

# The

February 2026

W.A. Bush Poets

# BULLY TIN



Next Muster: 6th Feb 2026 at 7pm Plantation Drive, Swan Centre, Bentley

MC: Brian Coogan 0417 171 092 [briancoogan@briancoogan.com](mailto:briancoogan@briancoogan.com)

Reading from the classics - Meg Gordon

Banjo Paterson's birthday - Recite a poem for Banjo during the first half of the muster.

## THE ESPERANCE TANKER JETTY

Remove our tanker jetty? Not on your flamin' life.  
If you attempt to do so it will cause a lot of strife.  
You will meet resistance like you never have before,  
if wishes of your citizens you're choosing to ignore.

The Norfolk pines and jetty are Esperance "Heart and Soul";  
Their history and heritage perform a vital role.  
To ignore the plea of locals may be perilous I say;  
To rebuild the tanker jetty, may be a better way.

I walked the Esperance jetty, in the days when it was  
"New,"  
above the turquoise ocean and beneath a sky of blue.  
Though I marvelled at the framework I could not visualize,  
how the townsfolk would prosper in this southern paradise

I see the coastal ship Mundulla berthed beside the pier;  
A locomotive puffing through the scenes of yesteryear;  
There's a ripple of excitement from townsfolk standing by  
While sea gulls go wheeling through a silent, sunny sky,

From Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie folks came down in droves  
to fish along the jetty and to picnic round the coves  
The jetty was pleasure spot for fishing day and nights  
from pylons, deck or landing and underneath the lights

Just a skeleton is left now, a bleak sight in the bay  
I wonder how much it means to the people of today  
If there wasn't any jetty then folks would stay away  
or find another jetty where they'll have their holiday

This wondrous wooden structure that ran out in the sea  
may become the ghost of ages in this towns history  
Though elders of the district appealed for its salvation,  
the local Shire Council have dismissed their application

This old jetty structure can be recycled to preserve  
the timbers of the forest that we're hoping to conserve.  
If pylons can be salvaged, are they worth a lot of dough?  
Would it mean a tidy profit for someone in the know?

A replacement made of metal may not be suitable I feel;  
A jetty made of metal is a thought as cold as steel  
Esperance needs a jetty we must take the long term view  
its people must now settle on the wisest thing to do

John Hayes ©

John Hayes is a veteran writer of all things Australian. These are just two examples of what happens in our lucky country

## The Gippsland- Mallacoota Bushfire.

Lightning struck near Wingham River on December twenty nine;  
then a small spot fire erupted as the early warning sign,  
of events that were to follow on that dreadful summer's day,  
when flames roared toward the coastline, down Mallacoota way.  
Soon out of control its widened front kept burning through the night;  
across the Gippsland Ranges and set the National Park alight.

It sped across the landscape this inferno blast from hell;  
to raze the bridge they built at Gypsy Point and the school as well  
Then Genoa felt its fury; as it chilled each living soul,  
as the blazing pathway of destruction took its dreadful toll  
When driven by a gale forced wind at forty nine degrees,  
flames soared thirty metres high above the canopy of trees.

When our fire crews were alerted to contain this fire that raged;  
teams from many districts and support aircraft were engaged.  
Yet as they built containment lines in overwhelming heat,  
shifting wind direction would often force them to retreat.  
There amid the turmoil and the terror came the tragic cost,  
-while trying to control the blaze two firemen's lives were lost.

While bearing down on Mallacoota they closed the access road;  
with fire crews to protect them, they went into lock down mode.  
When thousands fled toward the jetty and safety of the shore,  
to watch for the raging firestorm as they heard its dreadful roar.  
While they fretted for the dawning on the last day of the year,  
that cloak of apprehension bound them with an element of fear.

Two thousand metres onward, flaming embers through the air,  
brought a reign of terror when the flames were almost there.  
At the darkest hour past midnight there came that dreadful sight,  
with flames that turned the sky bright red as thunder filled the night.

Wind howled with all its fury against the efforts of mankind  
as black smoke spiralled skyward when the morning star was blind.

At ten- forty in the morning that fire came roaring down,  
as an avalanche of flames swept through Mallacoota town.  
At ten forty six the blaze had eased yet one hundred homes were lost,  
though a shift of wind direction saved them from a greater cost.  
Then its fury was exhausted as hell's inferno ceased to roar;  
when on the last day of December it had reached the eastern shore.

