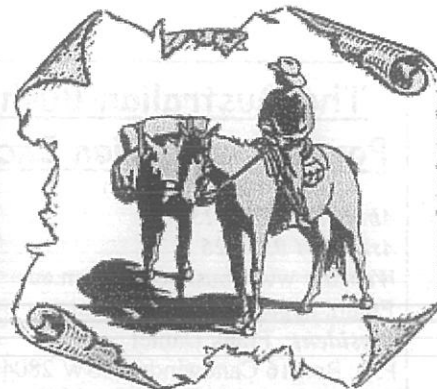


The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. - Newsletter -

Volume 11

No. 5

Oct - Nov 2004



QLD STATE CHAMPIONS 2004

On Friday the 20th of August with much gusto and a last minute flurry, members of the North Pine Bush Poets Group put the finishing touches to the festival plans for 2004.

The stage area at Pioneer Village Country Music Club at North Pine Country Park just north of Brisbane was set up with backdrop and hay bales, old fencing with saddle and bridles and oilskin coats and hats etc. while others set up seating arrangements, judges tables and the reception area.

Some campers had arrived by lunchtime and were busy setting up their caravans and tents in readiness for the forthcoming State Championship Festival.

The first performers on stage, Friday evening, were the Junior under 8yrs followed by Junior 9-12 yrs then Junior 13-16 yrs. After these categories were finalised, presentations were made to all placegetters and the Junior State Champion by the Mayor of Pine Rivers, Yvonne Chapman.

The Novice Category followed then we packed up in preparation for the big day on Saturday. The weekend weather was beautiful and sunny with cool nights and as usual for this time of the year the Saturday morning was our normal Brisbane winter sunshine with a slightly cool breeze. "Charlies Angels" at the Country Music Hall had breakfast ready for any who wished to partake and warm up

their tummys. After the lunch break, the winners of the Written Competition were announced. As luck would have it, the winner of the Open section; Lynden Baxter; was present to receive his trophy & prize money and give a recitation of



2004 Qld Ladies Champion
LAREE CHAPMAN
Bundaberg Qld

his prize winning poem "The Talisman".

Our last category for Saturday was Open Traditional Male, after which we prepared the hall for our Saturday night concert. The hall was packed when our concert performers; Janine Haig, Garry Lowe, Neil McArthur and Milton Taylor; thoroughly entertained us for three hours plus, in what was one of the most hilarious performances we have had the pleasure to see.

Sunday morning saw our walk-up microphone session for over

an hour, prior to commencing the final categories of the festival.

After lunch we had our "Winner Take All 1 Minute Comp", with 23 competitors vying for the \$50 purse. Eamon Kennelly was announced as the winner, after an hour of frivolity and reruns.

The North Pine Bush Poets Group would like to thank all of our sponsors, especially the Pine Rivers Shire Council, who helped us tremendously in being able to offer \$3700 in total prize money for our written and performance categories of the festival. Many thanks go to our judges and concert performers and to Peter and Rosemary Baguley for their unfailing support of our festival and untiring performance in collating the judges scores and presenting the results to us. To all of our members who helped in making this festival successful, we thank you. Last but not least, we would like to thank all of our contestants, many who travelled hundreds of miles to be here with us on our festival and without whom there would be no festival.

More detailed results from the 2004 Queensland State Championships on page 17

John Coutts

2005 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Written expressions of interest from organizations are being sought for the running of the State Championships in 2005 for New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland.

*The Secretary
1 Avenue St*

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

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payable to the Treasurer.

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The Australian Bush Poets Association Inc Newsletter is set-up, published and posted direct to subscribers bi-monthly by the ABPA Inc. (Submissions deadline—20<sup>th</sup> of month prior to printing.)

**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,

I know we say the same thing every year and we don't need constant reminders, but time again seems to be flying faster than ever.

And especially so for me. When so much of my life is based on future happenings, sometimes as much as nine months or a year ahead, organizing and preparing for coming events and constantly sourcing material for newsletters it becomes easy to forget that we have a present — if that makes sense. Life gets so confusing that the past can theoretically seem six or seven months ago when in reality it was only last month. It's a bit crazy at times.

I'd like to remind concert, festival and competition organizers that my job and that of the Editor, Leanne, would be made a lot easier if we didn't have to chase up results and items of interest following events; especially when the results are known well before the deadline for copy. (20th of the month before the month of issue). Life would be a lot easier if copy was sent in earlier and not at the last minute.

The number of competitions held annually seems to be ever on the increase with two newcomers in the NSW Central West; one in Canowindra and the other at Euabalong a little further out. Prize-money at these festivals was sponsored to the tune of \$2,000.00 each which made for an encouraging start for poets and organizers alike. It is expected that both these festivals will be ongoing with larger bounties.

The winning entries in the written sections of both these centres was in my opinion of a fairly high standard hopefully rebuilding the confidence of writers following a discouraging major result in recent times.

Congratulations and best wishes to the West Australians for their coming National Championships at the end of the month, hoping that it will be a huge success paving the way for future events.

Thanks to Julie Briggs and Narrandera Tourism, the NSW State championships will be contested once again at Narrandera on October 16 and 17 and look every bit like being the success it was last year.

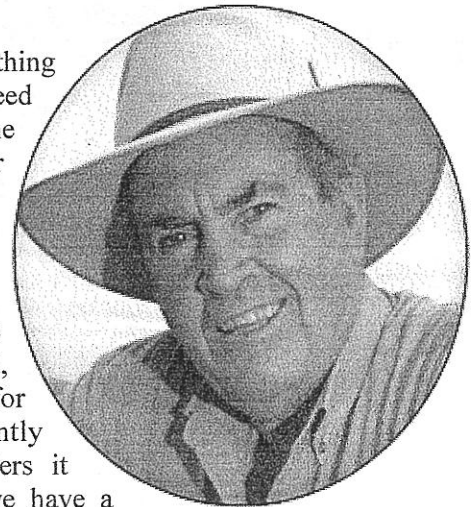
In November we'll see Di Jenke handling the South Australian Bush Poetry Titles at Lucindale rounding off the State Titles series for 2004.

I'd just like to remind performers that the Association's Public Liability Insurance falls due on 2nd January leaving no allowance for late payment. If you are not paid up, you will have no cover until such time as you are financial again. The ABPA has, through the hard work of its Secretary Edward Parmenter and its insurance Brokers, secured the best available insurance cover by far. Don't take the risk.

If you've got a story to tell, a poem to share or a new poet we haven't heard of, please let us know.

In the meantime,

Keep on writin' and keep on recitin' . . . .



*Frank Daniel*



## Poetry in this Issue

- 5—WHISTLE BLOWING  
Heather Giles
- 11—THE SCAMS THEY PULL  
'Croc'
- 12—SHADOW BOXING  
David Campbell
- 14—Nine Famous Irishmen  
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- 15—SPIRIT ANIMAL  
Jacqualyn Cleary
- 16—A BETTER POINT OF VIEW  
Jill Perren
- 19—A BLOKE'S SHED  
Des Bennett
- 20—NO DOUGH .... SO....  
Saul Veriwell



Darren Colston  
Tocumwal on the Murray, NSW

## TOYOTA GYMPIE COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER 2004

What a start to the Muster when the great Olympic God 'Freezyatitsofficus' officially opened the Bush Poets Program at the Muster on Tuesday Morning. He obviously inspired some stirring renditions by newcomers Dave Proust and Denise Piconne, who had the crowd in stitches throughout the week.

Last year's Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award Winner Harry Donnelley must have felt like he had won gold when he returned to a big reception.

Dan Thompson from Townsville, appealing to the late Friday Afternoon Crowd in what became a bodily function bonanza, won the Poets Brawl and created a fan base that followed him through the heats of the Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Award.

But alas, the boys were pipped at the post by Leanne Jeacocke from Thangool who took out the big award from an 'all-star' lineup including Margerate Bye from Gympie, Dion Cross from Miles, Andrew Wotton from Condamine, and Ron Leikfoote from Pine Rivers.

The feature concert 'Beatin' Around The Bush' was a celebration of the 'ridiculous', introducing characters in a local Bar. The hit of the show was Father Noel Stallard performing Cold Hard Facts with Ray Essery in the Confession Box. Why is it that Essery makes such an appropriate groveling sinner and how come McArthur always plays the drunk?

Once again the strength of The Muster is the Poet's Campsite and I reckon she was a beauty this year with heaps of yarns, some very late nights, and a lot of fuel for future inspiration, however Neil McArthur reckons he will never eat sausages cooked by Ray Essery again.

It was a real honour this year to be asked to open the Muster on Main Stage with my Slim Dusty tribute. The Poets owe a lot to Country Music Artists who have featured us on their shows, and it is even better to know we are returning the favour more and more, as Singer/Songwriter Darren Colston was this year featured in the Musterbeenbloodygood Poetry Awards Concerts.

*Marco Giori*

## Around the Muster Camp

There was never a dull moment around the poets' camp at the Gympie Muster.

Sandy Miller was first to arrive on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August and kept would-be trespasses (non poets) off the site until re-enforcements began to rock up early the next week. The "Bush Poets" banner was displayed high up in the trees so that the arriving poets could find their way among the 10,000 or so other camp sites scattered throughout the Amamoor State Forest. It was all hands on deck when the McArthur mob arrived with their new camper which, on the sloping ground, was threatening to make a runaway escape.

