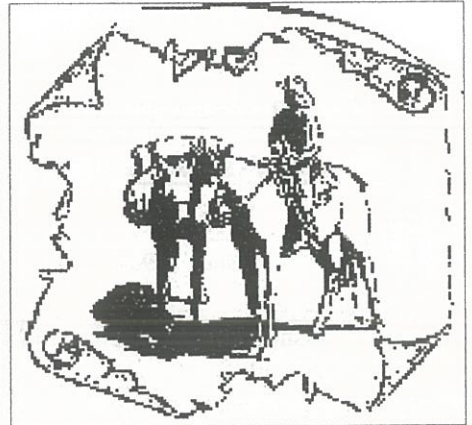


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.



Volume 9 No. 2.

February 2002

ABPA HISTORY

The Australian Bush Poets Association was formed at Tamworth's Imperial Hotel on 28th January 1994 following the finals of the bush poetry competitions.

Former professional rodeo clown, bullfighter and entrepreneur, Merv 'Bluey' Bostock chaired inaugural meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association.

Twenty-eight interested parties attended and it was from this meeting that the association grew.

An interim committee was elected with Merv 'Bluey' Bostock and Ron Selby elected Acting President and Acting Secretary/Treasurer.

Ron also took on the roll of editor turning out a monthly newsletter.

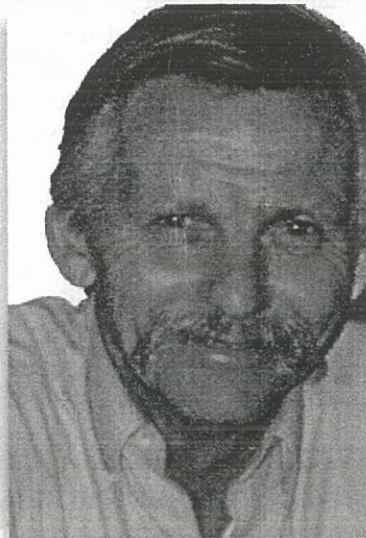
The proposed aims of the association were generally agreed to be

1. The publication and circulation of a newsletter on a regular basis to keep members informed of upcoming events and progress within the association.

2. The registration of the Association with the Justice Department.

3. The formation of a body representative of all bush poets at state and national levels to promote both written and performance bush poetry as a recognized art form.

Further snippets of *ABPA History* can be found in this issue.



Ron Selby

THE FIRST NEWSLETTER

Ron Selby didn't waste much time in publishing the first ever bush poets newsletter. Within a fortnight of the Inaugural meeting it was in the mail to members, suitably endorsed with gunnuts and gum-leaves and a request for art work.

Many illustrations were submitted but it was not until the July issue that our adopted logo, the packhorse drover by Pam Blackman appeared.



Bush Poets at Tamworth

(Toowoomba Chronicle 4th Feb. 1994)

At the recent Australian Country Music Festival at Tamworth, bush poets gained even greater recognition than in previous years when three of Australia's best were invited for the first time to recite at the Australian Day Concert.

Around 12, 000 people rose to give a standing ovation when Queenslander Bob Miller recited his original poem, 'What Makes a True Australian?'

The theme of Miller's poem was that mateship was not just confined to the bush, and that real Australians were everywhere.

(Note: The other two poets in attendance with Bobby were Murray Hartin and the late John Philipson.)

Worth mentioning here is the results of the Imperial Hotel Competition as per The Land Newspaper of Feb. 10 1994.

Mark Gliori won the Original section with 'Queenie', his fourth victory at the 'Impy' since the competition started.

Runner up was Ray Essery with Bob Miller third.

The traditional section was won by Ray Essery followed by Noel Cutler and Geoffrey Graham.

Toowoomba bush poet Carmel Randle was there, and said the standard of competition was extraordinarily high in both the original and traditional competitions.

People lined up for an hour and a half before the opening of the poets breakfasts.

**Australian Bush
Poets Association
Inc.**

(Established 1994)

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All copy to Frank Daniel

SPREAD THE WORD

Ask a friend to become a financial member of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Annual membership stands at \$25.00 per annum - from January 1st to December 31st.

Application forms are not essential. Becoming a member is as simple as posting a cheque or money order to the Treasurer, Rosemary Baguley (address in above column) and a short note bearing your name, postal address, telephone and fax. numbers and your email address if you have one.

Presidents Report



Dear Members and readers,

Since my last term as President of the ABPA I have had numerous requests to 'take the job on again'.

While this is gratifying, I was in deep quandary as to whether I wanted to be the leader of such a great organization, or just sit back and let it all happen.

Sitting back, I felt that, while some goals had been reached, there were some areas, particularly membership which needed addressing urgently.

Each year the association gains new members and loses old ones. Without doubt, the keenest area of interest is our newsletter. It has been the newsletter that kept the 'family' together. We need this family to keep growing, and we can do this if we give them what they want.

Quality improvements to production are vital but other important issues remain. We need quality of content, particularly in the areas of consistent information and event coverage. You can help in this area by submitting your 'news' and items of interest. I'll do my best as editor to ensure that such items are published.

We need to pay more attention to our written word. The inclusion of well metered rhyming verse will be considered over and above verse of poorer quality. Topics of verse should reflect items of general interest.

Education. For those of us willing to learn - consideration will be given to articles from poets and performers willing to share their skills and willing to help others.

Given that we can collectively achieve these aims with quality content, I feel confident that growth, both of the association and individual members will follow.

The ABPA website which I have been conducting since 1995, is testament to the popularity of bush poetry (world wide) with in excess of 20,000 hits in the last twelve months.

In light of economics, and in order to maintain the current membership fees, the newsletter will now be issued on a bi-monthly basis containing more pages, more news and more items of interest as per this issue.

The next newsletter will be out in early April with the deadline for copy being not later than 20th. March. Should any urgent matters arise that can't wait until that issue please contact me.

I sincerely hope that all members will be happy with the present arrangements, and that each will do his or her best to make others aware of the Bush Poets association urging them to become members as well.

Frank Daniel

President.

From Anon.

It's all very well to be pleasant
When the world goes along with a song
But the bloke worthwhile is the one who can smile
When everything goes dead wrong.

ABPA HISTORY.....

Inaugural members of the Australian Bush Poets Association

Merv 'Bluey' Bostock - Cairns Qld.
Ron Selby - Drayton North Qld.
Carmel Randle - Preston Qld.
Frank Daniel - Canowindra NSW.
Bobby Miller - Mungar Qld.
Ron 'Boulia' Bates - Gatton Qld.
John Major - Baralaba Qld.
Ray Essery - Mullumbimby NSW
Noel Cutler - Milawa Vic.
Bob Magor - Myponga SA
Geoffrey Graham - Bealiba Vic.
John Rennick - Forbes NSW
Phillipa Powell - Tamworth NSW
Campbell Irving - Truro SA
John Philipson - Tamworth NSW
Tiny Hall - Tamworth NSW
Reid Begg - Forster NSW
B. McConnell - Sheldon Qld.
Doug Broad - Cooma NSW
P. Roberts - Tamworth NSW
S. Edwards - Bilgola Plateau NSW
Janet O'Brien Vise - Rockhampton Qld.
Max Jarrott - Killarney Qld.
Johnny Johanson - Wynnum Qld.
Pauline Begg - Forster NSW
B. Dickman - Chinchilla Qld.
Billy Hay - Chinchilla Qld.
David Walker - Forbes NSW



LIZ WARD

Past Presidents Report:

By now most of you will probably know a number of us did not stand for office this time, myself included. Please be assured those of us who did not seek re-election did so with the best interests of the Association at heart.

In some ways this has been a tougher than usual year. But there have been valued lessons learned. Many very good suggestions have been put forward and I hope they will be considered carefully at the AGM. as most of them were included on the agenda.

Among issues to be resolved were:

- A regular sponsor for all ABPA National Championships.
- Relocation of our registration for incorporation.
- Choice of who will host our Championships in 2003.

There are some good minds in our active membership and I hope some things of value came out of the AGM.

I would like to take this last opportunity to thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the last twelve months. Liz Ward our Vice-President for her wisdom and expertise; Ron Selby, Vice President/Secretary, long ago named the quiet achiever, and for good reasons; Rosemary Baguley, our Treasurer with calm efficiency kept our finances in order and the books balanced; and Bernie Bliss who took the reins of our newsletter.

Unfortunately Bernie resigned in September. But our loss was his gain because he launched a successful business selling real estate in Brisbane's Bayside. Stepping into the breach was my daughter, Elizabeth Colls. Liz was pleased to exercise skills of her trade for a change - something she had not done since becoming a mum. Judging from letters from members most liked her approach. Thank you Liz.

To our incoming committee, thank you for coming forward and getting involved. I'm sure everyone joins me in wishing you all a successful and productive year ahead.

And finally an apology to anyone who sent emails I didn't answer. Please put it down to a new toy I didn't (and still don't) know how to operate. A situation complicated by a dreaded virus (since cured). Even though it went against the grain I did ask for help.

Wally Finch

Out-going President.

Have you renewed your annual subscription?

REMINDER

This could be your last newsletter!

Annual fees \$25 for single family

\$10 for junior members (students to year 12).

All payments to Rosemary Baguley - Treasurer.

22/12 Taurus Rd. CAPALABA Q. 4157

Letters to the Editor

FROM LIZ COLLS

While I haven't been Editor for very long it has been a wonderful, positive experience. I really appreciated your encouraging comments. With regret I am returning to full time work and when that is combined with the normal demands of a young family there is not enough time left to do this job properly.

I wish my successor as much joy and satisfaction as I had.

Keep on enjoying Bush Poetry.

Liz Colls.

For Corrie de Haas.

Congratulations on your work!
You've done Australia proud,
For you're an Aussie through and through
Corrie, proclaim it loud.
I'm only eighteen years of age,
Yet Aussie that's true blue
But you've been here far longer mate
So you're an Aussie too.

Jade Brischke - Gladstone Q.

From Liz to Liz

Hello from another Liz. I'd like to add my voice to the many who have offered congratulations on the 'new look' newsletter.

Your very professional approach can only bring credit to our magazine.

