

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Monthly Newsletter

No 5 Volume 7

May 2000



## QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships

### Results

Winner Male	Milton Taylor
Runner-Up Male	Wally Finch
Winner Female	Janine Haig
Runner-Up Female	Zita Horton

### Christina Macpherson Novice Bush Poetry Competition

#### Results

Winner Male	Ken Dean
Runner-Up Male	Brian Perren
Winner Female	Jennifer Haig
Runner-Up Female	Jay Randle

### Ergon Energy Award for Best Performance of an AB Paterson poem

Milton Taylor, with *"Johnson's Antidote"*

### Larrikin Award for Best Performance of a Humorous Original Poem

Jimmy Hooker, with *"The Toothache"*

### Bronze Swagman Award

Bob Magor, with *"Broome Dreaming"*

### Australian Bush Yarnspinning Championships (sponsored by XXXX)

#### Junior Division (20-50 years)

Winner	Jay Randle
2nd	Gary Fogarty
3rd	Louise Dean

#### Senior Division (50-70 years)

Winner	Milton Taylor
2nd	Bob Magor
3rd	Bob Miller

#### Masters Division (over 70 years)

Winner	Bill Hay
2nd	Rusty Christensen

### Outback Oscars

Winner	The Unsyncables (coached by Zita Horton)
2nd	Olympic Eras (coached by Bob Magor)
3rd	Spatz Katz (coached by Milton Taylor)

### Clover Nolan Awards (Junior Performance)

Secondary School Winner	Sunny Mutton
Secondary School Runner-up	Angie Fogarty
Primary School Winner	Claire Jempson
Primary School Runner-up	Imogen Knowles

## STOP PRESS!

### Results from the Charters Towers Festival of Australian Bush Poetry Wednesday 26th April 2000

#### Performance Own Choice

##### Under 14 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corrine Whitman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelsey Horton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Matthew Horton

##### 14 years to 18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Evan Schnalle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Samantha Gibbings

##### 18 years and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> Norah Vinson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Veronica Weal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rusty Christensen

#### Performance Traditional/Modern

##### Under 18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Evan Schnalle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinne Whitman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgina Denning

##### 18 years and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Mauloni
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rusty Christensen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Zita Horton

#### Performance Original

##### Under 18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Julian Luke
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinne Whitman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kelsey Horton

##### 18 years and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jay Randle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zita Horton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Veronica Weal

#### Performance Humorous

##### Under 18 years

- 1<sup>st</sup> Evan Schnalle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelsey Horton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Corinne Whitman

##### 18 years and over

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rusty Christensen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jay Randle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Veronica Weal

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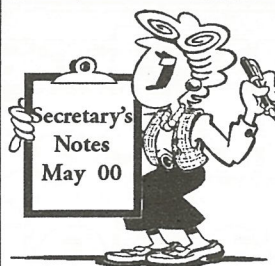
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*Olive Shooter, Secretary*

**ABPA Membership - \$25 per annum January to December**  
**PLEASE SEND ALL MONEY TO SECRETARY/TREASURER**

*The Australian Writer's Marketplace 2000 is a directory that provides listings of over 1100 magazines, newspapers and journals that accept submissions, along with lists of all Australian and New Zealand script markets, publishers, literary agents and competitions. This directory costs \$39.95 (plus postage). Anyone interested - order forms are available from either the Secretary, Olive Shooter, or the editor, Jennifer Priest.*



I have had no expressions of interest to hold the Australian Championships, so don't forget to consider this if you are an organisation who feels they would like to do so. I will acknowledge all entries, so if you do not get word that I have received your entry, feel free to contact me in case it has gone astray. Last year we had some trouble in that area.

We have 333 paid up members, a lot less than last year, but I hope to get more who have overlooked their subscriptions. We have a huge backlog of Annual books of poems. These are your books and it is our way of making a bit of extra money, so please feel free to order some. You may resell them if you like. They are \$3.00 each plus postage and \$1.10 will post 1 to 4 copies. We have in stock the annuals for the last five years. That is Numbers 2 to 6. My spare room bed (or under it) accommodates quite a few boxes of them. By the weather here, we will soon have to get out the winter woollies.

*Fond regards, Olive Shooter*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE ABPA?

**JUST SEND A CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$25, MADE OUT TO "ABPA", TO:**

**OLIVE SHOOTER, SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
**ADDRESS AT LEFT**

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER!**

**MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR THE**  
**CALENDAR YEAR, JANUARY - DECEMBER**

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE RECEIVING**  
**THIS NEWSLETTER 12 TIMES A YEAR!**

## Just A Dance

© Louise K Dean, Prairie Q

I saw him at the local dance  
In an outback country place,  
And was immediately attracted  
To his strong and sunburnt face.

A stockman, tall and rugged,  
In his brightly patterned shirt,  
A contrast to his jeans and boots  
With a touch of outback dirt.

His laughter rang across the hall  
As he chatted with a mate,  
A haunted sort of laugh -  
And I could only contemplate

The kind of life this stockman led,  
Of cattle, dust and flies.  
The spirit of the outback,  
As seen through distant eyes.

The country band struck up a jive  
And his boots tapped to the beat.  
And then the first of many girls  
Was swept upon her feet.,

His energy exploded  
Into a rhythm fast and sure  
That left his partners gasping;  
And clearly wanting more!

He was popular on the dance floor  
As each girl took their chance,  
Hoping for a sign that this  
Was more than just a dance.

But when the song was over,  
He moved on again once more  
To whisk another hopeful  
To his realm upon the floor.

For he was searching for a partner  
To end his lonely days.  
A companion to make his life complete  
In, oh, so many ways.

And one with spirit to match his own,  
To hold within his heart  
And walk beside him down the track  
To make a brand new start.

And so I watched this stockman,  
And I could not understand  
How a man with much to offer  
Could still hold an empty hand.

And just as I was wondering  
How fate had kept him free -  
He was suddenly beside my chair  
With his hand outstretched to me!

My surprise soon turned to pleasure,  
And we danced away the night  
And talked about all sorts of things  
To make the world all right.

But soon I came to realise  
That he hadn't left my side  
To go in search of others -  
And in my heart I cried

'Cause, through all the fun and laughter,  
He'd surely lost another chance -  
You see - I was just a stand in.  
To me, 'twas just a dance!

For on my hand, a band of gold  
Was there for all to see,  
And more than just a friendship  
Between us could never be.

I left him at the local dance  
In an outback country place.  
A man in search of someone -  
Haunted look still on his face.

And I wonder where he is today,  
Has he found his one true chance?  
To hold onto a treasure found -  
When it's more than just a dance!





AND NOW PRESENTING, CENTRE STAGE.....

# LOUISE DEAN

Having the "Outback in her heart" is how Louise K. Dean likes to describe herself.

Louise was born and raised in the Western Queensland town of Hughenden and has a deep love of country life, the outback and its people - and these have always featured in her Pen & Ink artwork.

Since being introduced to Bush Poetry by her husband Graham, Louise began performing in 1997, winning the Christina Macpherson Novice Award at Winton.

Since then, Louise has performed and competed at festivals and gathering around Queensland,

has won several awards and had the opportunity to represent Australia in Elko, Nevada, at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering 2000 after winning the 1999 QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Ladies Championship in Winton last year.

Louise also enjoys writing her own experiences into verse and her partnership with Graham has culminated in their book "Gone Wookatook", which also features Louise's illustrations.

Louise lives in Prairie, near Hughenden, where she and her husband have turned the old

Post Office into "Bush Wookatook" - their own unique business which features a touch of Australia and their own poetry, artwork and souvenirs.



## REVIEW - Gone Wookatook (book)

"Gone Wookatook" is a beautifully presented book with a selection of Bush Verse by Graham and Louise K. Dean. The overall appearance is enhanced by the Pen and Ink illustrations, also by Louise K. Dean, a talented artist.

The majority of the poems in the book have been written by Graham, with five by Louise, and one joint effort. In the first poem, Graham explains the title 'Gone Wookatook', and then continues on throughout the rest of the book to explore a range of subjects. There are memories of bygone people and places, yarns and funny stories, and patriotic thoughts. One interesting factor in reading through Graham's poetry is the variety of rhythmic styles and rhyming patterns he has attempted. Some have been more successful than others, but this experimentation is necessary for progression and maturity. His development as a poet can be observed throughout the book, and these generally well-crafted verses are easy and enjoyable reading.

It is a little more difficult to review Louise's poetry, with a narrower range of material available in the book. Many of her poems investigate a very similar subject - Men! - in a light-hearted and teasing manner. These are written from a strongly feminine point of view, and add a piquant touch to the book as a whole. The more reflective "Just A Dance" shows another facet, and Louise also includes a traditional-style yarn in rhyming form, in which she elaborates verse by verse and concludes with an effective twist.

As a first book, 'Gone Wookatook' is of great interest. This couple, sharing the same love for Bush Poetry, will be able to supplement each others' abilities, and to support and sharpen each others' skills. Enjoy this book, and watch for more!

**What are you reading at the moment?**

Bills! They just keep coming!

**What's your worst habit?**

I refuse to answer that - my husband has a list!

**Any bushrangers in your family tree?**

Have you ever heard of "Captain Daylight"? I'm sure he was seen climbing our family tree at some stage.

**What to you consider the most important invention of the last century?**

My hair dryer, and my Tambo Teddy - I don't leave home without them.

**What's your dream job?**

I think I am in my dream job - working together in our own business "Bush Wookatook".

**What's your least favourite food?**

Liver. Yuk!

**Which three people would you invite for dinner?**

A cleaner to help clean up before dinner, a chef to cook the most fabulous meal, and my husband Graham for company.

