

TOWNSVILLE

No. 2 FEBRUARY 1995

**The Australian**



**Bush Poets**

**Association**

**'ON THE ROAD'**

**with**

**SWAGGIES WALK  
CAIRNS to WINTON**

P.O. BOX 77

DRAYTON NORTH.

QLD. 4350.

Telephone Enq. (076) 301106.

PRESIDENT.	M. BOSTOCK.
SEC/TREASURER.	R. SELBY.
EXEC/MEMBER.	M. JARROTT.
EXEC/MEMBER.	G. GRAHAM.

MEMBERSHIP

\$20.00

When *Waltzing Matilda* was written on Dagworth Station and at the North Gregory Hotel, the Winton District was in the grip of a depression which, after some abatement, intensified into the true Depression of the late twenties and thirties. All of Australia collectively drew on all available resources, both personal and national, to weather out the protracted crisis.

Since that time, Winton has remained a rather sleepy town in the middle of Queensland's outback, somewhere between Longreach and Mt Isa. Then, five years ago, the city-fathers became conscious of the pending centennial of the writing of Australia's most famous national song and decided that a celebration was called for that would put Winton on the map forever more. Dreams have escalated into plans and imaginations have been captured starting with the local citizenry, followed by the State as well as national organisations and companies.

More than a million dollars has been pumped into the preparations and all of Winton has been undergoing a transformation. John Watson from the Queensland Events Corporation has been in charge of "themeing" the town and, although he says he can't reveal too much just yet, the fact that Winton is

slowly starting to take on the look of a giant movie set is unmistakable.

Winton is on the brink of the biggest celebration the Australian outback has seen and it shows.

Mayor Eric Lenton says the district is anticipating an infusion of many millions of dollars. "The Shire is currently building a



*Winton, sleepy town of the past.*

*Waltzing Matilda* Cultural Centre which will further bring home the point to all visitors that Winton is the birthplace of Australia's most significant and best-loved national song. After this bash, no-one will ever forget it. The historic celebrations of this year will set Winton on a new economic path, that of tourism."

\*\*\*\*\* REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. \*\*\*\*\*

TAMWORTH N.S.W. 27/1/95.

Minutes of the 1st Annual General Meeting held 27/1/95 at the Imperial Hotel Tamworth.

The meeting opened at 1.05 pm. President Merve (Bluey) Bostock welcomed all present. Attendance (from attendance book ;

Ron Selby	DRAYTON Q.	Merve Bostock	CAIRNS Q.
Geoffrey Graham	BEALIBA V.	Frank Daniel	CANOWINDRA NSW.
Marion Fitzgerald	NORTH STAR NSW.	John Philipson	TAMWORTH NSW.
Philippa Powell	TAMWORTH NSW.	Carmel Randle	PRESTON Q
Reid Begg	FORSTER NSW.	Pauline Begg	FORSTER NSW.
Bob Magor	MYPONGA S.A.	Noel Cutler	MILAWA V.
Milton Taylor	PORTLAND NSW.	Tiny Hall	TAMWORTH NSW.
Colin Newsome	GLEN INNES NSW.	Robert Raftery	WACOL Q
Johnny Johanson	WYNNUM Q	Bob Miller	MUNGAR Q.
Sandy Miller	MUNGAR Q	Ron Bates	GATTON Q
Campbell Irving	TRURO S.A.	Linda Scott	BALMAIN NSW.
Tammy Muir	PICOLA Vic.	John Major	BARALABA Q.
Gary Fogarty	GOONDIWINDI Q	Ray Essery	MULLIMBIMBY NSW.
Leigh Brown	YASS NSW.	George Cooney	ROSEWOOD Q.
Ron Stephenson	MARYBOROUGH Q.		

Apologies were received from; Jack Gillis; Col Wilson and Ian Fisher.

The Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held at the Imperial Hotel Tamworth 28/1/94.

Moved; Frank Daniel, Seconded; John Philipson. That the minutes be adopted as a true recording of that meeting..... Carried.

The Secretary/Treasurer presented the Financial Report, this showed

Total Income:	\$2,855.65.	Gross Profit in the form of; Assets;	\$190.50.
Less Expenses;	\$2,167.87.	No 1 Acc;	\$477.28.
Gross Profit;	\$ 687.78.	No 2 Acc;	\$ 20.00.
		Total;	\$687.78.

A copy of the financial report is attached.

Moved; Ron Selby, Seconded; Reid Begg, that the Financial Report be received. CARRIED.

