

A.B.P.A.

Australian Bush Poets
Association

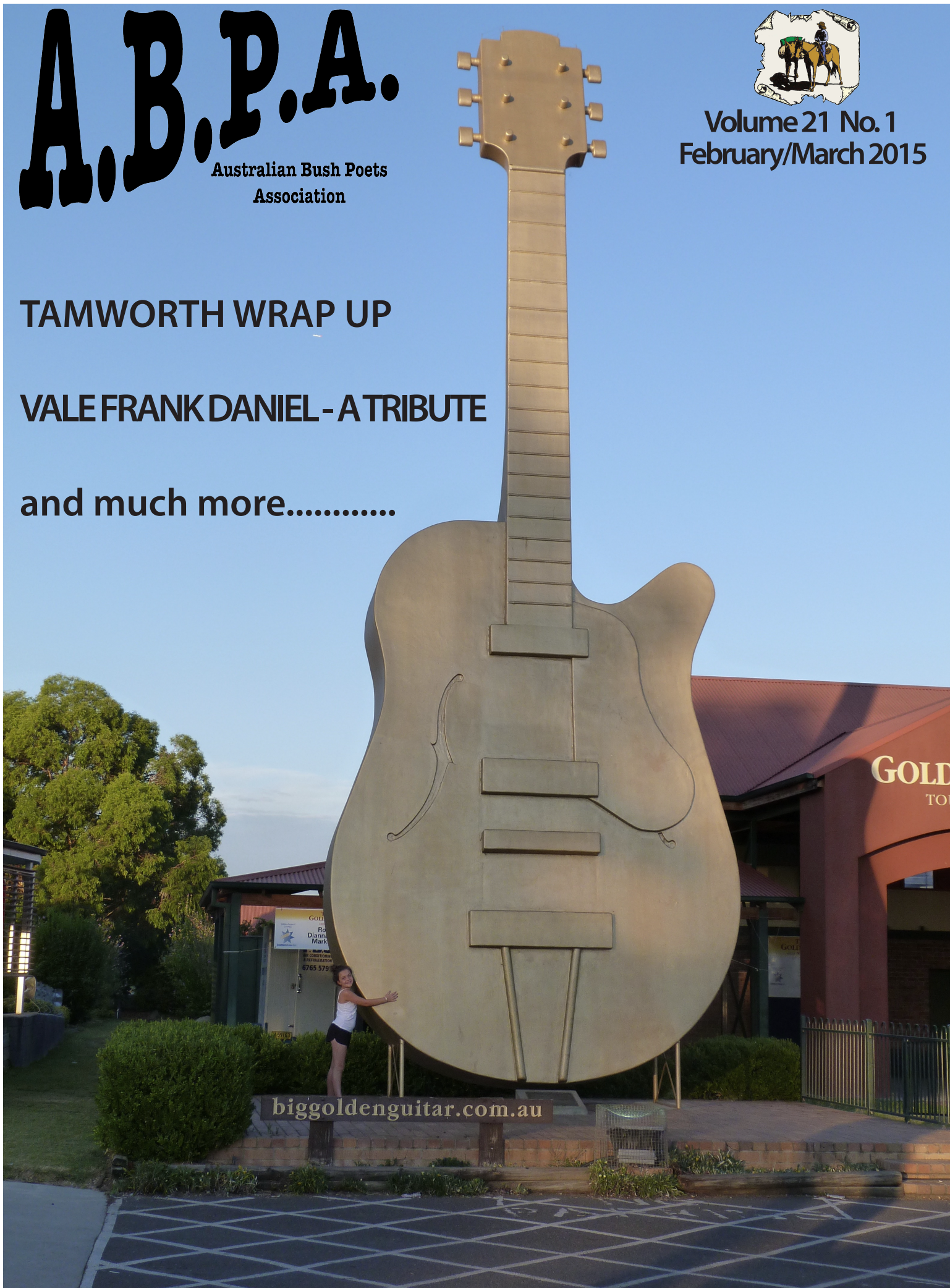


Volume 21 No. 1
February/March 2015

TAMWORTH WRAP UP

VALE FRANK DANIEL - A TRIBUTE

and much more.....





ABPA QUEENSLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

AT THE

20TH BUNDY BUSH POETRY MUSTER 2015

July 3rd - 4th - 5th

Across the Waves Sports Club, 1 Miller Street, Bundaberg.



Gary Fogarty

Special Guest Poets

Marco Giori

Bill Kearns

Presentation of the
Queensland Written
Championship - Bush
Lantern Award for
Bush Verse 2015



Performance Competition

Open (men & women separate categories)

Intermediate, Novice, Juniors (U/7 yrs, 7 yrs to 12 yrs & 13 yrs to 17 yrs)

Duo Performances, Yarn Spinning
& One Minute Cup

Cash prizes and
trophies in each
category.

CONCERT TICKETS

Saturday Night \$15-00 pp
Prior purchase advisable

Qld. Written Championships

Bush Lantern Award 2015 Written Competition for Bush Verse

ALSO

Bush Lantern Award – Junior Category - Primary & Secondary School Students

Closing date: May 22nd, 2015

FREE Poetry Workshop

Gary Fogarty will be conducting a children's
story-telling session on July 1st in the
Bundaberg Library at 10.00 a.m. and a
FREE poetry workshop in the Sails Function
room at Across the Waves Sports Club
on Thursday, July 2nd from 10.00 a.m. to noon.

All phone or email enquiries :-

Sandy Lees – 07 41514631 or leesjds1@yahoo.com.au
Edna Harvey – 0 428574651 or edna_harvey@hotmail.com
Jayson Russell – 07 41550778 or blanata@bigpond.net.au

Entry forms also available from
Bush Poets website - www.abpa.org.au

Entry Forms

SSAE to

Performance Poetry Coordinator **or**
Bush Lantern Co-ordinator
(whichever applicable)
Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.
PO Box 4281
BUNDABERG SOUTH. 4670

MILTON SHOW SOCIETY NSW BUSH POETRY ADULT PERFORMANCE COMPETITION



TO BE HELD AT THE MILTON SHOW
SAT 21ST FEBRUARY 2015
11AM START



TOTAL OF \$1000 PRIZE MONEY

1ST \$500 2ND \$300 3RD \$200

Maximum of 12 Performers accepted on First In/First Served basis

Poem can be Serious or Light Hearted and Classic, Contemporary or Original

Download Entry forms from ABPA Website www.abpa.org.au OR www.showdayonline.com

and follow the prompts

OR

Contact John Davis 37 George avenue Kings Point NSW 2539

Ph 02 44552013 email jda76436@bigpond.net.au

EDITORIAL



G'day and welcome to another year, which has started off with a bang with a huge contingency of Poets gathering at the 2015 Tamworth Country Music Festival. Of course the passing of Frank Daniel was on everyones mind with thoughts being with his family and friends.

At the AGM, it was discuss whether or not the Magazine should be an emag, meaning it would be sent as an email bi-monthly. This did not seem popular amongst members, although a very good point was raised and is an option that I feel should be put to our readers.

Many are on the road during the year and do not receive their Magazine until they return home. There is no reason why Members cannot contact me by email and have a PDF copy of the magazine sent to them by email whilst travelling. The hard copy magazine would still be posted to the home address but it would mean that those away from home at times during the year can still keep up with everything in the Magazine. I am more than happy to offer this, and would like to hear from others on their opinion.

Magazine Advertising was also discuss, and it is a pity that many clubs and organisations send me emails wanting me to mention their Competitions or Festivals but are not prepared to pay for an Ad. This affected our Advertising income heavily last year. As you can see below, our rates are extremely reasonable and get to the main market for those who would enter the Competitions.

A big thank you to those Clubs and Individuals who do continue to regularly Advertise with us.. Unfortunately, only our Secretary, Brenda Joy has taken the opportunity of coloured Advertising so this is something that may have to be reconsidered.

As usual, please contact me re any ideas or suggestions you have to make our Magazine bigger and better. It is your Magazine, so all suggestions are taken on board. I also am hoping that the contributions keep flowing for the Magazine in 2015 and although I am already getting an onslaught of Anzac poems as we approach the 100th Anniversary and will try to post as many as I can in that issue.

But for now, continue writing, performing, competing or however you enjoy keeping our Bush Poetry alive.

Happy writing and performing to all and safe travels!

Neil McArthur

editor@abpa.org.au

NOTE:- Next Magazine Deadline for submissions is March 31st

ABPA Magazine Advertising Rates

Black and White Ads

Full page \$80

Half Page \$40

Quarter Page or less \$20

Full Colour Ads (Space limited)

Full Page \$200

Half Page \$100

Quarter Page or less \$60

Poets Calendar and Regular Events free (one or two lines only)

To help offset costs, articles regarding a festival or event would be appreciated if accompanied by a paid Ad.

Send all details in plain text or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au

All payments to be made within 14 days to The Treasurer Greg North - 5 Dryandra Place Linden NSW 2778

or via Direct Debit to ABPA Account Comm. Bank BSB 064 433 Account No 1023 1528

Please put your name/club/invoice as reference so Treasurer can identify who the deposit is from.

ABPA Committee Members 2014

Executive:

President

-- Hal Pritchard

hal@abpa.org.au

Vice-President

-- Manfred Vijars

manfred@rocketfrog.com.au

Secretary

-- Brenda-Joy Pritchard

secretary@abpa.org.au

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-- Gregory North

treasurer@abpa.org.au

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peel_jg@hotmail.com

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...Carol Reffold

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-- Irene Conner

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ABPA Editor

-- Neil McArthur

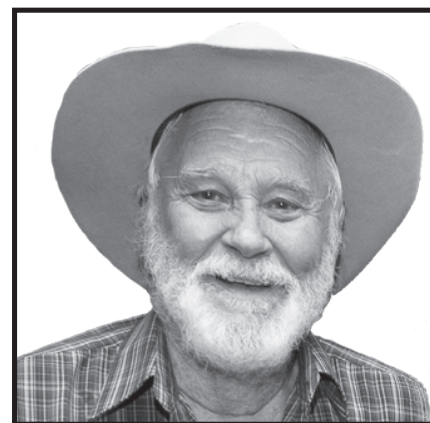
editor@abpa.org.au

Web Administrator

-- Greg North

treasurer@abpa.org.au

President's Report



DEPARTED MEMBERS

Throughout 2014 we said goodbye to many of Our long term and valued members And it was with great sadness that our losses continued when we learnt that Frank Daniel's brave battle with illness ended when he died on 22nd December, 2014. The whole bush poetry community went into mourning for one of its finest Sons. Many members have expressed their personal sorrow and have sent condolences to Frank's family. We join in tribute to the man we all respected and admired.

