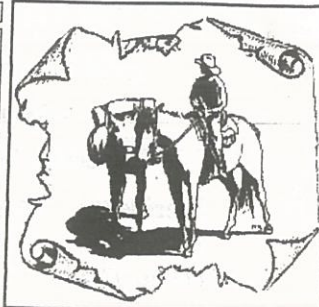


# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 5 Volume 5

May 1998



## QANTAS WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

Winton, Outback Queensland

8 -12th April, 1998

### RESULTS

#### WALTZING MATILDA AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

##### PERFORMED POETRY COMPETITIONS

##### Open Male

Winner: Milton Taylor of Portland NSW  
Runner Up: Guy McLean of Susan River, Q

##### Open Female

Winner: Zita Horton of Mansfield, Q  
Runner Up: Glenly Palmer of Cedarvale, Q

##### CHRISTINA MACPHERSON AWARDS

##### Novice Male

Winner: Bob Bergess of Cairns, Q  
Runner Up: Jim O'Conner of Longreach, Q

##### Novice Female

Winner: Janine Haig of Eulo, Q  
Runner Up: Karen Emmott of Stonechange, Q

##### CLOVER NOLAN AWARDS for JUNIORS

##### Secondary

Winner: Jennifer Haig of Eulo, Q  
Runner Up: Carmel Dunn of Warwick, Q

##### Primary

Winner: Imogen Knowles of Winton, Q  
Runner Up: Sunny Mutton of Winton, Q

##### WRITTEN POETRY COMPETITIONS

##### Bronze Swagman

Winner: Graham Fredrickson of Kilcoy, Q  
Runner Up: Johnny Johannsen of Yarrawonga, Vic.

##### Little Swaggie (Junior Written)

##### Secondary

Winner: Kylie Teakle of Toowoomba, Q  
Runner Up: Jennifer Haig of Eulo, Q  
3rd: Carmel Dunn of Warwick, Q

##### Primary

Winner: Lindsay Armanasco of Toowoomba Q  
Runner Up: Kelsey Horton of Mansfield, Q  
3rd: Zoe Mitchell of Toowoomba, Q

##### SPECIAL AWARDS

**THE LARRIKIN AWARD** - Best Performance Original Humorous Poem

**BOB MAYGOR** of *Myponga, SA*

**THE UNDARA EXPERIENCE AWARD** - Best Performance A.B. Paterson Poem

**HELEN AVERY** of *LONGREACH, Q*

##### BUSH POETS' COMMONWEALTH GAMES

**ATHLETICS:** Anna McBride of "Spatskids"

**ROWING:** Carmel Dunn of "Three Hits and a Miss"

**TENNIS:** Leia Mitchell of "Banjo's Bards"

**BOXING:** Alan Palmer of "The Brisbane Blizzards"

**WARCRY:** Bob Magor, Louise Dean, Graham Dean and Ron Selby of "The Gulf Prawns"

**WINNING COUNTRY:** "Three Hits and a Miss"

##### SPECIAL JUNIOR AWARDS

**BOB MAGOR AWARDS** - Best in Years 1 - 3

Winner: Kelsey Horton of Mansfield, Q  
Runner Up: Shiloh Mann of Winton, Q  
3rd: Caitlyn Frame of Longreach, Q



### AN INVITATION FROM GRAFTON BARDS

The Grafton Live Poets Society had an unexpected visitor to their monthly Poets in the Pub night when "Sam", a wandering poet from the Back O Bourke (True, he really did come from west of Bourke) dropped in after seeing our notice on the pub wall and proceeded to delight the audience with a number of his original works.

If you are like Sam and just happen to be passing through Grafton on the fourth Tuesday of the month, please feel free to drop into Roches Hotel around 7-7.30 pm and join in. We'd love to welcome you, or if you would like more information about our group please call me on 02 6642 2722.

*Bill Kearns*



## **Australian Bush Poet's Association Inc.**

email: bushpoet@lisp.net.au

**President.: Ron Selby**  
P.O. Box 77, Drayton North. QLD. 4350  
Phone 07 4630 1106

**Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs. Olive Shooter**  
"Willow Bend" M.S 765  
Talgai West Road  
Allora Qld. 4362  
Phone / Fax. 07 4666 3474

**Vice Presidents:**  
**\*\* R. J. (Bob) Miller**  
Lot 2 Pilerwa Road, Mungar. QLD 4650  
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Phone / Fax 07 4156 3178

**Editor: Maureen Garner**  
2/8 Salamander Parade,  
Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448  
Phone / Fax 02 6568 5269

## **THE BUNDABERG POETS SOC. INC. BUSH LANTERN AWARDS**

**Written Original Bush Verse 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**



## **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 & Stormy 1 Minute Cup**

### **OVERALL CHAMPION**

### **NON - COMPETITIVE SECTIONS**

**Friday night "Free For All" Concert**

**Saturday Night Concert.**

**Held in Conjunction with  
BUSH LANTERN AWARD**

**Written Competition (Entries close 31st. May)**

**Send SSAE to:**

**The Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster  
8 Hawaii Court Barga Qld 4670**



## **INAUGURAL SOUTH COAST COUNTRY MUSIC ASSN FESTIVAL**

**30-31st May, 1998 at Kembla Grange**

### **POETS' BREAKFAST**

**8-10am Sunday, 31st May**

**Enq. Dianne O'Dwyer Ph/Fax 02 4237 7176**



## **CASINO BEEF WEEK**

**28th - 31st May, 1998**

**Cecil Hotel, Casino, NSW**

**Performances by**

**Marco Gliori - Bobby Miller**

**Neil McArthur - Ray Essery**

**Thurs 28 - Poets Breakfast 9.30 - 11am  
- Bull Yarn Trophy 7.00 - 9pm**

**Friday 29 - Poets Breakfast 8.00 - 10am**

**Sat. 30 - Poets Breakfast 10.00 - 12pm**

**Sun 31 - Open to All, Bundy Rum New  
Voices Major Trophy 9.30 - 11.30am**

**Enquiries to Ray Essery - 02 6684 3817**



## **MONTO DAIRY FESTIVAL**

**1998 CREAM CAN**

**AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**and POETS' DINNER**

**Frid. 29th May, Monto Golf Club**

**C/- B Chape 13a Newton St., MONT0 Q 4630**

**07 4166 1430 or 07 4166 1846**

## **NEWSLETTER COPY**

**Please send copy by 10th day of each month  
THE EARLIER - THE BETTER**

## **POETRY AND FOLK NIGHT**

**CRICKETER'S ARMS HOTEL Prospect NSW**

**Old Great Western Hwy, behind Blacktown Drive In**

**Friday, 29th May '98 7.30pm**

**Hosted by "Poetic Folk"**

**SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS**

**Ring "Arch" - 02 9625 7245**







**3RD SETTLEMENT FESTIVAL  
TOONGABBIE, NSW**  
23rd May, 1998 - All day  
Bush poets will be performing  
throughout the main shopping area  
Ph. "Arch" 02 9625 7245



**CHARLEE MARSHALL  
BUSH POETRY COMP  
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**  
Biloela Country Music Festival  
5th - 7th June, 1998  
Further information from the  
Co-ordinator, PO Box 754, Biloela Q 4715  
Ph 07 4992 9521 Fax 07 4992 4137

**BEAUDESERT  
COUNTRY & HORSE FESTIVAL**  
HITCHING RAIL, Kooralbyn Valley. Qld  
**Bush Poetry Competition Finals &  
POETS BREAKFAST - 8am, 8th June.**

featuring **GLENNY PALMER,  
TOM McIVOR and RAY ESSERY**  
Comp. Closing Date - 21.5.98

Details from the Secretary  
PO Box 256,  
Beaudesert Q 4285  
Phone 07 5541 2444 or  
07 5541 4355



**NANANGO  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
Poetry Competition**

Open 100.00  
Secondary School 250.00  
Primary School 100.00

Entry, \$5.00, 1 - 3 poems Open Section.  
\$2.00, 1 - 3 poems for School Sections  
Closing Date - 31st July, 1998.

Entry Forms & details from Jim Mangan,  
124 Drayton St. Nanango, Q., 4615  
Phone 07 4163 1681

Winners will be announced at Poet's  
Breakfast on Thursday, 8th October, 1998  
at Nanango Belvedere Gallery



**TOP HALF FOLK & BUSH  
POETS FESTIVAL  
MT. ISA, QLD.**

Sat. 6th & Sun 7th June 1998

Performance Competition  
Poets Breakfast - Bush Poetry Workshop  
Concerts

Venues - Folk Club Shack & Barkly Hotel  
Details from Fay Sloman Ph 07 4743 5201



**ANNUAL DROVERS  
REUNION and FESTIVAL  
AT CAMOOWEAL**

28th - 30th August 1998  
**BUSH POETRY - MUSIC  
BRONCO BRANDING**

COUNTRY MUSIC - STREET PARADE  
BUSKERS - CAMP OVEN MEALS & MORE

**Camping Available**

Enq. Ph 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153



**1998 DIAMOND SHEARS  
HENRY LAWSON  
POETRY COMPETITION**  
For Traditional Verse with  
Rural / Outback Theme

First Prize - Trophy and \$400  
Second Prize - Trophy and \$100  
Third Prize - Trophy

- \* Entry Fee \$5.00, limit of 4 entries
- \* Limit of 1,200 words,
- \* Entries Close 30.6.98
- \* Winners announced Diamond Shears  
Ball at Longreach on Sat. 18th July, 1998

Contact the Secretary, Wendy Coleman,  
Henry Lawson Poetry Competition,  
P.O. Box 447, LONGREACH, QLD 4730

**RAMS HEAD HOTEL  
BUSH POETRY  
PERFORMANCE  
COMPETITION**



Fathers Day, Sunday, 6th September, '98  
Ram's Head Hotel, Millmerran, QLD

ENTRY FEE \$5.00 per poet for day - Juniors free.

