

The Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No. 2 Volume 5 February 1998



TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION



The Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition was held at the Imperial Hotel in Tamworth from 21st - 24th January. This was a very successful competition, hotly contested by some of the well known best poets around, plus a whole host of brilliant new performers. The talent was amazing and the audiences each day were treated to a sparkling program, with the judges being given a particularly difficult task to perform. As usual they seem to have made the right choice in the end, judging by the audience approval of their decisions. The winners were

ORIGINAL SECTION

- 1st Milton Taylor
- 2nd Glenny Palmer
- 3rd Tony Parry

TRADITIONAL or ESTABLISHED WORKS SECTION

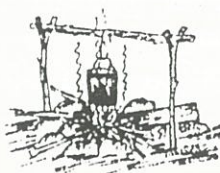
- 1st Tim McLoughlin
- 2nd Len Knight
- 3rd Guy McLean

This year we extended our time to allow more contestants to enter. We can fit in about 32 contestants a day, that's 96 over the three days. Yet still we had to turn people away! Where do they all come from? I would suggest that, if poets want to enter our competition next year, they get their entries in early. A lot of people have always just entered "on the day", but, sorry folks, I think those days are gone. I will start promoting next year's competition about August. You can write to me then for an entry form, and *please send* a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Jan Morris

CONGRATULATIONS !!

Tamworth Poetry Reading Group



BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION 1998

A record number of entries were once again received by the organisers for this years "Blackened Billy Verse Competition". The competition was sponsored by North Power, Seeds & Grain Sales, Tamworth, the Imperial Hotel and A.M. Printing Service. Spokesperson for the judges, Mr. Bill Gleeson, praised entrants for the high standard of poetry which had been submitted and encouraged poets to seek more publicity through their local media for what is becoming a very popular Australian pastime. Congratulations to all -

1st Prize - Carmel Randle - Preston QLD
(Winning poem page 13)

2nd Prize - Ellis Campbell - Dubbo NSW

3rd Prize - Alex Raymer - Trinity Beach QLD

Highly Commended

Elizabeth Ward - Mount Perry QLD

Bob Magor - Myoponga SA

Bobby Miller - Mungar QLD

Keith Ireland - North Rockhampton NS

Peter Somerville - Gunnedah NSW

Roy Nolan - Lithgow NSW

Shirley Pearse (2) - Kingston TAS

June Welsman - Harbord NSW

Ellis Campbell - Dubbo NSW

Zita Horton - Upper Mount Gravatt QLD

Veronica Weal - Upper Mount Gravatt QLD

Encouragement Award - Erinn Whittleby Armidale NSW

Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.

President: Ron Selby
P.O. Box 77, Drayton North. QLD. 4350
email: bushpoet@lisp.net.au
Phone 07 4630 1106

Secretary/Treasurer:
Mrs. Olive Shooter
"Willow Bend" M.S 765
Talgai West Road
Allora Qld. 4362
Phone / Fax. 076 663 474

Vice Presidents:
**** R. J. (Bob) Miller**
Lot 2 Pilerwa Road, Mungar. QLD 4650
Phone / Fax 071 296 422
Mobile 015 741 336

**** Elizabeth Ward,**
P.O. Box 61, Mt. Perry, QLD. 4621
Phone / Fax 07 4156 3178

Editor: Maureen Garner
2/8 Salamander Parade,
Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448
Phone / Fax 0265 685 269

THE BUNDABERG POETS SOC. INC.
BUSH LANTERN AWARDS
Written Original Bush Verse Competition to 100 lines
Usual conditions apply

Closing date for entries 31.5.1998
Entry fee \$3.00 per entry
Send to — Liz Ward
P.O. Box 61
Mount Perry Q. 4671
Ph/fax 07 4156 3178

WARWICK BUSH WEEK 9 - 10 May 1998

Sat. 9th. Performance Poetry Comp.
WARWICK TOWN HALL
Original: 1st \$1000 Holiday Package
Traditional, Junior and Novice Sections
Entries close April 30th. with the Daily News
50 Albion St Warwick 4370
Entry fee \$5.00

Sun. 10th. 8am. Poets in Leslie Park

Entries close 31-3-1998
Ph. Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115
or 07 4664 1606

NOPA '98

National Outback Performing Arts
LONGREACH
APRIL 5 - 9 1998
Contact The Secretary,
National Outback Performing Arts,
P.O. Box 518
LONGREACH Q. 4730

QANTAS — WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS

in conjunction with
The Official Opening of
The Waltzing Matilda Centre
Winton Qld.
8th — 13th April, 1998

**The Australian Bush Poetry
Championships**
SSAE: P.O. Box 7714
Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL 18th to 22nd MARCH 1998

New South Wales Premier Folk Festival
Folk Music from Australia and the World.
Concerts, Workshops, Bush Poets Breakfasts,
Poets Brawls, Woolly Yarns, Dance, Childrens
Concerts. 150 International, National and
local performers.
Enquiries to 02 4233 1073 Fax 02 4232 3848

**S
T
O
P

P
R
E
S
S**

JAMBAROO '98

**** Frank Daniel** will be conducting
two poets breakfasts at 7.45am daily.
**** Blue the Shearer** will be hosting
New Faces.
**** Blue and Frank** will be conducting
workshops.
**** American Cowboy Poet** and ABPA
member, **Dick Warwick** of Oakesdane,
Washington will be flying in for
Jambaroo and will be guest artist at
the Marti's Hot Air Balloon Fiesta at
Canowindra the following weekend.

Secretary's Notes

Our annual meeting was held at Tamworth with an attendance of about 50. New office bearers are **President - Ron Selby, Vice-Presidents - Bob Miller, Elizabeth Ward, Sec/Treas- Olive Shooter.**

Welcome to Ron and Liz. We hope you enjoy fulfilling the duties of your representative offices.

Our thanks are extended to retiring President, Frank Daniel and congratulations for a job well done, both as President and Editor. To Bluey, who is having a rest from the executive for the first time too, we thank you for all you did in our formative years. A new editor has taken over the ropes from Frank - **Maureen Garner** from Nambucca Heads. Please give her your full support. The magazine can only be as good as the information you send in, so items or poems should be posted to her, and all money and other business sent to me. Of course, if you have some small thing for the news, you can include it in my mail if your are writing to me. We don't want members to incur unnecessary expenses.

It was decided at the AGM, *that newsletter advertisements for personal product would cost \$5.00* or a little more depending on size, however *clubs or committees etc who run poetry functions will still be advertised free.*

The ABPA Annual Books of Verse are causing concern, as we have excessive stocks on hand. Perhaps it has not been properly explained that members may buy *Annuals for \$3.00 and resell for \$5.00.* I hope some of our poets with books and cassettes will keep them on their sales tables and in that way we may clear the backlog. If this does not happen, the future of our Annual is in jeopardy. Also, recapping for new members that we have four Annuals available, although one is getting scarce. *Postage is \$1.10 for 2 books. If you buy 12 or more, post is free!*

I draw your attention to the "*Code of Ethics*" in Sept. newsletter (copies are available to new members). We want comments on it, and also, two other learned opinions are being sought (see P 5). We need to adopt a Code of Ethics and what it should be.