THANK YOU TO THE OUTGOING COMMITTEE

Although I have thanked the Committee Members throughout 2014, it is essential that I do so again. The 2014 ABPA Committee worked tirelessly on a voluntary, unpaid basis, towards the interests of the ABPA and its members. Their commitment to service was further demonstrated by the fact that the four 2014 ABPA State Championships were either organized by or judged by Committee Members. The ABPA has been fortunate in having such a dedicated team working cooperatively together for the betterment of all.

The job of getting the ABPA into order is on-going with considerations needing to be put towards its financial state and the fulfilment of its outreaching objectives, but if the 2015 Committee perform their function as efficiently and willingly as the outgoing Committee has done, our ABPA has a bright future ahead.

MAJOR 2014 ACHIEVEMENTS **ABPA Competition Package**

The aims of the 2014 Committee have been to get our house in order and set up the infrastructure for the ABPA to go ahead into the future as the major body to preserve and expand the wonderful, Australian cultural tradition of storytelling through rhyme and metered poetry and yarn spinning. Formally, we needed to have a competition package that we could offer to all organisers conducting State and National Championships financially contributed to by the ABPA. This has been achieved. The hope is that this package will also be adopted by organisers not operating under the auspices of the ABPA. The aim is for uniformity of judging in performance and written bush poetry competitions throughout Australia.

ABPA Website

The ABPA Website with its capable and enthusiastic webmaster, Gregory North, has flourished throughout 2014. Special thanks must go to Greg for his initiatives and skilful implementations of so many informative and interesting aspects. I also commend Brenda Joy for the extensive work she puts in collecting and archiving the Award winning poetry, and also collecting and editing the website features 'Meet a Poet', 'Thank you to Coordinators' and 'Member Achievements' and again to Greg for his skill in presenting these communicative features.

Thanks also go to Maureen Clifford for the very attractive Facebook pages and for sharing bush poetry through the well-presented on-line magazine The Australian Times and to Manfred Vijars and the team of facilitators for the successful running of the ABPA Forum. All members are urged to take advantage of the interactive opportunities of this network.

ABPA Magazine

Thank you to Neil McArthur and those who assisted him, in particular we are in debt to Frank Daniel, for his initiative and presentation of the anniversary supplements in 2014. Neil is also to be commended for his thematic collections. It is heartening to see that members have responded to Neil's request for submissions and it is to be hoped they continue to send in their contributions of poetry and items of interest in particular towards any further commemorative ANZAC tributes which Neil will be presenting in 2015. The magazine belongs to its members and relies on your input. Promoting Bush Poetry In particular throughout 2014, initiatives have been undertaken towards promoting bush poetry at both ends of the age spectrum. Some of us have been concentrating on the 'grey nomad' population whilst others have been focussing on the young through presentations in schools and youth events. The future of the ABPA relies on the support of the current over 50 population and on the generation of interest in the under 18 population. We thank everyone who has put their efforts into endeavours in these two significant age regions.

The ABPA and other website outlets, offer the general public a wealth of free information relative to bush poetry events and festivals throughout Australia. It is desirable that these outlets continue to be vibrant sources to arouse interest in our genre, but it is also hopeful that once the interest has been generated, seekers will wish to also become members of the ABPA. Without membership we cannot financially support the endeavours we wish to undertake.

A new promotional brochure has been produced with a membership form backing. We hope that you will avail yourself of this brochure through the Treasurer or the Secretary and help to promulgate the benefits of ABPA membership.

Bush Poetry in Tamworth

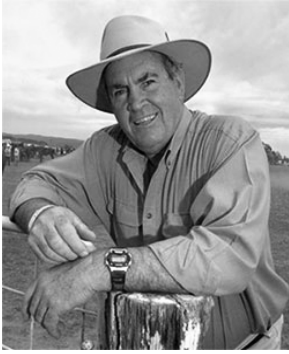
Tamworth is one of the venues where bush poetry is both appreciated and supported. To help people inside and outside the ABPA to know where bush poetry is held during the Country Music Festival, we issued the bush poetry information sheet as a guide. Also this year we have tried to expand St.Edward's Hall as the meeting place for all bush poets and supporters at the festival. For members in particular, we have organised the get-together/fund raising concert and I thank Tom McIlveen as St.Edward's Hall co-ordinator and Geoffrey Graham, Pat Drummond, Ray Essery and Gregory North for their input towards making this event a highlight of the Tamworth calendar. Bush Poetry Australia-wide

As we travelled around Australia, even in the remotest parts of our country, there was always someone who had seen or heard of some of our wonderful ABPA performance bush poets. Also, in the most unlikely venues we found books by ABPA writers. Interest in Bush Poetry is growing through the conjoint endeavours of ABPA members and we thank each and every one of you for helping to expand awareness and interest in both the ABPA and in Bush Poetry in general.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful 2015.

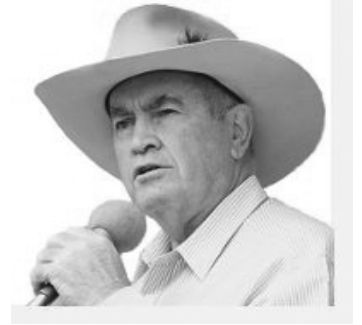
In poetry
Hal

Vale Frank Daniel



Tributes To Frank

Passing of Frank Daniel
by Blue the Shearer (Col Wilson) 8/01/15



Frank Daniel (he answered to Frank or Joe) became a good friend of mine through our mutual interest in rhyme, especially 'Bush Poetry'. Frank passed away on 22nd December 2014. I was unable to attend the funeral, but wrote a contribution which was read during the service at Canowindra in New South Wales.

Frank came rather late to the Bush Poets movement, but embraced it to the extent that he became a leading light, President of the Bush Poets' Association, tireless worker in the production and mailing of the magazine, and a great friend, and inspiration to all those who shared his interest.

I've been asked to circulate my tribute to Frank to those on the 'E' list. He was one of a kind.

I first met Frank Daniel about 1990 (someone will correct me if that's the wrong year). I was compering a Tall Tales and Poetry night at the Start Town Hall. Jim Haynes was the VIP guest artist on that occasion. It was a family night ... barbecue starting about 5 pm with the concert ending about 7.30 or 8.00. It had been a good night, plenty of lies and good bush poetry. We were just winding up proceedings when these three tough looking blokes came through the front door. One of them Frank Daniel claimed to be a poet and asked could he have a go. They all looked pretty tough to me, Frank and his mates Cody and Slats, and I wasn't game to say no. Frank regaled us with poems about The Flea, and the true story of The Man from Snowy River. He was a hit, and from my memory, he won a T Shirt.

Jim Haynes and I invited Frank to come to the Fireside Festival held at The Longyard Hotel in Tamworth in June, and Frank turned up. That was the real beginning. We were all aware that we had an 'original' in the Bush Poetry ranks. Frank and I hit it off pretty well. I didn't see as much of Cody and Slats, but I soon realised that these blokes were family. I found out pretty quickly that if you wanted to be insulted, just have about a minute's conversation with John Slattery (Slats)

Frank introduced me to the Bungendore mob at the folk festival held at Elmslea. Miles and Toni Flanagan became firm friends. They relied so much on Frank as a fearless compere, overbearing organiser (I say that in the kindest way). I'd say we became a team, and journeyed to such far away places as Jamberoo, Canberra, Cobargo, Kiama, and of course, many returns to Tamworth. I soon learned that essential requirements to take on a trip with Frank was a cut lunch and something to drink (the bugger would never stop to eat) and a book or a newspaper to read (while he was talking to the nice policeman who had just booked him for speeding). I must mention our unforgettable journey to Majors Creek. Frank and I were billeted in what might be best termed as 'alternative accommodation'. We never did find the toilet, and I don't think we ever forgave Ted Egan for not allowing us to share his room at the pub. When we did get home, rather late and I can't remember who was driving, the 'alternative accommodation' was surrounded by police cars. We asked no questions, and left early next morning for the festival site.

He became a Bush Poet legend, and gave so much of his time and effort to anything and everything that had to do with Bush Poetry. He prepared and organised the well respected Bush Poetry Magazine, was always on hand to give advice, or impart knowledge about Bush Poetry, and if he didn't know himself, he always knew somebody who could help. He gave a 'tough guy' impression, but his insight into human consciousness and behaviour was outstanding. I well remember my wife and daughter shedding tears over his poem 'A Candle in the Dark'. I wasn't dry-eyed myself when first I heard it. His tall stories were a mixture of fact and imagination, and I don't know anyone who has installed more respect for that genre. His poem about a certain motor bike rider with attitude made me want to go out and buy a Harley Davidson Motor Cycle.

Frank was recognized at Tamworth Country Music Festival with the Judith Hozier Australian Bush Laureate Award. This Golden Gumleaf has also been awarded to R M Williams and Slim Dusty. Frank, I'm sorry my health doesn't allow me to travel. I hope you'll forgive my absence.

I can comfort myself with the many wonderful memories and adventures we shared. I would also send my condolences, and those of the Resident Censor, (my wife Pat) to the family and friends, and would like to mention my appreciation particularly to John and Heather Slattery, Nerida Cuddy, and to Cody who kept me in the loop.

I can imagine Frank yarning away with Bobby Millar, Charlie Marshall, Viv Sawyer, and all those other greats telling those monstrous lies in such an innocent manner. Travel safely mate, and try not to exceed the speed limit. Remember, I told you there'd be a cop just over the next hill.

