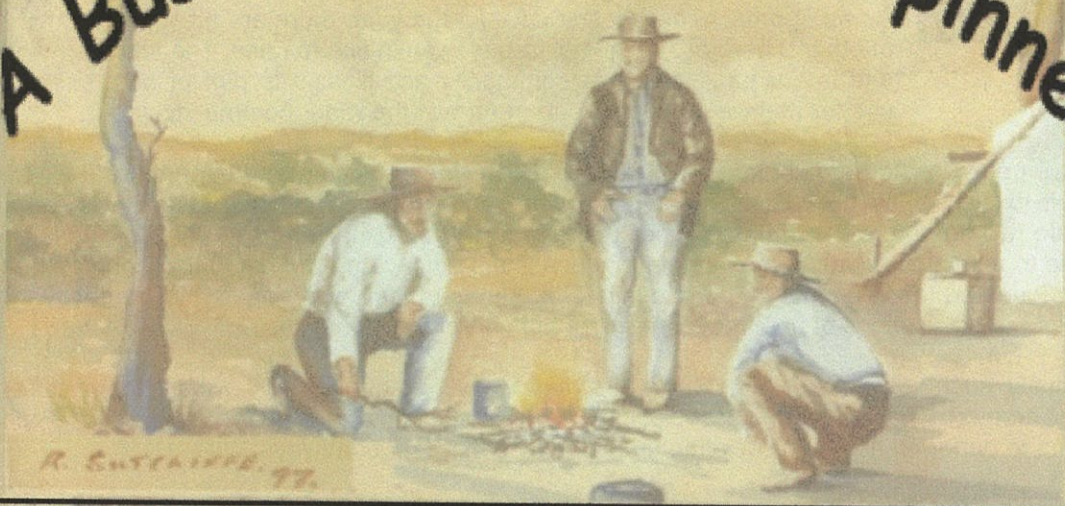


\$2.00

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : November 2000

RULES OF ENTRY FOR POETS' AUSTRALIA DAY 2001 WRITTEN COMPETITION

- The author must be a financial member of the association at the time of submission.
- All poetry **MUST** be the author's own work. A signed statement to that effect must accompany each work.
- Australian Poetry is bush and urban poetry relevant to Australia and the Australian way of life.
- The work must be of a length that can be performed in Three to Seven minutes including 'preamble' (introduction to poem) to use the definitions of the Australian Bush Poets Association.
- Works should have a rhythm and rhyme consistent with traditional Australian Bush Poetry.
- Material of a tasteless nature will be penalised or disqualified. Please remember the Wireless Hill finals are a family event.*

The main pre-requisite of the written Poem is that it entertains

*P. Waple,
Bush Barber,
Real Bush Justice*

Entries to Keith Lethbridge
24 Gladstone Road
ARMADALE WA 6112

Closing date for Written Competition: 24th December 2000

Samples of the Authors' Declaration form at CAY 1st December 2000

**"Come All Ye" gatherings at the Raffles Hotel
(Upstairs in the River Room)**

Next Meeting Friday 1/12/2000 at 7:30pm



AROUND THE TRAPS with the Top Dog

G'day all,
Thanks for the positive responses to my comments last column about 'affirmative action'. I hope some of those good intentions will bear fruit in the near future.



As we approach the last first CAY for the year, there are a couple of other 'where are we going' issues I would like to raise. The first one is our participation in community activities. It is part of our charter that we propagate our art form in the wider community.

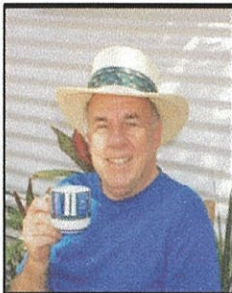
Often, we get requests from community groups for Bush Poets to come and perform for their event and it is difficult to distinguish between spreading the word and providing a cheap sideshow. As you will all appreciate, we do not run a commercial booking agency. What usually happens is that these approaches are made to a committee member who then handballs the contact to members they feel may be interested in taking it up and those members then negotiate the terms of their own appearances directly. This can of course lead to accusations of unfair favouritism on the part of the committee.

Occasionally, such as with the Royal Show this year, we will be offered a 'showcase' opportunity, coupled with a generous donation to the association. In these situations, we never have trouble rounding up volunteers to perform and the association undoubtedly benefits in both ways.

Another but related matter is that of intellectual property in a performance. At present, there is no official body to protect individuals' rights in the performance of their own works, so it is up to the individuals themselves to do so. This comes up in relation to the audio recording of the Wongan Hills concert in 1998. Who owns that recording? The organisers of the show, the recordist, the performers or the Association? I would argue that each own a share, although it could also be argued that once a performance is 'in the public domain', it is up for grabs.

