

A.B.P.A.



Australian Bush Poets Association
Volume 29 No. 61 February/March 2023



The Future of Bush Poetry is in good hands
Joey Reedy at The Longyard.



MILTON SHOW SOCIETY BUSH POETRY

To be held at JNA Thomson Pavilion Milton
Showground Saturday 4th March 2023

8AM – Poet's Breakfast – WALK UPS with a difference

Entrants may recite or sing a song unaccompanied (without music). Open to all.

Prizes – 1st \$100, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40

9.30AM – The Ruth Davis Memorial JUNIOR POETRY SPEAKING COMPETITION

For those 13 years and under. See entry form for detail and prizes.

11AM – OPEN BUSH POETRY SPEAKING COMPETITION

Poem can be classical, contemporary or original. Serious or light-hearted. Maximum 15 performers.

Prizes – 1st \$600, 2nd \$350, 3rd \$250, three highly commended \$100.

Entry Fee \$15. Entries accepted on first in first served basis. Entries close 3rd February 2023.

Complimentary Tea and Coffee at venue.

Entry forms download from ABPA website OR
miltonshowociety.com/poetry/ OR email
miltonshowociety@gmail.com



Looming Legend Competition 2023

30th MARCH - 2nd APRIL 2023

Our theme for 2023 'COMMUNITY THREADS'

ADULT SECTIONS

Supported by Tenterfield Shire Council

Total Prize Money: in excess of \$3000 plus Trophies - FREE ENTRY

WRITTEN - \$400 Prize (each section)

SECTION 1. Poem with humorous theme

SECTION 2. Poem celebrating 'Community Threads'

PERFORMANCE

Contestants in the Novice section will perform in ordinary heats but will be judged for a separate award.

SECTION 3. **NOVICE: \$100**

For performers who have not previously entered State Championships or Looming Legend

SECTION 4. Original Work - see Rule 7

Prize: \$1023 Runner-up: \$200

SECTION 5. Previously published works by other poets

Prize: \$400 Runner-up \$200

CHILDREN'S SECTIONS

Sponsored by Essential Energy

WRITTEN

SECTION 6. Infants: 4 - 20 lines

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

SECTION 7. Primary: 9 years and under: 10 - 20 lines

SECTION 8. Primary: 10 years and over: 12 - 30 lines

SECTION 9. Secondary: 12 - 40 lines

Prizes (sections 7, 8 & 9)

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

PERFORMANCE

Child to perform any poem with a bush spirit-original or otherwise

SECTION 10. Infant Children from all districts

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

SECTION 11. Primary Children 9 years & under from all districts

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

SECTION 12. Primary Children 10 years & over from all districts

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

SECTION 13. Secondary Children from all districts

1st - \$50

\$25 Encouragement Prize

See your School or visit the website www.oraclesofthebush.com

**For an Entry Form call the Looming Legends Co-ordinator
Mobile: 0489 927 845**

For more information, go to

<http://www.oraclesofthebush.com>

Firstly, Happy Australia Day to all.

Another year gone, but with plenty of memories from Bush Poetry Events all over Australia. The recent Tamworth Country Music Festival kicked off 2023 in style with good crowds attending the Bush Poets events at the Festival.

Tom McIlveen, Graeme Johnson and myself all hosted Morning shows and the turnouts were great to see.

Now we move towards the Orange Banjo Paterson Festival, the Tenterfield Oracles of The Bush and Boyup Brook in WA.

Not that long ago, during Covid restrictions, it seemed like these Festivals would struggle to get off the ground again, but resilience and hard work from the organisers and clubs has seen Bush Poetry bounce back better than ever.

It's also encouraging to see our young Poets at the Longyard taking up the banner, in Joey Reedy and his little sister, Bianca. They have become crowd favorites, and it was great to see Joey mixing Comedy Poetry with Traditional Humorous poems. A big future lays ahead for them in the art of Performance Poetry.

It is also great to see that a new (well, not new, but little known) Competition for writers will be on shortly, carrying a \$10,000 first prize!! Cloncurry Shire Council are looking forward to the Cloncurry Prize Poetry Competition returning again in 2023. Cloncurry Prize Poetry Competition entries will open on World Poetry Day on Tuesday 21 March 2023.

We look forward to bringing you more information about the competition in the next Magazine. Also keep an eye out on our Website.

Neil McArthur

ABPA Committee Members 2022

Executive:

President	-- Tim Sheed	president@abpa.org.au
Vice-President	-- Ray Essery	essery56m@bigpond.com
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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, Word or PDF Format to editor@abpa.org.au

All payments to be made within 14 days to

The Treasurer - Christine Middleton

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or via Direct Debit to ABPA Account

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633000

Account: 154842108

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

Next Magazine Deadline is March 27th 2023

President's Report

Happy belated new year to all as we look forward to things finally returning to as close as possible to pre pandemic as they are likely to get.

We are looking forward to our National Bush Poetry Performance Championship in Orange on the twenty third and twenty fourth of February in conjunction with the Banjo Paterson Festival.

It is the first time a National Championship has been held since two thousand and seventeen.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Rotary Club of Orange for their work towards this major event.

There is now no discrimination between Male and Female Champion for the Nationals in February. There will only be ONE Overall Champion. The category winners and placegetters will of course, also be either male or female.

The Frank Daniels Bush Poetry Performance Award was a great success when recently held in conjunction with the Tamworth Country Music Festival and I extend congratulation to the organisers and participants.

There are many other events incorporating bush poetry performance around this country and people are attending in great numbers which is heartening for the future of our form of story telling.

We in the eastern states are well represented in bush poetry but it might not be fully appreciated just how vibrant the scene is in WA.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee of ABPA for another successful year and for their ongoing commitment.



Tim Sheed
President ABPA

Notification of AGM - THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2023

Immediately following National competition event for thursday (approx. 5pm)

Those wishing to attend via zoomPlease contact Treasurer Christine Middleton with email details.

Dear Poets

Here is another reminder of the fabulous opportunities coming up for the 2023 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival in Orange, 17 to 26 February 2023. We have the following competitions:

Deidre Penhall Poetry Prize – a writing competition for young women (18 to 30) who live in the Central West of NSW. Closes 21 December so time is running out. Details are on www.rotarycluboforange.org.au

National Bush Poetry Performance Championships – details and entry forms are on the Australian Bush Poets website www.abpa.org.au

Youth performance poetry competition – for Primary School and High School students. Details are on www.rotarycluboforange.org.au

Open performance poetry competition – for those not entering the national championships. Details are on www.rotarycluboforange.org.au

The Blackened Billy Writing Awards – an annual national competition. Closes on 30 November 2022 so time is really running out. Details are on <https://blackenedbillyversecompetition.com/>

Poetry Brawl at Molong – one-minute poems. Details from Jude Taylor 0405 021 265.

There are also opportunities for walk-up competitions and performances (including yarn spinning) at pubs, wineries and outdoors. The draft program is at www.rotarycluboforange.org.au and a printed program will be developed in the next month which I will send to you as a PDF.

Please pass this email on to others who may be interested.

Plan your trip to Orange now.

Regards
Len Banks
President
Rotary Club of Orange

The Spirit of the Outback

© Shelley Hansen 2022

Winner, 2022 Bronze Swagman Award

If the Spirit of the Outback could be captured and defined,
would it be a wedge-tailed eagle on the wing
seeking shade in craggy places
far beyond our upturned faces
where remoteness is a living, breathing thing?
Or perhaps the Outback Spirit could be suitably aligned
to a flock of tiny budgies – green and gold –
who, though numbering a million,
move as one in strict cotillion
on a dance floor that the heavens have unrolled.

