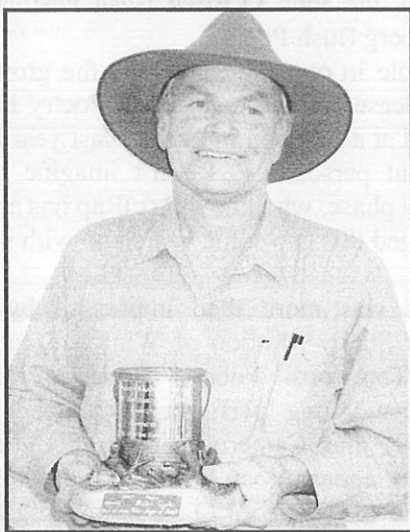


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 11 No. 1

February/March 2004

MILTON TAYLOR CLEAN SWEEPS TAMWORTH



After a three year absence Milton Taylor of Hartley NSW returned to Tamworth for the 2004 Country Music festival. And did so with style. With breakfast appearances at the Longyard Hotel, Wests Leagues Club and guest spots at the Oasis Hotel he had a reasonably full book for the week.

On Tuesday he appeared as a guest presenter at the prestigious Bush Laureate Awards at the Tamworth Town Hall, where he was a finalist for the Golden Gumleaf trophies. His CD, "Down Memory Lane" featuring Carmel Dunn, was awarded the prize for best album, while the title track of that re-

cording received the prize for best single.

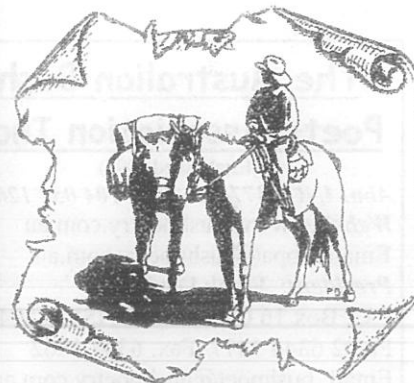
The following day he lined up with thirteen others for the final of the One Minute Brawl at the Tamworth Golf club. This competition, brainchild of the Naked Poets, sees finalists selected from written entries prior to the event given the chance to strut their stuff, and is a refreshing and rewarding concept, providing as it does the opportunity for all writers to 'havgago' for big prizemoney. In a hotly contested final Milton got the judges' nod and walked away \$1000 richer.

Come Saturday at the Imperial Hotel and the announcement of the winner of the coveted Blackened Billy for written verse. "And the winner is - Milton Taylor." Milton's poem 'The Saga Of Cecil' is the 16th winner of this award and only the second humorous piece to do so.

Following the written verse awards the spoken word finals were conducted where Milton was successful in the Original section with his poem 'Down Memory Lane.'

After his unique week perhaps the bloke from Hartley might put globetrotting in January on hold and consider making Tamworth a regular event in future years. Let's hope he does anyway.

Milton Taylor. A good bloke who had a good week.



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Winners in the 2004 Australian Bush Laureate Awards were announced before a capacity audience in the Tamworth Town Hall on Tuesday 20th January.

The finalists in these awards were; **Book of the Year:** *A Muster of Australiana* . . . Merv Webster
Australian Wildlife Poems . . . Philip R Rush. *Bulldust and Ballads* . . . Ray Rose. *An Australian Treasury of Popular Verse* . . . Jim Haynes. *The FMG and Other Verse* . . . Bob Magor.

Original Verse Book of the Year: *Australian Wildlife Poems* . . . Philip R Rush. *Bulldust and Ballads Vol 2* . . . Ray Rose. *The Cattle Dog's Revenge* . . . Jack Drake. *The MG and Other Verse* . . . Bob Magor. *From Wagonettes to Road-trains* . . . John Lloyd. *What a Bloody Turnout* . . . Tom Oliver.

Album of the Year: *Banjo* . . . Karm Gillespie. *Banjo's Classics* . . . Various. *Down Memory Lane* . . . Milton Taylor/Carmel Dunn. *Lest We Forget* . . . Ray Rose. *Muz* . . . Murray Hartin.

Single Recorded Performance of the Year: *Down Memory Lane* . . . Milton Taylor. *Mulga Bill's Bicycle* . . . Karm Gillespie. *Slim - You Done Us Proud* . . . Marco Gliori. *The Hog Whisperer Muz!* . . . Murray Hartin. *The Old Campaigners - Lest We Forget* . . . Ray Rose.

(continued p 12)

**VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
21st - 22nd FEBRUARY 2004
GO TO PAGE 3**

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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 all.

Welcome back to another year of Australian Bush Poetry.

The ABPA has reached its Tenth Birthday and closed the books at the end of 2004 with a membership of five hundred.

We're all getting older, and good on us for it. The knockers have been proven wrong time and again, year after year - how often in the past have we heard that Bush Poetry wouldn't last - that it was only a fad - that no one was interested?

Other venues celebrating their tenth anniversary include Elmslea Homestead, (Bungendore NSW), the John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera NSW and The Bundaberg Bush Poets.

The presence of younger people in our audiences and the growing number of younger performers pleases me no end. 'Bush Poetry is the New Rock and Roll' so I was told at a function in Orange last year by a very knowledgeable entertainment personality. I can't imagine bush poetry to a rock beat, but as a new phase, who knows? (c)Rap has a beat of its own, and Marco Gliori bridged this gap some years ago with some very entertaining bush verse.

Of younger performers, I was more than impressed by the presence and quality of work by Sunny Mutton of Winton Q. at the Longyard Hotel and at the Tamworth Poetry (Imperial Hotel) Competition in Tamworth. Other young performers included two Tamworth youngsters, Angus (9) and Cameron Young (7), Emily Breckle-Smyth of Kempsey who appeared at Sams' turnout at the Bowling Club and Cory Jeacocke of Thangool Q., Calvin Grogan of Stanthorpe and Stuart Nivison of Woodford Q.

Sadly for me this will be my last newsletter for the time-being, and my apologies for its lateness. Leanne Jeacocke of Thangool Qld., has volunteered to take over the magazine from the April issue, and I wish her all the very best with her efforts. I will make every endeavour to assist, however. Please send future copy to Leanne at the address in the left-hand column.

On a personal note I was honoured by the Australia Day Council and made an Australia Day Ambassador to Canberra on the morning of Australia Day, and received a Citizenship Award that afternoon from Ambassador Olympian Phil Adams in Canowindra. Makes you wonder where they get all the info, but I'm still flying high,

Regards to all,

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin'

Frank Daniel

DEADLINE FOR COPY:

20th of Month Preceding the month of issue.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FELL DUE ON 31st DECEMBER

Please don't make this your last Newsletter

YOUNG NSW Cherry Festival

For the second year in succession the organizers of the Young Cherry Festival incorporated a performance bush poetry competition and breakfast as part of its celebrations.

Two-hundred and forty people gathered at the local Services Club on Saturday 6th December to see sixteen poets battle for places in the \$1,000 open competition.

Outright winner was 2003 NSW Ladies State Champion Carol Heuchan of Cooranbong with her original '*Cruising*' which won the recent Walla Walla written competition.

Ted Webber of Boorowa took second place with a Graeme Watt poem, 'Gladys' closely followed by Don Anderson of Leeton with Henry Lawson's 'Fire at Ross's Farm'.

The evening was kept as a rollicking fun-filled pace with

compere Frank Daniel at the helm entertaining with his non-stop yarns and verse.

Competitors travelled from as far as Corryong in Victoria, Deniliquin in the Riverina, the ACT and the Blue Mountains.

The Sunday morning Bush Poets Breakfast was held at the Young Golf Club with close to eighty patrons enjoying two hours of fun and laughter. The one-hundred-dollar encouragement award went to Laurie O'Neill of Canberra.

Spokesmen for the Cherry Festival and the Young Rotary Club, Greg Broderick and Leo Callinan were more than pleased with the outcome. "After just two years" said Greg, "we can honestly say that everyone down here is hooked on bush poetry, we'll never be able to leave it out of our programme after this."

Put the Young Cherry Festival in your calendar for 2004.

BRAIDWOOD DROVERS REUNION

The inaugural Braidwood Drovers Reunion held on the Braidwood showground over the last weekend in November saw non stop entertainment from bush poets, yarn-spinners and story tellers blend in a programme of camp-drafting, cattle penning, bronco-branding and rodeo events bringing the old showground back to life with a renewed vigour under the leadership of Jill Clarke and Jim Sturgess and a willing band of helpers.

Readings from the poetry of Charles Harpur, Henry Kendall, Judith Wright and James Sturgess were made in tribute to these great writers who at some time or other were part of the historic Braidwood district.

Local yarn-spinners in Bruce Temple, Jack Featherstone and Jim Sturgess, plus a number of junior poets were boosted in their efforts by Barry Lake of Narooma and compere Frank Daniel.

Memorabilia came to the fore in numerous photographs and written works displayed by local families.

The Farriers and Blacksmithing competitions kept large crowds in awe for hours on end, especially the draught-horse shoeing contest.

The written bush verse competition drew a large number of entries and was won by Ellis Campbell of Dubbo with Rex Hockey of Windellama as runner-up.

Organizers feel confident that their efforts have been rewarded enough, and with the continued community support will go again in 2004.

Watch the calendars for Braidwood NSW in November; another successful bush poetry event.

VICTORIAN STATE BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

21st — 22nd February 2004

The Victorian State Championships for written and performance bush poetry will be held at the Overlander Hotel Shepparton in conjunction with the Shepparton Country Music Festival from 21st-22nd February 2004.

This competition will be conducted under the auspices of the ABPA by the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Group.

Poets Breakfasts will also be part of the weekends entertainment.

