

# The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

volume 8

Monthly Newsletter # 5:  
May 2001



## If it ain't broke . . . .

What is Bush Poetry? Perhaps the dictionary will give us an answer? Many people quote it when trying to prove some point or other. But is the dictionary a worthy reference? Is it always 100% accurate? Do the learned people who compile it always get it right? Each time? Every time? Remember it is not necessarily so, just because it is written.

We can search far and wide for answers, but in the end must collectively decide for ourselves what Bush Poetry is to us. No outside reference can be completely satisfactory. So what is it? It was agreed some time back that **our** definition of Bush Poetry is --

**"Poetry with good rhyme and metre written by:**

**(a) an Australian;**

**(b) about Australia, her people, places and things."**

Whoever formulated that, was very wise. This straight forward, uncomplicated definition clearly says it all. It includes all Australians and Australian related subjects --yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our art form truly belongs to all of us. It reflects who we are, what we are, where we came from, where we are going and so on. Australian Bush Poetry is folk poetry at it's best.

Bush Poetry comes from many sources and we are poorer if we make the mistake of eliminating any of them for any reason. Just as Bush Poetry has many origins, so too do we have many different types of members. To name a few, we have, for instance;

- ◆ **Members who write poetry and can't (or prefer not to) perform:**
- ◆ **Members who perform and can't (or prefer not too) write poetry:**
- ◆ **Members who prefer traditional and/or contemporary poetry:**
- ◆ **Members who prefer some of the above or the lot:**
- ◆ **Members who do none of the above (including audiences, supporters and organisers):**

Is one type of member more important than the other? Unlikely! Like members of a family, we need and respect them all. So if one who write poetry likes to class himself/herself as a poet, so be it. There is no call to be pedantic about it and deny the same courtesy to another. Say, one who likes to perform good poetry calling him/herself a poet too. Shouldn't that apply even if the poetry was written by someone else? We really don't need petty status or semantics getting in our way causing unnecessary rifts and divisions. (By the way, contrary to what is sometimes claimed, performance is much more than just the mere ability to remember words).

Of course the *status quo* should be challenged, questioned and pushed to the limit. If it is found lacking, changes should be made. But change for the sake of change serves no purpose. Of course we can always look at what's going on and see room for improvement. But are things so wrong with Bush Poetry that we should change our whole approach? Or should we heed the advice in this joke?

***If it ain't baroque - don't fix it !***

Please - let us know what you think?

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(as this is my private address please name subject **ABPA**)

**DEADLINE DAY - 17th day of each month.**

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**ABPA MEMBERSHIP**

**\$25 per annum, January -December for Single, Family or Club Membership.**

**Juniors \$10 per annum (students to year 12 education)**

**NEW members joining after July 1, \$13 through to the end of December.**

**Those who have NOT been a member previously may join after October 1 and receive up to 15 months membership for a first years subscription of**

**\$25. (see page 10 for a membership application form).**

**PLEASE SEND ALL MONEY TO THE TREASURER.**

**From the Editor:**



Looking through this months newsletter, it was certainly a busy one, competition wise. I myself attended Stanthorpe and had a very enjoyable weekend. Being able to put faces to those I have read about and talked too over the phone the last few years was very satisfying. And I suppose - it was the other way as well. The one thing that has impressed me with competition poetry is the incredible distances that

some people will travel for a weekend. Now I know that there are a lot of retired people amongst our members - but there are also a lot still working and the effort by both, put into attending these weekends is nothing short of amazing. Keep it up. We have an interesting mix of people and occupations, ages and styles of presentation and all this makes for our organisation being uniquely Australian. This is something we should all be very proud of. Just one small point that was mentioned to me at Stanthorpe - "but the trouble is we have been infiltrated by bloody Kiwi's". I'm sure it was said in jest, but yes, we have Kiwi's & Poms and I am sure there are other nationalities amongst our members as well. It does not matter where we came from, what matters is that we all share a common bond. The love of writing, listening to, reading and performing Bush Poetry. And that is what it's all about. We don't care if you are black - white - brindle or blue, a bank manager gravedigger or politician. If you love Bush Poetry - the way we do, then you should be a member of our unique Australian Bush Poets Association. If you know someone who could be interested in becoming a member, pass on the membership details to them and urge them to "get the cheque in the mail". Help build our Association.

**Have a nice month and enjoyable reading - Bernie Bliss**



**G'day Everyone,**

This month I met a remarkable young man from the Queensland Sunshine Coast. He is a poet who has two serious handicaps, either of which could have easily relegated him to a

lonely life of silence. He has Down's Syndrome and Autism. We who are 'normal' find it all too easy to dismiss people like Glen as intellectually lacking. What a mistake!

Glen taught himself to read, watching TV's "Sesame Street". He taught himself German watching SBS. How many of us would have been smart enough to do that? His disabilities are definitely not intellectual. He has already published his first book of free verse and has now fallen in love with bush poetry.

Its doubtful Glen will ever perform his work as he has difficulty speaking. He communicates by spelling out his thoughts on a board of letters. When he starts writing bush poetry I think we are going to hear a lot more about him.

Congratulations to everyone who qualified for the Asthma NSW Bush Poet of the Year Award. Heard the function was a huge success and everyone who took part was suitably impressed by its professionalism. The overall winner was Jack Drake ( see article in the magazine). Congratulations mate.

If you're on the Sunshine Coast on the second or fourth Saturday of the month, pop into Nostalgia Town, 596 David Low Hwy, Pacific Paradise. They have a regular poets breakfast & open microphone session there. Everyone is welcome. For further information contact me or Rod & Jenny Somerville on 07 5448 7155.

Soon we'll be calling for submissions for the 2002 Australian Bush Poetry Championships. So if you're interested we'd like to hear from you. It has been suggested that we also call for submissions for 2003 at the same time and from then on continue to call for submissions two years ahead. Please let me know what you think.

Have a great month

**Keep on preserving our Kulcha**

**Wally Finch**

**President.**

**For those members who read & criticise - this month there are six hidden mistakes. They could be spelling or grammar - but they are there somewhere..**

## Australian Bush Poetry Championships

The QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS being held in WINTON will now also be the  
"Australian Bush Poetry Championships".

Friday June 30th - Monday 2nd July 2001. Please contact: The Organiser - P O Box 84  
Hughenden Qld 4821: (Please send a S.A.S.E.) or telephone 07 4741 5041:

## PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL

### KYABRAM & District Bush Verse Group

After visits from Carmel Randle & Frank Daniel we held our normal meeting on Monday April 2nd. This was well attended and we had some special visitors. Members of John Johansons family made a visit to meet some of his "Bush Verse" mates. It was great to meet them and to swap a few stories of John's deeds. "Skew Wiff" read his "Bloke at the Gate" poem.

The theme for our night was "April" and "Autumn". Les James made 'April Fools' of us and Molly Sparks also was 'Foolish'. Contributors were Ewen McLean, Joan Hill, Les Parkinson, Betty Olle & others.

"Skew Wiff" and Janice made it back safely from Sydney where "Skew" came 3rd in the "Bush Poet of the Year" Competition. Jack Drake from Stanthorpe won the money. A new comer to bush poetry, Carolyn Eldridge from Epping, (Sydney) was 2nd and is a discovery for future competitions.

Our next meeting is the annual meeting on June 4th. Betty Olle finishes her term as President (2 years). Congratulations Betty for a job well done. All sing - Oh for she's a jolly good poet! Etc....

Also one of the finalists in Sydney was Peter Thomas from Mount Martha in Victoria. Another top Victorian performer. Car'n Victoria !!

