

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Monthly Newsletter

No 8 Volume 5

August 1998

A MILLION CANDLES

(C) Graham Fredriksen, Kilcoy Q.



When the sun rose on London Town
That final August Day,
In front of a house of high renown
Was placed a fresh bouquet
That sprang to life to multiply
A thousand, thousand fold -
Fields of flowers rose to meet the eye
In red and white and gold.

To castle walls and palace gates,
They came from far and wide,
As every country's tongue translates
The way a Princess died.
The falling gods of speed and steel -
The price of speed and fame -
Asphalt and concrete could not repeal
The precious life in claim

The life so swiftly taken there -
She'd lived but half her years -
Would leave a family in despair
And leave a world in tears
A world which oft misunderstands
Too late would realise
Her compassion - caring heart and hands -
The world had lost the prize.

The carriage creeps through crowds of grief
On roads from Roman times -
Prancing Horses - Princes - disbelief -
The clock resounds the chimes.
The Abbey - where old heroes lie.
With saints and monarchy -
Echoes now with tribute and goodbye -
Oh! could she only see.

The singer sings of a candle
Flickering in the wind,
And outside a million candles burn
And souls burn from within.
Mankind united in one breath
By tears that run in streams -
If the union born of this one death
Could last, 'twould fill her dreams ...

PRETTY BOY, PRETTY BOY

(C) Noel Stallard, Arana Hills Q.



I've been a cockatoo for years, just livin' in a cage,
Saying stupid things like "Pretty Boy", which puts me in a rage.
But these bush poets came to stay with neighbour Merv today,
And my vocab exploded with what I heard them say.

It's "Raymond this" and "Raymond that" about some gym instructor,
Bikini lines and mammograms and some Olay! bullfighter.
There's garden sheds and being short and peeing on the floor,
While Shirl has football teams that touch, to see if they can score.

I may be one dumb cockatoo but I'll tell yah what me mate,
To listen to those two rave on, maybe I'm not too late.
Those two galahs called Bob and Shirl could be caged like feather dusters
And let me out to enter in this show called "Bundy's Muster".

Winner - "Dark and Stormy One Minute Cup" - Bundy Muster, 1998

CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL 1998



The "North Pine Bush Poet's Group" was formed by a dedicated small band of people with a common interest in Australian Bush Poetry in April 1996. The Group's first public performance was held on Easter Sunday 1996 at Dad and Dave's Billy Tea

and Damper Hut, North Pine Country Park.

Since then performances have been held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9am at the above venue on Dayboro Road, Petrie.

In conjunction with Pine Rivers Shire Council, the Group held their inaugural "Camp Oven Bush Poetry Festival" over two days on 31st August and 1st September 1996. This event attracted many local and interstate visitors and competitors and was seen as a very successful Bush Poetry Festival for the Greater Brisbane area.

For their efforts in promoting Australian Bush Poetry the Group was presented with an Australia Day Award for Services to Culture in the Pine Rivers Shire. The Group has expanded sixfold since its inception in April 1996 and attracts many noted performers to its Poets Days at North Pine Country Park.

With thanks to the Pine Rivers Shire Council and its associated Arts Advisory Committee, the North Pine Bush Poets Group is now holding their third Bush Poetry Festival on the weekend 3rd & 4th October, 1998 with seven categories of poetry as follows: Junior, Novice, Original, Open Serious Male, Open Serious Female, Open Humorous Male, Open Humorous Female. Saturday 3rd will see Heats and Finals for Junior

category and heats for all other categories. Sunday 4th will see finals for all remaining categories. The venue will be the Pioneer Country Music Hall.

Breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon teas will be available. A Camp Oven Dinner and concert will be held in the hall on Saturday evening with well known Bush Poets Marco Gliori, Ray Essery, Glenn Palmer and will be hosted by "The Larrikin" Bobby Miller. Sunday commences with our Poets Breakfast, hosted by Bobby Miller at Dad & Dave's, with an outdoor Camp Oven cooked Breakfast. Camping is available for \$5.00. Showers and toilets but no power.

For more info re Entry, Dinner, Concert, camping etc., please phone or fax John or Patti Coutts on 07 3886 1552.

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President's Report



As you have no doubt already read in this issue, the decision regarding the 1999 Australian Bush Poets Championship venue has been awarded to Mulwala in Victoria headed by the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club.

The decision was reached by the appointment of a seven member committee who voted on the two proposals received.

I'm sure some members will be disappointed that Winton was not the winner for the '99 Championships but I feel there will be plenty of members down south who will be ecstatic about the decision and by awarding the competition to Mulwala many more poets will have the opportunity to compete.

The A.B.P.A. and all poets owe a lot to the tremendous effort that Vision Winton Inc. have put in over the past four years in advancing our art to such a degree that these Championships were keenly wanted by other states.

Vision Winton has set a very high standard indeed for the running of the championships, particularly for our outback school children. This year they had around 320 individual children competing and 76 poets.

The combined efforts of the Yarrawonga - Mulwala Tourism, Mulwala Services Club and the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club have many talented A.B.P.A. members in their area who I'm sure will give every assistance in the running of the 1999 Championships and we wish them every success.

But time moves on and so must we. There is an old saying I am reminded of and that is - 'Stand still and watch the world go by — and it will.

The year is slipping by at an alarming rate but there are still many events to be run over the next few months and I hope all members will give their support where ever they are able to attend.

Fast approaching is Tamworth in January and some thought will have to go into the question of where and at what time or day we will hold our A.G.M.

Each year we have had endless moanings and groanings about the time it has been held. With so many members and so many things to do in Tamworth, it is a headache trying to please everyone. So maybe a few suggestions from you, the members, will not fall on deaf ears.

I'm still looking for suitable poems for this year's Annual.

Ron Selby.

Secretary's Notes



Dear Members,

I guess that the main news this month is that the 1999 Australian Bush Poets Championships will be held in the Yarrawonga - Mulwala area. There were only two firm expressions of interest and a panel of seven members acting independently, had a very hard job indeed. Either would have been a worthy organiser of the event. We wish the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club and their helpers all the best.

Our thanks must go to Winton for the excellent way they have conducted the Championships so far, and their promotion of Bush Poetry.

There are still plenty of the Annual books of verse, except for the first one. They are \$3.00 to members plus postage of \$1.10, and two books go for that price. So we have three different annuals available.

Now to finances. The newsletter is costing \$19.20 per member annually on the figures of the first six months, including printing, postage and Editors expenses. This doesn't leave much for other expenses and we are relying on sales of annuals to keep our balance in credit, but we will be right if we are careful. I would not like to see the Annual subscription rise, as I feel it could lower our membership numbers, and you are all precious.

Do you know that National Poetry Day is on 1st September ? (page 7) It is being promoted by ABC Rural Radio in NSW. If you want to know more, phone 02 9950 4508 or try www.abc.net.au/poetry. My best wishes to you all and fond regards,

Olive Shooter



Happy Birthday

to some APBA Members who have
celebrated their birthdays this
month.

Ray Essery - Bob Miller - Alan Palmer -
Glenny Palmer and for those of us who knew
and remember him - John Phillipson.
A Belated Wish to Sandy Miller for July !!

THE APPRENTICE

(C) Johnny Johanson, Yarrowonga, Vic.

I wandered off and found a shop,
That shears us fleecy souls,
You know the joint with candy stripes
All painted 'round their poles!

A young bloke; he was readin'
Perched up in the chair,
Whilst, all around that linoed floor,
Were lottery tickets; everywhere.

"You busy mate?" I asked him,
But strewth - well straight away,
I realised that it flamin' was,
Quite a goofy thing to say.

He folded up his paper,
Swung his head towards the door
Then, slowly lowered both his feet,
Down to that littered floor.

"Naw, c'mon in an' take the chair,
The Boss is out t'day,
I'm the 'prentice but I knows the ropes,"
Was what this bloke did say.

"Wot wouldja like - short back an' sides,
A shave - 'ot duck an' fowl?"
I looked at him, in wonderment;
"Ya know," he said, 'a steamin' facial towel!"

"Well, seein' it's me lucky day,
Now jist t'ween you an' me,
I'll knock a dollar off the price,
So yer git ya shave fer free!"

"Righto mate," I gives the nod,
"I'll settle for that price,
A decent trim - a good close shave
And a hot towel; would be nice!"

He laid me back and lathered up,
Then stoppped his cut throat razor,
Thumbed my cheek - to thin the soap
And, wildy starts to shave her.

"Hey; take ya time?" I muttered,
Through clenched teeth and soapy lips,
"Your bound to make a nasty cut,
If that there razor slips."

"A nasty cut," the 'prentice said,
"Strewth, the Boss don't fink that's nice,
Ya oughta hear our 'oly rows,
Mate, we've 'ad 'em once or twice.

"A nasty cut - I'm fined ten bucks,
Five bucks - ter snip an ear,
Crickey - on a bad week,
I've got nought ter buy a beer!"

Me Mum; she reely goes orf crook,
When there's none left fer me board,
Sport! I fairly gits down in the dumps,
After both of 'em 'as roared!"

"Yet ole mate; the Boss is tough,
Cripes - he comes down 'ard on me,"
"But t'day I couldn't give a damn,
'Cos I've won the lottery!"



1998 BARD OF THE OUTBACK POETRY COMPETITION

The second annual Bard of the Outback Poetry Recital Competition, conducted by the Clan Macfie Society, and held at the Club Hotel, Cunnamulla, last weekend, turned out to be a great success, despite a number of cancellations due to road closures, etc.

The competition was to have been held at the Royal Mail Hotel, Hungerford, but due to flooding, the venue had to be changed to Cunnamulla.

The number of competing poets was well up on last year, and overall the standard was very high, resulting in some very close scores. The Yarn Spinning event was held on Friday evening, 31st July, the winner being Ken Reed from Charleville.

A newcomer to poetry recitals Ms Carrie Lock, from Bourke, turned in excellent performances, winning the Will Ogilvie Open Poetry Recital Event, and the Novice Traditional Event, and was runner-up for the main title, the 1998 BARD OF THE OUTBACK, which was won by Mr. Ken Reed from Charleville, for the second year running. Chris Webster, from Bagara was third overall.

