Some paintings were done onto silk, some were painted using boot polish, and some were paintings done BY a horse. There are some incredibly talented people out there.

But wait, there's more - she is extra proud to be able to say that she has forewords by Bart Cummings and Guy McLean - two of Australia's most famous horse men! Wow! Can't get any more exciting than that.

Looking for Clancy - Robert Ingpen

IT IS hard to imagine anyone other than Robert Ingpen writing this book.

The acclaimed illustrator of children's classics such as Storm Boy has been searching for Clancy from the mythic Australian bush poem, Clancy of the Overflow, for some 30-odd years.

Looking For Clancy By Robert Ingpen National Library of Australia rrp \$34.99

Robert has lived his life in close companionship with "Clancy", whom he describes as a bush larrikin, the wandering spirit in each of us that longs for freedom from responsibility and duty.

Robert describes the book as "part fact and part-fiction", which provides some explanation to its meandering structure.

The book begins with a brief overview of the life of A.B. "Banjo" Patterson, follows with Robert's introductory essay on his hunt for the spirit of Clancy and includes reprints of not only Clancy of the Overflow, but also Banjo's other celebrated works, The Man from Snowy River and Waltzing Matilda.

The bulk of the book is Robert's own journey into the bush, as he hunts down places where he thinks Clancy may be found: pastoral properties, alpine refuge huts, discarded wool sheds.

By "found" he doesn't mean literally discovered, he is referring to places that evoke the essence of the character of Clancy, that fill the imagination with the droving spirit.

He sketches each place with his trademark skill and mastery. Readers can visit all these places, including the Conargo Hotel, near Deniliquin in NSW, where jackaroos and jillaroos still meet to tell stories and ignore recommended drinking guidelines.

Robert has no illusions about the unforgiving nature of the bush - he doesn't fall into the trap of romanticising the Outback - but he clearly holds the Clancy-like figures who keep Australia's sheep stations turning over in high regard.

And it is these figures, he argues, that can stir our imaginations.



WHAT COMES NEXT?

Maureen Clifford © 12/12

We heard no sleigh bells ringing – so don't think that Santa's been
it's doubtful that one sherry would have sent us to the dream
land of deepest slumber, more likely the soft sweet sound
of rain again on our tin roof a blessing that – all round.

Most everything is ready for the onslaught of the hordes
who'll descend on us by lunchtime. Hope they all have sheathed their swords.
There's some who don't like brussel-sprouts, and seems no one likes custard.
Too bad! Their choice! Don't worry me... I refuse to get flustered.

A Hobby Horse I bought for my nephew - expecting flattery.
The kid just whinged and whined and screeched like something in a cattery.
This toy comes without batteries – you have to make it work
yourself. I showed him how, but seems he thought 'Aunt's gone berserk.'

We ate the feast of turkey, chook and ham and salads green.
We pulled the crackers, wore the hats and read jokes not obscene.
You've left no room for Christmas Pud? You can't resist temptation
and gorged yourself on prawns and other juicy fresh crustaceans.

The unwise men will oft do that; you'll pay the price my son
later tonight when your stomach will play up on you chum.
You'll beat a well defined path to the loo and back no doubt
so go and get your Mum a beer 'cause Mate it is your shout.

So who forgot the present? Grandma did. Well never mind.
The four legged furry grandkids know 'twas not an act unkind.
They'll not die of starvation Mum so don't you fret and worry
just bring it next time that you come, there is no bleedin' hurry.

As to where other Aunties are? Oh! Do we have to go there?
The kid is forty six years old, he doesn't really care!
It's water passed beneath the bridge, and old news as you'll see.
Today's a day for happiness not angst, don't you agree?

So Merry Christmas one and all. That's our Christmas perused.
We're planning now the sales on Boxing Day to all abuse.
Thank God it comes but once a year and that the day was sunny.
So what comes next? Oh yes that right...that blasted Easter Bunny.



This piece started out as a poem. Then, in a co-write with Allen McMonagle, it was turned into a bush ballad. It is performed by Dale Duncan on his latest album, "Heart of Australia".

You can hear the song performed on You Tube here ... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfn3vL5oVF8>

WHEN THE RED BOUGAINVILLEAS BLOOM - Lyrics

© 2009 Manfred Vijars

They wed when the red bougainvilleas bloomed
and danced in the fields of their bliss
Young lives were glowing with hearts full of hope
and dreams of forever's with nothing amiss
... forever's with nothing amiss

The drum beats of battle in lands far away
sends the cream of our land to the brawl
All plans are on hold while preparing for war
So she waved him goodbye as he answered the call
... "Goodbye" when he answered the call

A heart full of hope gives the mind many reasons
to cope and endure from season to season
Sweet Annie weeps as he sailed off to war
when the red bougainvilleas bloomed
when the red bougainvilleas bloomed

From jungles of conflict spring forests of loving
They'd write sharing dreams and make plans
and Annie would read and re-read every line
for the comfort of holding his words in her hands
... loved holding his words in her hands

"Missing in action" that tore her apart -
and the anguish of waiting began.
Months turn to years, Annie never lets go
of the hope that her man would return
... someday somehow he would return.

A heart all but shattered leaves the mind with no reason
there's no relief from one season to season
Sad Annie wept on the box that returned
when the red bougainvilleas bloomed
when the red bougainvilleas bloomed

The years roll on between madness and torture
Her reason died long long ago
The hope in her heart had turned into ash -
a cold china urn that she'll never let go
... his ashes she'll never let go

She smiles and hums as she talks to her lover
in the corner alone in her room.
Bony aged fingers sift ashes of loss
when the red bougainvilleas bloom -
... how red bougainvilleas bloom ...

A heart all but shattered leaves the mind with no reason
and there's no relief from season to season
Mad Annie weeps long into the night
when the red bougainvillea bloom
when the red bougainvilleas bloom ...

AUSTRALIA

© By Graham Brunckhorst

Australia, Australia, where Eucalypts stand
Where wildflowers bloom, all over the land
Where rainforests grow, when the rain falls
We must keep them in tact, to share one and all.

Australia, Australia, a land that is free
Where we try to prosper, to save every tree
Every animal too, should be given a chance
In this fast changing world, we must advance.

Australia, Australia, if we want to stay free
We must look after natives, the bird and the bee
We must conserve our water, and our waterfalls
We must sit up and listen, to our wondrous bird-calls.

Australia, Australia, we must let it be seen
We must keep out disease, support our quarantine
Look ever closer, for strange ants and such
To kill all toads and pests; is that asking too much?