Hooroo  
"Skew Wiff"

### Old Books Wanted

I have a continuing request for any old Australian Nautical Books. If you have some that you no longer need and wish to sell them, let me know and I will pass your name on to the buyer.

Editor.

The ABPA was well and truly represented at the 25th. Port Fairy Folk Festival with Neil McArthur and Frank Daniel holding fort over two of the early morning breakfasts.

Both unique in their styles, the combination of these two characters gave audiences more than their monies worth in verse and story. Humour was rife, there was never a dull moment as the carefully scripted performances led audience members from one situation to another. From days at school to the latest escapades in shopping marts, from Neil's dedication to his beloved Grandfather to Frank's over religious aunt Martha, unbelieving audiences were left in amazement as to what was fact and what was fiction. After all, only half the lies Frank tells are the truth and Neil has never been known to tell a lie.

Port Fairy Folk Festival has achieved an international status and national acclaim as one of the country's best known and most successful music festivals. All tickets for this festival are sold by a mailing system and following the mail out in early November, an avalanche of mail was returned with all tickets being sold in just over one day on a first-in first-served basis.

Children are specially catered for in non stop performances in the Big Top with jugglers, clowns, and a wide variety of performers.

Non stop performances in the five main stage areas kept over twelve thousand visitors entertained with International and local artists.

"I don't know of any other major Australian music festival that has achieved such an incredible response in ticket sales. You cannot sell out much quicker than one day. It is quite humbling to have so much confidence shown in this festival . . . . . " - Festival Director, Jamie McKew

The beautiful fishing village of Port Fairy is four hours drive west of Melbourne on the shipwreck coast at the end of the Great Ocean Road.  
[www.portfairyfolkfestival.com](http://www.portfairyfolkfestival.com)



# "On Ya Soapbox"

Dear Editor,

I write to congratulate all 27 entrants in the Junior Section of The High Country Poets Bush Poetry Performance Competition which was held at O'Mara's Hotel, Stanthorpe on Saturday, 17th March.

These entertaining, well behaved young performers were very well prepared and articulate to say the least and I was absolutely stunned by the overwhelmed by the obvious support which must have been forthcoming from parents, teachers and the competition organisers, Jack Drake and Stella Mathison to achieve such a high degree of participation and achievement.

It would seem that the culture of Australian Bush Poetry is in good hands in Stanthorpe, Queensland.

Congratulations to all.

**Maureen Stonham**, Nambucca Heads NSW.

**Dear Editor:**

How right is Kev Barnes? The scene has changed. When someone speaks of "a great poet" today you can bet your boots that they are referring to a great performer. Wonderful poets like Ron Stevens, Peter Moltoni, Ken Dean, Joan Strange, Brian Beesley, Peter Hanbury, Quendy Young - to name a few - are rarely mentioned.

Of course there are some good poets among the top performers, too, but it is their performance they are usually remembered by. A good performer can do wonders with a mediocre poem. My most successful performance poems rarely win written competitions. The only place a poem's true worth can be judged is on the written page.

The works of Banjo Paterson, Henry Lawson, Will Ogilvie, Bruce Simpson and Kelly Dixon are alive and well, but were any of them renown performers? Will we see this in the future? Or will the true poets be forgotten and great performers receive all the accolades? Good point Kev.

**Ellis Campbell - DUBBO**

**Dear ABPA: Calling Joy Wheat:**

I have lost my pride and joy of the last Championship, the Murray Muster at Yarrowonga-Mulwala. Please allow me to call upon Joy Wheat to contact me, Bluey Quilty, if she reads this. Also Maggie of Coutts Crossing (6649 42580) begs her to call in. Joy went underground amid a family crisis and has not emerged. A good pal. I indicate the ad also in the newsletter.

"Fair dinkum worried sick, Love Bluey"

**Bluey Quilty.**

83 Great Western Highway

BLACKHEATH NSW 2785

Tel 0500 817718 - fax 0500 81779

email - backtracks@hotmail.com

ps - Compliments to Bob for his Olympic Special "And the Winner Is..."

**A note of interest for all members.**

On the 26th May 2001 **John (The Joker) Pampling** will be marrying **Lesley Waldo** at Redcliffe, Brisbane. I'm sure that all members will wish you both a great day and the best of the future together.

**To The Editor:**

I must agree with Kevin because I like the company and the applause. But I am a writer of poems, I do not perform with panache. I read them to share the enjoyment. The rare extra bonus is CASH

**Mavis Appleyard:**

*For the people who have enquired after my health, I am recovering but not quite ready to go on the road yet.*

Mavis

Hi Bernie:

I'm trying to locate a poem and/or the person that wrote it.

It is obviously an Aussie poem, so it's possible that some of the members may be familiar with it. The portion that I have goes like this:

*But the great gums watched on,  
unknowing,  
What time was saying, could they hear?  
The end has come of bloom and growing,  
The blade and the red fire are near.  
The round of change is sure and steady,  
The kangaroo, the sheep, the plough.  
The axe is ground and bright and ready  
It's your turn now!*

My e-mail address,

Frank Halliwell rhymer@poetic.com

so anyone on the net that is familiar with the poem could message me?

Thanks!

Regards,.....Frank

-- Frank Halliwell - rhymer@poetic.com

Home Page at [www.digitalrice.com/rhymer/index.html](http://www.digitalrice.com/rhymer/index.html)

or [www.crosswinds.net/~frankhalliwell](http://www.crosswinds.net/~frankhalliwell)



## Coming Home

All around seemed drained and lifeless  
through the sun's reflecting glare.  
Jaunty emus stalked through saltbush  
onto clay-pans, baked and bare.  
Hungry sheep with burr-lined fleeces  
raising dust from churned up ground;  
staggered in bedraggled sequence  
through the gidgeas outward bound.

Cawing crows on sagging fence-lines  
harking loud their cruel refrain;  
Eagles soaring skies eternal -  
cloudless skies devoid of rain.  
Stark remains of Kangaroos strewn -  
table drains by stench fouled;  
harsh relentless no-man's land where  
baying foxes nightly prowled.

Dreary welcome to my homeland  
After years of city life.  
Could I cope with all this harshness  
More important - could my wife.  
I remembered childhood sallies  
through these everlasting plains.  
Fleeting memories more nostalgic  
than reality explains.

Drought had forced me to the city  
In my later teenage years.  
Where I found employment waiting  
With a firm of engineers.  
Soon acclimatised to comfort  
far from station's daily grind,  
City life embraced with pleasure  
Left financial cares behind.

Married now and duly settled  
to suburban trends and sport;  
Guilty sometimes that my parents  
battled on with small support.  
But I quickly quelled such qualms and  
pushed self censure well aside;  
'til a message unexpected  
came to say that Dad had died.

Left me Clara Oxley Station  
and my Mother to support  
Mum declares she'll never leave here  
though we really think she ought  
I remember stirring musters  
In an autumn long ago  
An illusion I once reveled  
in these sprawling plains below?

Rambling homestead, grey and grimy;  
barking dogs to greet our car  
Mother waiting by the chook-yard,  
talking to her pet Galah.  
Bed of daisies bravely standing,  
near the wilting daffodil,  
seemed to flaunt her steeled endurance  
and to match her iron-clad will.

Like Gibraltar's rock of ages,  
Father triumphed over all -  
Mother stood beside him daily -  
answered every beck and call.  
Bravely faced a million heartaches,  
never quit - despite the odds.  
Challenged over quirks of nature  
bore the wrath of chance's gods!