John Hayes ©



This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance of the office of KATE DOUST MLC

## President's Ramblings February 2026



Wireless Hill was a day with a difference with a cold wind and the temperature hovering in the low 20's. A far cry from some I remember sweltering in the low 40's and not the slightest breeze. Many were prepared but some of us were caught out in our usual summer attire. However it was a successful day with 14 poets maintaining the usual high standard of poetry under the excellent leadership of our MC - Lorraine Broun. Numbers were slightly down, with 80 in attendance.

Boyup Brook Country Music Festival is fast approaching with poets heading south for the "Meet and Greet" at Northlands on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. This sets the scene for four days of poetry at the Boyup Brook Hotel, the Tennis Club and the Music Park plus presentations at the school by our guest poet, Mick Martin, from Hervey Bay, Qld. Mick has made a name for himself as a poet and through his work for farmers experiencing hard times through drought and other challenges on the rural scene. Check out his website Mick Martin's Mates at the Gate for his very inspiring story. Check out the Bullytin from February 2025 for more about Mick and his poetry.

March long weekend is Nannup Folk Festival including two Bush Poetry Breakfasts. Alan Aitken is coordinating these and any poets who can make it to Nannup can contact Alan for a spot in the program. Downunder Country Music at Bridgetown follows on 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> March and again, Alan is the poet to contact for a start at that event.

Congratulations to Terry Bennetts for his success at the Bush Ballad Excellence Awards. Along with Pete Denahy, Ian Simpson, Mark Donohoe, and little brother John they picked up best instrumental for Slab Hut Gully. They were also nominated for the Golden Guitar in the same category but that is the one award that has so far eluded Terry. I look forward to hearing Terry perform this tune when he returns from Tamworth.

Hope to see many of our members at one or more of the above events or at the Muster at Bentley Park on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Bill Gordon, President

### G'day Fellow Poets

The Dwellingup Hotel are running a very interesting competition titled Stars of the South featuring cooking, art, music and poetry.

They are offering \$1500 prize money to the winner for a one-page poem.

Sounds unbelievable but not to be overlooked.

Go to Dwellingup Hotel.com.au for details.

Click on Stars of the South, then Poetry for details.

I didn't have any trouble getting the info up so I'm sure you won't either.

It sounds ideal for a brawl poem or something similar.

*Catchya*  
Bill

## MR KIMBERLEY - SAM LOVELL AM 1933 - 2025

It is with sadness that we talk about and honour one of Life's true gentleman who will be sorely missed by so many family and friends. Sam was a remarkable man in so many ways, and I have always felt that with his passing it would be like burning down a library as the knowledge and stories of the Kimberley he loved so well is like no other. He had an amazing memory and could tell you every station he worked on, the owners names and everyone he worked with. Another thing that made him unique was that even as a young stockman he always carried an old box camera with him and documented his life and the lives of others with hundreds of photos of people and working conditions on the Kimberley Stations.

I first met Sam many years ago when he came into my studio when I was recording one of Ginger's albums and was immediately impressed by the man and we spent many hours over the years that followed talking about his life and life in general in the Kimberley. He was a great inspiration to me and I wrote three songs about Sam over the years, the latest in collaboration with Ginger and Maria Cox simply called Mr Kimberley – Sam Lovell AM.

Many times, when we visited Derby as part of our Dry Season music tour, I would invite Sam to get up and tell his wonderful stories and sing some Slim songs and of course his crowd favourite, Chad Morgan's 'The Sheik From Scrubby Creek'. He always used to tell everyone when he sang it "You'd better lock up your dogs before I start". Sam was a fine yodeller as well.

He started playing guitar as a young fella and would entertain his guests every night around the campfire when he and Rosita started their Kimberley Safari Tours when his time as a stockman ended. He was a crowd favourite at many West Australian Festivals over the years especially his seven years entertaining at the Nambung Country Music Muster. One of my best memories of that festival was when one year we did a 'Stories and Songs of the Kimberley' bracket with Sam, Myself, Ginger Cox, Fred Russ (Derby elder and former stockman) and Lee Forster and the crowd did not want it to end.

Another festival that Sam loved was in Tamworth where he would drive his car or a bus from the Kimberley for many years up until his late eighties taking young and not so young Aboriginal musicians to introduce them to a wider audience and as he called it "To show them the ropes". It seems fitting somehow that he will be laid to rest on the Friday of the Tamworth festival.