Australia, Australia, where girls are so pretty
Where every State has, a wonderful city
Great natural harbours, for large ships to call
We can grow enough food, to cater for all

Australia, Australia, with golden white sand
Going right round our Island, it really is grand
The lovely blue ocean, to swim when we please
Wind-surfing and sailing, on the morning breeze.

Australia, Australia, we are sad to see
There are countries you'll find, across the sea
Who have no food, who would love to be me?
To live in this wonderful, land of the free

Australia, Australia, a great sporting nation
Where we all can get a good education
A land of sunshine and grand open spaces
A land that is host to famous horse races.

Australia, Australia, where our soldiers are brave
Where you can work hard, prosper and save
But we must be vigilant, let's, make a stand
To keep our country, our own promised land.

A positive outlook —

A PART OF THE WHOLE (by Brenda Joy)

Within the 'family' known as 'Bush Poets', there is such a wide range of creative individuals all with unique and special talents to offer towards the present and future survival of poetry with accurate rhyme and good metre about Australians, Australia and the Australian way of life.

In the spotlight are the professional and semi-professional performers who have adapted to popular demand and who utilise their skills as entertainers, comedians and entrepreneurs. They are ambassadors and they have brought about a resurgence of interest in the bush poetry movement.

There are other performers who enter competitions at poetry, folk or country music festivals. They utilize their skills as reciters of classic and modern verse with serious or humorous content. They provide pleasure and entertainment for those who appreciate and support the more traditional aspects of Bush Poetry. They help to preserve the historical culture through the spoken art form.

Then there are the writers who abide by the demanding skills of the genre, who enter written competitions and who have their work reproduced in poetry magazines and literary publications. They reach to the readers of the present and beyond and help to preserve the integrity of our craft through the lasting written art form.

Then there are the poets who write for or perform within groups, social networks or communities. They exchange words, tips and ideas with others who see poetry as an enjoyable pursuit and who prefer to share and develop in a non-judgemental atmosphere of 'comraderie'. They help make poetry relevant to life.

Within this broadly stated framework of role plays, there are those who specifically target the needs of children, youth, adults or the aged. There are those who pass on their skills and experience through demonstrations and workshops. They foster the development of others and help to ensure continuity.

Behind all this are poets and administrators who serve on the Australian Bush Poets Association committee formulating guidelines and disseminating information via meetings, magazines and websites and those who organize and co-ordinate events and competitions at state and local levels. They provide the underlying structure and the communication network that ties the movement together.

In addition, there are the loyal followers, the audience, the listeners and the readers and last but not least, the partners, family members and friends who support bush poetry and the poets themselves. They are essential to the continued success of the movement.

Through the ABPA or via independent endeavours, poets and their supporters may choose to be involved in one or all of the above areas of service. So many facets and they all play a valuable part in the whole.

Whilst the importance lies not with the individual but with the art form itself, the wonderful thing is that the bush poetry movement offers such a diversity of uplifting opportunities and experiences to suit each and every one of us.

How grateful I am to belong to such a creative and dedicated family.

***Please note that the Deadline for
our next Issue***

***(October - November) will be
September 30th***

***You can also keep track of
other events, results etc. on
our website***

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COUSIN MABEL'S CHRISTMAS LETTER

© John Peel 17/2/2013

It's Christmas time again this year, the mail is on the table, amongst the cards and letters, there is one from Cousin Mabel. I wonder what she has to say in this communication – she's one who's known to fill things up with too much information.

Like back in nineteen-ninety-six she travelled round the land, she didn't just talk highlights or the things that she had planned. Oh no, she detailed everything, each rock and every tree and other things you needn't know, like where she stopped to pee.

After several days of reading through a dozen reams of pages, I was very close to nodding off at many different stages. But still, I made it through it, though it really was a strain – it was something I was hoping I would not endure again.

But I only had to wait a year to find another letter – it's sad to say, on reading it, it wasn't any better. She mentioned that she'd met a man and things were going well, but as before, were many things I wished she didn't tell.

She mentioned making love to him and every time and place – there were things that many frown on and consider a disgrace. By the time I finished reading, I was speechless, so to say – but I'll mention it was even worse than 'Fifty Shades of Grey'.

She spent some time in hospital in nineteen-ninety-nine – I knew that there'd be trouble when I read her starting line, "I've just had an operation," and she said the region too – it was somewhere that could turn this poem just a little 'blue'.

There are things you just don't need to know about your cousin's parts I wouldn't want to know those things if they were my sweetheart's. But she listed up just what was done and even detailed why – by the time I finished reading I just wished that I could die.

I'm not sure why she talks of things that no-one needs to know – why she has to take you places that you just don't want to go. Perhaps it's just her own cruel way of seeking some attention by mentioning the many things she really shouldn't mention.

Will she learn her lesson some day? I can only hope she might and in time I'll get a letter where she'll get the balance right. But till that day I guess that things will likely stay the same – that I'll read her latest letter and I'll feel a sense of shame.

Well I guess it's now or never, no use waiting any longer – the bad things that I feel right now are only getting stronger. I am opening her letter while I'm feeling like I'm able – it says, "Merry Christmas Johnny Boy, Your Darling Cousin, Mabel!"

Well at last, she's learnt her lesson, she has kept her letter brief – there's one thing that I'm feeling now – and that would be – relief.



C. J. DENNIS

Works in the Herald 1931 **A BUSH CHRISTMAS**

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums
As down the road old Rogan comes --
The hatter from the lonely hut
Beside the track to Woollybutt.
He likes to spend his Christmas with us here.
He says a man gets sort of strange
Living alone without a change,
Gets sort of settled in his way;
And so he comes each Christmas day
To share a bite of tucker and a beer.

Dad and the boys have nought to do,
Except a stray odd job or two.
Along the fence or in the yard,
"It ain't a day for workin' hard."
Says Dad. "One day a year don't matter much."
And then dishevelled, hot and red,
Mum, thro' the doorway puts her head
And says, "This Christmas cooking, My!
The sun's near fit for cooking by."
Upon her word she never did see such.

"Your fault," says Dad, "you know it is.
Plum puddin'! on a day like this,
And roasted turkeys! Spare me days,
I can't get over women's ways.
In climates such as this the thing's all wrong.
A bit of cold corned beef an' bread
Would do us very well instead."
Then Rogan said, "You're right; it's hot.
It makes a feller drink a lot."
And Dad gets up and says, "Well, come along."