**What one item would you want if you were stranded on a deserted island?**

My hair dryer - with batteries, of course.

**What would you do if you had \$1,000,000?**

Firstly, pay off all those bills, and with what's left I'd buy a new pair of boots.

**What's your favourite movie?**

Grease.



Dear Editor

On Wednesday 22nd March, June and I loaded up the van, (*in pouring rain I might mention*) and headed off for a visit to meet Betty Walton at the Tintaldra Store on the Upper Murray. The trip was uneventful except that between Albury and Tintaldra we had to thread our way through a herd of dairy cows. I swear that every one of those animals had upset tummies and the mess on the car and van had to be seen to be believed, (might be the subject of a future poem).

But I digress. The purpose of the visit was to meet Betty and join her at a lunch with a Senior's bus group from Wagga. Bet served up jumbuck stew, damper with cocky's joy and billy tea. After lunch we had some music lead by Murray Reeves and then Bet and I got stuck into some poetry. Amongst others Betty performed her Jack Riley Heritage Award winning poem "Regret". This is a beautiful part of the country: if you get the chance take in the scenery, pop in to say hello to Betty. Then June and I moved on to Corryong, to meet up with Jan Lewis and the Top of the Murray Poets and Storytellers group. This group is in the middle of organising the poetry events at the forthcoming Man from Snowy River Festival and Jan is well into the fray.

We had some interesting discussions concerning the events and it was good to get an insight into the amount of work involved. Next day we met at the pub for a poetry lunch and it was good to meet and swap work with local poets. Our thanks to Jan and Lawrie Sheridan for arranging this special meeting for us. As a result of this visit, June and I will be returning to Corryong for the festival. Again we found the country hospitality wonderful and we really recommend that any poets on the move should take the time to contact the local groups.

*June and Ted Webber*

Hi Jennifer

The John O'Brien Bush Festival in March was great fun again this year. The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club put on a very friendly get together on Friday night and set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Our good friend Noel Stallard returned as John O'Brien, much to the delight of the many who enjoy the poetry from "Around the Boree Log". The brekkies attracted capacity audiences and were admirably hosted by Frank Daniels, Graeme Johnson, Gary Lowe and Shirley Friend. I hope all had a good time and look forward to next March and meeting up with festival friends again.

*Kind regards to all, Julie Briggs, Coordinator.*

Dear Editor

I have an old poetry book - the front and back are missing. Can anyone tell me who wrote it? It seems that the title may be "Why Doherty Died" because it appears below all the pictures. Some of the poems in the books are "Simple and Pure", "Football at Gulligalore", "All the Same to Max", "Liza", The Ballot at Bumberoo, "Moods of the Bush" and more.

*Thank-you, Olive Shooter, Allora, Qld*

Dear Editor

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival in Winton over Easter. As this was only the 2nd bush poetry event I have attended, I was thrilled to meet many poets that I have only read about through the pages of the ABPA Newsletter. All those that I met made me feel welcome and I now understand the camaraderie that exists in the bush poetry movement.

As an inexperienced performer I was particularly happy to obtain tips and hints on performing from other, more experienced poets. These poets can be sure that I will take their suggestions on board and try to do them justice!

To all my new friends - I hope to meet you again someday soon.

*Norah Vinson, Charters Towers, Qld*

# On My Soapbox

Your contributions to "On My Soapbox" are welcomed. Please keep to a maximum of 300 words, and include your full name. Preference will be given to short, neatly typed letters or emails.



Dear Editor

I made my debut as a Bush Poet at Surat in August 1999, at the age of 60. A week later, I attended Bobby Millers' Poets Workshop and joined the ABPA. I then joined a club named I.T.C. (International Training in Communication) to give me more confidence to recite my poems. A club like this may help other people such as I.

I have since been to Tamworth with a poem and have sent in a few written poems to various places. I love it and look forward to our newsletter each month.

On my first day at I.T.C. it just happened there was a Poets Corner segment, but on reading the agenda, each person was to read 6 to 10 lines of their own poem but, as my poems had that many verses, someone suggested I write something - "Write about ITC", she said - so this is what I came up with before the meeting started.

I.T.C.

I made my debut as a poet  
In a little town in the west,  
The subject was about the bush  
The place I like the best,  
So now I'm here at I.T.C.  
To learn to speak with ease,  
And try my hardest to control  
The knocking of my knees.

*Mary E Mott, Sth Stradbroke Island, Qld*

Dear Editor

In reference to bad language in Bush Poetry - well, for my part I would suggest that if it's bad language, then it's bad poetry. Thus it should be treated as such.

But that is not to say that swearing does not have a place in poetry, in fact to a degree, the occasional minor swear word is essential if we want to get to the heart of this subject that is bush poetry.

I was brought up around the Hunter Valley, a hard coal mining and farming district, not known for its virtuous folk. So there are many tales that deal with sexuality and the circumstances that surround it. Not pornographic filth, but a multitude of scenarios intertwining themselves into so many tales that deal with all facets of this, that is the most basic subject in our world.

Consequently I have written quite a few poems using this very funny medium. I think for me and my poetry it would show a lack of literary ability and a chronic case of absent imagination to use smut words while there are so many great words in this wonderful English language available for us to use.

And, coupled with that tremendous tongue in cheek subtlety that is our own lingo, the chemistry that is potentially created is awesome. There are so many truly gifted poets out there that it would be a pity to stifle their ability by not allowing them to give reference to the most basic subject on Earth. (Clean Rude) is an artform in it's own right and deserves a place in our industry. Ask the Naked Poets, they are masters of this said art, and their success is well recorded. Not filth, but a carefully constructed tale that accepts the fact that things do happen.

*Yours sincerely, Craig A. Gascoigne, Singleton, NSW*





## FROM OUR ROVING REPORTERS

*Dear Readers*

This comes to you from Elizabeth, SA.

We are just beginning to come to grips with the wealth of material that is out there in this country for anyone wanting to write it down.

For example, we visited a tiny town on the great NW bend of the Murray River. Morgan has a population of 400, and an incredible history back through the paddle-steamer era. It was the link between the rail from Adelaide, and the mighty Murray paddleboats, servicing an enormous area of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales from about 1850.

The man who owns the "Mayflower" an old paddleboat built in 1854, has a wealth of information about its owners, and what it has seen through, and a couple we met through the Lions Club also have an incredible knowledge of the local area and the people and stories of the past.

Then a couple of days ago we came across the National Motor Museum, hiding in the tiny town of Birdwood, 150 or so km from Adelaide, population again about 400. What a tremendous collection and the stories you find in places like these. No self-respecting poet could possibly be without something to write.

In Mount Gambier there was just so much to see and do ... like everywhere. We went shopping as well, and here's the result:

### Six Legged Chooks

We bought ourselves a packaged chook,

For dinner we'd have roast.

We took it home prepared to cook,

And found this chook could boast

Six flaming legs, not two or four,

And so we pondered that;

We wondered how it could have more

Than any dog or cat.

We knew of all the chooks with two -

A commonplace affair,

And they were good to roast or stew;

For feasts you bought a pair.

But chooks with extra legs seemed weird,

They'd look a little strange

And mightn't be as all appeared

If this could somehow change.

A tale of four legg'd birds we'd heard,

They ran about the yard,

But so damn quick the things were blurred,

And catching them was hard.

And soon the whole idea was stopped,

Four legged chooks were banned;

The whole experiment was dropped,

Or so I understand.

Now we were faced with something new,

This flaming chook had six,

It certainly was more to chew;

Our thoughts were in a fix.

Six legged chooks - it might be fun

To watch them prance and skip;

You'd have no trouble catching one -

With all those legs - they'd trip.

Greetings from Port Augusta,

While in South Australia we visited the Magors at Myponga and enjoyed a wonderful time with them. Bob had some extremely important business to attend to during the afternoon, so we stood with him in the goal mouth while he waved his white flags.

From there we crossed to Kangaroo Island for more poetry bookings (Lions Club and 2 schools) and met with Gaynor Bowden whose book "Shack Attack" is selling extremely well to the tourists who flock there. We met many marvellous people, staying on farms and soaking up the atmosphere - more tremendous inspiration here.

We returned to Adelaide and visited the Yorke Peninsula and Barossa Valley. Most people we meet are thrilled to hear Bush Poetry and we have been made very welcome everywhere we go.

At Robe, along the coast, I took a flight - with Captain Boggles - in a Tiger Moth, one of my lifelong dreams. Here is the result:

### The Tiger Moth

With its fabric wings and wires

It has trained a million fliers

In the arts of flying aeroplanes aloft.

Looking flimsy and unsteady -

Gypsy Major engine ready,

It is gentle flying, and in landing, soft.

Standing at the front propellor

Was a flying suited feller,

Who then spun the airscrew round to start it off;

With the Tiger's engine growling

From beneath the metal cowling,

We went trundling over grass towards take-off.

At the fence we did a U-turn

Then rolled forward over lucerne

As the throttle poured the fuel to feed the screw.

The acceleration caught me

And the tiny biplane brought me

Leaping upwards from the ground towards the blue.

We were gently rising upwards

As the wind was rushing backwards

From the airscrew as it clawed into the sky;

Then in straight and level flying

Quite unhindered I was spying

Down on people, town and beaches from on high.

Then we climbed a little higher

To the singing of the wire

Stretched between the wings; we levelled out once more;

Forward throttle with the joystick,

Down we plunged, and then majestic

With the G-force pressing down I felt us soar.