Many of our poets are already committed to help with celebrations for the Year of the Outback 2002. This is as it should be. Although not all bush poetry is written about the outback, it is true that many wonderful tales and numerous colourful characters are to be found in the remote places where life is so different from that of the city dweller. The very harshness of the inland breeds strong resilient men and women.

Successor to Reverend John Flynn, (Flynn of the Inland) was the Reverend Fred McKay who along with another well known Australian, RM Williams, was named as a sponsor of the Year of the Outback. Sadly, he did not live to see this event.

Fred McKay died on the 31st March 2001. His ashes are interred in the Peace Gardens at St. Phillip's College in Alice Springs.

He was deeply involved in running this operation which provides accommodation for

Hello Frank,

I was more than delighted when told that we had a new executive, of which you are President and that you have also taken on the role of editor.

As a member of the Association for some years, I am well aware of your expertise in both these fields and herewith take the opportunity to say, "Welcome back!"

I would like to see more Association news printed in our newsletter. After all, as my memory recalls, the main aim of our association is to communicate information about poetry events to members. On that basis, I believe a good start would be to publish both the full minutes of our recently held AGM, together with the Treasurer's Report.

Other information, i.e. minutes of committee meetings, nominees for the Australian Championships, etc are two other items which may also warrant publication

I believe that an association which communicates important information such as this will encourage stronger interest from it's members and can only grow as a result.

Please accept my thanks for your ongoing commitment to Bush Poetry.

Sincerely, Maureen Stonham, Nambucca Heads, NSW.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday 17th to Sunday 20th May 2002
MULWALA SERVICES CLUB

Ph. 03 5744 2331 www.mulwalaservices.com.au

Treat yourself to a weekend of tears and laughter as you listen to the Bush Poets recite their best work. Poets travel from all over Australia to participate in this prestigious event, hoping to be crowned the best in the business.

Plus Live Entertainment:

Friday 17th May 'JOHN LAWRENCE DUO'
Saturday 18th May. 'SOVEREIGN'

For more information and
accommodation details contact

Yarrawonga/Mulwala Tourist Information Centre
(03) 5744 1989

black and white children from remote parts of the Northern Territory.

I enclose a poem I wrote as a tribute to this man whom I met only once with his lovely wife, Meg, many years ago.

Yours faithfully,

Liz Ward.

(Liz Ward's poem can be found on page 8)

MARCO'S NEW ALBUM 'LIVE, LOUD and LUDICROUS'

comes from the same stable as the Naked Poets, Shoestring Records.

Ever since leaving the Queensland Police Force and 'going straight', Marco Gliori has developed a reputation as one of Australia's leading bush poets.

As part of the Naked Poets team, he has delighted audiences around the country with his comical perceptions of life and its many characters.

With *'Live, Loud and Ludicrous'*, Marco, *'the wog on the grog'*, gives his fans an opportunity to listen to a better sample of his own work, with more of his own poems, tales of growing up, general observations and insights into the man himself.

Recorded live with the Wongawilli Bush Band, this album contains some rollicking musical interludes and gives the listener a real feeling of presence at one of Marco's shows.

A most enjoyable album and if you loved Marco in the Naked Poets and have always wanted to hear more, *'Live, Loud and Ludicrous'* is the answer.

Available from Marco Gliori on Shoestring Records, Phone/fax 07 4661 4024 emailto:gliori@flexi.net.au

Do us a favour, tell 'im we sent ya!

THIRTY FIRST BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD



The highly coveted world wide competition for Bush Verse, the Bronze Swagman Award, is now thirty one years old.

The Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse rolled its swag in 1972 and has since wandered all over Australia and the world.

Winton Tourist Promotion Association, now Vision Winton Inc., launched it as an annual competition to foster the writing of traditional

NAKED SUCCESS....

The Naked Poets 'got it off' once again at the Tamworth Golf Club during Country Music Week.

This very successful group performed their new *'Naked Super Heroes'* show to capacity audiences over five nights as well as managing four entirely different ninety-minute lunch time shows.

The Naked Poets have been described as a phenomena in media circles, filling venues when more renowned country music acts have been struggling for crowds.

How do they do it? It's not hard to understand. Visitors to Tamworth, along with many locals, are in holiday mode at this time of year and, wanting to make the best of the festival, seek out the light hearted atmosphere of bush poetry venues where a laugh a minute is a guaranteed cure for any real life hang-ups. A big plus in their favour is that they remain fully clothed throughout the entire performance.

'Naked Super Heroes' enveloped some previously proven successful concepts such as the State of Origin, and also encompassed some more bizarre skits such as the *'Ballet of the Bumble-bees'*. *'Captain Maggot'*, the real Naked Super Hero was a runaway hit.

For the third year in succession, the Naked Poets were fortunate enough to have one of their members recipient of a *'Golden Gumleaf'* at the Australian Bush Laureate Awards - Murray Hartin won the *'Book of the Year'* section with his publication *'Turbulence and Other Hot Air'*.

The Naked Poets have a big year ahead of them with the release of their *'Naked Poets 3'* album. They will be hosting the famous Oracles of the Bush at Tenterfield from April 18th - 21st.

Australian Bush Verse made famous by Paterson, Lawson, Ogilvie and others.

Winton, (originally known as Pelican Waterhole) is a small bush town in outback Queensland. It was in this district in 1895 at Dagworth Station, that 'Banjo' Paterson wrote the words of the world famous ballad *'Waltzing Matilda'*. Winton is also the birthplace of Australia's International Airline, QANTAS, formed in 1920.

This unique award for written bush verse sees a Bronze Statuette of the Swagman, designed and sculptured by Daphne Mayo and valued at \$2,500 going to the outright winner along with a Winton Boulder Opal worth \$250.

Entries are limited to original works of approximately 700 words and are acceptable from any country in the world. Entry forms and conditions of entry are available from Vision Winton, P.O. Box 444 Winton Queensland 4735.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS - 2002

A capacity audience in Tamworth's famous Town Hall witnessed the seventh annual presentation of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards on Tuesday 22nd January.

A stunning entertainment program, including a 2002 Best of the Bush Salute to the Year of the Outback, provided a perfect backdrop to this year's presentation of Golden Gumleaf trophies.

Murray Hartin was named winner of the Book of the Year award with his publication 'Turbulence and Other Hot Air' from finalists, Bob Magor, Veronica Weal, Bill Scott and Roderick Williams.

Album of the Year went to Bob Magor with his recording 'The Best of Caravanning Bliss' on the Reach Out label from finalists Jack Drake, Marco Gliori, the Asthma NSW compilation album and the compilation from the Palma Rosa Poets.

The Single Recorded Performance of the Year went to Geoff Sharpe of Gulgong NSW his track 'Faces in the Street' (H. Lawson) from finalists Bob Magor, Marco Gliori, Jack Drake and Chris Webster.

Outback legend, RM Williams was named winner of the prestigious Judith Hosier Heritage Award. In his absence, Ted Egan of Alice Springs accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Williams. The late Judith Hosier founded these awards in 1996. (Kate Nugent - CMAA Tamworth). See p. 18

'SKEW-WIFF' LAUNCHES 'POOR OLD GRANDAD'

Kyabram (Vic.) bush poet Grahame 'Skew-Wiff' Watt launched his second book of bush poetry, limericks, jokes and tales on at a special dinner held by the 'Ky' Bush Poets in their clubrooms at the Kyabram Fauna Park.

Illustrated by Tongala Artist Murray Ross this book is guaranteed to delight readers over and over again with, not only the verse and yarns, but the great cartoons as well.

Wattie is a long time writer of verse and limericks, having won the 'Diamond Shears' for Bush Verse at Longreach Q. in 1991 and was runner up in 1994. He was the Australian Limerick Champion with 'Aussie Post' the same year.

Grahame's work has been included annually in the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse since 1985. He was inducted into the Wall of Renown at the Fireside Festival at Tamworth's Longyard Hotel in 1997 and won the Australian Championships written poetry section in 2000.

Wattie's poetry can be found in a number of anthologies.

IMPERIAL HOTEL BUSH POETRY

The Imperial Hotel Bush Poetry Competition sponsored by Country Energy and conducted by the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group was once again hailed as one of the most important performance bush poetry competitions in the country.

Heats of the competition were held over three days from which twelve finalist were selected for the Australia Day finals of the Original Bush Verse section and eleven from the Traditional.

In what could only be described as a 'very tough' challenge, Noel Stallard of Brisbane won the Original Section with 'Both Ladies Wore Red'. Runner-up was Dave Proust - Foresters Reach NSW ('What Happened to the Horses') followed by Veronica Weal - Mt. Isa Q. ('A Breaker's Tale').

The Traditional section saw some fine performance/recitals of 'other peoples work', from the pen of 'Banjo' Paterson through to present day writers; again the same degree of toughness was found in separating the entrants.

Noel Stallard was placed first with 'The Play' by CJ Dennis; runner-up was Dave Proust 'The Bachelor's Revenge' by Bobby Miller followed by Len Knight with 'Colours of the Cross' (Pat Drummond).



GRAHAME WATT

COWBOY POET TO VISIT



Dick Warwick returns to Australia in March as guest of Milton Taylor and Frank Daniel.

During his stay he will take in festivals at Port Fairy Vic. - The John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera - The National Folk Festival and The Man From Snowy River Festival at Corryong.

Dick Warwick was born and raised in the Palouse Country of Eastern Washington state (North America), where he operates a family farm, raising wheat, barley, lentils, and hay. His wife Sue breeds and raises horses.

He also sings, plays fiddle and harmonica and writes and recites poetry. He was inspired to become a performer following a trip to Western Australia, where he drove headers during a long harvest season and went to town to listen to 'bush bands' on days off.

Returning to the United States, Dick formed the Urban Coyote Bush Band, which features Australian songs & music. Inspired by folk performers he had heard Down Under, he also included recitations of outback poetry.

Later he began including his own poems and then began sharing his work at cowboy poetry gatherings. He has been a featured poet at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada; the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle, and has also performed at events in Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, Wyoming, and Montana.

In 1999 he participated in several Australian festivals, including the National Folk Festival, the Illawarra Folk Festival, Martis Fiesta and the Waltzing Matilda Festival in Winton, Queensland.

His material stretches from the range to the strange; from Out West to the Outback, from off-the-wall to deep in the heart, from knee-slapping to tear-jerking.