Sam, you were one of a kind, a truly great Australian and we will miss your smile, your laughter, your music and the many stories you told. Rest in Peace old mate. **Terry and Virginia Bennetts**

*Here's a song we wrote for Sam and it was played at his funeral .*

### **Mr Kimberley - Sam Lovell AM**

*Terry Bennetts/Ginger Cox/Marie Cox*

We remember Sam today, a husband and a dad  
So loved by his family, and a good mate to have  
A Walmajarri Nyikina man, a proud Aborigine  
Who went from drover to legend, in this land of the Kimberley

We remember Sam today, he was my uncle and a friend  
And the likes of this man, we'll never see again  
He was the heart of our country. Pindan ran in his veins  
Now old Derby town will never be the same

*And we'll all sing along, to a Slim Dusty song  
What joy Sam gave, when he would play and sing  
By a campfire at night, 'neath a clear starry sky  
We will remember him*

The Order of Australia, was awarded to Sam  
And leaders of our country, have shook him by the hand.  
He's been honoured by so many, in story and song  
But it never changed the man, always knew where he came from

So who'd have thought back when, taken from his mother and his home  
Who'd have thought that little boy, would be the man Sam become  
A true gentleman at one, with his people and the land  
And in a hundred years from now they'll still talk of this man



*And they'll all sing along, to a Slim Dusty song  
What joy Sam gave, when he would play and sing  
By a campfire at night, 'neath a clear starry sky  
We will remember him  
We'll always remember him  
We remember Uncle Sam today*



**BOYUP BROOK COUNTRY MUSIC MUSTER**

# BUSH POETRY

**ABOUT MICK MARTIN**

Mick Martin grew up in country Victoria in a big bush family, influenced by travelling shearers and later shaped by his own time working in Western Australia, where his love of the land and storytelling took root. After joining the North Pine Bush Poets in Queensland, Mick developed a distinctive performance style drawn from lived experience, going on to perform widely, publish nationally, appear on ABC radio and judge major bush poetry competitions. Beyond the stage, he founded the farmer support charity Mates at the Gate, using poetry, community and practical action to support people doing it tough across rural Australia.

**THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY**  
Poets in the Pub | 11:30am - 1:30pm

**FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY**  
Bush Poets Breakfast, Tennis Club, 8:00am to 10:00am  
Poets in the Pub, 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Virtual Performance Workshop with Mick Martin  
Northlands Shearing Shed | 2:00pm to 4:00pm

**SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY**  
Bush Poets Breakfast, Hotel Beer Garden, 8:00am to 10:00am

**SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY**  
Bush Poets Breakfast, Music Park, 7:00am to 9:40am

FOR TICKETS & INFO VISIT - [WACOUNTRYMUSIC.COM.AU](http://WACOUNTRYMUSIC.COM.AU)



**DWELLINGUP COMMUNITY HOTEL**  
ESTABLISHED 1911

IS SEARCHING FOR **STARS of the SOUTH**

*\$10,000 In Prizes*

If you can cook, we wanna taste it.  
You a poet, we wanna read it.  
You an artist, we wanna see it.  
You a muso, we wanna hear it.

SCAN THE CODE TO CONTACT US TO FIND OUT MORE

SPONSORS: N3, SILVILLI MAZDA, HAHN

We are really excited to be part of this project in the Perth Fringe festiva...see more



### WHEN BAYLEY'S STAR GLEAMED BRIGHT

.....or how I nearly struck it rich  
The WA Goldfields' History  
Through  
Song, Story, Verse and (almost true) Anecdote.

In 1892, 36 year old prospector William Ford picked up a 1/2oz gold nugget on a grassy area, later known as Coolgardie's Fly Flat.

Together with his 26 year old prospecting partner, Arthur Bayley, they awakened a sleeping giant which was to become the WA Eastern Goldfields.

The effect this had on both Western Australia, and indeed Australia, was profound. Join Phil, Yvonne, Karlen, John and Joe in the telling this rollicking tale.

A tale of the people of the WA Eastern Goldfields who lived, worked and passed into History.....

#### MIDLAND JUNCTION ARTS CENTRE

Sunday Jan 25 2026 Matinee: 2:00pm Evening: 6:00pm

#### OLD MILL THEATRE SOUTH PERTH

Friday Feb 6 Evening: 7:30pm  
Saturday Feb 7 Matinee: 2:00pm Evening: 6:00pm  
Sunday Feb 8 Matinee: 2:00pm Evening: 6:00pm




CLICK ON THE LINK TO ORDER TICKETS!!

<https://fringeworld.com.au/whats-on/when-bayley-s-star-gleamed-bright-fw2026>

## VERSE IN THE VALLEY Festival



**Gloucester, NSW 4-7th March 2026**

In conjunction with **Gloucester Rotary**    
**Bush Poetry in the Saleyards Sat Night 7th.**  
the **VERSE IN THE VALLEY FESTIVAL** will include   
4 days of bush poetry and music events ...

