

The

July 2020

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



**The July muster will be on Zoom
Please see instructions on Page 3**

The Flight of the Wild Geese

From far northern lands came the wild geese.
A long lonely, course they would fly.

They were caught with no chance of release,
confined here and here they would die.

*The Fenians too came out of the north
transported for loving their home.
They came, clad in chains, for that was their worth
They were jailed so that they couldn't roam.*

The wild birds endured their confinement.
Their natural urge was to flee,
For nothing could bring them contentment
unless they could fly and be free.

*And John Boyle O'Rielly sought freedom.
Alone, he departed by sea,
to a land where his name would precede him,
to a land that the people called free.*

Then one of the geese found a way from
the cage that had kept them confined.
He flew from that place and found freedom
but pinned for the birds left behind.

*Boyle sought out the whaler, Catalpa
to rescue his Fenian friends,
from the devil's own lair at Fremantle,
the jail where their pain never ends .*

The birds returned to their wild kingdom,
though the geese had to relearn to fly.
May they fly on forever in freedom,
without it the wild birds would die.

*The Fenians fled on the ocean
and like geese had to relearn to fly.
May they fly on forever in freedom,
for that they were willing to die.*

Peter O'Shaughnessy



Introducing the new Bully Tin editor: DEB MCQUIRE

Hi everyone,
I've been writing poetry for several years now
and I was happy to be welcomed as member of
the Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners a few years
ago. I feel that my writing has improved
through the support of and contact with so
many talented poets within the group. I don't
always achieve a technically perfect poem un-
der the guidelines for bush poetry. Sometimes I
feel that what I want to express is achieved by
an imperfect poem. I am imperfect and accept
myself as I am so in turn I can accept that my
poems although technically imperfect may have
value and worth sharing and the group has
been a great source of encouragement. This
being said I will keep working to improve and
develop my writing skills. I hope that I can offer
the group something in return as I take a turn
as Editor L of the Bully Tin. I have had some
previous experience with this type of role pro-
ducing a monthly newsletter for the Aus. Farri-
ers Assoc. for 3 years and a half yearly infor-
mation Gazette for a research team at Murdoch
Uni. I am looking forward to offering the group
an informative and entertaining newsletter as I
step into the shoes of my very able predeces-
sor. I welcome your input. This is your newslet-
ter please let me know what you would like in-
cluded and I will do my best to meet your ex-
pectations.

Regards
Deb McQuire (DM-InVerse)



Congratulations to Peter O'Shaugh-

nessy for winning a commendation in the
Laura Literary Awards. for his poem
Mandildjarra

**This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of KATE DOUST MLC
and posted with the generous assistance of BEN WYATT, MLA - Member for Victoria Park.
Thanks to Greg Roberts for doing our printing.**

President's Preamble July 2020



Our June muster on Zoom was a worthwhile trial, with sixteen poets reciting plus another seven logging in to listen and watch the poets in action. We were pleased to welcome visitors from NSW and Queensland as well as members from distant parts of WA who cannot make it to Perth for musters. Add a few who could not make it on the night and it augers well for the July muster and AGM on Friday 3rd July. Anyone who is still daunted by the rigors of zoom can contact Meg and she will walk you through it. Musters will continue to be held monthly on Zoom until the current restrictions on outside organisations continues at Bentley Park.

A small group enjoyed the hospitality of Cobber and Maricor recently, camping at Cobber's Corner, Dinninup. Nancy was in fine form on the piano accordion – it is wonderful to see her looking so well and in great voice. Peter Blyth was up from Elleker, Bullocky John (Watkinson) in from Qualeup, and Rob Baisley who hosted some memorable poetry camps at Denmark a few years ago. Cobber's Corner is really taking shape now and the pigeon loft is ready to receive residents. I always look forward to Cobber issuing notice of a "Bang Tail Muster" for another gathering at Dinninup.