Upside down with earth above us

This way only God could love us

As we looped the loop and raced around the blue;

Standing end on end or diving,

P'raps we may be late arriving,

But I was discounting just how well he flew.

There are people who might hate it,

But I only felt elated

As we aerobatted over Guichen Bay,

And I was a bit down-hearted

As the pair of us were parted,

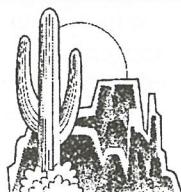
For the Tiger Moth and he had made my day!

*Regards till next month, John Barclay, The Rambling Poet.*



## Living On Indian Time

© Brian Gale, Margaret River, WA



Well I wake up in the morning, the sun is shining bright,  
Scratch myself, stretch and yawn, and peer into the light,  
Most of the day has moved along, it's after half past nine,  
But I don't care, I'm going nowhere, and living on Indian time.

So I get the pen and paper, make a list of things to do,  
Although I know most won't be done, when the day is through.  
But I make this promise here and now, I'll really try my best,  
But Lord above, don't you know, I really need my rest.

Then I light my fire, cook my breakfast, and put my things away,  
Then find I've got a six-pack left, and there goes another day.  
And so life goes by slowly, kinda drifts in a sort of daze,  
But it's healthy, and it's normal, when you're living the Indian ways.

You never hear of heart attacks from working much too fast,  
They coast along without a care, they're really made to last.  
What won't be done tomorrow, is sure to be someday,  
So get in tune, listen to the wind, it'll all turn out ok.

If you haven't lived close to the earth, like the Shuswap, Cree and such,  
You've missed the meaning of life itself, and never know how much.  
So don't try to change the Cherokee, or those Métie pals of mine,  
They're not really slow, man don't you know, they're living on Indian time.

### Hi everyone,

Here's a rundown on the Man From Snowy River Festival held 14 – 16<sup>th</sup> April in Corryong. The Autumn Break arrived, but we were wonderfully supported by Poets and reciters whose oilskins & hats got a run for their money!

Our Competition had a total of \$2100 prizemoney and here are the results –

#### Written

U/17 Billy Staughton, Jingellic "Life in the High Country"

Open – Ellis Campbell, Dubbo – "Save Our Man"

#### Performance

U/17 - Luke Netherwood, Koetong - "The Brumby Chase"

Original - Colin Milligan, Benalla – "A Mate Like Him"

Traditional – Ted Webber, Narellan – "An Old Master"

Yarn – Brian Blakeman, Wairewa – "The Good Oil"

Banjo's MFSR poem – Jim Angel, Narrandera

Instrumental – 'Crackenback' group, Upper Murray – "Spirit of Mountains medley"

Original Song – John Memory, Beechworth "We Were Never Men"

Jack Riley Heritage Award for best original poem, yarn or song - John Memory

Clancy's Choice Award for best overall performer – Don Anderson, Leeton

Our main venue was Banjo's Block in the middle of town. This was more popular than ever this year and Ian, Di & Tessa Simpson made a hit as hosts with their food, cuppas and music. The weather was unplanned but people were fantastically patient during concerts where the main objective was to keep the sound equipment dry!

Our 'Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers' group worked hard - Lawrie Sheridan was in charge of the sound and did it well. Ken McKimmie, Betty Walton, Barbara Pritchard and Howard Gadd, Lowanna Sheridan, Warwick Patterson and Linton Vogel did a variety of jobs all weekend.

M.C's Ron Blyton and Reg Phillips (Yackandandah) and judges Dale O'Connell (Melbourne), Marilyn Webster, Clare Ferguson, Geoffrey Graham and Lawrie competently handled a six hour competition

## While My Billy Boiled

© Vivienne Ledlie, Alexandra Hills, Qld

I put the billy on to boil,  
Relaxing by the creek,  
And wondered how it might have been  
When swagmen walked this beat.

No billy with a spout and lid  
To rest amidst their fire;  
An old jam tin sufficed their need,  
Hung by a piece of wire.

Some days they'd tramp for miles before  
They'd stop along the track  
To boil the billy, rest a while,  
These swaggies from outback.

All earthly goods rolled in their swags -  
A kind of mobile home.  
With tucker bag strung round the neck,  
In search of work they'd roam.

Succumbing to gold fever's grip,  
Some tramped from field to field;  
Few ever made the lucky strike -  
Their destinies were sealed.

Some swaggies with no friend or mate  
Died on the track alone;  
Their bodies wasted where they fell,  
Their origins unknown.

Some had a dog for company,  
Old Blue or Red by name;  
As faithful friends they earned a place  
In Aussie folklore fame.

These musing cast their spell and I  
Waltzed with Matilda free,  
Until the boiling billy roused  
Me from my reverie.



marathon for 42 items. Several visiting poets and friends pitched in and helped - thanks so much!

Ron also compered the Fun Night at the Brumby Bar. Raffle prizes were donated by Royal Melbourne Show (2 X '1000 Campfires' editions won by Ted Webber, & D. Patrick, Corryong), 2 of my books, books and a tea-towel by Neil Hulm, a CD by Brian Lee and a tape by Graeme Johnston..

The trophies for Jack Riley's Heritage & Clancy's Choice were crafted by Dave Bennetts, and the other awards were recycled council guide posts, cut by Ken and finished by Lawrie.

Poetry was featured across the festival program - in 'Riley's Ride, the 'Re-enactment' and the 'Launch' at Jack Riley's grave and Geoffrey Graham's 'taster' and 'The Man From Ironbark'. Neil Hulm ran a Poet's night at the Bottom Pub with 'Silver Brumby' awards and Guy McLean charmed the crowds in the 'Challenge' arena with horsemanship and poetry.

The Poetry events are very different from the horse events, and we provided excellent entertainment, opportunities for walkups and most importantly, Banjo's Block is an accessible meeting place for locals and visitors to start or renew friendships at no cost.

Even though much volunteer time and energy was given, there's still lots of room for more people to be involved. We're already planning to build on this for next year's festival on April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jan Lewis, Cudgewa

02 60774332. (T.O.M.P.A.B.S)



This poem was awarded equal first place (with Peter Hanbury) in the Traditional Section of the John O'Brien Poetry Competition.

*On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 1998, the Sydney Morning Herald reported that bureaucrats of the Department of Agriculture and Treasury, had done away with droughts and flood. They would now be recorded as "changes in seasonal outlook".*

## Seasonal Outlooks?

© Ken Dean, Marrangaroo, NSW

When our sheep are slowly dyin' beside the water holes,  
And kangaroos have gathered at our gate with begging bowls,  
The barley's all gone missing and galahs have got the wheat,  
Our bore is blowing bubbles, then our pumps admit defeat,  
It hasn't rained for two long years, the creek is running dust,  
Bank managers are hinting that we're awful close to bust,  
The kids are looking scrawny, the wife is feelin' crook  
It's not a drought, just a change in "seasonal outlook".

Emus are complaining, this hot ground burns their feet,  
Who can really blame them in this never ending heat,  
We're buying feed and water to keep our stock alive,  
But if the banks don't back us, then nothing will survive  
The sky remains an endless blue, there's just no sign of rain,  
Winds are shifting to the west and raising dust again.  
Bureaucrats keep saying, though things seem really crook,  
It's not a drought, just a change in "seasonal outlook".

Now at last the rains have come, the creek is two mile wide,  
Our sheep are learning breaststroke, and doin' it with pride,  
Water lapping round the house, me chooks are up the tree,  
The bridge to town's been washed away, gone on a little spree  
Cruising down the river, headin' South Australia's way.  
An Army chopper's come to lift the wife and kids away,  
I'll keep me little chin up, I don't want to be mistook  
It's not a flood, just a change in "seasonal outlook".

Now the "seasonal waters" at last have drained away,  
A million hungry mozzies have found a place to play,  
Mud's above me gum boots, our septic's on the blink,  
The way me tractor's coughin' could drive a man to drink.  
Looking on the bright side, me dear wife's comin' home,  
She'll have a little word to say, her house is full of loam.  
The Minister assured us when he flew out to look,  
It's not a flood, just a change in "seasonal outlook".

Now all you country people it's time to celebrate,  
Stand up and cheer, clap your hands as you appreciate  
What them bureaucrats have done for simple country folk,  
They bunged us on computer, then with a 'delete' stroke,  
Did away with locust plagues, then with floods and drought,  
I'm sure you'll all feel better to know without a doubt,  
Spite of rain or lack of it, here in their minute book  
It's not a problem, just a change in "seasonal outlook".

**BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC**  
**BUNDY MUSTER JULY 7TH, 8TH & 9TH**  
**COMPETITIONS: OPEN, INTERMEDIATE,**  
**NOVICE, JUNIOR & UNDER 12'S**  
**ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM:**  
**BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY INC.,**  
**P.O. BOX 4281, SOUTH BUNDABERG**  
**QLD 4670**  
**ENQUIRIES: JOAN 07 41529624 OR**  
**SANDY 07 41514631**

## A Loser's Tale - It Ain't Fair

© Geoff McFarland, Glen Innes, NSW

Strange things can happen in a town, things that I do not choose.  
So listen and then tell me please, why do I always lose?  
The people of the hippy town live at a slower place,  
And to the passing tourist it seems such a peaceful place.

I'd come down from the mountain side content to spend my pay  
And meet with people in a pub, the normal sort of way.  
The local folk were all friendly, but on this summer's day  
Never a man showed in the street, it caused me some dismay.

I walked into the town's top pub, no person was in sight,  
Except the silent old bar maid, she wasn't all that bright.  
I ordered beer with chasers, just to get an early start,  
And after just a few of these I had a change of heart

And went in search of company, if need I'd search the town,  
But when I stepped out on the street I nearly fell right down,  
In the short time within that pub a strange thing had occurred.  
One leg had grown much longer - I thought it was absurd.