Traditional and Original Sections in All Classes

JUNIOR MALE & FEMALE 8 -14 Yrs

NOVICE, OPEN - MALE & FEMALE

Enquiries - SSAE to Kev Barnes

PO Box 64, Millmerran, QLD 4357

or Phone 07 4695 4209





## MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL 26th - 27th September 1998

Poetry, Yarnspinning, Storytelling  
Light Hearted Competitions  
Enq. to Jacqueline Bridle - 07 5478 6263



## AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL Kiama Showground 4th - 8th June, 1998

Saturday 6th

8.30am Poets Breaky - Frank Daniel & Blue the Shearer

4.30pm Poets Afternoon Tea

6.30pm Poets Brawl/ New Poets

- to be programmed - The Poet Lorikeet - Denis Kevans

Sunday 7th

8.30am Poets Breaky - Frank Daniel & Blue the Shearer

Midday Buggar the Music, Give Us A Poem Keith McKenry

6.30pm Poets Dinner - \$12 for dinner - bookings essential.

Monday 8th

8.30am Poets Breaky - Frank Daniel & Blue the Shearer

Also various concerts throughout the festival featuring  
Frank Daniel - Blue the Shearer - Keith McKenry  
Denis Kevans - Vivian Sawyer

Further Information from Bev Murray Ph 02 4236 0701

## CLONCURRY BUSH FESTIVAL

Queens Birthday Weekend June '98

Written and Performance Poetry

Details from Keith Douglas

PO 332 Cloncurry, Q, 4824 - 07 4742 5936

## SURAT BATTERED BUGLE

5th ANNUAL BUSH VERSE COMPETITION

In conjunction with Cobb & Co Festival

15th & 16th August, 1998

Original and Traditional Performance Poetry

Jan Ritchie, PO Box 45, Surat, Q 4417 - Ph 07 4626 5103

## BARDS OF BOWRA

BUSH POETRY WORKSHOPS

25th and 26th July, 1998 10am - 3pm

Bowraville CWA Hall

Tutor: Bobby Miller, "The Larrikin"

Australia's foremost Performer of Bush Poetry will cover all aspects of writing and performance - for Beginners and Advanced Students - Course Notes Supplied

Cost: \$25.00 - Bookings Essential

Phone / Fax Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269

## THE PRODUCT SHELF

**2 GREAT BOOKS from DON LLOYD**  
**THE MONGREL from the MULGA**

'A DOG THAT PEEES ON WHEELS AND  
OTHER DOGGEREL' - \$14.00 pp

'NO DOGS ALOUD' - \$7.00 pp

DON W. LLOYD

Wooli Road, Pillar Valley, NSW. 2460

Ph. 02 6644 8283

## "Mischief, Memories, Mates"

Humorous recollections, in verse, of growing up in the country, back in the mid '30's. Follow the author's footsteps - relive her life right through 'til today - retirement!

A book both young and old can relate to.

\$16.00, p & p incl. - Write or phone Beth

Vinecombe-Bashford,

PO Box 18, Berrigan NSW, 2712

Ph/Fax 03 5885 2275

## VICE-VERSER

the rambling, ravings and ribaldry of

**Rhubard**

*Illustrated by: Nor'West*

Now available from:

Reg Silvester

35 Wallace Street, Braidwood NSW 2622

Please send cheque or money order for \$15.00 pp

**A GREAT GIFT**

## ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Sixty Poems by Graham Fredricksen

Winner of 1998 Bronze Swagman Award  
for Written Verse at Winton Q.

\* Featuring the Awarded Poem \*

"Battle of St Quentin Canal"

Send \$12.00 pp to

G. Fredriksen, C/- P.O. Kilcoy, Q 4515

**MY APOLOGY** - to Blue Mountains Poet,  
Graham Alcorn

for incorrectly spelling his name last month. ED.





### Secretary's Notes

Membership is just knocking 300. Quite a few of those are new members and we welcome them and hope they enjoy their association with us.

A fair few of our regular members have not renewed but I think it is just an oversight. However, we do not have back up copies of the newsletter, as they have all been sent out.

Note, for anyone who has a book or tape out and wishes it to be listed in the bookshelf, could you please make sure that the Editor is aware of the title and purchase price including postage.

I have received a letter with some ideas for the running of the Australian Championships and I thank the writer for the time taken and the thought put into it. There are some good ideas there. If anyone else would like to add their opinions to the melting pot it will be most welcome.

Expressions of interest are coming in for the running of the 1999 Championships and remember that they do have to reach me by the end of June for consideration.

We've had rain and I hope you have too. Best wishes to all.

*Olive Shooter*

## 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 REPLY BEFORE 30.6.98**

Please apply to THE SECRETARY,  
**OLIVE SHOOTER**

**M.S. 765, ALLORA. QLD 4362**



## FIRESIDE FESTIVAL

**Longyard Hotel, Tamworth**

**Friday 29th - Sun 31st May, 1998**

**"WONDERFUL WOMEN" of Bush Verse**

Marion Fitzgerald - Zita Horton - Glenny Palmer - Alli Ryan  
Carmel Randle - Shirley Friend + **TOKEN BLOKES** Greg Scott  
Tim McLoughlin - Paddy Ryan - Jim Haynes

Friday 29 - Poets in the Pub "Battle of the Sexes"

Saturday 30 - Rhyme & Rhythm Workshop Carmel Randle; \$5 - Get up and Have a Go Show - Three Generations of Verse - The Yarn Event - Duri School Kids - New Voices - Fireside Festival Galah Concert; \$20 ea.

Sunday 31 - Publishing Workshop Carmel Randle; \$5.

- Get up and have a go show - Farewell Concert.

Booking essential for dinner and workshop - Send your cheque payable to

**GOLDEN GUMLEAF, 112 Crescent Rd. Hamilton, Q 4007**

### Presidents Report

I left Toowoomba on April 1st with Billy Hay and went through to Roma where we stayed at the Villa Caravan Park.

We were warmly welcomed by owners Mark and Angie, who extended an invitation to all poets passing through. We put on a small show to an enthusiastic crowd.

The next morning it was on to Blackall and another show at the Barcoo Hotel with Bob Magor and Ian Tarlington. Barcoo Bob, as the proprietor is known, couldn't do enough for us. He even cooked breakfast himself the next morning for all the poets.

It was then on to Longreach for a few days to meet Trisha Anderson and Alan and Glenny Palmer, then out to Bill's relatives' property at Elabe Station about halfway between Muttaborra and Hughenden. I was doing the driving along this bumpy dusty road with Bill and Trish up front and Alan and Glenny in the back of the camper with about two tons of dust, to the chorus of "Get rid of that bloody rally driver"! I don't know why they wouldn't let me drive back! However, we spent two glorious days on Elabe and put on another show for the country folk. You would be very hard pushed indeed to meet nicer people anywhere. Then it was on to Winton where we stayed at the Tattersals Hotel and the very generous hospitality of Paul and Sonya Neilson.

The Winton Competition and all the festivities were ably handled by Carmel Randle and Bert Swindell of the Winton Tourist Association and though there may have been a few hiccups, I didn't hear too many complaints, other than a fine from "the boys in blue" for a seat belt infringement!

The Matilda Centre is a credit to Winton and all the bodies associated with it's design and construction - they are to be congratulated. The Winton people seem to be bending over backwards for the poets and the running of this annual event.

The competition itself was great. Though I personally like competitions for the way they seem to hone up your abilities to make you try that little bit harder.

Every person connected with Winton, be it competitor, organiser, proprietor, store keeper, spectator, poet or even cop can give themselves a pat on the back for a job well done. For there should not be any winners or losers in the advancement of good old Aussie poetry and the good old Aussie spirit.

There is a verse in a poem by Henry Lawson "The Authors Farewell to the Bushman" -

And a ship-side word I would say, you chaps  
of the blood of the Don't-give-in!  
The world will call it a boast, perhaps -  
But I'll win, if a man can win!  
And not for gold or the world's applause —  
Though ways to end they may be —  
I'll win, if a man might win, because  
Of the men who believe in me.

*Sincerely, Ron Selby, President*







## GYMPIE GOLDEN PEN AWARDS 1998 from Ian Mackay

This might only have been its second year, but the written poetry competition organised by the Gympie Golden Pen Poets has really taken off.

Not only were there nearly 300 entries (from all over Australia, with even a few from England) but the presentation afternoon at the local golf club turned out to be both well attended and well organised.

Placegetter's poems were all read at the event - mostly by the authors as many of them had travelled to Gympie for the day.

"Poem of the Competition", this year, went to young Buderim poet Rosie Double for her short but beautifully crafted poem "The Violinist".

Competition organisers Marguerite River and Phil Morrison reported they were most impressed with both the number and the quality of the entries and were already looking forward to next year's event.