The Open Traditional Bush Verse event, won by Trisha Anderson, from Brisbane, the Open Original Bush Verse Event was won by Janine Haig from Eulo. Jodie Handley, from Thargomindah, won the 15 years and under Traditional Event.

The MC was Ron 'Boulia' Bates from Gatton, who was assisted by Merv Webster, from Bagara and Terry Hanly, from Charleville. The judges were Bluey Bostock from Brisbane, Roy Briggs from Esk, and Bob McPhee, who was also the convenor of the competition. The competition is conducted annually, the first week-end in August, and will be held at Hungerford in 1999. Bob Mc Phee said that organisers were considering extending next year's competition by an extra day, with the Will Ogilvie Section being held at a woolshed in the Enngonia district, to honor his memory, it being 100 years in November next from when Will's "Fair Girls & Grey Horses" was first published.

RESULTS

Event 1, Yarnspinning: 1st - Ken Reed, Charleville Q.

2nd - Ron Selby, Toowoomba, Q. 3rd - Merv Webster, Bagara Q

Event 2, Will Obilvie Poetry Recital: 1st - Carrie Lock, Bourke NSW.

2nd - Merv Webster, Bagara Q. 3rd - Ken Reed, Charleville Q.

Event 3, Open Trad. or Estab. Bush Verse: 1st - Trisha Anderson, Bris.

2nd - Chris Webster, Bagara, Q. 3rd - Ron Selby, Toowoomba Q.

Event 4, Open Original Bush Verse: 1st - Janine Haig, Eulo Q.

2nd - Ron Selby, Toowoomba, Q. 3rd - Dan Smith, Cunnamulla, Q.

Event 5, Novice Trad. or Estab. Bush Verse:

1st - Carrie Lock, Bourke NSW. 2nd - Jenny Handley, Thargomindah Q.
3rd - Jodie Handley, Thargomindah, Q.

Event 6 - 15yrs & Under Trad. or Estab. Bush Verse:

1st Jodie Handley, Thargomindah, Q. 2nd - Brett Hanly, Charleville Q.
3rd - Georgina Haig - Eulo, Q.

ALL ROUND WINNER - Highest combined points in heats of Events 2, 3, & 4 & "1998 BARD OF THE OUTBACK" - **KEN REED**

Runner Up - Carrie Lock, 3rd - Chris Webster.

Bob McPhee, Convenor, 1998 Bard of the Outback Comp.

THROUGH THE HORSE'S EYES

(C) 1997 Terry Regan, Blaxland, NSW



They glorified that madman from the Snowy River run,
who rode me almost to my death so he could have his fun.
They said that I enjoyed it! One would have to be insane
to think that any living beast would care to bear such pain
He saddled up and rode me to the homestead overnight,
for he had heard the Colt from old Regret had taken flight;
He said he'd force that brumby mob to cower 'neath his whip;
I thought, 'oh no, it's on again - another ego trip!'

We very nearly didn't go - the old man said, "you stay."
But Clancy said he thought we should and Harrison gave way.
Then at the mountain's summit, when they all reined to a stop,
that ratbag in my saddle simply spurred me off the top.
I snorted out in terror with our future looking black -
those brumbies didn't have the weight of him upon their back.
I somehow reached the bottom and they all gave him a cheer.
I thought, 'You bear no credit for the fact that we're still here'.

I didn't want those brumbies caught, for they were wild and free;
not broken-in to do man's will and raked with spurs like me.
I knew if they were captured then an awful price they'd pay,
because the rich man's thoroughbred had dared to live their way.
He forced me to outpace that mob - it was against my will -
and looking back upon it now I feel resentment still.
My lungs were searing balls of fire - I felt my heart would burst;
and when I tried to slacken pace he slashed with spurs and cursed!

With blood from hip to shoulder where the spurs had torn each side,
he rode me without mercy - yet they praised him for his ride.
They said that I was 'plucky' as I reefed against the rein -
I only wanted freedom from that brutal source of pain.
When white stars blaze at midnight in the cold and frosty sky,
I stand and doze and shiver, and I sometimes wonder why
I couldn't have an owner with compassion for his horse;
who had no need of whip and spurs his wishes to enforce.

I've heard there are such people and that, when I'm old and grey
they'd leave me in the paddock running free 'till my last day.
But what's the use of dreaming? It will never be for me.
For when my owner's worn me out the knackery I'll see.
Yes, they glorified that madman from the Snowy River run,
who ripped my hide to shreds with spurs so he could have his fun.
They said that I enjoyed it! One would have to be insane
to think that any living beast would like to bear such pain.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that some Bush Poets think my poem, "Through the Horse's Eyes", was written as a result of my having seen or heard Kelly Dixon's poem, which appears in the latest ABPA Annual under the title of "Through a Mountain Pony's Eyes". I find this most disturbing and would like to set the record straight.

In June 1997, after I had written the draft of "Through the Horse's Eyes", I rang Kelly and asked his opinion. - I wanted to see if a true horseman would think that I was over-reacting. Kelly's reaction was positive. He said that he had always disliked "The Man from Snowy River" because of the way the pony was treated. He seemed somewhat surprised that he had not thought to write such a poem. I told Kelly I would send him a copy when it was workshopped and typed.

About a week later I received a copy of Kelly's poem with a note, and I quote:- "*Terry, You started something mate! Haven't got yours yet, my thoughts about that infamous piece of Banjo's writing. Best, Kelly.*" The subject was the same, but the content varied considerably from mine and I told Kelly I thought it was a good poem. - Whilst I was disappointed that the title was almost identical, my high regard for Kelly enabled me to push that feeling aside.

However, I cannot stand by and let people think that I copied Kelly's theme. The inspiration to write "Through the Horse's Eyes" came solely from my study of "The Man from Snowy River", and I trust that there will now be no doubt in this regard. - I have sent a courtesy copy of this letter to Kelly. Best Wishes,

Terry Regan

Editors Note: Please refer to letter to the editor from Kelly Dixon on Page 6

PROFILE - TERRY REGAN

Terry Regan was born in Cowra NSW in 1936. When he was three, the family moved to Harbord on Sydney's Northern Beaches. In 1962 he married Dulcie and moved to his present home in Blaxland, in the Lower Blue Mountains of NSW, where they raised three daughters. He worked in the Buildings and Properties Branch of the Post Office for forty years and is now enjoying retirement.

Although his father, Bill, wrote and recited poetry, Terry made no attempt to write until 1973 - just 12 months after his Dad's death. He wrote a few poems, over a three year period, but this stopped when he took up pottery which consumed his spare time for the next twenty years.

In the winter of 1995 his interest in poetry was revived when he had the pleasure of watching Milton Taylor perform at Longreach. Since that night Milton has

become a friend and mentor. Through Milton's encouragement, Terry has resumed writing and performs in competitions and at various poetry venues. He has won several performance poetry competitions and has been placed in a number of others. At Tamworth in 1997 and 1998 he was a finalist in the competitions in the Imperial Hotel and Oasis Hotel.

Terry writes mainly about personal experiences. This gives his work a distinctly Australian flavour but from the viewpoint of one who has lived close to Sydney. He has produced a one hour cassette which includes three of his father's poems.

He thanks all of the Poets who have offered friendship, encouragement and advice. In particular he acknowledges the support of his best critic, Dulcie, who patiently listens to the practice, offers constructive criticism and accompanies him to the various poetry venues.

THE LEGEND OF WOLLOMBI (Gateway to the Watagan Mountains, NSW)

(C) Gary Lowe, Cittaway Bay, NSW

I'll bet you mob would love to know,
How this village got it's name.
Well! It happened many, many years ago,
Long before the white bloke came.
Two native tribes once lived out here,
But all the land was owned by one,
So they decided to bring in an auctioneer.
So some sellin' could be done!

Now, the selling tribe had a smart old Chief,
"Wollom" was his name I'm told.
And he stood firm in his belief,
That this land must not be sold,
He said, "This land is our children's future,"
Then paused to draw his breath.
"If I had a gun ya know, I'd shoot ya,
But I can still spear you mob to death!

Well, every time that auctioneer called for a bid,
And I tell ya true, no lie.
The Chief shot up his hand, my oath he did,
And he yelled out, "Wollom Buy!"
Didn't he create an uproar,
But at least he "stopped the rot"
He bid like he'd never bid before,
And finished up ownin' the lot!"

It cost him thirty spears, five canoes and one axe,
But he musta been satisfied,
'Cause he threw in a boomerang (just to cover sales tax),
And he fairly glowed with pride!

Then, their forest and mountains they tried to sell,
But he stopped 'em, there and then,
When he bid, and he bid, and he bid like hell,
And the auctioneer cried, "ah What! Again!"
So the legend was passed to the White Man,
Please, pass it on before you die.
How the mountains got the name of Wat-agan,
And the village "Wollom Buy".

UPON THE STAGE (c) 1996 Graeme Johnson, Ryde NSW

If you've chosen that you want,
to read a poem upon a stage.
Share a portion of your life,
express your feelings in this way.
If there's jubilation in your heart,
or trouble weighing on your mind.
Relate it to your fellow man,
you'll find him willing, more than kind.



Of course it's difficult to master,
and your but a novice with a page.
Grab the microphone with confidence,
regardless of your age.
Harness all that nervous tension,
stand up straight and firm and tall.
Stride onto that stage with pride,
You've come too far to baulk or stall.

Beware!, there lurks that fearful moment,
that in your mind seems like an hour.
When memory plays the cruellest trick
and makes you shiver, shake and cower.
Yes! you've forgotten what comes next,
it happens to each and every one.
Show your grit and relax a bit,
it's only intended to be fun.



When you recite you will discover,
the enthusiasm that we embrace,
What once was foremost in your mind,
will be subverted and replaced.
Compelled to seek the company,
of fellow poets for their empathy.
Who'll grant you the poetic license,
to exhibit your eccentricities.