Is the Outback Breath a larrikin, unfit to be confined
like a screeching sulphur-crested cockatoo
as he vandalises branches,
taking acrobatic chances
just to prove that fortune favours those who do –
while the bleaching bones of skeletons speak harshly to remind
careless travellers of consequences paid?
Now a jet-black crow is mourning,
calling forth a sombre warning
near the tombstones where departed ones are laid.

Have you travelled through the Outback with your caravan behind?
Have you trekked the trail to “Nowhere” and believed
that the scenery is boring?
Then you’ve only been ignoring
what the Spirit of the Outback has achieved.
You must listen to its lessons with an open state of mind,
learn the wisdom that the Outback can impart,
stop to hear each striking story
of the hardship and the glory
throbbing through our nation’s strongly-beating heart.

Like the lonely wedge-tailed eagle, the explorers strove to find
new horizons, to the point of no return.
But were Burke and Wills a failure?
No! They walked across Australia
and they blazed the trail for those whose spirits burn.
The inhabitants soon followed, filled with strength and hope combined.
Side by side they strove, as legends came to light –
like the doctors whose devotion
shone through pain and pill and potion
braving fire and flood to ease a patient’s plight.

We’ve had ample shady characters, who’ve often been maligned.
They defied the law and copped a price to pay.
Yet the conmen and the hustlers
and the cheeky cattle rustlers
opened Outback trails which still survive today.
With resilience and enterprise these stories are entwined –
they refused to let the fear of failure win.
As they girded up for battle
with the elements and cattle,
Outback Spirit drew endurance from within.



Most of all, the Outback Spirit is completely colour-blind
as inscriptions in each graveyard clearly tell.
Chinese gardeners, prospectors,
Greeks and Germans, free selectors
worked beside First Nation people to dispel
tragic tales of racial malice that have sometimes underlined
the bravado of a few who closed their eyes
to the Outback Spirit’s leading.
Deafened ears ignored its pleading
as they grieved the circumspection of the wise.

In this world that’s vastly changing, modern man is disinclined
to discern what lessons history may teach.
But a moment’s observation
when combined with contemplation
will reveal a goal that’s well within our reach.
For the “strength of one” does matter. We can forge strong ties that bind
with the code of mateship needed to survive.
We can find how love and laughter
of good friends can ever after
banish bitter tears, as long as we’re alive.

Yes, the Outback Spirit thrives in living things. It was designed
as a scintillating diamond in the rough.
It will furtively lie hidden
just to shine its light, unbidden,
when, beset by life’s ordeals, you cry, “Enough!”
So get up! Go out and find it. Let the cords of stress unwind
in this coloured land, beneath a sky of blue.
You will find a thousand reasons
to embrace the coming seasons
when the Spirit of the Outback lives in you!

TAMWORTH'S FRANK DANIEL AWARDS 2023

Sponsored by The ABPA, Ray Essery and Tom McLveen, the Frank Daniel Awards held in Tamworth this year, at the West Tamworth Bowlo, were an outstanding success. Hosted by Ray Essery, Tom McLveen, and supported by Susan Ashton, Bill Kearns, Peter & Anita Mace, Neil McArthur, Paddy and Mary O'Brien and Dave Melville, contestants competed in two elimination bouts on Tuesday and Thursday, with eight chosen finalists competing on Friday 20th January. The winner's trophy was supplied and donated by Ray Essery with 2nd Placed Trophy and 3rd and 4th placed Token Mugs supplied and donated by Tom McLveen.

Prizemoney was provided by the ABPA, with Cash prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Places. The standard was high with some very polished performances by both newbies and some familiar faces from previous years. Commencing immediately after the West Bowlo Bush Poets' Breakfast Show, The Frank Daniel Awards attracted a large audience, with many of the Breakfast Show attendees opting to stay on and support the contestants. Members of the audience were asked to vote for their favoured performer and chose 2nd, 3rd and 4th placings as well. To avoid crowd vote stacking, we allowed only one vote per family or audience group. (husbands, wives & partners were allowed to vote)...It proved to be a very fair and accurate scoring system, without singular biases affecting the scoring of individual performers. Performers were timed and judged solely on audience appeal.

Congratulations goes to 1st Placed winner Marion Dreyer, who had the added honour (thanks to Neil McArthur and Ray Essery), of performing at the very prestigious Longyard Bush Poets' final Sunday Breakfast Show, in front of a very large audience. 2nd Place was awarded to John Bidgood, with 3rd going to Lorraine McCrimmon and 4th to John Seers.

The Frank Daniel Awards commenced in Tamworth several years ago at St Edwards Hall, initiated by Ray Essery and supported by Tom McLveen, and will continue to provide a platform for aspiring performing poets to hone their skills and showcase their talents in front of an audience, whilst competing for recognition, acknowledgement and awards for those talents. Several of our better known current day performing poets got their first taste of stage time at the Frank Daniel Awards in Tamworth and have gone on to bigger and better things since.

This was always Ray Essery's intention...to inspire, foster, encourage and promote new talent coming through the ranks, and I commend him for it. He has been, and will continue to be a great ambassador for modern day Australian Bush Poetry. We will be back in Tamworth next year and are looking forward to another successful competition.

Tom McLveen.



Susan Ashton, Marion Dreyer, Ray Essery & Tom McLveen

The Day the Guns Grew Still

© Peter O'Shaughnessy

Winner of the 2022 C.J. Dennis Competition

With shards of shrapnel shrieking from the sky,
this futile, senseless war persists – but why?
How often will this ground be won or lost,
then won again, no matter what the cost?
Men live in fear on this grim, deathly hill.
They fear huge guns that keep on roaring still.

This was “The War to End all Wars,” they said,
but now we see more than a million dead.
The shattered few remaining sit and stare.
The horrors they have seen too much to bear,
but they must carry on, they always will
and those dark guns will keep on pounding still.

But then, in disbelief, the war might end.
An armistice – what does the word portend?
Is it too soon to hear the anthems sung,
to see the victor's flags and pennants hung?
For even while the celebrations thrill,
the distant guns stay rumbling, faintly, still.

And then – although the bells of peacetime toll –
the monster guns resume their roaring role.
The world explodes in thunder, blood and flame.
The howling hounds of hell rejoin the game,
as like a final, roaring codicil
the thundering of guns grows louder still.

Can this be peace? These are the sounds of war.
The shrieking roar a concert metaphor.
Does crashed crescendo by the guns decree
grim climax to this thundered symphony?
Like pounding drums whose sounds surround until
great cymbals clash! Then hush! The guns grow still.

Then – from the shattered air – hushed calm descends.
Men whisper, soft, in fearful talk with friends.
In disbelief and shock – a vacant stare.
What next? They do not know, nor do they care.
Mind numbing calm pervades the trenches' chill.
A nervous silence reigns. The guns lie still.

We see no joyful celebration here.
Those who survive still live in constant fear,
for them, the present does not yet exist –
the future – just a meaningless grey mist.
They sit there stunned, still fearing death's dark drill.
Still numb, they wonder that the guns are still.

The strain of mindless months of mortal stress –
would they survive? They dared not try to guess.
For now, the awful silence brings more pain
with thoughts of mates they'll never see again.
They see their rough wood crosses on the hill
and can't believe the monstrous guns are still.