The President then expanded his (written) Report which was published in the December A.B.P.A. Newsletter. He gave up to date information on The Swaggies Walk and WINTON Competitions, also details on the Tamworth Procession to be held on Saturday morning, 28/1/95.

Frank Daniel moved a vote of thanks to the President, congratulating him on his tireless work for the organisation in 1994.

CARRIED by ENTHUSIASTIC ACCLAIM!

An (urgent) report was presented by John Philipson on the regulations governing floats in the Tamworth Procession .e.g. START; 10.30 am SHARP, At least 2 walkers on each side of each float. NO material to be thrown.

The President then declared all positions open and vacated the chair. Elections to be chaired by Carmel Randle, who opened this duty by thanking the retiring Office Bearers, particularly Ron Selby for his conscientious work as Secretary/ Treasurer. CARRIED by ENTHUSIASTIC ACCLAIM!

#### ELECTION RESULTS.

PRESIDENT: Merve (Bluey) Bostock. Moved; John Philipson 2nd Bob Magor  
ELECTED UNOPPOSED.

VICE PRESIDENT; (2) Carmel Randle Moved Marion Fitzgerald  
2nd; Noel Cutler.

Geoffrey Graham; Moved; Reid begg.  
2nd; Milton Taylor.

R,J, (bob) Miller Moved Merve Bostock.  
2nd; Tiny Hall.

Frank Daniel; Moved; Colin Newsome.  
2nd; Geoffrey Graham.

A vote (show of hands) resulted in the election of Bob Miller and Frank Daniel.

SECRETARY/TREASURER; Ron Selby; Moved; Noel Cutler, 2nd Frank Daniel.

PUBLICITY; QLD, Robert Raftery, Moved Sandy Miller, 2nd Ron selby.

NSW, Frank Daniel, Moved Ron Selby, 2nd Tiny Hall.

VIC. Geaffrey Graham, Moved Reid Begg, 2nd Merve Bostock.

SA, Bob Magor, Moved Merve Bostock, 2nd Milton Taylor.

President to be authorised to approach suitable poets in remaining states.

CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.

Moved, Johnny Johanson; 2nd, Milton Taylor, that these offices be not included in the Executive Ex-Officio. CARRIED.

The President, Merve Bostock, Then resumed the chair.

The meeting was then adjourned (at 1.55pm) until Saturday, 28/1/95 at the conclusion of Mark Gliori's Show (Approx 3.30pm) at the Longyard Hotel.

The adjourned meeting re-opened on Saturday 28/1/95 at 4pm.

Apologies; Gary Fogarty.

Moved; Frank Daniel, 2nd Campbell Irving, That A.B.P.A. be registered Australia wide. CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.

Moved; Noel Cutler, 2nd Bob Miller, That we empower the executive to draft a Constitution, print it through the Newsletter, and present it for conformation at the next A.G.M. CARRIED.

Moved; Ron Bates, 2nd Ray Essery, That Open, Novice and Ladies classes at WINTON be altered to read; ORIGINAL OR TRADITIONAL. CARRIED.

Moved; Noel Cutler, 2nd Ray Essery, That Ladies Classes be deleted at WINTON. MOTION LOST.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR DEFINITION OF "NOVICE"

A person who hasn't been placed in PERFORMANCE COMPETITION, first time performers.

Moved; Ray Essery, 2nd John Major, That winners of the Tamworth Poetry Group Competition be regarded as the TOP AWARD WINNERS at Tamworth. PASSED.

Moved; Frank Daniel, 2nd Ron Bates, That the Secretary write to the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group to encourage the necessary approach to be made to have winners included in C.M.A. Awards. PASSED.

Moved; Frank Daniel, 2nd Bob Miller, That membership be PRO-RATA, \$2.00 per month for late membership. CARRIED.

Moved; Bob Miller, 2nd Geoffrey Graham, That the Secretary be empowered to spend the necessary funds to have books published. PASSED.

President Merve Bostock then addressed the meeting briefly re the SWAGGIES WALK.

Next Annual General Meeting to be held at Tamworth, January 1996 at the best time and best venue that can be arranged by the executive.

MEETING CLOSED AT 5.15pm.

THANKYOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE MEETINGS.

## • Outback Matilda

On Friday, April 7, at the Waltzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations an old favourite and the centenary's patron Slim Dusty will entertain at the big Opening Party.

It is also the day when the Australian Outback Themes Exhibition will be launched and at night the old open-air theatre, complete with canvas seats, will see the launch an Australian Film Festival.