Enjoy a healthy dose of frivolity and fun with a variety of artists to entertain you ..... including




With music by **Tom & Susan**

The Master of Bush Verse  
**Geoffrey Graham ...**  
and  
The Master of Bull  
**Bill Kearns**



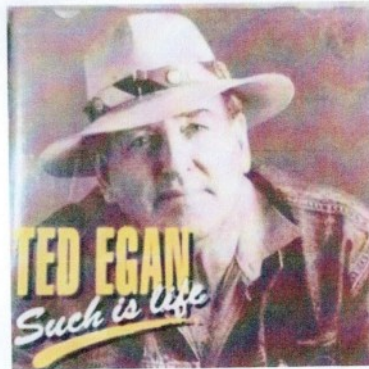
More Info - Tom 0417251287  
Brian-0419634275

- **Wednesday Welcome** bush poetry and music walk-ups.
- **Avon Valley Pub** from 6pm
- **Thursday Open Mic** with music and Bush Poetry from 7pm.
- **Gloucester Country Club**
- **Friday Bush Poetry/Music** after the raffle draw
- **Club Gloucester**
- **Friday/Saturday** fr. 9am NSW Championships -**Snr Citizens Hall** 

To book a seat at the Bush Poetry in the Saleyards:  
Scan the QR Code (This event is pre-booking only and sells out well prior to the date.)



raise a glass and celebrate the life of



**sunday, february 1st, 2026**

**Durty Nelly's Brew Bar**

Address: 397 Murray St, Perth    Located in: Shafto Lane

2.00pm - 5.00pm

numbers limited, please register early

**RSVP** by 19/01/26: [jacajoey@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jacajoey@yahoo.com.au)

*guests to purchase their own drinks and snacks at the bar*

## **NANNUP MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025**

I have again been asked to MC the Poetry at Nannup Music Festival this year. There are 2 x 2 hour time slots, Saturday from 08:30 to 10:30am and Sunday from 08:30 to 10:30 at the Playground Stage.

I am looking for poets to perform during one or both of these sections. This stage is outside the main event area and there will be no tickets issued to enter the event area. People wishing to go into the main event area will need to purchase a ticket on line. There will also be no moneys for performers at this event. For those that attend but do not wish to purchase a ticket there are some areas of entertainment that you can still access, The Playground Stage, The Nannup Hotel, The Nannup Brewing Company and my favourite, the veranda at The Bowling Club.

*Cheers Alan Aitken*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WA

### WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC 31<sup>ST</sup> AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION WIRELESS HILL ARDROSS, PERTH 2026

## W.A. Bush Poets



## & Yarnspinnners Assn.



.Perth

It was an overcast, cool day for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Australia Day poetry and music event on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This was very different from our usual summer heatwave conditions experienced in the past.

Always a perfect setting amongst the huge gum trees with the Swan River just visible through the natural bushland that provides wonderful nature walks for locals and visitors to the area.

The crowd was smaller than in previous years due to the cooler weather but most came prepared to enjoy their lunch and drinks and an afternoon of professional entertainment. They were generous in their donations and appreciation of the effort put in by 14 poets.

The day commenced with music from The Rambling Bilbies, a duo of folk singers from the Waneroo Folk Club in Perth. Their songs were stories, like poetry, of this land Australia.

MC was Lorraine Broun and the range of topics presented by the poets depicted many aspects of Australia, Australian way of life and the diverse make up of our population.

From "I Love A Sunburnt Country" (Dorothea Mackellar), "Clancy of The Overflow" (Banjo Paterson), "Australia" (Mick Collis), "The Shape of Australia" (Peg Vickers), "Australia, This Land Downunder" (Daniel Avery) to "Reedy River" (Henry Lawson), "The Droving Days" (Banjo Paterson), "The Man From Snowy River" (Banjo Paterson), "The Glass on The Bar" (Henry Lawson) and aspects of more modern happenings "Never Been" (Chris Taylor), "Oombagooma" (Dave Morrell), "Old Silver" (Roger Cracknell), "Harry Swain's Scales" (John Hayes), "Jock From Bruce Rock" (Keith Lethbridge), "The Lamington Stamp" (Barry Humphries), "The Northern Summer" (Lorraine Broun). There was the 'what if' story from Greg Joass, "Trying Matilda", "Ouch" (Col Wilson) and a message to able bodied persons from Daniel Avery in "My Motley Crew" that people with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida or dealing with blindness or a colostomy bag can still lead normal lives and contribute to our great nation. Our native bush mice got a mention in Roger Cracknell's "The Rodent's Tale" and the wool industry was remembered in Peter Blyth's poem "After Ewe". Some favourite pastimes of Australians include horse racing "Grandpa and The Bobtail Lizard" (Peg Vickers) and "The Football Match" (Peg Vickers) and we can't forget the importance of a farmer's best friend, Jack Drake's "Cattle Dog's Revenge".