He will entertain you with such poems as the Free-Range Chicken, the Marriageable Man, the Bovine Systems Engineer, the Rodeo Clown, and A Colorful Character; as well as poems about genetic engineering, old trucks, farmers, farriers, friends and farewells. Besides his original material, he also has a repertoire of classic cowboy and outback poetry ready to perform for your entertainment.

His poetry is available in a small chapbook, Fence Rhymes, and on four cassettes, Sunfish Slim, A Boy and His Doggerel, The Jacket, and Poetaster's Choice.

A CD is due out in late February of 2002. Some selections are also included in anthologies and on volume 3 of the "Train of Thought" series. Both the 2000 and 2001 Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse include some of his material.

AUSSIES AT ARVADA CENTER

In January this year, former Australian Champion Bush Poets, Janine Haig and Milton Taylor (Milton is also current Aust. Men's Champion) travelled to the USA and the Arvada Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Colorado.

They flew into Denver midst a heavy snow storm to be greeted by familiar faces and wonderful friends made on their 2001 visit.

With no rest for the wicked, they went into an organised series of one-hour workshops at various Elementary and Middle schools in the area.

Carmel Randle of Toowoomba also arrived in time to join them in the workshops.

The school visits, 26 workshops in one week, were well received with a lot of additional time used in explaining to students and staff exactly what the Aussies were talking about.

The school visits were something new to the Americans and hopefully have set off a whole new idea in the area.

The 2002 Arvada Cowboy Poetry Gathering was the 13th annual event with performers having to apply 6 months in advance for acceptances. About a quarter of the applicants manage to be placed in the shows.

The gathering ran for four days with shows and matinees and one hour 'Theme' sessions held in five smaller auditoriums, with five shows daily in each.

The 'Down Under Sessions' were more than popular with standing room only. Performers for these sessions were Janine Haig, Carmel Randle, Milton Taylor and Dick Warwick. Many of the Aussie poets have met Dick - and despite the fact that he resides in the town of Oakesdale in Washington State, he is close enough to being an Aussie to be part of the Down Under bunch.

Janine had to leave before the Gathering at Elko, returning to Australia and Tamworth as Carmel Dunn and family from Warwick Q. arrived in LA. Dick Warwick proving a most capable chauffeur.

GOD'S BOUNDARY RIDER

© Liz Ward - Mt. Perry Q.

No church, no altar, nothing but an ironbark tree
To cast a meagre shade upon the sand.
This pastor of the bush conducts his ministry
Bowing his head in prayer beside a lonely track.
God's boundary rider of the harsh outback.

Driving a Mission Sister to some far outpost,
Yarning with drovers round the campfire's glow
Baptising children who may never see the coast
Taking God's message whither he may go,
Lending a hand and giving of his best.
God's Boundary Rider of the fenceless west.

In humble homesteads, Book in hand, in pastoral gown,
He'd make a little room a holy place
Where hard strong men laid their Akubra's down
And bowed their heads in reverent grace.
An ear to listen and a heart to understand,
God's Boundary Rider of the Neverland.

Before the battle when a soldier's heart grew cold,
New strength he found to ease his troubled mind
While sharing thoughts and problems with this friend who told
Of hope and love, salvation for mankind.
Listening, praying, just behind the battle line.
God's Boundary Rider where the bullets whine.

A lone bush mother, watching the dark hours away
Awaiting dawn and Flying Doctor plane,
Takes comfort from him, kneels to hear him pray
And tell her, 'Trust in God. He knows your pain'.
He shares her fear and anguish as the lamp burns low,
God's Boundary Rider where the red sands blow.

He heard the call, he shared the dream that fired John Flynn
He rose above more of race and creed,
In far flung places, 'way beyond cities din,
Serving his Boss each day in word and deed.
The friend and mentor in the land of Faraway
God's Boundary Rider, Reverend Fred McKay.

BOOK DATA AUSTRALIA

Hopefully of interest to all writers is the above company who is willing to list, without charge, all books, provided that they have an ISBN (International Standard Book Number)

The company, "Book Data" is based in the UK and offers a range of computer-based bibliographic information services for the international book trade. Their Australian editors not only integrate Australian published material with international English language titles but also supply Australian prices for titles, imported and available through distributors here.

Booksellers, importers, libraries, publishers and distributors around the world rely on them to show the correct bibliographic and distribution details.

There is no charge to authors who wish to have their book details appear on Book Data's CD-ROM and Online Products

Titles published in Australia may be listed as bibliographic records and Book Data will enter these without charge and make them available around the world wherever their Book Data CD and on-line products are sold.

Contact can be made with Book Data who will send out a very informational kit in which publication details can be easily listed. Their details are as follows

Book Data in Australia,
PO Box 746, Noosa Heads, Qld 4567
Phone: 07 5474 8544.

Fax: 07 5474 5202.

Email: data@bookdata.com.au

MS

CARMEL DUNN - ELKO Australia's Champion Lady Bush Poet for 2001, Carmel Dunn of Warwick Q. joined up with Milton Taylor and their host Dick Warwick in Los Angeles as part of her prize in winning the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships in Winton Q last year.

A two day stop-over in LA followed by two days in Las Vegas, a visit to the Grand Canyon and Zion were certainly eye-openers for the young champ.

The party arrived in Elko to an enthusiastic welcome where their 'carers' satisfied their every need. First event was the poetry, popcorn and movie session which gave young Carmel a nice introduction to what was to come.

Performances with Waddie Mitchell and Sourdough Slim were again as masterful as ever, while anything involving Waddie in Elko has a huge following.

Ovations for Carmel Dunn dispelled any doubts she may have had about her acceptance in America.

School visits again were part of their itinerary. Two shows at Spring Creek school with 350 kids in each, and over 600 students at Sage Elementary School aged between six and eleven years.

Full marks to our Carmel and Milton.

CHARLEE MARSHALL

Those poets fortunate enough to come up against Charlee Marshall in competitions or run of the mill performances were saddened by his passing on Friday 1st September 1995.

He was a formidable character, a great contestant, a great writer and a great friend to many. His approach to life was evident in his own words when he wrote . . .

NOVEMBER

If I should die upon a day like this —
November music in the wind's soft tune;
November's lawns still jewelled from the kiss
Of dewdrops scattered by November's moon —
If I should leave this life on such a day
I'd leave a dream my soul could still remember,
For Heaven can't be very far away
From here — my friends, my garden, my
November.

What better way to spend Eternity!
A million years ahead to reminisce;
A timeless time from tears and pain set free,
If death should find me on a day like this.
Weep not that I have wandered from the scene.
But join me in my thanks that I have been.

There are no further mountains I should climb;
The setting sun shines with a softer light.
I am an instrument of place and time —
An evening shadow of a day once bright;
And though I know, alas, there will be those
Whose hearts will not be with me at the last
But write instead "I Love You" on a rose
And toss it as the hearse is driving past,
I hope these vacant words will make amends
To empty arms and lips I cannot kiss
For how could I leave sorrow to my friends
If I should die upon a day like this?
They will not weep, if only they remember
I've found a life that always is November.

Geaney's Gold City
Festival of Australian Bush Poetry
CHARTERS TOWERS Q.

30th. April - 2nd. May 2002

Written Poetry Sections

U/12's - 12 - 15 yrs. 15 - 18 yrs. & Open

Prizemoney and Trophies

(See Poets Calendar)

PERFORMANC BUSH POETRY

9 SECTIONS.

Entries close 30th April.

Ph. 07 4787 2409 - 07 4787 1622 - 07 4787 4062

THE BLACKENED BILLY—2002

The Blackened Billy Verse writing competition has long been considered one of the nations premier writing events.

The 2002 Blackened Billy was without doubt one of the toughest competitions adjudged by Tamworth entity and former ABC Radio presenter Bill Gleeson.

In his report Bill said this year's entries 'contained a vast mixture of ideas'. 'Traditionally, the tales of nineteenth and twentieth century Australia have been presented even more this year' said Mr. Gleeson. 'Not surprising really, considering our national Federation celebrations and a retrospective look at our thinking from the past.'

Mr. Gleeson was happy to say that Australian poets can still 'take up their pens with ideas of the twenty-first century and make exciting and interesting poetry'.

'Predictably, the horrors of terrorism, and what to do about it, filled many a page in this year's competition'.

Bill said that he expected this, and marvelled at the expertise of the poets in dealing, on paper, with a subject entirely new to us all. Not just this subject but others like drug abuse, child neglect and our appalling rate of youth suicide have all come to the attention of poets from all around Australia.

The love of the bush, its people, its trials and its beauty filled even more pages this year than ever before.

In his report Bill Gleeson said that the 'feel' of the Australian message came through loud and strong and our ability to be unique and different, to be able to laugh at ourselves in spite of adversity . . . in fact our intrinsic nature is alive and well and living in the hands of bush poets right across our great nation.

'Let's hope political correctness gets put in its place . . . someplace beyond the black stump . . . bring on the 'Year of the Outback'.

HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS

From the Blackened Billy Verse Writing competition went to Milton Taylor 'Cranky's Redemption' - Janine Haigh 'Map of Life' - Glenn Palmer 'Depressed - Norma Jeffries 'Our Measure of Success' - Ellis Campbell 'Luck of a Kiwi' - Shirley Pearce 'A Grandfather's Dilemma' - Hope Galvin - 'Blackened Billy Resurrected' - Bernard Leadbeater 'Silly Willie' - June Welsman 'The Eulogy' - Merv. Webster 'What Do I Tell My Children?' - Bob Magor 'Beach Party' - Val P Read 'Hear Kinganik Calling'.

The BREAKER'S 100th ANNIVERSARY

'Shoot straight, you bastards. Don't make a mess of us!'

Immediately following these words a volley of rifle fire from a firing party of Cameron Highlanders ended the lives of Lt. Harry Morant and Lt. Peter Handcock at Petersberg, South Africa, 27th February 1902. Both were buried near where they were shot.

Even today, 100 years later, there is heated emotional debate and controversy over this shameful event from our history. Were they guilty? Opinion is divided. However there is little room for doubt they were not given a fair trial and that is the greatest issue at stake here.

In addition to being a soldier, the former of the two was also a bush poet known as 'The Breaker'. The last of his many fine poems was written in his cell the night before his execution. His hand writing was neat and firm.