Frank Daniel Tribute shared at 2015 Bush Laureate Awards

by Gregory North

In the early 1990s Frank Daniel arrived late at a poetry show in Stuart Town NSW and Blue the Shearer and Jim Haynes weren't game to say no to this big bloke and his two mates. They were pleasantly surprised and invited Frank to perform at the Fireside Festival in Tamworth. That's how Frank's poetry career began.

Frank created or supported many poetry festivals and events. He liked doing things his way. He didn't like it when performers went too long or weren't careful with the sound equipment. But mostly he was generous, supportive and encouraging of all poets, which is one of the reasons why he was awarded the 2008 Australian Bush Laureates Judith Hosier Award for services to bush poetry.

He loved being a master of ceremonies and was very good at it. The poems, jokes and yarns he inserted between performers could have been about the Irish nuns who taught him at school in this missionary country, about chuckin' rocks at the publics ("and the gravel that we shifted put the council men to shame, though it only moved from end to end in Mrs Jackson's lane"), or how the news of his sins had beaten him home to mother who warned that "God'll get ya!" Whatever he shared, he always said that only half the lies he told were the truth.

As a founding member of the ABPA, Frank served as president for six terms, was on the committee 16 times and magazine editor for many of those years – an amazing record for a 21 year-old organisation.

Frank had a great memory for poems and people's names until he suffered from a series of strokes in recent years. From being at the top of his game he put in great effort to re-learn poems then drive to poetry competitions, stopping for sleeps along the way, and compete all over again. Few people would have had the courage and persistence to start again at the bottom. His love of poetry and performance was so strong that he was willing to sacrifice whatever it took. With his lovable style he still managed to make audiences laugh when he forgot his words.

He'll be remembered for classics such as Aunt Martha and Solace among many others.

I first came across Frank on his old Bush Poetry" site when I joined the ABPA. It was the most comprehensive site of it's time. But it wasn't long before he migrated that over to a new server and incorporated a "Forum", and for the first time, poets from across the country (and World) had a virtual 'party-line'. The Forum continues to unite poets now via the ABPA web-site. Frank wasn't afraid to drag Bush Poetry into the digital world by embracing new technology.

His dedication to the craft of Bush Poetry and Yarn-spinning is evident in his works and shone in his presentations. His service to Bush Poetry is on the record. Frank's passion to uphold "a Fair Go" was well recorded nationally in the media.

In a climate of high interest rates and increased freight charges, wheat farmers had their backs to the wall. Farmers threatened blockades of agricultural exports unless a better deal from Federal and State Governments were met. So, on the 30th of December 1985, Frank took the fight to Parliament House on behalf of wheat farmers. Before dawn on Monday, he dumped tonnes of wheat outside of Parliament House in Canberra. Frank wasn't afraid to stand up and fight.

I was fortunate in catching up with Frank last year. He was tired, though upbeat and fully aware of his deteriorating condition. We talked at length and he posed for some photos and we parted. Frank wasn't afraid of the next stage of his journey.

VALE Frank Daniel, "The Man Who Wasn't Afraid"

Manfred Vijars.



VALE FRANK DANIEL June 1942 – December 2014

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Frank Daniel's long battle with illness ended in December. The whole bush poetry community went into mourning for one of its finest sons. Frank Daniel's life evolved around all things country. Raised in Bungendore, NSW, from an early age Frank, a keen horse rider, entered gymkhanas and many sporting events. This love of outdoor activities carried over into his adult life and he had numerous occupations including rough-rider (rodeo), bulldogger (rodeo), calf-roper and camp drafter.

Frank's involvement with bush poetry was both long-term and active. As an inaugural member of the ABPA, over many years he fulfilled the demanding administrative roles of President, Vice President and Magazine Editor.

As a performing bush poet and yarn spinner Frank achieved success in many competitions including the World Championship Yarn Spinning competition in Darwin and the Adelaide Comedy Festival Yarn Spinning competition. He assisted with the running of various bush poetry festivals such as Narrandera, Corryong, Trundle, Jamberoo, Bungendore, Canberra, Tamworth, Toowoomba and Winton.

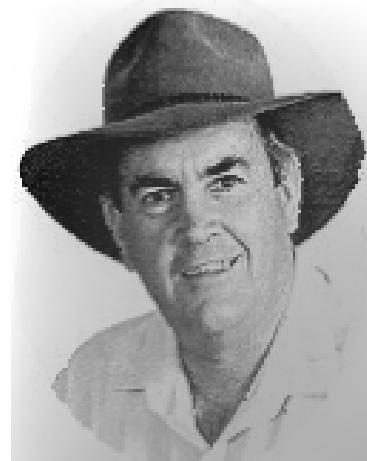
In addition, Frank worked tirelessly for many charities and fund raising organisations including the Martis Conowindra Hot Air Balloon Fiesta from 1995 to 2003. He was the 2001 and 2002 Bush Poet of the Year for Asthma, NSW, which raised over \$55,000 each year.

In his latter years Frank lived around Canowindra, N.S.W. where he continued to circulate to perform at ABPA and community events and to entertain for free in aged-care facilities "...to give the old folk an added interest in life". He was much loved in that region of NSW.

In 2014 Frank compiled the monthly insert for the ABPA Magazine promoting the achievements of other long-term members of our Association. We now pay tribute to Frank's own achievements and to the man we all respected and admired.

Good-on-yah mate!

Hal Pritchard President ABPA



FOR FRANK OR JOE (OR DAD)

The poetry seems a little mute, way out the central west
When we recall bush laureates, he was among the best
But now alas he's left us and gone to join the greats
Reciting all his poems and yarns, beyond the pearly gates.

He was baptized Francis Joseph, most called him Frank or Joe
One of the most fair dinkum blokes, you'd ever want to know
He had all the virtues, of a true and trusted mate
If you asked him his opinion, he'd give it to you straight

We shared the same birthday, though born some years apart
I guess that's why I guess I always had, a place within his heart
He offered me encouragement and shared the gifts he had
He was such a guiding light, I often called him Dad

Now there is just his legacy, worth far more than gold
The characters he created, humorous and bold
Always the driving engine, of the poet's hub
Yarning around the campfire, or the Junction pub

Departed from this vale of tears, all the pain has ceased
His spirit and his soul lives on, his mortal husk deceased
Friends recall him with a smile, for there's one thing we all knew
Of all the lies he ever told, only some of them were true

TOMAS HAMILTON
31DEC14

FRANK

How can we ever thank you, for all the things you've done?
You've rescued us so many times, your efforts worth a ton.
All the jobs you've taken on, would bring most of us to tears,
I guess you have neglected work, but overcame your fears.

We thank you for the effort, which you took in your stride
Which most of us I'm sad to say, would sooner go and hide.
It's sad to hear you're not too well, I hope you soon recover.
I hope there is no pain attached, we love you like a brother.

I'm sorry I have not been able, to join the poet's dos
But circumstances altered, it's not the way I'd choose.
I hope when you receive this, that you're up and doing fine
So keep your head held high, a true blue friend of mine.

by Graham Brunckhorst



TAMWORTH WRAP UP



Australian Bush Laureate Awards 2015 Winners

An emotional appearance by the six-year-old granddaughter of the late Judith Hosier, one of the much loved founders of the Bush Laureate Awards, was a feature of this year's presentation in Tamworth on Tuesday. Young Lily presented the Judith Hosier Award for outstanding services to Australian Bush Poetry to veteran poet Milton Taylor who was unable to attend the Awards because of ill health. His award was accepted on his behalf by another Judith Hosier Award winner, Trisha Anderson.

Winners at the Awards, which started in 1996, were:

Book of the Year: The Billy That Died With It's Boots On by Stephen Whiteside from Melbourne.

Recorded Verse Album of The Year: Bargo Bargo by Manfred Vijars from Brisbane.

Published Poem of the Year: The Ghost of Long Tan by Tom McIlveen from Port Macquarie, NSW.

Single Recorded Performance of the Year: The Auction by Dave Proust from the NSW Central Coast.

Traditional Song Lyric of the Year: He's Droving Once Again by Golden Guitar winner, Graham Rodger from Nambour, Queensland.

Contemporary Song Lyric of the Year: The Lifesaver by rising country music star Amber Lawrence from Sydney.

The Judith Hosier Award for outstanding achievement in nurturing Australia's unique heritage of rhymed verse: Milton Taylor from Hartley NSW.

Now in his 80s, Milton is a renowned and highly awarded poet. "It is, however, his gentlemanly ways and his willingness to help others that earned him this accolade," according to an Awards spokesman.

"He has encouraged and mentored generations of young poets and has unstintingly supported bush poetry events all around Australia for many decades."

The 2015 Australian Bush Laureate Awards were staged in the Tamworth Town Hall on Tuesday evening January 20.

Weblink – www.bushlaureate.com.au.

The Blackened Billy Verse Competition

2015

1st Prize: Where Poppies Bloom

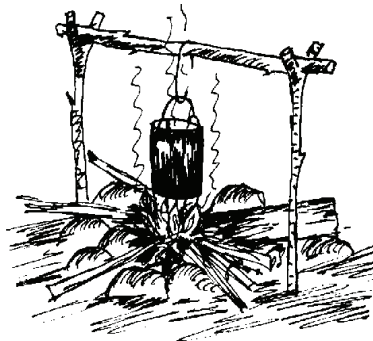
Brenda Joy
Charters Towers Qld

2nd Prize: Everlasting Soldiers

Catherine Lee
Tungmahamek
Bangkok 10120

3rd Prize: Soldiers Don't Cry

Tom McIlveen
Port Macquarie NSW



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Dreamtime Dreaming Terry Piggott
Canning Vale WA

Bluey Tom McIlveen
Port Macquarie NSW

Break O'Day Grahame Watt
Repton NSW

Would you Like a Cup of Tea? Trevor Shaw
Biloela Qld

Sid the City Slicker Beryl Stirling
Morisset NSW

The Sheepdog Trial Bob Magor
Myponga SA

Walers Tony Hammill
Carindale Qld

Christmas Greetings Val Wallace
Glendale NSW

Dreams and Dreamers Brenda Joy
Charters Towers Qld

For Rupert Val Wallace
Glendale



WHERE POPPIES BLOOM

© Brenda Joy 2014

Winner 2015 Blackened Billy Award

If Mother Earth could speak, these could be Her words from the soil of Flanders...