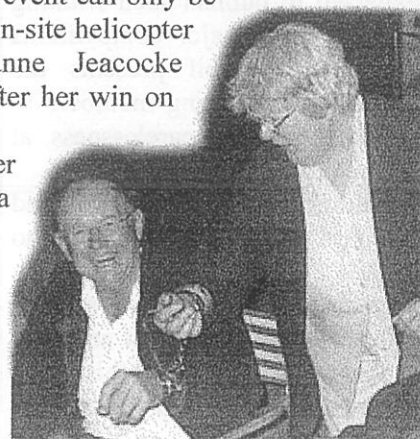
Milton Taylor's friends from America, Ben (alias Santa) and Anita added an international flavour to the camp and were fascinated by the goanna that visited the camp site. Denise Piccone dug into her seeming endless supply of costumes and props to keep everyone entertained and Ray Essery and Shirley Friend found themselves handcuffed together as a result.

Darren Colston lead a few sing-a-longs around the campfire with everyone joining in (when they could remember the words).

Janine Haig, although called on at short notice, did a great job of organizing the program for the Banjo Accommodation site Poets' Breakfast and reports were it was a very professional show enjoyed by all.

The true size of the event can only be appreciated by the on-site helicopter rides, which Leanne Jeacocke treated herself to after her win on Sunday afternoon.

If you have never experienced a Gympie Muster, make sure you mark next year's calendar for the event in late August



# Your Two Bob's Worth

## INTEGRITY OF OUR ART FORM

As we understand it, the A.B.P.A. magazine is a poet's forum where information, thoughts and ideas are shared.

We are writing specifically about the abysmal and worrying standard of winning entries of major written competitions which have in recent times been published in our newsletter.

It is essential that major competition winners be expert in the rudimentary disciplines of rhyme, metre, cadence and scansion. The only reason that we feel that we can attach to the success of such poorly disciplined winning poems is, perhaps, that all other entries may have been worse!

Novices can expect to be treated gently but the competition-winning poet must be stringently subjected to the essential disciplines.

We have found that these winning poems contain numerous half-rhymes, chaotic metre and poor cadence is rampant. In one particular major written competition, the poor standard of discipline of the published winning entries for two consecutive years have been rife with these sub-standard characteristics.

Further, our Association is expected to publish such winning entries of all major competitions and this in itself presents the problem of exposing members to incompetence or carelessness at the highest level.

Moreover, what example and standard does it set for those who aspire to win these prestigious awards? Will it mean to prospective entrants that anything is acceptable? How will this affect the integrity, credibility and future

of our craft?

To ensure the future survival of rhyming verse as a serious art form, we should encourage all written, (and performance), competition organisers to appoint judges who understand and demand the essential disciplines from entrants. Judges who just appreciate a good yarn are not good enough. After all, they themselves must expect to be judged. Without exacting judges we will soon descend into doggerel.

We invite reasoned disagreement or concurrence with this critique.

Conscientiously concerned,

*Maureen and Tom Stonham  
Nambucca Heads NSW*

## Solution Suggestions?

If there is a manual to help develop competency in adjudicating, then I don't know of it. Ellis Campbell has published useful advice on technique for writers of bush poetry, and perhaps his work could become part of a judges (and writers) manual fostered by ABPA. In all the competitions which I've entered during my less-than-a-decade "career", I've had very little feedback on any of my entered works. The problem, I more clearly understand now as recent adjudicator of the inaugural SA Stumpy Awards, is that it would take serious time to write a meaningful critique of every entered poem.

We had around 70 entries (from memory) in the adult sections of Stumpy. Many competitions would blitz that figure. However, I do believe that an adjudicator could (should) be encouraged to prepare and publish a detailed critique of the poem which he/she chooses as

## FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES


Re Skew Whiff's words "rough mating on the floor" reminds me of my school teaching days. One young hopeful wrote "you need plenty of fruit in your youth to make you strong for your adultery,"

*Lance Parker, Hillston*

**Have all write-ups,  
submissions and  
ads for Dec - Jan  
issue to the editor  
by 20<sup>th</sup> Nov**

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 PO Box 96,  
THANGOOL, Qld. 4716

the winning entry.

It has been suggested by Merv Webster that there should be a register of adjudicators who have proven their worth, and that event organisers should seek to use the services of a listed and accredited judge. He would also want an adjudicator to provide a useful critique for each of the poems entered in an event, to help poets improve their writing. This is good in theory, and perhaps something we could strive for in the long term. However, the time factor has to be considered. Professional adjudicators would need to be financially rewarded for their time and expertise. Who will pay for that? Would poets agree to meet their costs in grossly increased entry fees? Until we've worked that out, I believe we will have to accept the limitations of our unpaid adjudicators, who do the best they can for the love of bush poetry.

*Cheers, Max Merckenschlager*  
Max's critique of Stumpy's winning poem is available on request to the editor (email jarby@cqnet.com.au or send SASE to PO Box 96, Thangool) Ed



## UNITE & SUPPORT

Congratulations - all contributors to this forum in the previous Newsletter. What a pot-pouri of humour and pathos! Keep 'em comin' scribes - but please, git off the topic of bloody joke poems! For there are more 'serious' matters at hand. Like gaining interest and support from schools; for students to write rhyming poems and read or recite in a competition.

The Central Goldfields Bush Poets have now conducted two Performance comps and one written Comp.

Despite targetting 58 schools with large potential for student involvement - we did not achieve our hopes of at least doubling the number of

performance entrants from last year. From reports in recent Newsletters, our group is not alone, in this regard. Should any group have found success in 'getting bush poetry into schools' and children writing and reciting - please; share your methods with us and others. Sadly, there appear too few juniors entering most regional/festivals, State and Australian Championships.

I also ask readers to consider the importance of poets and followers in supporting new competitions/festivals, ensuring they are held the following years. Particularly, in southern states where overall, poet numbers are less. Few of these poets, can travel and

compete in as many competitions as their northern counterparts.

To ensure continuity and growth of bush poetry I ask readers to support these and other 'new' competitions/festivals, which may emerge. I believe all ABPA members should be totally supportive of all competitions.

Come on cobbles - let's all work together, get the schools and kids involved!!

Ensure all the comps and festivals succeed. Keeping 'Australia' in Australian!!!!

*Colin Carrington*

## KERNS wins at KEMPSEY

Over one hundred people crammed into the restaurant at the Kempsey Macleay RSL Club for the Bush Poets & Balladeers Brunch held during the Kempsey Country Music & Trucking Festival.

The feature poets Bill Kearns, John Lloyd, Cay Fletcher, Sam Smyth and Emily Breckell-Smyth, entertained the crowd with a wide variety of bush poetry.

Winner of the open mike encouragement award was El Rose from Port Macquarie with

her performance of Gabby Colquhoun's poem "The Hypochondriac".

Balladeers Ken "Chainsaw" Lindsay, Amos Morris and special guest country singer Felicity, topped the morning off with their respective performances.

Over all it was a top morning with the audience acclaiming the brunch an outstanding success.

At the Awards concert on Sunday afternoon the "Akubra Cedar Hat Award" for Bush Poetry was presented to Bill Kearns from Grafton.

Bill was extremely appreciative for this recognition of his contribution to Bush Poetry.

## WHISTLE BLOWING

Heather Giles. SA Bush Poets

I hear a whistle blowing;  
An eerie haunting sound,  
It pierces my dreaming,  
And out of bed I bound.

And then there is a rumbling  
A thunder that I know;  
As the train departs the station,  
And down the tracks it goes.

But as a timid child  
I remember oh! So clear,  
How I huddled in sheer terror  
As the whistle hit my ears.

That giant shrieking monster  
Seemed to terrorize my world.  
And I knew that as it chuffed  
That piercing shriek it hurled.

## Adelaide Plains Cup Festival

### Written Poetry Competition

### Prize Pool of \$500

Entries close 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2005

Entry fees:

1 entry—\$4; 2—\$8; 3—\$10

Payable to—Mallala Economic Development Board.

Send to: Bush Poetry Competition,  
C/- Towns Coordinator,  
PO Box 18,  
Mallala SA, 5502

For further details contact:  
Ms C Cordon—08 85272006  
carolyn@mallala.sa.gov.au

## Dates to remember

NSW State Championships  
October 16-17

Walla Walla Heritage Festival  
November 14

Umina Folk Festival  
October 24

ABL AWARDS  
Closig Date October 15

Young Cherry Festival  
December 4 -5

It wasn't size: it wasn't smoke:  
That whistle was my curse,  
And if my Mum was not nearby  
That shrieking sounded worse.

It hurt my ears, and filled my head  
With terror so complete;  
I knew that whistle had to blow  
And it knocked me off my feet.

No one would understand me;  
They thought that I was strange,  
But now that I am all grown up  
It is something to explain.

It was not fear of things called trains  
But discomfort from the sound,  
So! Parents, cover your child's ears  
When their steam train comes to town.

## NAKED POETS BRAWL \$\$\$\$\$\$ 1,000.00 WINNER TAKE ALL

At 11.30 am on Wednesday 19th January 2005 The Naked Poets Show at the Tamworth Golf Club will include a Poets Brawl. 12 contestants will be chosen to take part in the Poets Brawl and the winner will take away

\$1000.00 plus the coveted Naked Poet's Brawl Trophy.

TO ENTER entrants must write an original rhyming comedy poem lasting no longer than 1 minute in duration. The poem must not have been performed or published previously.