You'll spend your weekends on the road,
between one festival and the next.
To put your prose before the public,
and put your rhyming to the test.
No matter how far or wide you travel,
no matter how many miles you roam.
Your heart will hold a certain favour,
for where those fledgling seeds were sown.

PERFORMER PROFILE - GRAEME JOHNSON

"A city slicker who is short but sweet, traditional, original, his poems are a treat". So read the program at a recent Folk Festival to describe this month's "Poet in Profile" Graeme Johnson (alias "The Rhymer from Ryde").

Raised in country NSW but now residing in Sydney with his wife of 8 years, "Netball" Narelle, Graeme has received significant acclaim over the last few years for his original poetry both in written and performance competitions.



Winner of the 1996 John Dunmore Lang Poetry Prize and runner up in the 1997 Leonard Team Memorial Spoken Word Award at the Henry Lawson Festival, Graeme paints pictures with words that draw his audience into his stories about our "Great Southern Land" and it's people.

Graeme is known throughout the Festival circuit for his mixture of highly emotive personal pieces combined with the odd humorous poem thrown in for good measure.

Whether it's his recollections of travels in the countryside or espousing the virtues of the "Bohemian" characters of Sydney's past, Graeme is drawn to write of what it is that makes us Australian.



G'day from Geoffrey Graham

Greetings and Salutations. Thought I'd drop a line and let you know how things are going from the southern part of Australia. After another stint in Queensland and northern NSW in May and June, I've been working semi locally lately. A little closer to my family and more contact with southern poets.

The new festival at Red Cliffs in early July kicked off well, even if a bit on the cool side. Poets were welcomed and a Poets Breakfast saw several newcomers strut their stuff.

Spent a weekend in Wagga Wagga at one of the best venues I've ever worked in: the Riverina Playhouse Theatre, doing 'The Man from Ironbark' and my new show 'Ratbags and Romantics'.

The following weekend spent time with the mob at Kyabram. They were in fine form. Always good for the spirit spending time at Ky. Ably looked after by the Olles, the Ky poets presented my Ratbag show and school show 'Humping the Bluey'. The venue 'Tijuana' owned by Mick Coventry, another poet, is well supported by the locals. So thanks Mick, Betty, Watto, Dennis and the gang!

On the road to Victoria from up north, there's a grand old pub called the Royal Oak. Situated at Mullengandra, 30 min. north of Albury, it's run by a terrific couple, Wendy and Alan who are very supportive of Bush Poets. Having done two different shows there, I can tell you it's the perfect venue for intimate gathering of punters to appreciate poet performers. Drop in and say G'day and while you're there, have a bowl of soup and a cuppa coffee.

Comming

Looking forward to two festivals in South Aussie. Karoondah Festival in September will be another bottler run by the dynamic Jeanette Wormald. VIC Harbour in October will be a new one for me but to all reports a most successful festival. Keep smiling, *Geoffrey Graham* Ph 03 5469 1312

GET WELL JOHNNY

© "Skew Wiff", Kyabram Vic.

Johnny's been in hospital,
feelin' a bit crook,
The doctors and the nurses,
they came and had a look.
They x-rayed and they probed him,
said, "The problem seems to be,
His vernacular and his idioms,
are out of line, you see!
His jargon's sort of twisted
and we put him to a test,
His dialect's agitated
and his lingo's not the best".
So they dosed him up with culture,
and said, "you'll feel no pain".
Then gave poor John a transplant,
from a "pommy" poets brain.
Now the doesn't say "G'day!"
and "How'd you bloody be?"
It's "How-de-do?" and "charmed I'm sure"
He don't talk like you and me.
But I reckon that those doctors,
Have gone off "with the birds",
Johnny's only foolin',
He'd never use such "toffy" words.
Those doctors don't know nothin',
I reckon they're all strange,
For John is true Australian,
and he'll never ever change.

"Good on ya Mate!"

"AROUND THE CAMPFIRE" at KYABRAM, Vic.



The Kyabram Lions Club and Kyabram Bush Verse Group will present "Around the Campfire '98", an evening of Bush Verse & Tall Tales scheduled to be held at the "Tijuana", Fenaughty St., Kyabram at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th September. Admission will be \$10 adult, \$5 child with adult or \$25 per family. This price includes supper and tickets will be sold at the door. Contact number for enquiries is Craig Carroll 03 5852 3971.

At this annual event, the Ky group will offer prizes on the night for the Best Bush Poet Yarnspinner and Encouragement Awards for Primary School Children. Co-compares for the evening will be Grahame "Skew Wiff" Watt and Mick Coventry.

In conjunction with this event, the group conducts a competition within the local schools for Australian Bush Verse (Aust. Theme). A prize is awarded to each school (Primary) as well as an overall Prize. A great way to encourage young talent in the area. Enq. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265.

BRUNCH IN BENDIGO, Vic.

A Poets Brunch will be held in the Bendigo District on Sunday, 11th October, 10.30am - 3pm. The Brunch will be held in a Bark Hut at the Allies Hotel, Myers Flat on the Bendigo Kerang Road, 3kms north of Eaglehawk.

The hut, in the yard of the hotel, was used in the Eureka Stockage movie.

The Brunch will be held in the form of a competition with six trophies awarded and profits this year will be split up between poets to meet travel costs.

This years judges, who come from 3BO, Bendigo Radio Stations will judge Best Original - Open & Novice, Best Trad. - Open & Novice, Best Overall Perf. & Encouragement Awd. Ring Peter Worthington 03 5436 1556

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

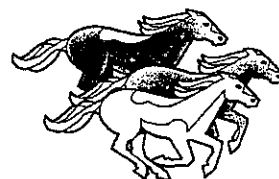
Terry Regan and I talked about the Paterson poem "The Man From Snowy River" and I voiced my opinion from a real bush horseman's point of view. That coincided with Terry's and we both wrote our separate poems.

I go on record as saying the original poem idea was Terry's.

Critics of our work should see the glaring differences between the two poems - I wrote "Through a

Mountain Pony's Eyes" in the rollicking meter of Paterson's style - Terry did not - he did inspire me to write what I did - and if anybody 'copied' anybody, I almost copied his title "Through the Horse's Eyes".

Best regards, *Kelly Dixon*



NATIONAL POETRY DAY - SEPTEMBER 1

A Celebration of Poetry in Our Lives

You are invited to join in a celebration of the rhyme and rhythm of our lives. Be part of **NATIONAL POETRY DAY**

**** What is Australia's favourite Poem?** You can call a national poll on 1900 10 7636 to register your vote. (calls 75c per minute - higher rates apply from mobile and public phones). Or vote at the National Poetry Day website, www.abc.net.au/poetry

**** While you are at the website you can create your own lines of poetry to add to the weekly 'star' poem.**

**** Get together with your friends in performance - from reading to rap.**

**** Take this chance to share the poetic traditions of your particular culture with other Australians.**

**** Enjoy some special programs and some 'poetic' content in your regular favourites on ABC TV, Radio National, Classic FM, Triple J and your own local ABC Radio Station.**

This is an ABC initiated community event to be marked by special programming on the radio and television. Other activities are being generated to support on air program and presentation aspects of the project and to take the concept out into the community so that the general public can take an active part and create their own associated celebrations.

Both the UK and the US have been running annual poetry days with great success, achieving the perfect mix of involvement at the individual and local level. Strong support by media, celebrities and political figures has given the event a high profile in these countries.

It is not an earnest literary or academic exercise for the few. The aim is to remind people that poetry is, in one way or another very much part of their lives - and can even be fun.

In the week or ten days leading up to September 1, all radio networks and television will incorporate poetry and poetry readings in their ID's and presentations as well as presenting special program and special segments in regular programs. An especially commissioned documentary will look at performance poets in Australia and an independent documentary production focusing on Les Murray and Bob Lewis will be scheduled to tie in.

Radio and TV promos will feature the famous and the unknown reading selections of poetry.

A poll, which opened on July 20, is being conducted to find Australia's Favourite poem. Voting

will be through a special phone number or at the National Poetry Day website. The favourite poem will be announced on ABC Television on September 1.

The special website, as well as featuring information about Poetry Day activities, will each week, launch a 'star poem'. A star from one of the networks will create two lines of poetry and the general public can then contribute further lines during the following week to make up a composite poem - which may or may not hold some deep meaning!

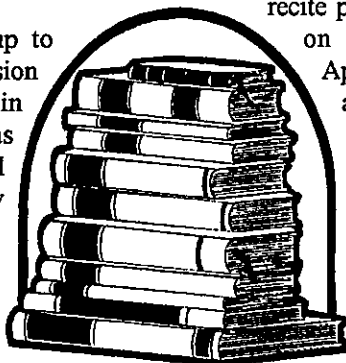
Support from the Australia Council has made possible the printing of brochures about National Poetry Day. These are being distributed through various outlets to all Australian schools and to the general public.

NIDA has agreed to allow a group of students to recite poetry at key computer points at peak hour on the morning of National Poetry Day.

Approaches will be made to other performing arts schools around the country.

ABC Enterprises is looking at the possibility of a follow up cassette and in future years may do a book.

For further information ring Virginia Sargent at ABC on (02) 9950 4508.



Editors Note - Why not ring your local ABC Radio or TV station and offer to share your Bush Poetry on "National Poetry Day"?

ATTENTION BUSH POETS - Recorded Material Urgently Required

Bush Poetry is on the Airwaves

George New, "The Bayldon Bard" began his new Bush Poetry Program, "Bards of the Bush" on the brand new **Coffs Harbour Community Radio, 2AIRfm** on Tuesday 11th August and he is desperately in need of recorded material.

He would therefore like to enlist the help of all recorded Bush Poets in establishing Bush Poetry on the Mid North Coast of NSW via his program. Any promotional tapes or CD's sent to him will of course be given due recognition. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce Bush Poetry to a relatively new area. Materials should be sent to George New, 1/8 Brush Cherry Close, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450.

Tim Butler, who broadcasts regularly on ABC in Wagga Wagga, has also requested that poets send him promotional recorded material to use in his regular radio segment of Bush Poetry.

Tim, who previously broadcast from ABC studios in the Longreach area, may be familiar to many poets who have worked on that area.

