



A.B.P.A.

Australian Bush Poets Association

Volume 23 No. 6

December/January 2017/18



*Merry Christmas to all our A.B.P.A.
Members and Their Families.*



Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Competition 2018



AUSTRALIAN POETRY
FESTIVAL
ORANGE NSW
AUSTRALIA

For individual performance of original poetry of any style

Entries are now open. Entries close at 5 pm on Wednesday 7 February 2018. Performance and judging will be on Saturday 17 February 2018 in Orange NSW.

Classes:

1. Open – for any individual contestants
2. Novice recital – for individual contestants who have not won first prize in a poetry recital competition
3. Novice reading – for individual contestants who wish to read their poem
4. High school students – for individual contestants who are attending high school in 2018
5. Primary school students – for individual contestants who are attending primary school in 2018

Prizes:

Class 1 Open:	first prize \$600;	second prize \$300;	third prize \$100
Class 2 Novice recital:	first prize \$400;	second prize \$200;	third prize \$50
Class 3 Novice reading:	first prize \$300;	second prize \$150;	third prize \$50
Class 4 High school:	first prize \$200;	second prize \$100;	third prize \$50
Class 5 Primary school:	first prize \$200;	second prize \$100;	third prize \$50

To find out more and for an application form, go to www.rotarycluboforange.org.au and click on the Events Calendar; or, alternatively, write to us at PO Box 52, Orange NSW 2800.

Entry fee for Open and Novice Classes is \$5 • Entry for the School Classes is free

Milton Show Society Poetry Competition

3rd & 4th March 2017

8am - Poets Breakfast

Come and be a part. Walk up and present

9.30am Junior Poetry Speaking Competition

11am Bush Poetry Speaking Competition

Poems can be light hearted, serious, classical, contemporary or original.

Maximum of 15 performers accepted on date of application. Entry fee \$15.

Prize money: 1st \$600, 2nd \$350, 3rd \$250 and three highly commended each \$100.

Entries close 15th February 2018.

Entry forms on ABPA website and www.miltonshowsociety.com

Show Theme Written Humorous Poetry Competition – ‘Milk and Meat’

Entrants must be residents of Shoalhaven LGA.

Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40

For more details see www.miltonshowsociety.com

Contacts:-

John Davis PN 02 44552013 Mob 0425299829 EM jda76436@bigpond.net.au
or Graham White PN 0410541533 EM kidgeeridge@shoal.net.au.

EDITORIAL



Congratulations to all involved in the recent Australian Championships in Toodyay, WA. A great and very successful event and a wonderful achievement by Meg and Bill Gordon to organise such a big festival. Congratulations also to all entrants, winners or not, for making the trip and making it so successful.

Sadly we have lost the services of our very dedicated Secretary in Rhonda Tallnash and thank her sincerely for all her hard work over the past two years. I don't know how we will replace her

Tamworth is quickly approaching and with it the AGM where we will be looking to fill positions on our Committee for the 2018 year ahead. If you would like to take up a position, it would be greatly appreciated.

On another matter, I apologise if this edition of the Magazine looks more like the minutes of a Committee Meeting. After another call for submissions, many have answered the call. But I have had to hold most back for future editions due to articles on the AGM and other official ABPA business. As Editor, I am not a member of the Committee, and my first responsibility is to provide an entertaining magazine to members. It is the members I represent and not just the Committee, but as our membership base declines there is a responsibility to publish certain things that will keep us viable as an Association and try to increase our membership base. Hopefully next magazine I can include many of the submissions sent to me and make it more entertaining to read.

Anyway, good luck to all those organising Poetry events in Tamworth in January. I will only be involved in running the Longyard Breakfasts again this year as that takes up enough of my time and makes me happy working with such professional entertainers.

Oh and if you are running an event, please send me a write up on it for the next magazine. Thanks and Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year or writing and performing.

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is January 30th

ABPA Magazine Advertising Rates

ABN 17 145 367 949 ARBN: 104 032 126

Black and White Ads

Full page \$95

Half Page \$55

Quarter Page or less \$35

Full Colour Ads (Space limited)

Full Page \$240

Half Page \$140

Quarter Page not available

Poets Calendar and Regular Events free (one or two lines 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, Word or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au

All payments to be made within 14 days to

The Treasurer Carol Hutcheson

ABPA Treasurer

48 Avoca Street

KINGAROY QLD 4610

or via Direct Debit to ABPA Account

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000

Account: 154842108

Please put your name/club/invoice as reference so Treasurer can identify who the deposit is from.

ABPA Committee Members 2017

Executive:

President	-- Tom McIlveen	president@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Ray Essery	essery56rm@bigpond.com
Secretary	-- Vacant	
Treasurer	-- Carol Hutcheson	treasurer@abpa.org.au

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...Meg Gordon		meggordon4@bigpond.com
...Max Pringle		maxpringle5@bigpond.com
...Carol Reffold		patchworkpoet@hotmail.com

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NT	-- Lance Lawrence	

Non Committee Positions

Webmaster	Gregory North	web@abpa.org.au
Magazine Editor	Neil McArthur	editor@abpa.org.au
Promotions Officer	Brenda-Joy	promotions@abpa.org.au
Facebook Editors	Brenda Joy Pritchard & Shelley Hansen	promotions@abpa.org.au
Returning Officer	Penny Broun	

President's Report



Greetings to all fellow members and magazine readers. I am back from the wars but not quite out of the trenches yet, having been out of action for the past two months with detached retinas in both eyes. I am typing this (with a little help) through a blur of injected black gas bubbles, which haven't dispersed from my eyes yet, so please excuse any typo errors.

As both of my retinas were fully detached, (which according to ophthalmologists is very unusual) I have had two rounds of surgery in Sydney Eye Hospital to not terribly uncommon to get a single detached retina. They can randomly occur at any age, but more commonly in older people. (like me?) They can be triggered by extreme exertion, a hit to the head or eye, a fall, or have been known to occur as a result of something as simple as sneezing. In my case they were brought about by crawling through confined roof spaces at work, which resulted in floaters (like spider webs and spots floating across the eye...(an early warning sign that something is amiss)...then a bleed behind both eyeballs, partial loss of vision and subsequent total loss of vision and retinal detachment.

The best analogy to explain it is to think of a stamp becoming unstuck from an envelope and needing to be reattached. Detached retinas are nothing new. Sadly many of our predecessors would have gone through this with total loss of vision, and it is only in recent years that this type of eye surgery has become possible. I will never be 20/20 again, but am extremely grateful for whatever sight I get back.

Anyway, enough of my woes and miseries, let's talk about poetry!

The highlight of course being the Toodyay Australian Bush Poetry Championships recently held in West Australia. Bill and Meg Gordon take a bow. You are truly both great ambassadors for our beloved craft and have done Western Australia and Bush Poetry proud. What a magnificent festival it was from all reports. We have two new Australian champions...Sue Pearce as performance champion and Will Moody as written champion, with outgoing champions Rhonda Tallnash (Performance) and myself (Written) graciously relinquishing our crowns to the worthy victors.

Congratulations Sue and Will, deserved and worthy winners, both of you! The countdown to Tamworth Country Music Festival is on, and with it comes an extravaganza of Australian Bush Poetry over the course of ten days.

If you have never been to a Tamworth Festival, I would urge you to place it highly on your bucket list! There are daily Bush Poetry events starting with Neil McArthur's legendary Longyard breakfast show and then right reattach them. It is throughout the day culminating in evening events. This festival promises to be the biggest and best yet, with bumper crowds predicted due to the Australia Day public holiday on the Friday, making it a true long weekend. The Golden Damper and Frank Daniel Awards will both be held under one roof this time at St Edwards Hall, which has proven to be an ideal venue. Numbers are quickly filling for one of our most prestigious Bush Poetry awards – the Golden Damper Competition. There is over \$2000 in cash and prizes on offer, and Golden Damper trophies and medals for first, second and third place getters in both original and traditional / modern sections.

Following the success of the inaugural 2017 Frank Daniel awards, they will be held again in 2018, encouraging all performing poets to step up and compete, to be judged by the audience for cash prizes and a trophy for the overall winner. Hosted by our very own legendary, stalwart vice-president, Ray Essery. The winner will also be given the opportunity to perform at the Longyard Bush Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning.

Writing and performance workshops will be offered this year for the first time, to encourage and assist up and coming writers and performers, as well as seasoned veterans wishing to hone their skills.

As usual the ABPA Annual General Meeting will be held at St Edwards Hall at 2pm on Wednesday 24th January. All members visiting Tamworth are invited to attend, as committee positions will be available to be filled. Please consider taking on a role in the new upcoming committee. This is your opportunity to become involved and to have a voice in the running of our wonderful organisation.

In Poetry
Tom McIlveen

The Folding \$tuff

Hello from Carol Hutcheson your family friendly and transparent Treasurer, keeping members aware of how your money is used and the need for more, how we are going to get it and help you to get some from your own efforts.

As I sit here today preparing this end-of-year article, I am very pleased to report that the ABPA is now **financially out of danger**.