Instead of walking a straight line, my path went round in curves,  
Which led me to a little pub, a place to calm my nerves.  
It only had a narrow front - it wasn't there last year,  
But inside it was twice as wide, a place with nice cold beer.

My legs were still uneven so I sat down with my ales  
And waited for some company, someone to hear my tales.  
Then through the door two men appeared, they looked like they  
were twins,  
They dressed alike, they walked alike, the same lop sided grins.

Then two more came, another two, then followed by two more,  
As each pair came into the room they followed the same score.  
As one looked left, his mate looked right, each pair the same  
clothes wore,  
They walked in perfect unison, I ne'er seen this before.

I thought I'd join them for a yarn, a chance to talk some more,  
But whereas eight had entered, now I counted only four.  
I got a beer but sat down at a table meant for two  
And faced a bloke I'd met before - his face I thought I knew.

I looked at him, he looked at me, he always met my eye,  
And as I spoke he moved his lips, I really wondered why.  
I held my beer in my left hand, he held his in his right,  
We raised our glass in unison, it was an eerie sight.

He never spoke but nodded to agree with all I said,  
For someone to agree with me was sure to turn my head.  
Returning to the table with a drink held in each hand,  
I noticed that my new friend held two beers of the same brand,

But as I bent to set them down, the floor gave a quick tilt,  
I tried real hard to set them right, I didn't want them spilt.  
My friend and I both bending down, bumped heads a mighty whack,  
The sound that I remember was the sound of a loud crack.

The room now seemed but half the width that it had been before,  
And where my new found friend had sat was broken glass galore,  
And standing angrily near me, the landlord huge and tall  
Insisted that I pay him for the broken mirrored wall.

**Is the Olympic Torch coming through your area? Come on, Bush Poets, and record this historic event in verse. 'Country on the Tweed' are running a written Bush Poetry competition with the theme "The Olympic Torch". For more details, see page 14.**



# AUSTRALIAN

## BUSH POETS

### ASSOCIATION INC

IS CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS  
OF INTEREST, IN WRITING,  
FROM CLUBS OR GROUPS FOR  
THE ORGANISING AND HOLDING  
OF THE  
YEAR 2001 AUSTRALIAN  
BUSH POETRY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS.

PLEASE APPLY BEFORE 30TH  
JUNE 2000 TO  
THE SECRETARY, ABPA INC,  
MS 765 ALLORA QLD 4362

### Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc.

Poets afternoon at the Eskdale Pub. A lamb roast and a crackling open fire will provide a top venue for some Bush Poetry and yarn spinning on a Sunday afternoon late in May. A firm date is yet to be fixed. Further details, contact Reg on 02 6040 2508.

S.M.B.P.C. Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held in Wagga Wagga, on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Union Club Hotel, 122 Baylis Street. We will commence the meeting at 4:30pm after which a meal will be available (if enough bookings) and entertainment will follow after 7pm, in the room upstairs. Enquiries phone Sue on 02 6025 3847 (leave message if unattended).

### MY MUM

You never know what you have lost  
'till it's no longer there.

The bubble bath. The cooking smells.  
The shiny silver hair.

The songs she sang, she knew the words,  
But rarely sang in tune.

The cups of tea, the talks we had  
on a lazy afternoon.

They say a child's a special gift,  
I know that's true for some.

But you wouldn't have a special child  
without a special mum.

And as the years go passing by  
I hope that I will be,

Someone's very special mum  
like my mum was to me.

© Anne Cremin, Heathcote NSW

# I'll Just Write

I thought I'd write a poem to send in for publication in the A.B.P.A. monthly magazine.

I'd learn it off by heart, perhaps, and be a big sensation and the best performing poet ever seen.

But I found as I was pacing back and forth across the floor, it was hard to find a topic, or a joke that wasn't used by Paterson, Ron Stevens, Bob Magor, Blue the Shearer, or the Mullumbimby Bloke.

There's Neil McArthur's *Thrashing Stick* and Bobby Miller's *Will*, Bill Hay controls a Queensland cattle train, and Charlee Marshall's *Wash the Dog*. I hear them laughing still. Glenney Palmer *fer – fer – fancies* it might rain.

Wile Terry Regan *kangaroos the seat* and shows the way, Carmel Randle tells how outback mothers cope, and Ellis Campbell writes a brand new poem every day, Michael Darby goes to Rome and meets the Pope!

*And the stockwhips wake the echoes* when Noel Cutler has the floor. They love him when where's poems in the park. And Geoffrey Graham takes off on another whirlwind tour to Tamworth, with *The Man From Ironbark*.

Marc Gliori tells us how to keep the *Amway Man* at bay while Bruce Simpson slips the bridle off *Gold Star*. Chris Webster does a duet with *The Goondiwindi Grey* and we see the *vision splendid* from afar.

So I thought that I would scrap this whole idea of spoken verse, find a venue ... and I'd take my mates along, just relax ... sit back and listen, as the champion rave and curse. No butterflies, and life would be a song.

But Frank Daniel was in trouble when he fell into the grave, Liz Ward then told the story of *The Lamp*.

There were yarns about bush characters like *Sweeney, Dad and Dave* and Kelly Dixon rode the cattle camp.

## John O'Brien Bush Festival

### 17-19<sup>th</sup> March 2000

Narranderra is known in local tourist info brochures as the "Tree-mendous" town due to the proliferation of shrubbery adorning its wide country streets. Well, the trees were green, the crowds were keen and the poets, well they were just serene as Narranderra once again hosted the John O'Brien Bush Festival.

Kicking off on the Friday night with the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Competition at the Murrumbidgee Hotel (see separate report on this competition) the poets and the punters enjoyed the warm camaraderie that comes from fine food and verbose verse.

Featured poets Graeme Johnson, Garry Lowe, Frank Daniel, Shirley Friend and Noel Stallard popped up all over the place leading the avid fans a merry poetic chase through the finest buildings in the Shire.

From the Poets Breakfasts at the Bowling Club and New Criterion Hotel to street shows during the main parade, Bush Poetry was all the go. (All venues being absolutely packed by the way.)

Garry and Graeme featured in their own show at the historic "Derindi" Restaurant/Homestead on Saturday afternoon, as did Shirley and Frank at the Saturday night Bush Dance. Noel Stallard held the fort at the Sunday arvo Irish singalong in the Charles Sturt Hotel.

Other artists sharing their talents with the people included Barry Walker, Jim "Heavenly Body" Angel, John Kerner, Johnny Johanson, John Murphy, Bill Pickles, Reg Phillips, Don Anderson and Kathy Edwards amongst others.

Your Festival Scribe, Henry Albury



Noel Stallard in a cassock did his *Father Hartigan*,  
John Major reminisced old mustering days  
Tim McLoughlin rode the tailboard of the old spring cart again  
as he took us down *The Road to Danahey's*.

While *Cheryl's going feral* up at *Weelabarrabak*  
Jim Haynes has got a thousand yarns to tell.  
Greg Scott hates paying taxes on his septic down the back  
and Jack Drake cops the visitors from hell.

And my mates were all enraptured with this new-style Aussie verse.  
They laughed, and cried, as each new artist shone  
Then a hush came o'er the venue, like a zipper on a purse  
and we knew someone of note was coming on.

And a shearer bloke from Portland was announced to have his say  
Milton Taylor, champion twice, and king of all.  
He helped promote Bush Poetry to where it is today  
We could not believe the silence in the hall!

He took us through the shearing sheds where swagmen used to slave  
You could almost smell the dust, and sweat, and flies.  
He changed from *Mrs Mulligan*, to a lonely toddler's grave  
and *Kiley's Run* brought tears to grown men's eyes.

Then a young bloke in a *Driza-Bone*, a grin from ear to ear,  
his *Akubra* tipped a little to the right.  
You could tell he was a horseman by his R.M. Williams gear  
but he wasn't riding Cureo tonight.

He had drawn a horse called *Turbulence* from Murray Hartin's string  
He was born and bred outback on Acro Plain.  
When he snorted, bucked and twisted, you could hear the rafters ring  
and the man who won the belt was ... Guy McLean!

It was then I realised that I would never be a gun,  
so I'll join the club ... like Spud, The Chief and Langer.  
Forget the old adrenaline rush, the champs can have their fun!  
I'LL JUST WRITE! ... and leave the turbulence in the hanger!

## Millmerran Bush Poetry Group

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Millmerran Bush Poet's Round-up is now another month closer, and our group is working flat out to make it another success.

The Yarn-Spinning competition on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7pm will be held in the Community Hall on the Rural Estates SW of town. There will be \$100 first prize. Bev Lacey from the Toowoomba Chronicle's "Beating Around the Bush" will be on the panel of judges. A BBQ has been organized and a supper will be available later in the evening.

At 10am on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Millmerran Cultural Centre, the Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Duo competitions will commence. A sausage sizzle and soft drinks will be available during the day.

At 7pm in the Millmerran Memorial Sportsman's Club we will hold a Poet's Charity Dinner and State of Origin show. Feature poets will include Ray Essery 'The Mullumbimby Bloke' and Gary Fogerty 'The Millmerran Mongrel'.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 9.30am, in the NEW Millmerran Village Caravan Park Complex, the Lion's Club will cook for the Poet's Breakfast which will be followed by the Open Competition and Brawl, culminating with the Trophy presentations by the Shire Mayor, Mr Paul Antonio. The owners of the new complex are also sponsoring the "Over-All" Champion this year.