You arrived when I was mangled
by the lust of men entangled
in a battle for possession of my precious Flanders' soil.
Just a boy so young and willing,
unequipped to face the chilling
harsh reality of wartime 'Front' of agony and toil.

You would change my life forever
through your courage, skill, endeavour,
but I knew you in your night-times when your heart would over-flow.
Then you'd whisper wondrous stories
of Australian Outback glories
where the wallaby and kangaroo and wild bush creatures go.

And you'd dream of sibling sharing,
all the joys of home and caring,
till I'd see your mother crying as she bid her last farewell.
But you looked toward her, waving,
'Coo-eed' out in youthful craving,
while her tears portrayed the pain of loss that only love can tell.

How I'd feel your ache of yearning
as you longed to be returning
to the freedom of the country which had given you your birth,
while all I could give was trenches,
smoke and gas and vile stench,
far from beauty of belonging on the other side of Earth.

But I held you through the rages
of the battles and the stages,
through the ravages of winters and the years of guts and gore,
till I lost you. Devastated
by your death that left me fated
to be scarred with foul detritus of a futile, bloody war.

After combat it's ironic.
Tales of loss become iconic
when a slaughter ground of chaos grows to make a nation proud.
So your service is remembered
where your body was dismembered
and your honour is imbedded in a legendary shroud.

And they come and weep in mourning
when the light of day is dawning,
and the hymn of their condolence conjures visions of your plight.
But they cannot know the sorrow
I must feel as each tomorrow
I'm reminded of your torment through your tiny cross of white.

Now my fields of gold surround you
and my re-birth would astound you
when the gentle breeze of summer dances through the waves of corn,
but your tragic wartime story
blooms in blood-red poppy glory
that my dew-drop tears still moisten in the early mists of morn.



CONGRATULATIONS BRENDA JOY!!!

ABPA 2015 GOLDEN DAMPER AWARDS

A FEAST OF POETRY IN TAMWORTH

Continuing the tradition, the 2015 Golden Damper Performance competition was run over three heats on Tuesday 20th, Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd January. An enthusiastic audience of 170 plus each day, met up in the 'Outback Bar' of the West Tamworth League Club where they enjoyed top class bush poetry. The competition culminated in the finals held in 'Blazes Auditorium' on Saturday 24th January when more than 200 early risers were treated to wonderful performances by the finalists in both the Established and Original categories.

Lyn Tarring of Townsville, North Queensland, took out both categories of the competition winning the Established Section with Bill Kearns hilarious 'Senior Cits. Christmas Party' and the Original Section with her own saga 'Swimsuit Blues'. Jason Roweth of Newcastle took out second place in the Established with Gabby Colquhoun of Gloucester a close third whilst in the Original Claire Reynolds of Gloucester came second and Rhonda Tallnash of Violet Town in Victoria third.

What a wonderful feast of high standard poetry. Congratulations to all the 36 competitors.



Finalists in the Established Section

Jason Roweth, Rhonda Tallnash, John Peel, Barry Ellem, Cay Ellem, Jacqui Warnock, Claire Reynolds. Lyn Tarring and Gabby Colquhoun front.

Finalists in the Original Section

Tom McIlveen, Cathy Edwards, Rhonda Tallnash, Paddy O'Brien, Dave Elson, Gary Lowe, Lyn Tarring (front)



Happy crowd in the Outback Bar

Bill Kearns

Writer of yet another award winning Poem. This time performed by Lyn Tarring in the Established Section. That is back to back now for Bill and Lyn!



LONGYARD BUSH POETS BREAKFASTS

With a great lineup of Australia's funniest Bush Poets, the Longyard again had full crowds rolling in the aisles. With Co-hosts Neil McArthur and Marco Gliori (with help from Ray Essery) we were again able to host nine packed houses with a large number of younger people and first time Poets Breakfast attendees.

With the likes of crowd favourites, Dave Proust and Brad Maclean on fire, and the likes of Murray Hartin, Bill Kearns, Peter Capp, Bill Kearns, John and Carmel Lloyd, Col Milligan, Neil 'The Drover' Jones, Jack Drake, and along with our great comedy singer/songwriters Errol Gray and Dave Prior, every day was a great mixture of characters, tall tales, award winning poetry and a great and relaxed atmosphere.

The lady I have left to last is a bonus to have along as part of the Longyard Crew. Lyn Tarring from Townsville. I invited Linnie The Lip to Tamworth last year to perform with her partner in crime Kathy Priestly (who was absent this year for family reasons). Last year they both slayed the audiences, which was never in doubt after seeing them performing in Townsville. Last year, as an afterthought, Lyn entered the Golden Damper Awards and won the Established section.

This year I invited her again and after again performing so brilliantly at the Longyard, she went on and won BOTH sections of the competition!! Talk about an eye for talent!

The Longyard Poets Breakfasts are going nowhere and we are already booked in for the next few years, so I will be scouting the country again this year for a couple of new faces to mix with our core group and hopefully bring an even better show to the Festival next year!

A big thanks to all involved again this year.

Neil McArthur



A CONCERT TO REMEMBER

The 40 ABPA members and friends who supported the ABPA Fund Raising Event in St. Edward's Hall on Wednesday night, were treated to a concert equivalent to the best that Tamworth could offer.

Four of our top line performers volunteered their time and talents to give a wonderful performance full of variety, reminiscences and frivolity. Those who were unable to get to this event missed out on a great night of top class entertainment and camaraderie.

The ABPA thanks Ray Essery, Geoffrey Graham, Greg North and Pat Drummond for their generosity.

IN APPRECIATION FROM US ALL

Hal Pritchard



FOUR FUNNY BUGGERS

Yarns, comedy, music, theatre sports, bush poetry and lots of laughs from four of the best. Marco Gliori and Muz Hartin have been part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival poetry scene since it all began back in the late 1980s.

Founding members of the hugely popular Naked Poets, Marco and Muz's yarns about Cowboys riding swags through planes, Mr Whippy Van riots, Hog Whisperers, Hypnotists, Colonic-fuelled Yoga Classes, Indian country music singers and outrageous race calls are recognised as some of the pure gold in rhyming entertainment at The Festival.

Add a big dash of Brad Maclean and the recipe really starts coming together. Good looks, goofy smile, small guitar, crazy thoughts and what seems to be a reluctance to perform, Brad wanders on stage, waits a little bit, drawls out 'how yas all goin', and everyone falls in love with him. Women, kids, teenagers, grandmas, men (in a blokey way) – doesn't matter, they all love him.

Why? We're not sure.

He just picks a few tunes while he intimately talks about the time he fell in love with his hairdresser or gets the audience singing his Inflatable Lady song. There could be portholes and white rabbits, you may hear about a cross-dressing truckie – it's hard to know.

One thing for sure, with Brad Maclean, it was definitely funny.

And then, for a bit of spice, there's Alan Glover – the crazy comic from Wollombi.

Everything' was on the menu here. Chainsaw impressions, Festival Fashion, sounds of the bush, stupid people – nothing's sacred to Al. Except maybe home-brewed Coopers and a good curry (don't stand too close).

He also brings to the table his gifted grasp of Theatre Sports which will see the boys making up poems and stories on the spot via input from the audience. Al describes it as working without a net and, pass or fail, the results are always hilarious.

And for a bit of dessert, the wonderful Peter Capp tracked down his old barfly mates Harvey and George who just blew the froth off a couple on stage. Ask around folks, this was a very funny show.

If you didn't get a laugh out of this mob you've had a humour bypass.

Tamworth Golf Club has become a central part of Poetry at Tamworth, hosting many years of Packed houses for the Naked Poets Show and hosting such shows as The Naked Truth, Sex, Lies & Bush Poetry and now packing out the club with this incredibly funny show. It just goes to show that reinventing concepts will keep the crowds coming back year after to year to see what on earth this mob can think up next!

Congratulations guys on so many years of promoting Poetry through these ever popular Tamwoth Shows.

Unfortunately no Reports were recieved at time of publishing for The Rhymer's Roundup Shows or The St. Edwards Hall Bush Poets WalkUp Shows.

Please help us spread the word about our project to stimulate writing about shearing history, culture and characters.

"SHEAR STORIES" SHORT STORY COMPETITION

This is a national competition, and an opportunity to craft an experience, a memory or a character into a written story which can communicate, entertain, or document history, and earn a substantial reward. Simple rules for the competition are as follows:

- Subject matter of stories to have a link to shearing or the world of sheep and wool. The story may be drawn from real life and real events, it may be biographical in nature, or it may be fictional and based on the imagination.
- Multiple entries from individuals are welcomed
- Entry free
- All entries to be accompanied by a signed declaration stating that the work is original and unpublished, and the writer has not earned more than \$10,000 from writing in the last 12 months.
- Entries to be submitted, preferably electronically, by 30th March 2015 to Shear Outback
- Short-listed stories will be the property of Shear Outback, and may be published in the Shear Outback Newsletter or other publications associated with Shear Outback.