### GYMPIE GOLDEN PEN POETS WRITTEN COMPETITION 1998 RESULTS

#### POEM OF THE COMPETITION

Rosie Double of Buderim, "The Violinist"

#### Under 10

Equal 1st - Rosie Double of Buderim "The Violinist"  
 - Sophie Mycock of Eumundie "Battle of Gallipoli"  
 2nd - Sophie Mycock of Eumundie "The Watchman"  
 3rd - Sophie Mycock of Eumundie "A Fairy"  
 Commended - Amelia Mycock, Eumundie "My fantasy Day"

#### Bush - Ten to Sixteen

1st - Carmel Dunn of Warwick "The Sound of a Nation"  
 (No second or third in this category)

#### Humorous - Ten to Sixteen

1st - Carmel Dunn of Warwick "My Mum"  
 2nd - Janine Rielly of Cooroy "The Toaster"  
 (No third)

#### Serious - Ten to Sixteen

1st - Naomi McLean of Gympie "Shed a Single Tear"  
 2nd - Kay Treichel of Nambour "Living"  
 3rd - Ehren Wittmer of Anderleigh "It's Funny That"  
 Highly Comm - Ehren Wittmer "My Pain"

#### Romantic - Ten to Sixteen

1st - Jade M Smith of Gympie "Seasons of Love"

#### Open - Bush

1st - Sandra Binns of Kincumber, NSW "No Bull"  
 2nd - Selwyn Steley of Gympie "Paradise?"  
 3rd - Grahame Watt of Kyabram VIC "Ghosts of the Shed"

#### Open - Humorous

1st - Ellis Campbell of Dubbo NSW "The Lucky Country"  
 2nd - Johnnny Johanson of Yarrowonga VIC "Buk"  
 3rd - Selwyn Steley of Gympie "A Town Like Hades"

#### Open - Serious

1st - John Strano of Eumundi "Cec..."  
 2nd - Ann Bennett of Buderim "Fighting for Individualism"  
 3rd - Chris Haslam of Gloucestershire UK "Simon Says"

#### Open - Romantic

1st - Adele Coombs of Gympie "Love Like Wind"  
 2nd - Deanne Wetton of Buddina "Dream Lover"  
 3rd - Lynette Day of Bomaderry NSW "Stand Beside Me"

### CONGRATULATION TO THE WINNERS



#### NO BULL (c) Sandra Binns, Kincumber NSW September 1997

It's unusual for Aussie blokes not to lend a hand,  
 but I struck a lot just recently who really should be damned.  
 These cowboys, in their Drizabones and custom'ry akubras  
 were posing 'gainst the slip rails there to impress the local lubras.

Then we arrived ~ I saw their looks, I heard their little snickers.  
 We weren't decked out for cattle yards ~ must be City Slickers!  
 The cowboys looked us up and down and pondered why we'd come.  
 Comment was made, we wouldn't know a cow's head from its bum!  
 Well, we may live in the "City" now, but it closed in on us ~  
 aw ... no point saying anything, it wasn't worth the fuss.

So, though my man spent younger days on Dairies farther south,  
 in our defence he didn't speak ~ thought he'd better shut his mouth.  
 Just then, as they were bringing in more cattle for the auction,  
 a longhorn steer broke from the bunch creating much commotion.

The Boss-man yelled 'Look out, you there!' and cowboys scaled the fence;  
 you couldn't see their heels for dust, ... I guess retreat made sense  
 Safe outside the gate, I stood and watched these goings on ..  
 my old man checked the cattle out several pens along.  
 'Bout then, the gate exploded as the steer hit at a run,  
 gave like flamin' matchwood ~ the beast weighed half a ton!

And suddenly I'm wedged between the steer and the rails.  
 Beside the fear I felt right then, all other fear pales!  
 The steer then lined me up again to have another go  
 and the cowboys yelled "Get up! Get up!" . as if I wouldn't know!

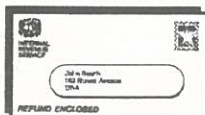
But I thought me bloody neck was broke, 'cause I couldn't move at all  
 and still those cowboys on the fence, "Look out! Get up!" they bawled  
 I thought I was a goner but my man ~ the "City Bloke" ~  
 raced up and wrestled with the steer. Fair dinkum mate, no joke!  
 And as I lay there on the ground the thought went through my head~  
 So much for our retirement, we'll shortly both be dead!

Then, as he turned the beast away, this sheila jumped right in  
 to drag me out of danger. So don't knock "City" kin,  
 'cause, with all those big brave cowboys sitting on the fence,  
 it took a girl, and my "City" bloke, to come to my defence.



Winning Poem  
 Open Bush Section -  
 Gympie Golden Pen  
 Written Competition





## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I belong to three other writing organisations beside ABPA. They all regularly warn members to be wary of overseas competitions, particularly American ones. Some of these do apparently have Australian addresses for entries, but are still American controlled. There are hundreds of thousands would-be poets around the world, all desperate for some form of recognition or publication of their work.

These organisations advertise a poetry competition with attractive prizes. They rarely advertise in writers' magazines, but more likely in some women's magazine, etc: where there is more chance of trapping the unwary.

EVERYONE who enters received a letter saying they have written a beautiful, sensitive poem, comparable to Homer, Wordsworth or some other great poet of the past. Their poem is to be included in an anthology, on sale at prices usually ranging from \$90 - \$110. I have been told these anthologies are poorly produced, with a real value of somewhere between \$20 and \$30.

Of course the desperate author is so thrilled by this sudden "discovery" of their hidden talent that they are gullible enough to buy the anthology. After the cloud nine adventure wears off the poor people realise that they are not only still nobody in the literary world, are mortified by their gullibility, and \$100 or so poorer.

Some good poets have deliberately written awful verse and sent it to these competitions. Sure enough back came the soppy letter telling them they have written a

beautiful, sensitive poem etc; The affairs of these people are constantly under investigation, but as yet it has not been proved that what they are doing is illegal. No self respecting poet that I know of will have any part of these competitions.

I am not sure if anyone actually gets prize money out of these competitions. Perhaps they do choose a winner and pay him/her, and make their packet out of the rest of the less fortunate. Poets who have never won any kind of writing award in their lives have been crowned "world champion poet" by some of these organisations. Surely a little hard to believe. Isn't it a bit like taking your old cart horse to Melbourne and winning the Cup?

To the many writers desperately seeking recognition I say: there are many very good competitions in Australia, such as The Bronze Swagman, The Diamond Shears, Eaglehawk, Maryborough, The Grampians, The Bush Lantern, Mt. Isa, Camooweal, Hastings FAW, Gulgong Henry Lawson, Bowraville, Bribie Island, Ballarat, Sunshine Coast, Macarthur, Central coast, Warwick, Tenterfield, Denis Butler - the list is endless. These competitions are run by fair dinkum committees, judged anonymously and awards made on merit.

I urge would-be poets to enter some of these and forget the overseas ones. Of course, they won't write and say you have written a great poem when in fact it is quite awful, but you will learn something from the better writers and when you do get a prize you can cherish it with real pride. It is not easy winning prizes in these Australian competitions, but when you do, it is very satisfying - rather than being conned by some slick operator from overseas.

*Ellis Campbell*

## BUSH POETRY AT DUBBO ORANA COUNTRY MUSIC EASTER FESTIVAL

The inaugural inclusion of Bush Poetry into the established country music program got off to a good start at a Poets' Breakfast at the Railway Junction Hotel on Easter Sunday. Master of ceremonies, Ellis Campbell, competition judges Malcolm Tink and Ron Stevens, together with Neil Carrol and visiting poets entertained before the competition began. The results of the competition were:

**Traditional** - 1st Ray Halliday - Blue Mts. NSW  
2nd John Barclay - Narrabeen NSW  
3rd Margaret Bye - Dubbo NSW

**Original** 1st John Barclay  
2nd Ray Halliday  
3rd Margaret Bye

During the afternoon, several poets took part in the "Walk up" entertainment at the nearby Gardens Hotel.

The Country Music Assn. intends to make the Bush Poetry section bigger and better in 1999, perhaps including a written competition.

*Ron Stevens*

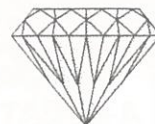


## SHADES OF GREEN

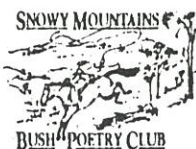
(C) 1998 Glen G. Muller,  
Toowoomba Q.

The Emerald is a beautiful stone,  
It's shades of green, so well known.  
Nature's hand took time deep in the earth,  
Awaiting the time, a miner's hand gave it birth.  
It's full potential, to yet unfold.  
Then shaped by a craftsman to gather the light,  
It bursts forth with energy, displaying it's might.  
One of these treasures of quality rare,  
Hypnotises people, with it's mystic stare.  
Those born an emerald have only to be seen,  
They radiate such beauty .. they're evergreen.

The Emerald is the  
Birthstone for  
those born in May







## THE MAN FROM THE SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

**CORRYONG, NSW  
16 - 19TH APRIL, 1998**

The Bush Poetry part of the Festival was one of the best we have witnessed. We had poets, singers, yarnspellers and others with their musical instruments to entertain the crowds. At each session from Friday morning until Sunday, lunch crowds of seventy to ninety people attended. Poets who had attended poetry competitions all over Australia agreed that they hadn't seen better. Performers who were not members of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club before the Corryong Festival, had joined before the Festival had finished.

Winners of the various competitions were:

### **Best Junior Artist, Guitar and Song**

- Brendon Lloyd, Corryong, NSW

### **Best Yarn**

- Johnny Johansen, Yarrawonga, VIC

### **The Man from the Snowy River Recital**

- Trevor Hargreaves, Yarrawonga, VIC

### **Best Music or Song Piece**

- Trevor Best, Corryong, NSW

### **Best Traditional Recital**

- Don Anderson, Leeton, NSW -  
"The Fire at Ross's Farm"

### **Best Original Piece - \$500 Award**

- John Memory, Beechworth, VIC  
with Guitar and Song, "Bakery Hill"

### **Jack Riley Heritage Award - John Memory.**

Amongst the others to perform were Lenny Madden - Canberra, Neville Simpson - Nariel, Harold Boon - Wodonga, David Walker - Forbes, Tom Grant - Cowra, Jan Lewis - Walwa, Laurie Sheridan - Towong, and Jim Angel - Narrandera. There were many more performers, too many to list, who all contributed to making the Festival one of the greatest.

Congratulations to all, and in particular, to Ron Connley of Omeo, the 63 year old horseman who took out the "Man From The Snowy River" Award 1998, with some great exhibitions of horsemanship.