'When I am tired, and old, and worn,
And harassed by regret;
Which blame, reproach and worldly scorn
On every side are met.
When I have lived long years in vain
And found life's garland rue,
May be that I'll come back again
At last - at least - to you!

When all the joys and all the zest
Of youthful years have fled,
May be that I shall leave the rest
And turn to you instead;

For you, dear heart, would never spurn
(With condemnation due!)
If, at the close of all I turn
Homeward - at last - to you!

When other faces turn away
And lighter loves have passed,
When life is weary, old and grey
I may come back—at last!

When cares, remorse, regrets are rife -
Too late to live anew -
In the sad twilight of my life
I will come back - to you!

Diagonally across the page in writing which appeared fierce and angry, he scrawled, *'But I won't, Margaret, I won't!'*

Since this execution no other Australian soldier has been tried on a capital charge by a British Army Court.

A fellow named Ted from the Alice
Held a can of beer up like a chalice
Said he with a grin
'God bless ye! old tin'
Then gutsed it all down with a malice.

O'MARA'S

HIGH COUNTRY POETS

The Fourth Annual O'Mara's High Country Poets will be held in Stanthorpe Qld. from 15th to 17th March 2002.

Well supported by members of the Australian Bush Poets Association, this venue is fast becoming one of the premier events in the Bush Poets Calendar. Cash prizes totalling \$3,000 plus trophies have already attracted entries from as far south as Tasmania to the Atherton Tablelands; with an added bonus Jacaru brand Australian Bush Hat to be given to each contestant (one per person). Friday the 15th March is 'meet the poets day' with a casual get-together in the Public Bar of O'Mara's Hotel with Jack Drake cracking the whip on this occasion.

Heats of the four sections of the competitions will be conducted from 9am to 10pm on the Saturday in a marquee set up in the beer garden of the hotel, with none other than the 'Mullumbimby Bloke' Ray Essery at the helm assisted by Jack Drake. Sections include Junior, Novice, Open and Open Original. The judging panel will consist of Maureen Stonham, Reg Rubie and Wally Finch in the open sections with John Best, Peter Blundell and Trisha Anderson in the junior and novice sections.

The Granite Belt district schools competition will include a Poster Competition and a Written Bush Poetry Competition to encourage a new generation of writers.

Open Mic Sessions will be part of the big programme and a 'Breakfast with the Poets' will be held on the Sunday morning.

Contacts: Entry forms from Su & Bob Dellar at O'Mara's Hotel 07 4681 1044

or by contacting Jack Drake on 07 4683 7169 or <mailto:jdrake@halenet.com.au>

Accommodation details: Stanthorpe Tourist Information 07 4681 205

There's nothing like getting it right the first time.

For sale: An antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.

For sale: Four-posted bed, 101 years old, perfect for antique lover.

Lost: Small White Poodle - Reward. Neutered. Just like one of the family.

Dog for Sale: Eats anything; especially fond of children.

ABC RADIO -

2002 'YEAR of the OUTBACK'

As part of the 2002 'Year of the Outback' celebrations, ABC Radio is compiling a nationwide snapshot of how Australians and others view the unique culture, landscape and people of rural and remote Australia.

The Year of the Outback is all about recognising this unique land and its people - your help is needed. ABC Radio wants your 'vision' or interpretation in words, prose, verse or even in drawings - with children's entries more than welcome.

It's all about freeing the 'Spirit of the Outback' to encourage a genuine understanding of the characters, places, history, and potential of the Australian Outback.

ABC Radio is committed to this project, and invites all persons, whether they live in Australia or overseas, to submit their 'vision' of what they think the Outback is - whether they've been to the outback or not - creating an ideal opportunity to share their thoughts, stories or interpretations of remote Australia.

Throughout 2002 entries received will be displayed on a special 'Outback Visions' website with some of the better entries read over the air.

Entries close at the end of April and entry forms and details can be found on the Outback Vision website at www.abc.net.au/rural/outbackvisions/default.htm Non internet users should send a SSAE asking for entry forms and details from the following address.

**Outback Visions,
ABC Radio,
GPO Box 9994,
Sydney 2001**

Submissions must be accompanied by a signed release form. Written submissions (poetry or prose) must be new, solely original work being no longer than 500 words. All entries must reach the ABC by the end of April 2002. Tell 'em Frank sent you!

ROMA'S EASTER IN THE COUNTRY

2002 BUSH POETS BASH

29th March - April 1st

FRIDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

**Saturday Morning - Busking - Parade
Performance Competition**

Saturday Night Concert

Sunday - Bush Poets Breakfast

Written Competition

- Plus other weekend activities -

Info. Ph/fax 07 4159 7868

VALE: Harry Bowers.

Well loved and respected poet Harry Bowers of Warragul Vic. Passed away recently. One has had a fortunate and good life indeed when remembered with love and pride by family and good friends. And this is true of Harry - a true gentleman. Rest in peace Harry!

Harry was a keen ballroom dancer and many times related poetry to his artistry on the dance floor. A short example of his work and humour follows.

SAUNTER TOPEE

by Harry Bowers

I have seen some old time dancers
do some fancy stepping out,
they say Ogilvie from Queensland
is as good as most about;
but I saw a bloke from Melbourne
who could beat Col Ogilvie,
tho' where he got his script from
is a mystery to me.

He put his left foot forward,
swivelled right foot to the side,
then did a kind of forward square
as in the Palais Glide.
Side together, side and close
with angles to the wall,
some quick steps like a Chassis --
and yet, not quite that at all.

Then he did a reverse pivot,
stepped across to fall away,
four more quickies going forward --
promenade and rondelay.
Then three more quicks together
like some Tango-style Cha-cha,
then he stopped and smiled -- he'd made it
to the toilet from the bar.

AN ANAGRAM as you all know, is a word or phrase made by transposing or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. The following are exceptionally clever. Someone out there either has far too much spare time or is deadly at Scrabble.

Dormitory: When rearranged reads: Dirty Room

Evangelist: When rearranged reads: Evil's Agent

Desperation: Rearranged is: A Rope Ends It

The Morse Code: : Here Come Dots

Slot Machines: Cash Lost in Em

Animosity: Is No Amity

Mother-in-law: Woman Hitler

Eleven plus two: Rearranged is: Twelve plus one

(Source unknown)

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BYTE

SURF THESE SITES

by Maureen Stonham

Since connecting to the Internet about twelve months ago, I have collected addresses of www sites, many of which contain copious amounts of Bush Poetry and rhyming verse. At the suggestion of our President, the Right Honorable W. M. "Bear" Finch, I have listed some them for other members to take a "butchers".

The following sites listed are, in the main, Australian, and in some cases, belong to members of the ABPA. I have placed a comment after some to expand a little about the owner/ site subject or the style of poetry, which is contained therein.

Many of these sites contain further web links that will take you to a wide variety of poets or poetic subjects. Another great occupation which exists and will invariably stimulate the rhymers are message boards or forums. Rhyming challenges are often mounted and opportunities frequently exist for you to post your rhyme for others to share. I have used the notation "**MB/F**" to indicate the presence of this feature beside the site address.



A word of caution – some of these sites may contain verse that is subject to copyright and it goes without saying that those who choose to surf these sites should bear this in mind. May I suggest that if there is no evidence of copyright restrictions, good ethics should be employed by contacting the site owners and asking permission to either download or use the poetry that appears on these sites.

Frank Daniel - <http://www.bushpoetry.com.au> **MB/F** - **ABPA Home Page** - Lost Poetry Archives - Poets Corner - Bios - Photographs - Bookshelf - News updates and more.

Australian Bush Verse, (Ric Raftis) - <http://www.bushverse.com> - **MB/F**, Good links, feature poets etc.

Wally Finch - <http://members.optusnet.com.au/~wmbear/>

Peter Moltoni - <http://www.spindleshanks-poetry.cityslide.com> - Quality West Aussie Verse.

Frank Halliwell - <http://frankhalliwell.tripod.com/index.html> - includes poetry of Charlee Marshall & Corry de Haas

Janine Haig - <http://www.futureweb.com.au/ausopals/bush.htm>

Banjo Paterson Site Links - <http://www.uq.edu.au/~mlwham/banjo/links.html>

Dennis O'Keeffe's Waltzing Matilda page - <http://www.waltzingmatilda.com/wmhome.html>

Ozpoet - <http://www.ozpoet.asn.au/> **MB/F**, posting facilities for your poetry.

Robert Raftery - <http://www.project2000.com.au/picturewriter/>

Jack Sammon - <http://therangewriters.com/rustyspurs.html>

Anon + Lawson, Paterson, Mackeller, <http://members.tripod.com/virtaus/volume3/poetry/index.htm>

Victor & Bramwell Rasmussen - <http://www.newave.net.au/~ghost/poems.htm#top> Original work from yesteryear.

Jim Haynes - <http://www.jimhaynes.net/index.html>

C. J. Dennis - <http://www.middlemiss.org/lit/authors/denniscj/denniscj.html> – incl. some of Den's best works.

Geoffrey Graham - <http://www.users.bigpond.com/dinkumoz/>

Michael Darby - <http://www.geocities.com/queenslanders/poetry/>

As there are many other sites of this nature, perhaps the web addresses could be advised to the editor and included in a corner of the newsletter once in a while. Further, for members wishing to communicate with one another by email, it would be nice to also include email addresses in this area.

For those not connected to the WWW, may I suggest that you avail yourselves of the free Internet access and training which could be available at your town library.

Maureen Stonham, *Nambucca Heads, NSW.* Email: maureenandtom@tsn.cc



On hearing of your travel plans, the thought occurred to me
That flying 'cross the Nullabor could bring on DVT.
That deep thrombosis thing that's in the news these days;
They say it can effect your health in many different ways.
It's caused by lack of exercise, (or this is what I've read)
You're feeling fine in Singapore, by Tokyo you're dead.
Now I don't mean to worry you, or fill you with alarm,
But I've a tip I'll guarantee will keep you free from harm.
It's really element'ry and quite easy to explain,
You simply take your seat belt off and wander 'round the plane.
Whilst others lay there comatose, or fill in hours talking,
The antidote to DVT is walking, walking, walking.
Drink lots and lots of H₂O, I know it sounds a bore,
But drinking too much alcohol, and all you'll do is snore.
Now sleep is quite refreshing and is restful to the eyes,
But absolutely useless if you need some exercise.
So get out of your seat belt every half an hour or so,
And wander round and see if you can find someone you know.
It helps your circulation and it really is a treat,
To run into a friend from home at thirty thousand feet.
It also saves embarrassment when old mate next to you,
Is drunk and smells of garlic and keeps heading for the loo.
So have a go, you'll be amazed at just how good you'll feel,
You'll actually look forward to your plastic airline meal.
And when your trip is over you will generate some mirth,
By telling mates back home
you walked from Kalgoorlie to Perth.