Three categories of entries:

1. Open age category 1000-5000 words. Prize \$1000
2. Secondary school (age 12-18 years). 1000 word limit Prize \$200
3. Primary school (age 5-12 years) 500 word limit Prize \$100

Winners will be announced at the "SHEAR STORIES" Writers' Forum at the Shear Outback Festival of the Blades, at Hay NSW, 2 pm on Saturday 4th April, Easter 2015

The Writers' Forum will be in an informal atmosphere at Shear Outback, Hay where all those interested in books, writing, and bush history are invited to sit down with a group of people who have achieved success in the world of publishing. It will be an opportunity to hear the personal accounts of how these writers came to bring shearing characters and outback shearing sheds alive on the printed page. Enjoy listening to:

- Shearer Denis McIntosh tell his own story of how he wrote "Beaten by a Blow" and changed his life to become one of Penguin's star writers.
- Evan McHugh relate the secrets behind his prolific publishing career in the bush including his new work "The Shearers".
- Rory O'Malley explain how he came to research strikes and wide comb disputes for his work "Mateship and Moneymaking".
- Freda Marnie Nicholls tell about her career as farmer and writer, most recently writing the story of shearer Hugh Tindall in "Back of Beyond".
- Valerie Hobson AO who has documented the lives of shearers of Western Australia in "Across the Board".
- Geoff Barrett whose publication "The Inspirational Board" profiles Australia's leading shearers.
- Bernie Walker, well-known shearing historian whose recent book "A Test for the Best" documents the Golden Shears competition era.
- Ken Prato's descriptions of a shearer's thought processes in "Sheepshit on the Brain".
- Martin Auld, a leading contributor to RM Williams's "Outback" magazine.
- Andrew Chapman, Australia's best-loved photographer of the shearing industry who will try to justify that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Entry to the Forum is free (donations accepted). Contact Shear Outback telephone 02 69934000 or Ian Auld 02 69931092 for more details. See Ad on Page 23 of this issue.

Come and join in all the fun of the ABPA Forums on our website

www.abpa.org.au
Membership Free

ABPA, N.S.W. STATE PERFORMANCE AND WRITTEN CHAMPIONSHIP EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In 2015, the ABPA National Championship is being held in Victoria and ABPA State Championships are being held in Queensland and West Australia.

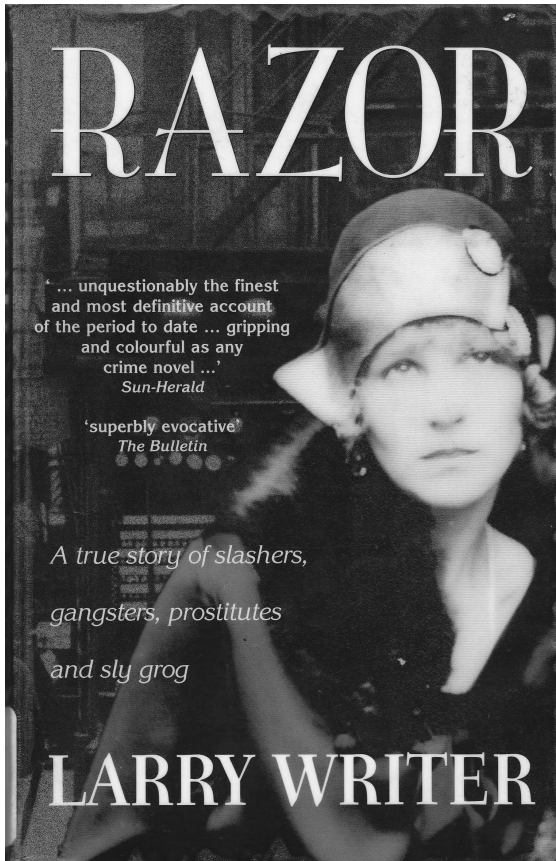
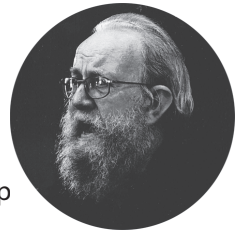
To date there have been no applications to hold a State Championship in New South Wales.

Therefore, expressions of interest are sought from clubs and organisations in NSW.

Please direct any enquiries to the Secretary of the ABPA secretary@abpa.org.au for Committee Consideration.

GREAT AUSSIE READS

with Jack Drake



Not all Australian history is related in a way that pleases those who seek to sanitise our past and present it in a manner they regard as accep

Razor by Larry Writer (McMillan, Australia 2001), is a warts and all account of Sydney in the 1920s and '30s when organised crime gained its first major foothold in Australia.

Using the exploits of two female gangsters as his central theme, Larry Writer spins the amazing story of how the East Sydney suburbs of Darlinghurst, Kings Cross, Surry Hills, Woolloomooloo and Paddington became collectively known as 'Razorhurst' in the turbulent years between the first and second World Wars.

The exploits of sly grogger, Kate Leigh, and Madam Tilly Devine are woven into the seamy side of Sydney's Underworld in a time that saw the rise of the notorious razor gangs. Consorting laws which are being revived today in outlaw bikie crackdowns, had their beginnings in Devine and Leigh's time.

Razor is the true story of as vile a collection of slashers, bashers, standover artists, prostitutes, pimps, drug dealers and associated underworld scum that ever wriggled out of a slum environment.

There is ample scope for some good gritty lyrics in this gangland saga of a time and place many would rather not acknowledge, but none can ignore.

Larry Writer has meticulously researched and presented his material. This tale of Sydney's underside is no boring chronicle, but a fast account that sweeps the reader along at the pace of a gang rampage on the mean streets.

The drover is one of the true icons of Australia's heritage. The acknowledged kings of the droving fraternity were the men who walked big mobs of store bullocks out of the East Kimberly and the Northern Territory to the railheads and fattening depots in Queensland.

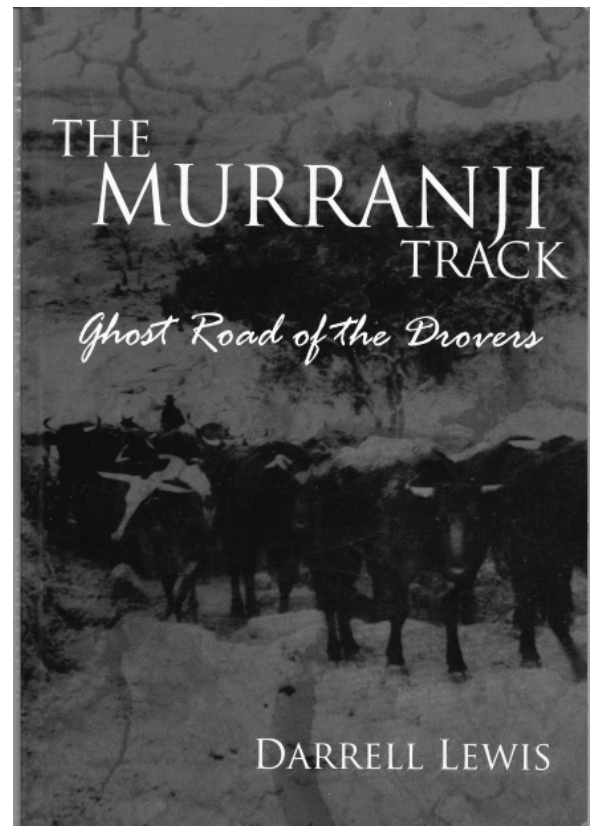
The Murrniji Track: Ghost Road of the Drovers by Darrell Lewis (Central Queensland University Press 2007), tells the story of the notorious Murrniji Track that stretched over 200 kms from Top Springs to Newcastle Waters.

The Murrniji was a hell of lancewood and bullwaddie scrub with three semi reliable waterholes prior to it being equipped with bores in the 1920s.

Darrell Lewis is a rare combination. He is both an academic with university degrees and an experienced bushman. He tells the history of one of this country's toughest tracks with the assurance of an extremely competent writer who has been on the ground he speaks of.

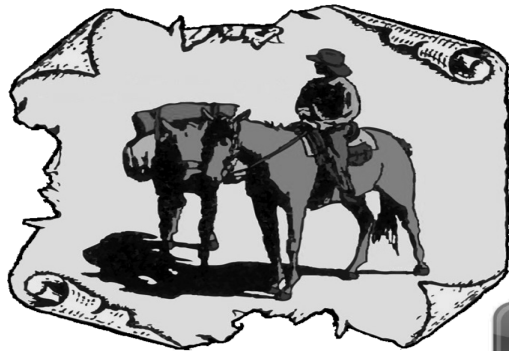
From its early Aboriginal travellers to its first traverse with stock by our most iconic drover, Nat Buchanan, Lewis follows the Murrniji story through the golden age of droving until Pic Willets took the last mob through in 1967.

The Murrniji Track is a fascinating collection of recollections from and about the wire tough characters who rode, packed and drove their way across one of the most recognised and feared stock routes in Australia.



Jack Drake

an invitation to join the
**Australian
 Bush Poets**



Association Inc.



www.abpa.org.au

Our website:

- showcases modern poets and performers,
- lists poetry events, competitions and festivals,
- displays award-winning poems and yarns,
- provides writing and performing techniques,
- contains bush poetry competition resources,
- links you to others through our online forum.

Our magazine:

- features poetry information, news and views,
- previews and reports on poetry events and competitions throughout Australia,
- advertises opportunities, products and services,
- displays interesting information and photos of members past and present,
- is a wonderful record of bush poetry and poets.

If you:

- **enjoy Australian poetry with rhyme and metre,**
- **love our unique Australian culture & heritage,**
- **seek camaraderie with like-minded people and**
- **like having fun – THEN JOIN US – see over.**

Become a Member

Give a Gift Membership

Join online by credit card or PayPal at:

www.abpa.org.au

or send this form with a cheque,
 money order or direct deposit to:
5 Dryandra Place Linden NSW 2778

Membership is for a calendar year from 1st January to 31st December.

Annual membership includes all magazines (including back issues) for the current calendar year.

Members joining after October will receive the year's remaining issue as well as all magazines for the following calendar year.

Name:.....

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.....

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- ☐ Single membership \$33
- ☐ Dual membership supplement \$10 (2nd family memb.)
- ☐ Junior membership \$20 (under 18)
- ☐ 5-year membership \$150
- ☐ Public Liability Insurance \$100 (12mths 3 Jan on)
- ☐ Membership badge \$7 (includes postage)

Total: \$_____ ☐ Receipt please
☐ NO receipt (your magazine label shows receipt number & memb. expiry)

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Reference: Your **NAME**. Please include your **NAME** as the reference and send confirmation with this form to treasurer@abpa.org.au or

5 Dryandra Place Linden NSW 2778.

A cloud in a bedroom sky

By Robyn Sykes

It's not the sudden inkiness that swelled around my eye;
 it's not the salty taste of blood that haunts me, asking "why"?
 It's not the fists or choking fingers, threats that I would die;
 it's the fear that he was right.