*Neil Hulm.*

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## **AUSTRALIAN WOOLSHED REPORT**

from Trisha Anderson



On Friday, 20th March, The Australian Woolshed at Ferny Hills, Qld hosted a great evening of poetry and song when Bobby Miller, Wally Finch and Trisha Anderson entertained almost 70 guests with poetry - and the fabulous Mark Temppany sang some of his wonderful songs. Mark has won many awards for his singing and songwriting and we love having him sharing the stage on our bush poetry evenings.

The evening's entertainment commenced with the unique Australian Woolshed Ram show when eight different breeds of sheep are introduced one by one, and seeing these trained sheep being called in and trotting up onto the stage is quite an experience - who said sheep were dumb animals!

This interesting segment was followed by a delicious spit roast dinner and beautiful desserts.

We were then entertained by the lovable Larrickin - Bobby Miller, who, as usual, kept the crowd laughing with his very humorous poetry.

Wally Finch then took the stage and told us some interesting history put to verse about how the Glasshouse Mountains got their names and many other great poems.

I also did a couple of poems and then it was time to listen to the powerful voice of Mark Temppany as he thrilled us with his beautiful ballads. All in all, a very successful night - we'll keep you posted for future happenings at the Australian Woolshed.

## **BITZ AND PIECES**

\*\* Nice to hear "Macca" discussing ABPA member, Col Hadwell's book "The First Bunch of Ballads from Byron Bay" on air late last month. Macca also treated listeners to a reading of Col's poem "When a Library Burns". Great for poets and great for Haddy too! - Well done!

\*\* Also speaking to Macca on the same day was member, Tom Clarke of Highfield who gave the ABPA a great big plug. Good stuff Tom - thank you!!

\*\* Rumor has it that "Joe" (alias Frank Daniel) has been on the sick list of late - seems he has been sufferin' from the floo, flew, fleu, flue, flu, and other things, mmm! Cheer up Frank, things will get better! ... and they did!! He scored a HC in Wollondilli FAW writers comp with "Chuckin' Rocks" !!!!

\*\* Happy Birthday to member, John Major who has just celebrated his ?? Birthday with his poetry mates at his property "Nonda" in Baralaba, Q.

\*\* Thankyou to member Roy Briggs who was able to supply member, Bruce Reineker with the words to "The Skite". Little wonder, Roy wrote it !!!



**FOR JOHNNY (Happy 60th)**

(C) Marco Gliori, Warwick 1998



I love ya' Johnny Major you're a one-off sorta bloke  
 who can keep a party going as ya' rattle off a joke.  
 The yarns ya' tell are magic and no-one calls ya' boring -  
 but now you're turnin' sixty ... you've gotta stop the snoring!

The Dawson flows inside you and Baralaba's your home -  
 Australia is your passion and we hear it in each poem.  
 But as you ride reciting - chasing cattle through the crop  
 get this in your big thick head ... the snoring's gotta stop!

We see you at the gallops and we give ya' tips a go -  
 and if one ever bloody wins you'll be the first to know.  
 You've always been a sporting man and though you're getting older  
 If snoring were competitive - you'd be the record holder.

You've had a bonza bunch of kids - so count ya' blessing boy  
 for them - and their devoted Mum - the Queen of Patience - Joy  
 She's been a backbone for ya' - she's been lover - friend- and chef,  
 but if she sleeps beside you then the old girl's bloody deaf!

I know you'll have a swarm of mates to celebrate your life.  
 I'd like to count meself as one .. you've helped me in me strife.  
 So please accept this humble poem - it's like an 'open door'  
 to the motel seven miles away ... so we can't hear you snore!



*Love and Best Wishes from Marco, Julie, Amy, Sophie and Grace*



**BUSH POETRY  
 PERFORMANCE COMPETITION  
 V WALL Tavern  
 Nambucca Heads - 12.4.98**

The Nambucca Valley Country Music Festival's Australian Bush Poetry Performance Competition was a huge success, according to competition co-ordinator, Maureen Garner.

A crowd of over eighty people enjoyed seeing a total of 14 poets perform in the Traditional and Original sections of the competition. Winners were as follows

**Traditional Section -**

- 1st - Reid Begg, Forster NSW
- 2nd - Reg Blattman, Silverdale NSW
- 3rd - Graeme Johnson, Ryde NSW
- Encouragement Award - Graeme Johnson

**Original Section -**

- 1st - George New, Coffs Harbour NSW
- 2nd - Gary Lowe, Ourimbah NSW
- 3rd - Tom Strickland, Coffs Harbour NSW
- Encouragement Award - Robbie Blick, Coffs Harbour

Judges for the competition were Laurie Peninton - Nambucca Heads, Alan Tyrrell - Coffs Harbour and Dorothy Carmody - Warrell Creek. A very appreciative audience were entertained by special Guest Performances by Gary Lowe and Graeme Johnson. Other performers were Don Lloyd - Grafton, Marj Trotter and Tony Fuller - Bowraville, Pat Richardson and Greg Cook - Nambucca Heads and Rosemary Dorrell - Coffs Harbour.



**BARDS of BOWRA**

*Part of the Back to Bowra Festival"*

**BOWRAVILLE NSW**

**Written Competition - Open**

- Section 1 - Any topic
- Section 2 - Nambucca Valley Subject
- Section 3 - Alternative House Building

**Junior Written**

- Section 1 - Primary School to Year 6
- Section 2 - High School to Year 12  
(Junior to 18 yrs not at school may enter Sec 2)
- Entries Close 22nd July, 1998

**Performance Competition - 27.9.98**

- Bowraville Ex-Services Club - 10am
- Section 1 - Trad. or Established Work
- Section 2 - Original

**Bush Poetry Workshop - 25/26.7.98**

- Writing & Performance Skills Tuition
- Bowraville CWA Hall - 9.30am - 3pm
- Tutor: Bobby Miller - Cost \$25.00

**POETS IN THE PUB**

- Bowra Hotel, High St. Bowraville NSW
- Saturday 25.7.98, 7.30pm Bobby Miller
- Saturday 22.8.98, 7.30pm Glenny Palmer
- Enquiries and entry forms
- Maureen Garner - Ph / Fax 02 6568 5269



## COMMENTS on DRAFT "CODE OF ETHICS" from Marco Gliori

### A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

A friend of a friend recently told me they were relaxing at a popular Queensland tourist venue when they heard two of my poems being recited by the resident entertainer. After much laughter and applause (yet no acknowledgment of authorship) this friend approached the person and confronted him with the knowledge that they knew the author of those poems. The reaction I'm told was quite sheepish and conversation quickly moved on to other things.

When all of those tourists leave a situation like that and return to their respective parts of Australia they take with them an 'assumption' that they heard a Poet reciting his or her original work. Fair enough that they be recognised a wonderful performer, but surely the work put into 'writing' a piece that inspires or entertains can be duly recognised by the performer as a sign of appreciation to the writer. That is my opinion. What's yours ???

### YOUR OPINION

Whilst recently comparing at the "Oracles of the Bush" an alert member of the audience (a poet groupie) approached me after hearing a poet perform someone else's work and politely suggested I ask all poets to acknowledge authorship at some stage during the performance.

I went a step further in what was a friendly and intimate setting and explained our present debate about the "Code of Ethics". I then asked the 80 strong audience (very few of whom were poets) for a show of hands if they thought every performer should feel obliged to do this. I would say almost without exception that each person immediately (and I might add in some cases .. vehemently) raised their hands.

### MY MISTAKE

I first heard Claude Morris's "A Grave Situation" from a mate who told me 'who' the author was and wrote out a copy for me ... minus a few verses. It worked well and that was how I learnt it. Quite innocently I had altered the way the author originally intended the poem to be. I no longer recite the poem, but having met Claude Morris just prior to his death, I got the feeling that he wouldn't have minded some discreet changes to the dialogue so as to suit the 'individual performer'.

I myself have indicated that I have no problem with 'discreet' changes being made to my own poems for the purpose of an individual's own style of presentation. Perhaps it comes back to Keith McKenry's suggestion in his draft code of ethics 'with their approval'.

**What do YOU think. Let us know of your own personal experiences.**



## ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL - SPOKEN WORD PROGRAM 24/26.4.98

The village of St Albans once again came alive this Anzac Day Weekend to the sound of Poets whose voices rang out from the many venues and drifted across the valley like early morning mists. This years Poetry venues and performances were organised and run by a threesome dedicated to the art. Warren "Arch" Bishop, Graeme Johnson and Linda Pearce.

It is great to see the spoken word program coming along in leaps and bounds at St Albans, with Poets Breakfasts being held at two venues, 'The Fickle Wombat' and 'The Barn', both of which boasted a vast variety of style, length and content.

Saturday saw a poets workshop where a poem was written in tribute to the many years of dedicated service given by that fine orator and Festival organiser, Terry Gleeson. This was Terry's last year of officialdom and his talents and dedication will long be remembered.

Spoken word has always played a large part at St Albans and this year was no exception. Well known performers including Terry Regan, Ray Halliday, Bob Dever, Rhyming Simon, Ted Webber, Richard Mills, Campbell the Swaggie, Yuri the Storyteller, Brian Hungerford, John Dengate et al were joined by newcomers Stan Toit and John Barclay to provide an exciting and diverse range of subject matter and style in both venues.

Storyteller, Brian Hungerford, together with Margaret Bradford, hosted a "Kids Concert" on Sunday.

Festival Organiser, John Grenenger once again thanks all concerned, for their ideas, input and effort, all of which will help to maintain the friendly atmosphere which is found at St. Albans.