The dinner's served -- full bite and sup.
"Come on," says Mum, "Now all sit up."
The meal takes on a festive air;
And even father eats his share
And passes up his plate to have some more.
He laughs and says it's Christmas time,
"That's cookin', Mum. The stuffin's prime."
But Rogan pauses once to praise,
Then eats as tho' he'd starved for days.
And pitches turkey bones outside the door.

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums,
The chirping of the locusts comes
Across the paddocks, parched and grey.
"Whew!" wheezes Father. "What a day!"
And sheds his vest. For coats no man had need.
Then Rogan shoves his plate aside
And sighs, as sated men have sighed,
At many boards in many climes
On many other Christmas times.
"By gum!" he says, "That was a slap-up feed!"

Then, with his black pipe well alight,
Old Rogan brings the kids delight
By telling o'er again his yarns
Of Christmas tide 'mid English barns
When he was, long ago, a farmer's boy.
His old eyes glisten as he sees
Half glimpses of old memories,
Of whitened fields and winter snows,
And yuletide logs and mistletoes,
And all that half-forgotten, hallowed joy.

The children listen, mouths agape,
And see a land with no escape
For biting cold and snow and frost --
A land to all earth's brightness lost,
A strange and freakish Christmas land to them.
But Rogan, with his dim old eyes
Grown far away and strangely wise
Talks on; and pauses but to ask
"Ain't there a drop more in that cask?"
And father nods; but Mother says "Ahem!"

The sun slants redly thro' the gums
As quietly the evening comes,
And Rogan gets his old grey mare,
That matches well his own grey hair,
And rides away into the setting sun.
"Ah, well," says Dad. "I got to say
I never spent a lazier day.
We ought to get that top fence wired."
"My!" sighs poor Mum. "But I am tired!
An' all that washing up still to be done."

"C.J. Dennis"
Herald, 24 December 1931, p4
This poem was also published in the collection:
More than a Sentimental Bloke.

The Station

Jindabyne, NSW

'Where the best and boldest riders take their place'.... AB Paterson

29-31 December 2013



Its on again, Jindabyne will be coming alive not because of the bustling skiers, but to the sounds of the thundering hooves and whinny of horses from far and wide to the celebrate the Jindabyne's Annual Snowy Mountains Muster, an inspiration of the Australia's High Country Heritage.

The Snowy Mountains Muster provides a full three day program of horse and heritage events showcasing riders skills in the inaugural Stockmans Challenge, including bareback, whip crack, stock handling, shoeing, packhorse events and more. Along side this, will be the fast growing Team Yarding and Team Sorting Competition, providing entertainment for everyone. The Muster attracts poets, riders and spectators from across the state and beyond, and just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

The Muster is calling all bush poets to submit their poems, with hundreds of dollars in cash prizes available. The 9th annual Snowy Mountains Muster will be held again at the fabulous location of The Station, on the outskirts of Jindabyne, during the weekend of 29-31 December 2013.

While stockmen and women battle it out on horseback for the Stockman's Challenge title, the bush poetry stage will be alive and the poetry competition will be bigger than ever.

Celebrating all things High Country the bush poetry competition, will be once again hosted by champion bush poet Carol Heuchan. Carol is no stranger to the Bush Poetry world, having won seven Bush Laureate Awards and no stranger to the horse world either as an International Horse Judge and commentator.

"The muster is a great festival with Bush poetry camaraderie and the thrills and spills of fair dinkum Aussie horsemanship - at the best venue in the land. What more could you ask?" she said.

For those who like to take the stage, there are cash prizes available for best poetry performances. Read your own, a classic or a personal favourite. And while at the Muster, come and watch a huge line up of entertainment, including sheep dog trail demonstrations, team of bullocks, Cob & Co coach and Clydsdales, working equitation demonstrations, pig races, kiddies entertainment and loads more, and finish with the big New Year's Eve bash at The Station.

With a great line up of music, food and market stalls, full bar facilities, and a range of heritage displays this truly is a non-stop good 'ol fashioned Aussie celebration not to be missed!

Don't miss out on what everyone will be talking about. Look forward to seeing you all there.

For Poetry Entry Forms and information or more details of this event (including accommodation packages) visit www.snowymountainsmuster.com or email: admin@snowymountainsmuster.com

Vic Championships at MFSR Bush Festival 2014

On the first weekend in April, the mountains around Corryong are set to ring with a new crop of Banjo Paterson fans and entrants in the Poetry and Bush Music events at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival.

In 2014, we will again proudly present the *Victorian Bush Poetry Championships*. This means we follow the Australian Bush Poets' Association's rules and categories; around \$5000 in prizes and we have retained our MFSR Recital comp, with three finalists reciting the famous poem on Friday night at Banjo's Block, the poets' home base. Guest judges and performers include Graeme Johnson (Head Judge), Susan Carcary, Melanie Hall, Geoffrey Graham, Carol Reffold, Trevor Best.

From Thursday to Sunday, there'll be hardly a time when somebody, somewhere in Corryong is not reciting a poem or singing a song. People have been actually known to attend a festival without even going near a horse!

However, we DO encourage you to try different components of our authentic bush gathering. There is surely something to please everyone!

We hope you'll join us for Original, Contemporary and Classical sections of competition, Poets breakfasts, concerts in an atmosphere of bush camp tucker and campfire camaraderie. Entry forms and draft Poetry program will be ready 1st week in December from www.bushfestival.com www.vbpma.com.au www.abpa.com.au

Jan Lewis 0260774332 email: info@vbpma.com



2013 Winners Rod Williams & Robyn Sykes



2014 Guest Poets, Graeme Johnson, Susie Carcary & Malanie Hall

SLOUCH HAT

© Murray Hartin

20/9/2013

There's a Slouch Hat in my lounge-room
Pristine and never worn
Standing watch atop a globe
Dawn til dusk and dusk til dawn
It will never go to battle
Never ask the question "Why?"
But it sings to me A Sappers Lullaby

It won't play football by The Pyramids
Won't taste Kokoda's mud
Won't feel the heat of Vietnam
Won't be stained by good men's blood
It won't trade shrapnel in the chaos
On a beach at ANZAC Cove
But it tells me quietly why the rough men go

Men like my mate Coops,
Who gave the hat to me,
Who back the Engineers
Who clear the IEDs
Thirty feet apart
Treading softly, staggered file
Under the Afghan sun they walk the danger miles

And I've shared beers and laughs with Timmy
And I've looked him in the eye
Heard him talk about lost mates
And I've seen a tough man cry
Just like those who've gone before him
And they may go on forever
And the slouch hat, well, it binds them all together

With just a sideways glance
It can set my brain to work
Recall the deeds of Albert Jacka,
Hear the pledge of Ataturk
Eric Bogle sings Waltzing Matilda
And the lyrics haunt my mind
As I think of all the heroes left behind

But the Rising Sun will not forget them
As it dawns on new recruits
Brave young men and women
Bold as brass in shiny boots
Duntroon and Kapooka
Passing every test
And beneath the Slouch Hat's brim they'll do their best.