"You slut, you useless, lying bitch," I hear the words he said.
 "I smell you when you flirt, I read the dirt inside your head.
 The world would kiss my arse if it discovered you were dead.
 You're an insult to my sight.

Your friends have all abandoned you; believe me, they're all talk.
 You know your parents hate you, they see trouble and they baulk.
 I'm the only one who loves you; I protect you like a hawk.
 Just be good and we won't fight."

Then something stirred within me saying, "Who is he to judge?
 Is something wrong inside him? Does he bear some kind of grudge
 against me? And against the world? I will not wear this sludge.
 Yes I'm scared, but not contrite."

I barred the doors and windows to my house and to my heart,
 found darker clothes and colours, shorter hairstyle, set to start
 a new direction, newer flame, but fear stabs like a dart
 when the stars retreat at night.

When times are black I hear his voice, still think, "It's all my fault.
 Dark sin must live inside, a bleeding wound that's rubbed with salt."
 Suspicions of an inner Eve choked back the charge assault.
 Now I see, in glints of light,

a moth trapped by a funnel web or stuck in sundew's slime.
 How could I not have recognised the signature of crime?
 Entwined, our hearts pledged wings that would forever beat in time;
 freedom soared in solo flight.

I'll grant you I'm not perfect, but then who amongst us are?
 My inner war is fought; forgiveness starts to heal the scar -
 the apple Adam tasted does not stain my soul with tar
 and the rocky path looks bright.

My New Knees

© Alan Dwan

The doctor said, "Goodness what funny looking knees
I've seen some strange ones in my time, but none as bad as these.
Your knees have gone all knobbly, you're bandy legged too
I'll send you to a specialist to see what he can do.

The specialist was in the city, an orthopaedic surgeon
He said, "I will replace your knees, your case is rather urgent."
He cut my legs off above the knees, a delicate operation
He said "I'll finish this when I get back, I'm going on vacation."

I thought, I've got a problem, I wonder where my feet are
When I stood up I was quite short, a little over a metre
I hailed a cab and headed home, I was really in a state;
Life is quite traumatic when you're only three feet eight.

When finally I got home, my wife was waiting there
She helped me get inside and put me in the old high chair
I thought at least I can do some work, I think that I am able
I can vacuum the floors as I stand beneath the table.

The doctor rang and said, "I'm home, I think we're right to go
I had a lovely holiday, I thought you'd like to know."
I said, "Bully for you, you've got a lot of gall
You went away on holiday, you made me feel so small."

He said, "Come on, calm down, I'll make it up to you
When I slip the new knees in, your legs will feel like new."
So I went back to hospital, aware of what he said
I went back into the ward and they made me go to bed.

When I awoke next morning, there were people everywhere
There were nurses, there were wards men, the doctor too was there.
A funny little anaesthetist with a silly sideways grin
Said, "I'll give to you this needle and you'll go to sleep again."

I woke up, looked at my legs, they were tightly bound.
When they removed the bandages, my legs were wrong way round.
My heels were pointing to the front, my toes towards the rear.
The doctor just rolled his eyes, the nurse said, "Oh dear, dear"

My God, I felt frustrated, I really felt forlorn
You see, I didn't know if I was coming or I'd gone.
Now when we go walking, somewhere down the track
I take two steps forward and another three steps back.

Well that's my little story, you'll understand my plight
I'm still cranky with the doctor, that he didn't get it right.
I'll need more operations, before I get much older
I wonder what will happen when they replace my shoulder.



*The ANZAC spawned a legend:
Courageous, strong and bold.
My poem tells a story,
Just waiting to be told –
Of our fine home, Australia,
A land of green and gold.*

YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN AUSTRALIA

©Dennis Scanlon April 2004

If you've ever watched the Southern Cross, blazin' in the sky.
Gazed in awe at the majesty, of a wedge tail circling high.
Seen the break the big waves make, as they roll in at Bondi:
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

If you've camped at Kosciuszko - skied new seasons' snow.
Been in the New England - seen the autumn glow.
Or if you walk right up Cape York and there's nowhere north to go:
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

When you've "rode" the Canning Stock Route, with a team of drover mates,
Where a broken legged Stockman, for the Flying Doctor waits.
Or done time on Sarah Island, lookin' out towards Hells' Gates:
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

When you've caught a Barrumundi, or dived the Barrier reef.
Seen the Outback Stations and delighted at the beef.
Or climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge – the view beyond belief:
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

If you've felt the power of the Dreamtime, as you stand at Uluru,
Sat and yarned to a new found mate in the land of Kakadu,
Marvelled at the Kimberleys, with a crimson sunset hue :
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

If you've been at Woolloongabba , when the Aussies beat the Poms,
Or at Flemington on Cup day, with the favourite "odds on."
Or stood at Bowral Oval: felt the spirit of "The Don."
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.

When you see 'em march on Anzac Day, without a single boast;
The bugler takes a deep breath and delivers "The Last Post"
And you try to speak, but nothing comes. . . past the lump deep in your throat
Then old mate, you know you're in Australia.



A Bit of a Different Gig

From Jack Drake

On 20th November, 2014, I did a poetry performance that was a little bit out of the ordinary. Pat McCarthy, an old rodeo mate of mine from New Zealand, organises annual tours from New Zealand to the American National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Last year he took a group of cattlemen and their families from South Westland on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand. They took some of my CDs with them and on the 25th anniversary of their local cattle sale at Haast, they asked me to come over to entertain.

South Westland is the New Zealand equivalent of Cape York - the country's "last frontier". Several families pioneered the region from 1870 on and their descendants still run cattle in the mountain river valleys that flow westward from the main range of the Southern Alps, to spill into the Tasman Sea. They measure their annual rainfall in metres.

Haast was the most remote settlement in New Zealand until the early 1960s when they first got road access. Before then, the only way in or out was by sea, air or a torturous bridle track that wound its way to Whataroa, 275 kms northward up the west coast.

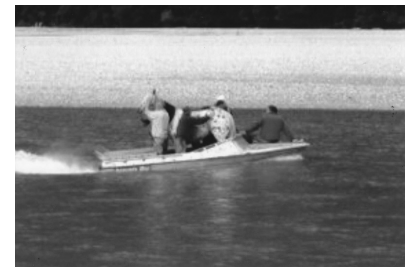
Before the road was built, the Haast cattle were driven for 28 days to Whataroa sale - the longest annual drive in New Zealand. After the road was opened, the stock were trucked out but in 1989 the locals combined to run their own sale.

The 25th anniversary sale was a huge success and a very positive indicator for the future of the cattle industry. Thirteen month old fat and forward store steers offered for sale by Wayne Williams from Fox Glacier, topped the sale at \$1,380 per head.

I did my performance on a horse in drizzling rain which is near enough to a fine day in South Westland, and the crowd was great. You could not have asked for better. They laughed in all the right places and 'Woody' the Cattle Dog, was almost accepted as a local.

'Spot' the horse I rode was a celebrity in his own right. Some years ago, he caught his leg in a fence and cut a tendon while on a muster in the Arawhata Valley. He could neither walk nor swim, so his owner, John Nolan and a few of his musterers, took the horse out standing in an open jet boat. What a horse! Most would have panicked and jumped overboard, but 'Spot' is a cool customer, and he just stood there and copped it sweet.

To sit on horseback and perform bush poetry with the saleyards nestled under towering rainforest on one hand and river flats rising to forest clad slopes that give way to snow capped peaks on the other, was an experience I will never forget. The Haast Cattle Sale was a memorable gig and I thought our members might like to hear about it.



'Spot' - possibly the only horse in the world to ever ride in a jet boat, makes his historic trip down the mighty Arawhata. I felt privileged to ride him.

PS. We had a hell of a good night at the local pub after the sale too!

Footnote: Anyone who is interested in the South Westland cattle country can find out more in 3 excellent DVDs 'Westland Muster', 'Cattle Drive', and 'Nolan Country', 'The ANZAC Muster', produced by South Coast Productions www.videosouth.com or videosouth@xtra.co.nz.



North Pine Bush Poets Group Inc



20th Camp Oven Festival

Weekending 28st — 30th August 2015

North's Leagues Club

**Anzac Avenue,
Kallangur.**

07 5495 5110

wmbear1@bigpond.com

North Pine Bush Poets' Group Inc gratefully acknowledges assistance from the Bendigo Bank's Brendale Branch Community Awards programme.

TRAVELS WITH MANNIE

By Manfred Vijars

Woodstock Station and Min Min Station Qld – Cobb & Co Changeover Stations



Woodstock Station (pictured) is one in nine of the oldest and original Cobb and Co changing stations on the Winton to Boulia coach run (364km). Woodstock is roughly halfway between Winton and Boulia on the Kennedy Development Road, also known as the Min Min Byway. Woodstock Station once had a pub and general store and was a centre for the settlers in the region.

The Kennedy Development Road, from Winton to Boulia, goes past the historic site of the Min Min Hotel. All that's left of the hotel is a series of stumps, a broken glass dump and a grave to the unknown Traveller (pictured). Yes, it's the same hotel of the infamous Min Min Light fame. These mysterious lights have no explanation - but they're real enough. One thing all the stories have in common is that you don't find them, they find you!

Many development roads are mainly single lane bitumen of variable quality, however the Kennedy Development Road is well tarred with two lanes almost all the way with good shoulders for passing road trains. And before the bitumen and road trains it was a track, plied by the Cobb and Co coaches.