*"Go Swallow" and the "Bishop"*



## BUSH POETS SA

### Well G'day Folks .....

Numbers were down somewhat at our last meeting due to the cold weather. No matter, we all had a third round of poetry and a lot of fun. Yep, my wedding was 3 days later and a honeymoon in a shack on the Murray River near Mannam. I even made time for a bit of poetry writing, romantic style, but that's all I'm going to tell you of what happened in the shack!

Our group is to perform at the Barmera / Berri Country Music Festival on June 4th and 5th - intending poets are asked to book in. Please phone Bob Magor Ph/fax 08 8556 3202 or Peter Chapman Ph/fax 08 8557 7151

During the next few months, I will be seeking avenues for our members to perform and read their work in more public spectrums. This could be anything from community radio, festivals or social groups. BUT !!, if you happen to hear of something let us know and I'll see what we can do.

Mike Edgecombe, a co-ordinator for the Victor Harbour Folk Festival intends to visit our meetings in the near future - News about our group is really getting around!

Our next meetings are scheduled for 20th May and 17th June to commence at 7.30pm at the Alma Pub who gives us great support.

*Peter Chapman*

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## HOW PETER AND HEATHER GOT HITCHED

(c) Peter Chapman, Aldinga Beach, SA 1998

Some may ask just how Pete and Heather came to meet.  
How Heather fell in love and found her heart complete.  
You see Pete was busy working in his own back yard  
When his neighbour called, things for her were getting hard.

So in one mighty leap, he cleared his neighbours fence  
He was not brash, and he offered no pretence  
But as he landed fair and square upon his neighbours side,  
He saw a splendid vision and his eyes they opened wide.

A damsel so delicate in beauty and in style,  
Kindly said 'Hello' and returned his dazzled smile.  
Suddenly composure went and so went all their senses  
Pete he thought, "Tis good, this leaping over fences!"



There standing by the neighbour was Heather's wily little Mum  
She could see her chances, a good one had finally come.  
Pete seemed to fit the shopping list of suitors for her daughter  
Here's a match she thought, well at least she reckoned that they oughta.

So your a carpenter she asked, "I've a roof that needs some patching"  
besides she thought, a chance to do some real romantic matching.  
"Say Pete come over and fix my roof" she said  
"I need to stop the rain from dripping on my head."

So Pete arrived to fix the roof, but there was more, he had a hunch,  
For Heather's Mum had fixed for him a very hearty lunch.  
Still today Pete wonders just what was in that lady's cooking,  
since then Heather has just kept on getting more good looking.

Finally the day did come, a wedding in Sophie's garden.  
All the flowers looked their best, one camellia got a pardon.  
So for whatever reason, of times gone by and past  
All the friends and family got to say, "AT LAST!"



## LUIGI (C) Neil Hulm, Lavington VIC

(from Neil's Book "Aussie Bush Comedy")

They were building a 'high rise' in old Sydney Town,  
And the cranes kept on bobbing around, up and down;  
Luigi had worked for a fortnight or more  
Way up on the top of the fiftieth floor.



It wasn't his fault nor the strong hand of fate,  
'Twas the point of the crane that caused such a state;  
For the crane and Luigi met head-on that day,  
And that's how Luigi went flying away.



'Way over the edge, but his luck held up well;  
In the chute made for rubbish Luigi then fell,  
And his screams and his kicking made a horrible sound,  
As he rolled, crashed and tumbled his way to the ground.

Luigi looked like he'd been hit by a bomb,  
The surprised foreman spluttered, "Where'd you come from?"  
All smothered in dust and his sight just a blur,  
Luigi looked up and groaned, "Italy, sir".



# NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 10TH EA MONTH



## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- May 21 Closing Date. **Beaudesert Country & Horse Fest Comp.** Ph 07 5541 4355 P 3
- May 23 **Toongabbie, NSW Third Settlement Festival.** Bush Poetry "al fresco" Ph Arch 02 9625 7254 P3
- May 28-31 **Casino Beef Week.** Casino, NSW. Poets' Breakfasts, New Voices Comp, Ph. 02 6684 3817 P2
- May 29 **Monto Dairy Fest Poets Dinner** Monto Golf Club Page 2
- May 29 **Cricketer's Arms Hotel.** Prospect, NSW 7.30pm Poetry and Folk Night Ph 02 9625 7245 P2
- May 29-31 **Fireside Festival.** Longyard Hotel, Tamworth. Performance poetry, workshops, Galah Concert P5
- May 31 Closing Date **Bush Lantern Awards.** Written Verse Comp. Bundaberg Poets Soc Inc. P 2
- May 31 **Sth Coast Country Music Fest, Kembla Grange NSW Poets' Breakfast** 8-10am.  
Ph / Fax Dianne O'Dwyer 02 4237 7176 P 2
- June 4-8 **Aust. Folk Festival Kiama** Poets' Breakfast, Brawl, Dinner Ph 02 4236 0701 Fax 02 4257 1787 P4
- June 5-7 **Charlee Marshall Bush Poetry Comp Awards.** Biloela Country Music Fest. Ph 07 4992 9521 P3
- June 6-7 **Beaudesert Country & Horse Fest.** Comp & Poets Breakfast Ph Nancy Moss 07 5541 4355 P3
- June 6-8 **Mt. Isa Writers Association and Mt. Isa Folk Club.** Mt. Isa, Q Inaugural Bush Poets Festival in conjunction with the Top Half Folk Festival Queens Birthday Weekend. Celebrating Mt. Isa's 75th Anniversary. Phone 07 4743 5201 Fax 07 4743 3386 P 3
- June 6-8 **Cloncurry Bush Festival.** Written & Perf. Ph. Keith Douglas Jnr. Ph 07 47442 5936 P4
- June 24 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. \$15 per head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769 P 17
- June 30 Closing Date. **Diamond Shears Henry Lawson Poetry Competition.** Write to the Secretary, Wendy Coleman P.O. Box 447, Longreach, QLD 4730. P 3.
- July 3 - 5 **Bundy Mob's Bush Poets Muster.** Perf. & Written Comp - 8 Hawaii Court, Bargara 4670 P 2
- July 25 Closing Date. **Bards of Bowra Open and Junior Written Competition.** Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269 P9
- July 25 **Poets in the Pub.** 7.30 pm Bowra Hotel, Bowraville NSW - Featuring Bobby Miller  
Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269. Reciters and readers welcome. P9
- July 25-26 **Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Workshops.** Bowraville, NSW. Tutor, Bobby Miller, Bookings essential - Ph/Fax Maureen Garner 02 6568 5269 P4
- July 31 **Nanango Sesquicentennial Poetry Comp** closes. Entry forms and details from Jim Mangan, 124 Drayton St., Nanango QLD 4615. Phone 07 4163 1681 P 3
- Aug 15-16 **Surat Battered Bugle Competition.** Trad. & Original Perf. Poetry. Ph Jan Ritchie 07 4626 5103 P4
- Aug 22 **Poets in the Pub.** 7.30 pm Bowra Hotel, Bowraville NSW - Featuring Glenn Palmer.  
Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269. Reciters and readers welcome. P9
- Aug 23 **Palma Rosa Poets.** Twilight 5 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. \$15 per head incl Supper. Featuring Milton Taylor. Bookings essential Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769
- Aug 28-30 **Annual Drovers Reunion & Fest.** Camooweal, Q. Phone 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153  
Bush Poetry, Music, Meals, Camping Sites. P3
- Sept 6 **Rams Head Hotel Performance Bush Poetry Comp.** Perf. Comp., Yarns, Brawl, Meals available  
Phone Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 Page 3
- Sept 27 **Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Perf. Comp., Bowraville, NSW** Phone 02 6568 5269 P 9
- Sept 26-27 **Mapleton Yarn Festival.** Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263 P4
- Oct 3-4 **Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival.** North Pine Country Park. Written and Performance Comp.  
Ph John or Patti Coutts 07 3886 1552 P 17
- Oct 8 **Poets' Breakfast at Nanango.** Nanango Shire Council, PO Box 10 Nanango QLD 4615 P 3
- Oct 14 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris. Q, North Pine Bush Poets. \$15 per head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769
- Dec 2 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. Guy McLean & "Buddy" \$15 per head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. Trish Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769

## INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS



Competitors and patrons need time to prepare and plan ahead to patronise your events. In order to achieve the best possible result, it would therefore be advisable for you to take the time to send in details of your events as early as you can. Why not send in your information **several months prior to your event** and take advantage of our growing membership and interest in our monthly newsletter. This is also of great assistance to me in the planning our monthly format. Event results and reports are also welcome and keep our membership informed, so **please** send them in as soon as possible Remember, the 'Early Bird' really does get the worm. **Maureen Garner,**





## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

- 1st. Monday** **Aroma's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Toowoomba Q. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106  
**Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group.** 7 pm Beachcomber Hotel, Main Rd Toukley,  
 Ph Laurie Nicholson 02 4390 8595
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde  
 Ph Graham Johnson - 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 015 227 479  
**Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton, Q. 8.30-11pm Poetry and Music.  
 Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263 P4
- 1st. Sunday** **Poets Get-together.** Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolumb Qld. (074) 491 991  
**North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea  
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba  
 Everyone welcome. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr. Tarro - Bob Skelton** 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St. Sth T'worth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067  
**Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- 2nd. Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St. Cooma. Bush Poetry and Country Music.  
 Mrs. Elaine Schofield "Green Hills" Jerangle, 2630 Ph 02 6454 3128
- 2nd. Sunday** **'Interludes' Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield - Joye Dempsey** 02 9797 7575
- 3rd Tuesday** **Norther Rivers Bush Poets.** Rous Hotel, Lismore Ph. Col Hadwell 02 6685 7064
- 3rd Wed'day** **Sth Aust. Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga SA, Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- 3rd Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 3rd. Friday** **Poetic Folk** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770 Arch Bishop (02) 9625 7245  
**June Bush Poetry Group.** 7.30pm, June Community Centre, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82,  
 June, 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 3rd Saturday** **Poets in the Club, Urunga Golf Club.** 1.30 - 4pm Ph 02 6568 5269 or 02 6655 6835 ah.  
**The Original Avocado, Tamborine Mt. Q.** Phone 07 5545 3066
- 3rd. Sunday** **North Pine Bush Poets Breakfasts.** North Pine Country Park, 9 am at Dad & Daves Billy Tea  
 and Damper Ph. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552
- 4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02 6642 2772
- 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie, Q. 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Tourist Cafe, Mann St., Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30  
 Ph. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Sat.** **Aust Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div.** Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 - 4pm  
 Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Pk. NSW 2264

**ATTENTION**

***Group or Club Organisers Your events belong here.  
 Send your details to the Editor***



## NEWS FROM THE HUNTER

On 10th March, 1998, a bronze plaque, depicting Henry Lawson, in profile was unveiled by the Hunter Bush Poetry Group. The unveiling of the plaque, marked the official opening of the Henry Lawson Room of the Tarro Hotel, NSW. The solid bronze plaque, which is beautifully mounted on a timber shield was crafted by local Blacksmith, Dave Skelton.