Thanks to very helpful patient liaison with our printer "**Mylestones**" via lots of emails over two months to teach me how to read a printer's invoice, the cost of producing this magazine is now *drastically* reduced and affordable. It is wonderful to get good **old fashioned service** and helpful advice still. Thank you.

The 'new' **Public Liability Insurance Package** is another **major money saver** for us with the added advantage of having extra cover with Professional Liability and Personal Accident Insurance for members and the entity of ABPA gets our Management and Directors Insurances thrown in as we are a NFP Charity. Have a look at the full page easy-read explanation in this magazine.

We are asking you to remain loyal to the ABPA for PLI.

The **two Chook raffles raised \$4000** - thanks to everyone who were involved and invested. Now we can spend it on us.....!

E. O. Y. CLEARANCE SALE! COMPLETE SET OF 2017 MAGAZINES

Volume 23 Numbers 1 to 6 for 2017 are on sale right now in time for Christmas and posterity at below cost. **Set of six posted is \$17.** or **name the special 2017 ones you want:** One mag. posted: \$4. Two mags posted: \$7. Three mags posted: \$9. Four mags posted: \$13. Five mags posted: \$15. Pay as above. **On sale until sold out.**

I will not be standing as Treasurer for 2018, but I will do all the Insurance in 2018. It has been wonderful meeting so many people and renewing old friends. All the 'thank you notes' you have sent have made it worthwhile for Doug (husband) and me to do this job.

2018 Subscriptions are due - please feel confident that using AustraliaPost's **SecurePay with cr/dr card** on our Website is easy, fast, private, more secure than Paypal, plus a small SecurePay fee.

Email me: treasurer@abpa.org.au Ph: 07 4162 5878

Write: 48 Avoca Street, Kingaroy, Queensland. 4610. Australia.

Bank: BSB 633 000. A/c: 154842108. Name: ABPA Inc. Ref: Your Name

Annual Memberships up to December 2018 - 6 magazines/year.

Posted Members Magazine: \$45. Emailed Magazine: \$35. Dual Family M/ship: one posted Mag \$60: one emailed Mag \$50. Juniors \$20 + emailed Mag. International posted Mag: \$70 or emailed \$35. Members joining Oct to Dec receive 2019 membership too. At least 50 new members are needed to enrich our family and the 'books'.

Brain food

The 'money' word last magazine was **I O U** for the poem challenge.

Here are two wonderful pieces of cheeky Oz bush poetry -

I. O. U?	I C U R in debt to Joe
I agree	And I O U as well.
Join the queue	So let me pay U what I O
Is my plea.	And let Joe go to L.
Overdue?	© Donald Crane.
Can't you see	Be sure you use the © sign and
One or two	moniker if you write either on the
Still owe me?	bill you are/not paying and send the
Nothing's new.	appropriate accolades to K.P. & D.C.
I agree	Lovely metre and rhyme and a great
I. O. U. © Kevin Pye.	laugh, thanks Kevin & Donald again.

The 'money' word for next magazine is **flush**. It doesn't have to be at the end of a line. Use it with 'perfect' metre and rhyme and your Aussie ingenuity in a poem. Try entering 'The Blackened Billy' written competition, entries are closing very soon in December. It is the last time the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group are running it and they need your entries right now. Until next mag, Carol xx

POSITION VACANT: TREASURER 2018

Dedicated and Voluntary and Gratifying

The member/s who accept this position/s will be elected at the AGM on 24th January 2018. After discussing and considering your experience and capability, please ask a member to nominate you on the form in this magazine.

Treasurer: Attends to all membership business including correspondence, lists for magazine labels, posting magazines, bill paying, business invoices/receipts, Post Office authority, Book-keeping, Banking, Insurance, Annual Reports, records, Committee meetings by Skype, understanding of members and their needs in a professional and compassionate manner with responsibility, suiting this unique literary club.

Own reasonably powerful computer and printer, very good computer knowledge, workplace experience helpful, good internet connection, Skype, your dedicated time, humour.

The job will by necessity be split into three or four Portfolios with the elected Treasurer (by the 2017 Treasurer initially) responsible for the training of the Portfolios and it does not matter where the member lives as it is all electronic.

Four jobs led by and including the elected Treasurer are: Membership Portfolio: Bookkeeping Portfolio: Insurance Portfolio. I will happily take on the Insurance Portfolio. Each of these Portfolios requires responsibility and is designed to allow members the time to be bush poets, retirees, gardeners, parents etc and not be over worked. A good professional rapport with other ABPA volunteers is expected and fun!

Please, don't be afraid to confidentially discuss this with me, Carol Hutcheson by email or phone. Thank you.

Treasurer@abpa.org.au
Phone (07) 4162 5878
Carol Hutcheson,
ABPA Treasurer and
General Factotum.
Stay cool. I am!

Second 'Chook' Raffle Has Been Drawn!

The winner is **Olive Shooter**, retired farmer, near Allora, Qld who is a Founding Member and a Life Member of the ABPA with ticket number 2168 drawn by electronic random number generator on the computer and witnessed on 13/11/2017.

Olive couldn't believe it!

We have to thank the ticket sellers from across the country - Spin Hampson, Meg Gordon, Ray Essery, Margaret Finucane and all of you individual winners who generously purchased tickets on line, by cheque and cash to obtain the maximum gross takings of \$2000.00 with no expenses incurred. We hope you liked the two different ticket formats this time. Thanks to our well known poet 'Anonymous' for donating the prize money of \$400.

Sadly, there will not be another Chook raffle - no more 'pink turkey feather' emails, no more arm-twisting, no more ticket-selling (fun) - only benefits for members from the proceeds. In 2018 we can look forward to other ways of raising funds with experienced people making the applications.

It is interesting to know that some new members joined because of the Chook raffle displayed on the ABPA website, by chatting to ticket sellers, by reading the poems on the tickets purchased by friends - and you don't get away easily from me on an enquiry! We have enjoyed running it. We hope you have a loving Christmas and an inspiring year ahead with bush poetry.

Carol and Doug Hutcheson.

Your ABPA Insurance has become better and cheaper!

An important message from your committee.

Since our inception of **Public liability Insurance** by providing **Duty of Care** for its Members and for the necessary protection of the entity of the ABPA, we have been served by Elders Insurance Brokers of Grafton and the Underwriting Insurance Company QBE. We have held this policy for many years.

The Public liability Insurance provided by Elders is Industry based and the annual premium has skyrocketed beyond the reach of the ABPA - a Registered Not for Profit Charity. We will not be holding our PLI policy or Directors and Management policies with Elders/QBE next year. While providing the required cover, there was no consideration for a NFP Charity discount nor for additional requirements to meet our needs these days.

NEW BROKER AND UNDERWRITER. Since July, enquiries have been made, comparisons investigated with other Brokers, and verified. The Broker that has been accepted is **Coveright Insurance Brokers of Bendigo, Victoria.** Their Underwriter for Not For Profit Charities and Members is **Ansvar Insurance for Community Service Organisations.** **Coveright Insurance Brokers and Ansvar Insurance for Community Organisations can be googled for authenticity.** www.coveright.com.au www.ansvar.com.au

The Director of Coveright who is dealing with ABPA, and who has been patiently answering all of the Treasurer's silly questions since July! is **Tony Rodda** : phone (03) 5441 4400. or email tonyr@coveright.com.au

Tony now has a real understanding of our activities, personally knows one of our 'famous' members, has been exceptional in obtaining more information from Ansvar regarding our status and translating everything into layman/poets language. He welcomes any member to phone/email him to have a chat about their unique bush poet circumstances. He really is a person that you can talk to and get an answer from easily. Remember - it is the **service that you get from the Broker** when you make a claim that is the crucial part of any insurance policy.

Here is the PACKAGE OF THREE, as demanded by our 'entertainment' industry these days. **Because you are a Member** of the ABPA, when you purchase a Member's PLI Package **you are covered** by these three policies, whether you are paid or voluntary, whether as your part/sole income or for cash-in-hand. **These three policies can be read by asking the Treasurer to send you the Ansvar Product Disclosure Statements.**

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE - MILLION\$20 COVER Australian Dollars.

- Protection against 'proven' claims made by a 3rd Party who is 'hurt' by a Member or by a Member's property.
- Gigs and venues ask for PLI cover of Million\$20: even by our St Edwards Hall hire in Tamworth for our AGM.
- In Australia, all PLI 'reads' the same. • The Insurance Council of Australia ensures proper conduct by insurers.
- Worldwide cover EXCEPT in USA and Canada - that includes Ansvar cover, existing QBE cover and all others.

NEW to ABPA - PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

- From information supplied on the ABPA website re rules, judge's qualifications, judging, festivals, instructing, etc, the solicitors **class the ABPA as 'Professional'** (howzat!!) • Legal costs are covered for the Member against any 'proven' claim that the Member has given 'harmful' (closest word) judging, instruction, advice etc to the claimant. • Private teachers, entertainers, advice givers, instructors, organisers etc have this cover.

NEW to ABPA - PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER

- For you, the Member, if you are 'proven' to have hurt yourself or worse while going to, coming from or while at a venue where you are performing, instructing, judging, organising whether paid or voluntary as a bush poet.
- Pre-existing conditions not covered. • Intoxication or drugs or illegal actions not covered. • All common sense.