He can be contacted at ABC Radio, 100 Fitzmorris Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650 or you may wish to phone him on 02 6921 3734, fax 02 6921 1716

Editors Note: Why not further promote Bush Poetry by also sending your recorded material to your local ABC radio stations and suggest that it be used on National Poetry Day, 1st September, 1998?



RAMS HEAD HOTEL BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

This will be the last chance I have to reach all the members before the competition on 6th September. Let me remind you of our program. Start time is 8.30am, a Poet's Breakfast, a hot meal of bacon, sausages, eggs, coffee or tea and for the early birds, we have some pancakes and syrup as well, all this for only \$3.00 (for the Cancer Fund). The local Lions are providing some "Cooks" and "Waiters". God help us, they mentioned Topless!!!!

The morning competition will begin with a Yarn Spinning contest which has prizes for the winner and runner up. This will be followed by the Junior Comp. for both Traditional and Original Bush verse and also a special 'Group' section between the two local schools. There will be trophies, certificates and prizes for the winners. The Novice Section will then start for both Traditional and Original verse and once again great prizes will be awarded.

Throughout the morning we will be entertained with some great country music and also have some "Giveaways" from our sponsors, Orlando Wines and XXXX. Ned Winter will prepare a three course camp

oven lunch for \$8.00 per head and most likely he will toss in a free yarn or two at that price! Just try and stop him!

During lunch, we will hear more music and hopefully some poems from poets like Glenny Palmer, Mark Gliori, Merv Webster, Bill Glasson and maybe even ... "The Legend"....

After lunch, the Open Competition will start with sections for both Male and Female in Traditional and Original categories. We will then round off the competitive sections with a Poet's Brawl.

The Shire Mayor, Mr. George Ezzy will present the trophies and prizes to the various winners and draw the major raffle, which will still be open on the day. The Overall Champion will receive a cheque for \$100.00.

Entries have been coming in from all over the country, however entries do close on 28th August, so you still have a little time. Entry fee is \$5.00 and you can enter as many sections as you like.

If you require accommodation, ring 07 4695 4109 or the Millmerran Caravan Park, Dawn and Kevin Gibson on 07 4695 1572. First in, best dressed.

I guess the next thing I'll be writing to the newsletter will be the competition results - I shouldn't have to 'cause everyone will be there WONT YOU ?? See ya on Fathers Day at the Rams Head.

Kev Barnes, "The Legend"

A TRUE BLUE AUSSIE THAT'S ME

© Tom Penna, Victor Harbour, SA

I may be idealistic and too naive to see,
That there's no future in being a True Blue Aussie
Well I see it differently, it's different for me,
'Cos being a True Blue Aussie is what I want to be.

Yep - to be an Aussie that's what I want to be.
To live in this land and to be proud and free.
To see that things are fair, the way they ought to be,
And call the tune, a True Blue Aussie, that's me.

I want to be unique like the Sturt's desert pea.
Like the Uluru rock and the bridge in Sydney.
I want to see land for as far as the eye can see,
And appreciate the places country roads take me.

I want to talk dingo lingo in harmony
With men of many colours, knowing they are free.
I want our team to be our community
And share a common cause, a sense of dignity.

I want to watch the Melbourne Cup on a Tues'd'y,
And listen to Macca on a Sund'y.

I want to win the Ashes and kick a footy,
And share a barbie under a gum tree.

I don't want to forget our past, our history,
I want to know more about our geography.
And I want my lad to be an Aussie, just like me,
For him to be a True Blue Aussie -
that would please me.

from Tom Penna's Book "Along the Track"

IT'S ENOUGH TO SEND YOU GREY - ER

© Harry Pickering, Kingaroy, Q.



We went down to Goomeri for the Festival of Pumpkins.
The Clock Town was just chockers with all us Country Bumpkins.
The street stalls lined the footpaths, old engines huffed and chuffed,
A cloud of dust was rising up above the big campdraft.

The buses travelled regular to old homesteads from the past,
Boobyjan and Boonara — their history to impart.
A lady that we spoke to who had journeyed there and back,
Remarked — an OLD bush poet entertained them on the track.

She was a grey haired granny who was pushin' seventy.
For her to say this poet's old — well he must be ninety three.
Now I know most local poets but there's none to fit the bill,
From the way she spoke, this poet man was damn near over the hill.

So we combed the streets and questioned all the locals we could find
In search of clues to track down an old yokel of the kind
Who sprouted forth with poetry all about the Aussie bush,
And entertained a bus load of those tourists from the push.

We were nearly at our wit's end when we finally tracked him down
And the thing that threw us off the scent? He was from out of town!
Her description fitted perfectly so what else can I say?
It was in fact Merv Webster - the OLD Goondiwindi Grey.

HERE AND THERE HAPPENINGS

TWIN TOWNS BUSH POETS are back in action and will present a morning of Bush Poetry and Country Music on Sunday 30th August, timed to commence at 9am. A small charge of \$3.50 is being made and will include a luscious morning tea. If you would like more information give Lorraine Richards a call on 07 5590 9395.

THE BIG CITY MUSTER is looming on the horizon, set down for Saturday 12th September at 9am. Why not go along and crack your poetic whip at the Breakfast or Brawl alongside Noel Cutler, Warren "Arch" Bishop and Adrian Bryden. The "Muster" is definitely one of the highlights of the 1998 Spring Writing Festival. More details on page 18 of this newsletter.



"BOB'S MOB" LEARN TO WRITE IN RHYME

The Bush Poetry Workshops, funded by the Arts Council of NSW and conducted by the Back to Bowra Festival Committee on 25/26th July at Bowraville CWA rooms can only be described as an outstanding success!

Conducted by the eminently qualified tutor, Bob Miller, "The Larrikin Bush Poet" from Mungar, Qld., the workshop attracted 18 participants from areas as far north as Lismore and south to Forster, many of whom had never written Bush Poetry before or were novice writers or performers.

Bob ably and expertly delivered a comprehensive resume of information throughout the workshops at understandable levels, showing those who attended, just how easy it was to write with meter and rhythm, which are of course the two main elements required for the writing of bush verse.

Several participants, who had previously performed at Bush Poetry Competition level, commented that they had gained a great deal of additional knowledge with which they would endeavour to improve their future writing and performance skills.

During the first day, Bob workshopped students poetry, pointing out areas of their works on which they could improve, with the result that novice students favourably commented that they had been able to achieve their ambitions to write in rhyme.

Throughout the workshop Bob gave some demonstrations of his style of extremely funny Bush Poetry, demonstrating to students the finer points of performance, such as choice of poetry, performance preparation and practice, memorising work, breathing, the importance of preamble, microphone technique, body language, facial expressions and eye contact with the audience, and performing in front of a live audience as part of their practice sessions. Bob invited several students to read poetry which specifically demanded many of these techniques, producing very amusing results.

Students comments after the workshop included their appreciation to the Arts Council of NSW for providing the opportunity to access the workshops, saying that this course could not be easily accessed elsewhere. One workshopper who had been writing for 60 years commented that she would now be able to sort out problems which had previously been weakening her poetry.

The success of the workshops can definitely be measured as extremely successful, with all students indicating that they would welcome and appreciate another workshop in the near future. Enquiries regarding the Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Events should be directed to Maureen Garner Ph/fax 02 6568 5269.

THE POETS CUP © Ron Selby, Toowoomba, Q.

It's a bright sunny day in ..(town).. Everybody is wearing a grin,
We're here to contest the Poets Cup, decide just who's gonna win.
They're lined up at the barrier, everything is set for the day,
In just a few short moments the Poet's Cup will be under way

AND THEY'RE OFF !

Haynes hits the lead with Hartin behind getting in full stride,
Daniels is next with Miller and Gliori swinging out wide,
Then Fogarty, Cutler, Anderson and Palmer in a knot,
Randle's behind Taylor while Newsome has reached a trot,
Bostock has stopped to give a speech, Darby's in full flight,
Essery is still at the barrier, adjusting the starting light,
The filly Webster is on the rails with the stallion Billy Hay,
And close in behind them snorting is the Goondiwindi Grey,
Major is on the heels of Magor as they reach the bend,
The youngest filly Carmel Dunn is passing Shirly Friend.
Thompson has gone the other way, he's heading down the green
He's left the gate wide open for McArthur and McLean.
It's a jumble at the back of the pack the pace is really fast,
With screaming, kicking and gouging, I just can't see who's last.

They reach the final straight, the leaders are holding pace,
Haynes is stretching out with everything to win this flamin' race.
The crowd is jumping up and down they're really cheering now,
Oh No!...Haynes has caused a pile up, by stopping to take a bow,
Hartin has taken out a pen, he's writing down the facts,
Miller is standing out there grinning and signing autographs
Daniel has got out the rule book and looking a little bit wiser,
Gliori has gone for the coppers to borrow a breathalyzer
Fogarty's jumping up and down, McArthur he's trying to throttle
Shirley Friend is belting McLean, with her specimen bottle.
Cutler has got out the whip and he's cracking it in the air,
Anderson's got out a mirror, — she's fixing up her hair
Palmer finally has nothing to say, - I think she's gone to sleep,
Newsome is on the infield and he's shearing twenty sheep.
Randle is checking the spelling and rhyme and rhythm, as well
While Taylor's got a thrashing stick and really giving them hell,
Darby's scoffing apple pies and Webster's looking pale,
Billy Hay's taken out his organ and he's sitting on the rail,
The Goondiwindi Grey is champing at the bit
While Major has a video and he's filming all of it.
Magor is heading down the Cooper I think he's had enough
Carmel Dunn is looking sweet, she's hardly raised a puff.
It looks like the Poets Cup has turned to a Poet's Brawl,
There doesn't seem to be a clear winner at all.

But wait ! ... At a shuffling trot down the outside,
ITS, IT'S, IT'S CAMPBELL the SWAGGIE !!

QUIET ACHIEVER © 1998 Glenn Muller, Toowoomba

The Peridot is the Birthstone for those born in August

A quiet achiever is what we have here,
Transparent green, not quiet clear,
For a subtle lustre gives it mystique -
A depth of quality, quite unique.