The competition will include a written championships, Mens and Womens Open Performance Competitions and a Junior State Championships for under 16's.

The Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc. is currently finalising details of this years Championships.

If you haven't got your entries in — do so now!

Although it has only been a few months since last years championships a good turn out is anticipated.

Entries have already been received from Col Milligan (last years men's champ), Annette Roberts, Betty Walton, Colin Carrington, Ed Walker, Des Bennett, and many others.

Poet's Breakfasts will be held in the Bistro on Saturday and Sunday Morning. The Performance competition starts at 10.00am each day.

Reg Phillips will be the MC over the weekend. Reg's 'right hand man' Sue Gleeson will not be present at the championships, but other members of the Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club Inc. will be there in force to assist.

Poets have been given the opportunity to stay at the Overlander Hotel/Motel with discounts being offered for accommodation and meals.

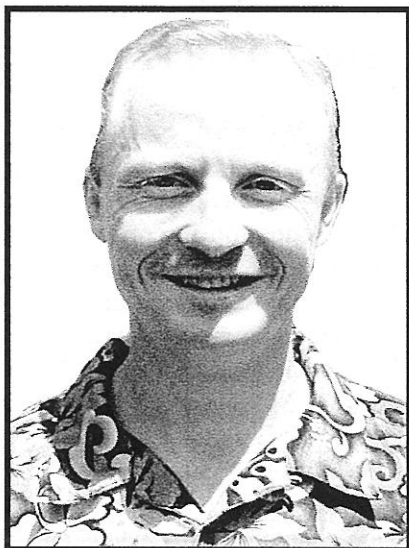
Any enquiries should be directed to Reg Phillips 02 6040 2508.



Letters to the Editor



Thank you and deepest gratitude to all those who sent Christmas Greetings over the festive season. There were too many to reply to personally, regards, Frank, Joe, Kerry and Lucy.



Greg North of Linden NSW was among the new blood at the 'Impy' in 2004.



CONGRATULATIONS and MANY HAPPY RETURNS to Carmel Dunn of MS 632 Ogilvie Road Warwick Q. 4370. who turns twenty-one on 20th March 2004



Bits & Pieces

FREE AIR-PLAY

Elsie and Colin Bernard of 3NRG 99.3 FM in Sunbury V. have a three hour segment every Wednesday from 2-5pm called 'Our Kinda Country'.

Their show is 80% Australian Independent, and includes a Word of Verse every week.

Listeners love it, especially the comedy verse, and Elsie and Colin are always looking for more bush poets, especially Lady Poets.

Send copies of your work to 22 Tulsa Drive Sunbury Vic. 3429.

Ph. 03 9744 4928

Email. ourkindacountry@hotmail.com

THE COUNTRY ENERGY TAMWORTH BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Inarguably Australia's premier bush poetry competition, the Tamworth Poetry Reading Group can once again be proud of the fact that its annual event surpassed all expectations in 2004.

Once again the whole event went off with such a bang, despite flooding and power losses.

The standard of the competitors seems to reach new heights each year, with so many quality Traditional and Original performances, whilst the much sought 'Blackened Billy' trophy attracts newer more skilful writers annually.

"There are some incredibly talented people out there" remarked the group secretary Jan Morris, "yet there is still a place for newcomers and we had a few, as always. Who

would believe Melanie Hall was just a newcomer last year. Two years of performing and two Golden Dampers under her belt. Wow!"

The discerning audience, the aficionados of bush poetry, was moved and thrilled by the performance of another newcomer, Sunny Mutton of Winton Qld, to such an extent that one of the judges felt compelled to make special mention of her at the end of the program. Congratulations to Sunny for a spectacular performance. The results were:

Original

First Milton Taylor
Second Dave Proust
Third Ellis Campbell

Traditional

First Melanie Hall
Second Garry Lowe
Third Sunny Mutton

It was a great year for Milton, who also won the 'Blackened Billy' Competition and two Golden Gum-leaf Awards in the Australian Bush

Laureate Awards. The man was unbeatable!

The Tamworth Poetry Reading Group would like to extend its thanks to all the poets who support their competition; the competitors, the comperes, the judges, and all who come to encourage, promote and support them.



MELANIE HALL

HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION GROW — ASK A FRIEND TO BECOME A FINANCIAL MEMBER

CLIPPINGS -

Found among Daniel Family possessions, possibly collected pre-1940's.

Going Back

*I can smell the gum and wattle
When I walk the busy street,
I can hear the bushland calling,
Through the scrape of restless
feet.*

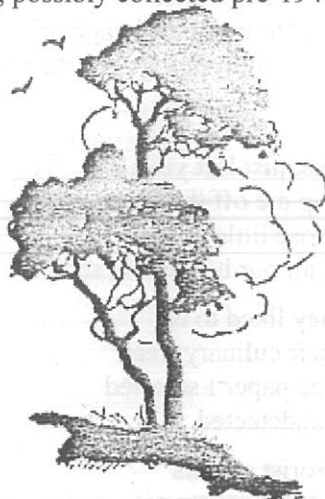
*For I'm tired of City people,
And I long for freedom now,
For the wide and breezy spaces,
And to walk behind the plough.*

*And to hear the cattle lowing,
When the sun is sinking low,
And the shadows slowly creep-
ing,
Down the track I used to go.*

*To the big wide shingled home-
stead,
With blazing fire at night,
And the long old-fashioned
table,
Where we read by the candle-
light.*

*I can see the silver moonbeams
In the silent wide lagoon;
I can hear the curlews calling
By the light of stars and
moon.*

*Those were careless days and
happy,
Days of sun or days of rain,
Far away from crowded cities,
And I'm going back again.*
—J. S. NOONAN.



PORT MACQUARIE and WAUCHOPE WEEKEND OF BUSH POETRY

The Hastings/Macleay Bush Poetry Group has again combined events to make a weekend poetry bonanza. On Saturday 13th March, 2004 the group will hold their regular monthly blackboard concert at the Senior Citizens Centre, Munster Street, Port Macquarie commencing at 1 pm, and on Sunday 14th of March there will be a Poets Breakfast at Wauchope Country Club, King Street, Wauchope at 8.00 am. There will be a competition in conjunction with the breakfast and will comprise the following categories –

Juniors: (under 18.) Own choice of poem. Prizes: 1st. \$100. 2nd. \$70. 3rd \$50.

Adults: Traditional Section & Original Section. Prize for highest aggregate score: 1st \$100. 2nd \$70 3rd \$50

An additional prize of \$50 awarded to the most humorous poem performed on the day.

TENTH ANNUAL BUNDY MUSTER

JULY 2nd - 4th

BUNDABERG POETS' SOCIETY INC.

BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER COMPETITIONS

Opens (Male & Female separate), Intermediates, Novices, Under 15's, Duos, Dark & Stormy One Minute Cup & Yarn Spinning

SSAE to :- Muster Committee

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., PO Box 4281

BUNDABERG SOUTH. 4670

Phone enquiries: John & Sandy Lees 07 41514631,

Laree Chapman 07 41527409 or Sam Dye 07 41561216

2004 BUSH LANTERN AWARD

WRITTEN COMPETITION FOR BUSH VERSE

SSAE to:- Mrs. Lorraine Beavis,

Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., 232 Walker Street,

BUNDABERG. 4670 Phone enquiries: 07 41535397

Closing date for entries: May 28th, 2004

Contributors to this issue: Ed Parmenter, Maureen Stonham, Carol Moore, Greg Broderick, Sue Gleeson, Ken O'Flaherty, Jan Morris, Milton Taylor, Gary Fogarty, Marco Giori, Carol Reffold, Keith Jones, and Ron Selby.

DON'T FORGET DUNEDOO and the GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC

March 26th — 28th 2004 (p 16)

Ph. 02 6375 1975 Fax. 02 6375 1976 email. dddgroup@bigpond.com

IPSWICH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Closing Date: 5 March 2003

Entry forms are available from the Ipswich Qld Library for the Ipswich Poetry Feast – International Poetry Competition. (Written).

Five categories exist for Primary and secondary schools with prize-money amounting to \$1,050.

\$800 is being offered for the Open Bush Poetry section and a further \$800 for the Open - Other poetry. No particular theme or word limit has been set.

For further details/entry forms phone Carol Moore
Ipswich Library

07 3810 6761

library.ipswich.qld.gov.au/

poetryfeast/

On Christmas Eve, Russell Hannah of Shell Harbour took time out to write some doggerel which he sent to his friends whether they liked it or not. His friends of course were required to use their imagination - as there was supposed to be a little bag of worm-droppings attached to the verses.

Bev gave me a worm farm, for Christmas, just last year,
She thought it would amuse me, and keep me off the beer,
But it wasn't long before I got to love those little chaps,
Who chewed and chomped and ground, all our household scraps.

I found the daily papers, were a thing they liked to eat
And the Sydney Morning Herald was their culinary treat.
But feeding frenzy started, when from the paper I selected
Tales of politicians lying, and of going undetected.

I fed them stories of the Tampa, and terrorist attacks
Children Overboard and ethanol, and cuts to income tax.
Mass destructive weapons and a Middle Eastern War,
Had those worms all fat and bloated, but still they needed more.

They loved eating Phillip Ruddock, when he spoke of those detained
And Tony Abbott was a favourite whenever he complained
But the food that really sent them off, was when I took the care
To feed them all the speeches of John Howard, Bush and Blair.

These were carefully digested, decomposed, reconstituted
And I collected all the droppings from the worms when they ablated.
I dried it and I bagged it, and I stored it like a miser,
For I found that I'd discovered the world's greatest fertiliser.