Friday is the second and last day of the Western Picnic Races and there will be a Bush Poets Breakfast at the Royal Theatre.

Top bush poets from all over Australia will be there right through the 12 day celebration.

**FULL  
REPORTS  
ON TAMWORTH  
NEXT  
ISSUE!**



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# Bush poets announce coming party

From January until April, more than fifty townships will be treated to the colourful spectacle of a large troupe of bush poets dressed in period costume entering the towns to be received by the local mayor. Cabaret performances will follow as well as visits to local schools.

The Bush Poets Walk is part of an ardent plan. As Bluey Bostock, Promotions Officer for the Walzing Matilda Centenary Celebrations explains, "We want to ensure that the tradition of Australian bush poetry is kept alive and is spread to everyone as part of our living heritage. We also want to collect for the Queensland Drought Appeal and for the Flying Doctor as we publicise the Walzing Matilda Centenary Festival at Winton so that as many people as possible will be able to come. We are busy but we're loving every minute of it."

As the poets travel through the townships, schoolchildren will be encouraged to write poems and enter them in competitions to win prizes with a Walzing Matilda theme.



*Bluey Bostock, bullfighter and bush poet, leads the way to Centenary celebrations.*

The irrepressible Blue Bostock is not new to outback Australians. They have followed his exploits as bullfighter (he has been Australian Bullfighter of the Year from 1960 to 1972), as rodeo clown and as bush poet extraordinaire for more decades than Bluey cares to count. Apart from being Publicity Officer for the Centenary, Bluey is also President of the Australian Bush Poets Association, making him head bush poet for the pending Bush Poets Walk.

## Trainride to Winton

The bush poets will receive a heroes' welcome in Winton as one of the highlights of the Walzing Matilda celebrations. At the Festival the poets will inaugurate the R. M. Williams Australian Bush Poetry Championship in honour of the man who is widely regarded as the modern grandfather of Australian bush poetry.



*Some of Australia's leading bush poets who will perform at the Festival in April.*

with  
John Morris

## Tamworth bush poets

Tamworth Country Music Festival saw our Na Jeffreys winning Female Vocalist of the Year and another Queenslander, Mackay and songwriter Graeme Connors won the Year.

While Queensland bush poets were well represented among the prize winners at the festival.

125 entries submitted from all over Australia. The Blackened Billy Bush Poetry Writing Competition, Queenslanders took out second and third prizes.

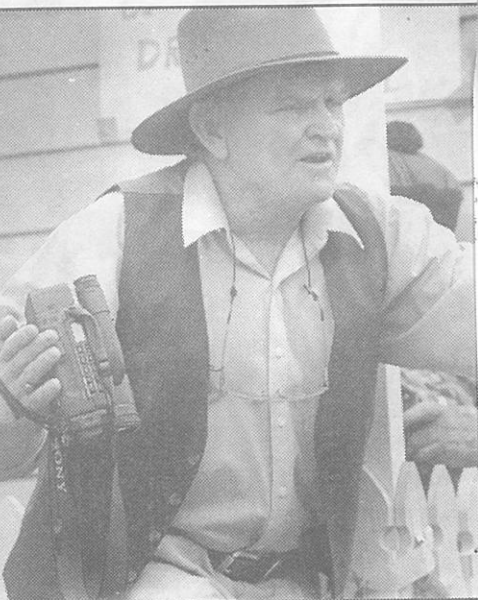
Of the seven highly commended poems were Queensland entries.

Woomba's Carmel Randle was third and Woomba's Charlee Marshall was second with Woomba, of Dubbo, first.

Among the highly commended were Woomba's Ron Selby and Bill Glasson, of Woomba.



**WINNERS AND PLACEGETTERS:** This group of Bush Poets had every reason to smile at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Front row from left, Campbell Irving, of South Australia, was highly commended in the Traditional Bush Poetry section, Bob Miller, of Queensland, was the winner in the Original Bush Poetry section while Gary Fogarty, of Queensland, was second. Back row, Frank Daniel, of New South Wales, was second in the Traditional, Charlee Marshall, of Queensland, was third in the Original section, and Noel Cutler of Victoria, was highly commended in that section.