Send a copy of the poem to P.O. Box 999 Warwick Qld 4370 postmarked no later than 30th November 2004. (12 finalists advised by 31st December 2004) Entrants must be willing, if chosen as one of the 12 finalists, to attend the Tamworth Golf Club, Marney Street Tamworth at 11am on Wednesday 19th January 2005, to perform their poem. (Each finalist will be given two free tickets to attend the concert)

Each of the 12 Poems selected for the Poets Brawl must be performed by the author. Poems may be read

out, but entrants should be made aware that the 'entertainment value' of their performance will be taken into account.

Winner is chosen by a selection of judges who are easily influenced by Audience reaction. Several may be selected to perform a second time and if so are encouraged to have a second 1 minute poem (original and not previously performed or published) up their sleeve.

Entry fee is \$10.00 per author. Maximum of 2 entries per author. Author retains copyright.

Entries should be typed or written in legible script.

Please supply a cover note with name, address, contact numbers, titles of entries etc., and place in a sealed envelope. Place that sealed envelope together with the titled poem and \$10.00 entry fee in another envelope and post to Saddlesaw Productions P.O. Box 999 Warwick Queensland 4370. Entrants name must not be shown on the actual poem. 0746614024 or email gliori@in.com.au.)

## AROUND THE KYABRAM CAMPFIRE

The Annual "Around the Campfire" was held at the Kyabram Club on Thursday 16th Sept at 7.30pm.

It was once again a great night. Numbers were down on last year, but the audience were treated to a feast of top poetry and some great yarns.

The Kyabram Lions Club manned the doors and provided supper etc.

Les Parkinson, our club president, was the compere and kept things moving along with his true tales.

Winners of the night were-

Best Poet - Grahame Watt from

Kyabram

Best Yarnspinner - Alex Allitt from Deniliquin NSW

Alex's name will be added to the Johnny Johanson memorial yarnspinning trophy.

The "Skew Wiff" Award was won by Col Carrington of Bendigo (Col also won the raffle).

The winner of our recent Primary School Reciting competition, Bonnie Findlay of Merrigum also performed on the night, and did a terrific job.

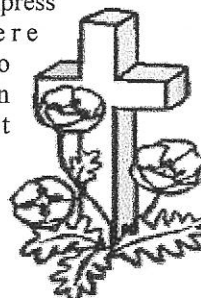
Once again a great night was had by all. Congratulations to all concerned.

"Skew Wiff"

## SINCERE CONDOLENCES

The executive and members of the Australian Bush Poets Association would like to express their sincere condolences to Carol Heuchan on her recent bereavement.

God bless you Carol, there's always someone thinking of you.



## NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL.

### \$1500 for BUSH POETS.

Sponsored by The National Cherry Festival Committee and Young Stock, Station and Real Estate Agents.

On Saturday December 4th. an Open Bush Poetry competition will be conducted at the Young Golf Club at 8.00pm.

There will be two divisions - 1. Original poem performed by the author. 2. Poem by performer of any choice.

Competitors may enter both divisions for no entry fee.

Prize money for each division is \$400, \$150, \$100 and 2 x \$50 going to the adjudicated best five in each division - judges taking into consideration merit for material chosen and performance.

The prize winners are expected to perform at the breakfast on Sunday 5th. December.

Entries may be made by phoning Greg Broderick on 63 82 38 83 during working hours.

Entries close on 26th. November. A \$10 entry fee will apply.

Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.visityoung.com.au](http://www.visityoung.com.au).

A \$100 Encouragement Award will be given at the Poets Breakfast, 8.30 am for 9.00am.

Compere for both events is Frank Daniel.





# STUMPY REVIEW

The inaugural S.A. Stumpy Awards held on Saturday 7th August will long be remembered by those present for many things. The river site was inspiring. We gambled on the weather ... well, it's a fact that Murray Bridge has more hours of sunshine per annum than the Sunshine Coast ... and we were rewarded. The open air Poets' Breakfast on the lawns at Sturt Reserve featured flipping fish, dancing on the surface of a ripple free Murrundi, slowly sliding past us on the last leg of its epic journey to the southern ocean. The poets, were also briefly upstaged on several occasions by a large gang of black coots dashing back and forth between river bank and rowing shed in a loopy and mindless game of follow the leader. Who cares? It was a magical and priceless backdrop.

The supporting acts were superb. Local acapella group 'Finely Tuned' sang their hearts out. Herman Striegnitz from 'Top Ant' showed us why he is widely regarded as Australia's best didgeridoo player. If there is a serious contender somewhere out there for his title, I'd crawl a kilometre over broken glass to hear him/her! Local duo of Wayne Montjean (on didj) and Damian Jolly (narrator) had kids of all ages spellbound with their exciting presentation of a kangaroo hunt. And the nineteenth century Australian one-act play 'The Woman Tamer' was milked out to perfection by the cast from Bridge Players.

The atmosphere was supportive, friendly, non-threatening. And since most of the presenting poets among were (still are) amateurs, this was very reassuring. Locals from the Edwards Crossing Creative Writing Group were asked to help present about a dozen of the

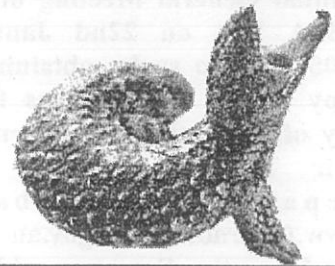
best written Stumpy entries during the two concerts, and they rose to the task. The winning and runner-up under 8 and under 12 children fronted with their families and read their poems with confidence and conviction. One man drove up to the 10am concert from the South Coast after hearing an interview on air at 6.30am, then shot home to Caloote and back to the Stumpy venue during our lunch break (another round journey of about 60km) in order to get a printout of a short discourse on verandahs, which he then presented as an additional, unexpected gem during the 2pm afternoon concert!

They say the hallmark of a successful performance bush poet is his/her ability to look you in the eye while telling you outrageous porkies or, at the very least, extravagant embellishments (Canberra must be full of them). That may be so. But then, I'm not much of a performer. And if you think my observations and praises for the inaugural Stumpy Awards may be parochially-skewed and glassy-eyed, perhaps you'd like to get a second opinion from Carol Reffold, who came to us from

Melbourne to help make the event a ripper. But then, she IS an accomplished performer!

In 2005 our event will run for two days (Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August). We're planning to include a bush band competition and prose categories in the literary awards. Pencil the weekend into your calendars now!

*Max Merckenschlager*



## Binna Burra Bush Poetry Weekend

### Open Performance Competition

5 - 7 November 2004

Entry forms now available

Entry Fee \$10pp

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$250 + 1 night

Accommodation at Binna Burra  
Mountain Lodge

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$100.00 + Lunch at Binna  
Burra's Clifftop Dining room.

**\* \* Entries will be limited \* \***

Entry forms available from  
Binna Burra Mountain Lodge by  
calling **1800 074 260**

The website -

[www.binnaburrallodge.com.au](http://www.binnaburrallodge.com.au)

Geoff Sharp by calling  
(07) 55 333 565

For more information Contact:  
Binna Burra Mountain Lodge  
**1800 074 260** or  
[res@binnaburrallodge.com.au](mailto:res@binnaburrallodge.com.au)



**Binna  
Burra  
Mountain Lodge**  
Lamington National Park  
Gold Coast Hinterland

## VICTORIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

Will be held on March 12th and 13th  
in the Benalla Bowling Club.

The Club is very enthusiastic about  
the event and is able to provide an  
excellent venue along with  
"inexpensive meals".

This event will mark the beginning  
of the Benalla Rose Festival with the  
Festival Committee keen to make  
everyone welcome and offering  
plenty of support. For further  
information, contact President of The  
Snowy Mountains Bush Poetry Club  
Reg Phillips on 02 60402508  
or email: [poetreg@dodo.com.au](mailto:poetreg@dodo.com.au) or  
club Secretary, Sue Gleeson on  
02 60406436 or  
email [smbc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smbc@optusnet.com.au)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the suggestion of a member, advice was sought regarding the adoption of the New South Wales Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.

Members wishing to familiarise themselves with the Model Rules to be ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the ABPA Inc. on 22nd January 2005 may do so by obtaining a copy of the Model Rules from any office of the Department of Fair Trading or from the Department's website [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au) or from the Secretary, ABPA

Inc, Mr. Edward Parmenter at 1 Avenue Street Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

An amendment to be included in the model rules was previously submitted to members, approved and accepted by the Department of Fair Trading and read as follows;

*"General meetings of the association may be held to coincide with known large gatherings of poets, or as determined by the previous general meeting, providing that all members present are advised, and*

*it is not necessary for the secretary to advise absent members'.*

Notification was received from the office of Fair Trading (Department of Commerce) that the proposed alteration to the constitution as moved at the 2004 AGM has been approved, and that all documentation has been accepted for registration and the amendment now forms part of the Associations records effective from 17<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

Notice to this effect was included in the ABPA Newsletter in April 2004.

### **Matters for Consideration by the Board of directors and members of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.**

Since the Annual General Meeting of the ABPA in January 2004, certain special resolutions regarding the conduct of the association have arisen requiring further consideration at a special general meeting before final acceptance and adoption.

#### **Allocation of State and National Championships.**

##### **State executive representation through sub-committees**

1. Further Consideration to the allocation of State Championships should be given. The ABPA Executive, through distance and sheer lack of local knowledge, is not always in a position to determine at an AGM the suitability of an association or a committee applying to hold the championships. Such matters should be left to the States. Victoria successfully adopted this method two years ago.

2. State matters should be made the consideration of each state, via a State Representative appointed annually by an ABPA Inc. sub-committee within the given state, automatically becoming an executive officer of the ABPA Inc.