We put some in our garden, now our strawberries grow on trees
And our pansy plants have all shot up and reach up to our knees
One tomato feeds five families, they are the highest grade
And we sit under a lettuce when we want a bit of shade

We gave some to next doors budgie, and much to our surprise
It turned into an emu, right before our eyes
We fed it to our poodle and I do not like to skite
But it turned into a greyhound, It won at Dapto the next night

Its not been tried on humans, but I am of the belief
That it will increase your penis size; from piles give you relief,
You'll get a shapely figure, your wrinkles all will go,
Your hair will grow back on your head, you'll get a youthful glow

It seems that from the increase in the junk mail in our yard,
The festive seasons here again, so its time to send a card,
But Santa's still not here this year, did I forget to mention,
For looking like a terrorist- he is locked up in detention.

So as you are a special friend and Santa's still away
We're sending you a little gift we hope it makes your day,
You can eat it, you can drink it, It'll have you feeling fit,
But remember when you take it, it's just politicians
(lies and distortions that have been organically transformed into
something that may be of use- thanks to the worms)

Having got that off our chest we'd like to wish you one and all,
A very happy Christmas and we hope you have a ball
And we wish you well for next year as we've found a little perk,
Its name it is retirement, and it means we do not work.

NEW GROUP

BUDERIM BARDS & BALLADEERS

Buderim Bards & Balladeers was formed in August 2003. After many years of attending and performing at music festivals and travelling throughout Queensland with the Queensland Arts Council with his Irish band, Blackthorne, Ken O'Flaherty developed a love of Australian ballads and verse.

Eventually this led to meeting with other people in the Sunshine Coast area who also shared this passion for keeping alive the Australian spirit through the written word.

Ken O'Flaherty is heavily involved in the annual Australia Day celebrations in Buderim (the largest celebration in the region)and decided that 2004 was to be the inaugural year for a regular Bush poetry concert and competition.

This initial competition took place on Australia Day 2004 at the Buderim War Memorial Hall. It took the form of a concert featuring Bush poetry and Bush Ballads interspersed with renditions of winning poems. This is his first attempt at such a venture and Ken hopes that it will become a major event in the years to come.

Ken will welcome any entries, advice, assistance or just good wishes, and can be contacted on email on kenny@westnet.com.au or PO Box 876 Buderim Qld 4556, or by phone on (07) 5476 9533. The BBB is currently seeking a regular meeting venue.

The John O'Brien Bush Festival

**NARRANDERA NSW
17 — 21 MARCH 2004**

**Bush Poetry Competition
Four Poets Breakfasts
Concerts - Music - Parade**

Phone 1800 672 392

OUTBACK AT THE OASIS

Carol Reffold, 'the Patchwork Poet', extends her gratitude to everyone involved, especially the management of the Oasis Hotel, Des and Joyce Gilfillan, who helped and offered a vast range of material used in the 'Outback at the Oasis' shows held during country music week in Tamworth, and to her many loyal poets who gave freely of their very special talents.

The Paterson and Lawson shows were extremely popular, as were the specialty shows and many commented on the quality of content and the performances.

The winner of the 'Brenda Williams Memorial Poets Brawl' was Kerry Lee from Western Australia with a very silly poem entitled "Billabong".

"There is still a problem with some poets understanding of what exactly 'family entertainment' is" says Carol, "what is suitable at one venue is not necessarily suitable at ours."

Next year, to avoid embarrassment, all material will be assessed as to suitability for this venue".

Carol has a sponsor available for next year should she decide to run the Oasis programme again.

These shows are for unknown poets or, as Carol calls them, poets on 'L' plates, poets who wish to be in a theme show and use obscure works of no commercial interest and for the poets to mingle and learn from their peers. In all of those respects, it was a very successful event.

**DON'T MAKE THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIPTIONS FELL DUE ON 31st DECEMBER 2003
Remit payment to the Treasurer (p.2)**

2004 BLACKENED BILLY

VERSE COMPETITION

Report from Jan Morris, Organizer. Congratulations Milton.

I have been told several times that the Blackened Billy is still one of the two most sought after written bush verse awards in Australia. If that is so, it is a bit disappointing that entries were down this year. We will need to look into whether the Blackened Billy has a viable future.

However, if we didn't have quantity, we had quality.

Out judge, Keith Jones, emphatically states that the poems this year were of the highest quality ever, and, looking some of the winning poems, I can only say I'm glad I didn't have to judge them.

I must also say that it is encouraging for bush poetry in general.

Maybe all you poets are taking on board Ellis Campbell's excellent columns that appeared in this magazine.

My own opinion is that poets should seek constructive criticism and take it on board; and edit, edit, edit. Don't send first drafts into a competition.

I am delighted to announce that Milton Taylor has won this year's Blackened Billy with an excellent poem entitled *The Saga of Cecil*.

Second place went to Alec Raymer of Maroochydore with a poem called *Redemption*.

Third place was won by David Campbell of Beaumaris Vic with his poem *Slanguage*.

Highly Commended Poems, (*not ranked*)

The Kids Next Door Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW

Whistling Foxes Valerie P Reid, Bicton WA.

Coo-ee Milton Taylor Hartley NSW

Too Late Veronica Weal Mt. Isa Q.

Their Badge of Pride Ken Dean, Marrangaroo NSW

Lords of the Dance Lynden Baxter, Monto Q.

This Swelling Tide Joyce Alchin, Corrimall NSW

Second Chance David Campbell, Beaumaris V.

Forever Barrie Crouch, Cotton Tree Q.

The Worms that Turned Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW

Thank you to all who competed and we will keep you posted on what is happening with the Blackened Billy.

Sgd. Jan Morris.

PROFILE:

KEITH JONES —

Judge of the Blackened Billy Competition.

Keith Jones has been writing poetry and prose for over twenty years and has been a member of the local Poetry group for almost that time.

He has been an active part of the

administration team for the Tamworth Bush Poetry competition at the Imperial Hotel and the Blackened Billy Verse Competition since their inception.

Keith has competed successfully in Tamworth Eisteddfods for the last ten years in speech and drama, in the open sections.

Having been involved in recitation and writing to a great extent stands him in good stead to recognize and appreciate the work of competent writers.

(See judges comments p. 19)

EASTER BUSH POETS BREAKFAST NAMBUCCA HEADS BOWLO

Ted Webber, performance poet from Young NSW will feature at the annual Bush Poets Breakfast at Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club at 8 am on Easter Sunday, 11th April, 2004.

Born at Way Woy and raised in Sydney's suburban Concord, Ted and his wife June lived at Narellen for some years and in more recent times became the proud owners of a small vineyard near Young NSW.

Like many of us, his interest in rhyme and rhythm certainly didn't start in school. It began seven years ago whilst visiting a folk festival in the Snowy region where Ted discovered the Aussie tradition of poetry and yarns by a campfire and he was hooked!!

As many retirees do, Ted and June set off across Australia by



TED and JUNE WEBBER

caravan and during his 'Have Van Will Travel' odyssey he linked up with many writers groups Lions, Rotary, and Probus Clubs as guest speaker, sharing his bush verse.

Success in both performance and written fields soon came, most recently winning a first place award in the Grenfell Henry Lawson Competition.

Ted believes that we should re-

cord our traditions and lives, our folk process if you like, and his stage presence commands the audience's attention as he performs his range of poems featuring wry humour and traditional bush style.

Aspiring poets are invited to read or recite their own work or the poems of another author during the morning.

Entry fee this year which includes a breakfast of cereal, toast, a hot serve together with tea or coffee, is \$10.00.

You will find the Nambucca Heads Bowling and Recreation Club who generously sponsor this event in Nelson St., facing the beautiful Nambucca River.

The club have indicated that bookings for breakfast are absolutely essential as past audiences have reached the auditorium's capacity.

Book by ringing the club 02 6568 6132. Other enquiries should be directed to Maureen, 02 6568 5269 or Lorna, 6568 7069.

NAKED POETS in TAMWORTH

The Naked Poets, in an all out attempt to top previous performances, got their heads together pre-Tamworth this year to script a new show for their 2004 onslaught on the country music capital.

Their combined efforts proved a successful formula as the entire new show was well received by packed audiences.

"Our biggest critics are our fans and they declared this year's concert a ripper" said group spokesman Marco Gliori, "It is a big risk presenting 'new' material in a poetry/theatre show that has attempted to set some sort of standard, and in doing so we have sometimes received the most scathing critiques from fellow Poets.

"Yet in pursuing the 'new show' I have come to believe that we allow the audience the opportunity to embrace the real concept of what being an entertainer is all about. And for any artist it should be about writing the 'next' piece, creating a new 'adventure', introducing that fresh character... and our follow-up audience is testament to the fact that they appreciate the risky ride as well.

Anyone who knows the Naked Poets" he added, "understand we are a motley crew that blue like blazes, but in the end we laugh at each other's antics, encourage each other's performances, and pull together to have 'fun,fun,fun', and with that in mind we all reached into our pockets and donated the funds to introduce this year...

THE \$1000.00 NAKED POETS BRAWL

This event will be staged again next year so watch this magazine for entry details. Of a dozen se-

lected performers on the day, four finalists were invited back on stage to impress the audience again. They were Ellis Campbell from Dubbo, Debbie Anderson from Warwick, Melanie Hall from Townsville, and a new kid on the block Milton Taylor. Despite all the collected experience of the other three finalists, the fresh faced, spring chicken, Milton Taylor stepped up to take away the \$1000 with 'The Amputees Ball'.

"Congratulations Milton and we hope to see big things from this boy in the future!" (See page 19)

The most encouraging comments this event got was the interviews done with each Poet, briefly profiling the individual, and highlighting their respective venues around Tamworth. "I know certain other venues give us a plug as well and I thank you all for that, said Marco, "Let's all keep smiling, and good luck to you all in 2004 from The Naked Poets".

Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry - Tamworth 2004

With Tamworth over for another year, and while it might take a little time for all their saturated bedding to dry out, the spirits of the Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry performers have not been dampened one little bit. They've already started planning on a new assault in 2005.

The 'Sex, Lies and Bush Poetry' show enjoyed an overall 20% increase in audience numbers at Tamworth's Golf Club this year with a large percentage of the audience retuning after seeing the show in previous years. Add to this a successful show in Tenterfield on the

trip down from Queensland and an impressive win by Jack Drake in the Original Book Section of the Golden Gumleaf Awards the group believes they have built a solid base to go on to bigger and better things.

Adam Kilpatrick, in his debut year with the show, more than proved his worth and the new theme song worked an absolute treat. As always, John Major was at his patriotic best, Neil McArthur remained unchallenged as Australia's funniest poet; Jack Drake collected a swag of new devotees and despite being on his honeymoon Gary Fogarty continued to deliver in his no-holds-barred style. The life-size ply-wood figurines of the groups players displayed at the venue had the whole of Tamworth talking.

The S,L,a,P group was grateful for appearances from their more than special guests who joined them

throughout the week.

Performers such as Marion Fitzgerald from North Star whose performance and warmth was matched only by her classy new book 'Snapshots of a Country Girl'.

Tom Oliver, a near legend amongst writers showed just why his work is so popular. Kerry Lee from Oakford Western Australia who jumped in at very short notice to fly the flag proudly for her home state and Melanie Hall, back by popular demand to show us all just why she is collecting trophies at racing pace.

Kelly Fogarty who substituted as our singer in Tenterfield left the entire audience spellbound.

What next? The group is off to Winton this year in June and are already formulating a bigger, better, faster and funnier show next year. Watch for more news.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STUMPY AWARDS

Planning has begun with the objective of conducting an annual bush poetry event in Murray Bridge, based on similar successful events in South Australia and interstate.

Bush Poetry is enjoying a resurgence of popularity in Australia, especially in our eastern states. The writing and the recital of bush poems has a historical base in our culture, with works of Dennis, Gordon, Kendall, Lawson, Paterson, Noonuckal (Walker), O'Brien, Ogilvie, Wright and many others still admired and romanticised in the Australian psyche.

There are social and economic benefits for a community to be had from hosting such an event, and the organisers expect that Murray Bridge citizens and Council will want to get behind it for these and other cultural spinoffs.

The banks of Murrundi, the mighty Murray, is an ideal location to hold a poetry event, especially for the casual non-competitive poets' breakfasts included; "early morning with mist rising". We hope to use the Community Club premises for both Written and Performance Competitions, and as a backup if weather conditions threaten to dampen the breakfast hi-jinks.

An option being explored is to hold the event as part of SALA (South Aust. Living Artists) Week in early to mid August, to complement other arts activities in the region then.

Categories planned include open written competitions for under 17's and under 12's with special sections for Murrayland citizens and an open performance award which anyone may choose to enter. Prizes will be provided for all categories.

A cast trophy of the groups icon, the summer-ubiquitous shingleback lizard known locally as the "stumpy", would help increase both the profile and popularity of this event. Discussions are under way to make this a feature of the awards for

at least the two open categories.

Performance events will be inclusive and family-friendly. All proposed performed material for awards will be posted to and checked by committee prior to the event for any language/moral/ethics breaches. Any works that are likely to offend families or sectors of the community will be disallowed.

Breakfast participants will be expected to self-monitor their poetry, given the guidelines which will be provided beforehand in writing.

An acapella singing group, bush band, one-act play and didjeridu solos are other performance features being investigated to add atmosphere and excitement to the awards concert.

Following the event, a poetry anthology may be printed and available for purchase. The planning group welcomes interest and input from anyone who wishes to be involved.

Contact the event coordinator at treetops@lm.net.au
SSAE 117 Murray Drive
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Southern Highlands Festival

of Bush Poetry

\$2,000 Prizemoney

SUNDAY 30th MAY 2004

The Southern Highlands, of course, is where you'll find beautiful **Bowral**, the boyhood home of **Don Bradman**. It's also now home to the famous **Bradman Museum**, reported to be the world's finest museum of cricket. The museum's long-serving Director is **Richard Mulvaney** who has been recruited to the new Festival to show off his talent for recitation. And what could be more apt than the re-telling, in the immortal words of **Thomas Spencer**, of the tale of the match when the boys from Pipers Flat played Molongo - and MacDougal topped the score!

There'll be the chance for you too, like **Ted Egan**, to lay the groundwork for a tilt at vice-regal status if you can come up with a piece of verse of the quality of 'The Tiger and the Don'.

The organisers are putting money in the kit of any band who can compose the best line or two in fond memory of the greatest batsman the world has ever seen (and are we likely ever to see again anyone of his calibre?). So, start thinking what rhymes with 'ninety nine point nine four'...

The Highlands is also well known for its Scottish connections: **Bundanoon** hosts a world-renowned Highland Gathering in April each year under the banner '**Bundanoon is Brigadoon**' (see for yourself on Saturday 3 April 2004).

And **Sutton Forest** has Australia's favourite Scottish shop sweetly called '**A Little Piece of Scotland**'. The lady who owns the shop is **Nerida Barnsley** and she is a great

admirer of the works of the ploughman poet **Robert Burns** (often said to be among the 10 greatest poets of all time).

Burns grew up in a farming family and tried hard to succeed as a farmer before turning his hand to tax collecting as an exciseman. In his time he was acclaimed as a rustic genius - a 'bush poet' if you like - who sprang to instant fame through his self-published anthology of poems 'chiefly in the Scottish dialect'. His poems were full of insights to human nature ('if only we could see ourselves as others see us'), the love of women ('my love is like a red, red rose') and the championing of the cause of the common man ('a man's a man for all that').

Nerida is sponsoring a prize for the best new poem that exalts the work of Robert Burns and draws a parallel between his life and times of rural Scotland and those of the bush poets of Australia. Now *there's* a challenge!

The local youth theatre group is 'performing' their interpretation of Paterson's '**The Man from Ironbark**' and there'll be opportunity in a busy day for a melding of the old (classics) and the new. The essence of the Festival is to rekindle interest in the magnificent poetry of '*The Bulletin era*' as well as to encourage the emergence of new poets to embrace the genre and carry forward a great Australia tradition: the bush poem. The action takes place in and besides the village hall but late afternoon may well see an orderly retreat to the nearby **Sutton Forest Inn** for a thirst-quenching ale or two.

The promoters of the new Festival are serious about getting it off to a good start and have stumped up a prize pool of \$2,000 to excite the interest of poets from far and wide. The top prize of \$1,000 will go to the poet whose new work best captures the (seemingly) disparate themes of the day. At first glance it's a bit daunting to be asked to find common ground in cricket, Scots and Holden utes! Nerida herself has

no such qualms: "Sir Donald and Robert Burns would have found much in common: they both admired and pursued excellence, even in something as commonplace as hitting a ball with a bat - and both came from the humblest of rural backgrounds where they were largely self-educated. The original bush poets came to notice through humour that touched the common man: people everywhere in the world celebrate the birthdate of Burns on 25 January by raising a glass of fine Scotch whisky to toast - a humble meat pudding! (*'To a Haggis: great Chieftain of the pudding race...*'). Perhaps to the Scots the haggis has the same iconic status as does the Holden ute to his Aussie mate: they're both an expression of nationalistic independence, but they also have about them a dash of self-deprecating humour - an 'inside joke' relished best by those 'in the know'."

Wow! Do the feral ute and the noble haggis really have a heritage in common? And what about Mulga Bill? When he 'mounted for the fray' for the ride of his life was his 'two wheeled concern' really only following in the hoofsteps of the grey mare Meg, that faithful stead of Tam O'Shanter?. Remember that 'Banjo' Paterson was an Australian of very proximate Scottish ancestry (his father was born at Lanarkshire in 1833) so it's close to certain that he would have known and admired the works of Robert Burns.

Sutton Forest is just south of Moss Vale on the Illawarra Highway (mid-way between Sydney and Canberra). The Festival is one day only (**Sunday 30 May 2004**) but why not come for the weekend? Accommodation choices range from camp sites, caravan parks and the Bundanoon Youth Hostel to up-market B&Bs and resort hotels. The Festival kicks off at 10am and goes to 4pm or thereabouts.

One **Frank Daniel** is set to compere the programme and keep the wordsmiths and fiddlers from hogging the microphone. Don't for-

get the bush dancing, the balladeers, the bushman's tucker and the cleaning ales at the local watering hole.

For entry forms and more information please get in touch with **Garry Barnsley**, P O Box 438, Bowral, 2576.

Ph. **02 4862.1411** (business) or **4871.2060** (home); or email barnowl@acenet.com.au

Let's get in there and give every possible encouragement to these Highland folk who are doing their best to get a new Festival going, and to spread the word about just how much fun it is to experience great bush poetry.

Festival organizer, Gary Barnsley has given thought to including as one of the competition items, the commissioning of a new poem under the broad heading "Salute the Ute".

The poem would speak about the particular sentimental tug that the utility has in Australian bush culture. It might be an opportunity for someone to speak fondly about their romances with (or in!) their ute. It might speak about the different varieties of ute: the feral ute, the Holden ute, the Ford ute.

Mr. Barnsley's ambition is to find a sponsor for this particular

segment of the Festival – but the first prize will not be less than \$200.00.

All other elements are coming together – including Bob McInnes (who will be hosting the bush dancing in the village hall), the Riley family (Phillip and Helen) are coming all the way from Trangie to set up their drovers camp, (campoven tucker) and Dave Debs has volunteered to render a few of his compositions.

