

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 10 No. 4

August/September 2003

QANTAS-WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The annual Qantas-Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championships were held in Winton Qld from Thursday 26th to Monday 30th June.

There were representatives in the performance poetry from Western Australia (Chris Sadler), from Victoria (Laurence Webb), N.S.W and Queensland.

The Saturday night concert was very well attended with great entertainment provided by Shirley Friend, Ray Essery, Neil MacArthur and Gary Lowe. Because the organisers knew that Janine Haig would be at the Festival they had not notified her that she was the winner of the 2003 Bronze Swagman Award.

When Graham Dean told the audience these details and that the unknown winner was in the audience it caused quite a buzz.

After the announcement Janine explained that the motivation for her poem 'Not Gone'. (p. 3)

Janine said that 'Not Gone' is dedicated to Sandy Miller - in memory of Bobby, Maureen Dunn - in memory of Tom, and Gail Oliver - in memory of David.

"Speaking to these three women was the inspiration behind the poem" said Janine.

After a short break for drinks Janine gave a very moving performance of the successful poem.

On the Sunday night a variety of poets performed a range of both traditional and modern poems that had

This was followed by an old time dance in the hall. Four musicians played those old time tunes on keyboard, trumpet, saxophone and drums while patrons danced those well known and some not-so-well-known old time dances. A very enjoyable innovation to the weekend programme.

Louise informed us that next year they intended reducing the open performances to the Saturday and the Sunday leaving the Monday free to return home.

Overall Champions in the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Awards were Janine Haig and John Best of Brisbane.

Janine and John will now be our representatives at the National Cowboy Poets Gathering in Elko, Nevada in January 2004.



JANINE HAIG



BRONZE SWAGGIE TO JANINE HAIG

The 32nd. Annual Bronze Swaggie Award, conducted by Vision Winton, for written verse was won by Janine Haig of Eulo Qld.

Janine, twice winner of the Qantas-Waltzing Matilda Award for Performance Bush Poetry, was more than surprised with her win of this much valued prize.

As per normal with this award, Janine had not been advised previously of her win as the organizers were aware that she would be present in Winton at the festival, and so kept the announcement until the Awards Presentations ceremony.

Janine's Poem 'Not Gone', is dedicated to Sandy Miller - in memory of Bobby, to Maureen Dunn - in memory of Tom, and to Gail Oliver in memory of David.

Janine's speaking to these three women gave Janine the inspiration for the poem.

'Not Gone' will be published in the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse, an anthology of selected poems from submitted entries to this competition.

Go to page 3 for more information on the Bronze Swagman Book Verse which will be available by October from Vision Winton.

The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

(Established 1994)

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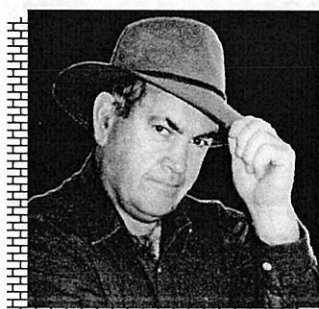
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Note: Every endeavour is made to inform readers, poets, competitors etc., of functions, written and performance competitions and so on. Space does not provide to print competition entry terms and conditions, or details beyond the closing dates and dates of such event. Further information in regard to such can be obtained from the organizers by sending an SSAE (stamped self-addressed envelope) to the addresses supplied.

Presidents Report



G'day.

The popularity of bush poetry increases day by day with more and more venues seeking poets as entertainers. I can't help but recall some five or six years ago when I was told that Bush Poetry was only a fad, a faze that would soon pass, that it hadn't a hope in Hell of seeing out more than another three or four years. Far from it I'm pleased to say. In my own case, as with some others, bookings are coming in more than twelve months in advance. A very healthy sign.

Another old, but persistent problem still rises on the bush poetry scene, namely people 'pinching' other people's work: that is, reciting works without the authors or copyright holders permission.

I don't know if there is an answer to this problem, but good sound ethics should prevail. How else can such matters be policed? Articles on page 12 and 17 should enlighten you to what I am talking about, only this time matters become worse where it is revealed that a West Australian poet has recorded an album of verse without authorization from one (or more) of the authors involved.

I will welcome comments on these two articles, but will not guarantee publication of all responses but certainly a report on what others think.

I recall one Queensland poet quoting that we 'might have written the poems but we don't own them, they are ours to share....'. Let's see what eventuates.

On a personal note I would like to say that Bush Poetry has been one of my greatest forms of relaxation as a performer, a writer, a researcher, ABPA internet webmaster, festival coordinator, bush poetry columnist for Country Update, subscriber to regional newspapers, and as President and Editor of the ABPA newsletter, all on a voluntary basis.

Did I say 'relaxation'? Well! You know what they say 'if you want something done ...!'

Unfortunately I will be forced to relinquish my position as Editor of this publication come the new year. In 2004 I expect to be handling a lot more work involving the tourist industry here in the Central West selling Cowra and Canowindra to the ever increasing national and international tourist trade. This will of course create more entertainment opportunities.

Anybody wishing to take on the job as editor can contact me, details top left column, and I can explain the whole deal. It is not an easy job but one that can become very rewarding for the right person.

I won't walk away from the position, but will certainly keep writing articles, and assist my successor as much as possible.

Thanks once again to all those subscribers to this edition, there are quite a few this time and all are acknowledged inside.

all the best for now,

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'

Frank Daniel

POSITION VACANT - EDITOR WANTED

Read Presidents Report

Life on Earth is expensive but at least it provides a free trip around the sun ... So, wear a hat and enjoy the ride.

NOT GONE

© Janine Haig - Eulo Qld.

He can't be gone. I know that any moment he'll be back;
The chocolate cake I baked for him is cooling on the rack,
I can smell his aftershave – I know that he is near,
And if I hold to love I know that he will soon appear.

I didn't say "I love you" when he hurried out the door,
I didn't say "I'm sorry" for our fight the night before,
I didn't kiss his cheek and hug him as I always do,
So this must be a nightmare. I know it can't be true.

His dog lies by the kitchen step, her eyes confused and dim,
She will not move away because she's waiting there for him
To whistle soft and say her name and make her life complete;
One word will cease her brooding and bring her to her feet.

He can't be gone, the yards are full of calves he needs to brand;
I hear the sound of neighbours who have come to lend a hand,
He should be there to supervise and rally them along,
Making sense of chaos in the bawling, milling throng.

That savage bull he battled with will have to go away,
He told me just this morning that he ought to shoot that stray,
He said the bull was crazy, and he said it with a curse -
That bull would do some damage – he'd gore someone... or worse.

He knows too much to turn his back on cattle that are bad,
He's worked at drafting cattle in the yards since just a lad,
He's agile and he's quick when there's a need to climb the rail,
I won't believe that suddenly those skills of his could fail.

Despite what they are saying, I know they must be wrong;
He wouldn't go and leave me, he knows I'm not that strong.
And that broken, battered body – I know that wasn't him –
His face is always smiling – he never looks that grim.

A murmuring of voices insisting it is true,
A gathering of women who are here to see me through
The shock and then the grieving – for me to lean upon –
I don't know why they bother. I know he can't be gone.

He can't be gone, his laughter echoes up and down the hall,
I know that any minute I will hear his *Smoko!* call;
He hasn't signed the documents to verify our loan.
He knows I cannot keep the business running on my own.

He can't be gone, he promised me that he would mow the lawn,
He promised he would be here when our baby boy was born,
He promised he'd be careful, so I'm sure there's some mistake –
For if he's gone my heart will cease to beat and simply break.

Stop telling me these stories – they're just a bunch of lies,
I know that if I'm patient he will open up his eyes
Then fold me in his arms again and rock me to and fro –
Don't tell me any different for *I do not want to know.*

Mountain Retreat Hosts Bush Poetry Weekend

Some of Australia's best Bush Poets will be performing live in the Gold Coast Hinterland.

Nestled amidst the sub-tropical rain-forest of the world heritage listed Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast Hinterland is the world renowned Binna Burra Mountain Lodge.

Binna Burra is an eco-conscientious mountain retreat and a haven for nature lovers around the globe.

Every year Binna Burra hosts a number of interesting events. This year is no exception with its Bush Poetry Weekend held from November 7 to November 9 and will be a weekend of fair- dinkum Aussie fun for the whole family.

Bush Poetry Weekend will be an entertaining exhibition of poetry, yarns and song. There will also be workshops in poetry writing and performance as well as a 'Budding Bards' competition for local school students. Guest poets and performers will include; Ray Essery (the Mullumbimby Bloke), Shirley Friend, Jack Drake, Geoff Sharp, Sue McKay and many more.

Ray Essery with his droll sense of humour and unique style of performance make the 'Mullumbimby Bloke' a favourite with audiences all over eastern Australia, in a manner that all Australians can relate to.

This will be a major event on the Bush Poetry calendar. Long time local and bush poet, Geoff Sharp, said it would be a fantastic weekend of bush poetry. "We have some of the best writers and performer in the country today lined up, and with Lamington National Park as the back drop it will be a must for all bush poetry lovers."

The junior competition will be comprised of eight students, selected from local and surrounding schools.

'Budding Bards' was developed to encourage young people to take an interest in the bush poetry that is part of

(Cont'd p 4).

TOWERS POETS EVENT SUCCESS

The months of careful planning by the Gold City Bush Poets for their inaugural Festival of Australian Bush Poetry culminated in a rewarding success over the weekend of 20th to 22nd June.

Guest poets, current Australian Champion Noel Stallard, and Zita Horton of Brisbane, along with Veronica Weal from Mt Isa, were well received with performances for the attentive audience and in assessing the competition sections.

All three entertained, firstly on the Friday evening at the Meet and Greet event 'Around the Boree Log' with a barbecue and walk-up poets, and the 'Breakfast with the Poets' on the Sunday morning.

The greater emphasis centred on the three competition sessions on the Saturday, held at the function room of the PCYC, attracting a total audience in excess of 250.

The talent was both impressive

and entertaining, with many outstanding performances in most categories.

It was pleasing to have an increased response from the under eighteens, from where poets of the future will be nurtured.

Matthews Horton of Brisbane displayed confidence and ability making it a clean-sweep by winning all three sections of his age group.

Locals to impress were Tom Vinson, and Rebecca Blackman, who made it two firsts in the 12 to under 18 category.

The senior categories, novice and open, saw several outstanding performances crediting poets such as Melanie Hall, Dan Thompson, Roslyn Schwenke and Jean Lindley with just rewards.

Towers-ite, Jean, is both a 'riter and reciter with some humorous verse only Jean could write.

Roslyn Schwenke attended from Innisfail and for her first visit, clinched success that should mean a return next year.

Most who were familiar with the

talent of Melanie Hall and Dan Thompson were not disappointed with their presentations.

While Dan may not have taken a 'first', this didn't reflect his true ability as an entertainer, but he says 'I will be back', so look for this bloke next year.

Dan however accumulated aggregate points to take of the Best Male in the Performance Poetry.

Melanie Hall - always a favourite, didn't disappoint, and gave her very best to ably impress both Judges' and audience with outstanding efforts, and a comfortable win in the Best Female entertainer.

To witness Melanie's performance of "Piddlin' Pete", with actions, left little doubt - who was the better entertainer on the day.

Several local open and novice participants deserving mention are Norah Vinson, Harry Jackson and Constance Larsen who were well appreciated and will look forward to playing a part in future events.

(More results p 23).

(BINNA BURRA from p. 3)

Australia's culture and heritage, and to keep it alive for further generations to enjoy.

Heats of the competition and professional performances will be conducted over the weekend, building to the climax of Sunday's full day program, including the 'Budding Bards' final and the Grand Concert.

Binna Burra Mountain Lodge offers two types of rustic cabin accommodation, home style meals and guided activities, including abseiling, flying fox, guided walks.

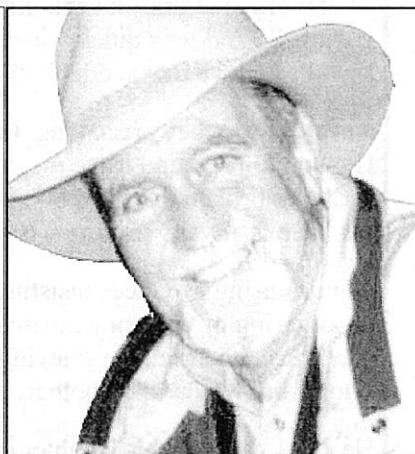
Binna Burra also boasts a campsite with permanent on-site 'Safari Tents' or regular campsites. Amenities are conveniently located with hot showers and flushing toilets. Binna Burra Campsite offer campers the choice of cooking their own meals or dining out in the fully licensed Lamington Teahouse, offering a café style menu with spectacular views.

MAURICE O'BRIEN

Maurie O'Brien is the President of the South Australian Bush Poets SA Bush Poets Association.

Maurie, a traditional bush poet, comes from Morphett Vale, south of Adelaide, and was the winner of the South Australian Bush Poetry Award in 2000 and 2003.

He has published a book of original verse "Sprigs Of Wattle". Phone (08)8382-1504.



MT KEMBLA MINING HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2003

The First "Great Kembla Poetry Challenge"

Mt Kembla Hotel

8am Sunday 3rd August

Cash Prizes - Bush Poetry

Open Section, Mining Section, Yarns, Tall Tales, Fibs & Lies

Details: Paul Mack 4272 7877

Mt Kembla Mining Heritage Committee

02 4271 1452 0418 287 000

Email: drewcate@tpg.com.au www.so.com.au/mtkembla

ABPA Inc.
**QUEENSLAND
 BUSH POETRY
 STATE
 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**IN CONJUNCTION
 WITH
 NORTH PINE BUSH POETS
 CAMP OVEN FESTIVAL**

**22 - 24 August
 2003**

**Pioneer Country Music Hall
 North Pine Country Park
 Dayboro Road
 Petrie Qld.**

**Saturday Night Concert
 Janine Haig - Ray Essery
 Milton Taylor
 Gary Fogarty**

Information:

John Best Secretary -
 07 3285 2845
 President Ron Liekefett
 07 3285 2180
 email: rliekefett@dodo.com.au

WEST-BOUND 2004?