The committee are very happy to say that all three policies under the heading 'Public Liability Insurance Package' can be purchased by ABPA from Coveright Brokers for **thousands less** than the single PLI from Elders/QBE. If we were to 'automatically' stay with Elders/QBE for PLI only, the 2018 premium would jump from \$100 to about \$140/member, Members would not pay it, the ABPA would run at a huge loss for Insurance again and the ABPA would still be required to pay Management and Directors' Insurances on top of it.

GOOD NEWS! From 31/1/2018 to 31/1/2019, the Member's premium is **\$95.00** for ANY number of Members. As well as that, Ansvar will insure the entity of ABPA for Management Liability and Directors Insurance **AT NO EXTRA COST**, thus saving you and the ABPA several thousands of dollars annually.

LOYALTY. We hope that this ensures your continued loyalty with ABPA-provided PLI plus the welcome extras. New subscribers welcome! The new reduced fee of \$95.00 is on the Membership webpage now.

CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY. The Certificate of Currency for 2018 will be sent when we receive it - hopefully by mid-December. In the meantime, if certainty is needed soon by anyone for gig bookings in 2018, let Carol Hutcherson know and she'll see what she can do in the short term to confirm PLI to the gig operators.

Looking forward to your continued loyalty, as we need you, and looking forward to any questions to Carol.

TOODYAY BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL REPORT

Australian Bush Poetry Championships

Two new Australian Bush Poetry Champions emerged from the Act Belong Commit Bush Poetry Festival held at Toodyay, WA over the weekend 3-5 November. Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge from Armadale, WA, won the male title from Ken Tough of Pretty Beach, NSW and Peter Blyth, Elleker, WA. Sue Pearce (Tumut, NSW) had a narrow victory in the female competition over Rhonda Tallnash (Violet Town, Vic) and Carmel Wooding (Warwick, Qld). Keith also won the WA crown from Peter Blyth and Bill Gordon.

The festival got off to a great start with a "Meet and Greet" in the beer garden of the Freemasons Hotel on the Thursday night. Friday morning started with a workshop conducted by Noel Stallard who was one of the judges along with Carol Heuchan and Jack Drake. A lunchtime visit to the Toodyay Miniature Railway where several poems were recited on a railway theme, was followed by a ride on the train. Competition on the Friday afternoon in the junior and novice sections was followed by Yarnspinning. This resulted in a clean sweep to WA with Peg Vickers prevailing over Peter Blyth and Keith Lethbridge.

Pat Drummond proved very popular with his concert on the Friday night. Pat is well known in bush poetry circles, having been a member of the "Naked Poets". Pat is descended from one of Toodyay's founders, Sir James Drummond, and was in Toodyay to check out his ancestral roots.

The Memorial Hall was packed for two days of competition for the Australian Bush Poetry championships, with 25 – 29 poets competing in each section for the titles and trophies which were made by Dave Smith, one of our best Yarnspinners and last year's winner of that event. Saturday competition was in the traditional and modern poetry categories. MC for the whole weekend was Eric Biddle. Eric kept proceedings rolling with his anecdotes between poets, and ensured the audience was thoroughly entertained throughout.

Those who still had energy on Saturday night enjoyed a Bush Dance put on by the highly acclaimed Perth band "Loaded Dog". An early start on Sunday morning for the Lions Club Bush Poets Breakfast followed by the poet's brawl. This popular event was won by Peg Vickers from Albany, WA. Peg is a regular winner of brawls in the west, not surprising to any who have heard her or read her books on Grandpa's Farm and his many escapades.

Competition resumed with poets performing poems they had written themselves, both serious and humorous. Winner of both these sections was a poet competing for the first time. James Fitzpatrick is a paediatrician from Perth. James has made a name for himself with work he has done improving health outcomes among the indigenous community in the Kimberly region of WA. He has just made a name for himself as a poet of the highest calibre and we have great pleasure welcoming him to our ranks.

The festival would not have been possible without the generous support of the Toodyay Shire, Bendigo Bank Toodyay, Toodyay Community Op-shop, Makit Hardware, Toodyay Riverside Caravan Park and Toodyay Miniature Railway. State Government support came from our major sponsors Healthway and Lotterywest. Full results of the competitions can be found on the website at www.abpa.org.au/events/results.

Bill Gordon, President
WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn. Inc.



99 year old WA member Artur Leggett entertained a packed hall with a faultless presentation of "In the Droving Days".



Carmel Wooding 3rd. Rhonda Tallnash 2nd , Sue Pearce Winner with Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner and WABP&YS President Bill Gordon



Peter Blyth 3rd, Ken Tough 2nd , Keith Lethbridge winner with Toodyay Shire President Brian Rayner and WABP President Bill Gordon

Sweetwater

© David Campbell

Come and walk by my side to the river, my love,
where the Sweetwater runs wild and free
through the Sugarloaf Hills, with the blue sky above,
as it tumbles its way to the sea.

We will rest in the vale where the homestead still stands,
just the same as it was years ago,
when we built it to last with our own willing hands,
and then watched our young family grow.

There's the track that we cut through the eucalypt scrub,
and the place where we sank our first well,
and the shed that was home to the old washing tub,
that would flood when the winter rains fell.

Take my arm as we stroll through the slow-turning years
and the land yields its bountiful fare,
as we fight against hardship and overcome fears
in this life we have chosen to share.

In the distance the mountains are capped with fresh snow,
like a flame in the first morning light,
as the heat steals the mist from the valley below
and we say our farewell to the night.

If you look you can see wedge-tailed eagles up high
on a thermal while searching for prey,
and from somewhere quite near the harsh sparrowhawk's cry
is a greeting that hails the new day.

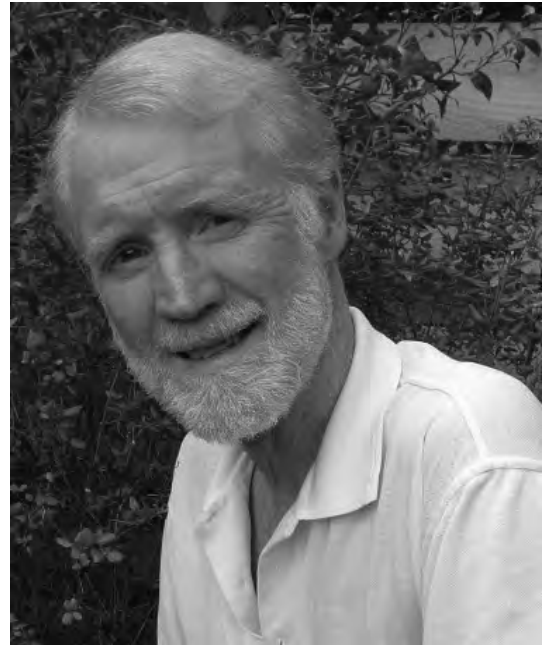
Now the fields are abundant with ripe heads of corn,
golden pastures ablaze in the sun,
while the boards are alive with the sheep being shorn,
and the swift, flashing blade of the gun.

Can you smell the sharp tang of the wool and the sweat?
Can you see the dark blood on the floor?
Can you hear the new roustabout's coarse epithet
as he throws one more fleece, rough and raw?

On the hillside above, our young Bonnie's astride
the Arabian mare that we bought —
you remember, the chestnut, and your joy and pride
at how well she absorbed all you taught.

And there's Tom, just a lad, a wide grin on his face,
so triumphant at catching a fish,
a big Redfin, I think — no, I'm wrong, it's a brace —
they will make such a succulent dish!

We will smoke them, my love, for the evening meal,
and I'll never forget that rich taste —
but have you? Tell me, dear, are you able to feel
any sense of the life we embraced?



When I sit by your bed it seems time's standing still,
for each minute can seem like a day,
while your eyes remain dark, and perhaps always will,
at least that's what the doctors all say.

As the months drift on by and there's simply no sign
that your traumatised mind will revive,
the machines guard your life, they're the sounds that define
what it means to be barely alive.

And the questions that haunt me, that I can't avoid,
are related to matters of choice,
for I know that recalling the life we enjoyed
is a dream in which you have no voice.

You'd have hated the thought of this hospital bed,
and a helplessness far beyond pain.
"Please don't leave me like that!" is what you would have said —
but is what I now do inhumane?

For it seems I must choose to say one last farewell,
and not linger on here by your side.
Though I've clung to some hope you'll escape from this hell,
perhaps nature is still the best guide.

Please forgive me, my dear, for the path that I take,
the decision just tears me apart,
but although there are different journeys we make,
you will always live on in my heart.

I will take you back home to the Sweetwater's banks,
to the heaven where you'd want to be,
and I'll murmur a prayer as I offer up thanks
for the love you have given to me.

Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 24th January 2018 – 2pm

At St Edwards Hall, TAMWORTH

Many members would cringe at the thought of volunteering to keep our vibrant and unique literary club going and there are those who would take it in their stride. It is those members who have gained experience over the years in their workplace who are needed because they don't need to learn anything new. That experience stays with them and becomes a very enjoyable experience when volunteering their knowledge, people skills, practised responsibility, part-time use of their electronic equipment which they already have and maintain, mature outlook with compassion towards everyone, and most importantly - their dedicated time and capability. Your love of your club and your knowledge of its workings over the years are vital for the club to remain the success it has been. Giving of you in this way is one of the most fulfilling parts of life. Needed are -

President: Leadership with a flair for initiative and communicating with staff and members. Computer skills. Responsible for up-dates of procedures, workload sharing plans, conduct meetings via Skype, Professional attitude.

Vice-President: Sharing the Leadership as above with humour. Attend meetings via Skype.

Secretary: Good knowledge of the ABPA. Agenda and Minutes of committee meetings, general Secretarial skills, fairly good computer and capable record keeping, communication with volunteers and members using protocol. Professional attitude and approach to the job. Skype meetings.

Treasurer: This job will be split into three or four jobs to make the workload lighter. Good computer and sound computer skills, bookkeeping responsibilities - banking, bill paying, authority for Banks and Post Office, invoice and receipting business transactions. Membership spreadsheet upkeep, member liaison, preparation of computer generated lists, easy ACNC reports annually, Annual Financial AGM Report. Professional and capable of all of these jobs with a comprehensive written booklet of instruction provided. Skype meetings. The Treasurer's job will be vacant for 2018. The current Treasurer will stay until 31st March at the latest to enable the smooth and stress free hand-over to the other 'Treasurer' volunteers in their Portfolios. She will do the Insurance Portfolio in 2018.

Six Committee Members: Reliable members who will take on new or existing jobs with flair and gusto. Skype.

State Representatives: Members who liaise with new members, advise members and groups of ABPA activities, enthusiastic initiative for everything. Skype meetings.

See, nothing too hard for dedicated and enthusiastic members who would love to give back to the ABPA the expertise they have already been successfully trained in and can honestly say they there is time in their lives now for a wonderful voluntary experience. Members are expected to remain bush poets, grey nomads, gardeners, parents, athletes etc as there will be enough time for everything if you time-manage yourselves as you have already learned.

Please phone or email me or any committee member to talk it over.

Carol Hutcheson, Treasurer, ABPA

RAFFLES

RAFFLES

RAFFLES

There will be raffles at all events in Tamworth.

The Golden Damper. The Frank Daniel Awards and Workshops.

Poets and members are welcome to contribute CDs Books etc to this venture. Please arrange to send/ bring your donations to **Ray Essery** or contact him on 0438843817 .

THE 2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR

© Anita Reed 2017

The Nobel Peace Prize was declared awarded to a group who'd showed they cared, the group against nuclear war called ICAN, Australia the country where it all began.

ICAN spread out through a hundred nations, with four hundred groups allied since its foundation. They created a treaty to ban nuclear war, any use of nuclear weapons and more.

A doctor from Brisbane helped found ICAN. A professor from Canberra wrote words that were scanned by a hundred countries of the U.N. who gave their okay and after that then

It passed in the U.N. Choosing nations could sign and on the first day of signing 50 DID at that time. No nuclear powers will sign we all know, but perhaps a new norm for the world will grow.

Now it's NORMAL to be against nuclear war when millions would die, a nuclear winter and therefore it's NOT normal to threaten entire nations with destruction by nuclear annihilation.

Balistic missiles these days can go with nuclear warheads to a foe. With incredible speed a bomb can be hurled on very many places throughout the world.

ICAN'S Geneva leaders have praised those from all over who've helped to raise the attention of others to the dangers today, which helped pass the treaty so the nations said yea.

The Aussies we should congratulate and their achievements we should celebrate. They worked to put their very best case trying to make the world a safer place.

One Day At A Time

© J.P. Coyne, 2017

'Carpe diem' or 'Seize the day'
is a mighty saying,
encouraging us in the way
of, in today, staying.

The past is gone; it's at our back,
it's best to let it go.
The future's there; it's up the track,
to anxious thought say 'No'.

Tomorrow is cloaked in mystery,
who knows what it will bring.
All bygone days are now history,
where we can't change a thing.

That leaves the ever present now,
enclosed within this day.
The ease of which upon the brow
invites minds not to stray.

The present is a precious gift—
the centre of our life.
To contemplate it does uplift
and saves us mental strife.

Whatever challenge lies ahead
face it when it arrives.
Don't think of it today with dread,
such thoughts just wreck our lives.

Shame and guilt for a past action
are fixed by good amends.
Resentment must not get traction—
those people are sick friends.

Remember good things from the past,
look forward to new joys.
Such thoughts make today's pleasure last—
regret and fear are noise.

Mildura and St. Arnaud Poets Breakfast Reports

Great crowds gathered to enjoy some wonderful Poetry throughout Victoria in October. Mildura Country Music Festival held 10 Breakfast over 10 days with great crowds and a host of Poets including Bob Magor, Col Milligan, Jim Lamb, Rhonda Tallnash, Ross and Kathy Vallance, John Smith, Evelyn Atkinson and a host of walk up poets. Neil McArthur was MC.



Mildura crowd enjoying the Poets Breakfast

St. Arnaud hosted a Bush Poets Breakfast as well, not long afterwards and attracted a great audience who appreciated the guest Poets, Neil McArthur, Col Milligan and Noel Bull. Other Poets such as event organisers, Ross and Kathy Vallance, along with visiting poets such as Ken Jones, Les James and others.



St. Arnaud Poets Ken Jones, Noel Bull, Ross Vallance, Col Milligan, Neil McArthur and Kathy Vallance

Bush Poetry is alive and well here in Victoria!

BUY-SWAP-SELL

© Shelley Hansen 2017

Winner, Humorous Section, 2017 ABPA National Championship

Our region has a Facebook page – they call it BUY-SWAP-SELL.
There's twenty thousand members now! It isn't hard to tell
how much its popularity has grown, for this is where
it's easy to engage in trade – and never leave your chair!

Forget about the Op Shop! There are bargain clothes galore –
just scroll the mouse and click to find what you've been looking for.
There's pink and punk and retro – any style you care to choose!
Type SOLD and you will soon be shod in someone else's shoes!

There's furniture and footy boots, there's cars and doggy coats
which you might swap for something else like bric-a-brac, or boats!
Some sell their goods to downsize, others buy to build their homes;
while some just seek collectables, like first-edition tomes.

This throw-away society gets rid of stuff so fast;
it isn't like in grandma's day, when things were built to last!
It's easy to discard the old for new, you must agree –
just write a story, snap a pic – and post for all to see!

You'll soon be getting messages with offers to inspect
or asking for arrangements to make payment and collect.
So auntie's bookcase soon becomes another person's joy
while you in turn replace it with an electronic toy!

Some folk adopt a fervent zeal that borders on devout
in hopes of finding something that they just can't live without!
The hapless seller, deluged by their texting, suffers stress
to find replies expected in two minutes, even less!

Another aspect, I admit, that often makes me grin
keeps sending me to scan the daily adverts that come in.
Some sellers are creative, others say things as they are,
while some compose a narrative that borders on bizarre!

But sad to say, their sense of spelling sometimes lets them down.
You'll want to heed the message of a once-worn wedding gown!
An iPad that is barely used might suit another paw,
a message chair might speak while it is soothing what is sore.

The tin has wether-proofing – that's to keep away the sheep –
a duel-cab ute might make you think you should have bought a Jeep!
There's miner ware on covers of an engineering book,
and carpet for the stare might need a closer second look!

There's chests of draws aplenty if you have artistic flair,
while reel good tapes and records are becoming rather rare.
Some person has announced that there's a local butcher store
that's selling lion chops – which may be eaten cooked or roar!

The wardrobe of a bedroom suit might house your dinner suite,
a post whole digger's what you need to make your life complete!
A tennis caught instruction book will capture what to learn,
and resale might bring profit if you buy that Grecian earn.

I found a wiper-sniper but I'm not entirely sure
if it's designed for windscreens or an implement of war.
The penalty for silence, I suspect, involves a shroud
when someone states, "Delete me if my post is not aloud".

It's going cheep (like chickens), so you'd best be on the ball.
But is it trash or treasure? Do you need this stuff at all?
No doubt we could debate all day – but now I have to dash
and view the latest posts – because they might take less for cash!!