I often talk of what a great team we have in WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners. This is Christine's last issue as editor of the Bullytin (for the time being). Thank you Christine for all your efforts and your many suggestions you put to our committee. Enjoy your break and may you get away to make the most of your new campervan. Thank you Deb McQuire for offering to take over as editor and we look forward to a new look to the Bullytin. Please support Deb with poems and articles of interest. She can be contacted at deb.mcquire@bigpond.com, phone 0428 988 315.

Bill Gordon President

The Corona Crisis

Well Covid 19 has come to our shores,
It's shut down the shops and closed lots of doors.
Pubs are not open, no theatres or gyms,
No church attendance no singing of hymns.

The world is alert, and declares a pandemic,
This virus is spreading becoming endemic.
"Stay home," we are urged as borders are closed.
Overseas and state because of threats they pose.

Cruise ships keep coming and warnings ignored,
The Ruby Princess has the virus onboard,
People are returning from over the seas,
Isolating in rooms without a door key.

Playgrounds are empty, children are barred,
Schools are shut down and learning is hard.
"I can't teach my kids," from parents is heard,
"Johnny keeps crying and won't say a word!"

Is Australia safe now from Covid 19?
We've beaten this virus, that's what it seems.
Our government's rules have come from the heart.
"Isolate please, wash your hands, keep apart."

The kids are all back in their classrooms again
Happily learning and playing with friends.
Shops and hotels with cautious insistence,
Have opened again, please keep a safe distance.



Cobber Lethbridge and Peter Blythe on their 500 kilometer long walk through the bush of the Great Southern. 2011

Regions have opened in Western Australia,
Our leader's decisions have not been a failure.

Life as we know it is slowly returning,
Family and friends for travel are yearning.

I'm glad that I call Australia home,
And from its shores I never shall roam.
There's so much to do and so much to see.
In this beautiful place, our safe country.

Lesley Horn. 12th June 2020

Poultry Palaver

He had chooks and ducks and turkeys in the garden out the back,
They gobbled, squawked, quacked and clucked annoying poor old Jack.
There was Tom the Christmas turkey, Daisy Duck and Henny Pen,
Donald Duck and Gobblegook were just a few of them.

Ada was a Hereford, a cheeky half grown calf,
With nanny goat and Shaun the sheep would always make Jack laugh.
Petunia, Babe and Porky thought that they were dogs,
Not little piglets pink and round that one day would be hogs.

Drumma the old draught horse with his little donkey mate,
Stood in the paddock patiently waiting by the gate
For Jack to come, with sheepdog Jess, and bring their chaff and hay,
And Jess would round up Jack's pet sheep and bark to make them stay.

Now out the front of Jack's old house Black Billy stood on guard,
If Jack came forth without his stick that goat would butt him hard.
So to the abattoir he went on that fateful day
"Until we meet again," called Jack, "I'll have the final say!"
And then there was the python that lived up in the roof,
He watched Jack on the dunny, now that's the bloody truth.



But king of all was that big rooster strutting 'round the yard,
He lorded over every fowl and even Jack was barred.

He daren't venture out the back into Big Red's domain,
To risk attack from that bird would surely cause him pain.

One moonlit night when all was still and Jack was in his bed,
Big Red sat upon his perch atop the backyard shed.
He crowed out loud and flapped his wings cock a doodle clang
Jack grabbed his gun and then was heard cock-a-doodle-BANG!

Lesley Horn.

Lesley is a new contributor to The Bully Tin.
Great to have you aboard Lesley. ED

MUSTER VIA ZOOM!!



Technology is booming and in an endeavour to keep pace and stay connected, the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners will be conducting a **zoom muster on 3rd July** which is our normal muster date.

Everyone is invited to attend. To do so you will need to download zoom onto your computer which is very simple.

Just go to **zoom.us/download**. Wait for download to finish and then it should appear somewhere on your desk top. If not type zoom into your search bar.

Please be aware not to go to zoom.com as you will be inundated with so called free sites but they are not free and going down the path they require will leave you frustrated and weary.

Once you have done that forward your email to me at: meggordon4@bigpond.com.au and I will schedule the time of the meeting and send you a link. Simply **open zoom** from your desk top or search bar and **click on the link in your email** and you will come to a page with a prompt **JOIN MEETING** which you can click on and immediately join the meeting. (Note: this will not happen if you haven't downloaded zoom and opened it first!)