Eventually, I settled down after arriving home from Tamworth. What a great time it was. Our poets did us proud and we enjoyed all we heard. Congratulations must go to them for their dedication, and their wonderful talents. Some were concerned about crudity creeping into some venues, but we were not aware of this at the shows which we attended.

HELP! Does anyone know the address of new member, Terry Gleeson who paid at the AGM?

Catch you next month. Best wishes,

Olive Shooter

Presidents Report

Firstly, may I say thank you to the members at the A.G.M. for their vote of confidence in electing me for the coming year. Frank Daniel did not nominate for the position this year because of a very hectic work schedule. I have no doubts that he would have been re-elected had he chosen to run. Frank has been a monolith for our association and leaves big boots to fill. He has put in many long hours as president and editor and boosted our membership to almost 400. We have been growing steadily since 1994 and we hope it will continue to grow in 1998.

I also welcome Maureen Garner as our Magazine Editor. I am sure she will do a great job keeping us informed. She can only pass on the information to the members if she receives items concerning competitions, festivals, results and suitable poems for inclusion from you the member.

Olive Shooter was re-elected, unopposed, as Secretary Treasurer and I'm sure she will continue to put in the mighty effort that she has done in the past.

Vice Presidents were elected with Bob Miller remaining and Elizabeth Ward being elected for her first term on the committee. Merv (Bluey) Bostock, who has worn the caps of President and Vice President for the past four years was very narrowly out voted for the position of Vice President.

Bluey is, in a word, Bluey, and there is only one like him and although there has been many derogative things said over the past four years, without his drive and enthusiasm there would not be the association that you the member are now enjoying the benefits of. He is one mate who has always had his heart in the right place when it comes to Australia and Bush Poetry and thank you seems to be a trivial word to me when it boils down to the effort he has put in over those years.

There were quite a few issues raised at the meeting in Tamworth and we hope to bring them to your attention in the coming months. Remember, this is **YOUR** association and I realise a lot of members cannot make it to Tamworth and the AGM. However, these issues can, and probably will affect you and the future of the A.B.P.A. and Bush Poetry in Australia., so please drop us a note or comment on them.

I truly hope I will be worthy of this position as President, *but* we as a committee, can only steer this association in the right direction if we are aware of what you, as a member want out of the association. So don't be backward, or grumble to your friends that we are not doing the job. Get on your computer, old typewriter or pencil to work and let the committee know what you want. Yours sincerely, *Ron Selby.*

POETS LANE

The City of Queanbeyan has a new lane following the official opening of "Poets Lane" by Mayor Frank Pangallo in late November.

The Queanbeyan Bush Poets meet monthly at "The Rhubarb and Muscat Coffee and Eating House" which is situated in a (formerly) unnamed lane running off the main street.

Following difficulties in describing to visitors how to find the cafe, it was suggested that if the lane were called "Poets Lane", life would be a lot easier. David Meyers and Laurie McDonald then prepared a "rhyming submission" to the Queanbeyan City Council and following an invitation by the Mayor, they presented the poem (sorry, submission) to the Council Meeting of 21st August 1996. The reception from Council was terrific, one council member even writing and presenting a poem of support.

Another 15 months passed before all approvals were in place, and with the erection of the sign complete, the lane was declared open by Mayor Frank Pangallo at an entertaining ceremony on 28th November 1997.

Following is an excerpt from a very long poem sent by the Queanbeyan Poets to the local Mayor requesting the naming of Poets Lane.

POETS LANE

By Laurie McDonald and David Meyers
Queanbeyan Bush Poets

*Imagine, Sir, if you lived your life
Without a proper name.*

*If they couldn't call you Chris or Frank,
You'd probably go insane.*

*And someone says "Now listen mate,
Stick your moniker here."*

*You shrug your shoulders and shake your head
They'd think your flamin' queer.*

*And what if all the food in tins
Came unlabelled from the shop,
Meals would be a total mystery
Till you opened up the top.*

*What if all the beer on sale
Came in bottles all alike,
You wouldn't know what brand to blame
When you toppled off your bike.*

*And what if all the local maps
Never named a street,
You could wander round for days and days
And wear out both your feet.*

*What if poets came to town
From places up the scrub,
You could only tell them that we meet
In a lane beside the pub.*

And Me.

*I love to visit Poets Lane
On a balmy Thursday night.
Where bards all gather from the bush
Like Bogongs round a light.*

*To sit around and have a chat
And share a pot of tea,
Just like we did in days gone by
Before we had TV.*

*Each one has a yarn to tell
Of the desperate and the bold.
And truth it just gets in the way
Of a story that's well told.*

*It's great to welcome new found friends,
Strangers off the street,
Looking for a kindly ear
And a place to park their feet.*

*To introduce them to the mob
And make them feel at home,
To encourage them to read a verse
Or even write a poem.*

*And I love the quiet surroundings
Just off the beaten track,
And that country kind of atmosphere
That keeps me coming back.*

NATIONAL BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP TENTERFIELD

ORACLES OF THE BUSH '98 "Looming Legends"

3 Sections - Junior, Written, Performance

Prize Money - \$900

Closing Date 28th March, 1998

For details write to

Oracles of the Bush

National Bush Poetry Competition

PO Box 372 - Tenterfield NSW 2372

Phone Enquiries - 0267 362 900

The friendly NSW country town of Tenterfield is gearing up for the 1998 "Oracles of the Bush" competition and celebrations which will be held over the weekend of 17 - 19th April this year. Organisers of the event have announced the identity of the Tenterfield individual who will be the human face of "Oracles of the Bush 1998". Mr. Paul Petrie will Join Mr. John Williams (Tenterfield Jack) who received the honour in 1997. - Program details next month.



JOHN O'BRIEN FESTIVAL NARRANDERA

19TH - 22ND MARCH 1998

During the festival, the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club is holding the Murrumbidgee Championships at the Murrumbidgee Hotel in Narrandera, on 20th & 21st March 1998. Sponsored by the Murrumbidgee Hotel, this event will be part of a weekend which focuses on the work of John O'Brien, otherwise known as Father P.J. Hartigan of "Around the Booree Log" fame.

The festival celebrates the Irish Australian Tradition which is evident in much bush poetry and music, both of which are heavily featured in the festival. A poets brunch will feature "The Man from Iron Bark" .. Geoffrey Graham, Noel Cutler, the "Backblocks Bard" and Noel Stallard in the persona of "John O'Brien" Entries are free and can be made on the day. Ring for program or more enquire - Julia Briggs - 02 6959 1766 or Neil Hulm - 02 6025 3845.