I could sell this lonely out-post,  
with it's harshness unrefined;  
and return to coastal pleasures -  
leave this memory far behind.  
Blot out guilt and obligation,  
never more to agonise.  
But I know I'll grasp the challenge -  
how can I otherwise?

© Ellis Campbell 2001

*Winner of the Chinchilla Bush  
Poetry Verse Competition 2001.*

## To All Members:

Please note that I have bought the "Deadline" date forward by a couple of days. This is so I can get the copy to the printers on the 20th. Now this should not be a problem, just get your contributions to me a day or so earlier. Simple as that.

**BUT** - if you wait until the 14 - 15th to send it to me - then it may get in - it may not.

**Please note - I will not , "remove" someone else's article just to fit someone in who is late in sending in their contribution - even if they are a regular contributor.**

### **"IT WILL BE FIRST IN FIRST SERVED".**

So if you are - or you want to be a regular contributor, get your copy to me early in the month.

All articles can be emailed to me at [bbliss@hotmail.net.au](mailto:bbliss@hotmail.net.au) or posted to **P O Box 5208 MANLY Q 4179.**

Emailed contributions, I would prefer it to be in 'Publisher' not 'Word', but if **Word** is all you have, then you are more than welcome to send it in that format.

For those who would like their newsletter sent to them via email, you will need to have 'Publisher 2000' to be able to open it. (*forgot to mention that in the last issue*).

**Regards: Editor.**

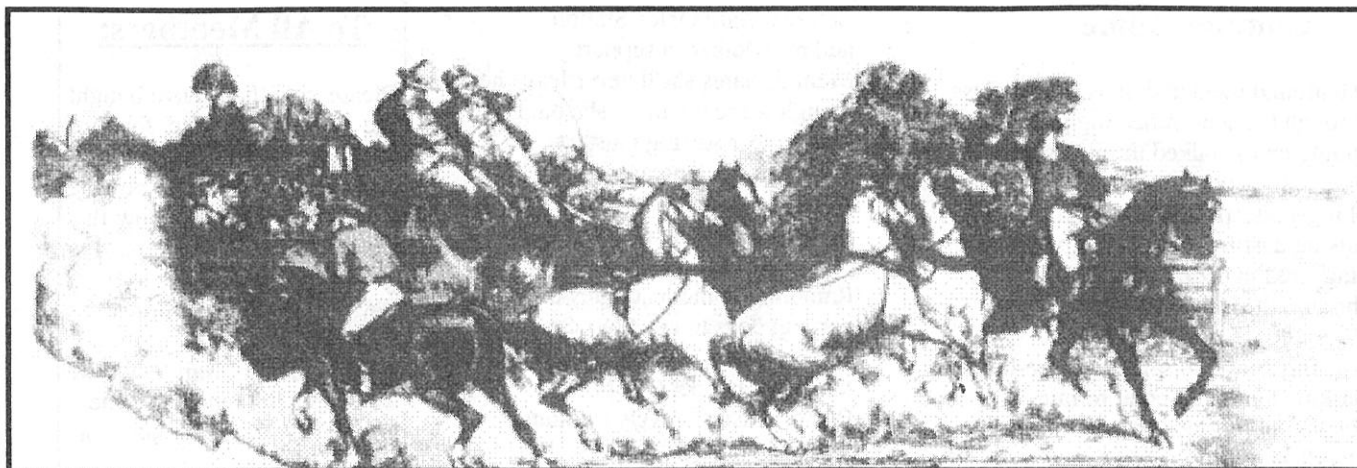
## URANGA POETS BIRTHDAY BASH

Despite torrential rain, floods and the area of NSW's mid north coast being declared a natural disaster area, the Uranga Poets in the Club Showcase Concert and Dinner held of 10th march at the Uranga Golf Club had to be considered an outstanding success.

Over sixty locals from the area between Coffs Harbour and Nambucca Heads gathered at the club, enjoyed a sumptuous meal and were entertained by 13 performance poets during the evening. Because the advertised compare for the evening, Bill Kearns, was unable to attend because of flooding in Grafton, it was all hands to the wheel and the crowd were not disappointed. Special thanks must go to Bill MacClure of Tin Can Bay, Qld, the littlest bloke with the biggest heart, who stepped in to entertain in spectacular fashion. We love you Bill - thanks a million.

Bouquets also to Marg & Ed Parmenter from Coffs Harbour who entertained us with their duo and individual performances, the Hamey family from Kororo, newcomers Emily Walker and Cherie Hartwig and Chris McNichol also of Coffs Harbour. Thank you all for your valued support and loyalty.

**Maureen Stonham & Keith Haycraft**



## **Results of Outback Australia Literary Competition, 2000/2001**

### **Section - 1, Story, Article, Essay.**

**1st Prize** - *Bank Closed Until Further Notice* - by **Peter Rodgers** of HOLT ATC.

**2nd Prize** - *The Irishwoman* - by **Jay Trimas** of LINDFIELD NSW.

**3rd Prize** - *Strike* - by **Gillian A Karas** of BUDERIM QLD.

### **Five merit awards:**

*Change of Life* by **Ursula Paul** of ORANGE NSW.

*From the Cocoon* by **Patricia Larkin** of BURWOOD VIC.

*Boys in the Bush* by **Rosemary Abbott** of CALLIGNEE NORTH VIC.

*The Clearing Sale* by **Isabel Wallace** of BROCKLEHURST NSW.

*Home Dog* by **Brian Maddern** of MURRAY TOWN SA.

### **Ten Commended Certificates:**

*Stan - Our Man* by **Robyn Hogan** of MARULAS NSW.

*An Aussie Icon* by **Freda Ballard** of MAROOCHYDORE QLD.

*Mohammed and the Mountain* by **Annette Wilson** of POTTSVILLE BEACH NSW.

*The Grand Parade* by **Robert Coleman** of BEAUMARIS VIC.

*Wantibirri* by **Winifred Campbell** of WAGGA WAGGA NSW.

*The Last of the Teamsters* by **Judith Laurence** of KILLARA NSW.

*Testing Time* by **Astra Warren** of LESMURDIE WA.

*Deadly Diagnosis* by **Milton Taylor** of PORTLAND NSW.

*Through the Haze* by **Chad Gilbert** of BERWICK VIC.

*Life in the Australian Outback* by **Yvette Egan** of WARREN NSW.

### **Section 2 - Poetry:**

**1st Prize** - *Light Horse* by **Annette Irving** of WARREN NSW

**2nd Prize** - *Murdering Creek* by **Graham Fredriksen** of KILOCOY QLD

**3rd Prize** - *Bread* by **Jay Trimas** of LINDFIELD NSW

### **Five Merit Awards:**

*With a Whimper* - by **Fred Curtis** of ASPENDALE VIC

*From Farrar's Creek* by **Graham Fredriksen** of KILCOY QLD

*Land Journal* by **Mark Miller** of SHOALHAVEN HEADS NSW

*Nostalgia on the Road* by **Ellis Campbell** of DUBBO NSW

*Where Dreams Die* by **Mary Brice** of TOOWOOMBA QLD

### **Nine Commended Certificates:**

*Boah* by **Sheila Burchell** of WEST LAUNCESTON TAS

*There Were no Walls (Terror Australis)* by **Vivienne Player** of BEAUMARIS VIC

*The Ballad of McNally's Pub* by **Bronwyn Hickman** of HOPPERS CROSSING VIC

*Winter Drought* by **Judith Laurence** of KILLARA NSW

*Legend of the Black Stump* by **Fiona Lee-Swin Price** of WEST BRUNSWICK VIC

*Roundabouts and Roses* by **Neil Carroll** of DUBBO NSW

*Epitaph* by **Milton Taylor** of PORTLAND NSW

*The Ballad of Rosie McGreer* by **Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti** of NTH EPPING NSW

*Grandma Moses* by **Ellis Campbell** of DUBBO NSW

## **Blue Mountains Folk Festival Feb 2001**

As the Blue Mountains Folk Festival has expanded it's musical content to include Folk, Roots & Blues an enlarged program unfortunately meant that Bush Poetry was reduced to one Poet's Breakfast instead of the usual two at this years event.