State matters could then be discussed at any or all of the various bush poetry gatherings within the given state and not have to be held over to an AGM of the ABPA.

Minutes of such meetings should be forwarded to the Secretary of the ABPA Inc.

(According to the model rules a sub-committee may meet and adjourn as the sub committee thinks fit) i.e. there are no restrictions such as those applying to the A.B.P.A. which is required to hold a minimum of three meetings per year.

### **Agenda items for consideration at the AGM in 2005 include;**

1. The two year option for holding of State and National Championships.
2. Acceptance of proposals other than at an AGM.

1. Consideration should be given to the two-year option made available in the rules for State and National Titles.

It is felt that a two-year option extends the allocation of titles events too far into the future, becomes lost in time, and does not maintain the national enthusiasm required.

2. Acceptance of proposals other than at an AGM. This has become necessary in light of the fact that all decisions are made once a year and changes found to be necessary are quite often deferred for a further twelve months. (example: the new rules).



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In accordance with rule 15 for incorporated Associations, nominations are requested for the election of Office Bearers of the Association, and ordinary members of the committee. As discussed at the last A.G.M. a representative from each state body is required.

(a) Nominations must be in writing, signed by two members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

(b) Must be delivered to the Secretary of the Association at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.

(c) Nomination and proxy forms are available on request.

The next Annual General Meeting of the ABPA will be held at St. Edwards Hall Tamworth on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005 at 2pm

### VOTING SLIP.

(One vote per membership)

Please copy and post  
(Hand-written will suffice)

Secretary,  
Edward Parmenter  
1 Avenue Street,  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW. 2450



### PROPOSED SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS:

The following proposed resolutions were left open at the 2003 AGM and have not since been voted on.

1 Where possible the ABPA committee should include representatives from each of the States and Territories in addition to the executive.

Yes ( ) No ( )

2 States and Territories to form sub-committees and elect a Representative to the ABPA Inc. national body and to determine and allocate State Titles, and submit applications to the ABPA for National Titles.

Yes ( ) No ( )

Members Name.....Signature.....

### PERFORMERS PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Falls due 4pm January 2nd.

(Note. There is no carry-over provision for late payments. Once the deadline falls the insurance lapses until such time as renewals are paid. Payment must be made on time)

Premium \$70.00 Payable to the

SECRETARY ABPA Inc.

1 Avenue Street

COFFS HARBOUR NSW. 2450

Phone. 02 6652 3716

**Reminder that the  
Australian Bush Poets'  
Association AGM will be  
held at Tamworth in St  
Edwards Hall, Hillvue St.  
Tamworth on Saturday  
22<sup>nd</sup> . January 2005**

### ABPA PRODUCT

With time ever flying readers are bound to have Christmas sneak up on them before they know it, and a timely reminder might be in hand to let everyone know that the ABPA has quite a few of the ABPA Annuals still on hand that would make excellent gifts for the coming season.

These annuals may be purchased from the Secretary,

Ed Parmenter, 1 Avenue St Coffs Harbour 2450 at the rate of any five for ten dollars. The first three books are sold out, but numbers four to ten are on hand.

The ABPA Badges also make a tidy gift at \$5 posted and can be obtained through the Secretary as well.

They are attractive as hat or lapel pins, they are made of copper, are the size of a penny and look like a penny.

## Passing on of comments regarding Michael Darby's posting in the ABPA Inc Newsletter.

I write in reply to Michael Darby's article "Poets Be Warned" in the August - September edition.

I am not a member of any Alliance group, so my opinion will probably not be as highly regarded as Mr Darby's. However, I am one of those poets who have been approached by The International Library of Poetry.

On my coffee table I have not one, but six, poetry books issued by this group, and I am currently engaged in writing a poem for the seventh. I am very proud to be represented in each of them, and do not consider them to be "scrappy, unformatted..." as Mr Darby describes them. All of these books are properly registered with ISBN and Cataloguing in Publication. My poetry is also published on the web, at no cost to me.

I am also the proud owner of a trophy bowl, a medallion and CD's containing my work, all presented by this International Society. Of course it is a moneymaking concern - who in this world sets up a business without the object of making a profit?

I will continue to be "conned" as long as I can afford to be, and I will attend a future symposium - if I can find an Australian publisher for my work.

*Yours in writing, JANINE*

I have held this over for a few days expecting further comment. So far nothing.

Following Janine's letter further below are some responses to the Australian Bush Poetry (ABPA) Website [www.bushpoetry.com.au](http://www.bushpoetry.com.au) or via the direct link—

<http://www.bushpoetry.com.au/Forum/viewtopic.php?t=273>

The only Poetry Competition other than those recognized in Australia that I have shown an interest was an American one offering \$10,000 prize-money.

It has been about for a number of years.

The promo for this competition mentioned one of its successful writers as a gentleman living in Wairounga NSW.

I checked his surname in the white pages of the Web to find that his surname was the only one listed for that suburb.

His wife answered my call. (She was recently retired and about twenty years younger than he).

She informed me that her aged husband had been 'conned' (her words) for some years, continually subscribing to the competition which has always cost him money.

He had never won a prize, she claims his work is terrible, the organizers continue to publish his writing and he thinks it's marvelous.

She has never seen another copy of the book, doesn't think it is available in shops, doesn't think it would sell if it was.

Her opinion is that the publication is of very poor quality with lots of ultra thin pages and lots of very ordinary poetry. She has tried to talk her husband out of subscribing but to no avail. Her closing comment was that he was an old man, could afford what he was doing and that it keeps him happy seeing his name in print.

I know of two prominent ABPA members who have been 'sucked in' as they put it, who have spent around \$150 having their work published for no benefit at all.

In the following letter I don't know of 'The International Library of Poetry' mentioned by Janine and I don't know if she is talking about the same book as above.

She doesn't say whether it was part of a competition offering prize-money or not.

Thank you for your letter Janine, perhaps you might consider posting some of your work in the ABPA newsletter. We are always looking for something new.

*Yours sincerely,  
Frank Daniel.*

Thanks Frank - I am happy to be a "sucker" - it is very rewarding seeing my work in print - even if it does cost me (and I am not a wealthy woman, merely a retired pensioner who enjoys writing). The International Library of Poetry produces the books, and I find them very attractive. To the best of my knowledge, prize money has been offered on each occasion I have been contacted.

*Regards, JANINE*

I am concerned at the number of people who are being conned by scams such as the one reported on below. Each year in the Australian Bush Laureate Awards we have to return a small number of entries which have been involved in such anthologies.

I hope that you are able to help spread the word and advise poets to be very careful not to get conned out of their hard earned dollars.

*Regards Leanie*

Thank you Frank, and your verse on the subject, while not your best work, would certainly be judged as wonderful by Steve Michaels' computer program. I'm pleased for Janine Henkel and wish her well.

*All the best, Michael*

Thanks Michael. Just a note, the verse was not mine. Someone calling himself Croc wrote that one.

*All the best, Frank*



From 'Croc'

### The Scams They Pull

I've been sent an Email ... "Is your work up for sale,  
Won't you come to old Philly for a couple of days?  
We'll print it in languages many---and brail,  
You'll be up with the leaders and your fame couldn't fail;  
We hope you'll enjoy meeting our Uncle Sam,  
So please don't delete this, it's certainly not spam;  
And we'll put all your work into stage shows and plays.

For a covering fee of a few dollars more  
We'll put down your skill in a gold bound anthology.  
You can have your work sold in the shop, and drug store,  
And we guarantee you'll be in the elite corps  
Of the privileged few with a skill such as yours.  
This golden chance could just open the doors  
To the world for your verse and religious doxology.

Young Sammy Farnsbarnes is here by invite  
Of the I.S.P.S.C. & S...USA.  
All her work is original...nothing is trite,  
When informed of this chance she was on the first flight  
With her mom and her dad, and the wee baby lad;  
Now please don't go thinking the youngster's been 'had' ...  
Or to some rotten scam has the young'un fell prey.

It's a chance in a lifetime, croc, I tell you  
That your skill and your wit will be sold to the world.  
For the small amount sent, then a fortune you'll accrue  
From this genuine Email, you'll make your debut  
On the lovers of such that you write...and then 'bin';  
We'll bring out your light that burns bright from within,  
Fo' a few Yankee bucks boy, yer banners unfurled."

And the whole thing is crap and they're all on the make;  
The cash that they rake from the gullible few.  
Heed the warning from Frank ...simply just don't partake,  
To part with your cash is your first bad mistake.  
Hang on to your moolah, its worth more by far  
To you; don't give it to the big fat galah  
That's pulled your name out of the ethereal stew.

Scammers have found a ready target in poetry writers who are eager to have their work published. Although there are many sites involved in this scam, the opening move is the same for each. You'll receive an email inviting you to submit your poetry for free to their contest. Soon after, you'll receive a second email praising your poem and letting you know that it's going to be published in a beautifully crafted anthology.

You can buy this anthology for 'only' \$50 (or somewhere in that range). But wait -- there's more! Maybe you'd like to have a short biography inserted with your poem -- that'll be \$25. Or join the prestigious society of poets that has sponsored the competition -- only \$125 a year.

Perhaps your poem is the best they've ever read and you're now in the running for 'Poet of the Year.' It's only \$495 (plus travel expenses) to attend the gala

### From Ross Magnay.

Yes, not only did I get sucked in a few years ago, (someone gave me an article in print along the same lines as the emails.) but now I receive a continual flow of letters, invitations etc as you pointed out, all crap and all designed to separate you from your loot!