"LEAVE IT TO THE GIRLS"

SALUTATIONS to

*Carmel Randle who has won the
'Blackened Billy' Competition
2 years in a row*

*Glenny Palmer who was placed 2nd in
the Original Section of Tamworth Bush
Poetry Competition held at the Imperial
Hotel - FIRST FEMALE - to be placed
in this competition for over 10 years!*

NEWS REPORT

Well known Blue Mountains
master of the pen,
Ray Halliday
has had his poem
"A River Red" published in the
International Library of Poetry's
compilation 'Caress of the Moon'
Good on ya Ray!

QUARTPOT GATHERING RETURN TO KIOSK

The Quartpot Gathering will return to its original venue in 1998, to a marquee at The Kiosk in New Farm Park, Brisbane.

Plans are in hand to hold two Quartpot Gatherings in 1998 with dates to be announced soon.

When Palma Rosa was opened as a venue for Bush Poets, the Quartpot Gathering mailing list was used to assist them with their first show. Because of this, the audience for both venues is made up of the same people. The organisers of the Palma Rosa and Quartpot Gatherings agreed at that time to present different poets at each venue, and that arrangement still stands.

There is ample opportunity in Brisbane for both venues, but if we want the bush poetry movement to continue to grow and attract even larger audiences, we must give them a variety of poets with fresh and entertaining material.

Judith Hosier

CODE OF ETHICS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association held on Saturday, 24th January, 1998 in Tamworth, a motion was put forward to accept the 'Keith McKenry' "Draft Code of Ethics" as published in the September '97 issue of our newsletter (Find it now and read it.)

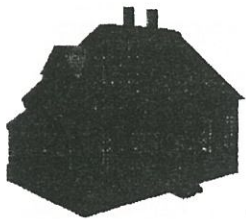
Marco Gliori made representation that we should explore the matter further, and has undertaken to write to both **Bill Scott** and **Jim Haynes**, both scholars/folklorists/performers in their own right. Marco has asked for a reply or comment based on three questions.

1. Do we need a code of ethics/what purpose would it serve to members or prospective members.
2. What would constitute, in your opinion, a fair and equitable code of ethics. (Your own draft Code of Ethics)
3. Any comments/discussion you wish to make on the Code of Ethics proposed by Keith McKenry.

There is of course no obligation on either Bill or Jim to undertake this discussion, but any input they give will be appreciated.

An invitation is also extended via this letter to any other member who wishes to make comment or discussion on this matter.

We look forward to as much input from members as possible.



BIG BRECKIES AT BUNGENDORE

Elmslea Homestead was once again the home to another two very successful Bush Poet's Breakfasts as part of the 13th Annual Bungendore Country Muster.

Situated on the outskirts of the historic Bungendore Village, Elmslea, with its park-like grounds and towering pines and elms, is a magical setting for early morning risers and poets alike, as they gathered in the cool dewy mornings of late January for a cooked breakfast and two and a half hours of non-stop entertainment. Breakfast was cooked by the members of the Queanbeyan Poets Association.

Guest performers this year were Milton Taylor of Portland NSW and "Blue the Shearer" of Wellington NSW. "Blue" and Milton conducted a performance workshop for local primary school students on the Friday afternoon, instilling a lot of enthusiasm into the children. They found three willing new writers in nine year old Sarah Davis and ten year olds, Anita Bruce and Georgia Milne. The girls were further encouraged by the audiences on the following two mornings.

Master of Ceremonies and Compare for the week-end was former 'local boy' Frank Daniel, who kept the ball rolling at a good pace ensuring never a dull moment. Among the twenty eight poets performing daily were well known performers such as Graeme Johnson of West Ryde, David Meyers of

Queanbeyan, Laurie MacDonald of Canberra, Jean Tibay of Goulburn, Warren 'Arch' Bishop of Whalan, Terry Regan of Blaxland, Barry Martin of Bungendore and John Ley of Valley Heights.

A very informative mixed workshop, dealing mostly with writing and performing was conducted by 'Blue' and Frank on Saturday afternoon with some twenty five interested and prospective writers and poets attending.

Highlight of the week-end was the gathering of twenty poets, wives and friends around the huge dining room table for grand evening meal on the Saturday Night. All were guests of Miles and Toni Flanagan, proprietors of Elmslea, and with 'home' only a walk down one of the long hallways, a fairly late hour was seen before the washing up was cast aside for the morning. This was a memorable occasion, swapping tall tales and true, (mostly the latter) and a round or two of the table as new poems were tested out by the poets. Not to be missed in 1999.

PALMA ROSA POETS

9 Queens Rd, Hamilton, Bris.

7 pm, Wednesday 22nd April, 1998

BOB MAGOR

Multi Award Winning Poet

Phone Trisha Anderson

07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769

\$15.00 Inc supper - BYO drinks.



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

Dear Members,

Please allow me to introduce myself as editor of your monthly newsletter.

My first task is to express our collective thanks to our outgoing editor, Frank Daniel, who for the past year has put in a mighty effort to bring us a most informative magazine. I can only imagine how many hours he has dedicated to this task and I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating and thanking him on the wonderful newsletters which we all have been privileged to receive.

It is my hope that I will be able to continue with the same format as has been previously used, and I am keen to feature as much news and information as possible. I would therefore like to invite you all to contribute any information regarding events, competitions and results, newly released publications and news in general, which in any way is relevant to Bush Poetry.

If you know of, or are assisting to organise an event, please feel free to send along the relevant information and follow-up results or report. Poets are also invited to send along their work for inclusion as space permits.

My phone/fax is 0265 685 269 or address your letters to me 2/8 Salamander Parade, Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448. I would appreciate copy being typed or neatly printed and for those of you who have computers, I am using Publisher V 2.0 or Microsoft Works 3.0 if you wish to send your work along on disk.

Looking forward to hearing your news and views,

Maureen Garner - Editor

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

© Trevor Shaw Thangool Q.

She was a genuine toffy-nose who came from Brisbane way.
The type the locals couldn't even bid the time of day.
She had poise and form and seemed quite bright; obviously brought up well;
But what her agenda in out town was, we really couldn't tell.
She didn't seek employment yet she didn't get the dole.
She confessed to being a single Mum — her son was on the roll
At a superior private boarding school — in a southern state somewhere —
But whatever else about her — she was in no hurry to share.

She kept us at a distance with her mode of conversation
Which was foreign to the style of the local population
Who called a spade a spade — not a shovel, so to speak,
And accepted the contributions from the strong, down to the meek.
But this lady contradicted, and corrected us as well.
She told us to use better words — like 'odour' instead of 'smell'.
'Mice' were really 'rodents'; our 'utes' were '4-wheel drives' —
She tried to change 'bout every word we'd been using all our lives.