A new poet to our ranks, Rick Yeats, paid tribute to the Middle Island Fishing Crew in his first poetry presentation "In Pursuit of The Yellow Hat".



The Rambling Bilbies



Rob Gunn



Bev Shorland



Meg Gordon



Brian Coogan



Daniel Avery



Roger Cracknell



MC Lorraine Broun



Rick Yeats



Bill Gordon



Greg Joass



Dave Morrell



John Hayes



Barry Higgins

**List of most of the poets who performed and poems presented (some details incomplete)**  
*(Bush Poetry's alive and well)*

**Crowd Photos - *sheltering, rugged up, but present and appreciative***

- \*Lorraine Broun (MC)  
-Northern Summer by Lorraine Broun
- \* Bill Gordon  
-Clancy of the Overflow by Banjo Patterson  
-Cattle Dog's Revenge by Jack Drake
- \*Christine Boulton  
-The Brick by Christine Boulton  
- My Country by Dorothea Mackellar
- \*Rob Gunn  
-The Slavey's Dilemma by the Prodigal  
-Australia by Mick Colliss  
-Summer Idyll by Arthur Leggett  
-The Line in the Sand by Barry Humphries  
-The Lamington Stamp by Barry Humphries
- \*Dan Avery  
-Australia, The Land Down Under by Dan Avery  
-Samantha by Dan Avery  
-My Motley Mates by Dan Avery
- \*Meg Gordon  
-The Cruise by Peg Vickers  
-The Shape of Australia by Peg Vickers  
-Grandpa and the Bobtail Lizard by Peg Vickers
- \*John Hayes  
-In the Droving Days by Banjo Patterson
- \*Greg Joass  
-Never been by Chris Taylor  
-Arachnophobia by Greg Joass  
-Trying Matilda by Greg Joass
- \*Alan Aitken  
-Unsuitably Dressed by Slim Jones  
-The Glass on the Bar by Henry Lawson
- \*Barry Higgins  
-After Ewe by Peter Blyth  
-Ouch by Blue the Shearer  
-Letter to the publisher by Sid Hopkins  
-Jock From Bruce Rock by Keith Lethbridge
- \*Bev Shorland  
-The Warrumbungle Mare by Reg Poole  
-Mulga Jill by Bev Shorland  
-Reedy River by Henry Lawson
- \*Brian Coogan  
-The Man from Snowy River by Banjo Patterson
- \*Roger Cracknell  
-The Rodent's Tale by Lewis Carroll  
- Harry Swain's Scales
- \*Rick Yeates  
-In pursuit of the Yellow Cap by Rick Yeates
- \*Dave Morrell  
-Oombagooma by Dave Morrell  
Along with a few other poems



## Bush Poets Muster Write Up 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 transcribed from notes supplied courtesy of Bev Shorland

MC Bill Gordon – welcomed everyone. Bill spoke of the passing of Ted Egan at age 93; a legend of Bush Poetry. He also spoke of Sam Lovell – ‘Mr Kimberley’; a wonderful indigenous poet and musician a regular at Boyup Brook. Also, Joe Ridge the Irish story teller who also passed away. Bill commented that this was very sad news at the end the year.

The evenings performers were then as follows:-

**Bill Gordon**                      *‘The Spirit of Christmas’*                      *by Chris Louis*

A tale about a young rookie policeman

**Anne Hayes**                      *‘My Oath to You’*                      *by Sharon*

Details the pledge of support for a friend.

**Esperance**, (8 yrs old)                      *unsure of title*                      *her own poem*

*In the wild lived old brother James ..... he had to search for his shoes then lay on a log for a snooze*

**David Sears**                      *‘The Night Before Christmas’*                      *by Clement Clark Moore*

A beautiful old classic, brought back childhood memories of the wonderful Christmas poem.

**Heather Denholm**                      *‘Carolling’*                      *by Heather Denholm*

Carolling is fun but it has some challenges when the wind blows the pages of the music away. But the message of Christmas is in all the songs and in the delight in the children’s eyes.