MOST IMPORTANTLY again this year, because of the coal mine and the power station, accommodation will need to be booked well in advance. Accommodation is available at the Ram's Head Hotel - Ph Ben or Greg 07 4695 1488, The Millmerran Caravan Park - Ph Kev or Dawn 07 4695 1572, The Millmerran Motel - Ph (07) 4695 1411, The Millmerran Village Caravan Park - Ph Phil or Bernadette 07 4695 1332. Both van parks have powered and non-powered sites, and over-night vans. The new park is set in "Park Like" surrounds and has air-conditioned self-contained units, and is walking distance from town.

More next month, see you at the Round-up.

Submitted by Kev J Barnes, Millmerran, Qld

## Mother's Day Sentiments

© Beth Bashford, Berrigan, NSW

*The day to honour our Mother is near,  
the day we pay homage to a lady so dear.  
This wonderful person who kept you so happy,  
from feeding you well to changing your nappy.  
Without her of course you'd not be here,  
her love and guidance abundantly clear  
that you were the reason she now was a Mother,  
she loved you more dearly than any other.  
Through tears and teens she gave you support,  
with undying love she nurtured and taught  
the facts of life and what they stand for,  
as you hungered for knowledge, she gave you more.  
Yes, Mother was teacher and soul mate as well,  
as the bond grew stronger, all could tell  
that a Mothers strength is a love so 'cool',  
—I'll bet she cried when you started school!  
Now as you look back o'er the years gone by,  
you realise how quickly that time does fly.  
So wait not for Mothers' Day to arrive,  
—love her all three hundred and sixty five.*

## The "Great Dunny Classic"

The third "Great Dunny Classic" held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, was an unqualified success! The venue was the Dunedoo Golf Club and approximately 100 locals were treated to a night of excellent poetry. My resident spies tell me that the event was the talk of the town. Most comments centred around how well the night was organised and the high standard of the poetry and presentations.

The organisation was due to the hard work put in by Sue and Maria on behalf of the Dunedoo District Development Board. Local poets Gwen Turner, Gordon Bryant, Jean Heslin, Jane Trudgett, Garry Boyd, Neil Carroll, and Dixie McCauley were joined by visitors Milton Taylor, Ron Stevens, Ellis Campbell, Neil Hulm, Bob Skelton and myself. Judges Rob Ingram, Penny Stevens and Margaret Johnston worked hard and decided on the following results:

### Novice:

Jane Trudgett with "The Ginger Cat", a very moving tribute to her late father.

### Traditional:

Milton Taylor with the "Neverknow Hotel"

### Original:

Ted Webber with "The Old Farm Ute"

### Humorous:

Milton Taylor with "Look Before You Leap"

### Original with Dunedoo theme:

Ellis Campbell with "Don't Talk To Me About Dunedoo"

The judges awarded the "Great Dunny Classic" trophy to Milton for his overall best of the night performance of "Look Before You Leap".

Incidentally, Dunedoo takes its name from an Aboriginal word for "swans", the "oo" sound giving the plural. A literal translation could be "place of many swans" and the town has adopted the black swan as its emblem.

Submitted by Ted Webber



## Palma Rosa Poets

A fabulous 'Poet Fest' was held at Palma Rosa on Wednesday night, 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Eight of our Palma Rosa poets gave the audience a wonderful evening of performance poetry.

This was another of our recording nights for the "Palma Rosa Poets Live" CD, and if this is the standard of poetry to be presented on the CD then we certainly will have a winner.

My thanks to all these fabulous performers: Glenny Palmer,

Robert Raftery, Wally Finch, Stuart Nivison, Anita Reed, George Lovejoy, Ron Selby, and Father John O'Brien (alias Noel Stallard).

We are now all looking forward to our next 'Palma Rosa Poets' evening to be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, when we showcase the great Frank Daniel from Canowindra in NSW. Frank will entertain us with his unique style of poetry ably supported by our own fabulous singer-songwriter Mark Tempamy. Another wonderful evening of poetry and song. Enquiries - Trisha Anderson (07) 3268 3624

*Submitted by Trisha Anderson, Hendra, Qld*

## 'Ky Bushies' - Kyabram Bush Verse Group, Victoria

What a day on Rodeo Weekend! The Ky Bushies entered a float in the Annual Procession. It was hilarious! We didn't win a prize, but we made a lot of friends. We had 'swaggies' and 'oldies' and pretty girls, a dog, a billy, and best of all Molly Sparks riding an electric horse (and electric scooter). It was a great day.

We had a visit from Shirley and Cedric Friend in March, on their way to Port Fairy. Betty and Mick Olle hosted a BBQ and we had a great night with the Friends. On April 4<sup>th</sup> we met at the Ky Fauna Park for our regular meeting. Our theme was 'Circus' and 'Dogs'. There were quite a few 'Shaggy Dog' yarns and poems. We had a couple of musical items from Les James and a most interesting guest, Mr Merv Wright, and ex-gun-shearer who had travelled the outback from southern Victoria to Winton Qld. Merv kept everyone interested

with his great yarn of the tough times of the 'good old days'. We had verse from Des Guinnane, John Johansen, Herb McCrum, Jim Jeffries, Betty Olle, Joan Hill, Molly Sparks, Grace Leamon, and 'Skew Wiff' Watt. Les Parkinson and Bob Drysdale spun a couple of top yarns.

After the Aussie Championships at Mulwala on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>, we are having a big night at the Ky Club with Ray Essery and Neil McArthur as special guests. So if you are coming to the Championships, why not stay on and come to Kyabram on the 11<sup>th</sup>. You will be more than welcome to a great night.

Come to Ky on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May,  
A special night with Neil and Ray,  
You'll bust your sides from corny jokes,  
You'll die just laughing at these blokes,  
"So come on down!", give it a try,  
"Come on down!" to the club at Ky.

*Submitted by Grahame Watt, Kyabram, VIC*

## Surat's Battered Bugle Bush Verse Competition 2000

Our Cobb & Co Battered Bugle Competition for Bush Verse is held on the weekend closest to 14<sup>th</sup> August each year. The RNA had graciously moved its Brisbane Exhibition Bush Verse Competition so it would no longer clash with our dates. Unfortunately, because of the structure of the calendar for the Year 2000, we will again clash. Consequently, for the Year 2000, we have decided to revert to the rules of our first competition in 1992. There will still be a Cobb & Co Festival on Saturday August 12<sup>th</sup> but without performance Bush Verse.

We are offering Prize money of 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$150, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$100. This is an OPEN Competition. A separate JUNIOR Section (under 17 years), with prize money of 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20 will be conducted. The rules state that it has to be 'Bush Verse' and the theme is to be 'Cobb & Co and the Centenary of Federation'. Really it is reflecting on our Cobb & Co history in the year 2001. The entries close with The Secretary, PO Box 8, Surat, Qld, 4417, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000. Winners will be contacted by phone and results will be in the ABPA Newsletter and our local Community Link. Our Cobb & Co Changing Station Complex has received a Centenary of Federation Grant to set up a permanent display depicting a 1901 Change Station with the Coach, horses, tack room, passenger dining room and horsechange yard, etc. The last Cobb & Co coach in Australia ran from Surat to Yuleba on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1924. Permission will be sought from all entrants to have their entries included in a commemorative poetry book which would be on display and sale to help defray some maintenance costs of this exciting Change Station exhibition. We plan to have some Bush Poets at the Year 2001 opening of this exhibition. However, no opening date has been set as yet.

*Submitted by Jan Ritchie, Surat, Qld*

## Belated Report from TAMWORTH

Well-known poets George Lovejoy, Noel Stallard and Carmel Dunn judged the Bush Poets of Australia School Students Performance Poetry Competition at the Tamworth City Bowling Club on Friday 21 January.

Narnia Bookshop proprietor Patrick O'Connor presented a total of \$1,000 worth of book orders, on behalf of Narnia Bookshop (Peel Street Tamworth) and the Lynne Darby Memorial Awards.

### Placegetters were:

Primary Schools	1	Elissa Renton
	2	Sam Hile
	3	Jessie Brown
	4	Kristel Strauss
Secondary Schools	1	Stuart Nivison
	2	Corinne Whitman
	3	Jane Beeke

Co-ordinator Carol Stratford described the standard as even higher than 1999, and thanked the judges and the directors and staff of the Tamworth City Bowling Club.

On Saturday 22 January and Sunday 23 January, many talented poets donated their time to raise a total of \$2,700 for the Salvation Army (Tamworth) and the Northcott Society (formerly the NSW Society for Crippled Children. Similar concerts will be conducted for these organisations in 2001.

A total of 36 Poets performed superbly in the series of Old Masters and Living Masters concerts.

The Living Masters - Janine Haig, Liz Ward, Milton Taylor, Ellis Campbell and Ron Stevens - profoundly impressed their audiences with the quality of their material and their presentations.

Carol Stratford praised the helpfulness and reliability of all participants.

Comper for the duration Michael Darby described the eight days of poetry as a wonderful artistic success, and expressed confidence that the venue would become financially viable by 2001.



## Murrumbidgee Poetry Competition at Narranderra John O'Brien Festival

Around 60 people attended the Murrumbidgee Hotel at Narranderra on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2000 for the Murrumbidgee Bush Poetry Competition sponsored by the Murrumbidgee Hotel and the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc.

The beer garden came alive to the sounds of Bush Poetry and the evening kicked off before we dined with a few poems from Garry Lowe, Shirley Friend, Frank Daniel and Graeme Johnson. These poets didn't enter the contest, but added to the evening's entertainment. Frank assisted with the compering, whilst Graeme was busy as one of the judges. The other two judges were Sue Gleeson and Robert Norris,

a schoolteacher from Narranderra.