And when she got on opposites she drove us round the twist,
And made us question why she even bothered to exist.
Old Fred the butcher's short and fat — that's the way we all knew him.
"Vertically disadvantaged and obese", she said. That threw him.
"She'll get her come-uppance one day soon. You just mark my word."
Remarked the local schoolie, yet another one she stirred.
For she'd challenged him to change his words — to use the prefix 'non';
Non-white, non-European, non-Australian, and so on.

Well, just last week I got this note: 'Dear Sir, Cordially invited
To meet my son. Scones and tea. (I admit I was a bit excited.
Friday afternoon at four.' I was right there on the minute.
I'd often stared upon her house and wondered what was in it.
The house was really spotless, not a thing was out of place.
She ushered me politely, with dignity and grace.
Young Daniel firmly shook my hand and offered me a chair —
"Tea. Do you like it weak or strong?" I said I didn't care.

Then I thought, 'Is tea *non-coffee*? Is weak *disadvantaged strong*?'
I was really tempted to ask — then thought it'd probably be wrong.
"Do you have any pets at home?" Dan asked. "Cats or things like that?"
"Feline," his mother butted in, "is the appropriate word for cat".
This interruption was totally ignored. Well, that's what it seemed to me,
As Dan just toddled off to get the scones and a pot of tea.
"Fresh scones and Strawberry Jam and Cream. That's what I deserve.
"Daniel, it isn't Strawberry Jam. It is Strawberry Conserve."

"Don't you ever let up?" I thought. I was feeling quite embarrassed.
She was doing to him what she does to us, yet he still seemed quite unharrassed.
"See this book. It's a wonderful tale — 'bout a man named Robinson Crusoe."
"Narrative's a better word than 'tale'. Use the good words that you know."
A crash and a bang from the room next door, was accompanied by a wail.
Dan quickly looked. Reported back. His mother went quite pale.
I rocked back and laughed. I'll quote what he said, as her jaw bounced off the floor.
"Quick Mum! The feline's narrative is conserved in the pantry door!"

Political Correctness was judged runner-up in Queensland and gained the Judge's Choice Award in the Voices of the Heartland Competition run by the ABC Radio, 1997.



G'day from Geoffrey Graham

Congratulations to the new committee as we set out for 1998. Tamworth was hot and frantic but exciting with so much happening, especially in the Bush Poetry field. I tended to concentrate on my own shows, but still managed to do various spots around the place including the Longyard and the ACMF. Only problem about being so busy is there is no time to see what other people are doing. It is obvious however, that the standard of presentation from bush poets is getting better and better, and I take me hat off to all those who performed at Tamworth. Very impressive.

My main show "The Man From Ironbark" is still alive and well. A lot of people out there who have never seen the show, and a lot of others insist on seeing it again and again. I'm not complaining.

People have been asking about a new show, and so "Ratbags & Romantics" was the answer. Also well received, now the hiccups are gone.

Humping the Bluey for kids actually attracted more adults than kids, but I guess we're all big kids at heart.

Coming up

YARNS & TUCKER

5 - 8 pm Saturday, 28th February at the

VALE of AVOCA

Mildura Way, Charlton. VIC

PERFORMANCE POETRY

\$6 FOR TUCKER & SHOW

Geoffrey Graham

Neil McArthur - Peter Worthington

Johnny Johanson - Jeff Cooke

in conjunction with

COUNTRY & BUSH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Charlton Park, Calder Highway, Charlton VIC

Sunday, 1st March

8 - 10 am Bush Poets Breakfast

10am - 5pm Country Music

Enq: Ph 03 5491 1407 or 03 5469 1312

Enquiries, please call me 03 5469 1312 Any poets heading along, give me a ring before you ring.

Keep Smiling, *Geoffrey Graham*

GOLDEN GUMLEAF BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

Australian history and heritage were celebrated in sweltering style during the star-studded 3rd Annual Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Awards on Tuesday, 20th January. It was a celebration which embraced bush poetry and country music.

A very patient crowd of over 1000 crowded into the Country Club Pavilion at West Tamworth Leagues Club to enjoy performances from Bush Laureate finalists and country music stars.

Slim Dusty, John Williamson, Graeme Connors, Troy Cassar-Daley, Shanley Del, Darren Coggan, Jane Saunders, Frank Daniel, Jim Haynes, Bob Magor, Ray Essery and the Bush Kids presented a brilliant afternoon of laughter and entertainment.

Nick Erby compared and Tamworth Mayor, James Trelore, who presented an award spoke with enthusiasm about the intrinsic links between bush verse and country music. He expressed pleasure that the Golden Gumleaf Awards were held in Tamworth and said "Since its humble beginnings in 1996, it was now in danger of becoming one of the most prestigious events of the Festival".

Event organiser, Mrs. Judith Hosier and sponsor, Brian Meldon (The Tenterfield Saddler) were delighted with the public response. Attendance was more than double that in 1997.

Winners of 1998 Golden Gumleaf Awards were -
Performance of the Year

Frank Daniel - "A Grave Situation"

Book of the Year

"Westering" - Mark Kleinschmidt

Heritage Award

"From a Drifters Pen" - Kelly Dixon

Album of the Year

"Dipso Dan and Other Silly Buggers" Jim Haynes &

John Kane with Frank Daniel, Ray Essery, Shanley Del.

BIG BUSH BRECKY SHOW

The Bushman's Billabong at West Tamworth Leagues Club was the venue in which Jim Haynes staged a new concept in morning entertainment for Tamworth Country Music Week, 1998.

The Big Bush Brecky Show featured a specially created stage set with the "Outdoor Dunny" as stage door, through which came a myriad of top line poets and entertainers to delight record crowds on every performance day.

Amongst those who featured with Jim, were Bush Poets Tim McLoughlin, Shirly Friend, Ray Essery, Bob Magor, Frank Daniel, Milton Taylor, Greg Scott and the Bush Kids, Carmel Dunn, Paddy and Alli Ryan and Dan Binns. They, together with top line country music entertainers delighted audiences with unbelievable antics throughout the show.



BUSH POETRY BY THE SEA

Another "Poets in the Pub" event was held at the V Wall Tavern in Nambucca Heads on Sunday 11th January. Bush Poet, Warren "Arch" Bishop travelled from Sydney and was master of ceremonies for the afternoon which was staged by the Nambucca Valley Country Music festival Committee and sponsored by the V. Wall Tavern. Warren was joined on stage by 12 other Bush Poets who came from areas ranging from Forster to Grafton with one reciter visiting from Thangool in north western QLD.