TOODYAY BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION RESULTS

Male Champion

Keith Lethbridge R/u Ken Tough 3 Peter Blyth

Female Champion

Sue Pearce R/u Rhonda Tallnash 3 Carmel Wooding

WA Champion

Keith Lethbridge R/u Peter Blyth 3 Bill Gordon

Traditional

Male 1 John Hayes 2 Ken Potter 3 Bob Kettle

Female 1 Sue Pearce 2 Carmel Wooding 3 Rhonda Tallnash

WA 1 John Hayes 2 Barry Higgins 3 Keith Lethbridge

Modern

Male 1 Ken Tough 2 Keith Lethbridge 3 Ken Potter

Female 1 Sue Pearce 2 Rhonda Tallnash 3 Jacqui Warnock

WA 1 Keith Lethbridge 2 Peter Blyth 3 John Hayes

Original Serious

Male 1 James Fitzpatrick 2 Keith Lethbridge 3 Ken Tough

Female 1 Carmel Wooding 2 Rhonda Tallnash 3 Jacqui Warnock

WA 1 James Fitzpatrick 2 Keith Lethbridge 3 Roger Cracknell

Original Humorous

Male 1 James Fitzpatrick 2 Keith Lethbridge 3 Brian Langley

Female 1 Sue Pearce 2 Rhonda Tallnash 3 Peg Vickers

WA 1 James Fitzpatrick 2 Keith Lethbridge 3 Brian Langley

Novice original

1 Chris Taylor 2 Ray Parks 3 David Morrell

Novice other poet

1 Peter Marshall 2 Anne Hayes

Yarnspinning

1 Peg Vickers 2 Peter Blyth 3 Keith Lethbridge

WRITTEN COMPETITION RESULTS

OVERALL – SILVER QUILL

Will Moody

Open Serious

1 David Campbell 2 Will Moody 3 Irene Conner

HC Irene Conner C Shelley Hansen C Paulene Haggith

Humorous

1 Shelley Hansen 2 Will Moody 3 Tom McIlveen

HC Shelley Hansen HC Tom McIlveen C Glennie Palmer

Novice Serious

1 Peter O'Shaughnessy 2 Ray Jackson 3 Peter O'Shaughnessy

HC Bill Gordon C Roger Palmer C Ray Jackson

Novice Humorous

1 Peter O'Shaughnessy 2 John Dooley 3 David Ellis

HC Peter O'Shaughnessy HC John Dooley HC Peter Burke

A Snapshot of Our History - by Peter Mace

For the last four years I have been involved with a project, run by the Art Co-Operative in Gosford where each year they invite around twenty ex service personnel to tell their stories in front of a poet, an artist and a photographer. The result is an exhibition that tours the Central Coast and an annual book entitled "Australian Spirit" Last year I was involved with a young veteran from Afghanistan (You published the poem)

This year I interviewed a ninety year old who was a member of the "Small Ships Association", a group I knew nothing about until I met Duncan.

The U.S. Army Small Ships Section 1942-1947 was a unique organisation formed in response to advancing Japanese Forces in the South Pacific during WWII. During 1942 the Small Ships Section commenced landings in New Guinea. This 'attack fleet' consisted of a wide variety of vessels acquired or built in Australia and New Zealand. The fleet included fishing trawlers, schooners, ketches, luggers, tug-boats, yachts and ferries. Small Ships Section employed over 3,000 Australian civilians including one woman who served alongside 1,372 U.S. Army Personnel along with New Zealanders, Canadians, Chinese, Danes, British, Filipino, Dutch, Austrian, Torres Strait Islanders, French, even an Eskimo. The Small Ships were manned by Merchant Seaman from all over the world.

In 1943 Duncan as a fifteen year old from Newtown in Sydney was at Walsh Bay when approached by an American serviceman, he went on to join the merchant marine and spent the Second World War on various "Small Ships" that had been commandeered to supply various ports around the coasts of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The artist for this project was renowned painter Mr Peter Fennell, who captured the moment Duncan met the American serviceman at Walsh Bay.

A Sailor of the Small Ships

©Peter Mace

Life is shaped by chance encounters, I'm told all the experts say.
For one young Duncan Paterson that occurred down by Walsh Bay.
As he strolled past the ships of war, exchanged banter with the crew.
Spied by a Yankee officer asking "What would you like to do"

Pointing at the nearest iron hull ,Duncan said "well I suppose"
If you gave me the choice mate, would fancy driving one of those.
So t'was there began a journey early nineteen forty three.
Facing the baptism of war around the coast of PNG.

In August first set sail from Cairns, supplies bound for Milne Bay.
Hopping around the islands, Finschaffan, Manus, Lae.
On wooden boats and cargo steamers, all battling the seas.
Giving great support to allied troops, dodging the Japanese.

Sailed on board the MV Mulcra with the Phillipines convoy.
Ran the gauntlet of the enemy still determined to destroy.
Stood there on Tacloban Beach, October nineteen forty four.
Greeted Douglas MacArthur as the General came ashore.

So then here we have this young man still not old enough to drive
Who should be chasing shielas, instead, just trying to survive
This adventure of a lifetime that began there on the quay
To help support his shipmates and defend his country

Duncan's is just another story of this now forgotten fleet.
This story of young boy sailors and the challengers they'd meet.
So hats off to those brave young men who came from near and far.
To those who still survive today, to those who've crossed the bar.



Peter Fennell who did this painting was also commissioned by Ross Pitts who owns Rockend Restaurant to do a painting depicting a scene from "Waltzing Matilda"

Rockend was Paterson's Grandmother's home where Banjo lived as a young man.

This painting plus another commissioned by Ross showing Governor Phillip meeting the aboriginal at Looking Glass Bay are on display at the restaurant.



Join us on our Facebook Group -
Australian Bush Poets Association

or check out website and Forums at

www.abpa.org.au

OUR POETRY KIDS

The Milton Show Society (NSW) hold annual Junior Bush Poetry Performance and Written Competitions. Sadly Ruth Davis, the co-coordinator of these competitions, died in September, but John Davis is determined to keep up the legacy they both established. A full report of this year's event is in this newsletter.

This year the first and second prizes in the written competition were taken out by two sisters Georgia and Zara Clegg who attend St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic School, Milton, NSW. Both girls are very keen writers at this stage and their mum is thrilled with their success. They are looking forward to seeing their work in print.



Zara Clegg receiving her award for 1st with her poem –

DISCO DUCK

by Zara Clegg

The day I saw him I knew it wasn't true
a duck sitting on my doorstep,
what was I going to do?
A minute later I walked inside
I saw a shadow pass me by
it's dancing steps I had to try.

That shadow it could move and groove,
it had a style it looked real smooth.
Now, where was that duck?
Oh, what's that noise?
I think he's into my new toys.

I crept along the hallway floor
and took a peek
through my bedroom door
what I saw was a silly sight
he was dancing on my disco light.

My mum came in and shook me
it gave me such a fright.
I opened up my eyes and saw
the bright sun light.
So I guess it wasn't true
that duck was in my sleep
a special dream of disco duck
that only I can keep.

© 2017, Zara Clegg (at age 8)

MILTON (NSW) SHOW SOCIETY REPORT 2017 ANNUAL JUNIOR POETRY COMPETITIONS

The junior poetry performance competition was held on Saturday, 9 September with 20 children from two of the local public schools (Milton public and St Mary's Catholic School) performing on the stage. The standard of performances was very high with poems recited from iconic Australian poets such as Banjo Patterson, Henry Lawson, Will Ogilvie, and Dorothea MacKellar as well as several modern contemporary poets and some original poems written by the performers themselves.

After the performances and judging was completed prizes were awarded including prizes for the written competition which was judged about a week before the competition day. Successful competitors were.

WRITTEN COMPETITION

1ST ZARA CLEGG with Disco the Duck
2ND GEORGACLEGG with TheWave
3RD TARA LATAGHY & JORDAN MAGI with Best Friends Forever
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS went to
TESS WILSON, HUGO PERRY-DICKENSON,
OSCAR PERRY-DICKENSON, JORDAN RICHARDSON.

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

1ST LUCAS MCDONALD
2ND TILLY GRAVENOR
3RD LILY MILFORD

The Jim Grahame trophy was won by Lucas McDonald and Lucas also won the showmanship award.

Every child who got on the stage and performed received a prize which this year was a poetry book by a very good modern humorous poet Bob Magor from South Australia.

The school team prize was taken out by St Mary's in a very closely contested event.

The competition was posted by St Mary's Catholic School who have actually hosted this competition in their wonderful auditorium for the past seven or eight years and I would like to particularly thank CHLOE FAUST for her enthusiasm and efforts.

John Davis



Georgia Clegg receiving her award for 2nd with her poem –

THE WAVE

by Georgia Clegg

I run down to the waterside
wondering what I'll get to ride.
I watch the great big gloomy beast,
watch the wave as it starts to feast

The white wash comes down from the wave,
surfing is my talent and fave.
I look upon the shore and see
my parents waiting there for me.

This wave is the definite one
on this wave I'm never done.
On this wave I'm feeling free
this is the place I love to be.

© 2017, Georgia Clegg (at age 10)

ANZAC BISCUITS

© Kylie Sonter

Our troops are fighting, how can we show we care?
All we can do is pray, for our cupboards are bare.
We do have some oats, some butter and golden syrup,
But how could we possibly send these to Europe?
With heavy hearts we combine them and decide to risk it.
And thus, to honour our boys, was born the Anzac biscuit.

HOW MANY, HOW MUCH

©Shel Silverstein

How many slams in an old screen door?
Depends how loud you shut it.
How many slices in a bread?
Depends how thin you cut it.
How much good inside a day?
Depends how good you live 'em.
How much love inside a friend?
Depends how much you give 'em.