Please have your computer **microphone on maximum audio** and if you don't want to be seen or your connection is weak, please turn OFF your video. This icon is on the bottom of your screen along with the mute button (make sure this icon is unmuted as well or we won't be able to hear you)

It is very simple and I hope you will join us, particularly if you want to perform a new poem. Just being able to say hello or listen is great too.

This is going to be a trial run and if successful we will be conducting our AGM in July in this way as it is not likely that we can go back to Bentley for some time yet.

If anyone is having difficulty with this technology please give me a ring **(0404075108)** and I can talk you through the process, believe me you will be pleased to be a part of this new muster! There will be no rugging up to go out and brave the elements.

Also the Committee is pressing on with plans for Toodyay in the hope that we can still have a festival or gathering in November. However it will have to be local involvement only.

Meg Gordon

COMPETITIONS AROUND

AUSTRALIA

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

and Writing WA

JUNE

26 June - Closing Date - Adelaide Plains Poetry Competition, Redbanks SA.



JULY 2020

1st July Dusty Swag.

30 July - Closing Date - Nandewar Poetry Competition, Narrabri NSW.

17th July, Closing date, Drover's Camp, Camooweal Bronze Spur competition,

AUGUST

31 August - Closing Date - Betty Olle Poetry Award, Kyabram Victoria

eMuse: Independent Bush Poets Newsletter.

1300 plus subscribers (on-line free!) Australia-Wide!

Through his free distribution of this most informative,

20 page *eMuse*, (An Independent Bush poetry newsletter)

Editor: Wally "The Bear" Finch. P. O.

Box 68, Morayfield,



Do you want to be part of the National Scene — Then you might consider joining the Australian Bush Poets Assn

www.abpa.org.au

Stay up to date with events and competitions right across Australia

Lots of great information on their website, winning poems, a writing forum, tips for writing and reciting, competition dates....



The Pandemic

by Frank Heffernan June 2020

The lock down of the Nation is sending good folk mad.
All the talk of death and dying is making people sad.
And news of Covid Nineteen is reaching saturation.
We can't mix with friends and neighbours because of isolation.

But to cancel all the footy? Well that was truly bad!

You can't go to the movies or a restaurant twice a week,
They closed the Clubs and pubs so your social life is bleak.
And our cosy meeting place has insufficient room;
So now our only contact is using Skype or Zoom.
And without a flaming job? Well this virus has us beat.

Did you crave a music gig or want to see a show?
Did restrictions put on travel, leave nowhere you could go?
Did you embrace the buying spree of that crazy caper,
Filling up the bathroom with piles of dunny paper?
Do you believe corona is a mean and deadly foe?

Wash hands with soap and water to slow the virus race.
And for personal protection keep hands away from face.
Daily we get updates from our public health advisors,
To keep away from crowds and to scrub with sanitizers.
Till a vaccine or a cure is put in place.

They said that we should stay at home like a timid mouse
And mope around the garden or sit around the house.
Watching daytime telly with our noses in a book.
Or perhaps they thought us blokes may even learn to cook.
Will it wreck a marriage? -- Spending all day with the spouse.

But some folk from down the city may think a farmer strange.
He reckons covid's all a con, along with Climate change.
Autumn is his busy time to plant the golden grain,
With one eye on the weather he's looking out for rain.
The view is always different beyond the Darling Range.

Sitting in his tractor cab and going round and round.
He'll be putting seed and super precisely in the ground.
He thinks it's all baloney and purely academic,
He'd like to see some proof of this dreaded epidemic.
In the country where he lives -- no virus has been found.



Where to from here

Restrictions are easing, we live with new norm.
The weeks have passed slowly through this torrid storm.
Now we can get coffee and meet in a group
Enjoy a fresh croissant or order some soup.

Some boundaries are open; not all yet withdrawn.
We wait for resumption, our life styles reform.
Strong hopes moving forward this threat will lose power
While discord is brewing that it may turn sour.