Graftonion Bards Bill Kearns and Don Lloyd, Winner of the Traditional Section of the recently held "Bards of Bowra" Bush Poetry Performance Competition were on stage with the "Bayldon Bard", George New and "Bards of Bowra:" Original Section Winner Reid Begg treated the audience to two very funny Bobby Miller poems, "The Bachelor's Revenge" and "The Brew".

Nambucca Valley reciters were well represented by Kathy O'Keefe, Barry Jacka, Marj Trotter and Rex Tape, with Keith Haycraft, David Spier and Len Lee coming down from the Bellinger Valley.

An audience of over eighty enjoyed themselves immensely and are looking forward to the next "Poet's in the Pub" which will feature Wauchope Troubadour and reciter Russell Churcher at the Bowra Hotel in Bowraville on 28th February, at 7.30pm.

**AUSTRALIAN WOOLSHED
PRESENTS**

Bush Poetry Evening
6pm, Friday, 20th March, 1998



**Performance Poets, Bobby Miller,
Wally Finch and Trisha Anderson
plus Woolshed Ram Show**

Spit Roast Meal with Desert - \$30.00 ea
Bookings essential

Australian Woolshed
148 Samford Rd. Ferny Hills, Bris.
Ph. 07 3351 5366 or 07 3268 3624

The Larrikin and the Lady

Cassette Tape - \$15.00

(Includes Postage and Packing) from

Miss Carmel Dunn M.S. 623 Ogilvie Rd

Warwick Q. 4370 Ph. 07 4661 4400

Bob Miller - Poet's Corner

Mungar Q. 4650 Ph. 07 4129 6422

PD. Adv.



**MARTIS
CANOWINDRA
HOT AIR BALLOON
FIESTA**

26-29 March, 1998

POET'S BREAKFAST

8-10am Saturday, 26 March

Ring Frank Daniel Ph 02 6344 1477 ah
or Fax 02 63441962

NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

9th - 13th APRIL, 1998

Exhibition Park, Canberra

POET'S BREAKFASTS EVERY DAY

WORLD POETRY DEBATE

RECITER'S DINNER

PERFORMANCE POETRY

Ring Festival Hotline 02 6249 7722

MONTO DAIRY FESTIVAL

1998 CREAM CAN

BUSH VERSE COMPETITION

Open and Junior Sections

1st, 2nd & 3rd plus

CHARLEE MARSHALL Encouragement Award

Entries Close 30th April, 1998

POETS DINNER

Friday 29th May at Monto Golf Club

Entry Forms & Information

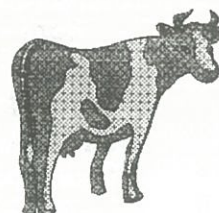
Monto Dairy Festival

Cream Can Awards

C/- B Chape,

13a Newton St.,

MONTO Q 4630



LAWSON - THE ETERNAL MAN

(C) 1996 - Mary-Ann Hennessy
Winner - 1996 Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush

Through barren outback fields of gold
To the stench of city slums
You weaved your soul into your words
Like mists through silver gums.
And passion danced along with you
With pain and discontent,
For you dared to write of subjects dark
Where brave men never went.

The lonely drovers gave their hearts
To your writer's loving hand
And you soothed other tired spirits
In this arid, ageless land.
For in your world of silence,
Where you thought you couldn't hear,
The orchestra of life played on,
In volumes loud and clear.

The silver gums are scarcer now,
The mists have turned to fogs,
And all that's left of droving days
Are old men and their dogs.
At times I'm discontented
But my passion's souring free
For as I walk this timeless land
I feel you next to me.

BUSH POETRY & PERFORMANCE COMPETITION as part of ORANA COUNTRY MUSIC EASTER FESTIVAL DUBBO NSW 9-13th April, 1998

Poetry commences at Railway Junction Hotel
on Sunday, 12th April from 10am,
then as part of 'walk up' non-competitive day
at Garden Hotel.

Entry forms to Secretary, (encl SSAE)
PO Box 1169 DUBBO NSW 2830
or if quota not filled, available on the day
Ph (02) 68828363/68873197/68818695/
68841537

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION & CONCERT

9am - Sunday 12th April, 1998.

V WALL TAVERN

NAMBUCCA HEADS

Admission - \$10.00 (Includes Brunch)

Local non-competitive reciters welcome

Entry Forms Ph/Fax 0265 685 269

THE BUNDY MOB'S 1998 BUSH POETS MUSTER 3rd, 4th & 5th JULY

Across the Waves Sports Club
Miller Street, Bundaberg. Q.

PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITIONS

Juniors, Novice, Open Traditional and Original Classes
Duo Performance - Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup

OVERALL CHAMPION

NON - COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

Friday night Free for All Concert

Saturday Night Concert.

Held in Conjunction with

BUSH LANTERN AWARD (See P 2)

Written Competition (Entries close 31st. May)

Send SSAE to: The Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster
8 Hawaii Court Bargara Qld 4670



GOLDEN BELL POETRY AWARD

These Inaugural Awards
will be conducted by the
Queensland Clydesdale and Draft Horse
Society, in conjunction with the 1998 National
Heavy Horse Field Days, and are to be held
at Laidley Showground on Saturday and
Sunday, 21st and 22nd March.

SATURDAY 21st

Event 1 - Yarnspinning. Any subject.

6.30pm as part of Bushmen's/Bushwomen's
Evening - No Fee - Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd

SUNDAY 22nd

Poets Breakfast

- 6am at the Showground

Event 2 - 10 am Poetry Recital Traditional
or Established Works **Must have horse
theme.** (Refer to entry form please) No Fee.
Trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd.

Event 3 - Humorous Poetry Recital - Bush
Verse - Traditional, Established or Original
verse. **Must have humorous theme**

PERPETUAL TROPHIES

ALL ROUND WINNER & RUNNER UP

ENTRIES CLOSE 10am Friday 20.3.98

Entry Forms & Enquiries to Bob McPhee

PO Box 162 GATTON Q. 4343

Ph 0754 665 269 Mob 0412 064 686

LITTLE THINGS

Don Lloyd (C) 1997



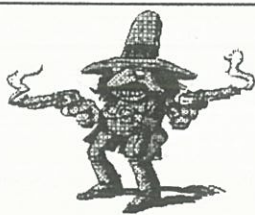
I have learnt to look at little things and now spend many happy hours,
For I am grateful to have eyes to see things, like trees and clouds and flowers.
Once I thought to see the world and even that wouldn't be enough.
But I could never drink the ocean, even if I could put it in a cup.

Yes, it's good to have your dreams and to hope that they will be fulfilled,
But if there's no beauty in the journey then you will find they never will.
So be content with everything and you will never mind the rain,
For there is beauty in the raindrops sliding down your window pane.

I find I can still be happy even if my skies have turned to grey,
For I would think much less of blue if I never saw them any other way.
Don't be afraid to be sad and cry, for even sadness is alright for a while,
For it's only from our sorrows that we learn to appreciate a smile.