The Saturday Breakfast (run by Denis Kevans) was attended by approx 100 punters who heard the work of a range of poets including featured artists Terry Regan, Wyn Jones, Colin Steele, Colleen Burke and myself, plus artists of the calibre of (3 times Australian Champion), Milton Taylor, Warren Bishop, Kevin Campbell, Rhymin' Simon & Campbell the Swaggie.

Locals, Bluey Qwulty, Don Morrison, Kerry Healy-Binns and Denis Rice plus members of the Katoomba Parrakeet Poets group also showed their wares.

A Blue Mountains Heritagae Concert also included verse specifically relating to the Blue Mountains area.

Never fear though folks, I have it on good authority from the Festival organisers though that Bush Poetry will be back with a vengeance in 2002

See ya there  
Your festival scribe

**Graeme Johnson**

# Regular Monthly Events

If you are passin' by - call in and say giddy.....

## Queensland:

- 1st Mon Bon Amici's Restaurant & Coffee Shop. Margaret Street, TOOWOOMBA. Ron Selby 07 4630 1106 - (cancelled).  
 1st Thurs Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel, MAPLETON 8.30 - 11.00pm Poetry & Music Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263  
 1st Sat Poets & Musicians @ Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991  
 1st Sun & 3rd Sun North Pine Bush Poets. North Pine Country Markets, 9.00am @ Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Damper. 07 3285 2845 or 07 3886 1552  
 2nd Thurs & 4th Thurs Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall. GYMPIE. 7.00pm. Phil Morrison, 07 5486 1171  
 2nd Sat Bundeburg Poets Society Inc. Joan Lane 07 4152 9624 or Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631  
 Last Wed Millmerran Bush Poetry Group. 7.00pm. Millmerran Bakery. "The Legend" Kev Barnes 07 4695 4209  
 Every Wed Writers in Townsville. 7.30pm, Hodel Room City Library, Thuringowa Drive, THURINGOWA. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223  
 Every Wed Matilda Country Caravan Park, WINTON, evenings 'Pinki & her Pee Wee Poets.  
 1st & 3rd Wed Kilcoy Unplugged, 7.00pm. Kilcoy Gardens Restaurant. Gold Coin Entry. Graham 07 5497 1045  
 1st Friday every month. 7.00pm. "The Point of View Café" Main Road Wellington Point. Rob 0419 786 269

## New South Wales:

- 1st Tues Tuggarah Lakes Poetry Group. 7.00pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972  
 1st Thurs North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30pm Cornucopia Café. (Grounds Old Gladesville Hospital - off Punt Rd-follow signs). Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653 or Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690  
 1st Sun Poet's in the Making. 12 - 4.00pm Performance Workshop, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula St, Casula. David Price 02 9825 0402  
 2nd Mon Parakeet's Poets, Katoomba. Parakeet Café @ 7.00pm. Katoomba St, Katoomba. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119  
 2nd Tues Hunter Bush Poets. 7.00pm, Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751  
 2nd Wed Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets, 7.00pm, April, June, August, October. Murray 02 6657 2139  
 2nd Thurs Tamworth Poetry Reading Grp. 8.00pm, unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067  
 2nd Fri The Monaro Leisure Club, 7.00pm, Vale St Cooma. Bush Poetry & Country Music. Elaine 02 6454 3128  
 2nd Sat Poets in the Club. Urunga Golf Club, 1 - 4.00pm, 12 May, 14 July, 13 Oct. Maureen 02 6568 5269  
 2nd Sun "Interludes" Ashfield Civic Centre, Ashfield. Joyce Dempsey 02 9797 7575  
 3rd Thurs Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers. 7.30pm, "The Hideaway" Davison Ln, Picton. Liz 02 4677 2044. Vince 02 4684 1704  
 3rd Fri Junee Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317  
 4th Tues Poet's in the Pub with Grafton Live Poet's Society. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. John Walker 02 6555 8122  
 4th Wed Inverell Wednesday Writers, 7.30pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425  
 4th Thurs Queanbeyan Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891  
 2nd last Mon The Mid-Coast Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389  
 for details of venue each month  
 Last Tues Spaghetti Poetry Group. Gee Wong Restaurant, 197 Mann St Gosford. Dinner @ 6.30pm. Poetry @ 7.30pm. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590  
 Last Thurs Writers on the River, 7.00pm, Caddies Coffee Shop, 2 - 3 Castlereagh St Penrith. Brian Bell 02 4739 2219  
 Last Fri Kangaroo Valley Folk Music Club. Bush Poets Welcome. Carl Leddy re venue 02 4465 1621  
 Last Sat Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4.00pm. J Bray 11 Rhodes Pde, Windermere Park 2264  
 Every 2nd Fri-Pheasants Hut Folk Club. Bundeena. Yuri 02 9527 0955 or 0419 412 093  
 Monthly Top of the Murray Poets & Bush Storytellers. Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332  
 Every 2 months on 2nd Sat Cornucopia Café, 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. "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

## Victoria

- 1st Mon Kyabram & District Bush Verse Gr, every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30pm. Mick Coventry 03 5853 2265  
 6 weekly, Thurs Gippsland Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

## South Australia

- 3rd Wed South Australian Bush Poets. 7.30pm, Alma Pub Long Room, Willunga. Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788  
 Last Tues Whyalla Writers Group. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

## Western Australia

- 1st Fri WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30pm, Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge. Rusty Christensen 08 9364 4491



### **Bush Poets At The EKKA**

The Australian Bush Poets have again been invited to perform at the EKKA.

The Brisbane Royal Show and Exhibition, (alias "The EKKA"), is held each year in August.

The Bush Poets have been performing for the past three years in the wool pavilion to enthusiastic audiences. We have been invited again this year and I am asking for any interested Poets to please contact me. Once I receive the days and times, I shall work out a roster - we will probably have 15 minute segments 5 or 6 times daily.

When are you available?? Thursday 9th August - Saturday 18th August.

**Please contact:  
Trisha Anderson  
113 Manson Road,  
Hendra Qld 4011  
or Fax 07 3268 3624**

### **Poetry at the Cecil**

**24 - 25 - 26 - 27 May - great dates for a great competition.**

**What is it?** The North Coast's most popular Bush Poets gathering..

**Where is it?** Cecil Hotel - **CASINO**

**Who is there?** All the guns.

**Breakfasts?** Each morning at 9.00 am

**For any and all inquiries give Ray Essery a call on  
02 6684 3817**

### ***An Apology.***

Please note that there was an omission from the results at O'Mara's at Stanthorpe on St Patrick's Day which puts us at risk of a conflict with the wee folk. So rather than incur the wrath of a thousand leprechauns, lets put it right.

The presentation of a special St Patrick's Day prize for the best rendition of an Irish inspired bush poem was won by **Paddy O'Brien** (himself). (To be sure - to be sure). Seriously though, Paddy, congratulations on a performance well done and our sincere apologies for the omission.