*Regards, Ross Magnay.*

### From Brian L.

I know the feeling, I too got sucked in a few years back and have ended up with a very expensive "coffee table book" which no one has ever looked at. Not only that but my masterpiece originally had a typo that slipped past me - it also slipped past two "rigorous reviews" by the editing team.

I too am still (several years later) getting stuff in the mail

Ah well, we live and learn. It's far from the most expensive mistake I've made in my life, It wasn't the first mistake and it probably won't be the last but hopefully the warning will alert others to the scam.

*Cheers from Brian L*

event in Washington, DC (or somewhere equally impressive) where the lucky winner will be chosen.

Strangely enough, one of the best ways to pick out the scams from the legitimate contests is that the scams are usually free to enter.

Real poetry contests often have entry fees ranging from \$15-\$40 to cover the costs of judging, administration, and prizes.

Other things to investigate when evaluating an online poetry contest are:

Who is the sponsoring organisation?

Is the name of the publishing house, magazine or academic institution sponsoring the contest one that you can verify either through online or traditional resources (i.e. Phone book) or is it a post office box with no physical address attached to it?

Who were last year's winners?

If the contest is an annual one, ask for information about last year's winners. You should be able to look at winning entries from previous contests and perhaps even contact winners.

If the work is mediocre or information is not forthcoming, this can be a sign of a scam. Of course, this only works for recurring contests.

What are the contest rules? Rules should be clear and concise with information about how to submit your poem, entry fees, deadlines, prizes, what your rights are, and how judging will occur.

Action: Don't let the excitement about having your poetry published or winning a bogus contest overrule your better judgment.

## BANJO PATERSON Writing Awards 2004

The annual Banjo Paterson Writing Awards 2004 were incorporated as part of the Banjo Paterson Festival held each year in Orange NSW. Sponsored by the ABC, Central West Writers Centre and Orange Library the awards were presented on the 16-18/6/04.

One of Australia's most prestigious literary competitions the awards are specifically designed to reward excellence in writing over many genre's. This years winners included.

Bush Poetry: 1st: Graeme Johnson (\$500)

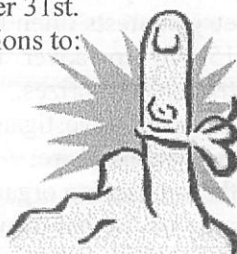
Open Prose: 1st: Barry Divola  
2nd: Mairi Contos  
3rd: Ian Hood

Open Poetry: 1st: Judy Johnson  
2nd: Margaret Bradstock  
3rd: Lime Diamond

## Don't Forget Annual Membership

Falls due on December 31st.  
Please send subscriptions to:

ABPA Treasurer  
Marie Smith  
PO Box 403  
Dorrigo NSW 2453



Keep in touch with poets across Australia and around the world.

Log onto **www.bushpoetry.com.au**  
the site maintained by Frank Daniel and his team to keep Bush Poets informed, in tune and in touch.



There is opportunity to express your views, share your poetry and keep informed of up-coming events.

## BEATIN' ROUND THE BUSH

At the time of going to press, the inaugural 'Beatin' 'round the bush' Festival at Euabalong in Central Western New South Wales had not been held.

However, the results of the Written Competition were in hand and presented by the diligent Bush Poetry organizer Mrs. Patty Bartholomew immediately the place-getters were announced.

Winner was David Campbell of Beaumaris Victoria who took out the award with his 'Shadow Boxing'.

Runner-up was Des Bennett of Morwell Vic with 'A Blokes Shed' and Carol Heuchan of Kooranbong NSW was third with Dunedoo

### SHADOW BOXING

© David Campbell — Beaumaris Vic. 2004

My fingers bunch the blanket and then with trembling hand  
I trace a ragged gully, a dune of wind-swept sand,  
a patch of grey-green saltbush, a lonely paperbark...  
as pale dawn light comes stealing to take away the dark.  
A kangaroo stands silent, black shadow in the light,  
and I have lived another long, sad and lonely night.

Her voice comes from a distance, she's at the open door:  
"It's bed-bath time," she chuckles. "Let's give those germs what for!"  
She's killing me with kindness, and neatly pins my heart  
with calm, efficient purpose to ink stains on a chart.  
My gully, dune and saltbush are quickly swept aside,  
along with all my dreaming...my life, my hope, my pride.

"And how are we this morning? Let's clean that dirt away!  
I hope we're bright and happy on such a sunny day!"  
I form the sun and feel it, so strong upon my back,  
and there, down in the gully, I stumble on the track...  
struck down by heat and hunger, the fever in my bones,  
to dream of ice-cold water that scours the river stones.

She takes a cut-throat razor, scrapes stubble from my chin,  
and tiny streams of water invade my ravaged skin.  
A thunderhead is forming way out there on the range,  
the air is thick and steaming...the calm before the change.  
Great rolling clouds of blackness hurl jagged shards of light,  
and I can only wonder at nature's awesome might.

The pregnant drops, so heavy, fall hard upon the earth  
to herald the beginning, an inland sea's harsh birth.  
The rain becomes a torrent, the ground begins to shake...  
a stream becomes a river, and then a surging lake  
that swallows up the Thomson, engulfs the dry Barcoo,  
to Windorah and Jundah, the Paroo and Bulloo.

But still her hands fuss gently, the pillow is "just so",  
she gives my legs a massage and that is when I go  
out riding to the Cooper to hear the ravens cry,  
black shadows slowly wheeling against an eggshell sky.  
The water pulses southward and drowns the coolibahs,  
to irrigate the heartland and smother nature's scars.  
"Your pressure's up, you scoundrel! Now what's the cause of that?"



Have you been scoffing chockies? They'll only make you fat!"  
But out there through the window the Warburton's in flood,  
where ducks and swans are hunting for brine shrimp in the mud.  
The yellowbelly's biting, I reel in all I need  
as pelicans ride thermals to find a place to breed.

"Oh, aren't we just so handsome? You scrub up pretty well.  
Now all you need's a haircut...the girls will give you hell!"  
I see my red-haired Jenny, her voice so sweet and low,  
to tell me of tomorrow with words of long ago...  
until she met a farmer and married him one day  
while I was droving cattle up Borroloola way.

Rice custard's on for breakfast...she tries to force it down,  
and meets my firm resistance with yet another frown.  
"Now, now! let's not be naughty! You show some gratitude.  
We've got to keep your strength up...and this is healthy food!"  
But there is Jimmy Sharman, fair shouting from the tent:  
"You get this steak inside you before the next event!"

I badly need the money, and, slit-eyed in the smoke,  
I slowly strap the gloves on and watch the other bloke...  
a short and wiry ringer who's been this way before,  
so this one won't be easy...it might take three or four.  
I hear the punters shouting, but all becomes a blur  
of blinding pain and fury...and memories of her.

Then in a careless moment I slip and drop my guard,  
his fist is there like lightning...and down I go real hard.  
My face all numb and bloody, I do my best to sit,  
but somehow nothing's working...I lift my head and spit.  
The voice comes out of nowhere: "Oh really! What a waste!  
You only had to tell me you didn't like the taste!"

She slams the door behind her and I am left once more,  
just broken, shattered flotsam on some far distant shore.  
The water has receded, the pulse of life has fled,  
to leave a barren landscape...a chair, a desk, a bed.  
Half-buried in the salt-crust, still reaching for the sky,  
I pluck the faded blanket...and live in days gone by.

## AUSTRALIAN BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS

**Closing Date — Friday, October 15, 2004**

Nominations are now open for the prestigious Australian Bush Laureate Awards to be staged again as part of the January 2005 Tamworth Country Music Festival.. Closing date for nominations, open to verse recorded and published between 1st October 2003 and 30th September, 2004, will be Friday, October 15.



### Five Categories

- Book of the Year
- Book of the Year, Original Verse
- Album of the Year
- Single Recorded Performance of the Year
- Judith Hosier Heritage Award

Nomination forms and further details are available from  
Australian Bush Laureate Awards, PO Box 135, Tamworth, 2340,  
Or phoning Leanie Renton on 02 6766 1050 / 0427 653 422  
or by email [leanie@iinet.net.au](mailto:leanie@iinet.net.au)

## 2004 New South Wales STATE BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS PERFORMANCE & WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October Narrandera Race Club

Entry forms SSAE  
Narrandera Visitor's Centre.  
PO Box 89 Narrandera NSW 2700  
Enquiries:  
Phone. 02 6959 1766  
Fax. 02 3959 2788  
email:  
[tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourist.centre@narrandera.nsw.gov.au)

(Conducted under the auspices of the  
Australian Bush Poets Assoc. Inc.)

## Blackened Billy TAMWORTH 2005

Entry forms for the 2005 Blackened Billy Verse Competition to be announced at the Imperial Hotel during the Tamworth Country Music Festival are now available. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to

Jan Morris,  
PO Box W1  
West Tamworth 2340  
or email  
[janmorris@northnet.com.au](mailto:janmorris@northnet.com.au).

Entry fees  
remain at \$5 per poem, or \$10 for 3 poems.

Entry forms for the CountryEnergy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition will be available at the end of October. They are not available electronically, so please send a SSAE to PO Box W1 West Tamworth 2340.

*Jan Morris*

## From Around the World

In the August issue of the American National Geographic an article was presented on AB 'Banjo' Paterson and Bush Poetry. Journalists interviewed Frank Daniel over the telephone for further information, and .....