During the unveiling, the President of the Hunter Bush Poets, Bob Skelton recited a poem that he had written to commemorate the occasion, titled "The Lone Hand". Visitors to the Newcastle region are cordially invited to call at the pub to view the plaque while sampling some of the Hotel's friendly hospitality and don't forget that all are welcome to attend the regular meetings of the Hunter District Bush Poets, on the second Tuesday of each month in the Henry Lawson Room, Tarro Hotel.







## NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 1998 - Canberra

### RECITER OF THE YEAR - MARK FELDMAN, Woodford, Qld.



Mark first came to my attention at the last Woodford Folk Festival. A local lad - rather tall - in his late 20's - well dressed with a cowboy hat and brightly coloured neckerchief, polished boots, a friendly smile and ready for the bush; or perhaps a Guinness and a chat.

He had his published book called "The Music of the Pen" with a fine collection of original poems and stories accompanied by the odd photo or two, reflecting life, work and death in the bush. Most of it personal and well received at family gatherings. He also had a variety of performance poems which were well received by the audience. Mark's talents went on to win him, at the Poet's Breakfasts at the National Folk Festival this year, "The Reciter of the Year Award". It was quite a pleasure to run into Mark at the Poets Breakfast, where 'Arch' Bishop (last years winner) was the breaky host.

Regardless to say, Mark has probably become one of the most popular poets this year. requests for writing poetry have become more than a family affair. He just recently wrote a poem for a Stamp Launch - celebrating our agricultural industry.

Mark has been booked to perform at the next Mapleton Yarn Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, and the National Folk Festival in 1999. He will no doubt be heard at some of the many other Bush Poets gatherings we have around Australia.

I had the best time of my life at the National where Queensland was the representative state this year. The music was wild, at all times of day and night, dancing everywhere from everywhere and storytellers and poets from all walks of life. The organising crew and voluntary workers looked after the performers and visitors really well, while the security was fantastic. Unfortunately, most of the bush poets from Queensland went to Winton.

Sigh! ... "So many festivals and so little time".

*Jacqueline Bridle*

### IN THE SHADOW OF TIBROGARGAN (C) Mark Feldman, Woodford, Q. 1997

It stands, an awesome monument,  
A great monolith, so tall,  
Decorated with nature's raiment,  
Upon its raggy, rocky wall.

As I take the cattle onward,  
I cannot help but feel,  
That, before this rocky mount,  
I should bow down, or stop to kneel.

It rises high above the land,  
As the sun comes beating down,  
And as I shield it with my hand,  
I feel this mountain frown.

This old man of the wilderness,  
With a giant, lurching face,  
Seems to cast an eerie peacefulness,  
O'er the bushlands of this place.

Tibrogargan is your tribal name,  
You're a blessed, sacred place,  
A wonder here for all who came,  
To feel your awesome grace.

I drive the mob of cattle,  
'Till we draw near to your base,  
And I gaze on nature's battle,  
To erode your rugged face.

You sadly look down at the sight,  
Of this destructive modern day,  
A teardrop shed for this sad plight,  
Of the bushlands, cleared away.

No more do many gullies run,  
Throughout this land, so free,  
And development has sadly done,  
With each and every tree.

But who am I, a cattleman,  
To talk of lands destroyed,  
For the cloven beasts I bring here can,  
Leave a countryside near void.

Perhaps, it was the dark race,  
Who ruled this land before,  
Who really understood your face,  
And kept the sacred law.

This land is not for usury,  
For, to us, it is on loan,  
Until we all deserve to see,  
This country as our own.

Tibrogargan, wipe your tears away,  
For this deadly time shall pass,  
And again upon the earth will sway,  
Tall timbers and fresh grass.

The time is drawing almost nigh,  
You will look upon the plain,  
Our conquering spirits all will die,  
Then shall fall the cleansing rain.

A race will once again arise,  
To tend the bush with care,  
Before you, they will claim the prize,  
Of this nation, wide and far.

And, perhaps, this time around,  
Without a flag unfurled,  
Their love and care shall long abound,  
To save this dying world.

### POETRY IN GRENFELL, NSW

ABPA member and stalwart Frank Daniel recently performed and conducted Bush Poetry workshops for children in Grenfell, NSW. Held on Sunday 3rd May, and attended by 20 children - a good roll up considering that it was held on a non school day. The workshops were in preparation for the Henry Lawson Festival which will be held on the long weekend in June.

Following the workshop, Frank gave a 2 hour performance at the Exchange Hotel after which a dinner was held. Attendees adjourned to swap yarns, tall tales and bush poetry for some hours.



**THE CATTLE DOG'S REVENGE - Jack Drake, Eukey Q**  
**Winning Poem - Written Section and Looming Legend Trophy**  
**Tenterfield's Oracles of the Bush - 1998 National Poetry Competition**

If you've ever lived upon a farm, you'll know the feeling well -  
 How easy it can be to get the visitors from Hell.

Y'know those mongrels from the city that invite themselves to stay  
 Because they only want a holiday where they don't have to pay.

They arrive and shake your hand and say how pleased they are to see  
 How well the family's looking and how great it is to be  
 Way out here in the country. It just makes you feel alive.  
 And like slippery snakes, they sleaze out of their bloody four wheel drive.

Now I might be pretty cynical for just a teenage kid,  
 But I'd seen it happen every year - it's what they always did -  
 Bring some ice cream and a box of fruit and half a slab of beer,  
 And act like it's a favour if they stay here half a year.

And all on the assumption that we'd be so glad to see  
 That half brother of our Uncle Harry's wife third cousin Bea.  
 They never do a tap of work and clean up all our grog,  
 But it all came to a screeching halt the year they brought the dog.

Yes, the middle seat was taken with a huge Rottweiler thing.  
 On his neck a studded collar without a hitching ring.  
 The old man stared in silence then said "You'll have to tie him up".  
 They said "He's had obedience training, and he's just the sweetest pup".

The dog bailed out the window. They said "Oh, you little tyke".  
 One word from this mug, and he did exactly as he liked.  
 And like a black and tan tornado with a brainless snarling face,  
 He caused an orgy of destruction 'round our peaceful country place.

He flogged our poor old kelpie bitch and not content with that,  
 Killed six of Mum's best laying chooks and murdered Grandma's cat.  
 He chewed our poor pet possum's tail and chased it up a tree  
 While this dork flicked pages in his book on "Dog Psychology"

And while the city bloke was trying to find answers out of books,  
 The Rottweiler, teeth gnashing, headed straight for Andy's chooks.  
 Yes, young Andy's special bantams who'd won prizes at the show,  
 Looked just like they were going to be the next thing here to go.

But young Andy was a cunning lad with everything to gain.  
 He raced over to the kennels and let Woody off the chain.  
 And so to vindicate the honour of our simple country mutts,  
 Wood flew into the Rottweiler and latched onto his nuts.

Now Woody is a cattle dog who's been around for years.  
 And for sportsmanship and honour, he won't get any cheers.  
 But he has one saving grace inside a multitude of sins.  
 By using every low trick in the book - Woody always wins!

From that useless flaming boofhead there arose an awful howl.  
 They took off down the paddock at a thousand miles an hour  
 With Woody hanging grimly - his feet skidding in the dirt -  
 While my legs crossed all on their own, 'cause strewth, it must have hurt.

He swung hard between the saplings and set his own dog trap.  
 When Woody sliding sideways, just failed to make the gap.  
 The bellows of the Rottweiler became a high pitched squeak.  
 He lost all interest in the flight, and sat down in the creek.

Then this poor mug from the city, he started acting tough  
 'till Dad roared in his face. "You burn! I've had a bloody 'nough!  
 Woody did the bloody right thing. The proper thing to do!  
 Anyone who'd breed that mongrel, would be dumb as bloody you!"

And Dad's whole face went scarlet. His eyes flashed hard and mean.  
 He howled "I've seen some bludging bastards, but you're the best I've seen.  
 So pack your traps and snatch it, you rotten mongrel sod,  
 Or I'll make a wether out of you, like Woody did your dog."

With the air of people greatly wronged, they loaded their pet up  
 And bounced off down the driveway with their castrated pup.  
 But no more will we be troubled by those pushy city folk  
 Who inflict themselves upon you 'till it's gone beyond a joke.

And sometimes when the 'phone rings getting close to Christmas time,  
 Dad's jaw begins to tighten as he's listening on the line.  
 Our grins keep getting wider as old Dad begins to cough,  
 Then roars "I've only got two words for you, and the second one is OFF!"