So the Slouch Hat in my lounge room
It won't travel overseas
But it takes me on great journeys
And reminds me that I'm free
It's a symbol of Australia
No surrender, no regrets
And a shrine to those now gone, Lest We Forget



Why The Rough Men Go.

by Dave French

(on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 6:15pm)

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." - George Orwell

We go

Not for the empty words of some politician;

Not for the 'inspiring' speech of a General;

Not to please an ignorant journalist.

We go

So that evil others do not come here;

That our own land and people remain ignorant of war;

So those that criticize can do so from a position of peace.

We go

So that children in faraway lands can walk a street without fear;

That they can live without the shadow of a sudden violent passing;

So that a smile at a stranger does not cost them anything.

We go

To hold our heads high and be acknowledged;

For the chance of a piece of ribbon and metal;

To know that we have tried to leave this world a better place.

We go

For our brothers of the blood red lanyard;

Because we will never let our comrades walk alone;

For our mates of now and wars past.

I go

So that maybe,

Someday,

My sons do not have to.

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil, is that good men do nothing."

- Edmund Burke

To the Cowboy Poets

©Will Moody2013

What a shame you Cowboy Poets couldn't 'mosey down' this year to 'wrangle' with the locals and see how we do it here. We'd planned to dig the spurs in, yes, and crack the stockwhips too to settle which mob's better at this rhyming...us or you. But if our stoush had gone ahead, what we'd have learned I think, is the poetry we write is not the difference, but the link. You write about your homeland with a patriotic zeal and we, too, love our country...Cowboy, we know how you feel.

We share a common language...different flavours, to be sure... but each retains those Anglo-Saxon rhythms at its core. Though you may call a beast a "steer" and call a horse a "hoss", and if you couldn't "give a darn"...well, who "gives a toss"? Though you prefer a Stetson while Akubra is our choice, it's the Mother Tongue of England that gives language to each voice. And even though you vow that to no crowned-head would you kneel, Freedom's banner flies here too, mate...Cowboy, they know how you feel.

We, too, uphold traditions in the poetry we write... to capture fleeting visions that are passing from our sight. Like you, we've seen the sun set on old pioneering days; the endless unfenced wilderness; the bullock teams and drays. Your 'saddle-tramps', our 'swaggies'... icons from a time long past; Like the smoke from settlers' campfires long ago, they couldn't last. Our 'drovers' and your 'cowpokes' both now sit behind the wheel. Ah, the world is swiftly changeing, Cowboy... we know how you feel.

We, too, defend 'old values'; hold 'fair-dealing' paramount. We, too, detest the spoilers and we hold them to account. We love to gaze on distance too, where clouds and mountains kiss. We, too, believe we'll give the 'bright-light-city-life' a miss. Like you, we need fresh country air and dirt beneath our feet; can't stand the rush and bustle of the crowded city street. The miles that lie between us may be many, long and real, still...we're really not that far apart...Cowboy, we know how you feel.

And though a billion different stars shine down on us tonight, we share a common campfire...

Cowboy...
we know why you write.



International Cowboy/BushPoetry 2013 Written Competiton Results

SERIOUS

- Equal 1st *Rafting on the River in the Spring*
Will Moody, Bellingen, NSW
To the Cowboy Poets
Will Moody, Bellingen, NSW
- 3rd *When Riders Come to Call*
Susie Knight, Colorado, U.S.A.
- 4th *100 Years from Now*
Doris Daley, Alberta, Canada
- 5th *The Days when Stockmen Rode*
David Campbell, Beaumaris, Victoria
- 6th *Reflections of the Kimberley*
Brenda Joy, Charters Towers, Qld.
- 7th *The Wilgowrah Wagon*
Kevin Pye, Mudgee, NSW
- 8th *The Farmers' Strike*
Robyn Sykes, Binalong, NSW
- 9th *Bill's Red Whiz*
Susie Knight, Colorado, U.S.A.
- 10th *Past the Black Stump*
Alan James Messer,
Coomera Waters, Qld.

HUMOROUS

- 1st *The Swagman's Ghost*
B.J. Stirling, Cooranbong, NSW
- 2nd *Kitchen Cupboards*
Doris Daley, Alberta, Canada
- 3rd *The Bandiwallop Ball*
Tony Hammill, Carindale, Qld.
- 4th *A Country Town Event*
Allan Goode, Beachmont, Qld.
- 5th *The Ballad of Henry McGrew*
David Campbell, Beaumaris, Victoria
- 6th *Haughtyculture*
B.J. Stirling, Cooranbong, NSW
- 7th *Darby's Stampede String*
Susie Knight, Colorado, U.S.A.
- 8th *Herb Thompson*
Del Gustafson U.S.A.
- 9th *Uncle Erko's Mud Machine*
Allan Goode, Beachmont, Qld.
- 10th *Chanel No. 5*
Shelley Hansen, Maryborough, Qld.

OVERALL CHAMPION

Will Moody, Bellingen, New South Wales

New Banjo Paterson Festival At Orange - Feb 7th to 17th 2014

New festival to celebrate poet!

Orange and its surrounding region will once again be the centre of attention, hosting an ever-increasing number of visitors and tourists for the new Banjo Paterson Festival in February 2014; celebrating Banjo's 150th birthday on February 17.

The intention of the festival is to build on the Slow Summer Festival that has been held for over five years. This festival combines the region's water activities, family fun and a healthy lifestyle.

"The opportunity is to broaden the appeal of the region and highlight events such as Orange's Dragon Boat racing, theatre, cooking and family picnics. The festival will continue to build interest on the region's features such as Lake Canobolas and Emmaville Cottage as well as lifting the veil on Orange's cultural heritage through Banjo Paterson's birthday," said Taste Orange Executive Officer, Rhonda Sear.