On 16th September Frank received the following letter from Patrick P McCarthy of 'Ashdoonan', 32 Silchester Road, Glenageary, County Dublin. Ireland.

The letter was addressed to Frank Daniel, President, Australian Bush Poets Association, Corryong, Victoria, Australia and was dated 21st August 2004. Thanks to Jan Lewis of Corryong for redirecting the letter to Frank at Canowindra, NSW.

Dear Sir,

Ref: Banjo Paterson National Geographic  
August 2004

Write your own poetry!

I am 82 years – my first introduction to Banjo was when I learned Waltzing Matilda and afterwards the sad version dealing with the massacre of the young Australian soldier at the Dardenells in the 1914 war. My next introduction, or rather my next exposure to him was when one of my six sons did a Walk-About in Australia and sent one of his sisters, a daughter of mine, a copy of the 'Animals Noah Forgot'.

As well as the Coffin ships to America, many of the best Irish men had to take the convict ship to Wild Australia. Enclosed is the history of nine famous Irish men who were transported to Australia.

My effort is not Bush Poetry, but I hope it will be accepted as a poem about brave Irish men who were sent to the Wild Australia.

*Yours Sincerely,  
Patrick P McCarthy.*

## Nine Famous Irishmen transported to Australia in 1849

© Paddy P McCarthy

In 1849 convicted for High Treason  
Nine young men of Ireland  
Rebelled against the Crown  
The Judge before passing sentence  
Asked if anyone had a thing to say.  
Thomas Francis Meagher for the others  
said "I speak for all to day".

Be easy on us, my Lord,  
We speak to you as one  
You have our word as gentlemen  
In future times to come,  
We will try to do much better  
We'll ne'er again be fools  
We'll ne'er again adorn this box  
We'll be wise as owls  
And cunning as the fox.

The judge he passed the sentence,  
The Black Cap on his head.  
All nine to mount the gallows,  
And hanged by the neck till dead;  
Their torsos drawn and quartered;  
Then buried in a grave unknown,  
And quick-lime to be added  
To rid all trace of bone.

The outcry from the world at large  
Forced Queen Victoria to commute the charge  
To transportation to Wild Australia  
Never to return to old Ireland for life,  
And never again cause strife.  
1874 Word reached the dumbfounded Queen,  
Charles Duff of Australia  
Was now the Minister Supreme, (Prime Minister)  
Twenty five years before being knighted  
Charles was condemned to die  
And now that he was Sir Charles the limit was the sky

The Queen requested the records of the others to be seen

The search revealed the achievements of these convicted nine.

- SIT Charles Duffy elected Prime Minister of Australia
- Thomas Francis Meagher, Governor of Montana
- Therance McManus, Brigadier General, United States Army
- Richard O'Gorman, Governor of

Newfoundland

- Patrick Donoghue, Brigadier General, United States Army
- Morris Lyene, Attorney General of Australia, in which office Michael Ireland succeeded him
- Thomas Darcy McGee, Member of Parliament Montreal, Minister of Agriculture and President of Council Dominion of Canada
- John Mitchell, Prominent New

York politician, author of the Jail Journal. This man was the father of John Purroy Mitchell, Mayor of New York at the outbreak of World War I

Queen Victoria being speechless had this to say "These were the men thought unfit to govern themselves that day".

*Paddy P McCarthy*

## SA Stumpy Awards Written Competition

There were 71 Open written entries in this inaugural year's SA Stumpy Awards, including some finely-crafted works.

Max Merckenschlager, co-ordinator and judge for the written event said "The final six were all very enjoyable and memorable poems. The wordsmith skills displayed in "Carlton Clydesdales" (Ellis Campbell) and "Public Phone Boxer" (Ron Stevens) are outstanding. I recommend the published works of their authors (both from Dubbo NSW) to anyone aspiring to improve his or her own writing. The poem "A Bloke's Shed" (Des Bennett, Morwell VIC) describes a familiar subject with humour and flair. The storylines of "Second Chance" (David Campbell, Beaumaris VIC) and "Picnic With Dinny" (Patricia Russell) made them obvious candidates for the shortlist."

### Spirit Animal

© Jacquelyn Cleary — 2004 Stumpy Written Winner

I cleared my space on tree-littered ground  
And lay by the river's side  
A hunting bird made its lonely sound  
Far over the water wide  
As the silent stream slid darkly by  
I lay in exhausted sleep  
And stars tracked paths in a moonless sky  
Far over the water deep

Boldly you came on twig-snapping feet  
Where only night eyes could see  
Crushing the leaves from summer's crisp heat  
Laying thick beneath the tree  
Sleep-splitting noises that tugged me back,  
Sharp crunches of fallen bark  
Ploughing your path with tinder-dry crack  
You shattered the silent dark

Drawn from my sleep and slowly aware  
Of noises nearing my bed  
I turned on my torch to find you there  
One step away from my head  
Snatched from the dark by this sudden light  
Both of us instantly froze  
Startled to meet in the dead of night  
Eye to eye and nose to nose

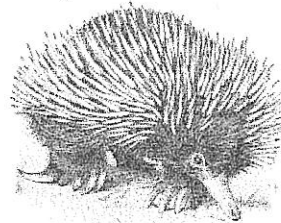
Such a huge din for so small a size  
I found it hard to believe  
Then skewed the light away from your eyes  
To give you your chance to leave  
I scarcely breathed for fear you would flee  
But you showed no sign of fright  
A shy, bush creature, alone with me  
In the still, hushed heart of night

An army of quills stood, stout and strong  
Bristling close round one small space  
There your snout protruded, thin and long  
From a gentle, fur-fringed face  
Two button-hole nostrils, side by side  
Pushed forward to scout the air  
And tiny round eyes, watchful and wide  
Stared blindly into the glare

Seeming uncertain what you should do  
You moved to curl in a ball  
Then checked the instinct as if you knew  
You needed no prickly wall  
Yet twice confusion forced you to act  
Bending to roll up once more  
Stopping again as some silent pact  
Bound us in wondering awe

And could I likewise choose to dispense  
With my reaction to fear?  
Shedding the unseen, prickly defence  
Which shields when critics appear  
For I saw me in your wary ways  
Perhaps that's why we had met  
Watching you finally dare to gaze  
Directly into the threat

And so we communed, spirits spellbound  
Two kindred lives face to face  
'Til, raising your body, you looked round  
Lifting one paw from its place  
As if saying, "Now, look at its strength  
This foot, so furry and stout  
With its claws of such thickness and length  
Made to dig termite nests out."



"I admire it, Echidna, small friend"  
My speaking breaking the spell  
"But it's late and your visit must end  
So I shall bid you farewell."  
Then you left, with hindquarters asway  
As I returned to my rest  
But I watched as you waddled away  
Feeling elated and blessed

Oh marvellous magic, that meeting  
How strange, when the earth stood still  
So stunned, I could offer no greeting  
Transfixed by the wondrous thrill  
Mysterious tryst we were keeping  
Under that glittering sky  
When the daylight creatures were sleeping  
And an unknown time passed by.



## CALENDAR of BUSH POETRY EVENTS REGULAR EVENTS

Thank you to those readers who actually missed the Regular Events Calendar from the August issue.

The reason for its removal was simply due to the lack of space and other more pressing articles had to be posted.

Naturally we understand that these dates are important for travellers who might like to visit some of the poetry groups listed whilst on their holidays, or to share their own poetry.

A new list has been drawn up. Margaret Parmenter contacted all the advertised Regular Poetry

Groups and has updated their contact and function details.

A new Poets Calendar of Events, indicating approximate dates for functions, festivals and competitions throughout the year will also be supplied. Dates in this list will be approximate only, with updates appearing in the newsletter closer to the correct date.

These lists will be posted separately in the newsletters. Please advise of any changes necessary as soon as possible.

The completed list will be supplied in the December issue and again in the June issue.

Members will be able to keep their copies separately from their newsletters in car glove-boxes,

wallets etc. to be more readily available. They can be photocopied for friends and prospective new members.

The ABPA Inc Home Page <http://www.bushpoetry.com.au> on the Internet has undergone a recent overhaul and now includes the Bush Poets Calendars for easy access and faster updating. (<http://www.bushpoetry.com.au/Calendar.aspx>)

The web-calendar will be updated as regularly as required.

Should your event not be listed or is listed incorrectly please advise Frank Daniel at

[bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au](mailto:bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au)

Ph. 02 63441477

Fax 02 6344 1962

This morning I lay down to have a rest and realized that I had not yet played Milton Taylor's CD "Down Memory Lane". As our CD player is in the bedroom I put it on and was delighted I had. I bounded out of bed and this poem is the result.

*Jill Perren, September 8 2004 am*

### A Better Point Of View (A Tribute To Milton Taylor)

I was home alone and lonely  
As I very often am  
When I put on a new CD  
From a really lovely man.

And I found I shouldn't worry  
Like a little lonely kid –  
But grateful – like I should be  
For the good things that I did.

Yes, I know I'm not a failure  
Though I sometimes think I am.  
I've taught numerous small children  
Since my teaching days began.

And out there – in the big world  
They are coping really well  
As they carry on the lessons  
That I taught before the bell!

Oh – thanks to this kind poet  
And the thoughts he's written down.  
I'll arise now, undefeated  
Tidy up – and stop the frown

And be grateful that this po'try game  
Has featured friends like you.  
And given this old-fashioned kid  
A better point of view.