BILLY HAY - HOME, POSSESSIONS, MEMORABILIA LOST TO FIRE

On December 27th last, Billy Hay, the 'Father of Bush Poetry' suffered a devastating loss in a tragic fire which saw his on-site caravan and annexe, its entire contents which included all his memorabilia, hand-written prose and poetry, album collections, souvenirs of his American Poetry Tours and photographs disappear in a matter of minutes.

Bill, now in his 84th year and suffering Parkinson's disease was unable to fight the fire, and in an attempt to move his car, took a heavy fall resulting in head and eye injuries. Fast acting neighbours managed to save Bill and the car.

Billy was born near Hughendon North Queensland, where at the age of twelve years drove his father's mail truck three days per week and spending two days at school. Bill is a proud member of the Australian Stockmen's Hall of Fame and spent thirty years driving locomotives hauling livestock from the sidings at Dajarra and Winton to larger markets on the eastern seaboard.

Currently Bill is staying with relatives and can be contacted on 07 3208 6085 or by fax. to 07 3277 8053. His postal address in the meantime is: 29 Highbury Street Acacia Ridge 4110 Queensland. We know that Billy would appreciate some good-will messages and urge readers, whether known to Bill or not, to convey their thoughts to a great man - one of our living legends who could certainly do with a well deserved pick-me-up.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**Help keep our heritage alive
by promoting
Australian Bush Poetry**

**Ask a friend to consider
becoming a member of
The Australian Bush Poets
Association Inc**

**Annual membership costs \$25.00
Juniors \$10 pa.**

from

1st January to 31st December.

In return members will receive a
bi-monthly copy of the
Association's Newsletter
containing poetry, news, views and
reviews about bush poetry,
competitions and festivals.

Ask them to send their name, address
and contact details
(including email and URL's)
with payment attached to

**The Treasurer
Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.
Rosemary Baguley
22/12 Tauris Rd.
CAPALABA Qld. 4157**

*The only difference between men and
pigs, is that pigs don't turn into men
when they drink.*



BILL HAY

THE SPIRITS OF THE OUTBACK

© Veronica Weal - Mt. Isa Qld.

When those aircraft started falling in an outrage so appalling
That the world was changed forever on a clear September day,
Did you shed some tears of pity for the pain of New York City?
Did you grieve for senseless slaughter in a country far away?

Do you feel a fear of flying, and of shattered aircraft lying
In the piles of smoking rubble in some city overseas?
Have the sites of foreign action lost a lot of their attraction?
Do you think of coming holidays with feelings of unease?

At a time of narrowed choices, clear your mind and hear the voices
Of the Spirits of the Outback, as they praise their ancient land.
Hear their whispered words come stealing as they softly start appealing
For a nation to appreciate the wonders close at hand.

You're an Aussie, so you reckon. Follow where the Spirits beckon!
Go and see the wide horizons as the dusty tracks unwind!
Take your car and dare to travel over western dust and gravel.
Feel the sense of isolation when the city's far behind!

See the kangaroos go bounding. Hear the thump of tails resounding!
See the wily snakes and lizards in their careful camouflage.
See the bright green budgies winging, with a thousand of them singing!
See a string of camels striding through a distant blue mirage.

Go and see the sunset glowing where the coolabahs are growing
Near Kynuna, where the legends of the past can touch your soul.
See, in wild imagination, as the icon of a nation
Meets his fate in muddy waters at the Combo waterhole!

See the headstones sadly angle, in the weeds and grass entangled,
Where the dead men lie forever now their lonely lives are spent.
Sense their selfless sacrifices as they paid the loser's prices
In a game of dice with danger, in a stark environment.

Go and watch as riders battle with the speedy bush-bred cattle.
Hear the stockwhips crack and rattle when the muster has begun!
Stand and feel an eerie shiver as the ghosts of Snowy River
Gallop silent through the snow gums on an alpine mountain run!

See the purple storm clouds banking when the mill has ceased its clanking
And the lives of stock depend upon the rain about to fall!
Go and see the grasses growing where the rivers have been flowing,
And the way the wildflowers carpet all the country, wall to wall!

See the distant mountains shimmer in the hazy mid-day simmer.
See the wide blue vaulted heavens where the wedge-tailed eagles fly.
Go and see the rivers shining where the ghost gums are entwining.
See a windmill silhouetted up against a sunset sky.

When the blackened billy's boiling and the campfire smoke is coiling,
See the sparks that dance like fireflies as they float into the night!
Go to sleep, when day has ended, 'neath the Southern Cross, suspended
Like a precious jewel above you, with its pure and lustrous light!

View the painting, dotted, mystic, of an ancient race, artistic
And simplistic in their spirit. Go and see and understand
Why they love their Keeping Places in these endless open spaces.
Go and sense their total bonding with their Rainbow Serpent land!

Go and see the West's aorta – source of life, artesian water!
See the lilies splashing colour on the creeks of Kakadu!
Heed the Spirits! Go and do it, or forever you will rue it!
Flash resorts and frantic cities are the same the whole world through.

Do not sit at home stagnating when Australia is waiting!
Go and see the opal colours of the country "further out"!
Meet the people unassuming! See the golden wattle blooming!
Go and see the "vision splendid" that "The Banjo" wrote about!

Leave your comfort zone behind you! Let the inland core remind you
Of the courage of our pioneers, who played a vital part
In the gradual formation of our image as a nation.
Let the Spirits of the Outback live forever in your heart!

(Note: Copyright belongs to
Veronica Weal of Mt. Isa Qld.)

VERONICA WEAL

Veronica Weal has lived most of her life in the outback Queensland mining town of Mt. Isa.

From an early age, her love of horses and bush poetry led to writing as a teenager.

Veronica has had long lasting career involving horses and after some years away from writing, returned to her literary talents in 1982 sharing a win in a national magazine's Galloping Rhymes competition.

Veronica won the coveted Bronze Swagman Award at Winton Q. in 1987 and again in the year 2001.

She has won many other awards and finds her work being used regularly by performance poets.

Her poems have appeared in several Bronze Swaggie anthologies; in the McMillan publication 'A Thousand Campfires'; 'Cowgirl Poetry' (USA) and in the last three cooperative books of 'Verse for Aussie Children'.

In 1999 Veronica tried her hand at Performance poetry and took out the Christina McPherson Award for Novice poets at Winton's Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Festival.

Veronica is married with two adult children, and works part time for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Mt. Isa. Her first book of verse, 'The Crack of the Whip' was a finalist in the Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BARDS - NAMBUCCA HEADS

If you enjoy Australian Rhyming Verse or spinning a yarn or two, check out the scene at Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club over Easter. The Nambucca Valley Country Music Club Jamboree will be on over the holidays and these activities will again include another very popular Poets Breakfast at 8 am on Sunday, 31st March.

Feature poets for the event will be a talented crew of locals, the cream of the Mid North Coast of NSW.

Performances from Marg & Ed Parmenter, Murray Suckling, Cliff Schofield and Don Lloyd, will ensure that those who attend will be entertained in fine style.

Murray Suckling, coordinator of Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets will compere the event and contribute his original verse, Cliff Schofield from Glennifer, near Bellingen NSW will perform traditional classics from the pen of Paterson and John O'Brien, Don Lloyd of Pillar Valley via Grafton will have you 'giggling your guts out' with his original, outrageous comedy rhyme and award winning poets, Marg and Ed Parmenter from Coffs Harbour will perform individually as well as giving duo performances, the likes of which Bush Poetry has never seen before.

The 'Heads' Bowling Club kitchen will again offer a sumptuous full breakfast for \$7.00 per head.

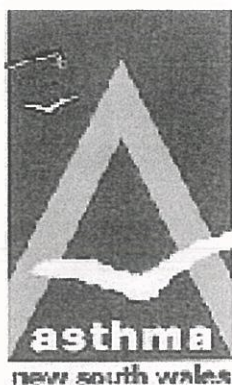
Locals, including juniors are invited to breast the mike and share their work or that of another poet, during the ever popular open mike session of the show.

Enquiries should be made to Lorna Simpson, Ph. 02 6568 7069 and bookings for breakfast are essential so please ring the Bowlo on 02 6568 6132 and put your name on the list.

They'll be looking forward to the pleasure of your company!!

MS.

~~~~~  
Simple Simon, simple soul,  
Bought a book on birth control.  
But judging from his wife's condition,  
It must have been a cheap edition.  
~~~~~

Asthma NSW and The Australian Women's Weekly

The search is on once again to find Australia's leading bush poet.

Asthma NSW and the Australian Women's Weekly are now searching for the

Bush Poet of the Year—2002.

Jack Drake of Stanthorpe Qld. took out the inaugural award in 2001.

Persons wishing to enter the competition can dial the toll free number 1800 100 313 and listen to the recorded information - it only takes a few minutes.

Internet users can avail themselves of the same information from the Asthma NSW Website (www.asthmansw.org.au).

Entrants are required to send in a written copy plus a recording (CD or Cassette), in their own voice, of an original poem to be adjudged by a selected panel.

Entry forms are not necessary, but all entries must bear the authors name, postal address, telephone number and email addresses on the poem and on the recording. For their sake and ours, please tell them that you read it in the ABPA Newsletter.

Previously published poems or poems successful in other competitions are all eligible. Poems need not be written specifically for this competition. However, the five poems (not the poets) selected as finalists in 2001 are to be excluded.

Poets must be available to perform at the finals in Sydney on April 12th. 2002

Send your entries to
Austrian Women's Weekly, Bush Poet of the Year Award. P.O. Box 5546 Sydney NSW 1028 before February 28th.