UNDER SOUTHERN SOIL

By Tom McIlveen

Winner Nandewar Poetry Competition 2017

When the Captain Arthur Phillip came aboard
he had checked his charts in readiness for sea.
He had times the tides to synchronise with sun and stars and moon,
from his vantage point just south of Camber Quay

With eleven ships to care for and a thousand mouths to feed,
he was bellowing and making quite a fuss.
He appeared to be preoccupied and paid us little heed...
and was hardly keen to greet the likes of us!

We were all convicted prisoners, selected by the Crown
to be banished to some God forsaken shore.
We were ragamuffin rejects from the slums of London Town
and as far afield as Dublin and Tramore.

Some were manacled and shackled, other hobbled, yoked and tied
by the ropes and chains that hung from neck to knees.
There were many sick and feeble, and a few had even died
from the scourge of malnutrition and disease.

We were herded in like cattle... single file and two abreast
into holding pens they built for keeping stock.
I could see the Captain's officers were clearly unimpressed
to be sharing ship with such a sinful flock.

I was told to board the Scarborough, the largest in the fleet,
and as fine a ship as I had ever seen.
She was poetry in motion and was rolling with the beat
of the drummer from His Majesty's marine.

As we drifted through the Channel I could see the Isle of Wight,
and with heavy heart I bid her fare-the-well.
My beloved Mother England – almost gone and out of sight –
to be swallowed by the North Atlantic swell.

I could feel the ocean churning, smell its salted, pungent breath,
as it wept for me from wells of wasted tears.
It exuded sheer magnificence and cold impending death,
in a frightful world of unimagined fears.

I could hear the Captain howling...'Pull the jib and trim the sails!
There's a squall approaching somewhere from astern.
There'll be wind enough to blow us all the way to New South Wales,
and then home again if e'er we should return!'

We had sailed on down to Santa Cruz and Rio in Brazil,
through the doldrums which delayed us for a while.
Then a trade wind blew and soon our sagging sails began to fill,
as the Scarborough unfurled with grace and style.

She was racing ever eastward through the warm Pacific sea,
to a shoreline bleached with pearly shells and sand.
I could feel a strange vibration stirring deep inside of me...
that was primitive and hard to understand.

I could smell the taste of freedom of this isolated place,
that no King or Queen had ever tyrannised.
Where a man could simply up and disappear without a trace
and be never seen again or recognised.

I will serve my time in New South Wales with all my convict chums
and the redcoats who control our daily toil.
But I swear by all that's holy, when the day of judgement comes,
we will all be equal – under southern soil!

By the time I reach the Pearly gates I'll probably be free,
though the scars above my ankles will remain.
So I cannot help but wonder... when they see the likes of me –
will they let me in without my ball and chain?



1st place - Under Southern Soil
by Tom McIlveen

2nd place – Through the Dreams of a Child
by Brenda Joy

3rd place - Won't You Come
by Tom McIlveen

Highly Commended – Play Wellington at
Waterloo
by Arthur Green

THE OLD BRUSH HUT

© T.E. Piggott

Winner Cervantes Written Poetry Comp 2017

I close my eyes and see it still, the old brush hut below flat hill,
a makeshift camp at best you'd say, yet it was home for us back then.
And there for years we lived our dreams of finding precious opal seams,
the Coober Pedy of those times, a magnet to us opal men.

An arid place with little rain, this outpost on the Gibber Plain,
the kind of spot they used to say where only fools and dreamers came.
Relentless heat and cloudless skies with dust and over-friendly flies,
yet those of us who lived out there soon grew to love it just the same.

Though nearly broke we made a bid and bought the hut for twenty quid,
then camped out there beneath the stars and lived on bread and bully beef.
We battled hard to make ends meet and learnt to cope with summer heat,
our shack was hot throughout the day, though dusk at times would bring relief.

I see it now with chinks of light that peeped through cracks when viewed at night;
we slept on beds we'd scrounged somewhere, while light came from a miner's lamp.
A tucker box to store things in as mostly food came in a tin,
a simple life enjoyed by us while living in that old bush camp.

I think back to our first good find when money worries plagued my mind,
we'd battled on with funds so low, without a patch we'd soon be gone.
Our mine was on a nearby hill, down eighty feet and sinking still,
until a line of trace appeared and gave us hope to carry on.

With care I'd gently swung the pick, then came that longed for glassy click;
with pounding hearts we'd stared in hope, at where I'd aimed that final blow.
There glowing in the feeble light a glint of colour shining bright;
with shaking hands I'd chipped away and soon a seam began to show.

A careful tap then down some dropped and for a moment breathing stopped,
a magic scene had met our eyes, with gleaming opal there below.
Bright shades of red and sparkling green, breathtaking hues could then be seen
and getting bigger all the time - a thrill that only gougers know.

Excitement echoed down the drive this patch would keep our hopes alive,
we'd battled on as best mates do determined that we would make good.
Though secretly I'd feared the worst, it seemed for months our luck was cursed
and we were doomed to struggle on, as some old timers said we would.

For hours we'd slowly worked away whilst taking turns throughout that day,
with each new piece we'd pause to look and prayed the seam went on again.
The pile of gems had slowly grown as down that mine the hours had flown,
perhaps at last we'd made the grade and now were truly opal men.

That patch no doubt had saved the day, without more cash, we couldn't stay,
the old brush hut had brought us luck that carried on in years ahead.
No fortunes found but still we'd stayed, the life was great and bills were paid
and there was sadness when I left to chase new dreams elsewhere instead.

I stir at last, the daydream ends, of opal days and long lost friends,
as young men then we'd grown up fast and fell in love with life outback.
I've moved on now and years speed by still chasing rainbows in the sky,
though memories are always there, of life out in that old brush shack.



Cervantes Festival of Art,
Cervantes WA.

Written Poetry Results 2017

First 'The Old Brush Hut' - Terry
Piggott, Lynwood WA

V Highly Commended 'Stolen' -
Catherine Lee, Thailand

Highly Commended 'The Legacy
of C. Y. Oconnor - Shelley Hanson,
Marybrough Qld.

Highly Commended 'Secrets of
the Desert' - Brenda Joy, Charters
Towers Qld.

Commended 'When you and I
were Boys old Friend - Terry
Piggott, Lynwood WA

Commended 'Remember It' -
Caroline Tuohey, Darlington Pt
NSW

Commended 'The Lady of The
Lakes' - Terry Piggott, Lynwood
WA

Commended 'The Convict's
Dream' - Tony Hammill, Cairndale
Qld.

POETS SHOWCASE BREAKFAST

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th - 8.30am to 10.00am

frog & toad

LISTENING ROOM

236 Goonoo Goonoo Road
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PH 02 6765 7022

Gary Fogarty

hosts a Rotating Roster of
Australia's Most Popular
Bush Poets

- ❖ Ray Essery
- ❖ Bill Kearns
- ❖ Errol Gray
- ❖ Jack Drake
- ❖ Marion Fitzgerald

"Start your day
with some original
Aussie Humour"



Special Guest on Australia Day – Keith Lethbridge – 2017 Australian Champion

NEW SHOW – EVERY DAY!

Breakfast Available - Air Conditioned Venue

Tickets only \$10 Available at door (includes Step Up Show)

STEP UP SHOW

8.00am to 8.30am

Providing an opportunity for Aspiring Bush Poets



GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



As the author of numerous magazines and newspaper articles and books, Ernestine Hill became something of an Outback Legend.

"Call of the Outback" by Marianne Van Velzen (Allen and Unwin 2016), charts the life and career of this independent, eccentric and often controversial writer.

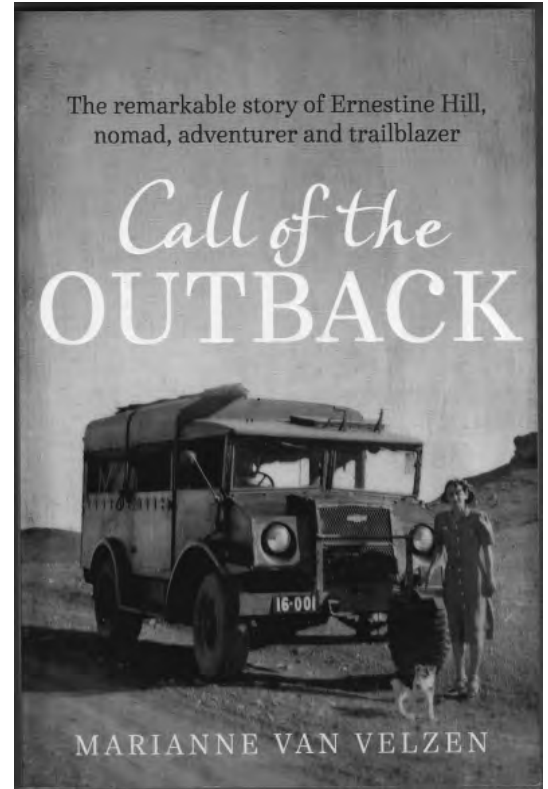
Born in 1899 in Townsville, Ernestine received schooling in Brisbane and attended Business College in 1917. In her younger years she wrote poetry and was regularly published in "The Catholic Advocate", "The Tribune" and "The Australian Worker".