## DORRIGO'S FRIENDLY FESTIVAL

Sydney may have held the 'Friendship Games' in 2000 but Dorrigo Bush Poets certainly held the Friendship Festival for 2004. The Bush Poets Roundup took a giant leap up the ladder of success on September 24-26th.

A field of 18 talented poets lead by Gary Fogarty from Millmerran, Qld., charged in to give their best at the four venues over the three days including Ted and Marg Parmenter's exceptionally successful breakfast at the Plateau Cafe.

All venues were packed to capacity with audiences thrilled with the professionalism and talent of this assembly of poets. They carried their audiences through the full spectrum of emotions but all was overwhelmed by a bubbling torrent of laughter and friendship. As usual the poets receiving the best response from the audience at the Roundup were rewarded with a bag of potatoes and pumpkin. Ed and Marg Parmenter, Max Taylor, Don Lloyd and David Lamb will enjoy eating this good

wholesome Dorrigo produce over the next couple of weeks.

At Sunday's breakfast session the following poets also took home some produce following their top performances. Bill Kearns, Ron Pike, Gabby Colquhoun and Cliff Schofield.

The Dorrigo Roundup has certainly become a focal point for Bush Poetry on the North Coast of NSW.

Watch this space for next years event.

*Murray Suckling.*

### ADVERTISING RATES

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 1/3 column  | \$10.00 |
| 2/3 column  | \$15.00 |
| Full column | \$20.00 |
| Half Page   | \$30.00 |
| Book Shelf  | \$10.00 |

Poets Calendar and Regular Events: Free. Limited to one line only.

Copy regarding festivals and events should be accompanied by a paid advertisement. Where possible all material should be emailed direct to the Editor mailto: [jarby@cqnet.com.au](mailto:jarby@cqnet.com.au)

**Please remit payment to the Secretary, ABPA,  
1 Avenue Street  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450**

## POET'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 2 - **GILGANDRA** COO-EE FESTIVAL Workshop and Readings Ph. (02) 6847 308  
 Oct. 2-3 **CANOWINDRA** \$2,000 Performance Comp. Ph. 02 6344 1477 bushpoet@bushpoetry.com.au  
 Oct. 2-3 **EUABALONG** BEATIN' 'round the BUSH' Julie (02) 689 6604 email: yenbo@westserv.net.au  
 Oct 4 Closing date **HAMPTON** Public School Written BP Comp  
 Oct 15 Closing Date **BUSH LAUREATE AWARDS** 02 6766 1050 or 0427 653 422 (page 13)  
 Oct 16-17 **NARRANDERA** – NSW State Championships – 1800 672 392 (page 13)  
 Oct 22 **UMINA BEACH** Folk Festival Ph 4325 7369 (page 18)  
 Oct 23-31 **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
 Nov 2 Closing date **LAND OF THE BEARDIES** Bush Poetry Written Competition—82 Glen Innes NSW 2370  
 Nov 13 **LUCINDALE** Great Southern Muster SA Championships Ph Di Jenke: 08 8769 6030  
 Nov 14 **GLEN INNES** Land of the Beardies Festival. Ph Nev 02-67322663 or nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com  
 Nov 14 **WALLA WALLA** Heritage Festival. Ph Erica Naderbaum (02) 60292119 den53@austarnet.com.au  
 Nov 26 Closing date for entries **YOUNG Cherry Fest.** Written competition (page 6)  
 Nov 27 **NORTH PINE** half yearly concert - Country Music Hall Nth Pine Country park \$10 - book on 38810986  
 Nov 30 **TAMWORTH** Closing date for entries of Blackened Billy Verse Competition (see page 13)  
 Dec 4 -5 **YOUNG** Cherry Festival \$1,000 competition. Ph. Greg Broderick. 02 6382 3883 ah 02 6382 2506 (p. 6)  
 Dec 4 - 5- **BRAIDWOOD** Drovers Reunion Phone 48475063  
 Jan 14 2005 Closing date **ADELAIDE PLAINS** Cup Fest Written Comp Ph Carolyn Cordon 08 85272006  
 Jan 19-22 **TAMWORTH** Country Energy Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition  
 Apr 2 **DUNEDOO.** Great Dunny Classic. 02 6375 1975

## **Results QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2004**

Held at North Pine 20th - 23rd August

### **CHAMPIONS**

Junior—**WILLIAM FELLOWES**, Pine Mountain Qld  
 Female—**LAREE CHAPMAN**, Bundaberg Qld  
 Male—**NOEL STALLARD**, Arana Hills Qld  
 Written—**LYNDEN BAXTER**, Monto Qld

### **2004 WRITTEN BUSH VERSE AWARDS OPEN**

1st—Lynden Baxter, Monto Qld  
 2nd—Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW  
 3rd—Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW  
 Highly Commended—Ron Stevens, Dubbo NSW  
 Commended—Don Adams, Paraparaumu N Z

### **JUNIOR**

No entries received in the 8 years and under category  
 9-12 Years 1st—Lucy Endicott, Ferny Hills Qld.  
 2nd—Alysha Eitel, Goovigen Qld.  
 3rd—Kasia Kurylowska, Salisbury Qld.

13-16 years 1st—Renee Eitel, Goovigen Qld.  
 2nd—Renee Eitel, Goovigen Qld.  
 3rd—Matt Kennelly, Kallangur Qld.

### **PERFORMANCE**

8 & under 1st—Scott Lewis, Raceview Qld  
 2nd—Laura Collins, Bargara Qld  
 3rd—Phoebe Trevaskis, Brighton Qld.  
 9-12 yrs 1st—Matthew Collins, Bargara,  
 2nd—Amy Collins, Bargara,  
 3rd—Sam Forsyth, Redbank Plains.

### **PERFORMANCE (cont...)**

13-16 yrs 1st—William Fellowes, Pine Mountain Qld.  
 2nd—Bethany Brown, Sadliers Crossing Qld.  
 3rd—Fletcher Thompson, Coalfalls Qld.  
 Novice 1st—Peter Jesser, Inglewood Qld.  
 2nd—Bethany Brown, Sadliers Crossing Qld.  
 3rd—Fletcher Thompson, Coalfalls Qld.

### **OPEN FEMALE**

Traditional 1st—Anita Reed, Holland Park Qld.  
 2nd—Jan Facey, Bargara Qld.  
 3rd—Laree Chapman, Bundaberg Qld.  
 Modern 1st—Laree Chapman, Bundaberg Qld.  
 2nd—Anita Reed, Holland Park Qld.  
 3rd—Pam Fox, Beaudesert Qld.  
 Original 1st—Laree Chapman, Bundaberg Qld.  
 2nd—Maxine Ireland, Tweed Heads NSW  
 3rd—Leanne Jeacocke, Thangool Qld.

### **OPEN MALE**

Traditional 1st—Ron Liekefett, Lawnton Qld.  
 2nd—Noel Stallard, Arana Hills Qld.  
 3rd—Dean Collins, Bargara Qld.  
 Modern 1st—Noel Stallard, Arana Hills Qld.  
 2nd—Paddy O'Brien, Murwillumbah NSW  
 3rd—Ron Liekefett, Lawnton Qld.  
 Original 1st—Dean Collins, Bargara Qld.  
 2nd—Dean Trevaskis, Grange Qld.  
 3rd—Noel Stallard, Arana Hills Qld.

## Gippsland AGM

The Gippsland Bush Poets recently held their AGM in the Rosedale Hotel. Results of the elections were:

President, Ross Noble

Vice President, Russell Heathcote

Secretary, Dennis Carstairs

Treasurer, John Britton

Committee Member, Margaret Adams

Things have been fairly quiet in Gippsland area in recent months, but their membership and

determination to keep alive the traditions of bush verse remain strong. Several of the members have been performing around the district, in Schools, Hospitals and Aged Care facilities. The support and appreciation of their work has always been fantastic.

The Gippsland Bush Poets will hold their inaugural 'Club Championships' in November this year. The Club has had medallions struck for the winners. The competition will comprise of performance (men, women & Juniors) and written sections. Entry

into the competition is free, but all entrants must be financial members of the Gippsland Bush Poets. Current Victorian Champion Col Milligan will be guest and Judge for the weekend.

*Dennis Carstairs*

## DUNEDOO 2005

The 'Great Dunny Classic', Bush Poetry Festival will be held from Thursday 30 March – Sunday 3 April 2005, with the competition held Saturday 2 April.

'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 Australia's Champion Poet, Milton Taylor, by popular demand, will MC for the weekend again. The competition is an amazing night of entertainment and should not be missed.

The winners of the written competition will be announced during the evening of the competition. Entry forms available from contact.

This competition is held at the Dunedoo Central School Hall where refreshments and dinner will be available. Poets and partners have free entry to the competition, which usually starts in the afternoon.

### Written Competition

One section only-\$5 per poem-200 word limit.

No entry Form- Entries close first Friday March, 2005.

Winners announced night of competition. 2 April, 2005.

Cover sheet with name of poem and contact details.

Author's name not to appear on poem.

Vic Jeffries – Poet, Dunedoo 2004. Population 837.

Contact: Sue Stoddart, Dunedoo and District Development Group Inc. Ph. 02 63 751 975.

Fax 63 751 976. Email: [dddgroup@bigpond.com](mailto:dddgroup@bigpond.com)

## UMINA BEACH Folk Festival

Umina (Ocean Beach) is located on the Woy Woy Peninsula on the sunny Central Coast of New South Wales

The Umina Beach Folk Festival is the largest collection of musicians, singers, poets and dance presenters ever to gather at the one group of venues on the Central Coast and has become the premier cultural event on the Coast according to organisers.