Competition details:

1. Entries should be original poems of between 2 and 7 minutes in length in rhyming bush style.
2. First Prize. \$5000 cash and the Bush Poet of the Year Award.
3. Competition open to all residents of Australia.
4. Competition opens 1st February 2002 and closes 28th February 2002 (closing date to be reviewed if necessary)
5. Five (5) Finalists will be chosen on 27th March 2002 (by the promoters) and notified as soon as possible (and certainly within 7 days of the judging date).
6. The 5 Finalists will be flown from the nearest suitable airport to Sydney (where applicable) where they will perform in front of a panel of judges on 12th April.

ABPA - AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association was held in St. Peter's Church Hall, Vera St. Tamworth on Australia Day 2002.

Forty-five members were present with apologies accepted from G. Graham, W. Finch, T. Anderson, M. Stonham, E. Campbell and J. Major.

Liz Ward read the President's report on behalf of Wally Finch. Moved L.Ward. Sec. Ron Selby. Cd.

The returning officer, Peter Baguley declared all positions vacant and called for nominations for the election of office bearers.

Ed Parmenter nominated Frank Daniel for the position of President. Sec. Andy Schnalle. Elected unopposed.

Vice Presidents elected were Liz Ward (nominated by E. Parmenter/Bill Lasham). Elected.

Carol Reffold (nominated by C. Fletcher/Maxine Ireland). Elected.

Secretary. Ed. Parmenter. (Nom. L. Ward/Maxine Ireland). Elected.

Treasurer. Rosemary Baguley. (Nom. C. Reffold/E. Parmenter). Elected.

Editor. No nominees. The President to undertake duties of editor.

General Business. (Briefly). Hat or name badges. The matter of an ABPA membership badge was discussed and moved that all members be issued with an original name badge. The packhorse drover logo to remain on same. (Moved T. Strauss/P. Baguley - carried).

Applications for the holding of the Australian Bush Poetry Championships was tabled coming from Mulwala/Yarrawong - Bush Wookatook - Carrara Bush Poets - West Australia Poets and Yarnspinners - Nursery and Garden Ind. Nambour.

General discussion took place with the acceptance that the successful applicants be given the option of holding the awards for two successive years. A motion to this effect was made by T. Hargraves/Maxine Ireland and carried. (*cont. next page*).

7. All 5 finalists will be accommodated for the night of the 12th April at a top Sydney hotel and will have their poems (or a section of them) published in a later edition of the Australian Women's Weekly (currently expected to be the June edition).
8. There is no cash prize for the finalists who are not chosen by the judges to win the Award.
9. No correspondence will be entered into.
10. The recordings and transcripts of the entries will not be returned.
11. The promoters reserve the right to publish the poems for a period of 12 months from the date of the final judging of the competition (which is 12th April 2002).

(AGM cont.)

The successful applicant for 2002 was Mulwala/Yarrowonga who took up the option for 2003.

Letters to the unsuccessful applicants were to be posted by the Secretary offering them an opportunity to apply for future dates.

Terry Regan moved that the Australian Bush Poet Championships be recognised in future as the Australian Champion Performance Bush Poet. (2nd. P. Baguley. Cd.).

Concerns were raised about the running of the Golden Gumleaf - Australian Bush Laureate Awards in Tamworth each year. Currently these awards are controlled by Singabout Australia and Max Ellis Marketing. Matters brought to hand were mainly the exclusion of award nominees and winners from the ABL Awards programme.

The President was asked to contact the organizers of these awards and express the associations thoughts.

It was moved by P. Baguley/R. Miller that the Association be registered in all States or Nationally for association's protection.

Moved Brian Bell/P. Baguley that Frank Daniel be appointed Editor.

Ron Selby/L. Ward moved that \$40 be paid to St. Peter's School Hall for the use of their premises for our meetings.

General discussion. That a full set of ABPA Annuals be presented to Billy Hay after the recent loss of his home and contents.

It was generally accepted that the association includes a float in the Tamworth Cavalcade next year. Ron Brown of the Hunter Bush Poets Group volunteered to organise a meeting in this regard. The meeting closed at 5.30pm.

A LOO(WD) CONVERSATION

© Merv. Webster Bargaia Qld.

The sound of country music rang down town in old Peel Street,
While once again I set up camp amid the throbbing beat
Of guitars, drums and didg'ridoos, beside Frank Thurton's chooks
To share with folk my love of verse and flog me tapes and books.

Then strike me pink old nature called, so had to slip away
And being air-conditioned like - Grace Bros. saved the day.
The toilet there was unisex, but thought I was alone
When to my right I heard a ring - a flaming mobile phone.

Some voice then answered, *'Campware here. Oh hello Miss McBride'*.
When stone the crows - another ring - but from my left hand side.
A woman's voice said, *'Hosiery, Miss Makim, how do you do'*
And there I was perched on the throne, caught right between the two.

It's really hard to concentrate with all that in your ear,
In fact I had to come to grips with why I'd come in here.
The conversations going on both had a different theme,
Which had my mind a wee bit tossed, confusion reigned supreme.

'Two padded bras,' Miss Makim asked *'They both must be the same'*.
'But room for three', camp-ware replied, *'with self supporting frame'*.
'Your preference is convertible and satin finish too'.
'Though shade cloth inserts are a must, to let a breeze blow through'.

'And do we have some knickers which would match the bras - in black?'
'Of course they've got the bottoms in, and zips up front and back'.
'You want some with elastic in. But something that will last',
'We have a range that slip up quick and come down just as fast'.

Then as I heard the cisterns flush, I thought 'Hell what a pain,
Transacting business in the loo can really be a drain'.
I reached out for some toilet roll to wrap up why I came
When spare me days 'twas nothing there, but cardboard roll and frame.

What was a bloke to do I thought, I'm stuck here all alone.
When suddenly it crossed my mind - I'd brought my mobile phone.
I dialled the information line to seek the number out,
Then figured I'd ring toiletry, they'd have some rolls no doubt.

But when I punched the numbers in I heard a ring nearby.
That's strange I thought, then heard a voice say 'toiletry, it's Di'.
'Oh Di', I said, 'it's Mervyn here, I'm stuck here in your store,
I'm in the loo and out of rolls so could you bring me more'.

There was a sudden silence as the phone went kind of dead,
But somewhere close I heard a scream as some sweet voice then said
'Hey Merv. I'd like to help you out, but sweetheart this is true,
You see I'm only two doors down, and I'm out of paper too'.

ABPA ANNUAL

The 8th ABPA Annual of Bush Poetry is now available. Cost per each is \$3.00 plus \$1.10 postage or four copies for \$13.10 posted.

Back copies of the ABPA Annual are also available, from no. 3 to no. 7. Any four can be purchased for the sum of \$10.00 plus \$1.10 postage from the Treasurer Rosemary Baguley.

You can't buy gifts cheaper than this.

WORDSMITHS

A SERIES OF WORDS AND PHRASES FROM THE PAST

The word 'Jackaroo' is well known to all of us and need little explanation for its meaning. But what of its origin?

Edward E Morris wrote in 1898 in his book *Australian Words*:

Jackaroo - a name for a Colonial Experience (q.v.), a young man fresh out from England, learning squatting.

It compares with the American tenderfoot.

The word is generally supposed to be a corruption of (in imitation of the word *kangaroo*) of the words Johnny Raw. Mr. Meston, in the *Sydney Bulletin*, 18th April 1896, says it comes from the old Brisbane Aborigines, who called the Pied Crow Shrike 'tchakeroo', a gabbling and garrulous bird.

Aborigines called the German Missionaries in 1838 'tchakeroo' because they were always talking. Afterwards they applied it to all white men until the word took on its present day meaning.

It is generally accepted as being spelt 'Jackaroo' or alternatively as 'Jackeroo'.
WF

The Australian Oxford Pocket Dictionary reads;

Jackeroo (jak.uh.roo) -n. 1. (also Jackaroo) historical. Young man (usually English and of independent means) gaining experience by working as a trainee on an Australian sheep or cattle Station.

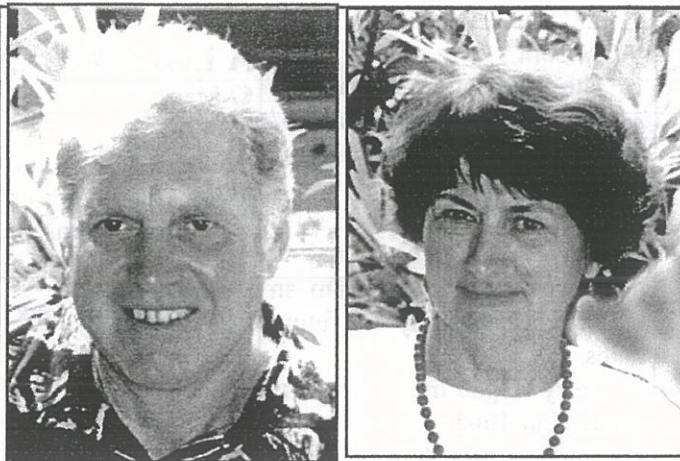
2. Trainee in station management.

Strangely enough the dictionary claims the origin as 'unknown' so, now, thanks to Wally Finch we know more than the mob at Oxford. Goodonya Wally.

2002 BUSH LAUREATE ENTRIES

Entries in the 2002 Australian Bush Laureate Awards paint a diverse picture of life in Australia according to Awards organisers.

"All aspects of Australian life are sustenance for the pen of the Aussie bush poet," they say "from the downright hilarious adventures of 'Caravanning Bliss's Bob Magor or the clever hilarity of 'Alphabet Soup' by Murray Hartin right through to the harsh realities of returned soldiers trying to integrate back into society with 'The Passing of Stumpy Shore' by Merv. Webster and the word painting of 'Dreamtime



Ed and Margaret Parmenter

ED PARMENTER is the new Secretary of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Ed and his wife Margaret live in Coffs Harbour, NSW, and have been performing comedy for over 20 years.

They discovered bush poetry about 1998 and were immediately hooked!

Ed and Marg prefer comedy and humorous verse, perform as a duo as well as individually with their original verse coupled with that of the old masters.

Like all good association members, they proudly support and promote the ABPA. (02 6652 3716).

Lullaby' by Ken Dean, the joys and despairs of life are captured by the astute rhyming verse writers.