Famed for it's spectrum, distinctive I'm told,
And so the Peridot's beauty we'll see unfold,
When mounted in brooch, with garnet, or yet,
In ear-rings with rubies, a really nice set.



This wonder of nature need only be seen,
To bring on a feeling, so serene:
For faithful are those born a Peridot,
In your time of need - they'll forget you not.



A "LARRIKIN PERFORMANCE" AT THE BOWRA HOTEL

The generous sponsorship and support of the hosts of the Bowra Hotel in Bowraville, NSW made it possible for Bush Poetry groupies in the Nambucca Valley and surrounding areas to see Australia's best Bush Poet, Bob Miller when he performed at the "Bottom Pub" on Saturday 25th July. The evening was presented as part of the Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Events, which are held annually as part of the Back to Bowra Festival.

Bobs unique brand of Aussie Rhyming Verse entertained and captivated all who attended, filling the hotel's lounge to capacity with standing room only!

He ably demonstrated to everyone why he is called "The Larrikin", reciting some of his well known original poems such as "The Brew", "The Prince" and of course his hilarious poems "The Volvo Driver" and the "The Bachelor".

"The Larrikin" was joined on stage by Blue Mountains Bush Poet, Terry Regan. Terry has been performing competitively at many Bush Poetry Competitions for over two years. His performance of A.B.(Banjo) Paterson's amusing poem "Father Riley's Horse" proved a crowd pleaser while his original poem "Through The Horse's Eyes", a view, from the horses perspective about Paterson's "The Man From Snowy River" was thought provoking to say the least.

Many of the Bush Poetry Workshop students were present in the audience, taking the opportunity to observe the very professional performance by both poets.

Audience feedback included many request for a return performance in the new year. Bards of Bowra Event enquiries, ring Maureen Garner Ph/fax 02 6568 5269.

Judy Kilby and Don Kennaugh were some others turning in an impressive performance.

Hopefully some of these will continue to recite and share their talents with the wider audience. Who knows, there may be some future ABPA members among them? An appreciative audience donated more than \$2,000 to assist the Gilgandra Historical Society. A top night!

The Royal Hotel, Dunnedoo, NSW was the venue for a recent night of bush poetry, yarn telling and country and western singers.

A large crowd, coming from Gilgandra, Eulong, Mendooran, Coolah, Leadville, Tooraweenah, Narellan, Dunnedoo and Dubbo turned out for the night, compared by myself.

Some well known bush poets to share in the prize money were Dubbo pair Ron Stevens and Neil Carrol and Ted Webber of Narrellan. Dunnedoo poet Jack Simcoe, yarn teller Leigh Stoddard of Dunnedoo and singer Andrew Brougham of Leadville were other award winners.

I understand a committee has been formed to run a series of these nights, with Gilgandra, Mendooran and Tooraweenah all set to follow Dunnedoo's effort. Coolah and Coonamble are believed to also have some interest in joining the circuit.

ONCE WE WERE WARRIORS

© Brian A Gale, Margaret River, WA

"Once we were warriors", the Chief said one day,
As he watched the young men and the children at play.
These words he told me, as he gazed t'wards the sky,
And the years fell away, like the tears from his eyes.

"When the Summers were harsh and the Winters were short,
Many the lessons this country has taught",
So I sat by his feet in the dust on the ground,
As the eagles above and the crows flew round.

His eyes misted over and the years slipped away,
As I watched him return, back to yesterday.

"They took all our horses, our guns and our land,
And left us forever in this sea of sand".

"But once we were warriors", he told me with pride,
"A long time ago, now many have died.

When the 'roo and the wallaby roamed over the earth,
We were free as the wind in this land of our birth."

"In the Winters we sheltered in the place of our choosing,
Making ready for Springtime, never thinking of losing.
With the birth of a new world, so fresh and so green,
When the Spirits smiled upon us, that's how it has been".

"With singing and dancing, much hunting and sport,
And swift were the rivers where the 'mundi were caught.

We lived life to the fullest for each day was a dream,
Now I'm sorry for my people, these things they've not seen."

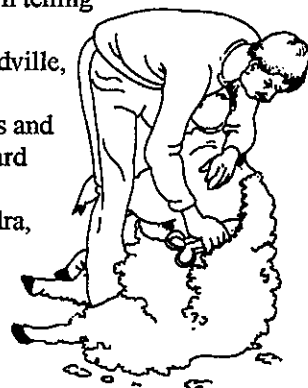
Then he turned back towards me and I watched those dark eyes,
"Don't forget we were warriors, remember this with pride,
They may take you, try to school you, to their way it seems,
But you'll always have your spirit, your memories and dreams".

NEWS FROM ELLIS CAMPBELL

I had the pleasure of taking part in the "Bush Ballads and Bloody Liars" night at Gilgandra, NSW on July 25th. An amazing array of poets came out of the woodwork.

I was most impressed with a young performer, Darryl Lawrence. I would like to see this fellow go to some festivals. A little more experience could see him being a top performer.

Big Bob Stevenson wowed the crowd with his hilarious performances of some of Blue the Shearer classics. Margaret Harris, Robert Donnet,



Ellis Campbell, Dubbo, NSW

CHARLEE'S RULES

(C) Bette Sheils, Bundaberg, Q

There are rules among bush poets,
Though un-written to be sure,
Inspired by Charlee Marshall,
And first up was ... not to score
Audience appeal by stealing
A fellow poet's ideas,
Because respect is what we're here about,
Not to gain the highest cheers.

Next in line is ... know your audience,
That's very sound advice.
What's considered to be slightly bawdy,
Could be anything but nice.
True Blue poets are genuine mates
Who give everyone a go,
Always ready with a kindly word
For new poets at each show.

They may stack it on their fellow bards
In a friendly, joking way,
But woe betide the careless bard
Who has too much to say.
They'll be ostracised and criticised,
Though tolerated, none the less,
'Til they learn to toe the poet's line.
Seen it happen, I confess.

Each poet has a special talent
And a love for Aussie verse,
As is often said in marriage,
We take them for better, or for worse.
Charlee knew that every true bush bard
Was worth their weight in gold,
Be they good or bad or different,
Very young or very old.



So his fourth rule was encouragement,
To be shared with writing peers.
To help widen their horizons, for,
Every budding bush bard hears
Of Lawsons and the Patersons,
Who inspire them to surpass,
But when bush bards get high-handed,
They convert our verse to farce.

We must bring them back to earth again,
Make them have a look around
At their fellow entertainers
Who have both feet on the ground.
Should their names go down in history
In some future hall of fame,
Be it Marco or The Larrikin,
Each considers their skills the same.

For to some bards, verse comes easily,
To others, it drains the brain
But true poets know their art is a gift,
And that's how it should remain.
So take a leaf from the past masters ledger,
And abide by his bard's golden rules.
There's a gossamer web embracing us
In the bush bard's learning schools.

Charlee's wisdom was learnt in a lifetime,
Guiding poets through their teething years.
He inspired the ones with potential
Who would succumb an audience to tears.
The spoken word of an earlier era,
To our mentor, was what he lived for,
With nary a thought of monetary gains,
His verse made him certain to score.

He revived Aussie bush verse 'round Queensland,
With his wit, his wisdom and care.
There is no man I know in my lifetime
Who was ever so ready to share.
Please take heed of his wonderful wisdom,
And be fair to your up-coming peers.
Who knows, in some new generation,
You could inspire many brilliant careers.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

TOM PENNA
Victor Harbour SA
JENNY HARRIS
Port Fairy, Vic

**VALERIE
ERBACHER**
Drewvale, Q.

KATHY EDWARDS
Merewether, NSW

**CHARLIE
DAVISON**
Coffs Harbour, NSW

**CHRISTINE
MCNICHOL**
Coffs Harbour, NSW

**EDWARD &
MARGARET
PARMENTER**
Coffs Harbour, NSW

TOM STRICKLAND
Coffs Harbour, NSW

**DEANNA
WILLMOT**
Wauchope, NSW

ALAN TAYLOR
Childers, Q

ROD HUTCHINS
Guaraba, Q

REG PHILLIPS
Lavington, NSW

GARY HARDING
Scarness, Q

DIANNE EGAN
Coffs Harbour, NSW

PETER HINDRUP
Bellingen, NSW

**ROSEMARY
DORRELL**
Coffs Harbour, NSW



PALMA ROSA POETS

What a fantastic evening we had on 29th July with Michael Darby, he is such a powerful entertainer and gave us many great poems - from "The Man from Snowy River" to Charlee Marshall's classic about the "Visit to the Vatican".

Michael was ably supported by some guest poets - George Lovejoy - "Mr. Rugby League" who entertained us with a parody on the "Geebung Polo Club" aptly named "The Bundy Football Club". Noel Stallard, alias Father John O'Brien and Wally Finch also gave some wonderful entertainment and I did two or three poems too, including a duologue with George Lovejoy, C.J. Dennis' "The Play".

Following the tragic tidal wave in New Guinea, we passed around the "Akubra" and raised \$240 for them - many thanks to all for their generosity.

Our next poetry evening will be on Wednesday, 14th October when we will be showcasing the multi-talented "North Pine Bush Poets".

Between them all they have won many awards with their President, Graham Fredriksen winning this year's coveted Bronze Swagman award for written verse.

These fun evenings are becoming very popular so please book early. We look forward to seeing you all on 14th October.

Trisha Anderson



BARDS OF BOWRA BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

The second Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Performance competition will be held from 10am on Sunday 27th September, 1998 at the Bowraville and District ExServices Club, High St., Bowraville NSW.

Two sections, Original and Traditional or Established Works will carry a collective prize money of \$350.00. Entries close on 20th September, however late entries will be accepted if time on the day allows.

Guest reciters, Warren 'Arch' Bishop, Kevin Barnes and Grahame Johnson will make appearances throughout the day which will also include announcement and presentation to the winners of the Bards of Bowra Written Bush Verse Competition for both Open and Junior Sections. Enquiries to Maureen Garner - Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269.



MORE ON THE CODE

from *Bette Sheils*.