So, where we stand today was once their hell.
Now poppies grow where Aussie heroes fell.
We shed a tear at haunting bugle tones
and seek their hallowed names on marble stones.
For here the ghosts of all our heroes will,
at last, find peace. May those dark guns stay still.



*It is not generally known, but there are several reports that the fighting did not stop in all sectors at 11 o'clock, as required by the armistice. Both sides seemed determined to expend all their remaining ammunition in the final minutes and many men fell after 11 o'clock on that final day. Many men in the trenches could not believe the war had ended.

Longyard Poets

Another Tamworth Country Music Festival come and gone in the blink of an eye! It was great catching up with mates, both old and new and a few new Bush Poets to boot.

This year we held seven breakfasts and they were again very well attended. With a crew including Marco Giori, Errol Gray, Ray Essery, Bill Kearns, Joey Reedy, Gary Fogarty, Rhonda Tallnash, Greg Champion, Dave Prior and Dave Mellville, they were seven enormous mornings, with guest appearances from Golden Guitarist, Jeff Browne and a couple of special days with Therese and Pete Proust, keeping Proustie's memory alive and well in true Longyard style. Also our Barrel Girl/Bush Poet Bianca Reedy (Joey's younger sister) made a wonderful impact on the audiences with her wit and smile. Great to see the younger Bush Poets finally advancing through the ranks. They will be running these shows before we know it and carting us old buggers up onto the stage!!

Next year will come around before we know it and a few changes in lineup again to try to keep the shows fresh will hopefully get the lovers of Bush Poetry and Laughter back through that big old gate again.

Thanks to all involved, and in particular to the Longyard Hotel for allowing us to keep the Spirit of Australian Bush Poetry alive and well during the Festival.



Greg Champion with Bianca Reedy



Neil McArthur

Bill Kearns, Errol Gray, Jeff Browne, Neil McArthur and Ray Essery



Gary Fogarty & Yours truly



Therese Proust and Boofhead taking 'Selfie' with the Longyard Crowd.



Joey Reedy



Pete Proust



Marco Giori



Colleen McArthur, Julie Giori, Therese Proust and Cindy Fogarty



Errol Gray

"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings
Both wise remarks and childish chucklings,"
So saith the Psalmist at some length,
In praise of fortitude and strength.
Both tales of innocence and humour
Mistaken truths or mishmashed rumour.

Episodes in a pedagogue's career
At Yannathan South or the Hume Weir,
As the sole teacher at a rural school
Imparting facts or the "Golden Rule."
"Thirty-three children thirsting for knowledge
On life's journey to a university college.

Some activities with due regard
To age and maturity if not too hard,
To be taken by the whole school together,
Dependent often on the weather.
Physical education skills and talks,
Art sessions outdoors and nature walks.

Poetry, drama and music – these three –
Enjoyed by all, wholeheartedly –
Need specialised teaching time
Enhancing melody and rhyme.
Exclusive teaching time is required
For Maths and Science and books admired.

To teach our children how to read,
Is the over-riding task and special need
Of the primary school, and all else depend
On this one goal, and the time you spend.
Flash cards, Phonics, Picture Recognition
Matching objects with the word and sound with the vision.

Koo-wee-rup was a swampy area,
Noted for its mozzies, and malaria,
Now drained and used for farming pursuits,
Dairying and cropping, and vegies and fruits
Koo-wee-rup farms – asparagus and peas
Yanathan has the milk, butter and cheese.

At Yannathan South, one year I recall,
I taught nine prep graders, we were having a ball,
Need lots of colourful picture books?
Lions and Tigers, ducklings and chooks?
Must be joking, we didn't have any,
Not even Brer Rabbit, or Henny Penny.

Just the First Grade Reader - Betty and John
To pin our hopes of reading skills on.
Like John and Betty and Fluff the cat.
Our "would be readers" sat on the mat
While I shared my Flash Cards, pictures and words
Illustrating Animals and Birds.

"It's time for picture recognition,
Time to match up sound with vision.
Time to note letter combinations
Time for these helpful illustrations
Shapes of words and helpful cues
b's and d's, and p's and q's."

Australian animals KANGAROO
LION and TIGER at the zoo.
A strange animal PLATYPUS
A long word now HIPPOPOTAMUS
An ELEPHANT so very big
A farm-yard animal porky PIG.

The next flash card I held up I thought
The easiest one that I ever had taught.
"Now Graham," I said, "It's not very hard,
What is the picture on this card?"
A puzzled look appeared on his face.
No answer forthcoming for quite a space.

A classmate helped out, "A cow," she said."
Standing next to the milking shed."
"I must admit," I said in surprise,
A cow's recognisable in everyone's eyes."
But Graham said, "I wasn't aware Sir,
Whether the cow was a Friesian or an Ayrshire.

*(Note: Ayrshire Dairy Cow
White cow with black blotches
Friesian Dairy Cow
Black cow with white splotches)*



Thank you to competition organisers of
the junior written poetry competitions--
The Silver Quill Toodyay, West Australia
and The Betty Olle, Kyabram, Victoria.

Our Poetry Kids

with Brenda Joy

2022 Winner, Middle Junior Section
The Silver Quill Award

MY AUSTRALIA by Rebecca Li

The heavy blows of the didgeridoo
calls at my ears,
framing the culture like an authentic
photograph.
The company of the singing kookaburras
draws near
remembered by their contagious and
enthraling laughs.

And I catch a glimpse of my wild outback,
Acacias, Banksias and gum trees in between
the striking foilage of green
winding around the track
as a robust kangaroo
prances down in a routine.

As the setting rays glaze the horizon golden
the vivid smell of earthy Eucalyptus
fills my lungs with nostalgia unspoken
and thus day disappears without fuss.

The Southern Cross
bright and vibrant, like a blooming azalea
as it shines and runs across
my Australia.

© 2022 Rebecca Li (at age 12)

2022 Winner, Lower Junior Section
The Silver Quill Award

GLOWING NIGHT by Annabelle Woo

The moon was shining high in the sky
shining very bright .
The moonlight glowed like a magical mist.
A very beautiful sight.



The stars were lighting up the sky,
brightening up the night,
twinkling and sparkling in the mystic space.
A very enchanting night.

The sun was hiding while it slept,
tired from the day
but in the morning it will wake
and have a day of play.

Annabelle Woo (at age6)

2022 Winner, The Junior Betty Olle Award

THE MURRAY RIVER FLOW by Victoria Yarygin

In the big blue sky
where cockatoos fly,
where the wind blows
the Murray River flows.
Somewhere the trees
dance in the breeze,
where people go rowing
the Murray River is flowing.
Oh, the mighty river flow!

Where kangaroos prance
as if in a trance,
like a day comes and goes
the Murray River flows.
The koala is sleeping
while joeys are leaping,
and the reflection below
gives the river a glow.
Oh, the mighty river flow!

Oh, the mighty river
making trees go shiver,
making the wind blow
that Murray River flow!
Flowing through the Aussie land
making sea and making sand,
making giant red gums grow.
Oh, that Murray river flow!
Oh, the mighty river flow!
Oh, the mighty river flow!
Oh, that Murray River flow!

© 2022 Victoria Yarygin (at age 11)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WA

BOYUP BROOK COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL IS ON AGAIN

After 2 years without a festival, Boyup Brook will once again welcome festival goers for a weekend of music and poetry.

This year poets will have an added attraction of the group called "3 Randy Poets" aka Ray Essery, Peter Capp and Errol Gray, who will present their much loved comedy routine for our visitors. They will be performing in the Northlands shearing shed

BOYUP BROOK.