After a barbecue, the Poetry competition proceeded with nine entrants. The winners were announced by Sue Gleeson, and presented by Graeme Johnson. The Competition was won by Don Anderson, with Reg Phillips coming second. The judges awarded Highly Commended to Jim Angel, Kathy Edwards, and Vin Schiller for their performances.

Thanks to Jim Angel for organising the venue, and to all those who assisted in so many ways. A great weekend was had by all!

*Submitted by Reg Phillips, Lavington, NSW*

### Portside Poets and Players - Poets in the Pub

Congratulations to Ed and Margaret Parmenter for organising the inaugural "open mike" meeting of the Portside Poets and Players at Coffs Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup> March. What a great afternoon it turned out to be, with 42 people being entertained by almost continuous poetry from 1pm to around 5pm. Two intermission breaks of about 20 minutes each provided some lubrication for the throat and a chance to meet others. Ed was comper for the afternoon and Margaret provided the cakes and slices for intermission.

Featured poet was Barry Jacka of Yarranbella, who set a high standard for the other 14 readers and reciters with his amusing yarns and great verse. Travellers from distant places were Tom and Maureen Stonham - Nambucca Heads, Murray Suckling - Dorriggo, Bill Kearns - Grafton, Keith Haycraft - Urunga, and Ray Halliday - Yamba, and all felt that the travel time was well spent for a full afternoon of great poetry. For my mind, the highlight of the afternoon was Christine McNicholl's recitation of "Clancy of the Overflow". She treated the poem with great insight and passion and I'm sure her performance gave many people a greater understanding of Banjo's work.

The venue for the afternoon was the Fitzroy Hotel, and everyone agreed that the management was most generous with the provision of an exclusive room with podium and microphone. We look forward to their continued support in years to come. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of many such annual meetings to promote Bush Poetry in the Coffs Harbour area. So, all you interested listeners and performing poets, keep an eye out for this venue about the same time next year.

*Submitted by Ray Halliday, Yamba, NSW*

## The John O'Brien Poetry & Prose Competition 2000 - Results

### *a facet of the John O'Brien Bush Festival Narranderra*

#### Section 1 Awards for Verse

Open Class 1 Traditional -	Equal 1st Prize Ken Dean, Marrangaroo NSW	<i>Seasonal Outlooks</i>
	Equal 1st Prize Peter Hanbury, Alstonville NSW	<i>The Day Jack Kept His Head</i>
	Highly Commended - Ken Dean	<i>An Ironbark Log</i>
	Highly Commended - Vin Schiller, Deniliquin NSW	<i>Look at That (The Old Home Site)</i>
	Highly Commended - Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW	<i>The Long Wait</i>
Open Class 2 Contemporary -	Highly Commended - Brian Bell	<i>Notches on the Door</i>
	1st Prize - Ian C. Smith, Bairnsdale NSW	<i>Artbeat, NYC</i>
	Highly Commended - Dorothy Spears, Mumbil NSW	<i>Kosovo 1999, River of Lost Souls</i>
	Highly Commended - Frank McMahon, Ainslie ACT	<i>Gates</i>
	Highly Commended - Kevin Gillam, W Leederville WA	<i>On Jetty's End</i>
Open Class 3 Humorous -	Highly Commended - Norman MacLucas, Glenelg SA	<i>Vintage Gift</i>
	1st Prize - Peter Hanbury	<i>The Sitting Poets Society</i>
	Highly Commended - Roy Wheeler, Watson ACT	<i>Goanna Oil</i>
	Highly Commended - Vin Schiller	<i>Stan's Bus</i>
	Highly Commended - Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW	<i>Marooned and Blue</i>
	Highly Commended - Margot Shugg, Bradbury NSW	<i>Once a Bullocky</i>

#### Section 2 Awards for Prose

Open Class 1 Short Story -	1st Prize - Ivy Johnson, Point Lonsdale VIC	<i>Tiger Land</i>
	Highly Commended - Peter Hanbury	<i>As Bobby Sees It</i>
	Highly Commended - John Holton Axedale VIC	<i>Mowing</i>
	Highly Commended - Chris Johnson	<i>In the Shadow of Kilimanjaro</i>
	Highly Commended - Robert J Croker	<i>Travelling Man</i>
Jim Horan Bush Poetry Award-Margot Shugg, Bradbury NSW		<i>Once a Bullocky</i>

Congratulations to all our winners and to all whom entered. Entry forms for next year's competition will be sent to you in September/October this year with entries closing end mid-January 2001.



# POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS



## 2000

- May 5-9 **Australian Bush Poetry Championships**, Yarrowonga/Mulwala Ph 03 5744 1989 or 1800 062260 Fax 5744 3149
- May 24 **Palma Rosa Poets**, Featuring Frank Daniel and Mark Tempary. Ph Thrisha 07 3268 3624
- May 25-28 **Casino Beef Week** Poets Breakfasts 9-11am daily, Cecil Hotel, Casino NSW Ph Ray Essery 02 6684 3817 P14
- May 28 **Ludwig Leichhardt Pageant and Fun Day**, Cecil Plains Q Ph 07 4668 0098 P14
- Jun 16 **Rockhampton Agricultural Society Inc.**, 4th Annual Bush Poetry Championships Ph 07 4926 3148 P14
- Jun 17-18 **Australian Workers Heritage Centre**, Barcaldine Q, Weekend Writers Workshop Ph 07 3224 4838 P14
- Jul 7-9 **Bundy Muster weekend** Performance and written competitions. Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy 07 4151 4631 P14
- Jul 17 Closing Date **Surat's Battered Bugle** written competition. Ph Jan 07 4626 5103 P14
- Jul 22 Closing Date **Hastings Regional 2000 Literary Competition**, Ph Gloria 02 6584 1163 Full details page 15
- Aug 4 Closing Date **Spirit of the Outback** Writing competition. Details page 14
- Aug 18-20 **Country on the Tweed Festival** Poetry from 8am. Enq 20 Scenic Dr Bilambil Hts NSW 2486 Ph 07 55909395 P14
- Aug 19-20 **Camp Oven Festival**. North Pine Country Park, Petrie. Enquiries - John & Patti Coutts 07 3886 1552
- Aug 19-20 **Trundle Bush Tucker Day**. Trundle NSW Ph Frank 02 6344 1477 Fax 02 6344 1962 bushpoet@westserv.net.au
- Sep 1-3 **Millmerran Bush Poet's Round-Up**, Millmerran Qld. Contact Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209 P15

The Gippsland Bush Poets continue to thrive with our financial membership now standing at 24.

Our first quarterly newsletter was published in March and was well received by our members. Editor, Kim Sturgeon, is to be congratulated for putting it all together.

Although our club meets regularly on about a six weekly basis on Thursday nights at the Rosedale Hotel, it has been decided by members to have three or four Sunday afternoon "social meetings" a year. The first of these Sunday afternoon meetings was held at the 'home' of the Gippsland Bush Poets, the Rosedale Hotel, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The afternoon was a great success with four new members joining the club. Bush Poetry was performed by members of the GBP for over four hours. The afternoon was well advertised and members of the public invited to come along. Many residents of the district took up the invitation of free Bush Poetry and a \$5 BBQ lunch.

President of the GBP, Dennis Carstairs, launched his book of original bush poetry, "Listen 'ere ol' mate" at the Briagolong Hotel on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The night was a great success, please read the books for sale advertisement in this newsletter.

I have been reading with interest the debate of payment for bush poetry performances in our Newsletter. The GBP have been asked to perform Bush Poetry at various festivals, dinners and shows around the district. At our last meeting the GBP passed a resolution that a \$100 donation to the club would be required, plus the right to run a raffle. At this stage no organisation or club has refused to pay. I believe this is a very encouraging sign that Bush Poetry is now being



seen as a legitimate form of entertainment and not just 'campfire amusement'.

A few irons are in the fire. The 'Morwell Club' are running a Bush Poetry competition about the time this newsletter will go to print. Although the first year will be fairly basic, the management of the club are keen to expand and turn the event into an annual competition. The prize money being offered is very attractive.

The Tarra Valley Festival is held at Easter each year. Every year has a different theme, and the theme being considered for next year (2001) is Bush Poetry. More news on that as it comes to hand.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (Gippsland Branch) have approached us to do Bush Poetry after their annual dinner this year, and if all goes well would like to turn it into an annual event.

Traditional Bush Poetry is alive and well in Gippsland!

*Submitted by Dennis Carstairs, Stratford, V*

## Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival Report

Starting with the record entries in the BHP Cannington Junior Festival, held on the 19th April, the whole Festival proved an outstanding success! This year 270 children performed Australian Bush Poetry individually, as well as 21 group performances!

Competition was held in School Year Groups, the largest of which, Year 6 - with 61 entries - had to be divided into two separate competitions! All years from 1 to 12 were represented. Medal Winners in each section, from Years 4 to 12, were eligible to compete for the Clover Nolan Primary and Secondary Awards on Easter Monday.

Thanks to the efficiency of the Adjudicators, Bob Miller and Janine Haig, the MCs, Milton Taylor, Graham and Louise Dean, and the Mustering Contractors, Zita Horton, Sandy Lees and Wally Finch, the whole program ran to time in the Winton Shire Hall and Supper Room.

This Junior Festival is, without a doubt, the biggest Junior Festival in Australia. This year it drew entries from Townsville to the Gold Coast, and west to Thargominda and Boulia, and then north to Hughenden, and many towns and station properties in between.

The Little Swaggies' Awards for written poetry again drew over 600 entries. It is pleasing to see the Primary Award go this year to a school in

Melbourne that has had entries in the Awards every year since their inception.