**IT'S THIS DO?:** A cavalcade floaters look as if he needs directions on how to use his camcorder.





# POSTCARDS FROM TAMWORTH

The Northern Daily

## LEADER

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### PHOTOGRAPHY

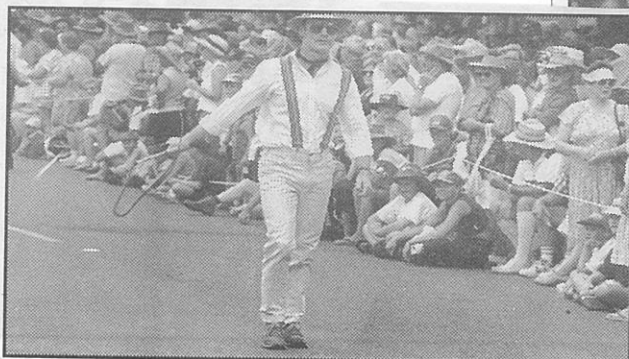
Barry Smith

Robbie Deen

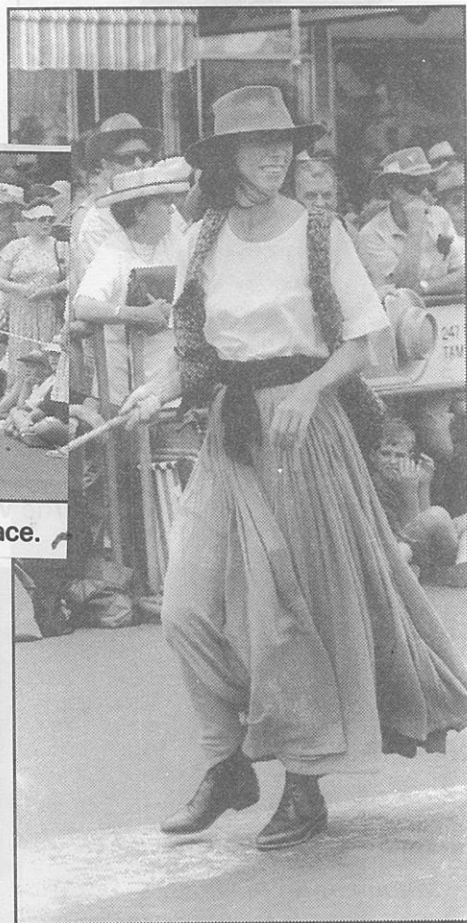
Geoff O'Neill

Sandy McIntosh

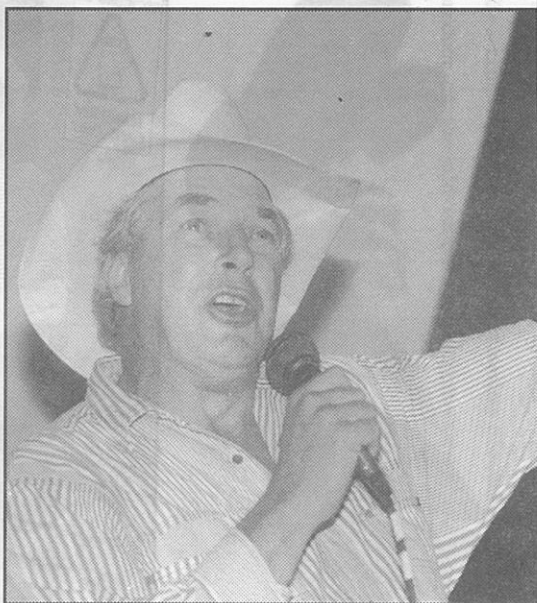
Craig Hughes



**WHIPPED UP:** Geoffrey Graham's cracking pace.

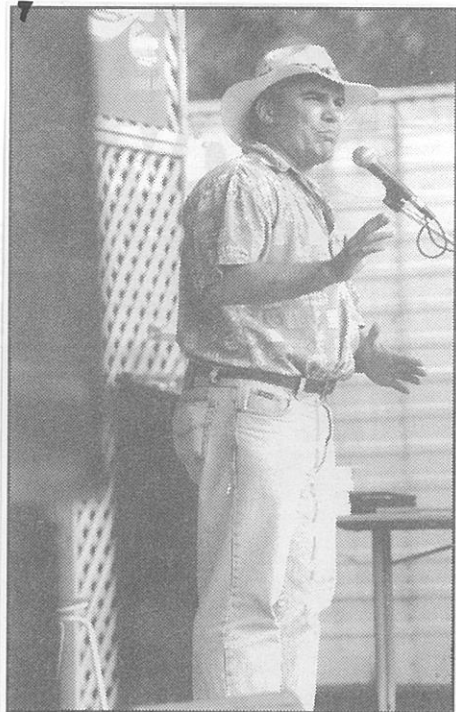


**MS WHIPPY:** Whip cracking gets the lady's touch.



**MAN FROM SNOWY:** He's from the Snowy Mountains so he'd have to be a natural for poetry, Noel Cutler.





**YARNIN' ON:** Bush poet Murray Hartin spins another one on Oz Day.



**REAL SWAGGIE:**  
They don't come  
anymore genuine than  
far north coast man  
Campbell Irving - a  
festival regular.