**TOTAL SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS**

Large mobs of people from both the city and bush were not discouraged by the heavy rainfalls which fell during this year's Total Small Field Days. This year's annual event was held on 1st-3rd May in the grounds of Tocal Agricultural College, Paterson, NSW.

Amongst those braving the weather were members of the Hunter Bush Poets who found refuge by performing in the College Chapel. The Paterson CWA provided cups of tea and coffee along with freshly made scones for the appreciative audience.

The historic homestead at Tocal also provided a great venue for performing bush poets. Amongst those performing were Gary Lowe, Bob Skelton, Ron Brown, Bill Jamison, Tom Jones and Bob Cummings.

After an invitation from ABC Radio (who were broadcasting from the field days), Bob Skelton (aka) "The Minmi Magster" recited his poem "Whinging on the Weather" on Madeline Randall's Sunday Show.

**TENTERFIELD**

Amelia Sewell, Tenterfield, NSW  
 Winner -Primary Section  
 Tenterfield Junior Looming Legend

Tenterfield, colourful place  
 Wonderous colours  
 Limited size.  
 Freezing colours - ice, cold

Legends watching us,  
 Thunderbolt.  
 Cobb and Co coach trotting past  
 Tenterfield Saddler  
 Smoky leather smells,  
 Sandy Muddy rivers,  
 rushing past.

Galloping horses  
 rounding cattle up.  
 Beautiful sites,  
 Fabulous mountains,  
 Chirping birds,  
 Water gushing down  
 at National Parks  
 Quiet town, lovely place





## CATTLE COUNTRY? (C) Tegan Smith, Tenterfield

Winner - Secondary Section - Tenterfield Junior Looming Legends

Across the eastern slopes it creeps  
A grey and misty haze  
Through tall and dew damp trees it stirs  
Those were the old days

He stands against an iron bark post  
A tall and rangy man  
His eyes towards the distance  
It's in his blood, this land

The blue hills roll forever bound  
Past the Angus grazing  
The dusklight softly dancing  
The sun is slowly fading

The land brings wealth good and true  
And futures are made stable  
Destitution not considered  
And meals always on the table

The man's face stirs from vivid thoughts  
His features dark and tanned  
Memories of the days gone by  
Are pleasant for this man



The kelpie "Blue" stretched at his feet  
Pants slightly in the shade  
A hard days work has been achieved  
This man's best friend he's made

Time travels by so quickly  
And changes go unnoticed  
Yet pictures of a yesteryear  
Reflect man's loss of focus

The haze upon the mountain tops  
Has since become a dream  
Very rarely does mist fall  
Drought is often seen

The man leans up against the wall  
Staring down the street  
A concrete world he calls his home  
No grass is at his feet

The man's face is pale  
Indoors he stays all day  
Dreaming of his fathers life  
So different from his today.



## TENTERFIELD ORACLES OF THE BUSH EVENT

Set in the picturesque New England district of NSW, this years Oracles of the Bush Event was the biggest and most successful to date. Whether performing in the main concerts at places like the Golf Club, the School of Arts or the more laid back venues like the local hotels or Scout Hall, the performers were greeted by capacity crowds full of cheek and ready to laugh along with both experienced and novice poets and singers.

This year saw the introduction of the Looming Legend Awards, a performance poetry section, together with a Junior Written section.

The written section was divided into two sections, senior and junior. The Junior were: Secondary Section, talented schoolgirl, Tegan Smith with her poem "Cattle Country", while the Primary Section went to Amelia Sewell, both from Tenterfield. Senior written was won by Jack Smith from Eukey, Qld with his extremely humorous poem "The Cattle Dog's Revenge". Mark Gliori did an excellent job of reciting the winning verse to the audience.

Jack Drake is a bushie from the Granite Belt in the Stanthorpe area and is often seen around town in his "Red Gum Ridge Carriage" showing tourist the beauty of the area. He also is well know for his entertaining campfire evenings where he spins the tallest tales and the most unbelievable yarns. He has been writing his verse since he was a teenager and, is now a prolific writer. He writes

from his real life experiences such as that related in his winning poem. Sources say that Jack is keen to join the illustrious ranks of the ABPA where he is sure to be very welcome.

The Looming Legends Performance Competition was restricted to fifteen poets who had submitted "cassettes" of their work. They were then divided into three heats which were conducted on Friday and Saturday. The three finalists who were selected performed to an appreciative audience in the final on Sunday afternoon at the town's Scout Hall. Finalists were Chris and Merve Webster (The Goondawindi Grey) from Bagara in Queensland and The Bayldon Bard, George New now from Coffs Harbour, NSW. The ultimate winner was George New, who for his efforts, received \$250.00 and a beautiful cork clock which was fashioned from a 150 year old cork tree which once graced the streets of Tenterfield.

The ever popular Poets Breakfast and Brawl was held, as usual, on Sunday morning in Jubilee Park where a crowd of over 400 enjoyed a huge variety of work from the participating poets. Tenterfield local, Tony Kelly was the winner of the One Minute Brawl.

Last but by no means least, popular performance poets, Marco Gliori, Bob Magor, Shirly Friend and "Blue the Shearer" entertained throughout the weekend at a Junior Concert, Over 50's Concert, and a very successful Concert at the town's historic School of Arts. Joining them on several occasions was Oracles stalwart, singer and poet, Denis Dryden who launched his newest album on the weekend. ***Well Done Tenterfield!***





## THE MAIN EVENT

(C) Kev. J. Barnes, Millmerran Q.

It's Fathers Day! It's Poets Day!  
It's goin' to be a great day!  
The sixth of September 1998  
All the Bush Poets will be great!



So come along, yes, everyone,  
To the Ram's Head Hotel and join in the fun.  
Take Dad out for the day,  
You'll be well fed, with little to pay.

And all the money that you spend,  
To the Cancer fund, we will send,  
So not only will you give Dad a shout,  
You'll also help those researchers out.

Traditional verse, Original too,  
A Poet's Brawl and a Yarn or two,  
Top Aussie Bush Poets are bound to get vocal,  
And I'm sure we'll hear from the odd local.

The day will start around about eight,  
So watch the clock, don't be too late.  
After breakfast, a Camp Oven Lunch,  
A three course meal, really something to munch.

I'm sure all Dads will enjoy the day,  
You'll find it hard to keep 'em away.  
So come along to the Ram's Head Beer Garden  
And listen to all the Bush Poets jargon.

## FATHERS DAY AT THE RAMS HEAD

On 6th September this year it's on again! A full day of Performance Bush Poetry, Country Music and loads of laughs. The Beer Garden of the Ram's Head Hotel, Millmerran, Q is the venue, and all proceeds of the day are going to the Qld Cancer Fund.

The day will start with a Poet's Breakfast about 8.30am. For a cost of \$3.00, you'll get bacon and eggs, toast and coffee etc., or if you're like me, coffee and toast for a buck or cups of coffee/tea for 50c.

A junior competition in both traditional and original bush verse will be contested, along with a Poet's Brawl and a Yarn Spinning competition for all comers.

Ned Winter is preparing a camp oven lunch, I understand soup, choice of mains and Spotted Dog with custard. All this will cost you \$8.00, with \$2.00 going to the Cancer Fund.

After lunch, the "Poet's in the Pub" Competition will start with traditional and original bush verse for both Novice and Open competitors. There will be prizes and trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each category, an entrance fee of \$5.00 per poet for all day, no matter how many sections are entered, Juniors are free (8 - 15 yrs).

By comparison to last year, we will be "Bigger and Better". Judges for the day include Glenly Palmer, Chris Janson and Mark Gliori. Please ring me for more information on 07 4695 4209 and watch the newsletter.

*Kev J. Barnes*



## PALMA ROSA POETS REPORT

from *Trisha Anderson*

Another sellout crowd enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun and laughter (and tears) as Bob Magor from South Australia and Ron Selby from Dayton (near Toowoomba) entertained us with their wonderful poetry on 22nd April.

Bob gave us a great selection of his poems, having us rolling in the aisles one minute, as we heard about Granny's problems with the mangle and the poor father of the bride, and then, full of wonder as the story of the Cooper River unfolded.

Ron was his usual entertaining self, telling us stories of his childhood and happenings in later life - finishing off with a great re-enactment of "The Gulf Prawns" (minus two) winning performance in the Poet's Commonwealth Games in Winton.

Our next Palma Rosa Poets Evening will be on Wednesday 24th June, when we will be showcasing the talents singer/songwriter Mark Tempamy who will be supported by C.J. Dennis, aka Wally Finch and Father John O'Brien, aka Noel Stallard. This duo is not to be missed - their attention to detail in portraying these old masters is incredible - a very entertaining act!!

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 24th June at 7 pm for 7.30 pm - \$15.00 (including supper) BYO drinks. Bookings are essential to English Speaking Union 07 3262 3769 or Trisha Andersen 07 3268 3624.

## PALMA ROSA POETS

### *Claiming the Date*

**Wed. 24th June 1998 - 7.30 pm**

Mark Tempamy - Wally Finch - Noel Stallard

**Sun. 23rd August 1998 - 5 pm**

### **Twilight Performance**

1998 Australian Champion Bush Poet  
Milton Taylor

**Wed. 14th October, 1998 - 7.30 pm**

North Pine Bush Poets

**Wed. 2nd December, 1998 - 7.30 pm**

Guy McLean and "Nugget"

## NORTH PINE BUSH POETS GROUP

### **3rd ANNUAL CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL**

North Pine Country Park, Petrie, Q.  
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October, '98

### **WRITTEN and PERFORMANCE**

### **COMPETITIONS**

Camping Available  
Markets on Sunday

Enq. - John & Patti Coutts  
Phone / Fax 07 3886 1552





## "VISION WINTON'S' BUSH POETRY SUCCESS STORY

*from Bert Swindell, Winton Q.*

All facets of Bush Poetry were on display in Winton at the "Easter in the Outback Celebrations" which incorporated the opening of the new Waltzing Matilda Centre.