She moved to Sydney in 1918 and became secretary to none other than J.F. Archibald when he first launched the tabloid "Smith's Weekly". Following Archibald's death in 1919, Ernestine was made a sub editor at Smith's by Robert Packer.

The young journo was infatuated with Packer and when the inevitable occurred she found herself pregnant to a married man. Her mother supported her and she was whisked off to Tasmania where she obtained a post on "The Launceston Examiner". With the support of her mother and aunt, she moved back to the mainland and became a feature writer for the "Sunday Sun", and began her travels throughout the Outback in 1930.

Ernestine Hill travelled the backroads and byways of every state during her career. Her books "The Great Australian Loneliness", "The Territory", "Flying Doctor Calling" and "My Love Must Wait" are all Australian classics.

Marianne Van Velzen has made a great job of recording the history of a trail blazing Australian woman. Definitely worth reading.



Queensland Pioneers and their Goats

NOWADAYS we tend to hear only bad news about the menace of feral goats. But from the 1870s to the 1960s it was a totally different story. As the pioneers and settlers made their historic treks to the furthestmost corners of east Queensland, they were always accompanied by herds of goats. Goats provided the fresh milk and meat that ensured survival in the harsh interior. As the settlement towns grew in the north and the west, so too did each town's resident herd of goats.



Goats became inextricably linked with the daily rituals of country life. They became much loved family pets and sometimes much hated community pests. They were adventurous, curious, inquisitive and indomitable. They took over school verandahs and playgrounds. Harnesses to home-made goat carts, they were children's loyal workmates, hauling water and wood for the family. Harassed to supply eggs with child pickles they became the celebrated racing and jumping champions of a whole state.

In this book hundreds of people from every corner of Queensland remember the goats of their childhood with enduring love. Through their goats they are in fact reliving the social history of our state. Nowadays goat breeders proudly display their pedigree wamers, angoras and kashmir champions every year at the Ekka.

When thinking about earlier times in The Outback, most people's thought conjure up visions of mobs of sheep and cattle, weather beaten drovers on horseback, or long strings of heavily laden camels. It would come as a bit of a shock to them to discover that the most important domestic animal for the survival of bush people in those times, was the humble goat.

"The Indispensable Goat" by Errol Beutel and Fay Schutt (CQU Press 2002) examines the contribution the goat made to outback settlement.

The meat and milk supply to stations, new towns and mining camps was almost exclusively supplied by goats. No bush kid felt complete without his or her personal goat cart pulled by one or more animals. Goat teams hauled firewood and water. Gardens were ploughed with goat power. Goats were ridden, raced in carts and under saddle and even jumped over hurdles.

"The Indispensable Goat" is an in depth account of a fascinating part of European settlement in Australia that has received very little recognition from historians. Errol Beutel and Fay Schutt have done a marvellous job of recording the story of Australia's goats. Their collected material, accounts and anecdotes of good, bad, irascible and eccentric goats and some of their equally colourful owners, makes "The Indispensable Goat" a great read.

More great Aussie reads at
www.outbackbooks.info

Jack Drake

THE KEMBLA FLAME

Written Bush Poetry Comp. 2018

PRESENTED BY ILLAWARRA BREAKFAST POETS and ILLAWARRA FOLK CLUB

2018 Conditions of competition total prize money \$800.. all cash prizes with certificate.

Prizes - OPEN First - The Kembla Flame Trophy, \$300 and Certificate.

Runner up- \$200.00 and certificate

- plus two prizes \$100 and certificate

Note New section: NOVICE: \$100.00 and certificate.

****Decision of the judging panel is final **** Authors name must not appear on poem.

To encourage new writers, we offer a Novice prize of \$100. to be awarded to a poem with sound Rhyme and Metre with subject matter that is, in some way, uniquely Australian .(Conforming to the ABPA standard.) A Novice is identified as an author who has not been awarded any prize including encouragement awards in a written bush poetry competition..

ClosingDate 3rd January 2018

Entry fee of \$5 per poem per section. or 3 poems for \$10. and must be paid before judging. by Bank deposit only use your surname to identify deposit.

Entry Forms available from: email zondraeking@gmail.com phone 42837061

or from the Australian Bush Poets Assn abpa.org.au (events page,)

Entries to Mr Graham Morhett, Competition Secretary, The Kembla Fame
9 Links street,
Minnamurra, NSW 2533

This is a written Bush Poetry competition and therefore is for poems written with consistent rhyme and metre. There is also the requirement that the theme or subject matter must be Australian by nature. Building a snowman in your front yard would only be considered "Australian" if the home was in the Snowy Mountains or certain parts of Victoria or Tasmania. The scope of "about Australia, Australians or the Australian way of life ." is wide but still must be considered. It may be the deciding factor.

RAY ESSERY



One Hell Of A Ride

Stories and poems of the NSW Northern Rivers by one of its greatest characters - as told to ANNA ROSE

THE Mullumbimby Bloke has finally, and some would say unexpectedly, written his autobiography, Ray Essery - One Hell of a Ride.

Renowned throughout the country as a bush poet, the 75-year-old Brunswick Heads retiree worked with former Tamworth journalist and grey nomad Anna Rose to document his life.

"Fortunately, Ray has been somewhat of a bowerbird, keeping photos and mementos of his early years on this earth," Ms Rose said.

In one particular incident a capacity crowd at the Lismore Showground in 1985 saw Ray flung from his trotting gig in a near-fatal accident. The indomitable Essery returned 12 months later to win the same race, the Inter Dominion.

His first public performance was at the Byron Community Centre in 1989 where, he said, he was shaking with nerves.

"I hope the book helps to let young people of today know that you can succeed in life even if you're born into a low income family with little education," he said.

"It just means you have to work harder, have more determination and above all common sense."

Ray will be appearing at the Tamworth Country Music Festival, most days at the Longyard Poets Breakfasts, also at the Frog and Toad with Gary Fogarty and with the Three Randy Poets at Wests Leagues Club during the festival.

Contact Ray on 0438843817 or essery56rm@bigpond.com for further information on obtaining your copy.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

2018 A.B.P.A. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association Incorporated will be held at St.Edward's church hall, Hillvue Road, South Tamworth, at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 24th January, 2018. At that meeting, all office bearing positions will be declared vacant.

OFFICE BEARER NOMINATION FORM

(N.B. Any financial member of the ABPA can nominate or be nominated for a position.)

Nominations of candidates for election as Executive, Ordinary Committee or State Delegates must be made in writing on this form, signed by the Nominee, the Nominator and the Secunder. This form must be delivered to **Penny Broun, 6 Epacris Avenue, FOREST-VILLE, NSW. 2087**, or signed, scanned and emailed to **pennybroun@bigpond.com** at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all the office bearing vacancies, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and nominations for the unfilled position/s may be received from the floor at the AGM.

Nomination for the position of PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, COMMITTEE MEMBER, STATE DELEGATE for the State of (Please circle one)

Nominee(Please print)

Address:.....

Nominee's Consent.....(Signature of Nominee).....(Date)

Nominated by(Please print)

Address:.....

.....(Signature of Nominator).....(Date)

Secundered by(Please print)

Address:.....

.....(Signature of Secunder).....(Date)

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY FORM

To allow financial members unable to attend the AGM to vote for all or for specific office bearing positions, this form may be used. I,.....(Please print full name)

of.....(address) being a financial member of the

Australian Bush Poets Association, hereby appoint(Please print

full name of proxy) of.....(address)

as my proxy to vote for me, on my behalf for the following office bearer positions (please circle your choices) ALL POSITIONS OR specific office bearer position/s only as follows:- PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY COMMITTEE MEMBER STATE DELEGATE: QUEENSLAND NSW VICTORIA TASMANIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA WEST AUSTRALIA and for special resolutions (optional, circle if desired) as determined by the President, at the ABPA AGM to be held on Wednesday 24th January, 2018 @ 2pm and at any adjournment of that meeting.

.....(signature of member appointing proxy).....(date) N.B. All proxies must be submitted on this official form and must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 24 hours before the meeting. No member may hold more than 5 proxies.

ABPA AGM Nomination and Proxy Form 2015.11
(This form may be photocopied if necessary)

Generous Prize Money!

DUNEDOO

Bush

Poetry



Festival

1st - 4th March 2018

Spoken Performance Includes Male & Female sections for

- Intermediate /
- Classical
- Original Serious & Humorous
- Contemporary

Plus Combined written section for serious & humorous entries

The festival includes Walk Up, Meet and Greet,

Morning Tea & Lunch Activities, All Day

Saturday Competitions & Saturday Night Concert, Poets' Breakfast, plus much more!

Entry forms available from Kylie Rose 0427 637 266

coordinator@dunedoo.org.au

Bush Poetry at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival

Corryong 5 - 8 April 2018.

Jack Riley Heritage Award (male & female), One Minute and MFSR Recital and Comps, Poets' Breakfasts, Concerts.

Entry forms on <http://www.bushfestival.com.au> from 8th December

(Vict Championships in 2019)

Jan Lewis 0260774332 or janlewis1@hotmail.com



Rhonda Tallnash has her name on this Award – Will you?