W.F

### **Great Wisdom:**

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me, either. Just leave me the hell alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn, so if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. No one is listening until you make a faux pas.
6. Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.
7. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
8. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a bad example.
9. It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.
10. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
11. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
12. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
13. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat & drink beer all day.
14. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
15. Don't squat with your spurs on.
16. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
17. Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.
18. Don't worry, it only seems kinky the first time.
19. Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
20. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it in your pocket.
21. Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
22. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
23. Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side & a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
24. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
25. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.
26. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
27. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
28. We are born naked, wet, and hungry. Then things get worse.

***How many of these can you relate to? Most are certainly - so very very true.***

Dear Editor,

As we all know, a small amount of knowledge can be a dangerous thing. In this case it is very misleading. In answer to Grahame Watts 'words' in the February issue of the ABPA newsletter I would like to clear the matter up.

I have no wish to knock the knockers, as they do that to themselves. However, I do feel that a 'phone call offering help to any organiser would be many kilometres in front of a degrading letter that can only belittle the writer. The words 'clash' and 'opposition' are sadly misplaced.

The event to which Grahame was referring, The Silver Brumby Bush Poetry Championship, did not clash with any other official Festival event. In fact, I have conducted a similar event during the Festival at the same venue for several years now and have never clashed with any other official Festival event.

I have attended The Man from the Snowy River Festival at Corryong since it's inception and have never missed one. Most years I have helped out with the Bush Poetry section of the Festival and when not assisting have always been available if required. I also donate six books annually for raffles and/or prizes for Bush Poetry section prizes.

Corryong Festival was wonderful. I, like many others are prepared to give the weekend to the Festival.

Working with Bush Poetry organisers Jan Lewis and Betty Walton is quite a pleasure. The Silver Brumby Bush Poetry Championship has developed into an excellent competition and was won by Ken Connley with Jim Weatherstone second. Third place went to Dennis Carstairs.

A good number of quality poets, with country singer Kevin Best, kept the crowded lounge room of visitors in the Corryong Hotel well and truly entertained. A truly great show!!

I am very proud to be part of this great Festival.

Sincerely, NEIL HULM, Lavington NSW.

### **Redgum Festival - Swan Hill - Victoria - March 2001**

Suffering from a severe case of Train-lag after a 14 hour trip from Sydney via Melbourne I arrived in the late afternoon for my first trip to the town of Swan Hill, hosts of the annual Redgum Festival.

Although the festival is centred around the Australian Songwriting Competition, Bush Poetry has been making inroads over the last few years thanks to the work of top-flight poets such as Noel Cutler, Geoffrey Graham and Frank Daniel.

Noel Cutler once again the contingent of featured poets this year with myself and Jim Angel from Narranderra making up the pack.

And brother, did they work us hard. There were opportunities aplenty for the spoken word.

We worked street parades, Sporting & RSL Clubs, Restaurants, Motels, Pubs, Parks, The Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement and the piece'd'resistance, the magnificent "Sound Shell" in Riverside Park.

Numbers for the scheduled Poet's Performances like the Poet's Breakfast etc were a little on the lean side, but the festival organiser Kathleen McLennan assured us that up until a couple of years ago no-one in the town even knew what a Bush Poet was. So at least it was progress. The locals were a little shy though as we could only coax a couple up to share the stage with us. These things take time.

The locals were as friendly as buggery and the scenery of the Mallee/Murray country was truly inspiring. Well worth the trip. Come down next year and have a look for yourself.

Your festival scribe - **Graeme Johnson**

### **Business Activity Statement:**

It's a BASTard of a form  
We have all to complete  
List our incomes carefully  
And keep the figures neat

Make sure all the GST  
Is accounted for  
It's a hassle every quarter  
And what's more, it's the law

We're not just farmers anymore  
Or businessmen in town  
We're bloody tax collectors  
It's enough to get you down

And this BASTard of a form  
Makes little sense to read  
I've struggled through a couple  
And both times had to plead....

To Officers who've been employed  
For dunces just like me  
But they didn't know the answers  
And had to "go and see"

Provisional Tax they say is scrapped  
And I guess this is so  
Now we pay it quarterly  
It's called Pay As You Go

Has always been  
A farmer's big bugbear  
But since they bought in GST  
His very worst nightmare....

It's this BASTard piece of paper  
It disturbs his sleep at night  
As he squirms and turns and wonders  
If this time he got it right

I hope the politicians  
Who all plead they've done their best  
Realise the next election  
Will provide the acid test

And if complaints won't move them  
To simplify the mess  
May they disappear forever  
Political wilderness

By **Betsy Chape**

## A Couple Lost Moments in Time:

### A Prophecy?

Three weeks and four days after he condemned the bushranger, Ned Kelly, to death Sir Redmond Barry took ill, went to bed and died. His death occurred only a few days after Kelly had been executed in the Melbourne Jail. Sir Redmond was said to have been affected by Kelly's last words to him. After passing the sentence of death he concluded with the words - "and may the Lord have mercy on your soul". Kelly replied. "Yes. I will meet you there - in a bigger court than this".

### Black Jack's Last Words!

Two aborigines, Black Jack and Mosquito, led raids on settlers in Tasmania during the 'black war' at the time of Governor Arthur. According to James Bonwick, in his book '*The Last of the Tasmanians*' published in London in 1870, Black Jack and Mosquito were sentenced to be hanged. On the day of their execution, 25 February 1825, they were exhorted to pray by the Chaplain, the Rev W Bedford. Mosquito maintained a solid silence, but Black Jack exclaimed, "You pray you bloody self: I too bloody frightened to pray."

### Illawarra Folk Festival - Jamberoo March - 2001

As always the Illawarra Folk Festival at Jamberoo lived up to its reputation as the "Biggest Little Folk Festival in the World" with its 16th annual festival. A plethora of events for the spoken word starting with the Tripe & Poetry night, (only for the brave) right through to the "Last Word" on Sun arvo kept even the keenest followers of verse satisfied. Featured Poets, Yarn-spinners & Comedians, Blue the Shearer, Peter Willey, Alan Glover, Giri Mazella, Vivienne Sawyer & Akmal Saleh hosted and starred in numerous shows and highlighted their versatility in some pretty unique situations. Bloody funny, in other words. You had to be there.

The Poets Breakfast, compared by Dave Myers drew healthy crowds, even at 7.30 am and played host to a variety of poets and styles. Yes, even free verse.

Poet's participating included yours truly, Denis Kevans, Wyn Jones, Malcolm Tink, Barry Lake (who also won the Poet's Brawl), Tim Shirley, Gina & Laury Langley, Cass Van Loon, Jane Faulkner, Graham Hume, Shirley Drake, Campbell the Swaggie amongst others.

The Woolly Yarn-spinning Competition was won by newcomers Jan & Dael, long time festival groupies gracing the stage for the first time.

There will actually be two Illawarra Festivals next year. The 17th Illawarra Festival to be held Sept/Oct 2001. Details will appear in further editions of the ABPA newsletter.

**Your Festival Scribe: Graeme Johnson.**

### Join the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc was formed at a meeting in January 1994 at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The purposes of the Association are to: \* Foster the publication of a newsletter on a monthly basis to keep members informed of coming events and past results. \* Promote bush poetry as an art form in the entertainment field, both in the spoken form and as published verse. \* Encourage competitions, both written and spoken.

Please complete the form below and send with payment to the ABPA Secretary.