"Everything is under way – and the response from everyone is abundantly enthusiastic!"

ABPA Inc. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Bush Poets Association inc. was held in St. Edwards Hall in Hillvue Street Tamworth on Saturday 25th January at 2.30 pm.

Some forty members were present with a number of apologies from members otherwise engaged with performances and shows or those not in Tamworth at the time.

The retiring President declared all positions vacant and asked Penny Broun to sit in as the returning officer. The election of office bearers saw Frank Daniel re-elected President for his fifth term, and Ed Parmenter as Secretary for a third time.

Milton Taylor was returned for a second term as Vice President. Retiring Treasurer Marion Fitzgerald was replaced by Marie Smith (pron. Maree). Marie's address is PO Box 403 Dorriggo NSW 2453. Ph. 02 6657 2139.

Committee members elected are Ron Liekefett of North Pine Q., Margaret Parmenter of Port Macquarie and Dennis Carstairs of Stratford Victoria.

The structuring of a rule book was finalized at this meeting and the booklet will be available as soon as possible — basically as a trial for

the next twelve months when a further review will be made.

A new adjudication sheet was drawn up as well.

The Editors position was filled by Leanne Jeacocke of Thangool Qld who will deliver her first newsletter in April.

Leanne's address is;

PO Box 96 Thangool Qld. 4716.
Ph. 07 4995 8407

Email. jarby@cqnet.com.au

The matter of public liability insurance for members was raised once more with the importance of such explained by the Secretary. To date the cover supplied by the ABPA insurance brokers is the best and cheapest available in the country. Non paid up members should understand that the insurance cover is only available from the time of joining until 2nd January 2005 and that any claims made against a member prior to the time of payment will not be covered.

Annual cover is from 2nd January each year until the 2nd January the following year.

There is no pressure from the ABPA to take P/L insurance, the pressure comes from venues asking performers to supply Certificates of Currency to prove Insurance.

The Secretary explained that the \$10million cover offered by QBE/Mercantile is a very good.

The premium payable by specified members this year is \$70.

ELMSLEA CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

Toni and Miles Flanagan held the welcome mat out for the Tenth Anniversary of the Elmslea Bush Poets Breakfasts at Bungendore NSW on the weekend of January 31st and February 1st 2004.

Thirty four poets and approximately five hundred visitors celebrated the occasion in the beautiful grounds 'neath the shade of the hundred-year old elms.

The popularity of the Elmslea breakfasts has grown significantly over the past ten years, from its inaugural venue in Gibraltar Street to the historic century old property adjoining the small southern tablelands village.

New faces this year came in the likes of Jill and Bob Winnett from Holbrook, Reg Phillips of Lavington, Greg North of Linden, Eddie Sampson of Georges Hall and Lindy Charlton of Parkes.

A bush poetry workshop which included microphone technique was conducted by Frank Daniel, Milton Taylor and 'Blue the Shearer' (Col Wilson).

Frank Daniel acted as compere for his tenth successive year with feature artists Milton Taylor, Arch Bishop and Blue the Shearer. Visit Elmslea in 2005.

(ABL Awards from page 1)

In Book of the Year, Original Verse, the winner was *The Cattle Dog's Revenge*, written by Jack Drake, published by Central Queensland University Press.

In Book of the Year, the winner was *An Australian Treasury Of Popular Verse*, compiled by Jim Haynes, published by ABC Books.

Album of the Year, the winner was *Down Memory Lane* by Milton Taylor & Carmel Dunn, released by Restless Music, produced by Milton Taylor.

Single Recorded Performance of the Year, was *Down Memory Lane* by Milton Taylor (from the *Down Memory Lane* album) released by Restless Music, produced by Milton Taylor.

Winner of the Judith Hosier Heritage Award (named in honour of Australian Bush Laureate Awards founder) was Warren Fahey, a long time proponent, performer and publisher of all things Australian.

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

Winners receive 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 in Tamworth today (Tuesday, January 20) featured performances by Adam Brand, Carter & Carter, Michael Carr, Brendon Walmsley, Sara Storer, Melanie Hall, Jack Drake, Wallis & Matilda, Frank Daniel, Bob Magor, Milton Taylor, Marco Gliori, Paddy Ryan, Dianna Corcoran, Warren Fahey, Drew McAlister, Jim Haynes and Ray Essery. The 2005 Australian Bush Laureate Awards will be staged in Tamworth on Tuesday, January 18.

The MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER FESTIVAL CORRYONG VIC. APRIL 1st — 4th.

Contact Festival Hotline
02 6076 1992
SSAE PO Box 144
CORRYONG VIC. 3707

THE SAGA OF CECIL

© Milton Taylor — 27/11/93

Blackened Billy winner Tamworth 2004

"Cecil sux! Yeah, Cecil sux!" would ring the taunting cry Of the cheeky local children as the tanker trundled by, Whilst the driver, quite dismissive of the urchins' cruel pursuit, Would elevate a finger in a nonchalant salute.

His name was Cecil Simpson and he'd laboured since a lad With Cecil Simpson senior (who was Cecil's dear old dad) In the little family business where Cec had staked his claim As a legend, carting nightsoil, and disposal of the same.

On winter nights, when others slept in comfort, snug and sound, Swift and silent, Cecil Simpson plied his dunny round, Dodging dogs and ducking clothes lines with neither stay nor stop, With a pan on either shoulder he would never spill a drop, While his night-cart, standing solid in the middle of the road Would idle in contentment there as Cecil filled its load. And printed on that lorry door in letters bright and bold. 'We pick up and carry off what others cannot hold'.

Cecil senior passed away. Young Cec, as well expected, Got the lot. The town progressed and sewerage was connected. Thus, Cecil's enterprise collapsed; there came the sorry day He parked his night-cart up for good and stashed his cans away. Then Cecil found a new career; life took a different slant. As senior supervisor of the sewerage treatment plant Cec was in his element, his joy quite undisputed, His subject matter still the same, just many times diluted.

He'd also scored the contract draining out each septic pit Of houses in the district where the sewerage did not fit. A lovely little earner, Cecil turned a tidy buck By rigging up his night-cart as a sullage hauling truck. On Friday in the local pub he'd launch a dissertation Re benefits of microbes used in modern sanitation, And anaerobic action and disintegration time Of solids in suspension, and sixteen sorts of slime.

The siren song of sewage held poor Cecil in its thrall, You could speak to Cec of sullage, or you need not talk at all. He made the grand pronouncement, in his wisdom, late one night, To no one in particular, just everyone in sight. "I've made a new invention that will put me on me feet, I'll be a multi millionaire, I'll live on easy street. I'll suck out every sewerage line or siphon any sump, With Cecil Simpson's centrifugal suckin' sullage pump."

What a laugh! We had hysterics! What a scrambled, crazy bloke! A fortune made from sewage? Oh Cecil, what a joke. He must have overloaded on his product's awful smell, Or maybe he'd gone loopy and was drinking it as well! To talk such utter rubbish signified he weren't too bright, And the title "Sullage Sucking Cec" came into vogue that night. No wonder children mocked him and all scorned his job and name, They'd heard their parents talking and were doing just the same.

Then came the great disaster in the year of eighty eight, When bushfires swept the country at a most horrendous rate.

When raging wild infernos scorched through every line and strata
 Of mountain gum and stringybark and pinus radiata.
 Would our village, now surrounded by a wall of towering flames
 Become a singed statistic in a twist of natures' games?
 Or would there come a saviour in this hour of desolation
 Who'd save us from extinction and offer up salvation?

The population gathered at the safest place around,
 On the hallowed grassy surface of the Rugby Union ground.
 Teachers stood with truckies, and shearers spoke to nuns,
 And the banker's pretty daughters huddled up with butchers' sons,
 Old folk mixed with schoolkids and we stared with disbelief
 As the judge's wife sought comfort from a thrice convicted thief,
 Whilst the matrons of society, of status now devoid,
 Rubbed shoulders with the local drunks and long term unemployed.

The Baptists joined with Catholics calling loud on Mother Mary
 And a spaced out Hare Krishna chanted, "Hary hary hary."
 A Witness for Jehovah paved our path to Kingdom Come
 While the Army of Salvation thumped the tambourine and drum.
 As loud we prayed for mercy and prepared to meet our doom
 An eerie sound and sickly smell emerged through haze and gloom,
 And Mrs Fiffle-Farthington shrieked, "Goodness gracious! Yuk!
 It's Sullage Sucking Cecil! - In his sucking sullage truck!"

We looked to where she pointed at some movement in the smoke,
 Where a madman on a mission had employed a master stroke,
 For charging like a demon with a fire retardent shower
 Came Cecil, squirting sullage, at a hundred miles an hour!
 The conflagration halted and its fires began to budge,
 Assaulted by the potency of Simpson's super sludge,
 That chemical concoction had put other brands to shame
 With stinking sprays of soaking steam extinguishing the flames.

In minutes it was over and the victory was complete,
 The blaze, reduced to ashes, simply smouldered in defeat,
 While the stench of septic gases, like a lavatory in bloom,
 Was sweeter to our nostrils than any French perfume.
 Young Cecil waved in triumph as he rumbled up the road
 To his depot at the treatment works to get another load,
 As the people started cheering and the crowd began to clap,
 He revved his truck and gunned his pump and did a victory lap.

Well, the television cameras and the media descended,
 In a frenzy of publicity our Cecil was commended
 For his bravery and committment, and he gathered instant fame,
 For right across Australia everybody knew his name.
 There's a statue in our village near a eucalyptus stump,
 It's a full size bust of Cecil with his sucking sullage pump,
 And it tells the simple story of a hero of a town
 Who refused to let the ridicule of others grind him down.