Some time ago Marco Gliori wrote a letter suggesting the association draw up a code of ethics for Bush Poets, and asked for feedback, so after thinking long and hard about this I agree totally, and would like to give my view, for what it's worth.

As founder of the Bundy Muster, four years ago, I have noted complaints and compliments about various rules applied to poetry get togethers, and have boiled them down to the following suggestions.

1. Rules should be clearly written on every program and entry form for competitors. (At the recent Bundy Muster, an entrant was disqualified for reciting her own work in the new section, Modern Verse, after being told by the co-ordinator that she had the right to do so.)

2. Judges should not be known to the contestants until after the contest, and should not be allowed to compete. (Complaints received after the first Bundy Muster about judges knowing the contestant resulted in the committee bringing judges from NSW and Vic. at our next Muster, and they sat in the audience during performances. We received no complaints that year.)

3. A percentage of profits made from poetry gatherings should be donated to charity. (If we are as Australian as we profess to be, we should help less

fortunate Australians. Marco and The Larrikin have given part of their fees on at least two occasions that I know of, to charity, and it certainly raised the poet's image in Bundaburg.)

4. Appropriate props should be allowed if they enhance the performance. (As our Association grows it becomes more apparent that the visual performance is essential to be professional. Anyone who saw Ron Selby's duo performance with a doll, would testify to that. For audience appreciation I'd give him top marks.)

5. Our Bush Poetry get togethers should not be used as a political platform. (As one audience member, a local politician, was heard to comment, after listening to a political speech in verse, 'I don't tell them how to write poetry, why should they tell us how to vote!')

6. Committee members conducting written competitions should be exempt from entering said competition. (Not only should a competition be fair, it must be seen to be fair.)

Perhaps the poem which I have enclosed "Charlee's Rules", which I wrote when Charlee Marshall was around to inspire up-coming poets, would explain more clearly what poets ethics should be.

Finally, it is great to see the brilliant new talents coming forward to enhance our Aussie verse, we can only go on to bigger and better things. Keep up the good work. I look forward to the magazine each month.



PINE LODGE BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation will benefit from the proceeds of a new Bush Poetry festival to be held on Sunday 25th October, 1998 at Pine Lodge Equestrian Centre, in Taylor Road, Thornlands, in the Redland Shire, just 30 minutes from Brisbane, Q.

This new festival offers both written and performance competitions, and included on the day's program is a Poets Breakfast and an evening Awards presentation and concert.

A written competition has been arranged with four sections for Juniors which will allow for entrants ranging in age from 12 to under 18 years, together with a section for 18 years and over.

The Performance Competition again offers a wide range of Junior Categories as well as Senior Traditional, Modern, and Original sections. Nominations for the Written competition close on 4th September, and Performance Competition on 25th September.

A competition entry fee of \$10.00 applies which allows nominations in 3 categories and includes admission to the evening awards and concert program.

Public admission to this full day program is set at just \$10.00. Breakfast will be available as will other refreshments throughout the day.

Various forms of entertainment will take place and includes Storytellers, Didg players, Aboriginal dancers and a performance by Mark Tempamy. Displays of shearing will take place, together with spinning, knitting and market stalls.

Entry details and applications available from Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival, Taylor Rd., Thornlands, Q, 4164 or Phone - 07 3206 4492 / Fax 07 3803 4549.



A LETTER from MILTON TAYLOR

I would like to publicly thank, through our magazine, all the great people who offered their congratulations and best wishes when I won the Waltzing Matilda Australian Bush Poetry Championship held at Winton in April.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, I will be unable to take advantage of the trip to the Cowboy Poetry Festival in Elko, Nevada in January, 1999, which is part of the prize I was awarded. The decision to forgo the trip was not arrived at hastily and it is with deep regret that I have declined the prize. I have notified the organisers, Vision Winton of my decision.

Best regards,

Milton Taylor.

BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

Organisers of the "Blackened Billy Verse Competition 1999", the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group are now calling for entries.

This competition for Original Australian Bush Verse closes on 30th November, 1998. Entry fee is set at \$3.00 per entry, with a limit of 3 entries per person.

Entry forms and applications should be made to Blackened Billy Verse Competition C/- Maureen Quickenden, PO Box 1164, Tamworth, NSW 2340 or phone 02 6765 6067.



WHO JUDGES THE JUDGES ?

With the meteoric rise in competitive Bush Poetry competitions that is sweeping the country at the moment, the question of arranging suitable judges is becoming somewhat of a headache for festival organisers. Should judges be accredited and by whom and to what criteria

What constitutes a good judge?

Would a person born to the saddle as a stockman, with the blue heeler as a constant companion and living all his life in Birdsville or beyond, make a better judge of Bush Verse, than say a school teacher with shoulder length hair, an earring in each ear and to date has never crossed the Great Divide? Would a University lecturer in English Literature make a better judge than a Volvo driving housewife? Would a renowned writer necessarily make a good judge of performance poetry? The question of exactly what constitutes Bush Poetry is again to the fore. Some competitions are calling for rhyming verse in traditional Australian style, that's fine with me but it most certainly does **not** specify the subject matter to be limited to horses, drovers, droughts and bushfires.

How does a judge, judge?

Judges are ruled by precedent. I have watched a judge score the very first performer of a twenty four person heat with several nines, out of a possible ten and the rest eight's. (His comment was "He was good, wasn't he.") This is impossible, as the judge has now no range with which to mark, if even half of the other competitors were better than the first.

A judge should not mark the first performer any higher than 75% even if it was the best performance he's ever seen. He then compares all other competitors to the first mark and scores higher or lower accordingly.

A judge should disqualify him/herself if they cannot be unbiased in every way.

This includes dislike of a competitor or dislike of the style of poetry, providing it is within the rules of that competition.. The 'Choice of Poem' on most judging sheets covers aspects such as suitability to that performers abilities e.g. vocal quality, ability to memorise etc., and to

the required time factor, conditions of the competition etc. Not merely for the judges like or dislike of the poem. A judge should discount the fact that they may have seen the same competitor possibly reciting the same poem on a previous occasion. A performer has a right to be judged solely on the performance they give on any particular day and not be compared to him/herself at other times.

Compares should be very careful not to provide some performers with a more receptive audience by using jokes etc. in between items in a competition. A good compare will introduce a competitor by name and place of residence only before he/she performs, and keep jokes etc. confined to before and after the heats.

I have seen novice performers completely put off their performance by bad comparing. I personally do not think that performers should be handed their assessment sheets on the day of the competition. If they supply a SAE to the convenor and request sheets be posted after asking judges comments on their performance, they will find most only too happy to comply. Handing sheets out without comment to every performer is like throwing petrol on a fire to a disgruntled poet who feels he/she was hard done by in a particular contest.

Comparing scores is often quite misleading, as one judge may mark around six's and sevens while another may mark around eight's and nine's. Providing they are consistent there is no problem. A score of say 70% could be the low marker's highest score whilst a score of say 75% could be the high marker's lowest score, therefore by comparing the two scores, a performer could get an entirely different opinion as to how the judges see his/her performance.

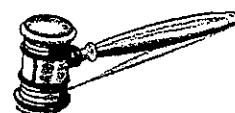
Where to now?

There has been some talk of conducting judging workshops and accrediting participants with a 'ticket' to judge. I believe this, although possibly hard to organise, would be a step in the right direction. I would like to see, at the very least, a paper prepared and approved by the A.B.P.A., that outlines some of the basic ideals of what we are looking for in these competitions. I would be quite prepared to sit in on any discussions on the subject.

What do you think ?

Bob Miller.

Vice Presidents Department.

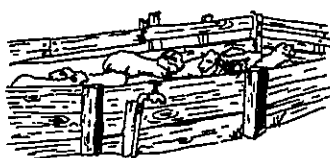


THE CODE © Rhubard. '98

Give me statutes, laws and edicts,
Or some ordinance decreed,
More rules and regulations
Now that's just what we need.

Someone to show some order,
To control the flighty pens
And tell us how to do it,
Make us model citizens.

We could build our own empire
And rule with rod and whip,
That would keep you all in order
And we won't take any lip.



We could regulate your method
When you write a verse or song,
Make decisions on your ethics
And flog you when you're gone.

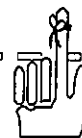
We could sit and judge behavior
All rebels could be slain,
We could weed out all the roughies
Till we all appeared the same.

And in harmony we'd wander
'Neath the stars and sweeping plains,
Till we felt a great belonging
If we did not use our brains.

But the rebel flag still flutters,
Old Eureka's on my side,
I don't need a code of ethics
By which I must abide.

But if you need to judge me,
Or decide if I belong,
My parents beat you to it,
I know what's right from wrong.