In an endeavour to secure affordable transport to Perth for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships next year Ron Liekefett was asked to investigate ticket prices and concessions for rail travel.

In this outline Ron reports on departure days and makes comment based on information received.

The Indian Pacific service runs from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and places in between. People from outside these centres would have to make their own arrangements to get to the points of departure.

Fares: Gold Kangaroo Service; Sydney--Perth-- \$1560. Child/ Pensioner, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holder-- \$1118. Student--\$1118

Red Kangaroo Service-- \$1250,

**QUEENSLAND
 STATE
 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

By the time this article appears, entries for all sections of the North Pine Bush Poets Camp Oven Festival will have closed and preparations well in hand to ensure it's success and the success of the Inaugural ABPA Inc Queensland State Championships.

North Pine members have enjoyed a very busy time over the past few weeks visiting festivals at Winton and Bundaberg.

At the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Championships in Winton, North Pine Poets claimed both winner and runner-up in John Best and Noel Stallard in the open section and winner of the novice male section in Dean Trevascus.

Jill Perrin was runner-up in the female section.

At Bundaberg, Anita Reed, John Best, Ron Liekefett, Manfred Vijars, Jill Perrin and Dean Trevascus were all place getters.

These successes have made them more determined than ever to see their festival loses nothing in comparison with these two excellently run programs.

Those wishing to attend North Pine Festival and Saturday night concert featuring Ray Essery, Milton Taylor, Janine Haig and Gary Fogarty can contact Ron Liekefett regarding tickets and camping on 07 3285 2180 or email rliekefett@dodo.com.au

The weather in late August will be a real tonic to Southerners shrugging off yet another Winter, so make it a date to be at North Pine.

Prizemoney for the competition totals \$2,500 plus trophies.

Contact details as per advertisement this page.



The Indian Pacific

For any concessions to apply, all passengers would have to travel together on the same train and depart from the same station and alight at the same station.

Of course, pensioners are entitled to free travel within their home state and this would need to be calculated individually by them.

Their are some fairly big obstacles preventing this from being a preferred mode of travel. The main one being that there are some hefty penalties in the event of any one canceling after a booking has been made and whoever agrees to be the agent would be held liable for up to 100% of the fare. It would be clearly unacceptable to place that burden on anyone.

Ron has more detailed information in his possession and anyone who wishes to discuss it further can ring him on 07 3285 2180

Email: rliekefett@dodo.com.au

Child/ Pensioner, CSHC-- \$805.
 Student-- \$805
 Daynighter seat--\$513, Child/ Pensioner, CSHC-- \$240, Student-- \$252

These fares are all one way.

Concessions are only available to those who are full fare paying passengers.

One free seat is provided for every fifteen full fare passengers. The train departs Sydney on Saturdays and Wednesdays, Perth on Sundays and Wednesdays.

GYMPIE MUSTER

Visitors to this years Gympie Muster which runs from Tuesday the 25th to Sunday 31st August can kick-start each day with a good laugh at the Bush Poets Breakfasts with some of Australia's most popular Bush Poets.

The Bush Poets Breakfasts are undoubtedly the most popular and most unique events on the Muster calendar where this year the combined talents of experienced stand-up entertainers, together with highly original offerings from a host of special guests poets is a guarantee of satisfaction.

Included in the big line up for 2003 are Gary Fogarty, Neil McArthur, Murray Hartin, Shirley Friend, Milton Taylor, Ray Essery, Carmel Dunn, , Johnny Best, Noel Stallard, Gary Lowe, Jack Drake, Mark Feldman, Kevin (Snake) Lovis, Melanie Hall and Cory Jaecocke.

The Larrikin Concert will be a selection of Bobby Miller Poems, plus any 'character' or 'dress up theatre' pieces one may wish to perform (1 per performer). This concert, rather than a 'BobbyFest' will be a ramshackle celebration of Bush Comedy in the spirit of Bobby Miller. Those adventurous enough should contact Marco Gliori with whatever they may have to offer. (Ph. 0746 614024).

The Poets Brawl is designed to cater for campers at the Muster.

Campers are asked to write an original poem of less than 1 minutes duration, put their names in the hat for selection to perform their poem on stage in the Poets Brawl on Friday Night. Free Entry on the day of the Brawl. The first 25 entries drawn from the hat will get to perform. The time-keepers will be very savage, but those successful in appearing will be in the running for a host of fantastic Muster Souvenir Prizes.

The **Musterbeenbloodygood**

Poetry Award is for Budding Poets.

Entries for these awards will be taken during the Muster Breakfasts. Performers will be invited to perform a poem, either original or traditional live on stage in one of the two heats on Friday and Saturday. Three performers from each day (6 in total) will be invited to perform 2 poems each in the *Musterbeenbloodygood* Poetry Concert on the Sunday.

The most entertaining Poet on the Sunday takes away a large cash reward plus the souvenir *Musterbeenbloodygood* Poetry Award. (Page 17)

BRONZE SWAGMAN BOOKS OF VERSE

Janine Haigh's winning entry in this years Bronze Swaggie Awards will be published in an anthology of selected verse due out in October.

Bronze Swaggie books may be purchased from: The Secretary, Vision Winton Incorporated, PO Box 44, Winton Qld. 4735.

Prices including postage:

Year 2003	\$12-50
2002, 2001, 2000	\$11.50
1999, 98, 97, 96, 95	\$10.00
1978 - 1994	\$6.50

KEMPSEY COUNTRY MUSIC AND TRUCKING FESTIVAL

MARCO GLIORI, BUSH POET
PAR EXCELLENCE

The programmed bush poetry events at this years Kempsey Country Music and Trucking Festival, from 12th to 14th September, will certainly satiate the appetites of those who enjoy this very Australian form of entertainment.

Compering this years events will be Marco Gliori of Warwick, Qld. Well credentialed would be an understatement for this talented and entertaining gent. A record 4 times winner of the highly esteemed annual Tamworth Imperial Hotel Performance Competition, he has a magical way of expressing both hilarity and tragedy throughout his expressive and entertaining original ballads.

A family man with a wife and three young daughters, Marco has been writing since he was 21 years old and left his job as a Queensland policeman to pursue Bush Poetry as a full time profession. Assisted by the Qld. and Victorian Arts Councils, he has completed over 2000 shows for school children throughout those states and in fact has written and recorded special verse to

encourage young people.

As a founding member of "The Naked Poets", he has well earned his reputation as a comedy rhymster and has performed on their three albums which have received national air play and are amongst the best selling Contemporary Poetry Albums.

Marco has also personally recorded several cassettes, a CD and is the author of 4 books.

At Kempsey, he will comper during the free Riverside Park Concert, 10 am - 2 pm on Saturday 13th September and later that afternoon, at the Kempsey Macleay RSL Club will comper a Yarn Spinning and Tall Tales session between 2.30 pm and 4 pm, (entry \$5.00), and following this at the same venue, at 4.30 pm to 6 pm, a Bush Poets Blackboard Concert, (entry \$5.00).

A Bush Poets Brunch and Aussie Humour Show is again to be held in the Club Dining room from 8.30 am - 12 pm on Sunday 14th September. Entry, including a delicious brunch meal is \$12.00 and bookings for this are essential. As has been the custom in past years, participating poets and yarn spinners, both young and old, are invited to share their work, or the work of another poet.

Please call at the club or ring 6562 2937. Other enquiries may be made to the Festival line, 02 6562 2937.

ABPA Inc.

VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stratford - Gippsland
Saturday & Sunday
11th & 12th October 2003

POETS BREAKFAST'S
With Neil McArthur
7.30 till 9.30am

Written Competition
Entries Close September 5th.

Performance Competitions
Original - Traditional
Contemporary
Entries Close September 19th.

SSAE

Secretary: Dennis Carstairs
PO Box 159 Stratford V. 3862
03 5147 1684
carstairs@netspace.net.au
President: Ross Noble

VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPION- SHIPS

STRATFORD, VICTORIA
October 11th & 12th
2003.



STRATFORD EXTRA

In addition to the already substantial prize-money and trophies at this years Victorian State Championships comes an extra award for **The Most Inspiring Performances** of the weekend.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER!

The Gippsland Bush Poets

held their Annual General Meeting at the Rosedale Hotel on Thursday 19th of June. The following are the committee for the next 12 months: President, Ross Noble Vice President, Russell Heathcote Secretary, Dennis Carstairs Treasurer, John Britton Committee Member, Des Bennett Editor, Jenny Wilson

Planning for the ABPA Victorian Bush Poetry State Championships, to be held over the weekend of October 11th & 12th, is well under way with major sponsorships coming from the Wellington Shire, Gippsland Regional Arts - Sale, Carlton United Brewery and the Gippsland Centre, Sale. Our club has been busy in recent months visiting local schools to encourage Juniors in both the written and performance sections of the Championships, the response has been very good.

With over \$3000 in trophies and prize money up for grabs the weekend promises to be a great two days of Australian Bush Poetry.

Neil McArthur will host break-

fasts on both mornings and share the MC duties with Dennis Carstairs.

Herb McCrum, Frank Daniel, Sue Gleeson and Grahame Watt will be judging the performance section. Any one wishing to enter the Championships can do so by sending an SSAE to Gippsland Bush Poets PO Box 159 Stratford Vic., 3862 for an entry form or email: carstairs@netspace.net.au

At a meeting held in Mulwala on 17/05/2003, representatives from the six Victorian Bush Poetry Clubs formed the Victorian Bush Poets Association (VBPA) the aim of the VBPA is to co ordinate and oversee the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships, although the ultimate control of the annual event would remain with the organising club.

The ideas thrown around were that the VBPA would levy the six Victorian clubs (annually?) to purchase VBPA medallions for each years Championships. Perpetual Trophies were also considered.

Reg Phillips is the VBPA President, Dennis Carstairs Vice President and Sue Gleeson Secretary

The winners will be rewarded with a major prizes donated by **McCORMACKS MOUNTAIN VALLEY TRAIL RIDES.**

See and experience the glory and breathtaking views of Victoria's high country, from Merrijig to Dargo, for seven days. Awarded to the most inspiring male and female performances over the weekend.

Winning poets will have the choice of either a well behaved mountain trail horse **or** the luxury of a 4 wheel drive support vehicle, or a combination of both. All fully catered and pampered, the week is valued at \$1500.

These awards will only be available to Open Class Competitors. The judges will be looking for the

most **inspiring performances**; not necessarily the best or the winning performances, and those who most inspire the judges, one male and one female, will ride the clouds. Ride, eat, talk and socialise with traditional mountain cattlemen, enjoy their campfires, their yarns and way of life. The winners will be guaranteed plenty of inspiration and new material to last them a lifetime.

The ride will be an organised by one of the oldest and most respected trail ride operators in the high country, from Merrijig to the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria's annual get-together on the Wonnangatta river near Dargo and will take place in early January 2004.



Letters to the Editor



As always, there are far too many letters to be acknowledged and or published in this magazine.

It was pleasing however to find that the efforts of the ABPA to conduct a Written Championships this year has been so widely appreciated.

The number of responses has been overwhelming, with almost 130 applications for entry forms with letters of praise attached.

Thanks to all our supporters.

Another field of response has been in appreciation to the centres who are involved in the running of the ABPA State Championships, wishing the association well.

Interest in the Australian Championships in Western Australia next year has been high, and it is expected many will make the long journey in October 2004.

Most surprising of all was the number of communications received in favour of the Tex Morton article in the June/July newsletter.

Twenty readers wrote to applaud the article, some adding more to the already long and interesting history of old Tex. No doubt he was one of our foremost reciters in days gone by, and was one of the first, if not the first, to record full albums of traditional Australian Bush Poetry, as well as original works.

One reader wrote that Tex had one, 'Sergeant Small', a poem about a Queensland policeman, banned from radio broadcast.

LOST POETRY

The requests for lost poetry were quickly answered with five copies of 'Wing Fat' to hand. Thanks to all who made an effort to help out with requests for lost poetry.

Not being an editorial policy to pub-

lish letters it has been found necessary to publish two letters of importance in this issue, one from Graham Dean and one from Murray Hartin on pages 12 and 17.

These issues needed addressing and should be brought to the notice of ABPA poet members and to those poets outside our membership.

Do your bit and spread the word.

BITS AND PIECES

PIONEER COUNTRY

Pushing ahead

Since its inaugural bush poets breakfast on Australia Day this year, the Pioneer Country Bush Poets gathering at Tweed Heads has gone ahead in leaps and bounds as a great Sunday venue starting at 9 am.

Organizer Graham Brunckhorst has been delighted with the response to the weekly outings.

Phone Graham on 07 55246668.

TRISH JOYCE

West Aussie ABPA member Trish Joyce has finally returned to her home state after spending the best part of seven months in the East following up bush poetry events and festivals.

Trish and her Toyota Coaster were familiar sites as far afield as Tamworth, Dunedoo, Narrandera, Corryong, Canberra and the east coast.

More or less a 'closet poet' on arrival at Tamworth with a lot of original family type poetry, Trish had her 'coming out' as a performer during her holiday and went home a truly polished reciter.

Money isn't everything, but it certainly keeps you in touch with the children.

Trish was invaluable at all the festivals taking on various chores to assist the different organizers and it is they wish to acknowledge her support. Goodonya Trish!

THE WEDDING GIFT

Doug and Carol Hutcheson wish to advise that ill health has hampered their efforts to conduct their promised written bush poetry competition "The Stratford Gift". They are still planning to run it next year. Also, the publication of "The Wedding Gift" - the anthology of poems selected from entries to their wedding competition - has been delayed. It is currently in an early pre-publication stage but this, too, has been delayed.

MELBOURNE ARVOS

From Melbourne comes news that the newly formed branch of the ABPA has taken off with a huge bang, impacting on the local poetry scene with lots of encouragement from surrounding bush poetry clubs and the Victorian Bush Poets Association Inc.