**Membership Application Form:** I wish to become a member of the ABPA Inc. Please use block letters.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque/Cash/other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee \$25.00 Single, family or club member. Juniors \$10.00 (Students to year 12). New members joining after July 01, \$13.00 to end of December. Those who have not been a member previously, may join after October 01 and receive up to 15 months membership for the first years subscription of \$25.00 Financial year is January to December.



## The Product Shelf:

Product Shelf Advertisements: \$5.00 for Two Monthly Newsletter Spots:

How good a bargain is that?

### 'Straight to the Heart' & 'Closer to the Heart'

Two books of poetry from Brian Gale.  
Self published by Margaret River Printers.  
\$10 each or 2 for \$18, postage paid.

Brian also has three tapes which include almost his  
entire work over 15 years.

\$10 each or set of three for \$25, postage paid.

Contact Brian Gale - 25 Georgette Drive  
Margaret River. WA 6285

### Travel the Red Road

by Roderick Williams.

23 poems including pre-amble and photos - past  
and present. Book \$15 + \$1.20 postage.

Compilation Cassette - 'Rod and Jessie'

Lawson, Ogilvie, Gordon etc. Four bush songs, five  
original poems.

40 minutes in length \$15 + \$2 postage. Book &  
Cassette - \$30 including postage.

### "Palma Rosa Poets Live"

Double CD.

Featuring 15 Poets and Singer/Songwriter Mark Tempny.

Cost is \$30.00 - per double CD plus \$3.50 postage. A total  
of \$33.50.

Featured artists include; Trisha Anderson, Carmel  
Dunn, Graham Fredriksen, Wally Finch, Bill Hay,  
Anita Hendrie, George Lovejoy, Bobby Miller, Stuart  
Nivison, Glenny Palmer, Robert Raftery, Anita Reed,  
Noel Stallard, Ron Selby, Milton Taylor and Mark  
Tempny.

Available through the English Speaking Union - 9 Queens  
Road - Hamilton - Brisbane Q 4007 or P O Box 1 -  
Lutwyche Q 4030.

The money raised from the sale of this great double CD  
goes towards the ongoing upkeep and restoration of the  
beautiful "Palma Rosa", headquarters of the English  
Speaking Union, at Hamilton in Brisbane.

### Finalist - Australian Bush Laureate Album of the Year 2001

*"Australian Bush Poetry"*

with Trish Anderson.

Cassette - \$15.00 - Postage - \$2.50

Contact Trish Anderson - 113 Manson Road -  
Hendra - Brisbane Q  
Telephone/fax 07 3268 3624

### Palma Rosa Poets

The next night will be on Wednesday 2nd when the  
inimitable *Ray Essery*, *"The Mullumbimby Bloke"* will  
take the stage once again. Ray has always been one of our  
favourite performers at Palma Rosa - never failing to leave  
us exhausted from laughs with his unique presentation of  
poetry.

Appearing with Ray will be award winning singer/  
songwriter - the beautiful & brilliant *Elizabeth Lord* and her  
husband Leigh James. In 1981 Elizabeth was the youngest  
ever Singer/actress selected as the understudy for the title  
role in the Australian production of *"Evita"* and her beautiful  
presentation of *"Don't cry for me Argentina"* will leave you  
spellbound. She has won many awards and has performed  
and recorded with many artists including *Graeme Connors*,  
*Jade Hurley* and *Vanya*. She has been a regular on the Ray  
Martin Midday Show prompting Ray Martin to say  
*"Elizabeth Lord is a delight - a sparkler as a singer and  
performer - her musical and emotional range is terrific. Go  
give yourself a treat."*

I urge you all to come along on Wednesday 2nd May and do  
just that!

### Bookings Essential!

Cost \$18.00 (including supper - BYO Drinks).

7 pm for 7.30 pm start.  
Wednesday 2nd May

At Palma Rosa 9 Queens Road - Hamilton.

Enquiries - Palma Rosa - 07 3262 3769

Trisha Anderson 07 3268 3624

## "JACK DRAKE" - NATIONAL BUSH POET OF THE YEAR

The first ever National Bush Poet of the Year Awards was successfully conducted on Friday 30th March at the ANA Hotel in Sydney.

An original idea of Mr. Ross Wall of Off the Wall Entertainment, in conjunction with Asthma NSW, the Australian Women's Weekly and in affiliation with the ABPA Inc. the challenge was set to find not only a writer, but a writer-performer, of Australian Bush Poetry.

In celebrating the Centenary of Federation Asthma NSW and The Australian Women's Weekly thought it time to acknowledge the traditional values and rich cultural identity of our nation - with one of the few uniquely Australian art forms being bush poetry.

With the growing popularity of bush poetry, Asthma NSW believed poets needed an avenue to share their words, and so this award was conceived.

Like bush poetry, asthma is particularly Australian - we have one of the highest incidences of the illness in the world. Asthma NSW provides vital information about managing asthma and believes being associated with a high-profile award can only help raise awareness.

Open to all aspiring bush poets, the award called for traditional styled rhyming bush verse.

Seven hundred and fifty submissions were made with each entry requiring a recorded reading of the poem by the author.

From these entries, a representative panel selected five finalists who were flown to Sydney to be adjudged at a fund raising dinner.

A second panel of judges, made up of Dr. Jonathon King, Mr. Peter Fenton and Mr. Frank Daniel took on the laborious task of selecting the overall winner in a very tough contest, with allowances being to be made for quality of content, delivery, presentation and audience appeal - notwithstanding, humour against serious poetry.

**After long deliberation, the winning trophy with a cheque for \$5,000.00 were presented by Smoky Dawson to Jack Drake of Stanthorpe for his rousing performance of "The Cattle Dog's Revenge".**

The other finalist, in order of appearance were, Carolyn Eldridge-Alfonzetti of Sydney ("*The Ballad of Rosie McGreer*"), Bill Kearns of Grafton NSW ("*Heroes Happen*"), Peter Thomas of Mt. Martha Vic. ("*Beneath the Faded Word*") and Grahame Watt of Kyabram Vic. ("*Getting Andy's Wool Off*").

### So Long Mate !

We mourn the passing of Johnny, the gentle giant of rhyme,  
always smiling but well aware, he lived on borrowed time.  
A gentleman who penned his poems exactly as he spoke,  
it would be hard to ever meet, a more genuine Aussie bloke.  
Those who had not met the man will never be enriched,  
nor will they have the untold joy, of hearing the yarns he pitched.  
His verse was written from the heart, his spelling oft' hard to read,  
but 'neath it all beat a heart of gold, a true blue friend indeed.  
He will be missed by one and all, no more to hear "G'day mate,"  
I'm willing to bet my last dollar coin, he so greeted St. Pete at the gate.  
Once through those gates of heavenly pearl, John soon would make himself known  
to each and every soul within sight, no doubt reciting a poem.  
And as our lives roll on through the years, J.J. will be there with a grin,  
for though he cut short his life here on earth, his memories are stored now within.  
Just pause and imagine John up on a cloud with a halo about his head,  
no harp will he strum to his mates up on high, but playing a gum leaf instead.

Johnny Johanson, 1934.....2001.'

Au Revoir '

Beth Bashford,

### Bush Poetry Event - Woodford

The Woodford Lions Club will present a 1 - 1½ poetry event in Woodford on the third Sunday of each month commencing in May - 2001. This will coincide with the local markets. The aim is to promote and encourage both local and visiting talent in the field of Bush Poetry, as well as to bring further interest in the town of Woodford and it's artistic and historical features.