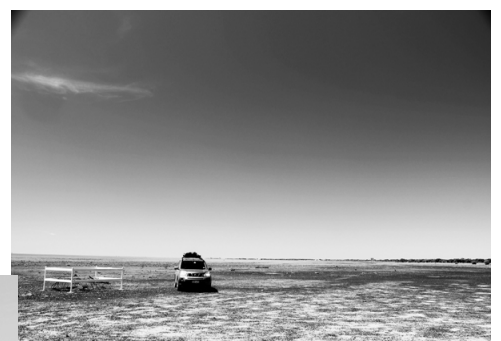
For nearly 70 years Cobb and Co dominated coach transport and mail delivery throughout Eastern Australia. Cobb and Co at its peak operated a network of tracks that extended further than those of any other coach system in the world - its coaches travelled 28,000 miles (44,000km) per week. Of their 30,000 horses, 6000 were harnessed every day. Cobb and Co's incredible rise was due partly to its commitment to efficient and fast delivery.

Often took days off travel time on particular routes, by having fast horses and changing them frequently. Having to change horses every 15 miles or so, meant that changing stations had to be established and these had to be manned by fast and hard working teamsters. The expansion of the Cobb and Co routes contributed significantly to the establishment of settlements and effective communications throughout regional Eastern Australia.

Unlike its rivals, Cobb and Co operated after nightfall, which contributed to its efficiency and led to the famous Henry Lawson poem "The Lights of Cobb and Co". The lights could be seen for miles across open country and were displayed in a particularly distinctive triangular arrangement, a sight which would have been warmly welcomed by many an outback pioneer.



Cawnpore Lookout Winton-Boulia



Site of MinMin Hotel



Woodstock Station

The Lights Of Cobb And Co.

Henry Lawson

FIRE LIGHTED, on the table a meal for sleepy men,
A lantern in the stable, a jingle now and then;
The mail coach looming darkly by light of moon and star,
The growl of sleepy voices—a candle in the bar.
A stumble in the passage of folk with wits abroad;
A swear-word from a bedroom—the shout of 'All aboard!'
'Tchk-tchk! Git-up!' 'Hold fast, there!' and down the range we go;
Five hundred miles of scattered camps will watch for Cobb and Co.

Old coaching towns already 'decaying for their sins,'
Uncounted 'Half-Way Houses,' and scores of 'Ten Mile Inns';
The riders from the stations by lonely granite peaks;
The black-boy for the shepherds on sheep and cattle creeks;
The roaring camps of Gulgong, and many a 'Digger's Rest';
The diggers on the Lachlan; the huts of Farthest West;
Some twenty thousand exiles who sailed for weal or woe;
The bravest hearts of twenty lands will wait for Cobb and Co.

The morning star has vanished, the frost and fog are gone,
In one of those grand mornings which but on mountains dawn;
A flask of friendly whisky—each other's hopes we share—
And throw our top-coats open to drink the mountain air.
The roads are rare to travel, and life seems all complete;
The grind of wheels on gravel, the trot of horses' feet,
The trot, trot, trot and canter, as down the spur we go—
The green sweeps to horizons blue that call for Cobb and Co.

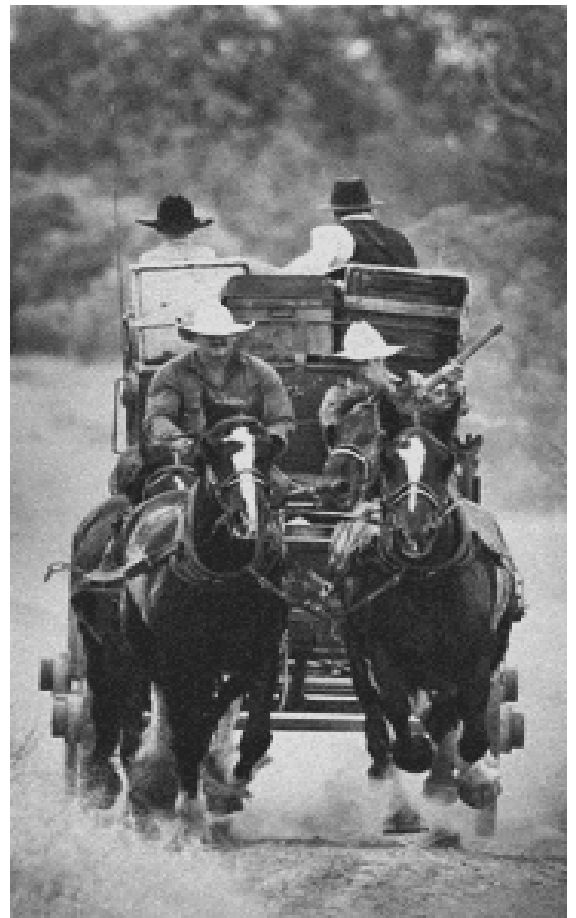
We take a bright girl actress through western dust and damps,
To bear the home-world message, and sing for sinful camps,
To wake the hearts and break them, wild hearts that hope and ache—
(Ah! when she thinks of those days her own must nearly break!)
Five miles this side the gold-field, a loud, triumphant shout:
Five hundred cheering diggers have snatched the horses out:
With 'Auld Lang Syne' in chorus through roaring camps they go—
That cheer for her, and cheer for Home, and cheer for Cobb and Co.

Three lamps above the ridges and gorges dark and deep,
A flash on sandstone cuttings where sheer the sidings sweep,
A flash on shrouded waggons, on water ghastly white;
Weird bush and scattered remnants of rushes in the night
Across the swollen river a flash beyond the ford:
'Ride hard to warn the driver! He's drunk or mad, good Lord!'
But on the bank to westward a broad, triumphant glow—
A hundred miles shall see to-night the lights of Cobb and Co.!

Swift scramble up the siding where teams climb inch by inch;
Pause, bird-like, on the summit—then breakneck down the pinch
Past haunted half-way houses—where convicts made the bricks—
Scrub-yards and new bark shanties, we dash with five and six—
By clear, ridge-country rivers, and gaps where tracks run high,
Where waits the lonely horseman, cut clear against the sky;
Through stringy-bark and blue-gum, and box and pine we go;
New camps are stretching 'cross the plains the routes of Cobb and Co.

Throw down the reins, old driver—there's no one left to shout;
The ruined inn's survivor must take the horses out.
A poor old coach hereafter!—we're lost to all such things—
No bursts of songs or laughter shall shake your leathern springs
When creeping in unnoticed by railway sidings drear,
Or left in yards for lumber, decaying with the year—
Oh, who'll think how in those days when distant fields were broad
You raced across the Lachlan side with twenty-five on board.

Not all the ships that sail away since Roaring Days are done—
Not all the boats that steam from port, nor all the trains that run,
Shall take such hopes and loyal hearts—for men shall never know
Such days as when the Royal Mail was run by Cobb and Co.
The 'greyhounds' race across the sea, the 'special' cleaves the haze,
But these seem dull and slow to me compared with Roaring Days!
The eyes that watched are dim with age, and souls are weak and slow,
The hearts are dust or hardened now that broke for Cobb and Co.



The ABPA Bush Poetry Championships

Festival dates 9th — 12th April 2015

Adult Entries Close Friday 13th February 2015

Junior Entries Friday 20th March 2015.

Performance entries are accepted in date order and capped at 20 per section. No late entries accepted.

Accommodation: 02 6076 277 (Poets Campsites \$80 for whole festival for vans/tents. \$40 for small tents.

Weekend passes: 4 day festival pass costs \$90 or \$80 for commonwealth Concessions. Volunteers \$40.

Enquiries Jan Lewis 02 6077 4332 or
info@vbpm.com.au

Festival Office: 02 6076 1992

Festival email: info@bushfestival.com.au

Website: www.bushfestival.com.au

2015 Aust Bush Poetry Championships at MFSR Festival

The 2015 Australian Bush Poetry Championships will be held at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival at Corryong 9 – 12th April 2015. (Everyone should come to MFSR at least once!)

The MFSR Festival Board members are excited at this highlight to the festival program and look forward to working with Jan Lewis, the Poetry event manager to make it happen like it did in 2012.

Following ABPA guidelines, we have Original Humorous and Serious, Contemporary and Classical sections. We'll also cater for Open, Intermediate, Novice and Junior classes..

Entries closing 13th Feb here <http://www.bushfestival.com.au/main-events/poetry-bush-music/>, or on ABPA and VBPA websites or contact Jan Lewis 0260774332 or info@vbpm.com.au

Interstate poets can fix up their campervans and put the dates in their diaries..... even though there is limited indoor accommodation, there's plenty of room for camping, and possibly billets.

With a 1914 -15 theme, our guests will enrapture the audience with a great repertoire of Anzac and other poems and ensure an unforgettable weekend for poets and fans alike.

GUESTS: Geoffrey Graham, Chloe and Jason Roweth, Graeme Johnson, Brenda Joy, Carol Reffold and John and Carmel Lloyd and friends.



Top of the Murray Poets
& Bush Storytellers
(TOMPABS)

and the

Man From Snowy River Bush Festival
Poetry & Music

2015 Australian Bush Poetry Championships

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th April 2015

Contact Jan Lewis Events Manager (voluntary)
ABPA Victorian Rep
Secretary info@vbpm.com.au

MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 9 To SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2015

- 3 day - \$60,000 Man From Snowy River CHALLENGE, Art & Photography Competition,
- Street Parade,
- Re-enactment of AB Paterson's Man From Snowy River Poem,
- Ute Muster, Street Stalls,
- HIGH COUNTRY RODEO,
- Arts & Crafts Market,
- Entertainment Marquee ANZ High Country Station Team Muster,
- Aussie Bush Idol Talent Quest,
- Busking Competition,
- Dog Jump,
- Working Dog Competition,
- Campdraft,
- Team Penning,
- Arena Entertainment,
- COUNTRY ROCK CONCERT with The McClymont Sisters

Tickets: www.bushfestival.com.au

2015 Bush Poetry Schedule

Thursday 9th April

12:30pm Concert including Junior performers

5:00pm Anzac Concert
(Entertainment Marquee, Res Reserve)

6:30pm Meet, Eat & Greet for
POETS & MUSOS – Bottom Pub,
Corryong

8pm Open Mic – Bottom Pub,
Corryong.