The ARVOS has attracted visitors from far and wide, with exchange visits already formulated between associated clubs and travellers alike, one from Queensland who read of their meeting in the ABPA Inc Newsletter.

The ARVOS have visited the Bendigo group during July, and plan an attack on the Kyabram group in September.

THANK YOU

Joy Alchin of Corrimall NSW has responded with a 'Thank You' note and a poem to messages of condolences after the passing of her husband.

The beauty of the sunset at the ending of the day
speaks of life that's lived its fullness and then quietly slips away
into what seems like the darkness and an evening touched with pain
until slowly in the morning the colour comes again
and heralds something beautiful, a day that's fresh and new
so that life that's passed through setting sun will rise as dawn does too
beginning life eternally with everlasting peace -
there's no more tears, and God's great love will never ever cease.

NSW BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Narrandera, gateway to the New South Wales Riverina will host the 2003 NSW Australian

ABPA Inc.

NEW SOUTH WALES BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

NARRANDERA NSW
Gateway to the Riverina
17 - 19 October 2003
Ex-Servicemen's Club

\$3,000.00

Trophies and Certificates

Friday 17th 6.30 pm
RSL Club - Meet and Greet
Heats of Novice Competition

Saturday 18th 8.00 am
POETS BREAKFAST'S
With Milton Taylor
10.00 am Performance Heats

Sunday 19th 8.00 am
Breakfast in the Park
10.00 am Performance Heats
Presentation of Awards

Written Competition
Entries Close September 5th.
NO ENTRY FORMS
\$5.00 per poem
(use cover sheet)

Performance Competitions
Original - Traditional
Contemporary
Entries Close October 10th

Entry Forms and Information
Phone Julie Briggs
1800 672 392

Bush Poetry State Championships from October 17th to 19th at the Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club.

Narrandera is the home of the now famous John O'Brien Bush Festival held in March each year and, through its Tourism Centre extends an invitation to all-comers to visit this historic town for the Championships.

Narrandera was born of the overlanders need to cross stock at a low point in the Murrumbidgee on their trek to the gold fields in Victoria during the mid 19th century. An inn, a store a smithy and a punt that could cross 1000 sheep an hour were the first signs of what would become a river town, a rail town a solid rural service town and now a highway town.

Narrandera was for the longest time a frontier town, a town where there were more men than women, a town that in 1880 was described thus by a visitor:

"Narrandera is a well built township, many of the hotels and public buildings being built of brick... the whole of the main thoroughfare and cross streets were knee deep in loose red sand... Fully one half of the buildings in Narrandera are hotels, and a great deal of boozing appears to be going on. On the veranda of a hotel in the centre of a little crowd of bushmen was a person playing a concertina, and two or three swarthy sunburnt fellows stepping away in great style to the hornpipes played on it."

And in the same year by another gent passing through: "Horror!! of Horrors!!, exclaimed Henry Campey early in 1880, "we counted Seventeen public houses and only one church..."

Narrandera has lots of Churches now and still "a pub on every corner".

Narrandera is a friendly Riverina town and the locals welcome

to all in October for another battle of the bush bards.

The Championships will get under way with a meet and greet on Friday 17th at 6.30 pm at the Servicemen's Club. Heats of the Novice Competition will be held from 7.30 pm followed by a walk-up session if time permits. Host for the evening will be Frank Daniel.

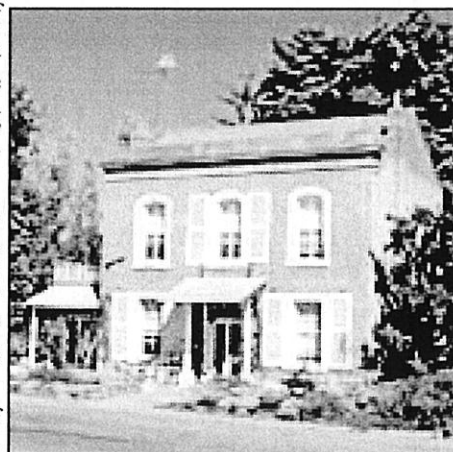
Australian Champion Bush Poet, Milton Taylor will conduct a Poets Breakfast in the club dining room from 8 am on Saturday 18th.

Competition heats will commence at 10 am finishing around 4.30 pm giving time to prepare for the big Bush Poetry Concert in the club auditorium on that night.

Sunday morning will see a special Sausage Sizzle Breakfast in the Narrandera Park adjacent to the Tourism Centre where visitors can enjoy each others company in an 'early farewell' before the balance of the competition heats and the presentation of awards. It is hoped, all going well, that all formalities will be over by 2 pm to allow early departure and safe travel afterwards.

Phone 1800 672 392 for entry forms (see advert this page) and info package.

Email: juliebriggs@narrandera.nsw.gov.au



An historic residence
in Narrandera

JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

If anything should remind us how young this country is, perhaps the following can.

In the heady days of pioneer cattlemen and drovers of the 1900s, it became necessary to find a new route to get vast numbers of cattle from the very isolated Kimberley region of North West Australia to get their cattle to the meat hungry south of the country, particularly the new gold rush area around Kalgoorlie.

In May 1906 surveyor Alfred Canning set off from the Goldfields towards the Kimberley to see if it was possible.

Within a few years the 1,800 kilometre stock route, which now bears the surveyor's name, was pocked with 53 wells and dusty with mobs of cattle from Halls Creek to Wiluna.

It was a most challenging overland adventure across four of Australia's most remote and dry deserts. In the 1880s, cattlemen began to settle in the baobab-dotted East Kimberley region of Western Australia. The men and their families - Nathaniel Buchanan, the Duracks and David Buchanan, to name a few - became the true pioneers, travelling thousands of kilometres to estab-



ALFRED CANNING

lish stations in areas that had only been discovered a few short years earlier. Getting their cattle through to the meat-hungry south was just one of the many difficulties they faced.

Alfred Canning was commissioned in 1906 to survey a route that was to become the longest and loneliest cattle route in the world.

Today, this route serves as a challenge to 4WD enthusiasts. While travelling in the comfort of motor vehicles, one must never lose sight of the 14 months it took Canning and his second-in-charge, Herbert Trotman, to traverse this lonely trail with its 800 sand dunes and salt lakes.

PIONEERS Frank Hudson

We are the Old-world people,
Ours were the hearts to dare;
But our youth is spent,

and our backs are bent,
And the snow is in our hair.

Back in the early fifties,
Dim through the mists of years,
By the bush-grown strand
of a wild, strange land,
We entered - the pioneers.

Our axes rang in the woodlands,
Where the gaudy bush-birds flew,
And we turned the loam
of our newfound home,
Where the Eucalyptus grew.

Housed in the rough log shanty,
Camped in the leaking tent,
From sea to view
of the mountains blue
Where the eager diggers went.

We wrought with a will unceasing,
We moulded, and fashioned,
and planned
And we fought with the black
and we blazed the track
That ye might inherit the land.

There are your shops and churches,
Your cities of stucco and smoke;
And the swift trains fly
where the wild cat's cry
O'er the sad bush silence broke.

Take now the fruit of our labour,
Nourish and guard it with care;
For our youth is spent,
and our backs are bent
And the snow is in our hair.

GALSTON COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL Sunday September 14th. Fagan Park, Galston NSW Sydney's premier Country Music Festival:

Attracts 10,000 punters annually - All proceeds to Charity.

Fun filled family day. (Kids Carnival, Rides, Vintage Cars etc.)

Australia's top Country Stars: Troy Cassar-Daley, Lucky Starr, Andrew Clermont, Pat Drummond, Garry Steel, Karen-Lynne Frencham, The Borderers, etc etc.

Bush Poets Brekky: 9 -11.30 am in the Big Tent.

"Invasion of the Mexicans" Colin Milligan, Annette Roberts,

Geoff "Bastard from the Bush" Jackson —

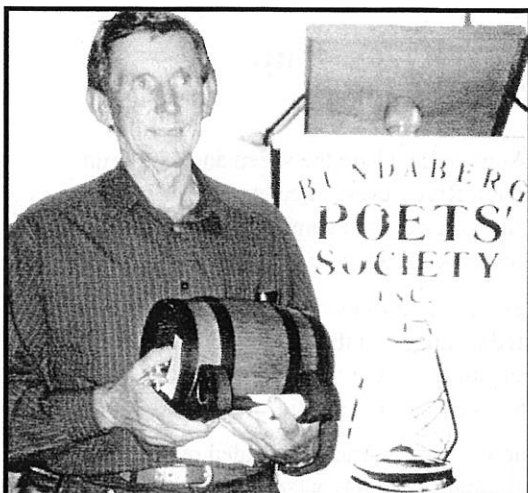
With Graeme Johnson (representing NSW)

in this State of Origin Battle Royal.

Country Music all day from 9.30 am.

EH?? Wot? Whilst on the subject of how young Australia might be, we might reflect on how ignorant some people are of our history.

Recently a young Western Sydney radio announcer, commenting on one of Henry Lawson's poems, mentioned that Henry was one of the three explorers who found the way over the Blue Mountains.



TERRY REGAN -
Overall Champion at Bundaberg

THE NINTH BUNDY MUSTER

Over the past twelve months the most common remark of copy subscribers to the ABPA newsletter has been of the 'professional, high quality of the poets and the poetry delivered' at Bush Poetry Competitions. Again we hear the same from Bundaberg.

No doubt this high standard of delivery comes from the extremely competitive nature of some of our leading performance poets, and the desire to maintain their place at the top.

The 'better poets' find they have to get 'better' to hold their positions, and the 'novices', now for a want of a better name, are turning out all the more with open class work, some from their very first competitive experience. (Note the results of first-timer Dennis Evans)

'The bar keeps getting higher' one might say.

The ninth annual Bundaberg Poetry Muster was held at the Waves Sports Club over the week-end of July 4-6th with forty-eight poets coming from as far as Melbourne, the Blue Mountains, Dubbo and Glen Innes.

Terry Regan from Blaxland NSW was the overall champion

poet of the Muster. Lynden Baxter won the Dark & Stormy One Minute Cup on Sunday morning from 26 other contestants.

The written competition, "The Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse", attracted close to 140 entries and was of such a high standard that there was a tie for first place between Brian Beesley and David Campbell.

The concerts on both the Friday and Saturday evenings were a lot of fun with Milton Taylor, Ray Essery and Garry Lowe keeping patrons well entertained.

The results are as follows:-

Bush Lantern Award for Written Bush Verse:-

Equal 1st - Brian Beesley - Cherrybrook NSW, *"The Thompson River Cup"* (P. 12) and David Campbell - Beaumaris Vic *"Go Grab A Bundy Rum"*.

Third - Graham Fredriksen, *"When We Rode With Gardiner"*

Highly Commended: Doug Hutcheson - *"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"*. Brian Beesley - *"Aussie"*, Ellis Campbell - *"The Toll"*.

Performance Competitions:

Novice Traditional:

1st: Dennis Evans, 2nd: Manfred Vijars, 3rd: Jill Perren

Novice Modern: 1st: Manfred Vijars, 2nd: Dennis Evans

3rd: Jill Perren

Novice Original: 1st: Dennis Evans, 2nd: Stewart Law, 3rd: Jan Facey.

Intermediate Traditional:

1st: Dennis Evans, 2nd: Dean Trevaskis, 3rd: Leanne Jeacocke

Intermediate Original.

1st: Dennis Evans, 2nd: John Lloyd, 3rd: Dean Trevaskis

Open Traditional - Men:

1st: Terry Regan, 2nd: John Best, 3rd: Ron Liekefett

Open Traditional - Women:

1st: Anita Reed, 2nd: Trisha Anderson, 3rd: Maxine Ireland

Open Modern - Men:

1st: Terry Regan, 2nd: Ken Dean, 3rd: John Best

From The Old Bulletin Book of Verse. The best verses from the Bulletin 1880-1901.

THE SHOE

Battered and worn on the wayside lay

A shoe, unseen by the busy throng

Of passers who, through the dusty way,

From morn to eve had hurried along.

The sight of that shoe to me has brought

A host of fancies, merry and sad,
Of a heart that struggled and toiled and wrought,

With never an hour of its life made glad.

Of a joyous and happy and winsome maid,

With mind all free from thought of guile:

Of a soul with sin's black sorrows laden,

Of a face that ne'er was lit by a smile.

Had the shoe been worn by any of these?

Was the wearer of it young and fair?

The answer is one, I hope, will please —

It was torn from the hoof of old Brown's mare. J.M.L.

Open Modern - Women:

1st: Pamela Fox, 2nd: Anita Reed, 3rd: Trisha Anderson

Open Original - Men

1st: Lynden Baxter, 2nd: John Best, 3rd: Dean Trevaskis

Open Original - Women:

1st: Laree Chapman, 2nd: Pamela Fox, 3rd: Carol Reffold

Yarn Spinning:

1st: Dean Collins, 2nd: Ron Selby, 3rd: John Lloyd

Duo Performances

1st: Dean & Matthew Collins.

Dark & Stormy One Minute Cup:

1st: Lynden Baxter, 2nd: Pamela Fox, 3rd: Ellis Campbell

Overall Champion Poet:

Terry Regan

IMPORTANT ISSUES

Very rarely do I put pen to paper and make any statement which could be conceived as controversial.

But, with the rising popularity of Bush Verse one thing is becoming critically clear - there are many very talented people out there who have intellectual property and seemingly no control over its use.

In our business we are constantly being asked for particular works they have recently heard around the campfire somewhere between the Queensland border and Mount Isa. We are then obliged to inform the person asking that these works were written by "So and So" and not by the reciter.

I personally have had a policy of performing only my own work and be that to my detriment or benefit, I accept the outcome of that decision.

Performers who are paid for their performances, be that by contract or by donation in the hat, have a responsibility to the owners of the intellectual property.

Surely it is now time to in some way protect the talents of the writers of bush verse and find some way to compensate them for their efforts. It is no longer just enough to give thanks to the writer. We all know that audiences very rarely take in the fact that the poem was written by someone else and the reciter gets the credit and the reward.