So many feel nervous, while others feel bold.
Still looking at safety, new measures unfold.
Restore work and business, reduce jobless queues.
Deflate social pressure, heal financial bruise.

Our overseas cohorts they struggle as well
The world is on hold, fear reliving own hell
There's no easy answer; we've no precedence
With little to draw on from history's events.

It's all such a gamble, tough balancing act.
Great need for all countries to exercise tact.
This problem's a joint one, needs all minds to meld
Develop solutions which from none be withheld.

The world needs to grow up, put vengeance aside.
To bring us all through this, defeat sad landslide.
Work on now as humans with focus more broad
Let's celebrate difference, each other applaud.
© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) – 21st May 2020

2020 in Aus.

The year 2020: A time marred by fears.
It started with dust and drought, deluged by tears.
The East coast caught fire, our country laid bare.
From coastline to inland thick smoke filled the air.

S.A. and some places west suffered same fate.
The summer passed slowly, pain did not abate.
Then quickly as blinking the viral threat spread
Brought thoughts that so many could lay on death bed.

At first quietly coming, crossed seas and flew here.
It spread 'cross our island, frontiers closed by fear.
With hundreds in mourning from life's game of chance
With no time to catch breathe 'tween each circumstance.

Still daily life brings forth its own normal grief.
As full range of forces blitz lives like a thief.
Emotions now ragged, widespread civil death;
Sat watching and waiting, we hold bated breathe.

There's still dated squares to cross off or to pin
We've yet to hit mid-way, a New Year begin.
So many wake daily, sad thoughts filled with dread
Unnerved and quite frightened of what lies ahead.
© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) 5th June 2020

View from the sideline

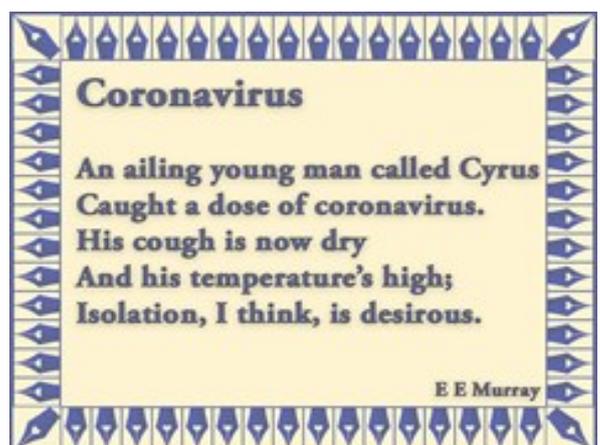
I sit on the sideline, unseen, cannot help.
Dark feelings swirl 'round and sad thoughts it does whelp.
I've done what was asked of me, stayed out of view;
At times overwhelming, depressing to do.

I've watched all the news of this mad Covid hell
As weeks roll to months 'midst the threat's on-ward swell;
Low numbers, good progress, at least here in Aus.
While overseas countries still deal with higher loss.

Seems cruel just to stand here it's tough to explain.
I'm thankful for safety while grieving their pain.
I'm looking for sunshine; researchers construe
Large range of ideas, I await a breakthrough.

This battles ongoing, as virus mutates
It spreads across nations; through all inte-grates.
It's hard to move forward to bring this to end
The final solution how best can be penned.
The cross border tensions stirred seeking some truth.

Best not look to punish; respect those who sleuth.
For knowledge brings action new chance to defend
All those on this planet draw in and befriend.
© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) 7th May 2020



It's not over yet

With limits relaxing and kids back in schools,
Let's not get complacent or party like fools.
This crisis is fluid all states feeling tense.
Still cases emerging, some slipped 'cross the fence.

We look to the future though war has not ceased,
As we've not defeated the Covid named beast.
Researchers are working to find a vaccine;
Inventive, resourceful; broad info they screen.

We need to keep taking precautions and fight
The rise of this Hydra; suppress viral blight.
Australia is reeling from its first attack.
Stay strong keep defending maintain the push back.

We wait quietly watching all holding our breath.
Group anguish is hiding, while fearing more death.
We've got through the first wave, but don't lay a bet,
Best not waste time guessing, it's not over yet.

© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) – 29th May 2020

As the world explodes around us

The news here is showing sad conflict abroad
With infections ongoing, their actions seem flawed.
Injustice long standing is fuelling unrest
As anger is growing good sense has been wrest.

The damage it's causing now grown out of hand
Fair protest first made now hijacked, new flames fanned.
Strong message now blurring less chance it can heal.
As some unruly mobs do great damage and steal.

It's time to draw breath just step back and review.
There's much better ways to promote a break through.
We're all of us human for under the skin
Our colour is mutual, the difference so thin.

Main battles worth fighting are common to all
The need for good health and best ways to stand tall
A safe place to live, clean air and feel free
It saddens me greatly the mess that we see.

Our focus myopic, we struggle to hold
On more than one topic as issues unfold.
It's now time to step up, put difference aside
The futures in all hands this wide world reside.

© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) 11th May 2020

View from the sideline

I sit on the sideline, unseen, cannot help.
Dark feelings swirl 'round and sad thoughts it does whelp.
I've done what was asked of me, stayed out of view;
At times overwhelming, depressing to do.

I've watched all the news of this mad Covid hell
As weeks roll to months 'midst the threat's onward swell;
Low numbers, good progress, at least here in Aus.
While overseas countries still deal with higher loss.

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I'm thankful for safety while grieving their pain.
I'm looking for sunshine; researchers construe
Large range of ideas, I await a breakthrough.

This battles ongoing, as virus mutates
It spreads across nations; through all integrates.
It's hard to move forward to bring this to end
The final solution how best can be penned.

The cross border tensions stirred seeking some truth.
Best not look to punish; respect those who sleuth.
For knowledge brings action new chance to defend
All those on this planet draw in and befriend.
© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) 7th May 2020



Orange Championships

The Australian Bush Poets Association has been approached by **Rotary Club of Orange NSW** asking for help to run a **National Performance Poetry Championship**. After a couple of meetings with Rotary Club representative, Len Banks, the competition format has been decided and agreed to by both parties.

The competition will be held during the **Banjo Paterson Festival in February 2021** and be part of the week long program to celebrate the birthday of one of Australia's favourite poets, AB Paterson.

Let's hope travel plans can be made by then and anyone who would like join our present Male (Cobber Lethbridge) and Female (Sue Pearce) Champions of Bush Poetry for this prestigious title, please mark your diaries for **13th – 21st February 2021**.

This event unfortunately clashes with Boyup Brook Country Music Festival but a National Championship doesn't happen every year so poets are encouraged to take this opportunity.

Categories for the competition will be **Traditional, Modern, Original Serious and Original Humorous** and prize money will be awarded in each category with Overall Male and Female Winner decided using aggregate points.

Other attractions during the week include – birthday celebration dinner on 17th February, winery evening, Yarnspinning, Poet's Brawl, ample walkup opportunities, unveiling of statue of Banjo at Yeoval (where he spent his early years), market stalls to showcase local products – making it a wonderful reason to make the journey.

Being held a couple of weeks after Tamworth where ABPA will hold its usual events of **Golden Damper, Frank Daniel Award, AGM**, this is a good chance to participate in both events, which doesn't happen often.

Meg Gordon Secretary ABPA

A Warm Welcome Awaits

You in Heaven!

Allah welcomes the newly deceased arrival:

"You've been told before of Islamic law
which orders the faithful "Behead
those not of our faith to preserve you your
place
in heaven with virgins. Instead,
so forsaking a wife on earth, for a life
of non-stop sex, misbehaving,
each unattached virgin will need little urging
to satisfy your sexual craving.
They're ravenous sexually, and you'll be,
perpetually,
at eternal, non-stop, fornication.
It's a permanent act, and I know for a fact
after three weeks you'll need recrea-
tion!"

The newly deceased has a question:

"As at your behest. I have a request –
at terrorist training school
I kept my virginity! I fear my affinity
has left me as some sort of fool,
so could you provide me some skilled girls
beside me -
to teach me some sexual skills?
Else without such assistance, I feel in this
instance,
my ladies may not get their thrills."