Winton is well on the way to establishing itself as the Bush Poetry Capital of Australia, where organisers paid out in the region of \$25,000 to poets this year.

Thanks must go to Carmel Randle for her organisational skills in both competitive and non competitive components, the ABPA for allowing our committee to hold the Australian Bush Poetry Championships in conjunction with the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, the poets who assisted Carmel with the running of the Junior Bush Poetry Festival - the largest of it's kind in Australia and probably the world, the staff at the schools who attended and, of course our sponsors, who assist us in our endeavors.

The Bronze Swagman Award for original written bush verse, attracted 593 entries from all over Australia, USA and the UK, the standard of which was extremely high. Conducted by Winton Vision Inc. since 1972, this award is seen by the majority of Bush Poets as the most prestigious of it kind.

The Little Swaggies Award for written verse for primary and secondary schools attracted some 387 entries from across Australia, increasing by 67 on last year.

Entries in the Junior Performed Poetry individual performances doubled, totaling 225 and participating schools in the Performed section increased from 7 to 15.

During the Senior Performed Festival, which included non-competitive events and Poet's Commonwealth games, around 76 poets performed, again almost double that of last year.

Some humorous highlights of the celebrations were seen in the Poet's Commonwealth Games where teams from all areas competed with comical verse. A



roving reporter was present when ABPA President Ron Selby competed as a member of "The Gulf Prawns" and he is reported to have been dressed in red tights holding some springs of a coolabah tree above his head and pirouetting on stage with a milk crate beside him, a sign on which said "Billy's Bong". All this was done while other members of the team sang "Once a jolly Gulf Prawn camped (?) by a 'billy bong' under the shade of a coolabah tree". The legs weren't bad either.

Mark Tempamy's sudden exit off the back of the stage during the last performance of "Laughs, Lies and Larrikins" made the audience draw breath for what seemed a terribly long time until a single strum of his guitar was heard. At least the instrument was OK !!!

### STOP PRESS - RULES CHANGES FOR 1999

At the traditional Poet's Picnic out in the bush after the competition was over, the question of deciding how the winners in the open and novice sections should be decided was the subject of great and spirited debate.

The current conditions state that points scored in the first two rounds will be added together to determine who will go into the finals of each section. These points are then discarded and the winner is determined by the number of points scored in the final.

The Organising Committee of Vision Winton has listened to the arguments put forward by a large majority of the poets who attended the picnic, and from 1999 onwards, the winner will be determined by aggregating the points scored in all three rounds. This should give a winner who is an all round consistent performer. The total of the first two rounds will still determine who goes into the finals.

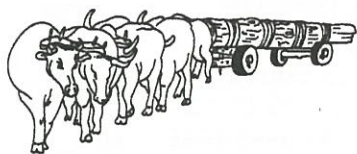
It is the belief of our committee, that this years competition has again found two worthy Ambassadors to go to Elko, Nevada USA.

*"We've Done Us Proud" !!*

## GATTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL REVIEW

Quite a few Bush Poets braved the rain over the two days, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May and performed for the Gatton Heritage Festival Celebrations. Friday night saw them all performing at the Commercial and Imperial Hotels and on Saturday 2nd at the Historical Villiage.

The Poetry and Yarnspinning Competition was held with First Place being awarded to Trisha Anderson of Brisbane, Second to Ron Selby of Drayton and Third to Merve Webster Senior of Brisbane.



The Yarnspinning was won by Merve Webster of Bagara, Liz Ward of Mt. Perry came Second and Ron Selby gained Third Place.

Despite the inclement weather, it was a great weekend ably compared by Ron "Bouli" Bates and judged by Bill Glasson, Bluey Bostock and Bob McPhee.



## WINTON HIJINKS from "WIFEY"

Winton was a 'blast'. The usually conservative straight man to Ms Palmer, one Alan Esquire, came bounding onto the stage (for the Poets Commonwealth Games) dressed in hot pink tights, footy socks, singlet and beanie with a rubber band flattening (or flattering?) his nose and coyly presented his poem, "The Fairy Wrestler".

He was so convincing, that his wife was a little ill at ease and was been struck down by an 'attack of the vapors'.

Fans flocked to his side requesting copies of a video of his exhibitionistic "performance"

To top it all off, he won a gold medal. His team partners, Bill Hay, Trisha Anderson and wife Glenly, won sweet tiddly nothing (except Glenly won the Open Female "Reserve Champion" in the Australian Championships!)

I hope we haven't created a monster !\*!

Buoyed by his overnight success Big Al contested the "Novice Section" and came through it all very credibly. So look out next year !!



### THE FAIRY WRESTLER

(C) Palmer, Palmer and Anderson, Q.

I used to be a wrestler, winning lots of fights,  
I hugged and squeezed the other chap and wore pink shiny tights.  
I grabbed him in a headlock and I whispered in his ear,  
"I hope this doesn't hurt too much my precious little dear."

Then I threw him on the canvas and I pulled his curly hair  
and said 'Where did you get that perm, I really must go there.'  
And then we had a piggy back, he thought that it was great,  
He spun me 'round in circles and he landed on his .. bottom.

Then his trainer threw the towel in, it was pink with pretty bows,  
I stared at it with envy, "Why don't I have one of those?"  
Then I started crying, I really threw a fit,  
I called his trainer nasty names, like 'poo' and 'bum' and 'twit'.



My trainer said "Now sweetie,  
no more you've won the fight,  
come on home with Mummy  
and I'll tuck you in real tight!"

**Ends**

Written on the "Spirit of the Outback"  
train by

Ma and Pa Palmer, and Trisha Anderson

## "The Last Word" FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those of you who have contributed the brilliant reports, information and poetry which has been used in the newsletter lately. Please keep them coming.

Within the next few weeks, it may be necessary for me to travel to Sydney to care for a relative who is to have urgent surgery. It therefore may be possible that the next edition of the newsletter will be late. I trust that members will therefore be understanding and I would ask that any urgent editorial enquiries be referred to our Secretary or President.

My best regards to you all, Maureen Garner, ABPA Editor

## PROFILE - JACK DRAKE

Jack Drake is one of our newer members who recently won the prestigious Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush Award for Written Bush Poetry.

He is 48 years young and grew up on a cattle and sheep property totally obsessed with horses and the bush from an early age.

He broke his first horse at the of 14 years and has pursued the job professionally ever since, working as a horse breaker, farrier, ringer, rodeo rider, announcer, showman and lately as a tourist operator.

He was introduced to poetry at age 7 when his father brought Banjo Paterson's "Man From The Snowy River and Other Verses" back from the school fete, and has been a fan of this great Australian medium ever since.

Currently, he is running "Red Gum Ridge Trail Rides" at Eukey near Stanthorpe in the highlands of south east Queensland with his partner Stallamary Matheson.



## A TARTAN AFFAIR

(C) Don Pender,  
Redland Bay, Q.



My dad was born in Scotland  
In a small town by the sea.  
Then one day he met my Mum  
The next thing there was me.

I'm proud of my Scottish background  
This tale I'll get to tell you  
I know you won't believe it  
I swear to God it's true.

I bought myself a Tartan Kilt  
With a Hairy Sporrán too  
Not thinking of my old track mate  
A dog we all call Blue.

He saw this Hairy Sporrán thing  
Must have thought it was a cat  
With a dive he fastened on  
Then took off like a rat.

My Kilt it was not done up real good  
It went off with him too  
Straight off into a neighbours yard  
Oh what a thing to do!

That is how my friends now know  
When they hear the bagpipes lilt  
Just what it is the Scottie wears  
Underneath his kilt !

From Don's book "A Tartan Affair" -  
He does own and occasionally wear his kilt !!



*Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.*

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**Thank You to Our Contributors**

Trisha Anderson	George New
Kev J. Barnes	Glenny Palmer
Sandra Binns	Alan Palmer
Jacqueline Bridle	Don Pender
Ellis Campbell	Carmel Randle
Peter Chapman	Jan Ritchie
Frank Daniel	Ron Selby
Jack Drake	Amanda Sewell
Mark Feldman	Olive Shooter
Marco Gliori	Bob Skelton
Neil Hulm	Tegan Smith
Bill Kearns	Ron Stevens
Ian Mackay	Jo Swallow
Glen Muller	Bert Swindell
Bev Murray	The Bishop

**THE BOOK SHELF**

"Vice Verser", by Rhubard \$15 pp Reg Silvester 35 Wallace Street Braidwood NSW 2622  
"Another Day in Paradise" \$12 pp G. Fredriksen, C/- PO Kilcoy Q, 4515  
"It's All New" Book \$12pp, Tape \$14pp, Both - \$23pp. George New, 1/8 Brush Cherry Close, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450  
"Not Too Bad" Tape \$15 pp Tim McLoughlin, Yanolee, Ellerstone via Scone NSW 2337  
"Bulltitude's Dog" & "The Billy's On" Books \$11 pp by Bill Kearns, 44 Kent Street, Grafton NSW 2460  
"The First Bunch of Ballads from Byron Bay" - Book \$10 pp Col Hadwell, Hamiltons Lane, Byron Bay NSW 2481  
"300 Funny Little Poems" Book \$12 pp. Denis Kevans, 63 Valley Rd. Wentworth Falls 2782  
"Buggar the Music, Give Us A Poem" - CD by Keith Mc Kenry \$25 pp, Fanged Wombat Productions, 5 Bonney St., Ainslie ACT 2602  
"Lend Me Your Ear ... Or I'll Steal It". Tape by Glenny Palmer, \$15pp 43 Samantha Road, Cedar Vale, Q. 4285  
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