I might add that very little of my poetry is of the popular humorous variety so my comments should not be considered self-promoting.

Maybe we should start looking towards the legalities associated with copyright and attain some recompense for the Marko Gliories, Murray Hartin's and Neil McArthurs whose works are surely making monies for some reciters out there.

Some poetry to my knowledge has even been illegally recorded without the authors consent. Certainly no-one of any conscience can condone such a practice.

Should anyone decide to start a fighting fund to address these problems count me in.

Graham Dean
Graham & Louise Dean
Wookatook Gift & Gem
P.O. Box 120 Winton. Qld. 4735
Ph: (07) 4657 1296 Fx: (07) 4657 1541

(Now go to page 17)

The Thomson River Cup

by Brian Beesley © 2003

Further north from Augathella where the sheep and cattle run, by the flowing Thomson River, every squatter and his son thought of introducing 'culture', in a gambling sort of way, to revive the local racetrack for a picnic races day.

So they painted sheds and betting-booths in colours fit to shock, and replaced the rotted railings and the septic toilet block. Then to make the race attractive the 'establishment' put up stakes above a hundred guineas and a solid silver cup.

When he heard the news, Tom Ferguson, decided on a whim to display his hand at racing - for the purse appealed to him. (He had done a bit of breaking in between his shearing days and he loved to handle horses for he knew their moody ways.)

Clarrie Watson ran a station ninety minutes out of town, where he kept a few contenders that might bring the locals down. And as fate so often happens when unlikely strangers meet, Tom and Clarrie came acquainted in a bar on Eagle Street.

After talking of the weather and the government's neglect, Tom remarked his reputation as a rider won respect when he used to break in horses, as opposed to shearing sheep, prompting Clarrie to engage him, in exchange for board and keep.

For he needed Tom's experience to break his horses in then, in confidence, he muttered through a warm engaging grin: "I've a bay that's lean and toey and a strong and wilful one, both are wild and still unbroken and a trifle underdone."

Later on at Clarrie's station, Tom surveyed his equine care and agreed with Clarrie's judgement of a hint of promise there. Yet with little time before the race Tom singled out the bay - she was spirited and noble in her own peculiar way.

There was courage in her actions that a bushman understands, with a look of fiery boldness and, she stood at sixteen hands. But he played her like a suitor acting out his waiting game, and he stroked her neck with fondness while he softly spoke her name.

Tipperary snorted proudly and she nuzzled at his side, then he mused with satisfaction - she was ready now to ride. Tipperary stamped and snuffled in a skittish reckless mood; Tom responded, gripping firmer, to correct her attitude.

But the bay reacted gamely - she ignored his rowdy pleas as she tossed him round the saddle like a ship on stormy seas. Then as though a calming influence had quenched her fiery soul, Tipperary broke into a trot with Tom in firm control.

Leaning forward in the saddle with his cheek against her mane Tom released her to a gallop then he spoke to her again: "You're a beauty Tipperary." Then he quickened up her pace. "After breaking you, I wonder, are you ready now to race?"

Now the Thomson River Cup was in the programme listed third and arrangements were in progress and to plan, when Clarrie heard that a syndicate had just arrived though no one said where from, so he made discreet inquiries then reported back to Tom.

"There is only one can beat us." Clarrie said with veiled alarm, "He's a gelding known as Lyric and he's raced at Eagle Farm. His connections deal in Queen Street where the 'collared farmer' sits and they show at country meetings more to fudge their deficits.

"Now I've sorted out some tactics. Let the gelding have the start; stay behind him on the rails and try to spread the field apart. Make the rider on this Lyric think he's safe out in the lead, then surprise him on the straight with four to go." And Tom agreed.

Of the fifteen mounts accepted for the Thomson River Cup, there was Thunderbolt from Roma and a fiery filly up from the Snowy River region, undersized and called Renown – but the bushmen say their breed is well regarded pound for pound.

Somehow Clarrie's mood unsettled Tom by early afternoon, for he seemed aloof and distant like a waning winter's moon and, as Tom rode to the starting line he noticed Clarrie went heading off in the direction of the bookies' betting tent.

Tipperary took position next to Lyric four out wide, while the Snowy River filly drew up on the other side. Then the starter climbed his platform like a drunken mountaineer, (but his manner sort of blended with the picnic atmosphere.)

Though he cursed and dipped his hat embarrassed by his clumsy show, he continued with his 'theatre', then – he let the horses go! Tipperary found the rails with Lyric two lengths in the lead; while Renown was bunched and jostled by a thirteen-horse stampede.

From the turn into the long back straight Renown had broken clear and she raced past Tipperary like a warring cavalier. Then she drew with Lyric nine from home and held him stride for stride and the pride of Snowy River now depended on her ride.

Tipperary clung on to the rails along the backward straight, racing hard behind the leaders with a strong and measured gait, but Renown looked set to falter on the turn with six to go, where the reckless early pace and longer track began to show.

Tom applied the whip and gathered her with ease in half a stride, then he noticed Lyric tiring, moving from the rails out wide. Tipperary saw the opening and she dashed without a cue keeping tight position on the rails like stronger horses do.

Two from home the race was open – they were going head to head, and the cheering crowd responded to their loud and rumbling tread. Half a furlong now from glory and the crowd were on their toes – Lyric's holding on! No! Wait – it's Tipperary – by a nose! ...

Tom was watching out for Clarrie on his way back from the post, and he found him by the railing, looking like he'd seen a ghost – "You can say I lacked the faith to back a country thoroughbred, but I've lost a pile and your respect, on Lyric's nose instead."

Clarrie doesn't care too much for picnic races any more, he just keeps around the station sorting out the shearing floor. And at sunset when he sits and stares across the red soil plain, Tipperary's thrilling finish comes to haunt him once again.

Tom went searching 'further out' to where the northern drovers tramp, far across the Queensland border to the Wave Hill cattle camp. And protected in his saddle bag all safe and buckled up, he will carry, like a signature – the Thomson River Cup.

The Cattle Dog's Revenge

Bush Ballads and Yarns

From the Central Queensland University Press comes the latest book of bush ballads and yarns from master story teller Jack Drake of Stanthorpe Qld.

The Cattle Dog's Revenge is probably Jack Drake's best-known comic bush ballad. In it he celebrates the brawling victory of old 'Woody' from a small country farm over a classy Rottweiler from the city. But now Jack has written two sequels, The Cattle Dog's Return and Woody's Mongrel Breed that are even funnier.

Old 'Woody' is just as competent in the erotic 'reproduction' stakes as he is in the all-out bush brawling department. He's probably so popular with the ladies because of his irresistible smell - he loves rolling in dead 'roo. Woody the cattle dog is truly a folk hero for all bush battlers.

Jack Drake is of course no novice to the writing and performing of comic bush ballads. His awards include Bush Poet of the Year, 2001 with the NSW Asthma Foundation and he was twice a finalist with the Australian Bush Laureate Awards at Tamworth in 2001 and 2002. Jack has often been heard reciting on many radio stations.

Perhaps his next big winner will be poor Wally and his speech impediment that caused his huge problems with Uramol.

The best of the ballads in this collection will put you in mind of the days in the 1890s when Australia's bushies gathered around the campfires or on the verandahs and recited Banjo Paterson and Will Ogilvie. How much better than watching the goggle box is that?

This collection varies the tone from the farcical to the epic and then on to the poignant. This goes not just for the ballads, but also for the unmistakably authentic bush tone of the yarns. If you want a good laugh, don't miss Harvey's Toorak Tractor, Shearing in the Nudist Club or Desmond and the Dunny Cart and when you're wanting something more serious and heart-wrenching, read Realities of War, To Own a Horse, Diamond 88 and The Buck Runners.

If you want to feel proud about bush mateship, read 'Buck Off Bungle.

For a typically Australian book, with a unique bushie flavour, uniquely our own, then Jack Drake's 'Cattle Dog's Revenge' is not to be missed. (see page 20)

OLD TIME RECITERS



SLIM DUSTY

Following the encouraging response to the Tex Morton article in the June/July issue, a follow-up article on one of our most prolific old time reciters would have to be in honour of Slim Dusty.

Research into past reciters has been a difficult task, as little record of such people exist. Readers who know of any noteworthy old-time reciters are asked to contact the editor or submit articles along these lines.

In 2002 Slim Dusty was honoured with an Australian Bush Laureate Award recognizing his outstanding contribution to Bush Poetry; as recognition of one man's life long efforts in promoting and nurturing Australian Bush Verse.

Slim's Award was the first of such awards to be made, an appropriate and obvious choice.

Like Tex Morton, Slim Dusty included Australian Bush Verse in his shows, made recordings of many old time favourites, and put many to song.

Slim has recited (not sung) a piece of Australian Bush Poetry on his show each night - taking verse to hundreds of thousands of Australians who would not otherwise have heard Australian Verse recited.

This has been Slim's practice for many years - something he began long before such a thing was popular and something he continues to

do in live performance and on recordings.

Slim kept alive the works of great Bush Poets such as Paterson, Ogilvie and Lawson through the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s when it was not fashionable to do so by recording their words to music and releasing them, often in the face of sneers and jeers from those who only wanted American sounding Country Music from Australian artists.

Through Slim these poets' works were appreciated and listened to by many Australians who would never have sought them in books. Admittedly Slim put many of them to music but he was very true to the originals and retained the integrity of the work.

His enormous contribution to keeping the works of Lawson alive through this time, for instance, is well chronicled and recognized in Chris Kempster's acclaimed authoritative work, 'Songs of Henry Lawson'.

In his introduction to this important book Professor Manning Clark notes that Lawson '... wrote with a passion that clamours for music'.

Many others in the folk and popular music fields have put music to the works of these poets of course and many of their works were originally written to tunes - this is especially true of Morant and Ogilvie (and of course Paterson in several notable cases).

Slim has played a major part in encouraging and bringing to public notice Bush Poets like Kelly Dixon, Ray Rose and Mack Cormack. Slim has done this by recording their verse in the form of Bush Ballads and poems.

As one would point out, verse writing is not the same as 'songwriting' in the modern sense. However, it is impossible to draw the line between the Bush Poem and the Bush Ballad - many writers such as those above see themselves as 'Bush Poets' and owe a debt to Slim who, among others, recorded their verses.

Many Bush Poets are proud that Slim Dusty recorded one of their compositions as a bush ballad.

Who today would remember the wonderful verse of Mack Cormack if Slim had not dedicated a whole album to his verse in the form of recitation and ballads? Mack died before Bush Verse became popular again and Slim saw to it, in his own way, that his work was given life.

Unfortunately Slim is generally seen by people who need to put a handle on things as 'just a country singer'.

Slim has won numerous awards for heritage, where many wonderful Bush Poets have not, and is recognized for his wonderful contribution, (partly made possible by his acclaim after a lifetime of performing Australian material), to the nurturing and promoting of our Australian Rhymed Verse Heritage.

Editors note:

The importance of keeping the authors name in print should be first and foremost, whether it be in print, recordings, over the air or on stage.

Whilst listening to a country music talk-back programme on a regional NSW radio station, I heard a lady caller say that she, as a young girl in the Kempsey area, was the inspiration for one of 'Slim Dusty's songs'.

She claimed that in the 'song' (I don't think she knew the name of it) where Slim sang "... *I saw a girl ride bareback with no bridle on at all*", that she was that girl; that Slim, whilst driving past her family property many years ago, witnessed her catching and mounting her pony in a paddock some distance from the house, then galloping full tilt homeward without the use of bridle and reins.

How quickly I moved at hearing this, only to find I couldn't manage to contact the presenter to argue that the authors name was on the album label, as are all writers of Slims songs, and thus, credit for Henry Lawson and his 'Texas Jack' went astray.

(see Eh! Wot? Page 10)

GOLDEN GUMLEAF AWARDS



Nominations are now open for the prestigious Australian Bush Laureate Awards to be staged again as part of the January 2004 Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Closing date for nominations, open to verse recorded and published between October 1, 2002 and September 30, 2003, will be Wednesday, October 15.

This will be the ninth year of the Australian Bush Laureate Awards, which were instigated in 1996 to recognise excellence in published and recorded Australian bush poetry.

Past winners have included Frank Daniel, Kelly Dixon, Slim Dusty, Gary Fogarty, Murray Hartin, Jim Haynes, John Kane, Mark Kleinschmidt, Bob Magor, Keith McHenry, Rod Williams, Bob Miller, The Naked Poets, Dobe Newton, Carmel Randle, Ray Rose, Alli Ryan, Bill Scott, Bruce Simpson and R M Williams.

The recording and publishing of bush poetry has been growing, as evidenced by the quality of Australian Bush Laureate Award winners and entries over the last few years.

Winners are presented with an attractive, finely crafted sculpture of a pen in the shape of a gumleaf giving the trophy the name "the Golden Gumleaf".

The gala Awards presentation, organised by Singabout Australia and Max Ellis Marketing will be staged in Tamworth on Tuesday, January 20.

Nomination forms and further details are available from Australian Bush Laureate Awards at PO Box 135, Tamworth, 2340, by phoning Leanie Renton on 02 6766 1050 / 0427 653 422 or by email <leanie@iinet.net.au>

Are You On A Compilation CD?

Why not get together with the other performers on the CD and arrange to send just one set of the five CD's required as part of the nomination process for the 2004 Australian Bush Laureate Awards. Individual nomination forms and fees would be required but only one set of five CD's.



EMERALD SHINES

Emerald is well and truly back on the country music map with the staging of the second Gems of Country Weekend.

All events were well attended including the inaugural Gospel in the Gardens, Bush Poets Breakfasts at the Emerald Bowls Club and the second staging of the outdoor walk-up concert.

Punters flocked to the local town hall to experience rock legend Brian Cadd and the Gems of Country talent search had its biggest audience in years.

Emerald Shire Council's events committee chairman Cr Fred Wild said the community driven festival saw several changes this year. "For a start we moved it back from September/October to June this year," he said.

"This time of year is ideal for outdoor events during the day and indoor events at night.