W.A. Bush Poets



3 RANDY POETS



Peter Capp, Ray Essery & Errol Gray

LAUGH YA GUTS OUT !

AUSTRALIA DAY at WIRELESS HILL, PERTH to r MC Bev Shorland, Broome poet, Dave Morrell, Cobber Lethbridge



(Left) The crowd enjoyed ideal weather as they listened to our poets in the picturesque setting.

(below) Looking after merchandise Sue Hill and Meg Gordon



Bush Poetry on the Swan

One hour show starting at 4.30pm
on board the 'Crystal Swan', Perth's floating function venue
Barrack Street Jetty

Four Shows Only
Thursday 2 February
Sunday 5 February
Thursday 9 February
Sunday 12 February

Tickets at www.fringeworld.com.au



RAY ESSERY AWARDED GOLDEN BADGE OF HONOUR & LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Ray Essery was awarded a Golden Badge of Honour and Life Membership of A.B.P.A recently during Tamworth's Country Music Festival by committee members Bill Kearns and Tom Mcilveen, immediately following the recent FRANK DANIEL AWARDS at West Tamworth Bowlo.

This highly coveted award is reserved for those very distinguished few who have contributed far above and beyond the norm in Australian Bush Poetry circles.

Despite the challenges of having recently become an Octogenarian, Ray continues to tour the outback, performing at festivals far and wide, with all of the vigour and zest of a teenage Rock Star. Though it might appear easy to be living the dream and doing what he loves best, it is in fact extremely arduous to arise early each morning during festivals and to give 110 percent to each and every performance. He is undoubtedly Australia's foremost yarnspinning Bush Poet and a great ambassador for the craft.

Despite the rigours of his very demanding performance schedule in Tamworth each year, he gives unselfishly of his time, and initiated the Frank Daniel awards there several years ago to foster, encourage and inspire aspiring performers to get up and have a go in front of an audience.

Many of today's current Australian Performing Bush Poets have earned their stripes under guidance, direction and encouragement from Ray.

I would like to thank President Tim Sheed and all fellow ABPA Committee and non Committee members who were instrumental in initiating this well deserved award. Congratulations Ray!!!

Tom Mcilveen.



Congratulations ABPA Member, John Davis!

The Brumby Awards were held on Thursday 12 January at Werris Creek Sports Club and ABPA member John Davis was among the winners. His poem "Visions of the Past" was adapted into a song called "Stockroutes of Australia Visions of the Past" with Peter Dawson and Colin DeFries. It won the best collaboration Brumby Award.



Eulogy for Henry

'I was born to write of the things that are! and the strength was given to me.

'I was born to strike at the things that mar the world as the world should be!

("The Writer's Dream" - Henry Lawson, 1897)

Henry Archibald Hertzberg Lawson was born June 17, 1867, near Grenfell, New South Wales, and died just over 100 years ago, of a cerebral hemorrhage, on September 2, 1922, Abbotsford, New South Wales. Henry Lawson was an eminent Australian poet and writer. He is considered as one of the most illustrious fiction writers and Australian poets of the colonial period, along with his contemporary Banjo Paterson. Yet, 'Banjo' Paterson saw himself as a mere 'versifier' and exclaimed, Lawson was the one with the literary merit.

BOURKE

It was somewhere in September and the sun was going down,
When I came in search of "copy" to a Darling River town.

JF Archibald thought it appropriate to temporarily 'banish' Lawson for a while to dry out. Bourke, at that time was the obvious choice being a hotbed of union activism with friction between the Shearers' Union and the Pastoralists.

Most historians agree that Lawson's time at Bourke had a profound effect on his subsequent writings. The harsh realities Lawson encountered pierced him deeply - and fondly. He wrote "Bourke" ten years after his visit; and in a letter to Edward Arnett in 1902 he wrote, 'If you know Bourke, you know Australia'.

More than the work of any of his contemporaries, the differing versions of Bourke to be found in Lawson's stories and verse offer an insight into the formation of the Australian Dream.

(John Barnes, The making of a legend: Henry Lawson at Bourke)

It was therefore appropriate that Bourke hold a celebration of Henry Lawson's life and works for this Centenary of his Passing.

By all accounts it was a resounding success.

Artists invited to perform at the "100 HENRY LAWSON A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE & STORIES" festival were, Geoffrey Graham, Jason and Chloe Roweth, Nerida Cuddy and myself. Paul Roe the local historian and font of all things Lawson was also in attendance throughout the Festival.

The Port of Bourke Hotel was an excellent venue for Friday night's 'meet and greet' and kicked the weekend with an Open Mic and Variety Concert.

Saturday was the Tag Along Tour of Toorale shearing shed, where Lawson worked as a rouseabout. Here, the tag-alongers enjoyed the concert by Geoffrey, Jason and Cloe, Nerida and myself. The highlight at the shearing shed was a detailed outline of the conditions of the time by Paul Roe our historian. After lunch at the shed we continued on to Toorale Homestead currently being restored. Here we were all treated to some fitting musical renditions by Nerida followed by some more in-depth history of the homestead and it's surrounds again by Paul Roe.

That evening we attended Henry Lawson's Wake at the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre. Geoffrey Graham was in the persona of Henry Lawson for the weekend and played it perfectly. The three 'minstrals' for the festival, Jason, Chloe and Nerida were appropriately chosen and did not disappoint. Jason would frequently launch into Lawson and captivate the audience with his unique and expressive storytelling style. Towards the end of the evening Manfred presented the eulogy.

We had the Poets Breakfast and Lawson Tribute on Sunday Morning at the Bourke Wharf Presinct featuring Geoffrey (as Lawson) and the hearty breakfast was provided by the Bourke Men's Shed (ya gotta love a country breakfast). A sizeable rollup enjoyed the entertainment - and breakfast.

A 'Sunset Send Off' for Henry on Mt Oxley was the closing event for the celebration with another great rollup braving the chilly mountain top wind.

Hearty congratulations to the former "Bard of Bourke" Andrew Hull (Hully), Bourke Shire Council, Bourke Men's Shed, Back O' Bourke Information Centre, and anyone or group I may have missed, for this truly historic and memorable event.



Bourke - Manfred Vijays Delivers Eulogy

Eulogy for Henry

Your formal trade was a painter. You were apprenticed as a Coach Painter in 1887, the same year your first published verse, "Song of the Republic" appeared in the Bulletin - starting an association with JF Archibald that would last till his death 32 years later

Your mother, Louisa, would read and recite poetry and introduced you to Shakespeare, Defoe and Dickens as well as Poe and Twain and not forgetting Australia's Gordon, Kendal and Clarke ..

You suffered an ear infection that caused partial deafness at nine years old and lost your hearing totally from 14 years old. Around that time you commenced working for your father building houses. Your father's greatest compliment was, "Well. I didn't know it was in you". When your father passed, you went and finished painting the cottages that he was working on.

You endured frequent tormenting as a teenager, and at least on one occasion you said, "you would rise above them all yet". The tormenting ceased after you took out a fellow at one workplace. You were 17 and you probably, "Never knew you had it in you".

You always had the longing for something better, something higher. But you were painfully shy about your sensitivity, deafness lack of education, spelling pronunciation (made worse by your deafness).

You did however, try to matriculate - several times and sadly, came up short.

Yet you persisted in your writings

Your deafness honed your sensitivities and magnified your insights and these strengths added power to your writings.