**Rob Gunn**                      *‘Scots of the Riverina’*                      *by Henry Lawson*

A tale about a boy who ran away at harvest time.

**Meg Gordon**                      *‘Santa’s Holiday’*                      *by Peter Blythe*

**Deb McQuire**                      *‘Aussie Christmas Day’*                      *by Deb McQuire*

A parody of Jingle Bells about how some Aussies may celebrate Christmas ‘

**Brian Higgins**                      *‘Christmas Cocktails’*                      *by Sid Hopkins*

When a question is posed to the barmaid at the club *‘if she would be prepared to.....’*

**John Hayes**                      *‘From the Lanterns’*                      *by Richard McGouffin’*

Published in ‘W.....’ for his father in 1962 it recalls the memories from the shadows and people and occasions that these hurricanes recall.

**Bev Shorland**                      *‘Tangmalangaloo’*                      *by John O’Brien*

*The ready answer bared a fact no bishop every knew about Christmas day from the view of youth in the congregation – “It’s the day before the races out at Tangmalangaloo”*

**Daniel Avery –**

Daniel told us about going to the AC/DC concert at Optus Stadium and so he wrote a poem about his mates and shared it with us                      *‘My Mottley Mates’*                      *by Daniel Avery*

**Poem Challenge** – we were treated to the personal poems presented by the following on the challenge theme ‘My Best Friend’ (a few of these, where a copy was made available appear later in the Bully Tin for readers to enjoy)

**Heather Denholm**                      **Jadwiega Poulson**  
**Terry Brown**                      **Robin Hollier**  
**Mitch Golby**                      **Bill Gordon**

*Supper of Port and pies was enjoyed by all and the Secret Santa draw was conducted.*

**Bush Poets Muster Write Up 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 cont..**

## Bush Poets Muster Write Up 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 cont...

**Greg Pastoll**

*'Mosquito Bandito'*

*by Greg Pastoll*

A lengthy, and very humorous tale of the outcomes and reasons behind a mosquito bite on a Bandito's head.

**Terry Piggott**

*'Counting Time'*

*by Terry Piggott*

Awaiting his final breath a man remembers how things were before – Blokes he known and were also gone – the memories of searching for gold far and wide.

**Daniel Avery**

*'Samantha'*

*by Daniel Avery*

His story about two friends who grew up together. One with spina bifida and one with cerebral palsy. She was a real inspiration who overcame many hurdles and but had great success in life

**Brian Coogan** - reminded everyone that he would be the MC for the February Muster.

**Barry Higgins** -

*"Summer Idle"*

*by Arthur Leggett*

While cleaning the swimming pool and encounter with a drowning grasshopper brings on a rescue with a surprising end.

*'Ouch'*

*by Colin Wilson*

A young traveller calls into a country pub, he has a beer and a feed then, not feeling so well asks where the toilet is....

**Lorraine Bourn** -

*'Christmas Nativity Play'*

*by Lorraine Bourn*

The children of the Sunday School all dressed up and excited to be in the Christmas play – but somehow things become quite awkward they all go for morning tea.

**John Hayes** -

*'Violets'*

*by CJ Dennis*

Tells the story of Bill and Doreen living in married bliss when Doreen wants to buy a piano – there's a bit of a tiff and Bills longing to sweeten up Doreen by picking her a bunch of violets – when young Bill comes home from school with a shiner then the trouble really begins.

**David Sears** -

*'The Cremation of Sam McGee'* *by Robert W Service*

Searching for gold during winter in the Youkan the cold was so bitter that poor old Sam McGee died, his travelling companion followed his wish to not be buried and was able to cremate him in an old boat.

**Heather Denholm** -

*'Vertically Challenged'*

*by Heather Denholm*

Being short it is difficult to get things on the top shelves in the supermarket so asks for help and offers to get things off the lower shelf in return

The Muster concluded and Bill wished all present a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year then reminded all that there would be no muster in January and no Bully Tin, both of which would resume in February

**Next Muster: 6th Mar 2026 at 7pm Plantation Drive, Swan Centre, Bentley  
MC: to be arranged**

**Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night for our scribe or send one via email to [deb.mcquire@bigpond.com](mailto:deb.mcquire@bigpond.com) for the Muster Write Up.  
Thank you in advance**

## My Best Friend.

My wife, my dog, I love them both, I'll love them to the end.  
It's hard to choose between them, which one is my best friend.  
My wife promised sincerely to love, honour and obey,  
A deal like that is hard to find, it was my lucky day.  
She'd cook and wash and mend my clothes, help out in the yard,  
Keep me warm on frosty nights, she truly worked real hard.