"The entertainers and audience alike found the cooler climate much more comfortable and everyone we've spoken to has indicated they will be coming back next year."

Bush Poetry was well represented at Emerald with Gary Fogarty and Jack Drake presenting breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday at the Bowls Club to enthusiastic crowds.

Several walk up poets nicely rounded up each mornings breakfasts with local property manager Scott McGuigan doing some excellent original work and offering his book *"Of Mates and Places and Good Times Had"* for sale.

Sunday saw Melbourne 'Arvos' Poet Laurence Webb in fine form. Laurence was en-route to Winton for the Qantas Waltzing Matilda Celebrations.

North Pines' Ron Liekfett performed both mornings to an appreciative audience.

"The Emerald Bowls Club breakfasts were something to behold", reports Jack Drake, "No bacon and egg McMuffins here!"

"We had a real old time back country brekky with all the usual choices, bacon, egg, sausage etc. plus fritters, puffedaloons, liver and bacon, mountains of toast and bottomless tea and coffee. Top cooks in Emerald", says Jack, "No risk!"

Following the Saturday morning breakfast Jack Drake did a writing workshop, and Gary Fogarty conducted a performance workshop on the Sunday. Those attending the workshops agreed they received full value from both sessions.

Jack and Gary both did guest spots at the free concert on Friday night and the competitions on Saturday.

The organisers were pleased with the festival as a whole and were very positive about next year's event and Bush Poetry's continuing role at Emerald.

TO RAISE



A SMILE

Poems by
Vivienne Ledlie

'To Raise a Smile', Vivienne Ledlie of Brisbane has come up with a novel way to support the Redlands Friends of Operation Smile Australia.

Operation Smile Australia is a not-for-profit organization providing life-changing cranio-facial surgery for children in the Asia-Pacific under-developed countries. Medical teams give of their time freely. Redlands Friends of Operation Smile assists in this endeavour by raising funds for associated expenses such as theatre and hospital costs and airfares.

Money raised from Vivienne's anthology, 'To Raise a Smile', will be donated to this charity.

The anthologies are \$5 each (\$6 posted). Contact: Vivienne Ledlie, 5 Lorton Court, Alexandra Hills. Q. 4161.
Ph. 07 3824 4038
email ledlielv@bigpond.net.au

DORRIGO - THE GRASS IS GREENER

In the aftermath of the drought it will be hard to find greener grass than up in the Dorrigo ranges.

An hours drive west of Coffs Harbour is the magnificent Dorrigo Plateau, the home of the Dorrigo Mountain Top Poets, an area of lush rainforests, verdant farmland, crystal clear streams and clean fresh air.

An opportunity to visit this pristine area is not to be missed, nor a chance to attend the Dorrigo Bush Poets Roundup on November 1st and 2nd 2003, and witness a great gathering of Bush Poets from the North Coast of

NSW and other areas around the State.

The event will be held on the Saturday afternoon at the Dorrigo Bowling Club and the next morning's Poet's Breakfast will be conducted at the historic Dorrigo Hotel.

Compere and feature Poet this year will be four times Australian Champion Poet Milton Taylor, a guarantee of a feast of poetry in itself.

Novelty prizes of local produce will reward those receiving the highest audience acclaim.

A generous section for walk-up poets will be provided at each venue.

For further information about the event or local accommodation please contact Murray Suckling on 02 6657 2139

THE ENTERTAINERS

© Max Merckenschlager - Murray Bridge SA

Clowns at the interface, comics of aerospace;
fun-loving larrikins out on a lark:
costumed in rose and gray,

tumbling in mass display
toe-hanging wire tricks ring down the dark.

Frivolous soaring packs pirate the airway tracks;
even while resting, they're scene-stealing czars:
loop-minds vociferate expletive-cries that grate ...
hardly surprising we call them "galahs".



GYMPIE MUSTER

BUSH POETS

Amamoor State Forest via Gympie

Tues 26th – Sun 31st.

Hosted by Marco Giori

Presenting Australia's

Most Popular Bush Poets

Bush Poets Breakfasts

The Larrikin Concert

(Comedy & Poetry tribute to Bob Miller)

The Bush Poets Brawl

The Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award.

Open to Up And Coming Poets

Tickets and Muster enquiries Tel -: 07 54822099

Muster Poetry Enquiries Tel-: 0746 614024

The Run-up - Claude Morris

The Boss was up before the sun,
Eager to have the muster begun,
But Charlie the blackboy never could share
The Old Man's taste for the pre-dawn air.
And had to be wakened day by day
By the Riot Act roared in the Old Man's way.

"When I was young," he once declared,
"At five o'clock I was up and prepared,
And I'd run two miles, and just for fun,
Jump a five-foot gate at the end of the run."
Lazily Charlie got up from his seat,
Quite unimpressed by this splendid feat.
"Five foot?" he said with a scornful look,
"An' so you should -- look at the run you took!"

IMPORTANT ISSUES

From Murray Hartin.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss three matters, one of which is of a personal nature, the other two being issues I feel must be addressed.

1) I am concerned about the proliferation of "joke" poems and the presentation of "joke" poems in the "original" sections of competitions.

2) With regard to competitions, we need to revisit the definition of "poet", which is a writer of poetry, and under this definition it is my belief that any poetry competition must be judged on original work only – have a separate section for "reciters".

3) Poetry is my profession so in order to protect my livelihood I will no longer condone the recitation of my work by paid performers, be they hobby performers or otherwise, or by competitors in competitions where prizes in the form of money or travel are offered unless an agreement has been reached. Existing verbal agreements are null and void.

JOKE POEMS: Joke poems are a lazy attempt at comedy verse and should not be accepted in any competition.

Joke poems are easily identified, even if you haven't heard the joke. They are generally 40 or 50 lines of padding leading up to one tag/joke in the last line.

Any poet worth his or her salt could write 10 of these a day without raising a sweat, the only thing preventing this occurring would be integrity.

Poets, a simple rule, if the last line isn't yours, it's not original. If you can't write comedy, cop it on the chin, don't take the easy way out and a memo to judges, please learn to recognize a joke poem.

COMPETITIONS: Having recently judged at the Australian Championships at Mulwala, and this is by no means a reflection on this year's winners, it became apparent to me that it would be possi-

ble for someone who has only ever written one good poem to become Australian champion.

In essence the best "reciter" could win the prize.

If we follow the definition of poet, poetry competitions should be judged on original works, I would suggest a minimum of three poems or perhaps each poet is given 10-15 minutes on stage.

With regard to material, I always used the Tamworth competition as the impetus to write something new so it somewhat bewilders me to check competition results and see poets using the same poems they were using three, four and five years ago.

While they are competitions, they are still a showcase for our craft and the emphasis must be on entertainment – don't be mistaken, once you get on stage you have an obligation to entertain – and a big part of entertainment is variety i.e. new material.

And if I could offer a tip for reciters in traditional sections of competitions, search a bit harder and find a lesser known poem by Paterson, Lawson, C.J. Dennis or whoever.

No matter how hard a judge tries to be objective and to stay interested, it's hard when you're hearing "Lost" or "A Bush Christening" for the third time in an afternoon.

RECITATION OF MY POETRY

I have never had a problem with children or adults reciting my work in amateur competitions or eisteddfods, in fact it gives me quite a buzz.

But I do have a big problem, and I have raised this before, with people getting paid to perform what amounts to a selection of other people's work, including mine.

A couple of Neil McArthur's, a few of Bobby Miller's, one or two Marco Gliori's, a Jack Drake, a Blue the Shearer, some Donny Lloyds and Turbulence and, coupled with a few of their own, these people have got themselves a show – a show they not only get paid for but

also sell their own product on the strength of it.

And it's no coincidence that most of the "selection" is comedy.

It's not much fun, and this happens to Neil McArthur on a regular basis, to arrive at a festival for the main weekend to be told a number of "reciters" have already performed your best work.

This has to be stopped.

Those of us who do list poetry as our profession have worked hard not only in writing material but also refining performance and creating viable markets and payment scales whereby we can generate a living.

Therefore to be made aware that others are using that material for their own financial gain without so much as a thanks, and to know they are also undercutting us in a major way, in effect stealing work away from us, well, it's a bit like chewing gravel – not very pleasant at all.

Not only would it seem to be ethically wrong, I am led to believe it is actually legally wrong and my denying people the right to use my work is the first step I have to take to protect my property and my livelihood.

It's beyond a joke when you find out that some bloke in WA has Turbulence on his CD and the local radio station plays his version ahead of mine which no doubt does a lot for his CD sales but not much for The Naked Poets album.

The acid test as I see it is this. If your "routine" that you get paid for can't stand up without the inclusion of comedy pieces by the people I've mentioned in this article and/or others, then you are not a poet, you are a "reciter" wrongly profiting from the hard work and talent of others.

We are not like the music industry, there is no APRA for spoken word. We have no protective forces in place at this stage bar our own integrity and if we are truly a fraternity it's about time we started looking after each other.

Sorry if this seems negative but I believe these matters to be too serious to ignore.

RHYME and REASON

Writing tips from Ellis Campbell

METAPHORS and SIMILES

Metaphors and Similes are handy tools a poet regularly uses.

The idea is to look for fresh ones, rather than use those that are growing ragged through over use.

A simile says something is "like" something else. "The track was like a winding snake." "The house looked like a palace." "The horse's coat was as black as ink." "The lambs were as white as snow."

In contrast a metaphor says something "is" another thing. "The sun was a hazy fire-ball." "The centre-back is a prowling tiger." "The cockatoo is king of the mountain." "The train is a silver bullet." "The sea is a raging monster."

Some poets occasionally write a poem with an Extended Metaphor. For example eleven year old Tommy, in a fantasy poem, might be the Flying Crusader. Throughout the poem he would not return to ordinary little Tommy, but would always be referred to as some kind of superior being. I think this would be quite difficult to do and cannot recall trying it myself.

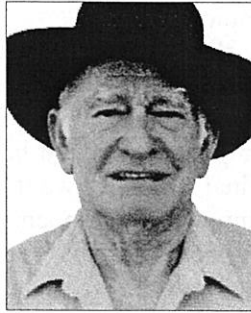
Cliches are phrases that have been popular for a long time and get over worked. "As black as coal." "Cunning as a fox." "Like the driven snow." "Wild as a march hare." "Game as Ned Kelly."

Many of these are extremely clever if we stop to think about them.

"As mad as a cut snake." Can you imagine anything quite as angry as a castrated taipan? "Every little bit helps" said the old woman as she did a wee in the sea." The effect would be rather minimal, wouldn't it?

Popular cliches are used so regularly that we say them without thinking and they therefore lose impact. In short these are so popular that we have worn them out. Competition judges and publishers frown quite heavily on cliches, so it is best to avoid them. But some of these are so clever that its hard to find a replacement. But we may as well try -- as I've often said, "Don't handicap yourself." Next issue, my final column - Satire.

Ellis Campbell



NOEL STALLARD

Australian Male Champion Bush Poet 2003

Noel Stallard of Arana Hills, Brisbane, is the current Men's Australian Bush Poetry Champion having won the title at Mulwala in May.

After thirty five years of teaching Primary and Secondary students Noel resigned in order to take the traditional Australian Bush Poetry to the schools.

At first he concentrated on the works of the poet-priest, Patrick Hartigan better known under his pen name of John O'Brien because Noel believed this unsung pioneer poet had much to offer modern Australians.

Over the past six years Noel, having gained the Approval Card of the Queensland Arts Council, has performed for students and adults in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory and has broadened his range to include the works of C.J.Dennis, 'Banjo' Paterson, Henry Lawson, Will Ogilvie and Thomas E Spencer as well as many of the popular modern day poets.

In recent years Noel has written his own bush poetry and in 2001 had his first book published entitled, Chalk Dust and Bull Dust.

More than 1000 copies were sold that year and it is now in its fifth printing. He also has cassettes and CDs of the John O'Brien poetry and his own CD entitled, Aussie Bush Ballads.

The winning of three Golden Dampier Awards in Tamworth in 2002 and 2003 did much to convince him that he was able to perform at a high level and this was again evidenced this year when he won the 2003 Australian Male Performance Championship for Bush Poetry.

He is a proud member of the North Pine Bush Poets who perform on the first and third Sundays north of Brisbane at the North Pine Country Park.

As well as their annual festival these poets put on two public concerts involving seventeen poets performing humorous verse. The monies from these concerts have gone to such charities as The Royal Flying Doctors, Farmhand and Meals on Wheels. For the past two years Noel has been secretary of this group.

Noel and his wife Ann have two children, Joseph and Elizabeth who are in their own careers of teaching and the police force respectively. Like so many other poets, he was strongly influenced and encouraged by Bobby Miller. Noel has a strong belief that if we want to know who we are and where we are going then we need to know who we were and where we came from.

GRENFELL NSW

HENRY LAWSON FESTIVAL

The 46th Henry Lawson Festival held on the June Long-weekend in Grenfell NSW definitely had to be the best yet.

The celebrations started on the Thursday with the Festival of Arts Awards in the Festival Gallery at the Library.

The contributions were fantastic and the Art Judge, Jean Stokes,

MOTHERS' DAY

© Noel Stallard - Arana Hills Brisbane

It's great that once a year the world does stop to honour mum, for she's so precious in our lives, whoever we become.

And it doesn't matter who we are, what colour, race or creed, we all had mum who gave us life and tended to our need.

Unique's the only word to use when you're describing mum, for nine months you and she were one, till out to light you'd come. And all throughout the growing years when turmoil tossed you high, she'd be there as your comforter, the tears to wipe and dry.

Love and Patience were the tools that mums used to shape us, these artists worked with what they had without frenzy or fuss. They chipped away the rough parts, till virtue would appear in forms of being honest, truthful and sincere.

Remember all those early years when life was school and sport and mum cut all those lunches and packed them in your port. When school reports were glowing and mum was proud as punch, that teachers wrote such lovely things about her honeybunch.

And discipline in by-gone days was part of daily fare, a slap with ruler round the legs reminded you. "Don't dare do anything like that again or even worse could follow." Mums didn't want their kids to be, the hoodlums of tomorrow.