"The quality of such books as 'Travel the Red Road' by Roderick Williams, 'See What I've Got' by Bill Scott and 'Australian High Country' by Phillip R Rush set a wonderful standard with rich photos and exquisite drawings to accompany their beautiful verse."

Single Recorded Performance of the Year entries range from traditional pieces such as the classic 'My Country' performed by Trisha Anderson and 'Faces in the Street' recited by Geoff Sharp to humorous original pieces including 'The Cattle Dogs Revenge' by Jack Drake.

Album of the Year entrants range from the 'Live, Loud and Ludicrous' by Marco Gliori through to 'poems from a woman's heart' with 'Beyond the Gate' by Jan Lewis and albums with 'a colourful variety of performers' such as 'Palma Rosa Poets Live'.

"How many uses for a hessian bag? And what's a vortex gun? Who was Edmund Rice and what's a 'cockatoo's important job? All the entries touch upon a bit of what we all know and reveal a lot of what we don't, or have forgotten and are delightfully reminded", say Awards organisers.

"In the process, all this wonderful Australian bush poetry manages to make us laugh and to think and be grateful that this essentially unique art form is preserved and encouraged by the Australian Bush Laureate Awards.

SONG AT THE END

by Brian Bell, Glenbrook NSW ©

There's a song at the end of life's rainbow
and it whispers it's message of peace
to a world that won't hear,
while it's innermost fear
is of perfect and natural release

There's a shadow that hangs in life's garden,
holding onto our worries and fears.
When the soul is at rest,
then this shadow is blessed
by the light, where it soon disappears.

There is moonlight shines after life's sunset
and it's beams are more pure than gold.
It replaces the gloom
of the emptiest room
with a love that will never grow old.

There's a ship that sails out of life's harbour,
past the seas of this limited world.
Love's the energy source
there to keep it on course
and ensures that it's sails are unfurled.

There's a place that awaits the departed,
filled with patience and beauty and trust.
There they shine in it's light,
gaining precious insight,
while possessions on Earth turn to dust.

There is mateship in deep consolation
when a loved-one is saying goodbye.
There's a bond in our loss
that will help us to cross
any bridge that awaits when we die.

There is always some hope for the future
while we keep spinning life's golden wheel.
When it's well understood, we can look for
the good
in the hardship the years can reveal.

Though we won't hear our clock's final
chiming
or be sure what's around the next bend,
we can give as we may;
live our life day by day;
not just wait for the song at the end.

THE PRINCESS and the FROG

© Frank Daniel 9.11.01

Long ago lived a beautiful Princess,
independent and so self-assured,
with riches untold, buckets of gold,
her future was amply secured.

Strolling one day by a clear crystal pond
with ecology foremost in mind.
She espied on a log, a slimy green frog
putting pleasurable thoughts far behind.

"Elegant lady" says he. (frogs spoke then you see)
"I once was a handsome young prince.
Till this terrible witch, the rotten old bitch,
cast a spell, and a frog I've been since.

"Now my plan is quite simple, you won't get a pimple
(or was it warts now? - I can't recall)
if you give me one kiss, my pretty young miss
I'll become a dapper young man, lean and tall."

As he hopped in her lap, she was taken aback,
by the promises he blurted out.
"In return for your kisses, I'll make you my missus
and ten kids we'll have without doubt.

We'll live with my Mother, in her castle yonder,
where you can prepare all my meals,
launder my clothes, every wish I propose..."
then the frog gave a blood curdling squeal.

For dinner that night, with a candle for light,
Smothered in white wine and onion cream sauce
The Princess repasted on sautéed frogs legs
Saying "Like bloody Hell, Sir! Of course!"

In Coober Pedy, down a hole
The miner lives just like a mole
At Lightning Ridge he does the same
Seeking fortune sometimes fame
At White Cliffs like the ant resides
While in the pub he most abides.

Dole bludgers are failing to see
That the money they spend isn't free
They think life is tough -
I say it's damned rough -
When the cash that they splash comes from me.

Regular Monthly Events

New South Wales:

- 1st Tues TUGGERAH Lakes Poetry Group. 7 pm The Entrance Leagues Club. 3 Bay Village Rd, Bateau Bay.
Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972
- Every Tues. TWEED HEADS Poets and Writers on the Tweed. 1.30 pm - Library Meeting Room. Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395
- 1st Thurs GLADESVILLE - North by Northwest Poetry & Folk Club. 7.30pm Cornucopia Café. Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653
(Grounds Old Gladesville Hospital - off Punt Rd-follow signs). Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690
- 3rd Sat. LIVERPOOL Poet's in the Making. 12 - 4 pm Liverpool Library - 170 George Street Liverpool David Price 02 9825 0402
- 2nd Mon KATOOMBA - Parakeet's Poets - Parakeet Café - 7 pm. Katoomba St, Katoomba. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119
- 2nd Tues HUNTER Bush Poets. 7 pm, Tarro Hotel, Anderson Dr, Tarro. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751
- 2nd Wed DORRIGO Mountain Top Poets, 7 pm, April, June, August, October. Murray 02 6657 2139
- 2nd Thurs TAMWORTH Poetry Reading Grp. 8 pm, unit 2, 8 Illoura St, Tamworth. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067
- 2nd Frid BUNDEENA - Pheasant's Hut Folk Club - Ph. Yuri 02 9527 0955 - 0419 412 093
- 2nd Frid COOMA The Monaro Leisure Club - 7 pm Vale St. Cooma - Elaine 02 6454 3128
- 3rd Fri JUNEE Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317
- 4th Tues PICTON - Wollondilly Regional FAW Writers. 7.30 pm, Picton Hotel - Vince 02 4684 1704
- 4th Tues GRAFTON Live Poet's Society - Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. John Walker 02 6555 8122
- 4th Wed INVERELL Wednesday Writers, 7.30 pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425
- 4th Thurs QUEANBEYAN Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891
- 2nd last Mon MID-COAST Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389 re Venue.
- Last Tues GOSFORD Spaghetti Poetry Group. Gee Wong Restaurant, 197 Mann St. 6.30 pm. Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590
- Last Thurs PENRITH Writers on the River, 7 pm, 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 02 4465 1621 re venue.
- Last Sat MORISETT Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4 pm. J Bray.
- Every 2 months - 2nd Sat GLADESVILLE Cornucopia Café, Poets & Folkies Get together. Old Gladesville Hospital Grounds, Punt Rd.
Jenny Carter 02 9887 1856 or 0412 222 690 or Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653
- Every 3 months WHALAN Poetic Folk, 24 Finisterre Ave Whalan 2770. "Arch" Bishop 02 9625 7245

Queensland:

- Every Wed. TOWNSVILLE Writers in Townsville - 7.30 pm Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa - Ph. Phil Heang 07 4773 4223
- WINTON - Matilda Caravan Park - Pinki & her Pee Wee Poets
- 1st Thur. MAPLETON - Red Kettle Folk Club. Mapleton Hotel - 8.30 - 11 pm Poetry & Music Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263
- 1st Frid. WELLINGTON POINT 7.00 pm. "The Point of View Café" Main Road. Rob 0419 786 269
- 1st Sat. EUMUNDI Poets & Musicians - Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991
- 2nd & 4th Sat. PACIFIC PARADISE 8 am Sunshine Coast Poets - Nostalgia Town - Rod 07 5448 7155 or Wally 07 3886 1747
- 2nd Sat. BUNDABERG Poets Society Inc. 1.30 pm - Jim 07 4152 9624 - Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631 - Marilyn 07 4154 1663
- 1st & 3rd Sun. NORTH PINE Bush Poets. N/Pine Country Markets, 9 am Dad & Dave's Billy Tea & Damper. 07 3285 2845 - 3886 1552
- 2nd & 4th Thurs. GYMPIE Golden Pen Poets. Old Gympie Town Hall. 7 pm. Phil Morrison, 07 4773 4223
- 3rd Sun. WOODFORD - Lairs, Larrikins and Liars - 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157
- 3rd. Mon. SHORNCIFFE - 7.30 pm - Poets in Park - Café on Park - Anne 07 3869 1282

South Australia

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

Victoria

- Monthly CORRYONG Top of the Murray Poets and Story Tellers Corryong - Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332
- 1st Mon KYABRAM & District Bush Verse Gr, every 2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097
- 6 weekly, GIPPSLAND Bush Poets. Rosedale Hotel, 7.30 pm. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

Western Australia

- 1st Fri CANNING BRIDGE - WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel - Rusty Christensen 08 9364 4491

NOTE:

REGULAR EVENTS MISSING FROM THE ABOVE LIST WILL BE INCLUDED ON RECEIPT OF DETAILS.
PLEASE ADVISE ANY CHANGES TO THE LIST.

Don't forget to ask a friend to join the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

Product Shelf

See new list of advertising rates.

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**Don't forget
The \$5,000.00
Asthma NSW
Women's Weekly
Bush Poetry Competition.
Details page 16.**