NEWSLETTER COPY IS DUE BY 10TH EA MONTH



POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

- Aug 22 **Poets in the Pub.** 7.30 pm Bowra Hotel, Bowraville NSW - Featuring Glenny Palmer. Ph/Fax 02 6568 5269. Reciters and readers welcome. P16
- Aug 22-23 **Trundle Bush Tucker Day.** Trundle, NSW Ring Frank Daniel AH 02 6344 1477 P18
- Aug 28 **Closing Date. Rams Head Hotel Performance Competition.** Millmerran Qld, Details P 16
- Aug 28-30 **Gympie Muster Bush Poetry Performance Competition.** Details Page 18
- Aug 28-30 **Annual Drovers Reunion & Fest. Camooweal, Q.** Phone 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153
Bush Poetry, Music, Meals, Camping Sites. P16
- Aug 30 **Twin Towns Bush Poets.** 9am Tweed Heads Civic & Cultural Centre. Bush Poetry & Country Music. Cost \$3.50 incl Morning Tea. Ph Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395 P8 & 17
- Sept 4 **Closing Date. Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival Written Competiton** Details P12 & 17
- Sept 6 **Rams Head Hotel Performance Bush Poetry Comp.** Perf. Comp., Yarns, Brawl, Meals available
Phone Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 Page 16
- Sept 10 **Budburst Fest.** Cessnock NSW. Bush Poetry Concert & Comp. Ring Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751 P18
- Sept 11 **Snowy Mts. Bush Poetry Club Get Together.** 8pm Bushranger Hotel, Collector, NSW ring
Neil Hulm. 02 6025 3845 P17
- Sept 12 **Snowy Mts. Bush Poetry Club Get Together.** 7.30pm Services Club, Manuka ACT. Ring
Jim Weatherstone 02 6291 0216 P17
- Sept 12 **Big City Muster Performance Comp.** 9-1pm NSW Writers Centre, Balmain Road, Rozelle NSW.
Part of the Spring Writers Festival. Ph Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575. P18
- Sept 13 **Kempsey All Star Country Music Fest. Bush Poetry Performance Comp** Details P 16
- Sept 13 **Galston Country Music Festival.** Galston NSW Poets Breakfast Terry Gleeson 02 9851 1012 P18
- Sept 17 **Around the Campfire, Kyabram Vic.** Best Bush Poet and Yarnspinner. See details P 6.
- Sept 19 **Cornucopia Cafe Poets and Folkies Get-together.** Ring Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or
Mob 015 227 479 P 18
- Sept 19-20 **Gulgong Country Music Fest.** Poets Breakfast Enq. Frank Daniel Ph ah 02 6344 1477 P18
- Sept 23 **Bush Poetry Performance by Noel Stallard.** Selections from John O'Brien. Mt Maria Senior College
Auditorium, 67-69 Osborne Rd. Michelton. Q. P18
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival Performance Competition** Details P12 & 17
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Big Doo at Brymaroo Perform.** Comp. Ph 07 4692 1347 P17
- Sept 25 **Closing Date. Warnervale, NSW Performance Comp.** Details P18
- Sept 25 **Norman Lindsay Gallery, Springwood NSW.** Bush Poetry Perf Ph Jean Reynolds 02 4751 4884 P17
- Sept 26-27 **Mapleton Yarn Festival.** Enq. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263 P16
- Sept 27 **Bards of Bowra Bush Poetry Perf. Comp., Bowraville, NSW** Phone 02 6568 5269 P 11 & 16
- Sept 25-27 **Wollombi Folk Festival.** Wollombi NSW. Poets Breakfasts, Yarn/ Storytelling Ph 02 4951 6186 P18
- Oct 2-10 **Bourke Mateship Festival & Back to Bourke Week.** A Trek Back of Bourke in the Steps of the
Poets - Festival enquiries - Harry Hart 02 6872 1809 bh or Diane Tyson 02 6772 2333
- Oct 3 **Victor Harbour Folk Fest Poetry Writing Awards** Ph. K & M Edgecombe 08 8271 0524 P 16
- 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 1
- Oct 3-5 **Boorowa Wool Festival.** Poets Breakfast Ph Frank Daniel ah 02 6344 1477 P18
- Oct 2-5 **Warnervale, NSW - Country Music Fest.** Bush Poetry Comp. & Performances. P16
- Oct 4 **Big Doo at Brymaroo.** Performance Competition, 7.30am Details G. Bowtell, 07 4692 1347 P17
- Oct 5 **Wollondilly Waratah Fest.** Poets Breakfast 9am Imperial Hotel, Menangle St., Picton, NSW Please
phone and book in Liz Vincent, 02 4677 2044. Pages 17
- Oct 8-10 **Mid North Coast Area, NSW.** Bush poetry perf. by Noel Stallard & Bob Miller. More next month.
- Oct 8 **Poets' Breakfast at Nanango.** Nanango Shire Council, PO Box 10 Nanango QLD 4615 P 16
- Oct 11 **Poets Brunch & Comp.** Allies Hotel, Myers Flat. Vic. Ring Peter Worthington 03 5436 1556 P6
- 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 P16
- Oct 17-18 **Dungog Heritage W'end.** Dungog Bush Poetry Conc & Comp. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751 P18
- Oct 25 **Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival,** Thomlands Q Written and Performance Comp, Concert P12 & 17
- Oct 31-Nov 8 **Land of the Beardies Festival.** Nell Perkins, 3/125 Church Street, Glen Innes, NSW 2370 P18
- Nov 1 **Beltain Fes.** Poets Breakfast, 8.30am Heritage Farm, Wilberforce, NSW Ph 02 4572 6128 P17
- Nov 3 **Closing Date. 1998 Bush Laureate Awards.** Golden Gumleaf Enterprises, 112 Crescent Rd,
Hamilton Q 4007. See Page 18
- Nov 30 **Closing Date. Blackened Billy Verse Competition.** Written Comp. Details P 12 & 17
- Dec 2 **Palma Rosa Poets.** 7.30 pm 9 Queens Rd., Hamilton, Bris., Q. Guy McLean & "Nugget" \$15 per
head incl Supper. Bookings essential Ph. Trish Anderson 07 3268 3624 or 07 3262 3769 P16
- Feb 13 '99 **High Country Poets Performance Competition.** Ph. Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 P16

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
Kyabram & District Bush Verse Group, Meet every second month at Kyabram Fauna Park
 at 7.30 pm - next meeting 3rd October Phone Mick Coventry 03 5853 3365
- 1st Thursday** **North By North West Poetry & Folk Club.** 7.30 pm Uniting Church Hall, North Ryde
 Ph Graeme 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
- 1st. Sunday** **Poets Get-together.** Traders Restaurant - Mt. Coolum 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
Gold Coast Poets, 10 am Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach, Q. All welcome, audience participation
 Recite or sing a song. Graham Brunckhorst, 07 5579 4816
Poets in the Making, 12-4pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula
 Ph David Price 02 9825 0402 or Mob 018 971 2264
- 2nd. Monday** **Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba.** Parakeet Cafe at 7pm, Katoomba St, Katoomba, NSW
 Everyone welcome. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets - 7pm - Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr., Tarro NSW.** 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**
Wollondilly Regional FAW. 1.30pm Community Rooms, Menangle Street, Picton. Phone
 Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044, Vince Morrison 02 4684 1704 or Jenny Pilottos 02 4631 1419
- 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. 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 Poets 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
- 4th Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Poet's Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 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 Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Thurs.** **Writers on the River, Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh Street, Penrith, NSW.** Everyone
 welcome, come and recite, read or just listen to the poets. Ph. Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- 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.



ABPA

**MEMBERSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO NEW MEMBERS FOR THE
 REST OF 1998 FOR JUST \$13.00 - ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN NOW !!**



NANANGO SESQUICENTENNIAL
Written Poetry Comp Awards &
Poet's Breakfast on Thursday, 8.10.98
at Nanango Belvedere Gallery, Q
Jim Mangan - Phone 07 4163 1681



MAPLETON YARN FESTIVAL
26th - 27th September 1998
Poetry, Yarnspinning, Storytelling
Light Hearted Competitions
Enq. to Jacqueline Bridle - 07 5478 6263



**ANNUAL DROVERS REUNION and
FESTIVAL at CAMOOWEAL - 28/30.8.98**
BUSH POETRY PROGRAM
Fri 28th 7pm Walk up poetry in park
Sat 29th 9am Heats Bronze Spur Award
Performance Competition
Sun 30th 10.30am Finals of Perf. Comp.
BRONZE SPUR AWARDS - Written Competition
Enquiries - PO Box 4, Camooweal Qld 4828
Enq. Ph 07 4748 2155 or 07 4748 2153

BARDS of BOWRA

Part of the Back to
Bowra Festival"
BOWRAVILLE NSW



Bowraville Ex-Services Club - 10am - 27.9.98
Performance Competition & Presentation of Awards
of Bards of Bowra Written Comp - Open Sections
Section 1 - Trad. or Established Work Section 2 - Original

POETS IN THE PUB

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

BUSH POETRY COMPETITION & Aussie Humour Show with RAY ESSERY

In conjunction with
KEMPSEY ALL STAR COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION
Original & Traditional Sections
9.30am, Sunday 13th September, 1998
MOON RIVER MOTEL, KEMPSEY NSW

Entry Forms from The Secretary,
P.O. Box 102, Kempsey NSW 2440



RAMS HEAD HOTEL BUSH POETRY

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

ENTRIES CLOSE 28th August 1998
ENTRY FEE \$5.00 per poet for day - Juniors free.

Traditional and Original Sections in All Classes
JUNIORS 8 -15 Yrs

NOVICE, OPEN MALE & OPEN FEMALE
COUNTRY STYLE BREAKFAST - \$3.00
AND CAMP OVEN LUNCH - \$8.00

Enquiries - SSAE to Kev Barnes
PO Box 64, Millmerran, QLD 4357
or Phone 07 4695 4209

NORTH PINE BUSH POETS
3rd ANNUAL CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FEST.
North Pine Country Park, Petrie, Q.
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October, '98



PERFORMANCE COMP. & CONCERT
Enquiries to John & Patti Coutts
Phone / Fax 07 3886 1552

1998 VICTOR HARBOUR FOLK FESTIVAL Friday 2nd - Monday 5th October, 1998

Poets Breakfasts Every Day at 9am
Presentation of Awards - Saturday 3rd
Poets Cocktail Hour - Saturday 3rd 6pm
Storytellers Cup - Saturday Monday 5th



Program Details and Information from K & M Edgecombe
12 Lochness Ave., TORRENS PARK SA 5062 Phone 08 8271 0524

HIGH COUNTRY POETS

in conjunction with the Granite Belt Tourist Assn's
WINE AND FOOD AFFAIR, 8th-14th Feb. 1999

Bush Poetry Perf. Comp. Sat 13th Feb., 1999, 4pm
O'Mara's Hotel, Maryland St, Stanthorpe Q
Open & Novice Original & Traditional Sections
POETS IN THE PARK - Sunday, 14th February.
Enquiries - Jack Drake - Ph - 07 4683 7169



PALMA ROSA PERFORMANCES

Wed. 14th October, 1998
7.30 pm - North Pine Bush Poets



Wed. 2nd December, 1998 7.30 pm Guy McLean & "Nugget"
See Poets Calendar for further details

PRODUCT SHELF ADVERTISEMENTS



\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER SPOTS !!



BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE COMP.