Cecil's now a millionaire, he's living like a king,
 But fame has mattered little for it's hardly changed a thing,
 His septic cleaning franchise makes him money on the side,
 And Cec's sullage suckers are familiar nationwide.
 In nearly every town and city, here and interstate,
 The business is expanding and its reputation's great,
 And printed on the side of all those sullage carting trucks
 Is a sign that reads: "For Sullage, Contact Cec - cos' - Cecil Sux!"

LONGYARD TRADITIONAL BREAKFASTS

The Traditional Home of Bush Poetry in Tamworth, The Longyard Hotel, once again attracted capacity audiences over the nine days of the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Spirits may have been dampened somewhat on the first day with the heavy storms and minor flooding, but all returned to normal within hours and the threatening disaster disappeared.

Twenty-seven poets entertained with over 80 separate performances during the festival, led by Frank Daniel who was enjoying his twelfth successive year in Tamworth and his seventh year as poetry coordinator for the Longyard.

Poets appearing at the Longyard included Australian Champion Lady Performer Kerry Lee of Oakford WA and current Men's Champion Noel Stallard of Arana Hills Q., along with past State and National Champions such as Terry Regan, Melanie Hall, Milton Taylor, Col Milligan, Glenny Palmer and Stuart Nivison.

The 2004 Longyard Breakfasts were extended by as much as forty minutes each day to include a new format with an even balance of Traditional, Original, Serious and Humorous poetry accompanied by the comical performances of Neil McArthur, Glenny Palmer and Donny Lloyd, gave patrons more than they bargained for.

As has been the practice for many years now, bush poetry fanatics continued to line up for the gates to open at 6.30 am each morning to a sumptuous cooked breakfast prior to the show starting at 8am.

The big programme for the Longyard this year also included the likes of Greg Champion, Jane Saunders, The Bushwackers, Steve Passfield and The Hand-picked Band, Texas Rose, The Barra-mundi Brothers and many more.

Planning for next year has started already and no doubt the Longyard will be the place to be in 2005.

The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival April 1st – 4th

Traditional high country and bush culture will be celebrated during The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival at Corryong from April 1st to 4th this year.

The whole festival is a celebration of the pioneering spirit which still lives 'by Kosciusko's side' in the mountains of the Upper Murray. It's a great weekend.

Picture the archetypal Man from Snowy River scene — rivers, mountains, horses, stock saddles, whip cracking, brumby catching, akubras, oilskins and yarn spinning around the campfires and you've

got **The Challenge** — the highlight of the festival.

The festival honours 'Banjo' Paterson and his poem 'The Man from Snowy River'. It is said that the poem was inspired by high country stockman, Jack Riley, who met Paterson in 1890. Riley is buried at Corryong Cemetery.

Whip cracking, horse shoeing, yarn spinning and the good old fashioned 'Coo-ee' were a part of life when Paterson met Riley. And at the dawn of a new millennium, these skills will be essential elements of the Man from Snowy River Bush

Festival.

As a tribute to Jack Riley, the Festival will begin with a trail ride, 'Riley's Ride'.

A visit to 'Banjo's Block' in the main street and experience an outdoor campfire setting with Australia's greatest Poets and Bush Musicians.

Enjoy three days of yarn-spinning, verse, traditional and bush music. Saturday will see some of the country's top poets performing and competing for titles with prizemoney and prizes to the value of \$4,000.

Contacts:

(02) 6076 1992

SSAE PO Box 144

CORRYONG Vic. 3707

www.manfromsnowyriverbushfesti

THE PROSPECTORS WIFE

© Jill Winnett — Holbrook NSW

So fair of face, so full of grace,
She sailed to this strange land.
So full of hope, she had to cope
The bush, the heat, the sand!
She would never see them more,
Can't turn back the clock on Sydney's dock,
To gay, happy days of yore.

Her heart had led, ruled her head,
She had come to marry her man,
A prospector of gold, young and bold,
Lured on by the yellow specks in his pan!
With hope in his heart, to make a new start,
He carried his bride to the fields
Where many had tried, and many had died
Seeking riches this rugged land yields.

The wings of love soar, and though they are poor
Soon, they are blessed with a child.
But fortunes are few, and all they could do
Was pray, as the mullock heaps piled.
Her face, pale and drawn, her pretty clothes torn,
She toils from daylight till dark,
But her shanty is clean, even though it is mean,
And she wakes to the song of the lark.

The years took their toll, sapped at her soul,
And the children arrived one by one.
Some lived till they cried, some cried till they died
And ne'er saw the light of the sun.
At night she would pray, for a better day
And, in time, that day did arrive.
And every morn, she would wake with dawn
And thank God, for her family of five.

As the goldfields ran out, they shifted about,
And, eventually move to the town.
At last, he took work, as a tally clerk
With a company called Smith and Brown.
And, more, or less, we can only guess,
When they moved to a town, Nathalia,
How often she yearned, for the life she had spurned
To come to this land, Australia.

This land was built on convicts guilt;
And many free men! Never deride them
But, do not forget, the strength, and the grit,
Of the women, who worked beside them.

(Jill Winnett and husband Bob live on their property 'Killarney' on the Jingellic Road not far from Holbrook NSW. They are both avid bush poetry fans and regularly travel to many of the southern festivals).

SOME IRISH MEDICAL TERMS:- Artery — Study of painting. Bacteria — Back door of a Cafeteria. Barium — What Doctors do when patients die. Bowel — A letter like A, E, I, O, U. Caesarean Section — A neighborhood in Rome. Cat Scan — Search for kitty. Cauterise — Made eye contact with her. Coma — A punctuation mark. Dilate — To live longer. Enema — Not a friend. Fester — Quicker. Fibula — A small lie. Genital — Not a Jew. Impotent — Distinguished, well known. Labour pain — Getting hurt at work. Medical Staff — Doctor's cane. Morbid — A higher offer. Nitrates — Cheaper than day rates. Node — Was aware of. Outpatient — A person who has fainted. Pap smear — A fatherhood test. Recovery room — Place to upholster. Rectum — Almost killed him. Secretion — Hiding something. Seizure — Roman Emperor. Tablet — A small table. Terminal illness — Getting sick at the airport. Tumor — Another two. Urine — Opposite to 'you're out'. Varicose — Nearby. Vein — Bigheaded.

PROFILE -

SUNNY MUTTON



Sunny Mutton is a September child who first made her voice heard on the 26th day of that month in 1986.

Since that time she has continued to be heard, and for several years has been one of the best known voices in Winton through her involvement in public speaking and entertainment. She has implemented the skills obtained through her involvement in bush poetry over a period of eight years to enhance her presentation and has been recognized as one of the upper echelon of performance poets in the Western area.

Sunny first performed in the

inaugural Clover Nolan Bush Poetry competition for schools in 1996 and has been a finalist in her age group in every subsequent year. Her experience in competing against polished reciters such as Carmel Dunn and Jennifer Haig during this time has been invaluable experience for her as she was able to benefit from the expertise of these girls.

In 1997, Sunny, with Julie Rayment, Angela Kavanagh, Sam Green and Katie McBride competed in the Outback Oscars, a team event at the Waltzing Matilda poetry festival at Winton. To the surprise of most people, this team, "Spatkids" from the local Catholic primary school, cleaned up, winning the title against opposition which included many of Australia's best bush poets.

This effort is one of her proudest achievements. She has been involved in further teams events at Waltzing Matilda contests in subsequent years and has been in successful teams on many occasions.

In addition to her multiple successes at a local level Sunny won the Australian Junior Bush Poetry championship at Yarrawonga/Mulwala in 1999 and has competed in open competition at various venues.

In 2002 she spread her wings and performed as guest artist at

Local Government conventions in the North West where she received very favourable comment for her entertaining presentations. She is regularly called on to provide her recitations for visiting car rallies and charity functions.

In addition to her poetic skills Sunny is a talented artist, having won statewide prizes for her work and has performed as a player with the local theatre group as well as carrying out modelling duties at fashion parades.

In January she made her Tamworth debut as a performer at the Longyard Hotel where she was very

enthusiastically received, while in the competition at the Imperial Hotel she was placed third in the Traditional section against the strongest field of poets available, a remarkable feat for her first attempt.

Sunny will attend university in Townsville this year studying Arts and Drama, where her background in performance poetry will come to the fore. No doubt this talented young lady will achieve much in the

ensuing years and we hope to see more of her at future festivals.

Bush poetry will continue to thrive while ever Sunny Mutton maintains her devotion to, and promotion of this Australian heritage.

Sunny Mutton - Goodonya!

PRONUNCIATION FOR FOREIGNERS

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, lough and through?
Well done! And now you wish perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead —
For goodness sake don't call it 'deed'!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

Anon.

A moth is not a moth in mother
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's dose and rose and lose —
Just look them up — and goose and choose,

And cork and work and card and ward.
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart —
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive,
I'd mastered it when I was five!