**The Australian
Bush Poetry
Championships
Mulwala NSW
Services Club
17th - 19th May 2002**



bushpoetry.COM.AU

POET'S CALENDAR

- February - 17 **MOOMBA** Q. 3 pm to 7 pm. Folk Music and Bush Poetry. Free admission. New faces segment. Moomba Function Centre - 406 Ipswich Road Annerley Q.
Phone Anne 07 3391 3553 - email moomba@eisa.net.au
- February 25 **DUNEDOO** NSW. Closing date, '**THE GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC**' Written competition. Bush Verse - Open theme - Limit 100 lines - No entry form required -
Ph. Sue 02 6375 1975 Fax 02 6375 1976 (see May 11).
- February 27 **STANTHORPE** Q. 7 pm Re-enactment Tribute to the Death of Breaker Morant.
O'Mara's Hotel. Ph. Jack Drake 07 4683 7169 email: jdrake@halenet.com.au
- February 28 Closing date for **ASTHMA NSW WOMEN'S WEEKLY \$5,000 COMPETITION**. (Page 16)
- March 3 **MURRINDINDI** (Vic) Historic Register Inc - 2002 **DUSTY SWAG AWARDS** - Written verse competition and Poets Breakfast. Late entries will be received up until 20th February. Written sections for Bush Verse, Free Verse, Secondary and Primary students. Submit entries with cover page to MHR 7 Vickery Street Alexandra Vic. 3714
Contact Paul J. Bannan 03 5797 2625 - - - website. [Http://www.geocities.com/dustyswag/](http://www.geocities.com/dustyswag/)
- March 9th. **WAUCHOPE** NSW - Inaugural Bush Poets Breakfast. 8.30 am RSL Club. Original and Traditional Performance Poetry Competitions. Open and Juniors.
Contact: SSAE to Rod Worthing 901 Oxley Highway Port MacQuarie NSW 2444
- March 13 - 18 **NARRANDERA** NSW - John O'Brien Festival - Four Poets Breakfasts - **\$1,000** Open Performance Poetry Competition. Ph. Julie Briggs 1800 672 392
Entries close Feb. 20th. \$10 entry fee to competition.
- March 15 - 17 **STANTHORPE** Q. O'Mara's High Country Poets - Competitions, open mic' sessions, breakfast with the performers & poets.
O'Mara Hotel Maryland St. Stantorpe Q. 4380 ph. 07 4681 1044
- March 16 - 17 **JONDARYAN** Q. - Festival of Country Music - Poets Breakfasts plus 'The Silver Comb' Poetry Writing Competition.
Entries close Feb. 28 - SSAE to P.O. Box 7038 Toowoomba Mail Centre 4352
- March 20 **ROMA** Q. Easter in the Country - Closing date for written competition.
SSAE to Coordinator, 8 Hawaii Crt Bargara Q. 4670 - ph/fax. 07 4159 1868.
- March 28 - April 1. **CANBERRA** - National Fold Festival - Four Big Poets Breakfasts.
- March 29 - 31 **NAMBUCCA HEADS** - Nambucca Valley Country Music Club Jamboree.
Bush Poets Breakfast 8 am to 10 am Easter Sunday featuring mid-north coast bush poets Ed & Margaret Parmenter, Murray Suckling, Don Lloyd & Cliff Schofield.
Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club. Breakfast bookings essential Ph. 6568 6132 -
Enquiries ph/fax. 02 6568 7069
- March 29 Apr 1 **ROMA** Q. Easter in the Country 2002 Bush Poetry Bash - Friday night campfire - Saturday: Busking - Parade - Performance Competition (Open & Junior Traditional and Original sections) - Saturday Night Concert - Sunday: Bush Poet's Breakfast - written competition plus other activities.
SSAE for programmes and entry forms 8 Hawaii Crt Bargara Q 4670 ph/fax 07 4159 4868
- March 31 **LITTLE SWAGGIES AWARDS** Closing date for Junior Written Bush Poetry
SSAE P.O. Box 84 Hughendon Q. 4821
- March 31 The **BRONZE SWAGMAN** - Closing date.
Australia's most prestigious award for written bush poetry. SSAE to P.O. Box 44 Winton Q. 4735
- April 4 - 11 **CORRYONG** Vic. The Man from Snowy River Festival. Poets Breakfasts - Written & Performance Competitions - Poets Brawls - Snowy River Ballad Recitals -
Details etc from Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332 email poetfarm@corryong.net.au
- April - 11 **GIPPSLAND** Vic. - Contact Dennis Carstairs P.O. Box 159 Stratford V. 3862
- April - 11 **NARRABRI** District Show Society. Closing date for entries - Poets Breakfast. Prizes for Traditional and Original Performance poetry. Contact Max Pringle 02 6793 2190 or Judy Mitchell 02 6792 5003
- April 12th **SYDNEY** NSW - Finals - Asthma NSW Bush Poetry Competition.

April 17 - 22 **TENTERFIELD NSW**. Oracles of the Bush - Legends and Larrikins -
Looming Legends Poetry Competition. \$2,002.00 in prizes plus trophies.
Written & Performance Competitions. Ph/fax 02 6736 2900

POET'S CALENDAR

April 19 - 21 **CANOWINDRA NSW** - Martis Canowindra Balloon Fiesta - Poets Breakfasts -
Ph. Frank Daniel 02 6344 1477

April 26 - May 6 **CHARTERS TOWERS** Bonza Bash - 2002 Festival of Bush Poetry (April 30 - May 2).
Bush Poetry Workshops - Poets Breakfasts - Competitions.
Contact: SSAE - Arthur Reckow P.O. Box 38 CHARTERS TOWERS Q. 4820 Ph. 07 4787 2409

April 25 - 28 **MOUNT BEAUTY Vic.** Country Muster - Bush Poetry.

May 11 - 12 **DUNEDOO NSW 'GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC'** Bush Poetry Competition. Entries close April 26.
Written competition - Bush Verse Open Theme. Closing date Feb 25. No entry forms required. Cover sheet
must be attached to entries - \$5.00 per entry.
For further information Ph. Dunedoo Development Group 02 6375 1975 fax. 1976

May 17 - 19 **MULWALA Vic.** - **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Free Call 1800 062 260 - email: tourism@yarrawongamulwala.com.au

May 18 **CARRARA Q.** - Country Music Festival - Bush Poetry Competitions - Written and Performance.
Fantastic prizes - Trips to New Zealand. \$1000 cash for both top male and female Ph. 07 5527 8688
email: info@austcountry.com - URL www.austcountry.com

May 24—26 **MURRWILLUMBAH BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

May 31 **MONTO Q.** - Dairy Festival Poetry Night - Monto Golf Club - Cream Can Awards -
Written Bush Poetry Competitions. Max 100 lines. Entries close April 30.
Betsy Chape 19 Edson St Monto Q 4630 email. Chape@bigpond.com

June 21 **CLOVER NOLAN PRIMARY & SECONDARY CHAMPIONSHIPS.**
SSAE to P.O. Box 84 Hughendon Q. 4821

June 22 - 24 **WINTON Q. OUTBACK AUSTRALIA** - Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships.
Christina McPherson Novice Bush Poetry Awards Male and Female.
Yarn-spinning, Junior Senior and Masters Bush Poetry Competitions -
SSAE to P.O. Box 84 Hughendon Q. 4821

July 5 - 7 **BUNDABERG Q.** - **BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2002** -
Competitors: Open, Intermediates, Novices, Under 15's Entry forms: SSAE to Muster Committee -
Bundaberg Bush Poets Society P.O. Box 4281 South Bundaberg Q. 4670
Ph. Sandy 07 4151 4631 - Marilyn 07 4154 1663 - Sam 07 4156 1216
BUSH LANTERN AWARD - Written Bush Verse Competition - Entry forms available now.
SSAE - Liz Ward Bush Lantern Award Co-ordinator - Bundaberg Poets Society Inc
P.O. Box 61 Mt. Perry Q. 4671 - Ph. 07 4156 3178 (Results announced at Muster)

September Nominations open for the Australian Bush Laureate Awards - Tamworth 2003 (More later)

December **WOODFORD Q.** Folk Festival - (More later).

ENTRIES IN THE BUSH POETS CALENDAR ARE POSTED FREE OF CHARGE. MAKE SURE YOUR FESTIVAL IS LISTED.

OVERNIGHT SUCCESS.

© Sandra Queenborough Binns

He's an overnight success, the headlines loudly shout
and of his meteoric progress, the journalists all sprout.
They talk about how lucky is his sudden rise to fame
and to his fortunate discovery they all are laying claim.

Now to listen to them airing their views on his success
you'd think that it was handed on a platter and no less.
They don't mention all the heartaches, blood, sweat and tears
he's an overnight success - it's only taken thirty years!

The Australian Bush Poetry Performance Championships Mulwala Services Club 17th.- 19th May 2002.

Sections include; Men's and Ladies Original
Mens and Ladies Traditional (Bush Poetry at least
50 years old.)
Men's and Ladies Modern or Contemporary (Bush
Poetry less than 50 years old)
Junior Traditional, Modern or Contemporary and
humorous. Ph. 1800 062 260 (See poets Calendar)

HEROES HAPPEN

© 2000 Bill Kearns, Grafton NSW

You can have your Thorpes and Perkins's, your Hacketts and your Hoys
You can have your Hockeyroos and all your rowing girls and boys.
There are heroes in the pool and there are heroes on the track,
From Freeman to Mat Shirvington, no courage do they lack.

But let me tell you of a hero (and it's not Suzie O'Neill).
But a little bloke from Guinea known to us as "Eric the Eel."
No records did he set and no opponents did he beat
But in true Olympic spirit, Eric came here to compete.

They sent him to do battle with the likes of Michael Klim
And he made the team 'cause in his country, only he could swim.
He learned to swim in waterholes and muddy creeks and lakes
Urged on by savage crocodiles and heaps of poisonous snakes.

There were three men at the pool that day, placed in the slowest heat,
Eric Moussanbani and just two for him to beat.
His rivals broke the start, that was the finish of their run
And only Eric Moussanbani stood to face the starter's gun.

Now you can argue that to race would just make him a fool
But before he came to Sydney, Eric hadn't seen a pool.
And a fifty metre pool is pretty long, poor Eric found
For halfway down the pool the little bugger nearly drowned.

But as Eric struggled bravely any ridicule was gone,
And the crowd was on its feet as everybody urged him on.
He didn't win a medal, no, that was not his part
But, Eric the Eel swam into history and won a nation's heart.

So why is Eric such a hero, well, I reckon that I know,
For we Aussies love a bloke who'll just get up and have a go
And we hate the controversies and the use of drugs in sport,
Athletes striving for advantage with the aid of every rort.

Yes, there should be more like Eric, not out for gold or out for fame,
I salute his natural innocence, may we not forget his name.
And though he only swam one race and didn't win a bloody thing,
When Eric the Eel got back to Guinea, they probably crowned him king



Bill Kearns was born and raised on a dairy farm on the Clarence River NSW. He has worked in a variety of occupations and is a lifetime lover of traditional poetry. Bill (The Bull) entertains his audiences with poetic tales of life's misadventures as seen through the eyes of his incorrigibull, disreputabull, unforgettabull and sometimes weird but enjoyable sense of humour.

Bill has been commended in many national competitions including the Blackened Billy competition in Tamworth.

He currently coordinates a monthly session of Poets in the Pub at Roaches Hotel in Grafton NSW on the last Tuesday of each month.

He has published four entertaining books of bush poetry, and is one of those selected poets appearing on the Asthma NSW Bush Poetry Album.

Give him a bell and ask about his books. 02 6642 2772.