The Senior Festival this year featured a "Laughs, Lies, and Even More Larrikins" Theatre Restaurant with a packed audience. The fun continued even though light rain decided to fall - the venue was the Royal Open Air Theatre! The Concert and Bush Supper on Monday night was held in the Shire Hall, and featured the three finalists in the Outback Oscars Group Awards, and the presentation of this year's Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse to Bob Magor of Myponga, SA.

Persistent light rain through the Festival didn't dampen the spirits of those who fronted "Mulga Bill's Shed" for all competitive and non-competitive events.

A special thanks must go to the new Committee of Vision Winton Inc., David Strang, President, Peter Evert and Charlie Phillott, Vice-Presidents, Ian Jempson, Secretary, and George Frangos, Treasurer, for their tireless efforts on behalf of our Artform. They are truly committed to keeping alive our great Australian Heritage!

*Submitted by Carmel Randle*



# REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

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

## QUEENSLAND

- 1st Monday** **Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop.** Margaret St, Toowoomba Ron Selby 07 4630 1106
- 1st Thursday** **Red Kettle Folk Club.** Mapleton Hotel, Mapleton 8.30-11pm. Poetry and Music. Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st Saturday** **Poets & Musicians at Eumundi Markets** in courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Ph. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 1st 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
- 2nd & 4th Thursday** **Golden Pen Poets.** Old Gympie Town Hall, Gympie 7 pm Ph Phil Morrison 07 5486 1171
- 2nd Friday** **Poets & Mates** 7.30 pm Todd's Coattage, North Pine Country Park, Kurwongbah Ph Wally Finch 07 3886 0747
- 2nd Saturday** **Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.** Contact Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631
- 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
- Last Wednesday** **Millmerran Bush Poetry Group,** 7pm. Millmerran Bakery. Ring "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209.
- Every Wed** **Writers in Townsville** 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Dr, Thuringowa. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
- 1st & 3rd Wed** **Kilcoy Unplugged,** 7.00 p.m. Kilcoy Gardens Motel Restaurant, Gold Coin Entry Ph Graham 07 5497 1045

## NEW SOUTH WALES

- 1st Tuesday** **Tuggerah Lakes Poetry Group.** (except Jan) 7pm The Entrance Leagues Club, 3 Bay Village Road, Bateau Bay.  
Contact Joan Johnson - 02 4332 5318 and Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
- 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 0412 222 690
- 1st Sunday** **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. Phone Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tuesday** **Hunter Bush Poets** - 7pm - Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Wednesday** **Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets,** 7pm April, June, August, October Phone Murray 02 6657 2139
- 2nd Thursday** **Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp.** 8pm 4 Illoura St, Sth Tamworth 02 6766 4164 or 026765 6067
- 2nd Friday** **The Monaro Leisure Club.** 7 pm, Vale St Cooma Bush Poetry and Country Music. Ph Elaine 02 6454 3128
- 2nd Saturday** **Poets in the Club,** Urunga Golf Club, 1-4pm March, May, July and September only. Ring Maureen 02 6568 5269
- 2nd Sunday** **"Interludes"** Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield - Joye Dempsey 02 9797 7575
- 3rd Thursday** **Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers** 7.30pm "The Hideaway" Davison Ln, Picton Liz 02 4677 2044, Vince 4684 1704
- 3rd Friday** **Junee Bush Poetry Group** 7.30pm, Junee Com'ty Cntr, Brian Beasley, PO Box 82, Junee 2663 Ph. 02 6924 1317
- 4th Tuesday** **Poets in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society.** Roches Hotel 7.30pm Ph 02 6642 2772
- 4th Wednesday** **Inverell Wednesday Writers.** 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ph Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
- 4th Thursday** **Queanbeyan Bush Poets.** Poets Lane, Queanbeyan. Phone David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 2nd Last Mon** **Live Poets Society of Great Lakes/Manning Valley.** Meet at 7.30pm in private home  
Ring Jackie 02 6555 3720 or Reid 02 6554 9788 for details of venue each month.
- Last Tuesday** **Spaghetti Poetry Group.** Gee Kwong Restaurant, 197 Mann St, Gosford. Dinner at 6.30, Poetry at 7.30  
Phone Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Thursday** **Writers on the River,** 7pm Caddies Coffee Shop, 2-3 Castlereagh St, Penrith Phone Brian Bell, 02 4739 2219
- Last Friday** **Kangaroo Valley Folk Club.** Bush Poets welcome. Phone Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621
- Last Saturday** **Australian Christian Writers Fellowship,** Hunter Div. Morisset Baptist Church Hall 1.30 - 4pm  
Contact J. Bray - 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Park 2264
- Every 2nd Friday** **Pheasants Hut Folk Club.** Bundeena Ph Yuri 02 9527 0955 or Mob 041 941 2093
- Monthly** **Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers.** Contact Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
- Every 2 months on 2nd Saturday.** **Cornucopia Cafe.** Poets & Folkies Get Together. Old Gladesville Hospital Grounds, Punt Rd.  
Jenny - 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690, or Graeme 02 9874 7653.
- Every 3 months** **Poetic Folk,** 24 Finisterre Ave, Whalan 2770. Ring "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

## VICTORIA

- 1st Monday** **Kyabram & Dist. Bush Verse Gr,** Every 2nd mth, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm Ph. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265
- Monthly, Thursdays, dates vary.** **Gippsland Bush Poets.** Rosedale Hotel, Rosedale, 7.30pm Ph Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 3rd Wednesday** **South Australian Bush Poets.** 7.30 pm Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga Ph/Fax 08 8370 2460
- Last Tuesday** **Whyalla Writers Group.** Phone Colby Maddigan 08 86451771

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- 1st Friday** **WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners,** 7.30pm Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Ph Rusty Christensen 9364 4491

**Editors Note:** Poets from all states and territories are encouraged to let me know when any local poets gatherings may be occurring. If you have a regular get-together, why not advertise it here, **FOR FREE!!!**





# WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS



## AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yarrowonga/Mulwala **Friday 5 May till Tuesday 9 May, 2000**  
Ph: 03 5744 1989 Free Call 1800 062 260 Fax 03 5744 3149

**PALMA ROSA POETS Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**, Featuring Frank Daniel and Mark Tempny. Enq Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624

## LUDWIG LEICHHARDT PAGEANT AND FUN DAY

at Cecil Plains Homestead **28<sup>th</sup> May 2000**

Includes the judging and display of entries in the Written Poetry Competition (for adults), Closing Date 12 May, 2000  
No entry fee. Poetry on the theme - "The Explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt". Prizes: - \$75, \$50, \$25, and certificates

- Conditions
1. Must be original
  2. Copies only to be submitted
  3. Unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines
  4. Personal details (name, address, phone/fax, on a separate form)

Enquiries and Entries to - Cecil Plains Homestead, Leichhardt Poetry Competition, Cecil Plains Q 4407 Phone 07 4668 0098

## CASINO BEEF WEEK

**25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2000**, Cecil Hotel, Casino, NSW

Bush Poets Breakfast 9-11am each morning

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 - 9.30pm 'Bull Yarns'

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2pm Poets Float in street parade

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 9-11am 'New Voices' Bush Poetry Competition

Enquiries - Ray Essery 02 6684 3817

## BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse 2000

Entry Forms available from: Mr. Ross Keppel, Bundaberg Poets Society Inc., P.O. Box 4281, SOUTH BUNDABERG 4670  
Entries close for written competition on **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000**.

## THE ROCKHAMPTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC

presents the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bush Poetry Championships

Rockhampton Showgrounds, **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000**

Junior Traditional, Open Traditional, Yarnspinning, Junior

Original, Open Original. 8.30am Heats - 1.00pm Finals

Certificate and Cash Prizes for finalists placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>

in each category plus overall Junior and Open Champions

Entry forms available from Kath Ireland, 409 Paterson Avenue

North Rockhampton Qld 4701. Phone (07) 4926 3148

Entries close 31<sup>st</sup> May

## AUSTRALIAN WORKERS HERITAGE CENTRE, Barcaldine,

Qld. Weekend Writer's Workshop, **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2000**. Saturday workshops with celebrated writer

and editor Barbara Ker Wilson, and special guest writer Herb

Wharton. On Sunday, Suzanne Misso from Arts Queensland

will talk about the "Living Memories" project, which worked with Queensland communities to record their stories.

Call (07) 3224 4838 or (07) 4651 2422 for a brochure and enrolment form.

## COUNTRY ON THE TWEED Written Poetry Competition

Theme "The Olympic Torch". Two sections - Junior (under 16yrs), and Adult (17yrs & over). Limit 40 lines

Closing Date **14<sup>th</sup> July**. Entry fee \$2 (Junior) and \$5 (Adult)

Send stamped, self-addressed envelope for entry form to -

Country on the Tweed Poetry Competition, 20 Scenic Drive Bilambil Heights NSW 2486

## BUNDABERG POETS SOCIETY, INC

Bundy Muster Week-end: **July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2000**

Competitions: Open, Intermediate, Novice, Junior & Under 12's

N.B. Intermediate Category: Any poet who has not been placed first in any open competition.

Entry forms available from: Bundaberg Poets Society Inc.,

P.O. Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670

Enquiries: Joan 07 41529624 or Sandy 07 41514631

## FELLOWSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN WRITERS NSW INC

Hastings Regional 2000 Literary Competition. Categories:

1. Short Story 3,000 words max, fiction, open theme
  2. Mini Story 1,000 words max, fiction, open theme
  3. Article 1,200 words max, non-fiction, general interest
  4. Poetry Traditional rhyming 60 lines max
  5. Poetry Contemporary free-form, 30 lines max
  6. Poetry Australian Bush rhyming, 80 lines max
- Closing Date **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2000**, Results 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000

Entry Fee \$3 per entry

No entry form required, but entries must be author's original work that has not won any other competition. All entries to be typed double or 1.5 spaced on one side of A4 paper only.