You knew Grace Jennings Carmichael in London, a fellow Poet and a Gippsland girl, who sadly died in abject poverty in London. Left behind three children who were consigned to a Labour Factory

Your poem of admonishment, "writ in blood between the lines" rallied the Gippsland community and moved the Government to bring her children back home to Australia. Saving them from the harsh children's labour factory in England, and brought them back home where they belong.

Your political Satires were signed, "Cervus Wright"

We can't say you didn't have a sense of humour.

Difficulties of hearing affected your spelling and punctuation. Archibald said you used to be a whale at spelling. A compositor who would set your work up on the Boomerang Magazine said it was demoralising him. But you persisted.

Now, your punctuation is impeccable. and your story telling - Ohh your story-telling ...

Your writings are varied in subjects, sentiments, metre and diction yet all inviting to be recited and read out loud and they are a joy to share and be told. No standout heroes in your tales, just ordinary people in ordinary times. Except your times were engaged in building this Nation.

You have shown us the importance of recording the day to day happenings. Describing the challenges faced in those ordinary times, you recorded for us how they were handled in our unique Australian ways.

You've also shown that the human condition doesn't change only the environment and time period does.

Henry, the "songs you sang to a land unsung and the lines you wrote when your heart was young" are woven into the heart of Australia and these, YOUR Words shall ever be YOUR Monument.

Rest in Peace



Geoffrey Paul Nerida Chloe & Jason
Geoffrey Graham on Mt Oxley
Chloe & Jason Roweth on Mt Oxley.

Bourke

Henry Lawson, 1902



I've followed all my tracks and ways, from old bark school to Leicester Square,
I've been right back to boyhood's days, and found no light or pleasure there.
But every dream and every track — and there were many that I knew —
They all lead on, or they lead back, to Bourke in Ninety-one, and two.

No sign that green grass ever grew in scrubs that blazed beneath the sun;
The plains were dust in Ninety-two, that baked to bricks in Ninety-one.
On glaring iron-roofs of Bourke, the scorching, blinding sandstorms blew,
And there was nothing beautiful in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

Save grit and generosity of hearts that broke and healed again —
The hottest drought that ever blazed could never parch the hearts of men;
And they were men in spite of all, and they were straight, and they were true,
The hat went round at trouble's call, in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

They drank, when all is said and done, they gambled, and their speech was rough —
You'd only need to say of one — 'He was my mate!' that was enough.
To hint a bushman was not white, nor to his Union straight and true,
Would mean a long and bloody fight in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

The yard behind the Shearers' Arms was reckoned best of battle grounds,
And there in peace and quietness they fought their ten or fifteen rounds;
And then they washed the blood away, and then shook hands, as strong men do —
And washed away the bitterness — in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

The Army on the grand old creek was mighty in those days gone by,
For they had sisters who could shriek, and brothers who could testify;
And by the muddy waterholes, they tackled sin till all was blue —
They took our bobs and damned our souls in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

By shanty bars and shearing sheds, they took their toll and did their work —
But now and then they lost their heads, and raved of hotter hells than Bourke:
The only message from the dead that ever came distinctly through —
Was — 'Send my overcoat to hell' — it came to Bourke in Ninety-two.

I know they drank, and fought, and died — some fighting fiends on blazing tracks —
I don't remember that they lied, or crawled behind each others' backs;
I don't remember that they loafed, or left a mate to battle through —
Ah! men knew how to stick to men in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

They're scattered wide and scattered far — by fan-like tracks, north, east, and west —
The cruel New Australian star drew off the bravest and the best.
The Cape and Klondyke claim their bones, the streets of London damned a few,
And jingo-cursed Australia mourns for Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

For ever westward in the land, Australians hear — and will not heed —
The murmur of the board-room, and the sure and stealthy steps of greed —
Bourke was a fortress on the track! and garrisons were grim and true
To hold the spoilers from Out Back, in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

I hear it in the ridges lone, and in the dread drought-stricken wild —
I hear at times a woman's moan — the whimper of a hungry child:
And — let the cynics say the word: 'a godless gang, a drunken crew' —
But these were things I never heard in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

They say that things have changed out there, and western towns have altered quite:
They don't know how to drink and swear, they've half forgotten how to fight;
They've almost lost the strength to trust, the faith in mateship to be true —
The heart that grew in drought and dust in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

We've learned to laugh the bitter laugh since then — we've travelled, you and I;
The sneaking little paragraph, the dirty trick, the whispered lie
Are known to us — the little men — whose souls are rotten through and through —
We called them scabs and crawlers then, in Ninety-one and Ninety-two.

And could I roll the summers back, or bring the dead time on again;
Or from the grave or world-wide track, call back to Bourke the vanished men,
With mind content I'd go to sleep, and leave those mates to judge me true,
And leave my name to Bourke to keep — the Bourke of Ninety-one and two.

West Tamworth Bowlo Bush Poets

Hosted by Tom McIlveen & Susan Ashton, who provided the music in between Poets' performances, it truly was a variety show this year, with an all-star cast of talented bardic performers led by the legendary trifecta of Ray Essery, Bill Kearns & Greg North, supported by Paddy O'Brien, Peter Mace, John Peel & Dave Melville.

All were in great form and entertained audiences from go to whoa, throughout six consecutive morning shows. Word of mouth is incredibly prevalent and widespread amongst Tamworth's Country Music visitors, who tell each other that Bush Poets' Breakfasts are NOT to be missed when visiting the festival. They have become an integral part of the festival and provide welcome variety from the seemingly endless stream of music.

Humorous yarnspinning, interspersed with traditional and modern poetry and an occasional song makes for an entertaining experience that audiences invariably respond to. They love the variety of Bush Poets' Breakfast shows, and many choose to start their festival day with a good belly laugh.

We were proud, privileged and honoured to have some of Australia's finest and funniest doing what they do best in Tamworth this year, and are looking forward to doing it all over again, even bigger and better, next year.!!!

Tom Mcilveen.



'An Aussie Reflection'

© Harry Donnelly

26-1-23

As the Tenterfield Saddler plied his craft, the Snowy River flowed,
a stockman 'round the campfire laughed 'bout the headstrong colt he rode.
The swaggie's waltz was long and hard with Matilda on his back,
young Banjo — legendary bard wrote verse of bush and track.

As time moved on — the birth of Slim, and a million dusty tunes,
the willow swayed at Bradman's whim ANZAC's proudly marched at noon.
Each footpath was a playground 'neath the Southern Cross above,
Ayer's Rock still had that sacred sound as Namatjira...canvassed love.

The Melbourne Cup would draw a crowd a hundred thousand strong,
back-answering Mum was not allowed, just where did we go wrong?
Greed — deceitful, ugly greed has become the modern way,
wanting more than what we need is where we're at today.

And loss of morals doesn't help to understand the truth,
the way of our society is to simply blame our youth.
Blame the kids — that's easy, let them wear our hurtful wrath,
don't blame those creepy, sleazy most insidious men of cloth.

Or those who find solution to the money making game
through drugs and prostitution, or some false litigious claim.
Don't dare blame politicians, pharmaceuticals or banks,
those great insurance companies or some megalomaniac yank!

Is it really any wonder that the pressure gets us down?
The more we try, the more we feel we're always losing ground.
Would it hurt — for just one moment to let our history take us back,
to the saddler and the stockman and that swaggie's endless track.

To the banter of young Banjo and the twang of Slim's guitar,
to the Don's outrageous willow, would it hurt to go that far?
And would it hurt to love our children, take a break from all the rush,
ease gently into Dreamtime through the ghost of Albert's brush.