The new festival was a result of the culmination of ideas from a submission to 80 community

organisations and businesses. The committee that came together in this collaboration comprises the committee chair, the Rotary Club of Orange in partnership with Taste Orange, Orange and District Historical Society, Orange City Council, Cabonne Shire Council, Millamolong Polo Club, ABC Radio, Yeoval Historical Society and the State Member for Orange.

"It is 150 years since the birth of Australia's most famous poet, Banjo Paterson, and given that he was born in Orange, it makes sense to celebrate this and create some excitement and a sense of occasion around it," commented Len Banks from the Banjo Paterson Working Committee.

Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson was born at 'Narrambra' Orange on 17 February 1864. Banjo is an Australian legend. He lived in Yeoval until he was about 7, he moved a lot throughout NSW, Victoria and Queensland. He studied law, was a journalist with the Melbourne Age, wrote prolifically for Sydney and Melbourne newspapers,



was a war correspondent in the Boer War, managed the horses in the Middle East for the light horse infantry in World War 1, played all sports, had strong social and political views, and his writings depicted Australian country life during his lifetime.

The Birthday celebrations will comprise events such as a concert by the inspired Wallis and Matilda, 'Poetry in the Park', 'Battle of the Bards', a festival fun run, art exhibition and many other family oriented events.

The planned list of events to be held during the Banjo Paterson Festival are listed on the Taste Orange website, www.tasteorange.com.au/slowsummer.htm.

The event has already attracted much attention with a television documentary currently in production. This ABC documentary follows the investigation and restoration of the Emmaville cottage, originally located on 'Narrambra', the property on the northern edge of Orange where Banjo Paterson was born. The

cottage is currently under restoration having been moved to the grounds of the Orange Botanic Gardens.

The Orange region has built an enviable reputation as a producer of quality food and wine. "For over two decades the region's producers have been showcasing Orange. This has been instrumental in bringing visitors to the region. Over the past few years, we have extended this to ensure more tourism related businesses have benefited from the work done," said Rhonda.

The Banjo Paterson Festival will form a key component of the marketing of Orange and its surrounding regions.

"This festival, along with the hugely successful 'Taste Orange @ Sydney', Wine Week and F.O.O.D Week will continue to be the key marketing drivers for the region. We will be adding further events in Sydney and Canberra to build on this success.

"Taste Orange and its stake



holders have been very happy with the results of the collaboration behind the festivals. When you compare the increase in visitation to the region and the subsequent spend which has been spread across a broad range of businesses, the investments have returned a very positive outcome. Our marketing of the region offers considerable value when compared to something like the Barossa Valley's recent \$6M investment in advertising to counter their drop in visitor numbers."

Banjo Paterson was born in Orange on 17 February 1864 meaning that he would turn 150 years old on 17 February 2014, so we are celebrating his birthday with 10 days of poetry, activities and displays about him and his work to coincide with the annual Slow Summer Festival in Orange.

Banjo was more than a poet – he was a good sportsman and loved horses, he was a lawyer, he went to war for Australia and he travelled a lot throughout country Australia. His poems tell stories of all these aspects of his life:

- The famous 'Waltzing Matilda' is about a swagman who was probably a shearer hiding from the police. He stole a sheep for food and then jumped into the Billabong when the police caught up with him.
- 'The Man from Snowy River' tells the story of a brave young man who could ride a horse in the dangerous Snowy Mountains. He recovered a horse that had escaped from a farm and ran with a mob of brumbies (wild horses).
- 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle' is a funny poem about a man who bought a bicycle, but when he rode it down a steep hill, he lost control and ended up in the creek at the bottom of the hill.
- 'There's Another Blessed Horse Fell Down' is a sad poem about the horses that were used in the First World War by Australian soldiers. Banjo looked after the horses for all the Light Horse Brigade in Egypt.
- Banjo also wrote about the Australian animals, like 'Old Man Platypus', 'Weary Will (a wombat)', 'Benjamin Bandicoot' and 'The Animals Noah Forgot'.
- He wrote a lot of poems about horses, like 'The Geebung Polo Club' and 'Father Riley's Horse'.
- He told us about all the characters in the Australian bush, like 'The Man from Ironbark', 'A Bush Christening', 'The First Surveyor' and 'The Man Who Was Away'.

What is in the Festival for children?

The Festival runs from Friday, February 7, 2014 until Monday, February 17, 2014. See the Program on the Taste Orange website. <http://www.tasteorange.com.au/slowsummer.htm>

Poetry Competition: Try creating your own poem based on one of Banjo's and enter in the Battle of the Bards on Saturday, February 15.



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8. Romantica
9. Fishing With My Dad
10. Macca and the Possum *
11. Emilie
12. Captive Rainbow
13. Who Will Save the Albatross?
14. Piano Man *
15. Some People *

Shelley Hansen is a fifth-generation resident of the Wide Bay district in Queensland. Her forebears were pioneers in the area, arriving on the immigrant ship "Alardus" in 1873.

Shelley has written poetry since childhood and while she occasionally ventures into different styles, her main interest and focus is Australian-themed bush verse.

Over the last several years, since her husband encouraged her to liberate her growing poetry collection from a shoebox in the cupboard, Shelley has won numerous written poetry awards, and together with her husband Rod, performs her work at local and regional functions - in period costume as befits the heritage theme of many of her poems.

For two years she has been a monthly guest on ABC Radio Wide Bay, and her poetry segments have been broadcast across regional Queensland.

Horizons of the Mind

© Shelley Hansen 2013

We came from "Up the Country" for a trip through New South Wales to see the places, meet the people, hear their true blue tales. We climbed into the Cruiser, hitched our caravan behind, then we set out, "Himself" and me, to see what we could find.

The Winter was retreating, but a frost began the days, while distant mountains sparkled in a sapphire shimmer-haze. The trees, not yet awakened from the bareness of their grief stood sentinel and silent, in suspense for burst of leaf.

But Spring will never be denied, and in this coloured land the warming days began to yield a harvest bright and grand. The sun spilled saffron as we watched canola fields unfold, Salvation Jane's deep purple underlined the Wattle's gold.

Each little town that welcomed us has gained a special place within this country's history - and so we stopped to trace the remnants of prosperity, the buzz of days gone by when wool sold for "a pound a pound", and people's hopes were high.

No longer is the railway line an artery of wealth, no longer do bushrangers ambush Cobb & Co by stealth. The times have changed in ways our founding fathers could not guess - we strive for gold in other ways - but strive still, nonetheless!

Our heritage and history have shaped the way we are - and we, in turn, are shaping futures that will stretch afar. We're still creating legends in our own and special way - that early pioneering spirit is alive today.