No one gives mums the medals for the heroes that they are, but their courage under fire deserves no less by far. Band-aiding bloodied hands and knees, curfews for getting home, battles fought for bathrooms, peace treaties by the tome.

Mums gave their time and energy and finance they had saved; that we would be the best we could was only what they craved. And when we failed they hung in there still doing what they could, to help us see a better way, the way they saw as good.

For some of us just memories are all that's left of mum, and how we wish we could rewind times-clock so we could come back to her loving presence and see her face to face, express our thanks and gratitude with just one more embrace.

And those of you who still have mum alive and fit, okay, make sure you use the time that's left to show her and to say, "Thanks mum, we love you heaps we do; and not just on one day but every day you are our champ in the games of life we play."

So what mums want on Mothers' Day is not the latest fad but the fact their son or daughter is genuinely glad to visit, write or ring to say, "Thanks mum, I'm really blest that God gave you to me as mum, you really are the best."

would have needed the wisdom of Solomon to choose the winners of the various sections, not to mention the Statuette winner, Alan McClure of Cootamundra, for his painting "Anzac Day in the Country". The ANU Art Exhibition 'Lachlan Gold' was also very popular.

Friday nights concert was once again a sell-out event with Gerard Carrol and Alex Hood along with the Kings School Choir, Steve Forde, Jennifer Kelly and the King/Queen entries adding to a great night out.

The biggest feature of the Grenfell festival as always, was the Parade through the main street, led by the Light Horsemen riding tall in the saddle invoking the memory of Beersheba.

Another feature of the parade was the dozen or more riders and the twenty wagons that took part in the Gulgong to Grenfell Heritage Ride. This unique event could possibly become an annual event for horsemen and harness enthusiasts.

Special guest at the Saturday nights Awards Dinner was radio personality Alan Jones. Mr. Jones comments on the directions society is heading was like music to the audience ears who are sick of the brave new world being created by the insurance burden.

Written Competition results

Traditional Verse: Veronica Weal, Mt. Isa Q. *'Chasing Your Dreams'*

Highly Commended.

Max Merckenschlager, Murray Bridge SA, *'Snowy Mountain Magic'* - Ken Dean, Marrangaroo NSW, *'The Moods of Clovermaine'*. JA Kent, Port Fairy Vic. *'Cattle by the Roadside'*.

Commended awards went to Cheryl Rogers, WA. Ellis Campbell, Dubbo. Len Green, Rose Bay. Andrew Bowe, Yarck Vic. VP Read, WA.

Free Verse. Norma Balzer, Lismore NSW *'An Unexpected Free Day'*.

Highly Commended. Ron Stevens Dubbo and Frank Prem, Chelsea Vic.

Novice Written verse competition, Ted Webber, Narellan Gardens NSW, *"Face to Face"*.

Junior Written Verse (u.18). Patrick Angeli, Kingsgrove NSW.

Highly Commended. Alysha Eitel, Goovigen Qld. Susannah Marshall-Macbeth and Guy Scotton.

POETRY, PARODY AND DOGGEREL

By Peter (Stinger) Nettleton (WA)

A few years ago at Uni, I was asked to write an essay distinguishing a poetic masterpiece from a piece of doggerel. The dogma is that one is art, the other decidedly not.

I had the whole 7 centuries of English literature to choose from, but being a bush poet first and foremost, I chose Paterson's "Clancy of the Overflow" (1889) as an example of the former and Rob Charlton's "Clancy of the Overtime" (1981) as the latter.

My argument began with the Macquarie Dictionary definitions, to wit, a 'masterpiece' is:

1. one's most excellent production, as in art;
2. any production of masterly skill; or
3. a consummate example of skill or excellence of any kind.

The same reference also defines 'doggerel' as an adjective to describe verse that is comic or burlesque and usually loose or irregular in measure and 'parody' as "a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing". From this I concluded that a 'parody' verse is generally also 'doggerel' verse.

I then launched into my theory about the 'artistic process' and how it applied to Paterson and "Clancy". I waxed informative about Paterson's background, possible influences and other works. I made quite a point about the fact that when he wrote "Clancy", Banjo was 25 years old, the same age as Pope and Keats

when they wrote their acknowledged masterpieces and incidentally, as Ned Kelly was when hanged just 9 years earlier.

I went on to compare his rhyming and rhythm style with that of his northern hemispheric contemporary, William Butler Yeats and his imagery with TS Eliot's. I even went so far as to assert that, with the change of just one syllable of "Clancy", literary history may well have promoted Paterson from the ranks of 'Late Romantics' to the 'Early Modernists' – but that's another story.

Finally, I asserted that "Clancy" deserved the place in "Seven Centuries of Poetry in English" that is currently occupied by the rather bland "The Travelling Post Office" (1895).

My essay then directed its attention to Rob Charlton and "Overtime". I said:

"His poem *Clancy of the Overtime* is an obvious parody of Paterson's *Clancy* and was written essentially to amuse, although it does contain some political points which are as relevant today as they were twenty or even seventy years ago. Charlton is said to have regarded his poetry (the better known examples being of essentially comic content) as "for everyone" and not aimed at anyone in particular

In Charlton's *Clancy*, our mythical hero is a public servant, working in a government office rather than a shearing shed while the poet is a contemporary struggling bush dweller. The poet writes to Clancy care of the departmental mail registry rather than the travelling post office and the unsatisfactory reply this time comes from Clancy's dep-

uty who does however 'duck shove' (refer) the writer to another possible avenue of communication.

The poet then takes his flight of fancy, but rather than "erratic" it becomes an "erotic" one of bouncing secretaries and pouncing clerks. The defamiliarisation is used to further comic effect, the "murmur of the breezes" coming from air conditioners, the friendly faces being Clancy's drinking mates and the "vision splendid" being his suburban retreat and TV set. "

Since then, I have had occasion to look at another parody of "Clancy", namely "Clancy of the Underflow", written by who knows who, who knows when. That too is satirical, however rather than a simple adaptation as is "Overtime", it purports to be a reply to the original. It shows the other (darker) side of Clancy, the hard drinking, hard fighting bad debtor - sounds a lot like Lawson to me!

The point is that a parody is not necessarily doggerel, particularly if it sets out to develop some of the ideas in the original and in so doing becomes a work of art in its own right. Reviewing Rob Charlton in that light, it can be said that he too was not attempting merely to amuse by changing the scene to the present day and topical issues but also to make a contemporary point about the eternal city/bush divide - the main message of "Clancy".

From memory, I think I got a credit for my essay. Now, I am no longer convinced by my own argument. "Underflow" has artistic merit and so too does "Overtime". "The Man from Kaomagma" on the other hand – definitely doggerel!

May 2003

**DORRIGO
MOUNTAIN TOP
BUSH POETS ROUNDUP
NOVEMBER 1st and 2nd. 2003
Featuring Milton Taylor
Contact Murray Suckling
Ph. 02 6657 2139**

'The Cattle Dog's Revenge'
Available from Newsagents and bookstores or direct from
Jack Drake.
PO Box 414 Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
\$24.00 including postage.
Jack Drake will be launching 'The Cattle Dog's Revenge' at the EKKA in Brisbane at 3 pm on Friday 8th August during the Brisbane show. Look for him at 'The Meating Place'.....

DROUGHT

© Rory Comiskey - Nudgee College Brisbane.

The country's gripped with drought and it's scorched a dusty red,
and everything you look upon is dying or is dead.

The grass and trees are gone, and stones replace the plains,
and everyone is praying for the returning sound of rains.

The farmers battling through the drought are holding banks at bay,
and try to keep their stock alive on a-couple-of-bales of hay.
More cattle bogged in dams and holes that daily get more dry
and sheep are wandering round the place just starving till they die.

The market prices are right down, due to a flood of stock,
and most have sold their struggling herds and also half their flock.
The stock routes are devoid and bare of water and of feed,
and agistment is becoming scarce in this terrible time of need.

So here we gather in the pub to forget this bloody drought,
and yarn and drink and struggle to afford another shout.
And we'll just keep on at it for the rain will come I'll bet,
for we've never had a bloody drought that hasn't broken yet.

And although the weather man has said, the rains will never come,
we'll just keep on praying while we're toiling in the sun.
And maybe we will make it, and things will be alright
and rains will come and break the drought and finish off the fight.

COUNTRY & HORSE FESTIVAL BEAUDESERT

Another successful Country & Horse Festival at Beaudesert Q. saw interstate performers travelling long distances for the competitions and written entries coming in from every state.

Results:

'Golden Horseshoe' Written Awards:

Adults. Kym Eitel, Goovigen Q. 'The Old Chestnut Mare'

2nd. Doug Hutcheson, Logan Central Q. 'Deuchar's Billy'.

3rd. Doug Hutcheson, 'A Complaint to the Bards'.

Junior Written Sections.

(Children). Alysha Eitel, 'In My World'. 2nd. Tegan O'Brien,

Cedar Vale Q. 'Peach Tree'. 3rd. Lauren Harper. Mt Tamborine Q. 'The Life of a Stock-horse'.

Intermediate: Allana Hartley, Ferny Grove Q. 'Olden Day Clothes', 2nd. Callum Stewart,

Hillview Q. 'The Bushranger', 3rd. Melissa Wooderson, Veresdale, Q. 'The Ocean'.

Senior. Faith Hartley, 'The Country Life', 2nd. Esther Bax, Veresdale Q. 'My Annoying Brother', 3rd. Megan Lincez, Beaudesert, 'Drought'.

PERFORMANCE POETRY.

Open Original. Pamela Fox, Beaudesert, 'The All Female Circus', 2nd. Carol Heuchen, Cooranbong NSW, 'Rosie', 3rd. Ron Selby, Drayton Q. 'Lisa'.

Open Traditional. Carol Heuchen, 2nd Roy Nott, Nobby Q. 3rd (equal) Debbie Andersen, Warwick Q and Pamela Fox.

Open Novice. Calvin Grogan, Tenterfield NSW, 2nd Bessie Jennings, Port Macquarie, NSW. 3rd James Hasson, Beaudesert Q.

Judges for the competition were Glenny Palmer, Rob Brown and Barry Hansen, with assistance from Tom McIvor in the Performance Sections.

DROUGHT was written by Rory Comiskey, a student of Nudgee College in Brisbane who was inspired and encouraged by Bobby Miller. This student was present late last year when Bob and Gary Lowe did a performance for the students.

This was Bobby's final performance and Nudgee is honouring him with an annual Bobby Miller Award for students who show outstanding talent in the writing and performance of bush poetry.

Rory Comiskey performs well and has several written works and will certainly be a strong candidate for Bobby's Award. It was so fitting that Bob's last performance was with school kids with whom he loved to work and encourage with the writing and performance of bush poetry.

INVERELL POETRY

Dorrigo and Coffs Harbour members, Murray and Marie Suckling, and Ed and Margaret Parmenter were treated to a wonderful weekend of Bush Poetry, music and afternoon tea at the very impressive Inverell Arts Centre in early July.

Inverell members Malcolm MacLeod, Maxwell Taylor and Jim Brown organised the function and the visitors were delighted with the warm welcome and also the hospitality extended to them at the members' own homes.

It was great to see Jim's young son following in his father's footsteps, and he delivered a great rendition of Marco Gliori's poem about Mr. Whippy.

The locals even supplied glorious winter weather and the temperature didn't drop below minus 3 degrees.

The travellers had a good trip back East, and on the way shared morning tea plus the benefit of a beaut campfire with a lone drover in his "long paddock" on the road to Guyra.

**See Poets Calendar page 25
for**

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**QUEENSLAND - NORTH PINE
VICTORIA - STRATFORD**

NEW SOUTH WALES - NARRANDERA

QANTAS-WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS — WINTON

(From page 1.)

The results of the various awards are as follows:

LARRIKIN AWARD sponsored by Sandra Miller for the best performance of a Humorous Original Poem in the course of the Festival went to Dean Trevaskis, Stafford Heights Qld.

The WALTZING MATILDA AWARD for the best performance of an AB Paterson poem in the course of the Festival, sponsored by the Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton, went to John Best of Whiteside, Brisbane Qld.

OUTBACK OSCARS: Group Fun Entertainment. Australian Movie Theme. First: "Strictly Boredom", Second: "Takin' the Mick", Third: "Mummies Little Angels"

CLOVER NOLAN AWARDS: Higher Junior Competition
Primary: Winner: Jack Kennedy, Jubilee College, Atherton Qld. Runner-up: Jenna Green, St Patrick's, Winton Qld.

Secondary: Winner: Sunny Mutton, Winton State School, Runner-up: Stuart Nivison, St Columban's College, Caboolture Qld.

LITTLE SWAGGIES AWARD:

Junior Written Award
PRIMARY — YEARS 4 — 7 First: Jenna Green, St Patrick's, Winton, Second: Simone Bourne, St Joseph's, Barcardine Qld. Third: Michael Markham, Christian Outreach College, Brisbane.

SECONDARY — YEARS 8 — 12 First: Kelsey Horton, Moreton Bay College, Brisbane Second: Kelsey Horton, Moreton Bay College, Brisbane, Third: Nadia Nooteboom, Cloncurry State School, Cloncurry.

JUNIOR ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD: Encouragement award for a Junior Competitor from 10-17 years Sponsored by Sandra Miller. Winner: Heide Paynter,

L.S.O.D.E.

SPECIAL JUNIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD:

Sponsored by Sandra Miller
Winner: Jenna Green

AUSTRALIAN BUSH YARN-SPINNING CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Junior (18 — under 40 years) First: Melanie Hall, Townsville, Qld. Second: Julie Rayment, Winton, Qld. Third: Dean Trevaskis, Stafford Heights, Qld.

Senior (40 — under 65 years) First: Ray Essary, Mullimbimby, NSW. Second: Cay Fletcher, Taree, NSW. Third: John Rennick, Forbes, NSW.

Masters (over 65 years) First: John Best, Whiteside, Qld. Second: Ned Winter, Cecil Plains, Qld. Third: Bill Hay, Brisbane, Qld.