Include cover sheet A4 showing title, category, author's name, address and phone number. No name on entry.

For further details, and for all entries or enquiries, contact Competition Secretary: Gloria Paviour-Smith, PO Box 1693 Port Macquarie NSW 2444. Phone 02 6584 1163

## SURAT'S BATTERED BUGLE Bush Verse Competition 2000

Written Competition - Open

Must be 'Bush Verse' with the theme 'Cobb & Co and the Centenary of Federation'.

Prizes 1<sup>st</sup> - \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$150, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$100.

Written Competition - Junior (under 17 years)

Prizes - 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20

Entries close **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000**

Send to The Secretary, PO Box 8, Surat Qld 4417

Enquiries - Jan Ritchie Ph 07 4626 5103 Fax 07 4626 5516

email - villacoola@bigpond.com

## SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK Writing Competition

An initiative of The Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Entries may be prose, poetry, or short stories (max 2500

words). The theme for 2000 is "A Woman's Spirit". Entries

must pertain to women's working life - paid or unpaid - in the

Australian outback. Entries close **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2000**

Enquiries, or for entry forms, contact

The Australian Workers Heritage Centre, PO Box 12324, Elizabeth Street QLD 4002.

## COUNTRY ON THE TWEED FESTIVAL August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Poets Brekkie competitions Sun 20<sup>th</sup>

Open Female & Male Champs, Trophy & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes

Open Humorous (costume & props OK) Trophy & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Open for jaded memories, (book allowed) Trophy & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

Open written "The Olympic Torch" 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes

Under 16's written "The Olympic Torch" 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes

Open Songwriter 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes

Entry forms, enquiries, Country on the Tweed Festival,

20 Scenic Dr Bilambil Hts NSW 2486

Ph 07 5590 9395 Email poetry@fan.net.au

## TRUNDLE BUSH TUCKER DAY, Trundle NSW

**August 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**. \$1000 Bush Poetry Competition.

Open Traditional (Poetry over 50 years)

Open Original Bush Poetry

Open Original Humorous Bush Poetry

Three places paid in each section.

Frank Daniel Ph. 02 6344 1477 Fax. 02 6344 1962

Email bushpoet@westserv.net.au



## WHAT'S ON AROUND THE TRAPS

### 5th CAMP OVEN BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL

North Pine Country Park, Dayboro Rd, Petrie, Qld  
**19th & 20th August 2000**, Hosted by North Pine Bush Poets Group. Written Competition for Adults, 13-16 yrs, 9-12 yrs, 8 yrs and under. Entries for Written Comp close 31/7/2000  
 Performance Competition for Junior, Novice and Open, Serious, Original, Humorous Australian Bush Poetry, and also fun events such as Duo and Yarn Spinning.  
 Entry forms for these competitions available from John Coutts, Treasurer, North Pine Bush Poets Group, 5 Old Gympie Road, Kallangur, Qld 4503 Ph/Fax 07 3886 1552

### MILLMERRAN BUSH POET'S ROUND-UP

**1 - 3 September 2000.**

BBQ and Bar Friday night at Rural Estates, SW of Millmerran. Jack Drake and Kev Barnes co-compering. Open Mic session. Junior, Novice, Intermediate and Duo competition from 10am on Saturday. At 7pm Saturday there will be a Poet's Charity Dinner, followed by a State of Origin show, featuring Ray Essery.

Stay for the Poet's Breakfast on Sunday morning from 9.30am, followed by the Open Competition and the Brawl. Entry forms available soon from Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209



## Cook's Corner

### Stewed Bandicoot

*(This recipe come from the days before conservation, and is included for its historical interest only!)*

- 1 bandicoot
- 2 cups tomato puree
- beef stock
- 1 tablespoon chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 oz bacon fat or dripping
- 1 oz flour
- 2 oz butter
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Wash and dry the bandicoot and joint.
2. Melt bacon fat or dripping in a saucepan.
3. Dip bandicoot joints in seasoned flour and fry until browned all over.
4. Drain off the fat and add onion and enough beef stock to just barely cover the bandicoot.
5. Cover with a closely fitting lid and simmer for one and a half hours.
6. Meanwhile, melt butter in another saucepan and stir in the flour. Cook until nutty brown.
7. Stir in tomato puree.
8. Remove cooked bandicoot to a hot platter.
9. Strain stock and measure off 2 cups, then stir in the tomato sauce. Stir till boiling.
10. Season to taste with salt, pepper, sugar, and lemon juice.

Add the bandicoot, reheat and serve.



## THE PRODUCT SHELF

Product Shelf Advertisements  
**\$5.00 for TWO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SPOTS!**

### 'Listen 'ere ol' mate!'

Original Australian Bush Poetry  
 by Gippsland Poet

**Dennis Carstairs**

\$15 plus \$2 p&h

PO Box 159, Stratford, Vic 3862

### A VALID EXCUSE

**Bush Poems and Other Verses**

**by Trevor Shaw**

**\$13.00 pp. PO Box 61, Thangool Qld 4716**

### GOODBYE GUNSYND

A BOOK OF AWARD WINNING BUSH POEMS  
 AND AUSSIE BUSH BALLADS

**BY STEWART HOPPER**

"THE BARD OF THE COW BALES FROM BELL"

FULL COLOUR COVER PHOTO OF GUNSYND

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 HELEN CAMERON, PO BOX 143, KINGAROY, Q. 4610

### ABPA ANNUAL BOOKS OF VERSE

1995 - 1999 NOW AVAILABLE

Members Price - \$3.00ea

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12+ Post Free

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY**

**Bronze Swagman Book of Verse**  
 is now available \$12.50 pp from

**The Secretary**

**Vision Winton Inc., PO Box 44,  
 Winton, Qld. 4735**

## "VOICES WEST"

AN ANTHOLOGY OF  
**LONGREACH BASED BUSH POETS**  
**WINNER 1999 HERITAGE SECTION -**  
**GOLDEN GUM LEAF AWARDS**  
**AVAILABLE FOR \$15.00PP FROM**

**THE SECRETARY,  
 NOPA, PO Box 518,  
 LONGREACH, QLD. 4730**



## Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

PO Box 2343 Mansfield BC Qld 4122 Fax 07 3849 5844

Email [abpanews@hotmail.com](mailto:abpanews@hotmail.com)

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May 2000

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

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### Heritage Corner

**This space devoted to  
preserving the character of our  
Australian Heritage**

*Compiled and submitted by Holly de Dikato*

From 'The Australasian', 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1937

"Within the next few weeks the caravan travelling clinic of the Victorian Baby Health Centres' Association will set out on its first journey to the Mallee. This travelling clinic has been made possible by a gift of £600 from the money raised through the Women's Centenary Council for the establishment of permanent memorials to the

pioneer women of the State. Streamlined and painted a soft fawn as a protection against Mallee dust, the car is fitted with every possible device for utility and comfort, and includes compact and attractive quarters for the two sisters in charge (Sister Hughston and Sister Turner), as well as a most up-to-date clinic section.

The clinic should prove of inestimable value to isolated country mothers, and will travel in a circle of which Ouyen will be the approximate centre. Stopping places will be arranged with the co-operation of the CWA in districts beyond the radius of the existing health centres and of the railway, and where the people are not able to support even a part-time nurse."

**MAY 9<sup>th</sup>, 1857 - BORN NEAR ADELAIDE, SIR SIDNEY HIDMAN, THE CATTLE KING**

**MAY 15<sup>th</sup>, 1928 - FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE MADE ITS FIRST FLIGHT FROM CLONCURRY, QLD**

**MAY 25<sup>th</sup>, 1875 - CAPTAIN THUNDERBOLT (FRED WARD), SHOT DEAD IN AMBUSH NEAR ARMIDALE, NSW**

### Thank you to our Contributors

Henry Albury	Brian Gale
Trisha Anderson	Craig Gascoigne
John & Gaye	Ray Halliday
Barclay	Vivienne Ledlie
Kev Barnes	Jan Lewis
Beth Bashford	Geoff McFarland
Julie Briggs	Mary E Mott
Neil Carroll	Reg Phillips
Dennis Carstairs	Carmel Randle
Anne Cremin	Jan Ritchie
Michael Darby	Olive Shooter
Ken Dean	Norah Vinson
Louise Dean	Grahame Watt
Holly de Dikato	Ted Webber

### THE LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

*Dear Members*

What a month! The Easter break, combined with Anzac Day and the School Holidays, have seen a plethora of Bush Poetry competitions and events around the nation. Some results have already arrived, however I would encourage all event organisers to get their results in to the ABPA Newsletter as soon as possible.

Remember to get your application in for the running of the 2001 ABPA Championships before the end of June. See page 8 for details.

I wish everyone all the best for the 2000 Championships in Yarrawonga/Mulwala. By the time you get this issue the 2000 Champions will have been crowned. This issue is a little late due to the public holidays - my apologies! We'll all find out who the new Champions are in the June Newsletter!

Congratulations to Janine Haig and Milton Taylor, who won the QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Championships, and who will be representing Australia at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, next January. I know that all our members will join with me in wishing these two marvellous poets all the best for their US experience! They will be excellent representatives of the art of Australian Bush Poetry!

Until next month,

*Best regards, Jennifer Priest*