Australia! Timeless landscapes where surprises are in store, and hidden treasures will reward those willing to explore. We've chased the far horizons where the western plains unwind ... but best of all, we've broadened the horizons of the mind.

Hello Neil

Attached please find a poem I wrote in relation to the doctor shortage crisis at Hay, a town in the Riverina region of NSW. A couple of years ago the small town experienced six suicides over an 18 month period which, understandably rocked the small community.

During that time and subsequent, there have been times when Hay has had no doctor at all (not just for a day or two, but weeks at a time), or a locum who would only stay for a reasonably short period of time and then leave. There is a virtually new hospital in Hay, but many medical procedures, such as giving birth cannot be undertaken there. The nearest hospitals are both over 100km away.

While I believe the situation has improved somewhat, like many other small rural towns, the medical support available is grossly inadequate by comparison to that of larger regional centres and capital cities.

I wrote my poem to help highlight the situation many rural people find themselves in.

Call the Doctor And The Doctor Said:

"The Number You Have Dialed Is Not Connected."

Heard the news from out our way?
There's senseless dying all round Hay.
Good people are in heaps of strife;
Their answer is to take their life.
"Go see a doctor," townies cry.
"We can't," I say. And here is why:
No doctors want to come to Hay -
apparently it's far away.
So getting help in Hay's not on
as doctors all have simply gone
to cities where the lights are bright
and rules and regs make things work right.
It's nice and comfy for them there
but that leaves us with just a prayer.
Our mental health support's a joke
as politicians like to choke
on talk that's cheap and flows real well
while Hay's good people suffer hell.
Which bureaucrat will stand up brave
and make the changes that will save
the lives that need a doctor now?
Don't tell me that they don't know how.

MERRY CHRISTMAS SON

© 2012 Manfred Vijars

At Christmas time when just a lad I'd hover 'round the kitchen
smells of magic in the air, my tastebuds would be twitchin'
watching Mum mix cakes in bowls her wooden spoon is clickin'
She'd glance my way and with a laugh the spoon was mine for lickin'
... then with a grin, she'd say to me - "Merry Christmas Son"

Cooking was her great delight - some say it was her callin'
And every Christmas was the same, the table would be sprawlin'
with lots of goodies, lots of treats. I'm playing with my cousin
then from the chook-house running back, I tripped and broke a dozen.
... she feigned anger, but still called out, "Merry Christmas Son!"

The family grew as families do with in-laws, pets and grandkids
Now little 'tackers' run amuck - one knocked her box of jam-lids.
With all those Christmas treats it's hard to stop small fingers pickin'.
But how things change, instead of me, my kids now do the lickin'.
... Still twinkling eyes would say to me, "Merry Christmas Son."

And Mothers age, as Mothers must, I made it there beside her
She found the strength to linger on, I see now how our times were
precious. I thought She'd live forever, but She's gone.
I shed a tear amid the cheer for, "Merry Christmas Son."
...and I'm sure you know I love you, so - "Merry Christmas - Mum"

If you would like to join in with other members on the forums, or just read their poetry or participate in the workshops or just check up on upcoming events or results of competitions then come along to our website

www.abpa.org.au

TAMWORTH

The 2014 "Golden Damper" Performance Awards **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION** **BUSH POETRY COMPETITION**

Tamworth (Australia's "Home" of Country Music) will once again see some of Australia's best performance poets 'gather to the fray' to participate in the prestigious "Golden Damper" Bush Poetry Competition 2014. Poets will be vying to take home either one of the two magnificent handmade "Golden Damper" trophies (crafted by local artist Ian Richards) as well as hoping to share in the other bounty on offer (Cash Prizes, Medallions & Finalist Certificates).

3 days of heats will be held in the "Outback Bar" (at West's Leagues, Tamworth) on Tues the 21st, Thurs the 23rd and Fri the 24th of January 2014 with the finals being held in "Blazes" Auditorium (West's Leagues) on Sat the 25th January 2014.

Entry fees are only \$5.00 per section in both the Original & Established (Modern or Traditional) sections. That's a mere pittance for the privilege of possibly taking home one of the country's most sought after titles.

Audiences flock to both the heats and finals to cheer for their favourite competitors and past entrants have often commented on the cordial camaraderie present across the shows. Both seasoned performers and eager novices compete side by side in an ever present spirit of healthy reverence for one another's skills.

MC's for the Competition Heats include current Australian Male Bush Poetry Champion Peter Mace, Trisha Anderson (QLD) & our President Manfred Vijars. Saturday's finals will be MC'd by Geoffrey.W.Graham (VIC). The 2014 "Golden Dampers" are being run under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association (ABPA) by Manfred Vijars & "Volunteers Co-ordinator Graeme Johnson with invaluable assistance provided by Jan Morris from the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group.

Entries are invited from both established and new performers. Entry forms are available from the ABPA website, www.abpa.org.au or send a stamped, self addressed envelope to **Golden Damper Entries 2014, P.O. Box 701, Morningside, QLD, 4170.**

Entries close Fri 10th January 2014

Tamworth Poets Walkups and Cavalcade Float

I have organised my brother's truck again for this year's annual cavalcade, to display the ABPA banner and show the world that bush poetry is indeed alive and well !!!

I have booked Saint Edwards Hall again this year, for the whole week; namely Saturday the 18th of January, through till the following Saturday the 25th January. I have listed gigs on the Tamworth Country Music website (to be printed in all guides for the public), starting each day at 2pm... Excluding Tuesday the 21st, (so as not to clash with the Bush Laureate awards), Wednesday the 22nd (ABPA AGM) and Friday ..(the Ladies Poettes afternoon)..

This year we will be starting each afternoon at 2pm, (rather than 1pm), to allow people sufficient time to come after morning gigs...

I have had to put it together fairly quickly as Wednesday the 20th November crept up on me and was the cutoff date for the gig guide, so I have listed following performers to MC and perform on following dates at 2pm.. SATURDAY 18TH JOHN PEEL.... SUNDAY 19th JOHN PEEL... MONDAY 20TH GREG NORTH , JACK DRAKE AND PAT DRUMMOND.. THURSDAY 23RD RAY ESSERY, GEOFFREY GRAHAM, GREG NORTH AND PETER MACE... SATURDAY 25TH JOHN PEEL, JACK DRAKE AND PETER MACE...some days have multiple performers listed, to give me (and them), some leeway, in event of a last minute change of plan. This will take the pressure off them from having to lock in to that date.if they get a better offer. Where there are multiple bookings they will alternate the MC'g and performing, to allow for variety. The idea is to encourage, not only existing bush poets, but as many members of the public as possible to come along. To provide them with a venue where they can get up and perform to an audience.