My dog would ride up on my bike, he loved to chase the sheep,  
And run them all into the yard, by-jove he earned his keep.  
He never got upset with me when I did something wrong,  
And every time I went to town he always came along.

I head to stop the shed door from swinging in the stormy weather,  
I locked them both inside the shed, my wife and dog together.  
It was getting on for evening I noticed they were missing,  
When I opened up the shed door my wife was fairly hissing,  
My dog was glad to see me, his kicks never seemed to end.  
I knew there in that instant which one was my best friend!

Bill Gordon 5.12.2025

## My Best Friend

My best friend keeps me up to the mark  
Doesn't whinge whine or bark  
Tells me when and where I should be  
And who I'm scheduled to see

Reminds me of birthdays anniversaries and other events  
Makes no judgements or clever comments  
Is there whenever I'm in need  
Provides what I want without me having to plead

Accepts whatever I write without question  
Remains silent and is too polite to mention  
an error, double booking or omission  
and doesn't berate or engage in derision

To this friend I am most indebted  
For saving me from a fate regretted  
You see, my very best friend of all  
is the calendar hanging on the wall.

## My Best Friend

Throughout one's life some friends come and go  
but the ones that matter, last through your journey's ebb and flow  
By your side to pick you up when you are down  
and laughing with you when you act the clown

My best friend was big and strong and wore a bushies hat  
He was a Blacksmith and was very proud of that  
He could turn a lump of metal into a delicate flower  
Or make massive items reliant on industrial power

There was another side to him, more gentle and compassionate  
At Christmas he became Santa and looked quite resplendent when upon a throne he sat  
Children flocked to see him and he gave and received great joy  
Listening to their stories and requests for yet another toy

We just called him "Blacksmith" because that was his trade  
His work was treasured by those who knew when something was well made  
Alas, I'm sad to say he passed away, but whenever there is thunder  
I think of him, striking his anvil like Thor the God of lightning and thunder

*Terry Brown*

*Terry Brown*

## MY BEST FRIEND

My best friend Louise who lived next door  
Was as black as I was white.  
We grew up together in the London slums  
Where we shared a similar plight.

Each of us lived with our loved ones  
In two rooms on a dark, shabby street.  
Four families shared the one toilet  
And hot water was always a treat.

We had no books or many toys  
So out on the road we would play,  
Meeting our friends on the bomb sites  
Enjoying each wonderful day.

When we were eight we were parted -  
A black airman took her mother as wife.  
Then off they all flew to America  
My **lucky** friend to a better life.

Jadwiga Poulson

15 .11. 2025.

### **My Oath to You**

When you are sad my oath to you, I will dry your tears.

When you are scared - I will comfort you

When you are worried - I will you hope

When you are confused - I will help you cope

When you are lost – and cant see the light

I shall be your beacon – shinning every so bright

This is my oath – I pledge to the end

Why you may ask – because you are my friend.

Present by Ann Hayes written by Sharon

### *The Christmas Tree.*

*It stands by the window, in a bucket of sand .  
All dressed up in baubles , looking so grand .  
The family all gather and they all agree .  
And they say to eachother, "What a beautiful tree!"*

*There's room for the presents laid out with love.  
An angel to bless them, from the branches above .  
There is a brand new baby to hug and to hold .  
That renews in their hearts, the story that's told.*

*Of a couple who travelled, when the going was tough.  
Their faith and their courage was more than enough.  
They left us a vision of what the world should be .  
And a celebration of love around the Christmas tree.*

*It stands by the window in a bucket filled with sand  
All dressed up in baubles, looking so grand  
The family gather around and they all agree.  
Treasure this moment. "What a wonderful tree".  
(by me)*

*Robin Hollier .  
Dec 25.*

## Sea Shanty Group

Ahoy All!

Firstly thank you so much for being part of the 2025 Bunbury Sea Shanty Festival and to those of you that supported the festival in 2024 and 2025 I thank you even more so. Without your support we would never have been able to run such a successful and enjoyable festival. I hope that whatever part you played in relation to the festival was an enjoyable one and at the very least if you were a supplier was a profitable one. The committee and I hope that we stuck by our guiding principles throughout the festivals that:

Each touch point with the festival, whether you were an attendee, supplier, or performer, was a positive one And the bands get paid.

Due to the all consuming nature of coordinating and running a festival the committee has decided, for their own general health and mental well being and also that of their families, that we will not be holding another Bunbury Sea Shanty Festival in 2026 or the following years. We hope that you enjoyed your time in our beautiful little city of Bunbury and created memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

We hope that all you artists continue to sing, write and perform sea shanty music and keep the tradition of sea shanty singing alive in its many forms. Thank you for creating such a diverse and welcoming community for people to enjoy.