Blackened Billy Verse Competition 2018

Organised by Tamworth Poetry Reading Group. Supported by AM Printing Services.



First Prize:	\$500 and the Blackened Billy Trophy and certificate
Second Prize:	\$250 and certificate
Third Prize:	\$150 and certificate

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Poetry entries to be bush verse, on one side of A4 paper only and must be entrant's own work.
- Entries may be sent electronically or in printed form by mail, according to instructions below.
- Entries shall not have previously won 1st prize in any poetry competition.
- Entries shall not have been previously published for the monetary gain of the author.
- Entries close 30 November 2017 and the Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Winning entries will be announced and prizes presented prior to the Friday Heats of the 2018 ABPA Golden Dampier Awards on 26 January 2018 at St Edwards Parish Hall, 72 Hillvue Road, South Tamworth.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Entry fee of \$5 per entry, or 5 entries for \$20.
- There is no limit to the number of entries.
- There is no limit to the length of entries.
- Copyright is retained by the author.
- Winners will be notified by mail. All entrants who wish to receive a copy of the results, please enclose a business sized stamped, self-addressed envelope. For a judge's critique; also enclose \$10 per poem with an additional business sized stamped, self addressed envelope.

TO ENTER ELECTRONICALLY:

Multiple entries in PDF may be sent to janmorris33@bigpond.com, each poem as a separate attachment. Do not put your name on the poem. Include a separate attachment listing entrant's name, address, telephone number, list of the titles for all poems entered and method of payment, as per the form below.

TO ENTER BY MAIL:

Post entries with the form below to: The Blackened Billy Verse Competition
PO Box 3001 WEST TAMWORTH NSW 2340

This entry form may be copied, or extra copies obtained by sending a business sized stamped, self addressed envelope to the above address. Cut along dotted line. (Retain top part of this form for your records)

Name: (Print)

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone: (.....).....

Email:

No. of Entries: Entry Fee: (please tick payment method below)

Cheque or Money order (Payable to Tamworth Poetry Reading Group)

Direct Deposit to BSB 082-105 Account No 001047724 (Ref: Surname First Initial)

Authors retain copyright, but Tamworth Poetry Reading Group reserves the right to arrange publication of the winning poem without payment. in the Newsletter of the Australian Bush Poets Association, *The Northern Daily Leader*, and *Capital News*. I agree to the conditions of the competition.

Signature: Date:

If anyone has any items which can be auctioned off at Tamworth to go towards fundraising for the Golden Dampier could you please call

Ray Essery - 0438843817



GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL

Welcome to

GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL

29 - 31 December 2017

Traditional and contemporary folk - blues - celtic - roots
New Year's Eve Bush Dance

The Bushwackers Bush Band

Gleny Ray Virus
Whiskey Dram
Henk Groot
Stringline
and many more great acts

- Guitar Competition - a **Cole Clark** guitar will be won!
- John Dengate Political Parody Songwriting Competition

blackboard concerts sessions workshops poets' breakfasts

Gulgong is a friendly little town with links to history through Henry Lawson, gold mining & more.

Season tickets available at TryBooking.com until 8 December

Get your season ticket! www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au Like us on Facebook!

The 47th Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse
Entries close 30th April 2018



First Prize: \$500 plus statue
Second Prize: \$200
Highly Commended certificates

Entries for 2018 may be posted to Bronze Swagman,
PO Box 44, Winton, Outback Qld 4735

Or emailed to closeandmoller@gmail.com in **WORD**
format. but please ensure you get an email in reply
within 4 days to acknowledge receipt – otherwise post.

See www.bronzeswagman.info for more details,
conditions and entry forms

If I can be of any help please contact me.
Jeff Close Hon Co-ordinator

LONGYARD HOTEL BUSH POETS BREAKFASTS

Goonoo Goonoo Room
Hosted by
Neil McArthur
Along With
Marco Giori and Ray Essery





**Featuring Australia's
Finest and Funniest Bush Poetry Entertainers**

INCLUDING PROUSTY, GREG CHAMPION, BILL KEARNS, ERROL GRAY,
JACK DRAKE, COL MILLIGAN, DAVE PRIOR, GREG NORTH, MARION
FITZGERALD, PETER CAPP, ALAN GLOVER, JOHN LLOYD AND MANY MORE!!



New Show Every Day - 8am to 10am
From Sat 20th to Sun 28th Jan 2018
Admission - \$10.00
or \$25 Show and Big Breakfast!

Tickets at Gate or prebook from [bottleshop](http://bottleshop.com.au) or on 02 67018400



**WHO WILL BE THE NEXT WINNERS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS
GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS?**

**Entries are now being received for this very popular
PERFORMANCE COMPETITION**

Entry forms can be found on ABPA website

www.abpa.org.au Events Calendar

Original (humorous or serious), **Established** (other peoples)

Over \$2000 in Cash and Prizes

St Edwards Parish Hall

72 Hillvue Road

South Tamworth 2340

Plenty of parking

Air Conditioned

Visitors \$5 entry

Heat 1 Tuesday 23rd Jan 2018

Heat 2 Thursday 25th Jan 2018

Heat 3 Friday 26th Jan 2018

Finals Saturday 27th Jan 2018

Entry fee \$10 per section

ALL HEATS START AT 10.30am

FINALS START 10.30am

WALK UPS

FRANK DANIELS AWARD—This award is in memory of a great poet who had a passion for poetry and entertaining audiences.

Heat 1 Sat 20th Jan 2018

Heat 2 Sun 21st Jan 2018

Heat 3 Tues 23rd Jan 2018

FINALS Friday 26th Jan 2018

WALK UPS

STARTS EACH

DAY

2PM –4PM

WALK UPS

St Edwards Parish Hall

72 Hillvue Road

South Tamworth 2340



VISITORS AND PARTICIPANTS \$5 ENTRY

WORKSHOPS

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Tom McIlveen, Bill Kearns

10am—12pm Mon 22nd Jan 2018



St Edwards Parish Hall

72 Hillvue Road

South Tamworth 2340

PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP

Jack Drake, Rhonda Tallnash

2pm—4pm Mon 22nd Jan 2018



FREE ENTRY

AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION

If you wish to find out more about the Australian Bush Poets Association, or if you are not already a member of the ABPA and wish to become one, please go to the our Website www.abpa.org.au to download a membership form, or contact the Secretary secretary@abpa.org.au



16th-25th **FEB 2018**

BANJO PATERSON AUSTRALIAN POETRY FESTIVAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

The 2018 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival, to be held in Orange NSW, the birthplace of A. B. Paterson, will celebrate all Australian Poets and feature outdoors and healthy lifestyle activities for the whole family.

Don't miss the signature events to be held during this Festival!

**BANJO PATERSON
NIGHT MARKET
FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY**

**ROTARY BREKKY &
POETRY IN THE PARK
16, 22, 23, 24 FEBRUARY**

**BANJO BREKKY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

**BANJO PATERSON
POETRY COMPETITION
SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

**CONCERT AT YEOVAL
FEAT. ANNE KIRKPATRICK
SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

**POET'S BRUNCH & LUNCH
DAY AT YEOVAL
SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY**

**EMMAVILLE COTTAGE
FAMILY MARKET DAY
SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY**

For more information on the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival accommodation and packages

www.visitorange.com.au



The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Inaugurated 1994 ARBN: 104 032 126 ABN:17 145 367 949

www.abpa.org.au

Treasurer: Carol Hutcheson 48 Avoca Street KINGAROY QLD 4610

Email: treasurer@abpa.org.au Phone: 07 4162 5878

Membership Application Form 2018

You may pay online at www.abpa.org.au

Renewing membership

New member

Membership is for a calendar year from 1st January to 31st December.

Annual membership includes all magazines (including back issues) for the current calendar year.

Members joining after 30th September will receive the year's remaining issues as well as membership for the following calendar year.

Name:

Postal address:

..... Postcode:

Phone: Mobile:

Email:

Signature:..... Date:

ABPA Membership Fees: (AUD)

- Single membership.....\$45 (posted magazine)
- Single membership..... \$35 (emailed magazine only)
- Dual family membership\$60 (one posted magazine)
- Dual family membership \$50 (one emailed magazine)
- Junior membership \$20 (under 18 years – emailed magazine)
- International member supplement..... \$25 (for postage - not for emailed magazines)
- Public Liability Insurance Package.....\$95 (\$20 million PLI cover 31/01/18 to 31/01/19)
- Membership badge.....\$10 (includes postage within Australia)

Total: \$_____

Receipt please

NO receipt thanks (your magazine address label will

show your receipt number and membership expiry.)

Cheque Payable to:

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Postal address:

48 Avoca Street KINGAROY QLD 4610

Or pay by direct deposit to:

Please note NEW BANK details since 2015

Bank: Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 154842108

Account Name: Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

Reference: Your NAME

Paying by direct deposit please include **your NAME** as the reference and send confirmation **with this form** to treasurer@abpa.org.au or The Treasurer, 48 Avoca Street KINGAROY QLD 4610.