Walk ups I believe, are fundamental to the longevity and survival of our craft. They allow up and coming performers a little stage time, and encourage them to come out of the closet and gain some confidence in front of an audience, and an opportunity to share their passion for bush poetry with others. It is also an opportunity for anybody off the street, who has not yet discovered our wonderful world of Bush Poetry, to step up and have a go...We had good turn ups last year, and being listed in the gig guide as a free show, will ensure we get more this year, as it catches on, through word of mouth and familiarity.

So, if you are coming to Tamworth, I ask you to please come along and support us!! Lets make this the biggest and best week of Bush poetry yet !! It is a great venue and will give you a chance to hang out with, and meet other poets, and enjoy the camaraderie of like minded people. All ABPA members are welcome and encouraged to come to our Annual General meeting on Wednesday 22nd January at St Edwards Hall. This is your opportunity to have a voice, to express your opinion, and to contribute to keeping our beloved craft alive and well. A reminder to all the Ladies not to miss the Friday afternoon Poettes show at St Edwards Hall.

If anybody requires further information and directions to get there please dont hesitate to contact me Tom McIlveen...phone 0417251287 or email me atportalarms@gmail.com

Regards
Tom McIlveen

Competition Results

WINNERS LIST SHOALHAVEN POETRY COMPS 2013

LOCAL Written (Shoalhaven residents)

- 1st Lyn Jones The Vagabond Rover
2nd Jim Scarsbrook Strawberries
3rd Lyn Jones Drover Dan

OPEN Written

- 1st Robyn Sykes The Farmers Strike
2nd Pauline Haggith I Shouldn't Be Complaining
3rd Yvonne Harper Seven Coats of Paint

Highly Comended (Open)

- Authur Green Song of the Humpback Whales
Caroline Tuohey The List
Yvonne Harper On Christmas Eve Once Long Ago

RECITED

- 1st Dave Bartlet
2nd Keith Willis
3rd Zeke Cameron

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival Written Poetry Competition 2013

Official Results

Section 1 (up to 12 years)

- First: Karamea Gostt – The Crocodile
Second: Eva Gostt – The Australian Bush
Third: Brynn Carlile – The Ocean
Highly Commended: Olivia Pickering – Our Way

Section 2 (13 years to 17 years) there were 27 entries

- First: Annalise Dwyer – Creatures of the
Australian Bush
Second: Rachael Sung – The Flood
Third: Sharnee Rawson – Lost & Drunken
Highly Commended: Pete Saardiam – Nowra High
Commended: Stevie Perrie – This Is Kangaroo Valley
Commended: Chelse Sinclair – The Small Things
Commended: Thomas Marshall – Jervis Bay

Section 3 Open Adult – Bush Verse

- First: John Davis – Highway To Hell
Second: Gary Harding – My Old Suit Coat
Third: Gary Harding – Peter Wilson's Ride
Highly Commended: Gary Harding – The Road To Hay
Highly Commended: Bev Stewart – Dead Silence
Commended: John Davis – Where I long To Be

Section 4- The crystal Creek Meadows Award

- was won by John Davis with his poem 'What Is Best'.
The Theme this year was was 'Hand Made v's Mass Produced'.

WA Bush Poets 2013 Championships

Full List of Results

Novice Original

- 1st Roger Cracknell Unfortunate Experience
2nd Frank Heffernan Just a Common Cold
3rd Robert Gunn The Goners

Novice "Other"

- 1st Frank Heffernan Jones' Selection G. Gibson
2nd Robert Gunn The Ultimate Test Mick Collis
3rd June Eastwood not stated

Novice Classics Reader

- 1st Roger Cracknell Bushfire Henry Lawson
2nd Leslie McAlpine Scotties Wild Stuff Stew Francis Brown
3rd Frank Heffernan The Silent Member C.J. Dennis

Yarnspinning

- 1st Peter Blyth Flies
2nd John Hayes Sandy Blight Urea
3rd Keith Lethbridge Crocs

Contemporary

- 1st Peter Blyth The Chair Graham Henderson
2nd John Hayes From The Lanterns Richard Magoffin
3rd Keith Lethbridge The Illiterate Stockman Syd Hopkinson

Traditional

- 1st Peter Blyth Harry Morant Will Ogilvie
2nd John Hayes Violets C.J. Dennis
3rd Roger Cracknell Sweeney Henry Lawson

Original Humorous

- 1st Keith Lethbridge Billy Goat Parade
2nd Peter Blyth In the Bush
3rd Peg Vickers The Useless Kelpie Sheepdog

Original Serious

- 1st Keith Lethbridge Harry's Mate
2nd Peter Blyth The Price of Gold
3rd Brian Langley Not Just the Drover's Horse

Overall

- 1st Peter Blyth
2nd Keith Lethbridge
3rd John Hayes

Written

- 1st Martin Pattie Qld "The Dying"
Very Highly Commended David Campbell, Vic "A Last Goodbye"
Peter Blyth, WA "West Coast Vultures"
Highly Commended Brenda Joy, Qld "Secrets of the Desert"
Peter Blyth WA "A Copper's Job"
Terry Piggott WA "Would You Say Hullo to Dad"
Commended Irene Conner WA "Children Living Underground"

- Novice** 1st Jem Shorland W.A "Down the Aisle"
2nd Jem Shorland WA "Mitch"

Roadwise Short Poetry Comp

- 1st Irene Conner Fatigued
=2nd Brian Langley Fatigue – The Hidden Killer
=2nd Bill Gordon The Highway Demon

- Poets Brawl** 1st Kerry Lee "They Both Look Nice"
2nd Peter Blyth

Competition Results

GILGANDRA 'Coo-ee March Festival' Results

ADULTS —

COO-EE MARCH TROPHY

Overall Winner Brenda Joy 'Call of the Kimberley'

COO-EE MARCH SECTION —

1st Brian Beesley 'Helpless at Harefield'

2nd Brenda Joy 'Cross of Honour'

3rd Val Wallace 'Coo-ee'

OUTBACK SECTION

1st Brenda Joy 'He Will Muster no More'

2nd D.G. (Don) Adams 'My Riverina Home'

3rd Brenda Joy 'Where Swaggies Roam'

OPEN SECTION

1st Brenda Joy 'Call of the Kimberley'

2nd Carol Heuchan 'Poppies'

3rd Brenda Joy 'Our Outback Heritage'

HUMOROUS SECTION

1st Brenda Joy 'The Last Judgement'

2nd Carol Heuchan 'Couplets'

3rd Brenda Joy 'Weight for Age'

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN

1st Sarah Ferguson 'Will You Come?'