Regular Monthly Events

NEW SOUTH WALES:

TUGGERAH Lakes 1st Tues. Tuggerah Leagues Club. Joan Johnson 02 4332 5318, Judy Stanton 02 4388 5972

TWEED HEADS Each Tues. Library Meeting Room. Lorraine Richards 07 5590 9395

KATOOMBA - 2nd Mon. Parakeet Café Katoomba. 7 pm. Denis Kevans 02 4757 3119

HUNTER Bush Poets. 2nd Tues. 7 pm, Tarro Hotel. Bob Skelton 02 4953 2751

DORRIGO 2nd Wed. April, June, August, October. Murray Suckling 02 6657 2139

TAMWORTH Poetry Reading Group. 2nd Thurs. Keith 02 6766 4164. Maureen 02 6765 6067

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

GRAFTON Last Tues. Roches Hotel, 7.30pm. Bill Kearns 02 6642 2772

QUEANBEYAN 4th Thurs. Poet's lane, Queanbeyan. David Meyers 02 6286 1891

MID-COAST Sundowners - 2nd Last Mon. Reid 02 6554 9788. Phil 02 6552 6389

GOSFORD Bush Poets - Last Tues. Gosford Hotel - Bob & Ester Sennett 02 4325 2590

TWEED HEADS Each Sunday 9am Pioneer Country Venue. Graeme Brunckhorst. Ph. 07 55246668

QUEENSLAND:

TOWNSVILLE Each Wed. 7.30 pm Hodel Room, City Library, Thuringowa - Phil Heang 07 4773 4223

BUNDABERG Poets. 2nd. Sat. 1.30 pm - Sandy 07 4151 4631, Laree 07 41527409, Sam 07 41561216

KILCOY 1st & 3rd Wed. Motor Inn - Hope Street. 7.30 p.m. Robyn 07 54 971 100 - Pat 07 54 971 458

NORTH PINE 1st & 3rd Sun. Country Markets, 9 am Dad & Dave's 07 3285 2845 - 3886 1552

GYMPIE Golden Pen Poets. 2nd & 4th Thurs Old Gympie Town Hall. 7 pm. Phil Morrison, 07 4773 4223

REDLANDS Poets .3rd Tues. Vivienne 07 38244038 - Elaine 32452114

WOODFORD 3rd Sun. 10.30 am - Jalia's Café - Mark Feldman 0407 625 408 - 07 5496 1157

CHARTERS TOWERS 3rd. Wed. Caravan Park 10.30am. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Mary 4787 7944 Harry 07 4787 3211

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WILUNGA - 3rd Wed. SA Bush Poets. 7.30 pm, Alma Pub Long Room. Maurie O'Brien 08 8326 8788

WHYALLA Writers Group. Last Tues. Colby Maddigan 08 8645 1771

VICTORIA

CORRYONG Top of the Murray Poets and Story Tellers Corryong - Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332

KYABRAM Bush Poets. 1st Mon./2nd Month, Kyabram Fauna Park, 7.30 pm. Mick Coventry 03 5852 2097

GIPPSLAND Bush Poets. Times vary. Rosedale Hotel. Dennis Carstairs 03 5145 6128

MELBOURNE - **ARVOS** Bush Poetry. 1st Sun. Warrandyte - Grand Hotel 2pm. Ph. Laurence Webb 0438 872 653

BENDIGO Goldfields Poets. 4th Sun. Whitehorse Hotel - California Gully. Colin Carrington 03 5441 2425

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CANNING BRIDGE - 1st Frid. WA 7.30 pm, Raffles Hotel - Michelle Sorrell 08 9367 4963 msorrell@iinet.net.au

DUNEDOO GREAT DUNNY CLASSIC

Increased prizemoney

26th - 27th - 28th March

'The Great Dunny Classic' is now a weekend festival, growing in popularity and becoming a signature event for Dunedoo, with many awarded Poets attending.

Past Australian Champion Poet, Milton Taylor, by popular demand, will again be Master of Ceremonies.

The performance competition, held on Saturday 27th, is an amazing night of entertainment and should not be missed, with open, junior and novice sections for original, traditional and established works. Another section caters for an Original Poem with a Dunedoo

theme.

The performance competitions commence on Saturday afternoon at the Dunedoo Golf Club, admission \$15.00 (poets and partners free) with meals available. Results of the written competitions will be announced during the evening.

Send business sized SSAE for entry forms and details to Sue Stoddart, PO Box 1 Dunedoo NSW 2844

'Breakfast with the Poets' in the Westpac gardens on Sunday morning will offer a chance for juniors and others to 'have a go' in a non-competitive environment.

Entries for the written competition close Friday 20th February. No entry forms required, just the usual cover-sheet etc - section 1. Serious — section 2. Humorous.

Send SSAE for results.

This year the caravan park is offering free accommodation on the Thursday night prior to the event with free entertainment. A BBQ tea will be available, so accommodation arrangements should be made ASAP on 02 6375 1455

'Poets at Play' with yarns is held on the Friday night at the local club and markets and music in the street Saturday morning.

Milton Taylor will be conducting poetry workshops (\$20pp) for those wanting to improve their writing and performance skills.

The Dunedoo Great Dunny Classic Bush Poetry Festival is organized by the Dunedoo and District Development Group Inc.

dddgroup@bigpond.com

Phone 02 6375 1975

POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 31 Feb 1. **10th Annual Bush Poets Gathering - Elmslea Bungendore NSW** with Frank Daniel Ph. 02 6238 1651
 Feb 6-8 **Whittlesea V. Country Music Festival.**
 Feb 20 Closing date. **Dunedoo Written Competition.** (No entry forms) Sue Stoddart PO Box 1 Dunedoo NSW 2844
 Feb 21/22 **VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - Shepparton Vic.** Ph. 02) 6043 3220 or (02) 6040 2508
 Feb 28 Closing date. **Midlands Literary Competition.** Short Story, Poetry etc. SSAE POB 1563 Ballarat V. 3354
 Feb 28 Rusty Nails Bush Poetry Competition. SSAE Ric Raftis. 37 St. Arnaud Road Wedderburn Vic 3518
 Mar 5 Closing date **Ipswich Poetry Feast - \$2,600 Written Competition.** Ph. 07 3810 6761 (see p. 5)
 Mar 10 Closing date. **Grenfell Short Story and Verse Written competitions.** SSAE PO Box 77 Grenfell 2810
 Mar 10 Closing date. **Henry Kendall Poetry Award.** SSAE Central Coast Poets PO Box 276 Gosford 2250
 Mar 17-21. **10th Anniversary John O'Brien Bush Festival & Competition - Narrandera NSW.**
 Mar 26-28 **Dunedoo NSW Bush Poetry competitions and yarn-spinning.** SSAE - PO Box 1 Dunedoo 2844
 May 28 Closing date. **Bush Lantern Awards (Written)** SSAE - Lorraine Beavis - 232 Walker St. Bundaberg 4670
 May 30 **Sutton Forest NSW Southern Highlands Bush Poetry Festival.** \$2,000 prize-money. See p. 10
 Apr The Man From Snowy River Festival Corryong V. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX????????????????
 Apr 11 **Nambucca Heads Bowling Club.** Poets Breakfast with feature poet Ted Webber. Ph. 6568 2569. (p 8)
 Apr 23-25 **Martis Canowindra Balloon Festival.** Martisfiesta.com.au ph. 02 6344 2422
 May 28 Closing date. **Bush Lantern Written Awards.** SSAE Lorraine Beavis 232 Walker St Bundaberg Q. 4670
 June Long-weekend **Grenfell NSW - Henry Lawson Festival.**
 Jun 18-20 **Charters Towers Festival of Bush Poetry.** Ph. Arthur 07 4787 2409. Mary 07 4787 7944 - 07 4787 3211.
 Jun 27 **Mt Larcom** Poets Breakfasts and competition. Sec. Mt Larcom Show Society, P.O. Box 49, Mt Larcom 4695.
 Jun 28-30 **Winton Qld.** Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Competition. SSAE PO Box 120 Winton Q. 4735
 Jul 2-4 **10th Annual Bundy Muster.** (See ad page 5)
 August **North Pine. Queensland State Championships.**
 August **S.A. Stumpy Awards.** treetops@lm.net.au SSAE 117 Murray Drive Murray Bridge SA 5253 (P. 9)
 November 2004 South Australian State Championships - Lucindale SA.

HENRY KENDALL POETRY AWARD 2004

The Henry Kendall Poetry Award is conducted biennially by the Central Coast Poets Inc. and is now open for entries.

The Central Coast Poets Inc is a non-profit group formed in the early 1980's, whose charter is to encourage the writing and appreciation of poetry in all its forms.

Money from the entry fees is used to pay judges, award prizes, cover the expenses incurred and to produce an anthology selected from the entries as encouragement for both new and more advanced writers..

The Central Coast Poets meet monthly and subsidize workshops by run by well-known writers.

There is no set theme or or poetry style but a maximum length of 32 lines has been set. Prizemoney amounts to \$800.00 paying three places.

Entry forms are essential and available from the Convener, Henry Kendall Poetry Award, Central Coast Poets Inc. PO Box 276 Gosford NSW 2250.

John O'Brien Bush Festival

The Stage is set for the Tenth Annual John O'Brien Bush Festival at Narrandera from 17th - 21st March 2004. Geoffrey Graham and the Bowling Club with Noel Cutler. All breakies start at 8.00am.

Naturally the festival is based on an Irish-Australian theme with Bush Poetry and the works of John O'Brien, portrayed by Noel Stalard as a feature. Noel will make appearances from as early as Wednesday 17th. with 'Around the Boree Log & other Verses'; again on Thursday and at the Uniting Church Hall. Conducted by Frank Daniel, the 'Anzac Tribute in Poetry and Song' in the Memorial Gardens is a must. Come, remember and say thank you to our servicemen and women at 11am. The Geoffrey Graham will host his one man show '100 Not Out' on both Saturday and Sunday.

Patrons can drop in for a cuppa and 'Meet the Locals' and the performers at 3pm on Thursday at the Narrandera Visitors Centre. At 7.30 pm on Saturday at the Ex-servicemen's Club Noel Stalard, Noel Cutler, Col Milligan and Frank Daniel will present their 'Bush Culture Concert'.

A \$1,000 bush poetry performance competition on the Friday 19th at 7.30 pm will get the ball rolling poetry wise. 'Tribute to Aitch' will take place at 12.30pm Sunday to honour 'his forgetfulness' in praise of his 'contribution' to Bush Poetry and the John O'Brien Festival during Macca's 2003 visit to Narrandera.