**POET IN MOTION:** Victorian Geoffrey Graham accentuates a point in the Imperial bush poetry comp.



**WOMAN'S VIEW:**  
Tamworth's Philippa Powell.

# The Australian Bush Poets' Association ANNUAL

An Anthology of Poems  
selected from the many  
sent during 1994  
to the Editor  
Australian Bush Poets' Magazine

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All authors are Members of the Australian Bush Poets' Association.  
P.O. Box 77  
DRAYTON NORTH Q. 4350

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## FOREWARD

The Australian Bush Poet's Association was formed in Tamworth, January 1994.  
One of the Aims of the Association is to preserve poetry for future generations.  
This, our first Annual, grew from the immense response by average Australians to our Association. Many forwarded samples of their poetry along with their enquiries. This book, and future Annals, will give Bush Poets the opportunity to have their work published with their peers.  
So, dear Readers, we hope you, as Australians, may recognise in these poems your own hopes, aspirations and experiences.

Enjoy!

Ron Selby, Sec/Treas.

**MEMBERS** \$3.00 **PLUS POSTAGE**

**NON MEMBER** \$5.00 **PLUS POSTAGE**

## AKUBRA HAT.

*This was originally put down for Stephen Keir from Akubra Hats in Kempsey N.S.W. It's my way of giving recognition to the best hat ever made.*

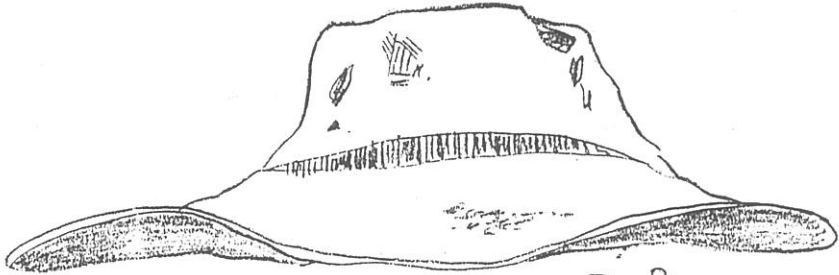
I'm the Cocky's badge of office, I'm part of many ringers lives  
I'm the one they can't get by without, and I'm cursed by all their wives.  
You see I'm the bane of every woman, when their hubby goes to town,  
Because they want them looking nice and neat, and properly hobbled down.

Now I've been around a lot of years, probably more than most remember,  
But I'm still worn by city ladies, to keep their skin all soft and tender.  
Because I'm the best in sun protection, I'm more handy than a vice,  
Unfortunately I'm not broke in, until I've been through the dip 'least twice.

I'm at home in big flash city pubs, or in an old bark hut,  
And when I get too old to wear, from me gaskets you can cut.  
You can take me off to ladies, I can help you fan a fire,  
Or keep your hands all nice and safe, from that dreaded stuff barbed-wire.

I'm used by ringers all the way from the West coast to the East,  
I'm the best thing that they need to use, when they've got to shoo a beast.  
You'll see me still occasionally, riding 'round on city trains,  
But usually I'm found outback, on hot and dusty plains.

Or down in forest valleys, and in the mountains high,  
Where eagle-hawks make silhouettes, against a clear blue sky.  
And I come in many sizes, to suit both thin and fat,  
I'm that symbol of the Aussie bush, the old Akubra hat.



© MARK THOMPSON 1988

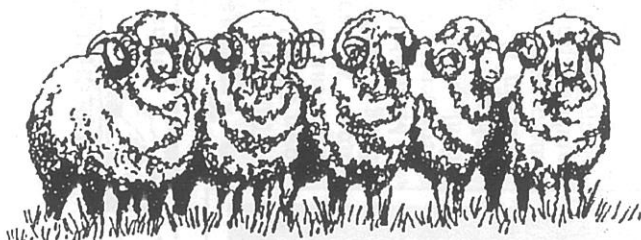
# POETS WANTED!

JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES!! WALTZ YOUR MATILDA TO WINTON IN 95.

MERV (Bluey) BOSTOCK. ph (07) 8013082. Mobile 018 772613 fax (07) 8013082

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