2nd Kate Banks 'Drama on the Farm'

PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN

1st Jacob Lummis 'Motorbike Riding'

2nd Noah Ryan 'Our Home Australia'

3rd Caitlin Carlow 'Lambs'

Nandewar Results 2013.

1st. 'Mothers and Sons.' Entry 32/13 – David Campbell

2nd. 'The Fate of the Brumby.' " 34/13 – Don Adams

3rd 'The Salvo's Mirror' " 3/13 – Kevin Pye

Very Highly Commended:

'Westward Quest' " 9/13 – Donald Crane

Highly Commended:

'The Bushman & The Warrigal' 37/13 – Terry Piggott

'Where Drovers Dream' 28/13 – Brenda Joy

'Too Young To Go To War' 15/13 – Yvonne Harper

'The Anzac Spirit 100 Years On' 14/13 – Yvonne Harper

Our guest judge this year was Glenny Palmer and we are thankful for her time and effort.

COOMA

'A Feast of Poetry' Results

1st	Tom McIlveen	A Victim of War
2nd	Brenda Joy	Snowy – The Reflections of a River
3rd	Carol Heuchan	Partners
Highly Commended		
	Tom McIlveen	The Dungeon on the Hill
	Catherine Lee	Plea of my People
	Brenda Joy	My Sacred Place
Commended		
	Tom McIlveen	The Ghost of Long Tan

Sam Smyth's Bush Poets & Balladeers Tamworth CMF 2014

Well it's that time of the year again when we are all getting ready for the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The excitement and anticipation is building.

2014 will see the shows move to a new venue, the West Tamworth Sports & Bowling Club's function room in Gipps Street off Belmore Street West Tamworth

We have a great line-up for you again for the 2014 festival with all the regulars, some new faces and this year night shows, so it's bound to be very entertaining. Also on Saturday the 25th of January at 7pm we are holding the "Country Teens of Tamworth Talent Search" open to young artists, singers or bush poets, ten to eighteen years of age. Those interested need contact me for details. sam@samsmyth.net.au or 0407 974 833.

Jen, Em, myself & all the crew of Bush Poets & Balladeers would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you at Tamworth 2014.

Don't forget to come and say G'day at the new venue.

Cheers, Sam Smyth

Entries are invited in the 2014

Yass Show Poetry Competition

151st Yass Show: March 15-16, 2014



Sections.

1. Open written competition
2. Bush poetry written
3. Bush poetry performance
4. Junior written: (open style)
5. Junior performance: (open style)

Prize money:

Adults: (Open, Bush, Bush Performance): \$100, \$50, \$25, plus \$25 for best poem by a poet from the local region.

Juniors: \$40, \$20, \$10

Entry fee:

Adults: \$5 per poem, written and performance. Juniors: No entry fee

Closing dates: Written: February 10, 2014. Performance: March 7, 2014.

Entry forms: www.abpa.org.au or robysykespoet@gmail.com

Enquiries: robysykespoet@gmail.com or (02) 6227 4377

Send entries to:

Robyn Sykes, Yass Show Poetry Convenor, PO Box 100, Binalong NSW 2584.

NB No late entries will be accepted in written section. In the Performance section, numbers MAY be limited, or late entries accepted, at the discretion of the steward.

Kym's Backyard Bards Book Sale!!

Kym's Cupboard Cleanout

I've got too much stuff and something's gotta go. Please help me clean out my cupboards!

"Wild Horse Rain" - awarded Finalist, Book Of The Year, 2007, at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards. Normally \$15, now reduced to \$10.

"Wild Brumby Heaven" - awarded Finalist, Book Of The Year, 2008, at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards. Normally \$15, now reduced to \$10.

"You've Gotta Be Kidding!!!" (children's book) - was the Winner, Children's Book Of The Year, 2008, at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards. Normally \$12, now reduced to \$7.

"Lord Of The Thongs" - Neil McArthur - No Awards 5c (removed by Editor)

Postage \$3 per book

Send cheque to Kym Eitel at 24 Sneddon Road, Limestone Creek. Qld. 4701.

ABPA Committee Members 2013

Executive;

President - Manfred Vijars manfred@abpa.org.au
Vice-President - VACANT
Secretary - Tom McIlveen secretary@abpa.org.au
Treasurer - Greg North treasurer@abpa.org.au

Members on Committee;

...John Peel peel_jg@hotmail.com
...Murray Hartin muz@murrayhartin.com
...BrendaJoy Pritchard halenda@live.com.au

ABPA State Delegates;

Queensland - Wally Finch wmbear1@bigpond.com
NSW - Claire Reynolds coll.claire@bigpond.com
Victoria - Jan Lewis lintonandjan@poetfarm.com.au
Tasmania - Philip Rush auspoems@bigpond.com
W.A. - Irene Conner iconner21@wn.com.au

Non - Executive

Web Admin - Manfred Vijars manfred@rocketfrog.com.au
Editor - Neil McArthur editor@abpa.org.au

Membership Payments to The Treasurer, ABPA
c/o 5 Dryandra Place, Linden NSW 2778

ABPA Magazine Advertising Rates

Full page \$80

Half Page \$40

Third Page \$30 (Row or Column)

Quarter Page or less \$20

Bookshelf \$5

Poets Calendar and Regular Events free (one line only)

To help offset costs, articles regarding a festival or event would be appreciated if accompanied by a paid Ad.

Send all details in plain text or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au

All payments to be made within 14 days to
The Treasurer Greg North - 5 Dryandra Place
Linden NSW 2778

or via Direct Debit to

ABPA Account Commonwealth Bank
BBS 064 433

A/C No. 1023 1528

Please put your Name/Club/Invoice as reference so the Treasurer can identify who the deposit is from.

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

Binalong - A Brush with Poetry @ Black Swan Wine Bar and Gallery. last Sunday of every odd month, 2-4pm Open mic. Contact Robyn Sykes 02 6227 4377

QUEENSLAND

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

Kuripla 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 Kevin Dean (07) 38810986

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates for adults is 7:00pm on the first of the month and 3:45 for children at the Aitkenvale Library, Aitkenvale Townsville.

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