And introduce them to the legends of this country...proud and strong,
remind them of tradition and let them know that they belong
And maybe then — just maybe, what they finally feel inside,
be that one true thing they're missing, their soul...preserving...pride.



Enjoy listening to Harry Donnelly's topical poems that air on Coast FM each Friday morning.

Bush poetry in simple terms, is best described as life in Australia in rhyme.

Award winning poet Harry Donnelly writes in his own style about anything and everything.

Each Friday morning on ABC Coast FM 90.3 and 95.3, John Stokes presents Harry's thoughts in verse, just prior to the 7.30 news.

With over 1200 poems in 12 years, Harry's poems are often political, sometimes controversial, but usually thought provoking.



by keith blake

Oracles of the Bush Tenterfield 2023 – 30th March to 2nd April 2023

Oracles of the Bush Tenterfield is Australia's only boutique Bush Poetry Festival in Australia which has been running now for 26 years. It is a time of celebration in Tenterfield when a professional team of poets and a balladeer travel from near and far to be part of the entertainment team for the festival weekend. We have competitors who travel from all over Australia to compete for the coveted Looming Legends Trophy and hundreds of guests descend on Tenterfield to celebrate this incredible weekend.

The Looming Legends competition is hotly contested and it is fabulous to see new competitors vying for the Looming Legend Trophy every year. In 2022, our three place-getters had never been awarded a place in a Looming Legends final before, so it is a great competition for experienced and new competitors alike. Andrew Pulsford of Urangan, QLD placed 1st in both the Original and Pre-Published section, Lara Flanagan of Tenterfield, NSW, placed 2nd in both categories and Dean Skewes of Watson's Creek, NSW was awarded the prize for best novice and also received people's choice.

The longevity of this event is not the only thing that makes this festival unique. An important part of the festival is celebrating what makes the Tenterfield community special. Oracles of the Bush does this by inducting a community legend every year. The annual legend is someone who has made a substantial contribution to their community and who embodies why this community is one that is treasured by locals.

Oracles of the Bush has a range of events to suit everybody. All the events are a celebration of the things that make Tenterfield special including the amazing scenery and an inspirational community spirit. During the festival, you will eat great country grub, and be entertained by an amazing group of poets and balladeers who will make you laugh and cry!

Recently, the committee of Oracles of the Bush Tenterfield received this beautiful message from Marion Fitzgerald who was one of the professional performance team in 2022. It really sums up why Oracles of the Bush Tenterfield is so special.

"Dear Carmel and your wonderful team of 'yellow shirts', It was such an honour to be part of the 'entertainment team' for 'Oracles of the Bush' 2022. Stepping into such a professionally organised performing arena is an entertainer's dream and an audience's delight. My allocated events for the three days were an immense pleasure to perform at, a sentiment shared by the other professionals. Your choice of venues for our art and our audiences was a testament to the pride you have in your beautiful Tenterfield - early morning sunbeams awakening the fog in the valleys, campfires silhouetting the historic Showground Pavillion reaching for the stars, rolling hills of endless enchantment and rustic charm at Arrajay Downs, and the lingering aroma of barbeques, gathering crowds of Bush Poet fans in the morning dew to the rotunda in the park! Banjo would have witnessed all this magic in a poet's playground - thank you for continuing such a tradition in your beautiful town and its surrounds that echo so much history..... and thank you for making this autumn weekend of Oracles of the Bush such a memorable event. My hearty congratulations.

Warm regards, Marion Fitzgerald'



Wombat Bush Poets at the National Cherry Festival

On the first weekend in December the Wombat Bush Poets held a successful two hour Poet's Breakfast as part of the 2022 National Cherry Festival in Young.

Thank you to our local IGA for providing a scrumptious breakfast and performing poets were Greg Broderick, Robyn Sykes, Corrie Jarvis, John Peel, Sharon Jarvis, Jim Lamb, Neville Brien and Leanne Close.

Steve Warwick and Greg Broderick opened the show with a very lively rendition of John Clarke's "Gumboots" a fitting song for this very wet year and Kerrie Summerfield also helped break up the poetry with some of her great songs.

Robyn Sykes judged a very confident field of eight junior performers. Hamish Reynolds won the encouragement trophy with an original poem titled "Magpie" and the major trophy went to Albie Woodward with his original poem "A Country's Curse". Both these trophies are donated by the Cunningham family. Ted Webber did a lot of behind the scenes organising and a big thank you to all the juniors, their parents and their teachers and it's worth noting that six of the eight junior poems were originals.

Keep the Cherry Festival in mind, it will be on again in 2023 on the first week end in December.

Jim Lamb.



Bathurst Schools' Poetry Anthology.

In mid-2022, the Bathurst Poets applied for and were successful in securing a small grant from Charles Sturt University. This enabled the Bathurst Poets to invite a number of primary and secondary schools in the Bathurst area to write poems for a local anthology. It meant members of the Bathurst Poets travelled to local schools and discussed poetry, shared their poems, and prompted school students to write their own poems. Subsequently, 95 students wrote over 107 poems. These were collected and placed into an anthology. This was printed and a copy was given to each contributor, their school, and the Bathurst library, with the best poems in primary and secondary schools winning book vouchers. The project supported each school's English focus on poetry that was planned for some school terms, and not only provided an authentic audience and purpose for student writing but provided context for teachers when teaching about poetry forms and techniques. One teacher said, "engaging with Bathurst Poets who visited our school, sharing their poems and their approach to planning and writing (poetry), also provided great inspiration for teachers and students. This provided an extra level of engagement with poetry content that would not have otherwise existed and in turn led to impressive student writing. It was an unforgettable experience for our students who were able to gather at the launch of the anthology to listen to the amazing poems that were shared on the night by prize winners. Seeing the work of every student published in the anthology was a fabulous moment for students, teachers, and their parents."

The project allowed young students to become published authors, a feat many were very excited about. Another teacher said, "as a result of our involvement in this project, we have already looked at our English program for the same time next year and have adjusted and added teaching and learning experiences based on our learnings from participation in this project." The project was a real joy to be involved with and we hope we have planted the seeds of a love of poetry for the next generation of Bathurst Poets.

Bathurst Schools' Poetry Anthology 2022



Edited by

David Stanley, Sue Bowden, and Katherine Bell

David Stanley

No Mates McDougal

© Bill Heck

McDougal and his mate bought in a mob from out the bush
His mate knew well the time to give that drink idea a push
Had secured all their cattle in the stockyard by the rail
McDougal said, was on its head, his mate had hit the nail
Were he just a horseman would easy rank among the best
But every chance he got to play in pub or stockman's rest
Bought out his cards for money with a soul as black as sin
He may be humble with a loss but never when he'd win

This night they teamed together to win a plump 500's purse
Against a giant Yugoslav with a manner rather terse
The giant called a slam of hearts and then he laid them down
McDougal mocked him vicious as a 'kurac' headed clown
With a hand full of red cards thought the game put to rout
McDougal told the giant to pick them up and play them out
Was sure enough he had the hand to have the giant beat
Would rub the stinging salt into embarrassing defeat

When with venom of an adder he played the winning card
His want was leave emotional this man, bruised, and scarred
Had no respect for boundaries, didn't even see the mark
The Yugoslav left the pub to go off brooding in the dark
The stockman had a final serve before he could disappear
The bitter poison of McDougal's words burning in his ear
Then his mate called an early night and so went back to camp
While McDougal sought the accolades befitting local champ

Was lady luck again that night would save McDougal's skin
Did not return to the camp or to the swag he should be in
A girl given the impression he was looking for a wife
While the Yugoslav arrived in camp with a hunting knife
Was miles away in the grip of a weary lover's squeeze
McDougal slept the sleep a man completely at his ease
In her queen bed with his lover, outside a babbling creek
While all the while the future of his mate was looking bleak

The giant in his rage had drunk enough knock out ten men
He had come to get McDougal and to kiss his arse amen
Found his man not being there so went his mate instead
With the handle of the hunting knife bashed him on the head
First beaten to a pulp before being tied into a seat
Then he waited for his quarry so the violence could repeat
As he realised he had missed him his anger rose to crest
With McDougal's mates own rifle he shot him in the chest

There was a cloud of darkness settled on the town that day
It wrapped up rather quickly as they took everything away
The giant was in prison. McDougal? not a single clue
Had come straight from his love nest, thought his mate as overdue
He got back to the station cursing his old mate's good name
The resulting revelation had him hang his head in shame
So, if you see him at the pub, or maybe in the ringers yards
You never want to be his mate when McDougal's playing cards



"MULGA BILL'S BIRTHDAY."