Don't spend time in useless envy of some other person's wealth.
For no matter how much they possess, they can never buy good health.
For this may sound quite funny, still I know it to be true,
While we may wish to be someone else, someone's wishing they were you.

So don't be afraid to reach for the stars and be the best you can each day.
But take the time to smell the flowers as you journey on your way.



POETS IN THE PUB' CAUGHT IN THE ACT IN TAMWORTH

North Tamworth Bowling Club was the venue this year for a Balladrama of Australian Verse and Yarns presented by the "Poets in the Pub" Gang, Noel Cutler (Bloody Mick), John Major (Wally), Gary Fogarty (Reschy) and Frank Daniel (Joe).

Audiences were treated to a well constructed two hour presentation of Poetry which was set - where else - yes, in the bar of the "Local".

The players treated audiences to a wide selection of their own verse linked together with a poem or two from their contemporaries and - you guessed it - several from "Mr. Anon". With theatre lights down, Noel Cutler gave an entertaining demonstration of his whip-cracking ability with his illuminated whip - most spectacular!

Three members of the "Gang", Bloody Mick, Wally and Reschy were searching for a replacement for their mate "Killer" (John Phillipson) who had gone to greater glory and it was indeed fortunate that "Joe", alias Frank Daniel, just happened to drop into the pub, and was duly inducted to take Killers place.

This great show, which was bursting with lots of great Australian humour, yet tinged with sadness, was dedicated to the memory of our great mate and theirs, the late John Phillipson.



SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE ON 31.12.97 !!!
PLEASE RENEW WITH THE SECRETARY TODAY
Due to financial constraints we will be unable to send
March Newsletters to UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS.



**JONDARYAN
WOOLSHED &
COUNTRY MUSIC
WEEKEND**
28-29th March 1998
**POETS
BREAKFAST**
Sunday 29th March
Ring Graham Turner
07 4692 2242

POET'S CALENDAR. EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS.

- Feb 28 Closing date. **FAW Wollondilly Literary Group**. Open section. Short Story, Poetry (free verse), Poetry (Traditional rhyming), Bush Poetry SSAE from Co-ordinator 32 Hawthorne Rd. Bargo
- Feb. 28 Closing date. **Central Coast Poetry Society's Henry Kendall Poetry Competition — 1998** SSAE to D. Theodore, Secretary, C.C. Poetry Society, 57 Empire Bay Drive, Kincumber. 2251
- Feb. 28 **Poets in the Pub**. 7.30pm Bowra Hotel Bowraville NSW Russell Churcher & Local reciters P16
- Feb. 28 **Yarns & Tucker**. Vale of Avoca Charlton Vic. 5-8pm Geoffrey Graham 03 5469 1312
- March 1 **Poets Breakfast**. 8am. Country & Bush Music Fest, Charlton Geoffrey Graham 03 5469 1312
- March 2. **Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival of Arts**. Competitions in Verse, Song, Short Story. SSAE to Honorary Secretary. P.O. Box 77 Grenfell. 2810
- March 2 Closing date. **Little Swaggie Award** Entry Forms PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352 Junior Written Comp. Primary and Secondary Schools.
- March 18 - 22 **Illawarra Folk Festival Jamberoo NSW** Bush Poets Breakfasts. Brawls. Yarns. Presented by Illawarra Folk Club. Enquiries: 02 4233 1073 Fax 02 4232 3848
- March 19-22 **John O'Brien Festival in Narrandera** Poet's Brunch, Readings and Competitions. Phone Julia Briggs 1800 672 392 or Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845
- March 20 **Australian Woolshed Dinner and Bush Poetry** See ad page 9. Bookings essential Enquiries 07 3351 5366 or 07 3268 3624.
- Mar 21-22 **Golden Bell Performance Poetry Awards**. Laidley Showground Ph 0754 665 269 P10
- March 26 - 29 **Martis Canowindra Hot Air Balloon Fiesta**. Poet's Breakfast 8 - 10 am Saturday. Enquiries to Frank Daniel. Ah. 02 6344 1477. Fax 02 6344 1962. Biggest Hot-air Balloon festival in Australia.
- March 28 Closing Date. **Tenterfield Nat. Bush Poetry Championship**. Details page 4
- Mar 28-29 **Jondaryan Woolshed & Country Music Weekend** Poets Breakfast See P. 11
- April 5-9 **N.O.P.A. Longreach** Performance Poetry Enq National Outback Performing Arts, PO 518, Longreach 4730 Ph 07 4658 1718 Fax 0746 583 198
- April 8-13 **Quantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival** Performance Comps, Jnr, Novice & Open PO Box 7714 Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352
- April 9-13 **National Folk Festival** Poet's Breakfasts, Performance, Dinner & Debate See P9
- April 12 **Bush Poetry Performance Competition and Concert. V Wall Tavern Nambucca Heads** Admission \$10.00 incl. Brunch. Contact Maureen Garner Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269
- April 12 **Bush Poets Breakfast & Perf. Comp.** Orana Country Music Easter Fest. - See Adv. P. 16
- April 17 - 19 **Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Event**. Junior, Written & Perf. Comp., **Closes 28.3.98** Oracles of the Bush, Nat. Bush Poetry Comp, PO Box 372 Tenterfield 2372 PH 0267 362900
- April 22 **Palma Rosa**. 9 Queens Rd Hamilton Bris. Q. See ad page 6. Booking essential Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769.
- April 30 Closing Date **Monto Cream Can Bush Verse Comp.** See page 9
- May 8-10 **Australian Bush Festival. Rockhampton**. Music - Poetry - Yarns Ph. 07 4936 2600
- May 9-10 **Warwick Bush Week Bush Poetry Competition**. Sat. 9th. All day performance poetry competition Sun. 10th. 8am. Poets in the Park. Written competition. Entries close 31-3-1998 Ph. Max Jarrott 07 4664 1115 or 07 4664 1606
- May 30 **Monto Dairy Fest Poets Dinner** Monto Golf Club 29th May, 1998 See P 9
- May 31 Closing Date **Bush Lantern Awards**. Written Verse Comp. Bundaberg Poets Soc Inc. See adv P2
- June 4-8 **Aust. Folk Festival Kiama**. Poets Breakfast, Brawl & Dinner Ph 02 4236 0701 Fax 02 4257 1787
- June 1998 **Mt. Isa Writers Association and Mt. Isa Folk Club**. Mt. Isa Inaugural Bush Poets Festival in conjunction with the Top Half Folk Festival Queens Birthday Weekend. Celebrating Mt. Isa's 75th Anniversary. Phone 077 435 201 Fax 077 433 386

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS - - - If you happen to be passing through these areas, tell 'em Joe sent ya!