CHRISTINA MACPHERSON NOVICE AWARDS: Sponsored by: Winton Shire Council & Winton Business & Tourism Assoc. Winner Male: Dean Trevaskis, Stafford Heights, Brisbane, Qld. Runner-up Male: Laurence Webb, Kangaroo Ground, Vic.

Winner Female: Julie Rayment, Winton, Qld. Runner-up Female: Jill Perren, Murrumba Downs, Brisbane, Qld.

QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY AWARDS: Sponsored by: Winton Shire Council & Winton Business & Tourism Assoc.

Winner Male: John Best, Brisbane, Qld. Runner-up Male: Noel Stallard, Brisbane, Qld

Winner Female: Janine Haig, Eulo, Qld. Runner-up Female: Melanie Hall, Townsville, Qld.

BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD 2002. Written Award. Winner: Janine Haig, Eulo, Qld "Not Gone". Runner-up: Geof Hendricks, W.A. "Ours by Good Fortune".

PARKER vs. WATTY

After Watty's limerick in the June issue (p23), Hillston's Lance Parker reserved the right of reply.

Half suspecting a response 'Watty', who may have had a guilt complex, came back with a reply to the fully expected response - which arrived in due course, and doubly so as follows.

From Lance:

There once was a fella called Watt
Who used to write verse quite a lot.
He became quite confused
With the words that he used
Like 'whose, when, where, why
and what's not!'

'Skew Wiff' they called him a lot
Because he talked rubbish and rot
His verse was all jumbled
His words were all mumbled
So now he is called 'Dunno Watt'

And from 'Watty'

I asked me mate from Hillston
I said, "How'd Mulwala go?,
Who's the Bush Verse Champion?
I'd really like to know?

Well! I reckon he'd been drinking,
By his answer I could tell,
And he must have thought it
Christmas,
For he stammered "First, No-el!"

And then he got evasive,
His manner quite unsteady,
He rambled on about his Dad,
And what he charged for Eddie.

I asked, "Who won the Ladies Title,
Which lady was the best?"
Then I knew he had been drinking,
For he said "It all went West!"