© Peter White

'Twas "Mulga Bill" from Eaglehawk who earned his place in fame.
This "Mulga Bill" is William Bates. Few know him by that name.
For if, when you were born, the name of William you were given,
and also, if it was in Eaglehawk that you were livin',
without exception folks in town would call you "Mulga Bill".
That's always been their custom and I guess it always will.

This "Mulga Bill" from Eaglehawk would have a birthday soon.
According to his mate, Jack Byrne, old Bill was born in June.
The exact date he didn't know but thought it was the third,
and if that date was incorrect no other had he heard.
His age, as well, he wasn't sure but thought it eighty-eight.
In the "New Vic's" bar Jack said, "We should celebrate."

Putting heads together all his mates conceived a plan -
a surprise party. Jobs were handed out to every man.
Delivering a "Strippergram" would be a local beauty.
To maintain surprise this would be strictly on the QT.
Jimmy Wright in charge of this, he said. "I know a girl
who'll be up for it. She'll give anything a whirl."

Came the night in "New Vic's" bar for "Mulga Bill's" surprise.
The "Strippergram" - Maudie Pike - they couldn't believe their eyes.
Sixty years and two-twenty pounds - if she is an ounce.
There are parts of Maudie Pike that no-one should see bounce.
She wore a garish costume. Her face with make-up painted.
Old "Mulga Bill", the birthday boy, took one look then he fainted.

THE LOVE OF A WOMAN

©Tony Caswell (T C The Goodna Gunna) 15/05/2007

Our Nation was built on the blood of men who arrived in ships
Made to work like slaves, shackled by irons and flayed by whips
Cries of anger bellowed as they tamed a hostile land
Children of poverty and despair, they had to make a stand

Stand they did and battles for justice they fought
A fair go and a chance to be heard was all they sought
Defiance displayed with voices raised and fists clenched tight
"To be treated like human beings is our God given right"

Behind these men were suffering women, silent and strong
Shoulder to shoulder with their mates was where they belong
For it is they who hear the anguish of a near broken man
It is they who have the strength, as only a woman can

Men schemed, men achieved and freedom was gained
Through it all, the solidarity of their women remained
Soothing words, a gentle hand and a comforting breast
No matter the tribulation these caring souls stood above the rest

Now in this modern day men still fight like dogs in a pack
Competition for success sends them down a never-ending track
Each wanting to be the one who's looking down from above
It will all amount to nought, if they do it without a woman's love

Letter To The Editor

Dear Neil,

I have read the letters debating the standards of writing bush poetry. As a novice I make the following observations.

(i) The standards set are the ideals we as bush poets should aspire to.

Yes, it is difficult to get it right, as I am aware, but my aim is to learn the techniques which sort competition winning poems from otherwise good poems. (Even then, I am under no illusion about winning any prizes as I know how good other writers are.)

(ii) As in all endeavours, there are people working at different levels. Not everyone is an Artisan! It takes years of sweat equity to reach the master level. Although I have written and performed other genres I have been in Bush Poetry for two years and know I have work to do!

To me it is a challenge!

(iii) The other part of the argument involves public perception of Bush Poetry. Perhaps some people see it as archaic and stuffy but anyone who has heard performances know this to be untrue. Is this the fault of the public and what can we do about it?

It has been difficult to reach out to communities in Covid times but it has still been happening and probably needs to be ramped up again as we reconnect through media, service clubs, schools etc. However, when it comes to media such as you-tube it is important that only praiseworthy performances are uploaded.

Performance is what attracted me in the first place but the friendliness, acceptance and encouragement that exists is what has kept me here.

I finish with this poem, imperfect by Bush Poetry standards, but nonetheless thought provoking.

Regards

Howard Kennedy

(Secretary North Pine Bush Poets Group.)

You Don't Like Bush Poetry?

© W.H. Kennedy (Author of *Mr Leaf's Dream*)

You say you just don't like it! Too much rhythm too much rhyme!

Would you like our bush poetics recited more in mime?

Simple self-expression, without requiring written word?

If literature was limited, it never would be heard!

Of Patterson and Lawson when bush poetry is raised?

You've not heard of other poets in libraries you've grazed?

Try the wit of Murray Hartin or the fun of Bob Magor.

Marco Gliori's stories. You'll soon be wanting more!

There's those who can recite them to entertain a room!

Bringing images alive in tales of bust and boom!

Live within those characters who have made our country great!

Use voice and props and costumes in the stories they relate!

Not just stories of the Bush! Often of our city ways.

Where dreams escape the rat race, go to join the country strays!

Where all Australian lifestyles are captured in its fold!

Bringing pulsing effervescence out, to colour stories told!

With the driest sense of humour, an ever-ready wit.

Just relax and have a beer and calm yourself a bit!

For other types of poetry, we write and can employ!

If you chill, you surely will, our poetic form enjoy!

Regular Monthly Events

NSW

Illawarra Breakfast Poets meet every Wednesday at 7am at Marco Polo facility at Woonona. Ample parking, everyone welcome.
"Laggan Bush Poets." 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

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 @ Cafe on Queen, 15 Queen St. In the studio by the Balgalal Creek. 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 Old School House at Christ Church, 39 Rutledge St, Queanbeyan. Enter via Church Lane. 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

Katoomba Poets in the Pub 2nd Sunday 2pm at Blackburn's Family Hotel. All forms poetry, free entry. Contact Denis Rice 0459 794 785.

Singleton Bush Poets. Meet at the Albion Hotel, John Street Singleton. 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact Neville Briggs 02 65711398.

Wombat Bush Poets meet at 1.30 pm at the Young Hotel for poetry, music and open mic. Last Sunday of even months except December. Contact Ted Webber 0459 707 728

QUEENSLAND

North Pine Bush Poets Group Open Mic- Visitors welcome! Pine River Men's Shed, Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Road Kurwongbah- 1st and 3rd Sundays of most months 9a.m. –12 noon. Contact Mal on 0417765226 or Howard on 0431689054.

Kuripila 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 Jayson (07) 4155 1007 Edna 0428 574 651 or Sandy (07) 41514631.

Beaudesert Bush Bards meet on the Second 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.

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

Shorncliff "Poets of the Park" "Poets of the Park" meet at St Margaret's Church Hall in Sandgate, beside the primary. every 3rd Tuesday from 5-45 pm contact 042 15 14 555

Toowoomba Bush Poets-meet on the second Saturday of the month at the Toowoomba Library meeting rooms from 10am -12. Contact Peter 0401130636.