The venue is **Shop # 1 - 95 Archer St, Woodford** - situated halfway between **Clews News-agency** and **Woodford Pharmacy** (so if the news makes you crook, grab some medicine and join the Poets for an even better cure - laughter!). Also in the same row of shops is **Jalla's Café** - where you will get some really good service for tea/coffee/cold drinks and U-beaut tucker.

The "**Lairs, Larrikins and Liar's Lunchtime Laughs & Laments**" (what a gob-full) will kick off at 10.30 am and conclude approximately 12.00 noon). Mark Feldman will host the event and will be joined by locals Pat Markey & Lance Reason, to present guest poets and encourage amateurs, veterans and young and old alike to participate in keeping this Aussie tradition alive and well.

**For further information, please contact Mark Feldman on Phone/ Fax 07 5496 1157 or mobile 0407 625408**

### Towers Poetry Fest.

The 3rd Annual Festival of Australian Bush Poetry is being hosted by the Gold City Bush Poets from Tuesday to Thursday 1 - 3rd May - 2001. While final plans are almost complete, it is anticipated that more than \$1000.00 in cash prizes and trophies will be on offer for the various sections with all age groups catered for.

The program will entail a 'Meet & Greet' evening, Bush Poets Breakfasts, (2), Workshop, Competitions and Performances. Professional Poets, Bill Burgess of Cairns and John Major from Baralaba have been engaged for the event - both blokes well credentialed in the 'art' of performance and entertaining.

Special attention will be directed to school aged students for written verse, with a number taking in a workshop.

A number of venues will include the Stock Exchange courtyard, Dalrymple Stadium (sale yards), RSL Club and at St Patrick's Hotel. The Gold City Poets are confident of receiving ample patronage from Poets, visitors and local residents to ensure a successful venture. Entries for the written sections will close 18th April, performance sections 1st May. Enquiries can be directed to Gold City Poets, P O Box 797 Charters Towers Qld 4820 or telephone Arthur on 07 4787 2409 or Sandra 07 4787 2944 after hours. Fax # 07 4787 1439..

### **JOY**

#### **Contact Bluey**

Tel 0500 817718 fax 0500 817719

email [backtracks@hotmail.com](mailto:backtracks@hotmail.com)

83 Great Western Highway

**BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**

### LIVE LOCAL POETS meeting 2, held 06/04/2001.

Live Local Poets hit a jackpot at this months meeting.

No fewer than 15 poets performed at The Point of View Café on Friday night and it was standing room only with a large amount of spectators, in this spacious and airy venue.

What was pleasing to the resident poets, Carl Cree, Red Earl and Rob Spence was the amount of first time reciters that turned up to air their material. This shows that there is merit in marketing our product, poetry, towards the novice verse writers. We were also happy with the content and goodwill that was displayed. There was a very strong showing by the people from Gallery 119 and also folk from as far away as Wooloongabba and West End who made their way down by train to be at the evening. The M.C of, and co-founder of No Boundaries, Doug Broad, a professional poet, recited and gave us terrific motivation and all present enjoyed the works of the Gallery 119 people. Red Earl wrapped up the evening with a bush poem written and performed with her own individual and outstanding style. This lady inspires me to drive my craft to even further limits.

An outstanding quote over heard on the night by this Author, " People are sick and tired of the guitar and the digital drum machine."

So if you are looking for a venue to give your verse an airing, any style is welcome. Please feel free and welcome to come to our walk-up gig on the bay. The Point of View Café 1 Main St. Wellington Point, the first Friday of each month at 7.00p.m. Join in the fun with The Live Local Poets! Rob Spence A.B.P.A member. 0419 786 269

### Millmerran Bush Poets Group.

Entry forms are now available for the 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poets Round-up. Junior ( 8 - 16 years ) written competition will close on 31st July 2001 and NO late entries will be accepted. The Performance competition, including yarn-spinning will close on August 24 - 2001. These forms are available by send SSAE to "The Legend" P O Box 64 Millmerran, Qld 4357, or at the Public Library or the District & Community Support Office in Millmerran.

The "Round-up" will run from the 31st August to September 2nd - 2001 and the proceeds will benefit Yallambee Retirement Village Millmerran.

7 pm Friday at Blandy's Tavern the Round-Up will commence with a "Traditional" Aussie Bar-B-Q and Yarn-spinning competition, (there is \$100 plus a trophy for the best yarn). An 'open mic' session will follow. Only \$5.00 per head, includes a steak burger.

9 am Saturday in the Millmerran Cultural Centre, where admission is free, we will hold the Novice, Intermediate, Duo and Open heats. A sausage sizzle, soft drinks & tea/coffee will be available during the day.

7 pm Saturday at Blandy's Tavern we will hold the "State of Origin" show, Qld won this event last year by half a point and 50 laughs !!! A great nights entertainment for only \$5.00.

9 am at Blundy's Tavern we will hold the Poet's Breakfast, a hot meal of bacon, sausages, eggs, tomato, toast and with tea and coffee for only \$5.00. This will be followed by the "Open Finals", Poets Brawl and Presentations.

Poets, including some of Australia's best, will come from all over the country for this event, it's a weekend of great family entertainment presented in the traditional way, the way of entertainment before TV, and dare I say, radio as well.

Come along and join us on the weekend 31st August to September 2nd for the 5th Annual Millmerran Bush Poet's Round-Up, you'll have a great time and help us to help Yallambee.

**Kev J Barnes**  
**"The Legend"**



# What's goin' on 'round the traps!

## New South East Brisbane Venue

On the **first Friday of every month** you can join in the poetry group at "The Point of View Café" at the point of - yes - Wellington Point. It is situated on Main Road Wellington Point and starts at 7.00pm.. If you need more information - call Rob Spence on 0419 786 269

\*\*\*\*\*

## **EULO Annual Mothers Day Fair:**

12 - 13 May - 2001

Written & Performance Poetry Competition for adults, primary & secondary children. \$1500 in prizes money plus trophies. In augural "Dangerous" Dan Smith Memorial Trophy. Written competition closes at the end of March. Enquiries: Janine Haig, "Moama" Eulo Qld 4491. Telephone: 07 4655 4862 Fax 07 4655 4901. email janinehaig@bigpond.com

Put the date on your calendars and come and see that Eulo really does exist!

- Category 1: Junior; secondary School Students
- Category 2: Junior; Primary School Students
- Category 3: Open; Serious Traditional Original
- Category 4: Open; Humorous Traditional or Modern
- Category 5: Open; Serious Original
- Category 6: Open; Humorous Original
- Category 7 Open; Yarn-spinning

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Ludwig Leichhardt Pageant Fun Day 2001:**

Sunday 20th May - 2001:

Written Competition open to adults. Unpublished poem not exceeding 50 lines. Closing date is Sunday 4th May - 2001: Topic - "Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush". Please keep a copy of your poem and put personal details (ie: name, address phone/fax) on a separate sheet. Judged independently and announced at the Fun Day. Entries to: Cecil Plains Homestead 'Leichhardt Poetry Competition' Cecil Plains, Qld 4407.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Fest.**

**Fri. 29th June - Mon. 2nd July - 2001:**

QANTAS - Waltzing Matilda Championships, Christina McPherson Novice Awards, Australian Bush Yarn-spinning Championships, Novelty Poetry Events & Concerts. This event is the highlight of the Queensland Bush Poetry Calendar and Winton puts on a great welcome for all comers. For more information contact: The Organiser: P O Box 84, Hughenden Qld 4821 :

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc:**

Bush Lantern award for Bush Verse 2001. Entry forms available from:

Mr Ross Keppel, Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc., P O Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670.