If you would like to come back to Bunbury next year and perform there is an opportunity to do so. The illustrious Sez, Venue Manager at Froth and sea shanty singing tragic, is planning on hosting a sea shanty singing day festival at Froth Craft Brewery. If you would like to express your interest in attending please contact Sez on:

Ph: 0448 458 066

E: [vm@frothbunbury.com](mailto:vm@frothbunbury.com)

I know that she would love to hear from you.

Once again, thank you so much for being part of the 2025 Bunbury Sea Shanty Festival. Without you all we could not have run Bunbury's only music festival for two years in a row and we are sincerely grateful for your contribution(s) to the Festival.

May you have fair winds and following seas in your future journeys and may joy be with you all.

Yours truly

Col

Colin Anker

Artistic Director

Phone: 0432 878 470

Bunbury Sea Shanty Festival Inc.

## COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA

### **WRITTEN EVENTS are in PURPLE**

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au) and [www.writingwa.org](http://www.writingwa.org)

Why not check out Writing WA  
<[info@writingwa.org](mailto:info@writingwa.org)>  
Always something interesting  
going on for WA Writers

### **February 2026**

27 February — Closing Date — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival (incorporating the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships), Corryong, Victoria. **Written competition**

### **March 2026**

4-7 March — Verse in the Valley NSW Performance Championships, daily walkups & open mic, workshops and music, Gloucester, NSW. See 27 February closing date

6 March — Closing Date — Logan Muddy River Performance Poetry Competition, Beenleigh, Queensland.

14 March — Logan Muddy River Performance Poetry Competition, Beenleigh, Queensland. See 6 March closing date.

### **April 2026**

16-19 April — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival

(incorporating the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships), Corryong, Victoria. Performance & **Written competitions**. See 27 February closing date.



**Preserve your legacy  
with our custom  
family history books!**

**Capture your story**  
Every family has a unique story to tell. We can help to preserve your cherished memories and heritage with beautifully printed family history books. Whether it's a collection of old photographs, handwritten letters, or captivating tales passed down through generations, we bring your family's journey to life.

**Why choose us?**  
High-quality printing: We use premium materials to ensure your book is a lasting treasure.  
All types of finishing: Saddle stapled, wire, spiral, PUR bind, section sewn, case bound (hard cover), dust jacket. All produced in our factory in Rivervale, Western Australia.  
Fast turnaround: Receive your beautifully crafted books in no time.  
Personalised service: We are a small family business who can add creativity and a personal touch.  
Other services: Wide format printing of your family tree and photo restoration.

**Perfect for all occasions**  
Family reunions, anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, and more!

**Contact us today!**  
Don't let your family's history fade away. Reach out to us now to start creating a timeless keepsake that will be cherished for generations to come.

Email: [production@tbpf.com.au](mailto:production@tbpf.com.au)  
Phone: 08 9478 2611  
[www.stonespub.com.au](http://www.stonespub.com.au)

the big picture factory

## Committee Members - WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2025

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Keith Lethbridge	0437 336 296	keithlethbridge@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Rodger Kohn	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Hill	0418 941 016	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

### **Committee**

Meg Gordon	- <i>Toodyay Festival Sec.</i> - <i>Web Control</i> - <i>Secretary of the ABPA</i> - <i>ABPA Representative</i>	0404 075 108	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Don Gunn		0418 930 821	bigunnz@inet.net.au
Maxine Richter		0429 339 002	maxine.richter@bigpond.com
Greg Joass		0429 345 150	gjoass@gmail.com
Heather Denholm	Peel Poets Representative	0429 052 900	h.e.denholm@gmail.com
Deb McQuire	- <i>Bully Tin editor</i>	0428 988 315	deb.mcquire@bigpond.com

## Regular Events

**WA Bush Poets:**                    **1st Friday each month MC details see front page**  
- 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA

**Bunbury Bush Poets:**            **1st Monday every 'even' month**                    **Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243**  
- **The Parade Hotel,**  
**1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury.**                    **or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636**

**Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:** **1st Wednesday each month.**                    **Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376**  
- **7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club,**  
**108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie**

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](http://www.abpa.org.au) or [www.bushverse.com](http://www.bushverse.com)

Address correspondence for the "Bully Tin" to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or [deb.mcquire@bigpond.com](mailto:deb.mcquire@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](mailto: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](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au)**  
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.