Country Music Weekend - WARNERVALE NSW, 2-5.10.98
Performance Competition - Saturday 3rd October.
Sections - Traditional (Over 50 Yrs), Bush (Under 50 Yrs),
General Poetry & Original General - Prizes: Trophies & Certs.
Winner to appear at Tamworth 1999. Entries \$5 per sec
Closes - 25.9.98 - Enq. Bob Sennett, 48 Donnison St., West Gosford. 2260

NEWSLETTER COPY Deadline 10th of Month
From December - 1st Day of the Month !!!!!



POETS IN THE PUB with GLENNY PALMER

Mid North Coast of NSW Bush Poetry Fans are again in for another feast of rhyming verse when Glenny Palmer, twice Australian Champion Ladies Bush Poet and twice Reserve Champion performs at the Bowra Hotel in Bowraville in a free show on Saturday 22nd August at 7.30pm

This very versatile lady is one of the few professional female Bush Poets currently performing throughout the country at the many Bush Poetry Competitions and shows.

As part of the prize for her Ladies Championship, Glenny represented Australia, together with Australian Male Champion Bush Poet, Milton Taylor, at Elko in Nevada, USA, at the annual "Cowboy Poetry Gathering" and was engaged to perform at the "Wells Fargo Theatre" and the "Autrey Museum of Western Heritage" in Los Angeles.

She has featured on Channel 9's "Brisbane Extra" show, appeared on ABC TV's "Australian Story", performed at the Queensland Art Gallery and is regular performer at the "Stockmans Hall of Fame" in Longreach, Qld.

Her career highlights include regular performances at Tamworth's famous "Longyard Hotel", in both the daily Poets Breakfast Performances during Country Music Week, and at the "Fireside Festival" which is held annually mid year. She has performed there with artists of the caliber of John Derum, Jim Haynes, Bob Miller and other leading Bush Poets.

In May this year, Glenny, together with other Bush Poets from the fairer sex, featured in a special show at the "Fireside Festival" presenting the "Wonderful Women of Bush Verse", during which a few "Token Blokes" were presented to the audience just to make sure that the correct political balance was maintained!

During the evening of Glenny's performance, she will be joined on stage by a special mystery guest who performed and received special awards for their poetic efforts at this year's Waltzing Matilda Festival in April at Winton, north Queensland. This "special" guest will definitely guarantee further laughter and mayhem.

In addition to performances by Glenny Palmer and her "special" guest, many of the poets who attended Bob Miller's recent Bush Poetry Workshop will give a special presentation of their newly acquired knowledge and skills throughout the evening.

As usual, the hosts of the Bowra Hotel offer an invitation to come and sit by a warm winter fire, where you will be provided with pub snacks, and be entertained in this great Australian Way. Be early for the best seats! Enquiries to Maureen Garner Ph/fax 02 6568 5269.

PINE LODGE BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL



Pine Lodge Equestrian Centre, Taylor Rd, Thornlands, Q 4164 - Sun 25th October, '98
Written and Performance Competitions
Poets Breakfast, Evening Awards & Concert - Public Admission \$10.00

Entries close - Written - 4.9.98, Perf - 25.9.98

ALL PROCEEDS TO ROYAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
Entry enquiries to Pine Lodge Bush Poetry Festival
as above or phone 07 3206 4492 Fax 07 3803 4549

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE, Kyabram Vic

7.30pm, 17th Sept. '98 at The Tijuana, Fenaughty St., Kyabram
Bush Verse and Tall Tales Evening
Awards for Best Bush Poet, Best Yarn Spinner
Primary School Encouragement Awards
Poets and Yarnspinners in the area - contact
Mick Coventry - 03 5853 2265 or Graeme Watt 03 5852 2084
See feature article on page 6



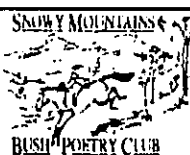
POETS BRUNCH - Allies Hotel, Myers Flat

3kms North of Eaglehawk on the Bendigo Kerang Rd
Sunday 11th October, '98 - 10.30am - 3.00pm
6 Competition Sections -
Best Original & Traditional sections
for both Open & Novice
Best Overall Perf. & Encouragement Award
Ring "Whipstick Wortho"
03 5436 1556



"BIG DOO" at BRYMAROO

Brymaroo Rodeo Grounds - 3/4.10.1998
BUSH POETRY Perf. Comp. Sun 4.10.'98 7.30am
Original and Traditional Sections.
Entry \$5.00 per section - Closes 25.9.98
Details from G. Bowtell,
MS 444, Quinalow, Q Ph 07 4692 1347



SNOWY MOUNTAINS BUSH POETRY CLUB Forthcoming "Get Togethers"

8pm, 11th September, '98 at Bushranger Hotel
Collector, NSW - Ring Neil Hulm 02 6025 3845

7.30pm, 12th September, '98 at Service Club,
Manuka, ACT - Ring Jim Weatherstone 02 6291 0216

BELTAIN FESTIVAL, Wilberforce NSW

30/10 - 1/11/'98 - Heritage Farm, 5kms from Windsor
POETS BREAKFAST - 8.30am Sun., 1st November.
featuring Warren "Arch" Bishop
Everyone Welcome
Call Lydia 02 4572 6128



BUSH POETRY in Springwood, NSW

Norman Lindsay Gallery
7.30pm, Friday 25th September, 1998.
Enquiries to Jean Reynolds - 02 4751 4884



TWIN TOWNS BUSH POETS

in conjunction with Tweed Heads Cultural Arts Society
BUSH POETRY & COUNTRY MUSIC
Tweed Heads Civic Centre, Warf St, Tweed Heads Q.
9 am, Sunday 30th August, 1998
Cost \$3.50 Incl Morning Tea
Enq. Lorraine Richards - Ph 07 5590 9395



BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION 1999

Written Original Aust. Bush Verse
Closing Date - 30th November, 1998
Entry Fee \$3.00 - Limit 3 per person

Entry forms from Maureen Quickenden,
PO Box 1164 Tamworth 2340
or ring 02 67 65 6067

BUSH POETRY PERFORMANCE

Wed. 23rd September, 1998 7.30pm - 10 pm
Mt. MARIA SENIOR COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
 67-69 Osborne Rd., Michelton, Q.
 (Beside Brookside Shopping Centre)

NOEL STALLARD as Fr. John O'Brien
 Presenting selections from
 "Around the Boree Log" and
 The Parish of St. Mel's"



Adults \$10.00 Pensioners/Students \$7.00 - Supper 8.30-9pm

WOLLONDILLY WARATAH FESTIVAL

POETS BREAKFAST - 9am Mon., 5th Oct., 1998
 Imperial Hotel Menangle St. Picton NSW (opp. railway)
 Cost \$5.00 incl Entry Fee, Sausage Sandwich, Coffee
 Please Book In - Ring Liz Vincent 02 4677 2044 Fax 02 4677 3289



WANTED - BUSH POETS
TO PERFORM AT POETS BREAKFAST
LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL
 31st October - 8th November 1998
 GLEN INNES NSW

Expressions of interest to Nell Perkins
 3/125 Church Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370
 Dates to be announced soon !!

**CALLING ALL POETS**

GYMPIE MUSTER is on AGAIN
 25th - 30th August, 1998



POETS BREAKFASTS EVERY DAY
PERFORMANCE COMP 28th - 30th Aug. '98
 Traditional & Original Secs. Standard Rules Apply
 11am Start - Enter on the Day
"NAKED POETS" Performance Fri. 28th & Sat. 29th
 For details and programs please phone 07 5482 2427
 or write to PO Box 616 Gympie, Q 4570

GULGONG Country Music Festival

Bush Poets Breakfast - Trophies & Prize Money
 19th & 20th September 1998
 Compere - Frank Daniel Ph. AH 02 6344 1477

**CORNUCOPIA CAFE**

POETS & FOLKIES GET-TOGETHER
Saturday 19th September, 1998 - 2pm
 Gladesville Hospital - Cnr Victoria & Punt Rd
 Gladesville (Use Punt Rd. Entrance)
 Enquiries - Jenny Carter
 Phone 02 9887 1856 or Mob 015 227 479

2ND BIG CITY BUSH POETRY MUSTER

in Conjunction with 1998 Spring Writing Festival

Saturday, 12th September 1998 - 9am
 at NSW Writers Centre, Balmain Rd., Rozelle
 (Callen Park - Rozelle Hospital Complex) - Refer P 8
Performance Competition - Register on the Day
Poets Brawl - Guest Presenters

Enq. Joye Dempsey,
 PO Box 257

Croydon Park NSW 2133
 or Phone 02 9797 7575

**BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS 1998**

For work produced from 1.11.97 to 1.11.98
Four Sections

1. Book of the Year - Published Original Rhymed Verse.
2. Recorded Album of Australian Rhymed Verse (on commercially produced cassette tape or CD.)
3. Recorded Performance of the Year (A single, or single track from any album)
4. Heritage Award (Publication in book form emphasising Australian Heritage; historical, geographical or social - including a reasonable amount of original verse.)

Fee \$10 per entry - Closes 3.11.98



Send SSAE for Entry Forms to
GOLDEN GUMLEAF ENTERPRISES
 112 Crescent Rd. Hamilton Q 4007

BUDBURST FESTIVAL - Cessnock NSW

Thursday, 10th September, 1998

Pres. at and by Cessnock Dist. Rugby League Supp. Club.



Annual Bush Poetry & Tall Yarns
Concert and Performance Competition
Free Competition Entry - Enter on the Day
 Contact Bob Skelton, Old School Hill, Minmi NSW 2287
 Phone 02 4953 2751 or Mob 018 668 795

DUNGOG HERITAGE WEEKEND - NSW

17th & 18th Oct., 1998 COURTHOUSE HOTEL



Bush Poetry and Tall Yarns

Concert and Performance Competition
 Contact Bob Skelton, Old School Hill, Minmi NSW 2287
 Phone 02 4953 2751 or Mob 018 668 795

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 Poetry Enquiries Terry Gleeson 02 9851 1012 - Festival 02 9653 2483

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Entry Forms and Enquiries to
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Deadline day will be changed, to the
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Print Post PP 242018 / 0013

August, 1998

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Thank You to Our Contributors

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