Season tickets for the entire weekend only cost \$45 and children under 16 are free if accompanied by a paying adult. Separate day and evening tickets will be available at the festival.

Festival venues include the Club Umina auditorium and bistro, the Umina Primary School Hall and several classrooms, and two large undercover outside areas – all within a few minutes walk of each other and right on the beachfront at Umina.

The whole Festival has been extended this year to include two large new venues off site for additional concerts. Tickets for concerts at the Everglades Country Club and Woy Woy Bowling Club, are available in advance from those clubs and on the night if not sold out.

Over 150 performers from the Central Coast, NSW country towns,

Sydney, Melbourne, the Illawarra, Newcastle, far north Queensland and the ACT have been engaged to provide non stop entertainment.

All information is also available on the festival website, [www.ccbdma.org](http://www.ccbdma.org)

Several music workshops, each a minimum of one and a half-hour length sessions and led by experts are included in the festival program.

There will be poets' breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Well known bush poets will host the poet's breakfasts and will encourage everyone present to participate.

Camping is available at Umina Caravan Park and also at Patonga and there are several motels and B&B's in the area. Details are available from Central Coast Tourism on 4385 4430.

The Festival starts at 7pm on Friday evening, October 22 and concludes on Sunday afternoon, October 24 at 6pm.

Festival venues are situated within a short walk of a skate park, children's playground, BMX track, beaches, BBQ facilities, football ovals, tennis courts, cricket nets, two surf clubs and kiosks, a shopping centre, showers and picnic facilities.

*Cec Bucello,  
Peninsula News  
Ph 4325 7369  
Fax 4325 7362*



# Canowindra Springfest

## Written Bush Poetry Competition

The Results of the Canowindra Springfest Written Bush Poetry Competition came to hand at the same time as the Euabalong written competition.

Winner of the Springfest Open Written Competition was *Des Bennett* of Morwell Victoria with 'A Bloke's Shed'.

Second place went to *Terry Regan*

*Max Merchenschlager* of Murray Bridge SA for his poem 'Alympic Bleedin' Games'. Fourth place went to *Carol Heuchan* for 'The Match'. Highly commended awards went to *Carol Heuchan* for 'Simply Isn't Country' and to *Kym Eitel* of Goovigen Qld., with 'Wild Horse Rain'.

In the Written Mining Section first

of Blaxland NSW with 'Brainless' and third to

prize went to 'Mulling Over M a f e k i n g' by *Max Merchenschlager* of Murray Bridge. Runner-up was 'Cutting Coal' by *Dean Trevaskis* of Grange Qld. Four highly commended prizes went to; *Ross Magnay* of Alice Springs with 'Gecko' - *Bessie Jennings* of Coff's Harbour for 'Burra' - *Dr. Dan O'Donnell* of Brisbane for 'Gold Fever' and to *Ellis Campbell* of Dubbo for another poem of the same name, 'Gold Fever'.

### A BLOKE'S SHED

© Des Bennett—Morwell Vic

Every bloke should have a shed - a place to call his own,  
Where he can sit and contemplate, a placid timefree zone.  
Where things get done, or maybe not, because he reigns supreme,  
Where those who have, have got the lot, while others only dream.  
A shed can take so many forms, but essence does not change,  
A roof, some walls, a door or two, the rudiment'ry range.

The slabs of iron should be pock-marked, and well emblazoned too  
With nail holes, rust, and daubs of paint all randomly askew.  
And acrid smells and mouldy stinks should surface now and then  
To give the place the atmosphere expected of a den.  
A sawdust floor is highly prized, it soaks up residue,  
From muddy boots and rancid spill, and plus it's soundproof too.

Potential is the golden rule, you never throw things out,  
And when a use is found in time, blokes jump about and shout,  
'I told you so, with much foresight I saved that years ago,  
Resourcefulness is what it's called, it only goes to show.'  
And storage space is what man needs for things that just accrue,  
The bench, the vice, the buzz saw stand, and treasures old and new.

Like nuts and screws and old spark plugs and bits of offcut board,  
Like fanbelt strap and cans of paint, that shedaholics hoard.  
Inventions happen in the shed and brainstorm come and go,  
They float about like vapid mist, then dissipate or grow.  
A shed bloke made the toilet seat, the first to fit the bowl,  
Another bloke improved design, for his seat had a hole.

Some other blokes play music too, in jazzy style upbeat,  
While others sit and study form, for them life is complete.  
A barbecue is de rigeur for family and friends,  
And that's where sheds can really shine - their use just never ends.  
Illicit stills are not unknown, nor is the growth of grass,  
Not in the yard, but in the shed, all under hothouse glass.

But danger too can sometimes lurk, with in a shed's confines,  
Where redback spiders, rusty nails, and dodgy power lines,  
Can cause the unpredictable, can push the envelope,  
But any shed bloke worth his salt would know just how to cope.  
It matters not what class you are, for sheds transcend them all,  
To potter on or laze about, is their allure and call.  
For they record the book of life, an everlasting print,  
When day is done, and blokes move on, they are his mem'ry mint.

### BITS AND PIECES



The Bundaberg Poets' held their Annual General Meeting on September 11th and the following is the committee for the next twelve months.

President - Sandy Lees (ph 41514631)

V-President - L. Chapman (ph 41527409)

Secretary - Lorraine Beavis

Assist. Secretary - Gerry Ward

Treasurer - Sam Dye

Publicity Officer - Sandy Lees

Committee Members: John Lees & Lee Miller



Walla Lions Club will be conducting the Walla Walla Wagon Wheel Award for Written Bush Poetry as part of the towns Walla Walla Heritage Festival on November 14th.

Contact Erica Naderbaum for entry details.  
Ph. 02 6029 2119



### PALMA ROSA POETS

Two Australian Champions were guests at the recent Poets' evening - Milton Taylor (5 times Australian Male Bush Poetry Champion), and Janine Haig (3 times Australian Ladies Bush Poetry Champion and the winner of last year's Bronze Swagman Award.) It was a night to remember, with some beautiful thought provoking pieces mixed with some fun-filled poetry leaving the audience thrilled and delighted and looking forward to the next evening of Poetry at Palma Rosa  
*Trisha Anderson*



### Outback Writers' Centre Inc.

#### Poetry Competition 2004 - Results

1<sup>st</sup> *The Dirigible over Suburbia Circa 1985*, by T M Collins, Gumdale Qld.

2<sup>nd</sup> *The Great Aussie Bloke Test*, by David Campbell, Beaumaris Vic.

## GREAT LAKES & TAREE DISTRICT POETRY COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS 2004

The Midcoast Sundowners Bush Poets conducted a unique and extremely successful written competition for Primary and High School students which attracted a tally of 145 entries from 10 schools in the competition's geographical area. Entries were received from St. Josephs Taree, Forster, Manning Gardens, Tuncurry, Tinonee, Gloucester, Bungwahl, Wingham Brush, Pacific Palms primary schools and Great Lakes College High.

Instead of the traditional first, second and third in each section, organisers chose to reward the best 10 primary and 6 high school entries with a prize of \$35 and all entrants received with a certificate for participating.

The standard of entries was very

high and as usual presented the judge with a difficult task.

The presentation of awards was held on Sunday 18th September at the Forster School of Arts and was attended by over eighty people. Compered by local identity Frank Atchicon and bush poet Cay Fletcher, the audience were entertained by the winners who just seem to get better every year. They were joined by local and visiting poets Jean Atchicon, Janice Downs, Garry Lowe, Rod Williams, Roland Reid and Gabby Colquhoun.

A bonza Bush Poets Breakfast was again cooked by event sponsors The Forster Tuncurry Mud Crabs Winter Swimming Club. Other valued sponsors included Forster Tuncurry Memorial Service Club, Ware Building Pty. Ltd, Country Energy.

The Sundowners have been running this competition for five years and look forward to continuing the wonderful Australian tradition which will ensure that our local youngsters continue to write Bush Poetry with rhyme, rhythm and reason.


*Maureen Stonham*

### NO DOUGH .... SO....

*by Saul Veriwell*

No dough in writing poetry,  
just a few bucks here 'n' there.  
Not enough to pay for petrol,  
let alone the wear 'n' tear.  
There is no financial future  
writing poetry, that's clear.  
So give up writing poetry ...  
be a rocket engineer!

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NEW SOUTH WALES

## BUSH POETRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP NARRANDERA NSW

**16 - 17 October  
2004**

Performance Competitions

Entries Close October 10th

Phone Julie Briggs  
1800 672 392

## Young NSW NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday December 4th  
**\$1000 FOR BUSH POETS**  
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Phone Greg Broderick:  
bh 63 82 38 83  
Or downloaded Entry forms from  
[www.visityoung.com.au](http://www.visityoung.com.au)  
Written Entries close  
26th November.  
\$10 entry fee

## LAND OF THE BEARDIES FESTIVAL POETS BREAKFAST GLEN INNES NSW Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> November. 2004

Poetry Competition  
Nomination \$5.00 per Entry  
Entries Close 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.  
Sections will include -  
• Written - 182 Glen Innes  
Fee \$5 NSW 2370  
Closes Nov 4<sup>th</sup>  
• Traditional  
• Contemporary  
• Open Original - Serious  
- Humorous  
Contact Neville Campbell  
02- 67322663  
[nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com](mailto:nevillecampbell1@hotmail.com)