Allah replies:

"They're sexually ravenous, with appetites
cavernous,
and some are of fabulous beauty,
so please don't be nervous. You're providing
a service,
as well, you'll be doing your duty.
I'll give you a clue as to what you could do!
Perhaps you could suck on a lemon
to keep mind on the job, satisfying your
mob.
Who told you your virgins were women?"

Jem Shorland

2014

My debt grows

It's hard to hold my head up when life is upside
down
For I am quite uncertain to wear a smile or
frown.
When looking in the mirror a strange face
stares at me;
With hair a mess, no makeup on, pallid dial I
see.

This time of home confinement has come with
no clear maps
For how to fill long hours; as energies collapse.
Some puzzles I have finished; assembled piece
by piece.
I've sung along to countless songs till I've been
asked to cease.

I've done all my spring cleaning though it's still
Autumn here;
The garage and the garden, of rubbish both are
clear.
Sketch pictures held by magnets now hang up-
on fridge door;
With remnants of my crafting dreams scattered
'cross the floor.

There's little I can do here, hold tight just wait
this out.
My hope is that with patience, good end will
come about.
I know it sounds like whinging and you'd be
right to jeer;
It's tough to hold one's head up high; power-
less with fear.

These feelings and emotions are mixed and
stirred by pain;
I'm asked to sit, be patient while others bear
the strain.
They face down this invasion with hearts as
strong as lions.
Many hands reach 'cross our land: new
strength in these strange times.

My debt will keep on growing till this pandemic
spread
Is put into proportion by those who stand at
head.
I'm thankful for their service; their outward
looking view.
Daily thanks should loud ring out to those who
work on through.

As ANZAC day draws closer, we honour those
who've served,
Remember ALL defenders; give thanks so well
deserved.

© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) 24th April 2020



Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2018—2019

Bill Gordon	President	0428651098	northlands@wn.com.au
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Not on the committee, but taking on the following tasks:

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Fleur Mead	Webmistress		
Robert Gunn	Sound gear set up	0417099676	gun.hink@hotmail.com
Rodger Kohn	Bully Tin Mail Out	93320876 0419666168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com

Regular Events

WA Bush Poets 1st Friday of each month Bentley Park Auditorium

Albany Bush Poetry group: 4th Tuesday of each month Peter 9844 6606

Bunbury Bush Poets: First Monday of every second month Alan Aitken 0400249243 Ian Farrell 0408212636
Rose Hotel cnr Wellington & Victoria Sts Bunbury

Geraldton Bush Poets: Second Tuesday of the month. Contacts: Roger & Jan Cracknell 0427 625 181
or Irene Conner 0429 652 155. 6pm at Recreation room, Belair caravan park, Geraldton. Bring and share snacks for tea.

Goldfields Bush Poetry Group: First Wednesday of the month. Contact Paul Browning 0416 171 809
Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie 6.30pm

If you would like to be part of a forum—post your poetry, see what other contemporary bush poets are writing, keep up to date with poetry events throughout Australia—visit www.abpa.org.au or www.bushverse.com

Address correspondence for the “Bully Tin” to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or christineboul7@bigpond.com

Address correspondence for the Secretary to: WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assoc, PO Box 364 Bentley 6982

Correspondence re monetary payments for Treasurer to: WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assoc, PO Box 364 Bentley 6982

Bank Transfer: Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 A/C#158764837 Please notify treasurer of payment : treasurer@wabushpoets.asn.au

Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list

Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit website -Go to the “Performance Poets” page

Don't forget our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au

Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.

Members' Poetic Products

Terry Piggott	Books	Frank Heffernan	Book	Arthur Leggett	Book
Peter Blyth	CDs, books	Christine Boulton	Book, CD	Keith Lethbridge	books
John Hayes	CDs books	Pete Stratford	Books	Val Read	books
Tim Heffernan	book	Roger Cracknell	Book, CD	Peg Vickers	books & CD
Brian Langley	CD's books	Bill Gordon	CD	Terry Bennetts	Music CDs
				Jach Bock	book