- 1st. Sunday** Poets Get-together. Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum Qld. (074) 491 991
Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q. Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 1st. Monday** Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby (076) 301 106
- 2nd. Monday** Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Wednesday** Short Black Cafe, 93 Grafton St., Coffs Harbour. Poetry from 7.30pm 0266 511 033
- 2nd Thursday** Tamworth Poetry Reading Group. 8pm 4 Illoura St. Sth Tamworth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067
- 2nd. Sunday** 'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Sydney — Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd. Sunday** Pine Rivers Camp Oven Breakfasts. Petrie Q. Ph. 07 3260 5506 - 07 3886 1552
- 3rd. Friday** Poetic Folk 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770 Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245
- 2nd. Friday** The Monaro Leisure Club. 7 pm. Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.
- 3rd. Thursday** Queanbeyan Bush Poets. Phone David Meyers 06 286 1891
- Every 2nd Tues** Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Taro Hotel, Anderson Dr. Taro - Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751

ONE

written by Carmel Randle (c) 1997
Winner - Blackened Billy Verse Comp. 1998

In Arnhem Land, there lived a tribe of brown men by the sea,
Who drank of Nature's bounty, and ate food they got for free —
Saltwater fish and reptiles, fertile earth's abundant gifts —
Idyllic life, with Dreamtime etched on overhanging cliffs.

And down around The Centre lived nomadic tribes — quite black —
Who wandered 'cross the Desert, their possessions on their back.
Survival was a tough road, quite beyond infirm or weak —
Who must be left to perish up some isolated creek.

The northern Queensland rainforests were home to pygmy clans —
Small brown men who, for females, had some quite exclusive plans,
For, being short of protein, they found humans tasty meat,
And ate spare baby girls, while errant wives were quite a treat!

Now these are just three samples of great variety
Of Cultures spread across this land in days that 'used to be',
And into this diversity sailed Captain James C. Cook,
Who thought that English settlers should come here and have a look!

Those settlers had a Culture that, today, we'd not approve!
With prisons overflowing, and with little room to move,
They locked men up securely on discarded, rotting ships —
They sent them on a series of now-legendary trips!

Their Culture met, in this new Land, with more than just the three —
A plethora of tribes with varied customs, so you see
There was a need for blending. There was need to reconcile
The varied points of view to make the life of all worthwhile.

Now, through your mail box recently you know that there has been
A deal of paperwork about allegiance to the Queen.
To me, it's more important that Australians see the light
And define an Aussie Culture that will please both black and white.

The great things of the black man's law we then could best uphold —
Strict discipline upon the young; respect due to the old.
A 'right-to-manhood' passage, and 'hands off another's wife'
Might save a lot of heartaches and that wasteful way of life!

Another point that we might learn is care of our resources —
Our fauna, flora, water — all derived from natural sources.
But even Mother Nature would require a helping hand
If fourteen million Aussies tried to live just 'off the land'!

Now white man's Culture, too, has had it's ways now seen as wrong,
And, like the Aborigines, it's time to move along.
The 'Drovers' Boys', the 'Massacres', the 'Stolen Generation'
Were not a fit foundation on which we could build a Nation.

But yes, that was our Culture, and although it makes me sad
Not everything the white man did — or does — is quite that bad!
We care for the disabled, be they sick, or weak, or old,
Regardless of their colour or their creed! So I'll make bold

And ask that all Australians, be they black or be they white,
Realise that in the past folk lived as they believed was right;
That standards change — sometimes for better, sometimes for the worst —
But while we harbour grudges any progress will be cursed!

We can't turn back the clock! Let's build a future for our Nation.
And work together for a Cultural Reconciliation.
Let's focus now on unity! We won't go far astray on ...
"I'm neither black nor white — I'm just a bloody good Australian!"

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
IS NOW 10TH
OF EACH
MONTH**



**OASIS HOTEL
BUSH POETRY
COMPETITION
RESULTS**

JUNIOR SECTION

- 1st Sarah Jane Driver
- 2nd Dominic Xavier
- 3rd Patricia Morris

NOVICE SECTION

- 1st Chris Webster
- 2nd Anita Hendrie
- 3rd Theo Stonehouse

TRADITIONAL

- 1st Tim McLoughlin
- 2nd Milton Taylor
- 3rd Sally Mitchell

MODERN

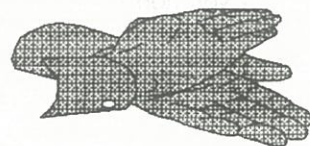
- 1st Milton Taylor
- 2nd Guy McLean
- 3rd Glenn Palmer

ORIGINAL

- 1st Mark Thompson
- 2nd Merv Webster
- 3rd Ellis Campbell

**J.B. PHILLIPSON
MEMORIAL AWARD
for ENCOURAGEMENT**
Nell Perkins from Glen Innes

Organisers of this popular
Tamworth competition were
overwhelmed with 113 entries.
Congratulations to those who
organised, judged and participated in
the event.





from the "TAMWORTH POETRY READING GROUP"

This year, the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group published a book of the poems of the winners, highly commendeds and some of the other better poems from the 1997 Blackened Billy Verse Competition. It is a condition of entry that our group may publish this poetry but, in the past, we have actually only published the winning poem.

Since most written competitions require that entries be unpublished, we realise that, by producing this book, we have made it impossible for those poems to be re-entered in other competitions. On the other hand, the book provides a means of publication for some very good poems that might otherwise be relegated to the "bottom drawer", never to see the light of day again.

We enter into these projects with the best of intentions, but sometimes we find ourselves in the middle of a minefield. We hope that our publication does not cause problems for any of the contributing poets and we have decided that, for our next book, we will write to each potential contributor first, seeking their written permission to publish. Still we may not miss all the mines even then.

We would appreciate any feedback from poets who may save us from blowing ourselves to smithereens!

Please send your correspondence to me at 32 Phillip Street, West Tamworth, 2340 *Jan Morris*



MIDDAY WITH MUZZA

The Lunchtime Bush Poetry Shows at Wests Leagues Club were a new concept for Tamworth Country Music Festival in 1998, and catered for those who fail to drag themselves out of bed for the early breakys and also those devout fans who just can't get enough of a good thing.

Nine shows were held presenting twenty three performers varying from novice poets to the incomparable talent of legendary singer Jimmy Little. The audiences were extremely patient considering the hot days and continued to support the venue well throughout the week.

All the performers, can now add to their resume the fact that their talent was so hot they had to perform in an oven. Anywhere that wasn't air-conditioned in '98 was a hard venue, for poets and audiences, no matter what time of day.