Entries close for written competition on May 31st 2001:

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Poetry in the Park**

9th June - 10 am, Grenfell Memorial Park.

10th June, Poetry & Damoer around the Campfire at Grenfell Henry Lawson Park from 9.30 am.

10th June - Poetry Evening at the Exchange Hotel from 7.30 pm. Free event - open to all participate (not a competition).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc:**

Presents the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster on July 6th - 8th, 2001.

Competitions: Opens, Intermediates, Novices, Juniors and under 12's. N.B: Intermediate Category: Anyone who has not been placed 1st - 2nd or 3rd in any open competition or 1st in any intermediate competition. Closing date for performance competition entries is June 22nd, but late entries will be accepted on the week-end.

Entry forms available from:

Bundaberg Poet's Society Inc.,

P O Box 4281, South Bundaberg Qld 4670.

Enquiries: John & Sandy on 07 4151 4631

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Australian Bush Poetry Championships**

**The QANTAS - WALTZING  
MATILDA BUSH POETRY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS being held in  
WINTON will now also be the  
"Australian Bush Poetry  
Championships".**

Friday June 30th - Monday 2nd July 2001.  
Please contact: The Organiser - P O Box 84  
Hughenden Qld 4821: (Please send a S.A.S.E.).  
or telephone 07 4741 5041:

\*\*\*\*\*

**North Pine Bush Poet's Camp Oven Award 2001  
for written Verse.**

Must be Bush Verse and a maximum length of 120 lines.

Open Competition - 1st Prize, Trophy & \$300; 2nd prize \$150;  
3rd Prize \$75:

Junior Competition - (13 - 16 years old), 1st Prize \$50; (9 - 12  
years old), 1st Prize \$25; (8 years & under), 1st Prize \$10;  
Entry fee \$5.00 or three for \$10.00; Juniors free; Entries close  
15th July 2001.

**Enquiries/ entry forms:**

Contact the coordinator Mary Hodgson, 74 Diamond  
Valley Road, Mooloolah Qld 4553. Telephone 07 5494  
7260

\*\*\*\*\*

24 - 25 - 26 - 27 May

great dates for a great competition.

**What is it?** The North Coast's most popular Bush  
Poets gathering..

**Where is it?** Cecil Hotel - CASINO

**Who is there?** All the guns.

**Breakfasts?** Each morning at 9.00 am

**For any and all inquiries give Ray Essery a call  
on  
02 6684 3817**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Billy Mateer Award for Bush Poets.**

The inaugural 'Billy Mateer' Award for bush verse will be  
held by the Brisbane Valley Historical Society. There are 3  
sections & 3 prizes in each section. Senior 1st - \$100.00 \*  
Secondary Students 1st - \$50.00 \* Primary Students 1st -  
\$25.00;

Entries, which close on 30th June 2001 are available from;

The Secretary - Brisbane Valley Historical Society Inc  
P O Box 92  
Toogoolawah Q 4313

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**POETS BRUNCH & AUSSIE HUMOUR SHOW  
PLUS Blackboard Concert**

in conj. with Kempsey Country Music Festival  
8.30 am - 12 midday, Sunday 9th September 2001  
Moon River Motel, Pacific Hwy, Kempsey NSW

**Feature Poet - Frank Daniel**  
**Open Mike Session at Blackboard Concert**  
Admission \$11.00 - Bookings Preferred  
Ring Gwen 02 6562 2937

**DORRIGO MOUNTAIN TOP  
BUSH POETS ROUND UP**

in conj. with Dorriggo Spring Festival  
1 pm - 4 pm, Saturday 27th October 2001

Local and Visiting Poets Welcome

**Feature Poet - To be Announced**

Admission Gold Coin - Ring Murray 02 6657 2139

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**GOONDIWINDI & DISTRICT HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY INC.**

**BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP  
CUSTOMS HOUSE MUSEUM  
ANNUAL OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY JUNE 2ND 2001**

Male original, Novice & Poets Brawl  
Female Original, Novice & Poets Brawl  
Junior Original & Poets Brawl

Trophies will be awarded in all sections  
Entries close Friday 21st MAY

(Late entries may be accepted depending on  
nomination numbers)

Entry Fee \$5.00 Students \$2.50

**Rules & Nomination Forms:**

The Secretary Phyllis Zirbel

P.O. Box 100

GOONDIWINDI 4390

or contact;

**John PITT 46 711912**

All the usual stalls including Hot Scones  
Damper, Tea & Coffee  
And the ever popular Camp Oven  
Cooking  
Fashion Parade by Head Over Heels  
Raffles  
**Stall Bookings to:**

**Marg McMILLAN 467 15509**

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**ABPA ANNUAL BOOKS OF VERSE  
1995 to 2000**

Available from your Treasurer  
or the Secretary

Members price \$3.00 each

Post - \$1.10 for up to 4 books, 12 Post Free

Australian Bush Poets Association Inc  
P O Box 5208  
Manly Q 4179 March 2001  
Print Post PP 242018/0013

Surface  
mail



### Chinese Bushranger

Sam Poo, the Chinese bushranger, was active between Mudgee and Coonabarabran, New South Wales in 1865. Challenged by Casba Ward, the Chinese Bushranger called out, "You Policeman - me shootee you!" and then shot and wounded the trooper. Sam Poo was eventually hunted down and captured. His trail was straight forward, he was convicted of attempted murder and hanged.

### Poets Calendar of Events and Competitions:

6th April Friday **Waltzing Matilda** Junior Bush Poetry Festival - Hughenden  
6th April **Man From Snowy River Festival** Tel/fax Jan 02 6077 4332 email poetfarm@corryong.net.au  
20th April **NSW Bush Poetry Champs** Tumult NSW Neil 02 6025 3845  
20th - 22nd April Tenterfield Oracles of the Bush - Tenterfield  
20th April Closing date for Ludwig Leichhardt in the Bush written Competition  
29th Centenary of Federation Bush Poets Breakfast Rockhampton Vanessa 07 4924 5600  
30th April Closing date **Bronze Swagman Bush Poetry** written Competition  
1st May to 3rd May **Festival of Australian Bush Poetry** - Charters Towers  
12th - 13th May EULO Mothers Day Fair - Eulo  
20th May **The Ludwig Leichhardt Pageant Fun day** - Cecil Plains - Closing date 4th May - contact 07 4668 0098 - fax 07 4668 0097.  
24 - 25 - 26 & 27 May. Cecil Hotel - Casino. Contact Ray Essery for details etc on 02 6684 3817  
Weekend of June 8th - '**Golden Horseshoe Poetry Awards**' at Beaudesert Q - enquiries to 07 5541 1442  
30th June **Australian Bush Poetry Champs** Winton The organiser 07 4152 9624 or 07 4151 4631  
30th June - Closing date for the inaugural "**Billy Mateer**" award for written Bush Verse. Contact The Secretary P O Box 92 Toogoolawah Q 4313  
6th July **Bundy Muster**. Performance & written. Tel /Joan 07 4152 9624 or Sandy/John 07 4151 4631  
9th - 18th August. Poets at the EKKKA. Contact Trisha on 07 3268 3624  
Sept 9th 8.30 am - 12 midday. **Poets Brunch & Blackboard Concert**, Moon River Motel, Pacific Hwy, Kempsey NSW. Featuring - Poet Frank Daniel. Ph. Gwen 02 6562 2937  
October 27th 1 - 4 pm. **Dorrigo Mountain Top Bush Poets Round Up**. Dorrigo Bowling Club. Feature Poet T.B.A. Ph. Murray 02 6657 2139