So! I've given up as hopeless
On this Hillston Romeo,
And as to who did win the
Championships,
I'll never flamin' know.

~~~~~  
And so ends the saga of Parker and Watt  
With all of their drivel and all of their rot  
Long may they prattle  
In whimsical battle  
No Henry or Banjo, this Parker and Watt.

Keep an eye out for Lance's new book of verse and yarns. **Ed.**

# CHARTERS TOWERS FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY RESULTS

## Written Poetry Sections:

**Under 12 years.** 1st. "Bush Soccer"  
David Butler Charters Towers.

**12 to under 15 years:** 1. "Someone  
Like Yoy - A Terrorist" Rikki Lind-  
ley Townsville

**15 to under 18 years:** 1. "Slouch  
Hats and Army Green" *Rebecca*  
Blackman Ch Towers

## Open 'written poetry

"The Gift" Ken Dean Marrangaroo,  
NSW. 2. River Song" Veronica Weal  
Mt Isa. 3. "Billabong of Dreams"  
Patricia Russell Mackay.

**Theme** "International Year of Fresh  
Water" - "The Gift" Ken Dean

## PERFORMANCE POETRY

**Under 12 years** traditional/modern

1 Matthew Horton Brisbane 2 Tom  
Vinson Ch Towers 3 Madeline Cook  
Ch Towers.

**12 to under 18 years,** traditional/  
modern. 1 Courtney Denning  
Toowoomba. 2 Samantha Gibbings  
Ch Towers. 3 Kristylee Black Ch  
Towers.

**Over 18 years** Novice 'traditional/  
modern. 1 Constance Larsen Ch  
Towers 2 Harry Jackson Ch Towers  
3 Roslyn Schwenke Innisfail.

## Open traditional/novice

1 Melanie Hall Townsville 2 Shan-  
non McDermott Townsville 3 Dan  
Thompson Townsville

## Under 12 years 'original'

1 Matthew Horton Brisbane 2 David  
Butler Ch Towers 3 Casey McDer-  
mott Townsville

## 12 to under 18 years 'original'

1 Rebecca Blackman Ch Towers  
2 Courtney Denning Toowoomba  
3 Sharon Young Ch Towers

## Over 18 years Novice' original

1 Roslyn Schwerike Innisfail

## Open 'original'

1 Jean Lindley Ch Towers  
2 Melanie Hall Townsville  
3 Dan Thompson Townsville

## Under 12 years Humorous'

1 Matthew Horton Brisbane  
2 Tom Vinson Ch Towers

# IPSWICH Qld. COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Ipswich is preparing to welcome  
die-hard fans when Australian  
Country Music Festivals Pty Ltd  
join forces with the Ipswich Turf  
Club for the inaugural Ipswich  
Country Music Festival on October  
11th. 2003.

The 12-hour extravaganza fea-  
tures the cream of Australia's coun-  
try music talent. Troy Cassar-  
Daley, Sara Storer, Laurel Edwards  
and The Wolverines, supported by  
Travis Sinclair, Brooke McCly-  
mont, Shane Hogan, Neil Duddy,  
Pixi Jenkins, Joelene Mandrakas,  
Chris Mullins, Backing band Big-  
foot and other local acts.

The entertainment line up starts  
off on Saturday morning with the  
Bush Poets' Breakfast - then  
followed by the Ipswich Bush  
Poetry Competition being run by  
well-known Bush Poet Wally (The  
Bear) Finch.

The final judging of the Lismore  
Gold Talent Search also takes place  
on the Saturday morning with en-  
trants vying for a chance to sing at

other country music festivals as  
well as a host of other prizes.

With a crowd of over 5000 people  
expected to attend this festival  
promises to be a lot of fun for the  
whole family.

Mayor of Ipswich, John Nugent,  
said the Festival would generate  
significant economic benefits for  
the city and help raise Ipswich's  
profile as a heritage centre.

"The Ipswich Country Music  
Festival compliments the city's  
heritage image and will be the high-  
light of our 2003 events calendar,"  
he said.

"In addition to giving local resi-  
dents an opportunity to enjoy some  
of Australia's top music talent, we  
appreciate that it will attract visitors  
from Brisbane, the Gold Coast,  
Toowoomba and surrounding re-  
gions."

Tickets are available from the  
Ipswich Turf Club, selected Sanity  
Music stores, the River 94.9, the  
Australian Country Music Festivals  
website at [www.austcountry.com.au](http://www.austcountry.com.au)  
or buy at the gate on the day.  
Contact: Denise Payne - Director  
(07) 55278688 Fax: (07) 55278699  
Email: [denise@austcountry.com.au](mailto:denise@austcountry.com.au)  
Website: [www.austcountry.com.au](http://www.austcountry.com.au)

3 Zoeanna, Santo Ch Towers

## 12 to under 18 years 'humorous'

1 Rebecca Balckman Ch Towers  
2 Ainsley Hoogland Winton  
3 Bridget Sladden Ch Towers

## Over 18 years novice humorous'

1 Roslyn Schwenke Innisfail  
2 Harry Jackson Ch Towers  
3 Tom Sheahan Ingham

## Open humorous'

1 Melanie Hall Townsville  
2 Norah Vinson Ch Towers  
3 Jean Lindley Ch Towers

## Best Overall Junior (under 18 yrs)

Matthew Horton - Brisbane

## Best Male - Performance Poetry

Dan Thompson Townsville

## Best Female - Performance Poetry

Melanie Hall Townsville.

# WALLA WALLA NSW HERITAGE DAY BUSH POETRY AWARD

**Walla Walla Lions Club will be  
conducting the Walla Walla  
Wagon Wheel Award for Written  
Bush Poetry as part of the towns  
Walla Walla Heritage Day  
November 9th 2003.**

Three sections apply.  
Open class - Under 12 yrs and  
13 to 18 years

Wagon Wheel Trophies  
and Certificates will be awarded.  
No entry forms required  
no entry fees applicable.

## Deadline October 31st 2003

Send cover sheets with all work to  
Bush Poetry Competition  
PO Box 22 Walla Walla NSW 2659



## 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

Each Tues **TWEED HEADS** Poets and Writers on the Tweed. Library Meeting Room. Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

3rd Sat. **LIVERPOOL** Poet's 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 Suckling 02 6657 2139

2nd Thur **TAMWORTH** Poetry Reading Grp. 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

2nd Sat **KEMPSEY** or Port Macquarie. Hastings Macleay Bush Poets. Phone Rod 02 65813161 or Janice 02 6581 3552

3rd Fri **JUNEE** Bush Poetry Group. 7.30pm, Junee Community Centre. Brian Beasley PO Box 82 Junee. 02 6924 1317

Last Tue **GRAFTON** Live Poet's Society - Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772

4th Wed **INVERELL** Wednesday Writers, 7.30 pm, Empire Hotel. Ida Morse 02 6722 2425

4th Thur **QUEANBEYAN** Bush Poets. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891

4th Frid **YOUNGSTREET POETS** Writer's Centre Rozelle Ph. Winifred Weir 02 9971 6206

2nd last Mon **MID-COAST** Sundowners - Bush Poets meet in a private home. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389

Last Tue **GOSFORD** Bush Poets - Gosford Hotel - Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590

Last Thur **PENRITH** Writers on the River, 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 **MORISSETT** Australian Christian Writers Fellowship, Hunter Div, Morisset Baptist Church Hall, 1.30 - 4 pm.

Each Sunday. 9am **TWEED HEADS PIONEER COUNTRY BUSH POETS**. Graeme Brunckhorst. Ph. 07 55246668

### QUEENSLAND:

Each Wed **TOWNSVILLE** Writers - 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 - 8.30pm Jacqueline Bridle 07 5478 6263

1st Sat. **EUMUNDI** Poets & Musicians - Eumundi Markets in Courtyard outside Rob's Bakery. Elizabeth 07 5449 1991

2nd Sat. **BUNDABERG** Poets Society 1.30 pm - Jim 07 4152 9624 - Sandy Lees 07 4151 4631 - Marilyn 07 4154 1663

1st & 3rd Wed. **KILCOY** gardens Motor Inn - Hope Street Kilcoy 7.30 p.m. Phone 54 971 100 (Robyn) or 54 971 458 (Pat)

1st & 3rd Sun. **NORTH 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 Tues. **REDLANDS** Poets Society. Times vary. Aug. meeting 2pm. Sept. 7pm. Vivienne 07 38244038 - Elaine 32452114

3rd Sun. **WOODFORD** - Lairs, Larrikins and Liars. 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157

3rd. Mon. **SHORNCLIFFE** - 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. 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** Bush Poets. 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

1st Sunday **MELBOURNE** - **ARVOS** Bush Poetry. Club Warrandyte - Grand Hotel 120 Yarra St. Warrandyte. 2pm.  
Ph. 03 9844 1199 Poets and musicians phone Laurence Webb 0438 872 653

4th Sun **BENDIGO** Goldfields Poets. Whitehorse Hotel - California Gully. Colin Carrington 03 5441 2425  
mailto:colincarrington@mydesk.net.au

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA** 1st Frid **CANNING BRIDGE** - WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel -  
Michelle Sorrell 08 9367 4963 mailto:msorrell@iinet.net.au

Last Thursdays. **MARGARET RIVER**. 7pm at the Community Centre. Ph. Brian Gale 08 9757 2431

**Contributors to this issue:** Ellis Campbell, Brian Coghlan, David Campbell, Jenny Grother, Stella Mary Drake, Arthur Rekow, Louise Dean, Denis Carstairs, Neil Hulm, Noel Stallard, Janine Haigh, Peter Nettleton, Fred Wild, Marion Knapp, Glenly Palmer, Marco Gliori, Ed & Margaret Parmenter, John and Sandy Lees, Murray Hartin, Cate Stevenson, Anthony Hammill, Graham Dean, Graeme Johnson, Maurice O'Brien, Leanie Renton, Reid Begg, Phillip Maiden, Lance Parker, Graeme Watt, Maureen Stonham, Simon Burgess, Erica Nadebaum.

### **Dates to remember:**

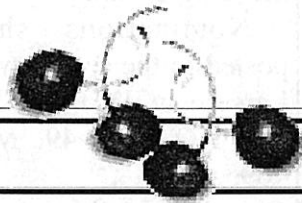
**Queensland State Championships**  
**Victorian State Championships**  
**New South Wales State Championships**  
**Australian Bush Laureate Awards**  
**Kempsey, Galston, Dorrigo, Forster and Young.**

Find them on the next page.



## POET'S CALENDAR . . . . .

- Aug 15 **Dubbo National Poetry Competition.** Max. 80 Lines. Usual conditions apply. No limit to number of entries at \$5.00 each. No entry form required. Add cover sheet. Send to PO Box 2994 Dubbo NSW 2830
- Aug 22-24 **North Pine Camp Oven Festival.** Written and Performance Poetry Competition. Ph. 07 3285 2180
- Aug 22-24 **QUEENSLAND BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
in conjunction with the **North Pine Camp Oven Festival.**  
John Best Secretary 07 3285 2845 -President Ron Liekefett [rlikefett@dodo.com.au](mailto:rlikefett@dodo.com.au) (See page 5)
- Aug 27 Closing Date. **The Vera Newsome Poetry Award** \$300 single prize to poem not more than 50 lines. No entry forms - use cover sheets. SSAE for results. PO Box 71 Avalon NSW 2107 9971 6206
- Aug 29 Closing date. **Coo-ee Festival GILGANDRA** Written Competition. SSAE PO Box 171 Gilgandra 2827
- Sept 5 Closing Date. **Victorian Bush Poetry State Championships Written Competition.** (See page 7)
- Sept 12-14 **Kempsey Country Music and Trucking Festival.** Enquiries: .02 6562 2937. (page 6)
- Sept 14 **Galston Country Music Festival. Bush Poetry.** Contact Graeme Johnson 02 9874 7653 See page 10
- Sept 19 Closing date. **Victorian Bush Poetry State Championships Performance competition.** (See page 7)
- Sept 15 Closing date. **NSW Bush Poetry State Championships Written Competition.** (See page 9)
- Sept 21 **Forster-Tuncurry Memorial Services Club.** Bush Poets Breakfast and presentation of prizes to Children's Writing Competitions. Ph. Reid Begg 02 6554 9788
- Sept 25 Closing Date. **Billy Mateer Bush Verse Written Competition.** See back cover.
- Sept 28 **BARRADINE NSW Poets Breakfast - Frank Daniel.** Baradine Bowls Club. 8am. Ph. 6843 1966
- Oct 5 **BIG DOO at Brymaroo - Open & Novice Performance Competition.**  
Contact G. Bowtell Ph/fx 07 4692 1347 mailto: [glenoles@bigpond.com](mailto:glenoles@bigpond.com)
- Oct.10 Closing Date. **NSW Bush Poetry State Championships Performance Competition.** (See page 9)
- Oct 11-12 **VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Stratford Vic.**  
Contact Dennis Carstairs. (o3) 5145 6128 email: [carstairs@netspace.net.au](mailto:carstairs@netspace.net.au) PO Box 159 Stratford V. 3862
- Oct 18-19 **NEW SOUTH WALES BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Narrandera NSW.**  
Contact Julie Briggs. 1800 672 392. Narrandera Tourist Centre PO Box 89 Narrandera NSW 2700  
[www.johnobrien.com.au](http://www.johnobrien.com.au) [juliebriggs@narrandera.nsw.gov.au](mailto:juliebriggs@narrandera.nsw.gov.au)
- Oct 31st Closing date: **AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS - TAMWORTH**
- Nov 1 **LIMESTONE COAST** Bush Poetry & Yarn Spinning Competition. Lucindale South Australia  
SSAE Grahame Jenke PO Box 34 Lucindale SA 5272
- Nov 1-2 **DORRIGO Bush Poetry Roundup** Enquiries Murray 02 6657 2139 (see page 17)
- Nov 9 **WALLA WALLA NSW - Heritage Festival** with Frank Daniel. Junior Written Competition. See page
- Dec 6-7 **YOUNG NSW BUSH POETRY** Competition and Breakfast. \$1100.00 prizemoney. Ph. 02 6382 2506 ah.
- Dec 28 **WOODFORD Folk Festival**
- 2004**
- January **TAMWORTH NSW - BUSH POETRY**  
Frank Daniel and the Traditional Longyard Hotel Bush Poets Breakfasts.  
Sam Smyth and the Tamworth City Bowling Clubs Bush Poets Breakfasts  
Carol Reffold's Poetry Roundup.  
**THE NAKED POETS - Tamworth Golf Club**



## NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL - YOUNG NSW -

The success of last years inaugural Cherry Festival Bush Poetry Competition has encouraged the people of Young, the Cherry Capital of Australia, to run another competition on Saturday December 6th at the Services and Citizens Club at 8 pm. (Note change of venue)

A Poets Breakfast will follow on the Sunday morning at the Young Golf Club.

Saturday December 6 is the main Festival Day with entertainment in the street and the parade at 5.00 pm.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Frank Daniel of Canowindra \$50, \$50, \$50.

**Entry Fee \$10** (pay Greg on the night).

**Entries close on November 6th with Greg Broderick, phone 6382 3883.(W)**

Please let Greg know at this time how many friends you will have with you. Visitors \$10 each. We will have a reserved area as in 2002 for contestants and friends.

The prize-money has been spread a little further this year as requested, with first prize set at \$500. Runners-up in order will receive the sums of \$200, \$100, \$50,

It is anticipated that all prize winners will perform at the Bush Poets Breakfast which will be held on Sunday morning at 8am at the Young Golf Club.

A special encouragement award of \$100 will be offered on the Sunday morning.

Cost of the Breakfast is \$10.

**Book your accommodation NOW !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## MT LARCOM 2003 BUSH POETS BREAKFAST

The 2003 Mt Larcom (Qld.) Show incorporated the inaugural Mt Larcom Bush Poets' Breakfast held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, under the watchful eyes of judges Donna McArdle, Trevor Shaw and Julianne Impuccini. Competitors recited a range of traditional and original bush verse. Organiser for the event was well-known competitor, author and entertainer, Margie McArdle (aka Margie Mac!) Due to the chilly conditions, the event was held indoors while the catering committee served a delicious breakfast.

Trevor Shaw and Margie Mac treated competitors and spectators to some excellent entertainment.

The event is set to grow in 2004, with sponsors offering a significant increase in the prizemoney. Next years Bush Poets' Breakfast will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at the Mt Larcom Showgrounds commencing at 7am.

Nominations should be posted to the secretary of the Mt Larcom & District Show Society, P.O. Box 49, Mt Larcom 4695.

Camping facilities are available at one of the last true country agricultural shows in Queensland!

### Results of the 2003 Competition

**Open :** 1<sup>st</sup> Jocelyn Sibley

**Novice :** 1<sup>st</sup> Jenny Grother, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Richardson 3<sup>rd</sup> Jocelyn Sibley

**Junior :** 1<sup>st</sup> Trent Jenkinson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Brogan-Li Berry 3<sup>rd</sup> Danica Berry

## SCHOOL'S WRITTEN COMPETITION

"The Midcoast Sundowners Bush Poets" in conjunction with the Forster Tuncurry Memorial Services club, will be running their annual written poetry Competition for School students from local schools. Forty regional schools have been advised.

The competition will be judged by Maureen Stonham of Nambucca Heads.

The prize giving for this event will be done in conjunction with a Poets Breakfast to be held on the 21st September at the above club's enclosed Barbecue area.

The club is now in the process of sending out personal invitations to many of the local poets to attend to help make this day a great success as it was last year.

Contacts:

Reid 'Rusty' Begg 02 6554 9788  
Gabby Colghoun 02 6558 1163  
Phil Maiden 02 6552 6389  
Philmai35@yahoo.com.au

## JENNINGS PUBLISHING

Edward Jennings of North Mackay Qld, formerly involved in corporate publishing, and now retired, wants to keep on with an idea he started some years ago in order to establish the up and coming wordsmiths of today and tomorrow.

Edward says there are 1000 to 2000 manuscripts floating around publishing houses at a given time, unsolicited, unwanted and unread, while we continue to import overseas books to the local industry's disadvantage. It's cost effective, gives us a diverse viewpoint of course, but doesn't necessarily reflect our culture.

Mr. Jennings is attempting to

## TAMWORTH POETRY GROUP

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group is once again presenting its two famous competitions — 'The Blackened Billy Verse Competition Year 2004' and 'The Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition'.

'The Blackened Billy' is a written competition with \$500 in prizes as well as the well-sought after Blackened Billy Trophy. Entry forms will be available from 1st August. The competition closes on 30th November and winners announced at the finals for the Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition on Saturday 24th January. 'The Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition' will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Tamworth from 21st to 24th January 2004.

There are two sections, Original and Traditional. Prizes to the value of \$1700 and a Golden Damper Award for the winners of each section. Entry forms will be available from 1st October.

For more information on both of these competitions, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Jan Morris  
Tamworth Poetry Reading Group  
PO Box W1  
WEST TAMWORTH  
NSW 2340

contact all writers centres, initially in Queensland, to try to tap into an undiscovered fund of Australian writing.

The cost structure has been chosen to keep the idea at a self funding level and at the lowest cost for those who would like to see their work in print.

For more information re publishing your work contact:

Edward Jennings PO Box 3569  
North Mackay Q. 4740  
Free call 1800 111 084  
Email arkjenn@mrbean.net.au



# GRAFTON ARTSFEST 2003

**SIX DAYS OF WORKSHOPS**  
**Saturday 27th September to**  
**Thursday 2nd October**

The Grafton Arts Fest is a cultural event open to people who want to enhance and enjoy their creative abilities, gain knowledge and expertise in a field of visual or performing art and explore new ideas in a convivial atmosphere.

An extensive array of workshops for the experienced and the beginner is offered. These workshops are led by dedicated, professional tutors selected for excellence and experience in their fields, ability to communicate, and supportive, imaginative teaching.

Festival exhibitions, performances and social gatherings extend and augment the Artsfest experience.

Arts fest was founded in 1994 as an initiative of the Grafton community to support and promote the arts. It attempts to provide an affordable six days of cultural activities which



**JIM HAYNES**

would not otherwise be available.

The 2003 **Visual Arts** workshops range from fundamentals of landscape drawing through watercolours, pastels, oils to photography.

The **Performing Arts**, funded by 'Casp', Regional Arts NSW Country Arts Support Program, covers songwriting, modern singing, guitar power, writing and performing Aussie verse, circus skills and ritual dance theatre.

The writing and performing Aussie verse workshops, conducted by Jim Haynes, are designed to give valuable information and practical assistance to writers and performers of rhymed verse. The following areas will be covered -

**Writing** - developing ideas, punctuation, rhyme schemes, scansion and rhythm, drafting and editing techniques, finding your audience, placing your poetry, writing for radio, print media and stage presentation. **Performing** - voice development and projection, timing, character, memorising, practice techniques, microphone technique, acting and reciting techniques, gestures and visual aids, evaluating your performances.

There will be an historic overview of verse but the workshop is basically designed to be practical and there will be writing, performing and evaluation sessions. Email enquiries: [mail@jimhaynes.net](mailto:mail@jimhaynes.net)

Open to mature students with some experience 15 years and over.

Artsfest is a non profit incorporated body supported by local businesses and organizations.

## FAW WOLLONDILLY'S *SCRIBBLINGS 2003*

**Total Prize-money \$1,275.00!!**

**SHORT STORY:** Open theme to 2,500 words.

**First prize, \$400 - second \$150.00**

**Traditional Poetry:** Open Theme to 80 lines.

**First Prize \$200.00 Second \$100.00**

**Free Verse Poetry:** Open Theme to 60 lines.

**First Prize. \$150.00 Second \$ 75.00**

**Entry Fee \$5 or \$20 for 5 entries**

**NO ENTRY FORM REQUIRED**

Normal conditions, entries must not have won a cash prize in another competition or have been published for payment

before the closing date (October 7th)

Use separate cover sheets

**Enquiries: Jeanette Doyle. 02 6624 1933**

**PO Box 4210 Goonellabah NSW 2480**

## CANOWINDRA SPRING-FEST

The inaugural Canowindra Springfest will take place during the October long-weekend.

Rapidly developing as an Arts centre in Central Western NSW, Canowindra with its Heritage listed main street and wide historical background of early settlement, exploration and bushrangers, will come alive with workshops, bush ballads, folk music, Bush Poetry, concerts, music, a woolshed dance, a street party, vineyard tours, wine-tasting and hot air balloons.

Springfest is the brain-child of the newly incorporated Canowindra Art Network and will draw on the remarkable talents and resources of its people. Local schools, community groups and service clubs have combined their resources to ensure the success of yet another great 'party' in Canowindra.

Local artists will conduct workshops in various mediums and Frank Daniel will hold a written and performance bush poetry workshop.

**Ph. Bob Craven 02 6344 1000** for the Canowindra Springfest colour brochure and registration forms.

Tell 'im Joe sent ya!



David Campbell. Beaumaris Vic.

This yarn which I reckon is one of the best,  
Was held by a man with a white-ant's nest;  
This nest he transformed to look like a face,  
With a mouth, two eyes, and a nose, all in place.  
A stick for a pipe completed the job,  
Along with a hat which was fit for a 'nob'.  
On the side of the road, to while away time,  
This joker conversed with his listener so prime;  
Though he was stone sober, I'm led to believe,  
Some unwitting person he might well deceive.  
But when you are married, and tied to a wife,  
If she's argumentive you'll get lots of strife;  
It's better by far to be single, like me,  
And talk to yourself or tree stump. You'll see.

One early morning in February 1893 Henry Somerset of Caboonbah Station in the Brisbane Valley became aware of a massive flash-flood, a result of cyclonic weather conditions, with a wall of water reputedly fifty feet high, flowing towards the City of Brisbane.

Billy Mateer, a stockman employed by Somerset, was asked to ride with all haste to the town of North Pine to wire a warning message to Brisbane of the approaching disastrous floodwaters.

Billy left Caboonbah riding his horse, 'Lunatic', and leading another, but lost the second horse at a crossing, forcing Billy to cover the fifty kilometre journey over the D'Agular Range as best he could with 'Lunatic'. In these cyclonic conditions, Billy crossed eleven flooded creeks.

A very humble man, Billy made no brag about his efforts remaining the unsung hero of Queensland that he is.

The Second Written Bush Poetry Awards Competition in honour of Billy Mateer will help perpetuate his memory. The Billy Mateer award is for bush verse in traditional style, but the setting may be modern.

Entries must be the original work of the entrant, not have won a 1st prize or have been published.

**First prize is \$200, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25**

**Entry fee \$5 per poem or 3poems  
for \$10**

No entry form needed. Send cover page.

**Closing date 25/9/03** and winners will be notified within a fortnight. Include SSAE for results.

Organizers for this competition are investigating the casting of a statuette of Billy Mateer, and, if successful, past winners will receive a copy.

Send entries, fees and details to:  
Denise Bender

1/560 Old Cleveland Road  
Camp Hill O 4152

Send payment to the  
**Secretary - ABPA Inc.**  
**Ed Parmenter**  
**1 Avenue St.**  
**Coffs Harbour NSW 2450**

© Neil Hulm, 30.5.03

In answer to "My Home Town" which I thought was really good, I gave way to temptation like old bushmen often would.

“My Home Town” Ron writes about, and of course he’s not so old, he talks about Toowoomba and he says it’s bloody cold.

You've been 'round a bit old mate and you gave those joints a wrap, now tell me have you seen them, or just found them on the map?

Now these lines are purely fun,  
but in case I miss my mark,  
there's one left out, it's missing,  
p'rhaps you've kept it in the dark.

You must see it for yourself,  
never fall for what you're told;  
Tumba-bloody-rumba Mate !!!  
That is where it's bloody cold !!



bushpoetry.COM.AU