It was great to have Wests put up several thousand dollars for up-front payment to the Poets. It is great to earn your money through 'big book sales', but when a performer has been around for a while and their 'new' products are not as consistently forthcoming (as is inevitable), it is nice to know that their service to the "Performance Poetry" industry is being rewarded by up-front payments. All Poets who are not in this game for the 'quick buck' should prepare themselves for the future by carefully scrutinising the deals they undertake, and not be frightened to negotiate. I'm not saying you will get what you ask for, but how will you ever know if you don't ask!

Once again, thanks to all poets and supporters of "Midday With Muzza". See you again next year.

Marco Gliori



NAKED POETS IN TAMWORTH

The Naked Poets were back at the Golf Club this year to sell out audiences and rave reviews.

Thank god they were wearing their clothes though. The image of Ray Essery and Shirley Friend cavorting on stage in their birthday best, would surely have cleared the room. Roderick the chook was a popular addition and after the last show Essery found time to invite him to Sunday lunch where we all got to know him intimately along with a few roast vegies.

Murray Hartin compared the Naked Poets introducing the likes of Bobby Miller and Mark Gliori, who revel in the evening show atmosphere performing to a mostly adult audience.

However the highlight of the show was the musical talents of Pat Drummond whose 'story telling' style of music/song complimented the show format.

The Naked Poets are proving extremely popular with both city and country folk and it was designed to challenge the boundaries of Poetry as a Performance "art form" rather than to strictly represent Bush Poetry as a craft. This is the role of the competitions and some of the more traditional performance venues. *Marco Gliori*



LONGYARD BUSH VERSE ENJOYS CONTINUED SUCCESS

Capacity crowds were again captivated by the diversity of Bush Poetry staged at Tamworth's Longyard Hotel during Country Music Week

Ten shows, commencing on Saturday 17th January, were co-ordinated and organised by Mrs. Judith Hosier and hosted by Frank Daniel, Ray Essery and Tim McLoughlin.

A wide variety of poets, some of whom were reciting professionally for the first time in Tamworth, provided a great diversity of material which ranged from the Traditional bush verse of yester-year to today's outrageously funny contemporary poetry from the likes of Neil McArthur, Bobby Miller, Don Lloyd and Marion Fitzgerald who had the audience roaring with laughter.

Bush poetry fans who have made the Longyard Breakfast's an essential part of their Festival Day were thrilled and John & Lesley Gibson, proprietors of the Longyard, welcomed the many new faces at these morning shows and audience members showed their approval by the increasing numbers throughout the week to near capacity audiences.

The collective effort of 46 poets who performed, left the audience, the way it should be - **wanting more!** Those performing were

Frank Daniel
Bob Magor
Milton Taylor
"Arch" Bishop
Philippa Powell
Marion Fitzgerald
Gary Lowe
Mark Thompson
Terry Regan
Robert Raftery
Tim McLoughlin
Sally Mitchell
Greg Scott
Tony Parry
Guy McLean
Anita Hendry
Ray Essery
Don Lloyd
Johnny Johanson
Kelly Dixon
Neil McArthur
Bobby Miller
Martin O'Brien

Mark Thompson
Carmel Dunn
Jim O'Conner
Ellis Campbell
Merv Webster
Shirley Friend
Marco Giori
Ron Selby
Noel Shallier
Glenny Palmer
Anita Hendrie
Michael Darby
Col Hadwell
Dominic Xavier
Joy Major
Murray Hartin
Ted Egan
Geoffrey Graham
Chris Webster
Mark Tempny
Trisha Anderson
Arthur Webb
Gary Fogarty

DUMPLINGS AND STEW

(C) Nell Perkins - Glen Innes, NSW

Even now when I mention his name,
The boys give me a dirty look;
They don't have pleasant memories,
Of our old camp cook.

We were mustering cattle up in Qld,
When our cook first joined the camp;
The vegies were as hard as hell,
And the corned beef, stringy and damp.

But we ate our meals with no complaint,
It was the best that we could do;
And for a change from corned beef and spuds
One night he cooked dumplings and stew.

Well every night from then on,
For a week or more;
We got nothin' else but dumplings and stew,
'Till the boys decided to even the score.

"Now cookie," Joe growled, one morn',
"your' not a bad 'bait layer'. it's true;
But don't you think it's time for a change,
From bloody dumplings and stew?"

"We eat them every mornin',
And also every night,
We even eat them in our dreams,
Also for dinner it seems."

"I'll say it's time for a change,"
Growled my old mate Blue;
"Can't you cook somethin' else?
We're sick of dumplings and stew."

Next day when we returned from musterin',
A surprise was waitin' at camp;
Smells of dinner bakin'
Not corned meat, cold and damp.

"Now boys," said a woman's friendly voice,
"I hope you like a baked meal,
But there really isn't any choice,
There'll be no complaints I feel."

It's three years since she joined the camp,
And there's no complaints it's true!
We reckon her worst cookin's better
Than old Jack's dumplings and stew !!!

The above poem was reprinted from
THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS ASSOCIATION
4TH ANNUAL BOOK OF VERSE
\$4.10 pp (2 for &7.10)
Available from The Secretary

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

2/8 Salamander Parade, Nambucca Heads NSW 2448

Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

Ph/Fax 0265 685269

February 1998

POSTAGE
PAID

Hey Kids !!

Why not enter the
"Little Swaggie Award 1998" ??
WRITTEN COMPETITION

Entries Close 2.3.98

OR

**** WALTZING MATILDA ****

BUSH POETRY

JUNIOR COMPETITION

Performance Poetry 8-13th April

Winton Outback Queensland

for Primary and Secondary Students

Entry Forms and Enquiries

PO Box 7714

Toowoomba Mail Centre Q 4352



WANTED

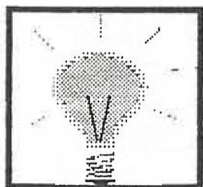
**The AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETS
ASSOCIATION**

**is calling for expressions of interest,
in writing, from clubs
for the holding of the**

**1999 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION
BUSH POET AWARDS**

**Please apply to THE SECRETARY,
OLIVE SHOOTER
M.S. 765, ALLORA. QLD 4362**

**URGENT
URGENT**



**Please
DONT
FORGET
YOUR SUBS!!
Mail them today**

THANK YOU

OUR CONTRIBUTORS are

Laurie McDonald - David Meyers

Patti Ainsworth - Jan Morris

Johnny Johanson - Keith Haycraft

Trevor Shaw - Judith Hosier

Carmel Randle - Marco Gliori

Nell Perkins - Don Lloyd

Neil Hulm - Ron Selby

Olive Shooter - Geoffrey Graham

Mary-Ann Hennessy - Ron Stevens

Frank Daniel



**POETS
IN THE
PUB**

**730 Sat., 28th February
Bowra Hotel
High St., Bowraville NSW
featuring
Bush Poet & Folk Singer
RUSSELL CHURCHER
Local Reciters Welcome
Enq - Maureen Garner
Ph/Fax 0265 685 269**