Friday 10th April

1:15pm Red Poppies Concert (note
– will finish in time for the Street
Parade.)

5:30pm 'Bush Songs are for Sing-
ing' with Chloe and Jason Roweth

6pm MFSR Poem Recital Final and
YARNSPINNING

Saturday 11th April

10am Aust Bush Poetry Champi-
onships - Classical Poetry

2pm Championships (cont'd)
Modern Poetry (please note –
Novice/Intermediate fitted in
when time allows)

7pm Aust Bush Poetry Champion-
ship – Original Humorous Compe-
tition followed by Variety Concert

SUNDAY 12th April

10am Aust Bush Poetry Champi-
onships – Original Serious poem,
one minute poem and Matilda
awards.

2pm Junior Poets followed by
AWARDS.

2015 ROSTO OLIVES

MERRIWA FESTIVAL OF THE FLEECES



 Thank you for visiting ... Merriwa "Home of the Pony Club"
www.merriwa.nsw.au or www.upperhuntercountry.com

POETS' BREKKY

*Sponsored by Merriwa CWA,
Merriwa Café and Bakery
& El Dorando Motel, Merriwa*

Sunday 7 June, 2015

9-11 CWA Hall Main St., Merriwa NSW.

Compered by *Carol Heuchan*

Walkups invited - \$550 in cash prizes for best performances!

Enquiries: LGarment@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

Gulgong Henry Lawson Society of N.S.W.

2015 Literary Awards

Written Short Story and Written Verse

Competition and Performance Poetry

Total Prizemoney of over \$5,000 and a statuette of Henry Lawson, donated by The Land for open adult sections, with Loaded Dog statues for the Emerging sections. Also a plaque for the winners of the school student sections.



Entries close 27th March 2015.

Contact for entry forms-

Web: www.henrylawsongulgong.org.au (Download)

Email - henrylawsongulgong@yahoo.com.au

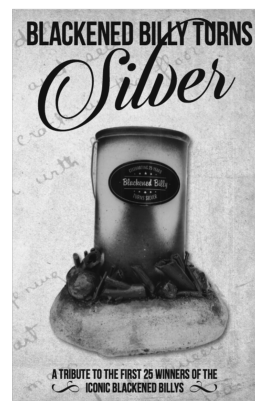
Ph Beth 0408473262 Fax 0263 742400

Presentations at the
Gulgong Henry Lawson Heritage Festival
June Long Weekend 5 – 8 June, 2015

ORDER FORM

BLACKENED BILLY TURNS SILVER

A Tribute to the First 25 Winners of the Iconic Blackened Billys



Price \$15.00 (incl. postage)

Send Order Form to Tamworth Poetry Reading Group
PO Box 3001
West Tamworth NSW 2340

Please forward copy/copies of the
Blackened Billy Turns Silver at \$15 each to

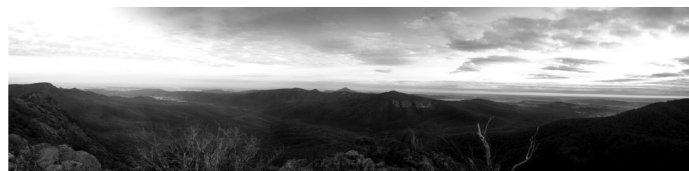
Name

Postal Address

.....Postcode

I enclose payment of

(Please make cheques and money orders payable to
Tamworth Poetry Reading Group)



THE 13TH ANNUAL

NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION

CONDUCTED BY

NARRABRI & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

SPONSORED BY

NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL



FIRST PRIZE: \$150 AND TROPHY

SECOND PRIZE: \$100

THIRD PRIZE: \$50

ENTRY FORM

Available from:

Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre

Phone : 6799 6760

Or

Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc.

P. O. Box 55

Narrabri 2390

Entry forms to be returned to:

The above address

THE NANDEWAR POETRY COMPETITION 2015

Conducted by

The Narrabri & District Historical Society Inc.

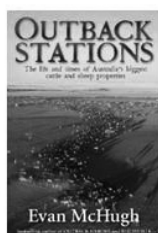
In conjunction with the rules of the ABPA

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 PER POEM OR 3 POEMS FOR \$10.00.

CLOSING DATE. Entries date stamped no later than July 30th

SHEAR STORIES

*Denis McIntosh, Evan McHugh, Freda Marnie Nicholls, Rory O'Malley,
Ken Prato, Geoff Barrett, Valerie Hobson, Bernie Walker and more ..*



**Writers Forum
Short Story competition
Writing workshop**

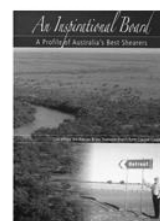
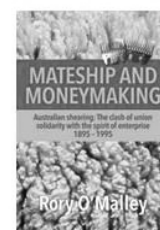
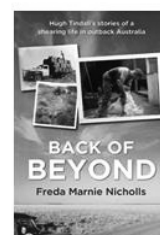
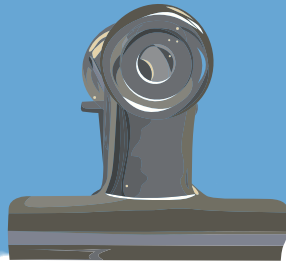


Photo by Margie McClelland

Talk to writers and hear their personal stories, learn how they achieved success in the world of publishing as they documented the disappearing shearing culture and its larger-than-life characters

Saturday 4th April 2015

FESTIVAL OF THE
BLADES



Regular Monthly Events

NSW

Illawarra Breakfast Poets meet every Wednesday at 7am at Coniston Community Hall, next to Coniston Railway Station. Ample parking, no steps, everyone welcome.

"Bush Poetry In The Upper Lachlan." The Laggan Pub, Laggan NSW. The 1st Wednesday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. For further details contact Mike or Elaine on (02) 4837 3397

Gosford Bush Poets meet at 7pm the last Wednesday of every month at the Gosford Hotel, crn. Mann and Erina Streets Gosford. All welcome. Contact Vic Jefferies 0425252212 or Peter Mace (02)-4369356

Port Macquarie (Hastings-Macleay) Poetry Group now meets 2nd Sunday afternoon 1pm to 4pm, Port Macquarie Senior Citizens Club (Pioneer Room), south end of Munster St, Port Macquarie. Contact Rod, Janice, Ian, Tom or Bessie 6584 5425

Milton Ulladulla Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Group First Sunday Every Month at Ex Servos Club Ulladulla 2pm start visitors welcome contact John Davis 02 44552013

Binalong - A Brush with Poetry @ Black Swan Wine Bar and Gallery. last Sunday of every odd month (except January), 2-4pm Open mic. Contact Robyn Sykes 02 6227 4377

The Queanbeyan Bush Poets meet at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Casuarina Room at the RB Smith Community Centre, Crawford Street, (opposite the Council Chambers). Contact Laurie McDonald on 02 6253 9856

Port Macquarie Minstrels, Poets and Balladeers meet fortnightly; 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1pm in the Pioneer Room, Senior Citizens Hall south end of Munster St, Port Macquarie. Contact Tom McIlveen 0417 251287

2nd Sunday - 2:00 pm Poetry at the Pub Katoomba Blackburn's Family Hotel. All forms poetry, free entry. Contact Denis Rice 02 4782 6623 tdrice3@southernphone.com.au

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poet Group meet from 9am on 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at The Distillery - North Pine Hotel, Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Rd. Petrie Contact :- Wally or Mary 07 5495 5110.

Kurilpa Poets - last Sunday of the month 2pm to 4.30pm, Croquet Hall, 91 Codelia St. Sth Brisbane. Contact Marilyn 0458 598 683

Geebung Writers - 9.30 am every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Geebung RSL. Contact Jean (07)32654349

Bundaberg Poets Society Inc. 2nd Saturday of the month. Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street. Contact Edna 0428 574 651; Jayson (07) 41550778 or Sandy (07) 41514631.

Beaudesert Bush Bards meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 9.30am at the Beaudesert Arts & information Centre, Mt.Lindesay H'way, Beaudesert. Phone 07 5541 2662 or 3272 4535.

Redcliffe Peninsular Poets - 1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm to 9pm. Winton Room, Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Downs Street, Redcliffe. Contact Trish (07) 38847790 or Trish1942@gmail.com

Russell Island Writers Circle - 2nd Thursday of the month at 9.30 am. St. Peters Church Hall (Next to IGA). \$2 donation. Contact Trish (07)34091542

Shorncliffe Cafe On The Park - 3rd Monday of the month from 6pm, 6 Park Pde, Shorncliffe. Contact Kevin Dean (07) 38810986

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates Inc meet every first Tuesday of the month at Aitkenvale Library Meeting Room at 7:00pm. They also meet at Bellevue Hotel, Allen Street, South Townsville, every third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm for 'Pub Grub' and 7:00pm for 'Walk-Up' poetry. Loads of fun. All welcome.

Victoria

Kyabram Bush Verse Group- First Monday, every second month, namely Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Dec. at the Kyabram Baptist Church meeting room, crn Fenaughty Street and Lake Road Kyabram 7.30pm. Contact Mick Coventry 0427-522097

Gippsland Bush Poets meet Monthly, 7.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the RSL Hall in Hood St. Rosedale

Top of the Murray Poets and Bush Storytellers (TOMPABS) meet Monthly (mostly Tuesdays in Corryong) for writing workshops, Monthly on 3rd Sunday for Music and Poetry at Maurie Foun's 'Poets' Paradise'. Contact Jan Lewis (02) 60774332

Bendigo Goldfields Bush Poets - Third Sunday even numbered months, except December when second Sunday. Newmarket Hotel, cnr Nolan St & Strickland Rd, Bendigo 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Contacts: Geoffrey Graham 03 5446 7104 or Ken Jones 03 5441 5121

WA

Albany Bush Poets Group 4th Tuesday of each month. Contact Peter 98446606

Perth monthly muster, 1st Friday of each month 7pm - 9.30pm at The Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive Bentley Park 6102 Contact Dave 0438341256 or Terry 0894588887.