Townsville Bush Poetry Mates Inc meet every the first Saturday of every month at 1pm at Aitkenvale Library Meeting Room at 7:00pm. Loads of fun. All welcome. Contact Barry on 0487 195 156

Bribie Island Bush Poets meet at 6.30 pm on the 4th Monday of each month in the Conference Room of the Blue Pacific Hotel, Woorim on Bribie Island. Contact Cay - 07 34083219

Logan Performance Bush Poets - meet 2nd Sunday of every month, 9 to 11am at the Beenleigh Historical Village. 205 Mains Road Beenleigh. All Welcome. Breakfast available Ring Gerry 0499942922..

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. Bendigo Club, 22 Park St, Strathdale (Bendigo) 1pm to 4pm. Contacts: Geoffrey Graham 0412725470 or Ken Jones 03 5441 5121

Henry Lawson Memorial & Literary Society Inc. – Meet third Saturday each month/except January. Ross House 247-251 Flinders Lane Melbourne All Welcome. From 1-30pm till 4-00 pm. Contact: Maree Stapledon: 0408 100 896

Mansfield Bush Poets Group - Second Tuesday of the month 1pm - 3pm, Mansfield Library. Contact Val Kirley 0400 654 596

WA

Perth 1st Friday monthly 7-9.30pm The Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley Park. Contact Rodger 0419 666 168 or Sue 0418 941 016

Albany 4th Tuesday monthly. Contact Peter 08 9844 6606

Bunbury 1st Monday even months 7pm. Rose Hotel. Contact Alan 0400 249 243 or Ian 0408 212 636

Geraldton 2nd Tuesday monthly. Beliar Caravan Park. Contact Roger 0427 625 181

Kalgoorlie 1st Wednesday monthly. Kalgoorlie Country Club. Contact Paul Browning 0416 171 809

Australian Bush Poets Association (ABPA)
National Championships
2023

23rd & 24th February 2023

Ex-Services Club, ORANGE, NSW



Calling all PERFORMANCE POETS!!
 Are YOU the next
AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY CHAMPION???

Categories: • Prizemoney for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each Category
 TRADITIONAL • Trophy for ALL 1st prize winners
 MODERN • Highest Score over 4 Categories is Overall
 ORIGINAL SERIOUS Champion
 ORIGINAL HUMOROUS • Trophy for Overall Winner!

Entry information on ABPA website:
www.abpa.org.au

Entries Close Monday 13th February 2023
 (late entries accepted if space available)

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2023 BANJO PATERSON AUSTRALIAN POETRY FESTIVAL
Orange NSW
17 to 26 February 2023

The program for this annual festival is coming together with plenty of opportunities for walk-up performances and some wonderful formal competitions. Walkups will be in pubs, wineries and open air in Orange and surrounding villages – all very relaxed and designed for family entertainment.

The formal comps include:

- the National Bush Poetry Performance Championships,
- a Youth original poetry performance comp,
- an Open original performance comp for those not entering the National Championships.

There will also be the announcement of the winners of the:

- national Blackened Billy Written Verse Competition, and the
- new Deldre Penhall Memorial Poetry Prize (a written comp for young women living within 200 km of Orange and west of Penrith, NSW).

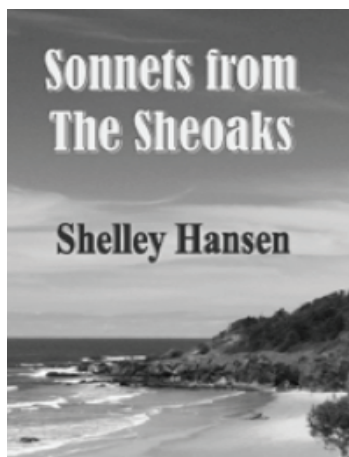
Details of the program and all the competitions (or links to them) are at www.rotarycluboforange.org.au with links also from www.abpa.org.au

The written competitions are now open so go to the website to find the entry conditions and closing dates. Please pass this information on to friends and family and especially encourage school students and young adults to participate and show their skills.

Len Banks
President
Rotary Club of Orange.

Sonnets from
The Sheoaks

Shelley Hansen



A house
 A piano
 A book of poems
 A forgotten life

A chance discovery unlocks a story of young love set against the backdrop of Australia in wartime – the aftermath of which will link three generations in a tale of resilience through

Debut Novel by Award-Winning Bush Poet
Shelley Hansen "Lady of Lines"

"Sonnets from The Sheoaks" is a unique novel that very few people could accomplish. Shelley Hansen's outstanding verse skills are seamlessly woven through a touching, historically accurate and compelling narrative to create a delightful and enjoyable read. Here intrigue, romance and realism combine into a real page-turner. It's like nothing I've ever read before and I highly recommend it to you.

– Gregory North www.gregorynorth.com.au
 (Australian Bush Poetry Performance Champion 2008-09-10 and Author of "Winton in the Year of Waltzing Matilda 1895-6")

\$32 including postage within Australia
 Available via Shelley's website
www.shelleyhansen.com



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 Enquiries: 0427 208913 | 0458 464190



13 -16th
APRIL, 2023



2023 Bush Poetry Programme

Competitions: Man from Snowy River Recitation, One Minute Poem & the Jack Riley Heritage Award (music, song or yarn)-\$1000 (overall total prize pool)
3 Poet's Breakfasts-Anzac Tribute Show
Featured Poets & Walk-Up Concerts, Campfire sessions etc.

Entry Forms & conditions from the ABPA & Bush Festival websites in Dec 2022
Enq 02 6076 1992 events@bushfestival.com.au www.bushfestival.com.au

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Linton Vogel & Honor Auchinleck



Bush Poetry at the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival 2023 ***Thurs 13th-Sun 16th April***

YES FOLKS, WE'RE BACK, AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO RETURN TOO!

The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival 2023

The Autumn leaves are turning, Summer's heat has faded and the citizens of Corryong wait with open arms to welcome back Australia's Bush Poets to this year's Festival.

Assistant Poetry Events Manager Graeme Johnson has now completed hiring his list of "Featured Artists & Judges" who will 'strut their stuff' @ 'Banjo's Block' and it's a mighty impressive cast of characters I must say.

First and foremost, we have festival stalwart Geoffrey.W.Graham whose tribute shows to Banjo Paterson and the like fill the marquees each and every time he takes the stage. Not to be outdone we will also showcase the many skills of "The Man of Many Hats" Gregory North (former 3 x times Australian Bush Poetry Champion). He will share the stage and judging table with "The Rhymer from Ryde" and ABPA President Tim Sheed amongst other luminaries.

Tall tales & general bulldust throwing will be the domain of Matthew Hollis (2 x times Australian Yarnspinning Champion) who will also Co-Mc the Poet's Breakfasts.

Bush Music, campfire singalongs and all things 'Australiana' will be looked after by Festival favourites Kevin McCarthy & Simon Dillon. Bring your instrument and become part of this merry band of minstrels. The 'Bonza Blokes Bush Band' will play an assortment of classics 'around the traps'. Christine Middleton also brings her consummate musicianship and beautiful playing to our musical crew.

But of course, the most important part of the Bush Poetry troupe is YOU! Our wonderful and loyal audiences and 'Walk-up' Poets who bring their own vibrant personalities and skills to share with their "Aussie" mates. Come One, Come All to Corryong! We're waiting for you!

Entry forms and further information is available on the following websites.
www.bushfestival.com.au, www.abpa.org.au, www.vbpma.com.au