Poets Breakfasts will be held at the following venues. It's all Irish, it's all fun, music and dancing; street parades, concerts. Contact the Narrandera Visitors Centre Ph. 1800 672 392.
 Saturday 20th. Narrandera Golf Club with Frank Daniel, and at the Narrandera Bowling Club with Noel Cutler.
 Sunday at the Ex-services with www.johnobrien.com.au

The following poems were sent in by Ron Selby.

The first was found in an old auto-graph book in England. The second is attributed to Anonymous.

If you have shared another's load
Or eased another's pain
If you have soothed a troubled soul
Life has not been in vain.

If you have cheered another's heart
Or made a sad face smile
If you have calmed another's fear
Your life has been worthwhile.

If you have said a tender word
Or dried another's tear
If you have spread your share of love
Then you have been needed here.

If you have lent a helping hand
Through time and care and strife
If you have done a little good
You have made the most of life.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

If you think you are beaten . . . You are.

If you think you dare not . . . You won't.

If you like to win . . . but think you can't

It's almost certain . . . You won't

If you think you'll lose . . . You're lost.

For out in the world we find
Success begins with a person's will

—
It's all in the state of the mind.

If you think you're outclassed . . .
You are.

You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself
before

You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man
But sooner or later the person who
wins

Is the one that thinks he can.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

ABPA's

TENTH ANNUAL

The popularity of 'Bush Poetry' as it has become widely known began to emerge in the mid-eighties as entertainment at the annual Country Music Festival in Tamworth. It has been said that the first few competitions could have been held in a telephone box! But by the early nineties the popular Bush Poets Breakfasts at the famous Longyard Hotel had standing room only for the huge audiences that gathered there every morning.

The most prestigious awards for a poet to win at that time apart from the Bronze Swagman Award, were the Imperial Hotel Performance Poetry Competition and the Blackened Billy Award for written poetry.

1994 saw the first meeting at the Imperial Hotel to discuss the merits of the performing poets forming an association to further promote and preserve this art. Hence the birth of the ABPA with 22 financial members. This association has since grown and still maintains up to five hundred members annually (and some pessimist said it wouldn't last).

Since inception in 1994 the ABPA has produced an annual of poems from its members. These annuals, edited and compiled by Ron Selby of Drayton North, Q., have a print of only 500 copies and the first three annuals published are totally sold out and are now collectors items.

Many great poets and great poems have appeared in the annuals and this year being the Tenth Anniversary, a move was made to honour those inaugural members.

Sadly some have passed on and a few have ceased to be members but smiling faces, good poems and good people are never forgotten.

Some of the poems featured in this annual are from the knocking-knees and shaking nerves days of some of today's most successful poets. Other poems are reasonably new and varied but as always entertaining.

It is hoped that readers will enjoy the selection of new and old poems some of the founding members of the Australian Bush Poets Association.

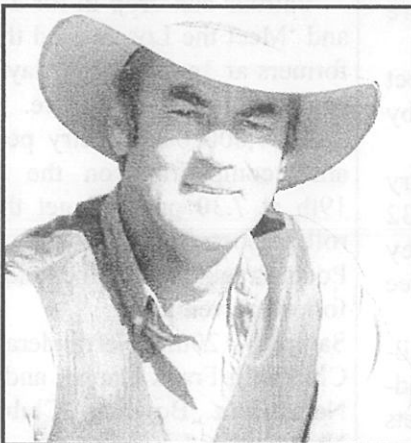
Copies of the tenth annual and some back copies are available from the Secretary Ed Parmenter.

The Tenth Annual is \$5.00 posted, back copies are \$3.00 each or \$10.00 for any five - postage paid.

BUSH POETS AND BALLADEERS

Tamworth City Bowling Club

From Sam Smyth. The Bush Poets & Balladeers sessions at the Tamworth City Bowling Club were once again a huge success with attendances well up on last year, even with the inconvenience caused by the weather. The diversity of poets and balladeers from all over the country blended to make a great show that was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.



SAM SMYTH

I offer my profound thanks to all who participated; your effort and professional approach made the shows a success. A big thank you to Jenny and Emily for your effort running the front of house and merchandising table, once again thank you to all involved a great job well done by all, keep up the great effort for Bush Poetry.

Best wishes, till I meet you all again, Sam.

JUDGES COMMENTS

2004 BLACKENED BILLY VERSE COMPETITION

When our convener, Jan Morris, handed me 176 entries for the Blackened Billy, I was quite relieved. This was approximately 100 less than last year and, although it was disappointing for Jan and her committee, I felt my job would be a little easier.

I can assure everyone that it wasn't the case. The standard of entries could only be described as exceptional. What a wealth of talent we have in this Country.

This is exemplified, not only in the creation of Bush Verse, but in song writing as well. Australian culture is being well and truly expressed in both departments.'

Topics covered in the Blackened Billy entries this year covered such things as pregnancy, fishing, animals, romance, angels, war, women on the land, modern times compared with the past various types of occupations and amusements, floods and droughts, and a host of other themes, which made the reading of the entries most entertaining. I can assure all of the entrants that each poem was read aloud at least twice, and in the selection of the last fifty,

another couple of times. When the selection was made, I did another scanning of the discarded entries, and finished with thirty three poems on which to make the final decisions.

Those decisions were determined on a strength of rhythm of stress in a single line, or a stanza, or by a word misplaced in an otherwise entertaining and well-written narrative.

As stated in last year's comments, strong beginnings and endings are vital in the appeal of a good narrative. There were so many entries which were well constructed, but fell down with lifeless or insipid endings.

There were entries that were so creative, but tended to be repetitious in the wrong places. In my humble opinion I would recommend to every writer to edit in the right places, to read and re-read aloud, so that the rhythm and meter are pleasing, and the content and structure strong enough to appeal to the lovers of bush verse.

My thanks to every entrant. Good luck in future competitions. The most important thing is to keep writing.

Keith Jones

MORE TAMWORTH NEWS!

Another group reporting a wonderful success at their eighth Tamworth Country Music Festival was Chris and the Grey, (Christine and Merv Webster of Bargara Q.)

The duo reports their biggest crowds ever for their Peel Street performances of 'Laughter and Tears from the Bush'. Merv's new book of original works, 'A Muster of Australiana' has been selling well and is almost out of its first print. 'Not a bad effort' he says, 'for an independent publisher pushing his own barrow'.

The book was nominated as a finalist in The Golden Gumleaf Bush Laureate Awards in the Book of the Year category. Their new CD, Blacklisted, is also selling well and receiving great commendations from those who already have copies.

Chris and Merv extend their gratitude to those who have supported them over the years and hope 2004 will be a kind year to everyone. Visit their website www.bushpoets.go.to some time.

THE AMPUTEES' BALL

By Milton Taylor 2004

Winner of the \$1,000 Naked Poets One-Minute Brawl — Tamworth

The crowd was humungous,
They swarmed to the floor,
Some armless, some legless
and some missing more,
But they laughed and they grinned
as they hopped through the door,
When they came to the Amputees' Ball.

There was Sawn Off Sabrina,
she made the joint jump,
The crowd went ballistic
with each grind and bump,
And when she got tired,
she just pulled up a stump,
When she rocked at the Amputees' Ball.

The grog was provided,
by God, could they drink!
They were knocking back Bundy
as quick as a wink,
They got really pissed,
quite legless I think,
Blind drunk at the Amputees' Ball.

They discoed and rapped,
they were going to town,
They gave a new meaning to
getting on down,
But they couldn't do knees up
for old mother Brown,
When they danced at the Amputees' Ball.

Trouble came looming
quite late in the night,
When two of the dancers
decided to fight,
But we saw they were armless,
so they'd be alright,
No blood at the Amputees' ball.

The amputees' spokesman,
old twinkle Toes Fred,
Addressing a linedancer,
smilingly said,
"You can come and join in.
Just chop orf yer head!
And you can dance at the Amputees' Ball."

About THE Bush

A selection of
Short Stories & Verse
compiled from the works of
STEVE BUROW

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**THE THIRD
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From the Pen of Charlee Marshall:

I CAN JUMP PUDDLES

The eagle soars like an angel's child
The fish swim down in the sea;
That glorious movement of running
wild
Will never belong to me.

My bones are stunted and ill-aligned,
My muscles are withered and dead;
But the wonderful gift of a fertile mind
Is thrumming inside my head.

Show me one mountain I cannot climb
As I sit in my chair tonight —
Up, down, over or back in time
Is only a moment's flight.

I can jump puddles, I can crown kings;
Or delve in the depths of the sea;
O, eagles with only a pair of wings,
Come hither and envy me.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

The sun has lit the western sky,
It's time to go inside —
There's Christmas pudding to be
stirred,

And presents to divide.
'And is the rooster plucked and clean?'
I know my wife has said:
Ar-r, I'm sick of poultry all the time
Let's have lamb chops instead.

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



bushpoetry.COM.AU

**The
Australian
Bush Poets Association
Inc.
10th Anniversary
Annual of Bush Poetry.**

**\$5.00 posted
The Secretary
ABPA Inc.
1 Avenue Street
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450**

**Back copies available
(see p 18)**

LIMERICK

A shearer from west of Paroo
Found quite a large mouse in his
stew.
The cook said, 'don't shout,
Or wave it about'
Or the rest will be wanting one too.

We once had two dunnies outside
But mother fell down one and died
My uncle, her brother,
Fell down the other,
And now they're interred side by
side



**ABPA Inc. BADGE
\$ 5.00 Post paid
Secretary ABPA
1 Avenue St
Coffs Harbour 2450**