I would be interested to hear from members on these issues. Particularly as to the approach you think the committee should take and how you think the current system could be improved. If anyone wants to put their thoughts to me in writing, that would be great. Just snailmail to PO Box 4040 Coolbellup 6163 or email to mandogalup@yahoo.com.

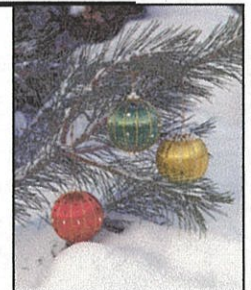
**Catchya,
Stinger**



Editorial

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will see advertised the first of what we hope will be a regular event. The Association will print Poetry books featuring Members' works.

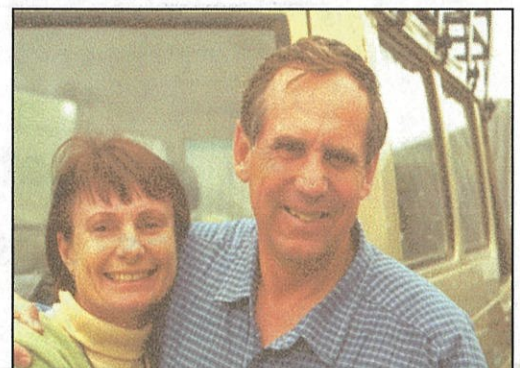
These will be published to co-incide with events throughout the year – such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. If you would like to be part of these publications, please call or email me as soon as you can.



In order to make these books economical to produce, you will need to submit your works in electronic form, preferably as a Word document – but a Text File is OK.. The books will attract Royalties for the authors, as well as serving as a fundraiser for the Association.

Last Month we ran a feature article on Rod and Kerry Lee's poetry. They went to a lot of trouble to send me a really nice colour photo, which I failed to print!! So here is the photo we didn't print, along with my apologies to Kerry and Rod.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, we wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year



Come All Ye for November 2000



This was written like a letter but it seemed to turn out better
Written in poetic form, the way Bush Poets know.
On the 3rd day of November, another quite new member
Trish Matthews, ran the evening with a steady, even flow.

A yarn by young Rod Lee, of the famed society
For Blithering Idiots and Incompetent Fools.
Hadley Provis, second choice, with a deep commanding voice
Pondering on body functions, life and all its rules.

A woman's lot at home, (well, on this I'd write a tome)
Was told by me, and David Sears gave the inside drill
About two fishermen, OK, and IVF or the old fashioned way
While on fishing Kerry made us laugh at the dodgy Shifty Phil.

A break and the competition, with judges lined in the old tradition..
Lorelie, Brendon, Deborah, scratched their heads and wielded pens
Chris Sadler's tale, true I'm sure, of the sheep dog locking the door
Of the truck, in transit with her outside trying to get back in again.

Keith Lethbridge, in his special way, told the story of the day
That Digger ate the Smart Pills, they really worked a treat
Syd Hopkinson's story, right, of a Stockman who can't write.
But made a fortune, using his head, his hands and his feet.

From Peter Capp a story about a drum, (44 gallons, as big as they come)
And Rod Lee told that lovely tale of the fellow with no underwear.
Arthur Leggett, with modest charm lamented on middle age and his alarm
Plying a beauty with drinks and discovering she had a fiancée there.

In the 'other authors', Kerry Lee, took the mike and we could see
The horse no man could tame and the child whose name was Nell
Patterson's verse, from 1887, about the boy Lost, winding up in heaven
Was recited, related, passed on, in the way only Ron Evans can tell.

Still in the "other writer's" event, predicting 'ruin' where e're he went,
Was Hanrahan, a story ably told by Rusty Christensen.
Ray Nicholson did well, with a narrative, long to tell,
Of a dog, a Ute, a Motor Bike, but sadly forgot the end.

Keith Lethbridge told a good'n, about man's best friend, and woudn'
You know, it's not his dog, it's his ever-loving wife.
His Clancy of the Overflow, would have been pleasing, this I know
To Banjo Patterson, up there, listening in the afterlife.

Barry Higgins repeated The Twist. You know, the taxman, you get the GiST
A verse from Henry Lawson, by Peter Capp, while suppressing laughter
His yarn with facial contortions, of a locust plague, of huge proportions.
And Arthur Leggett's magic massage oil is something the men are after.

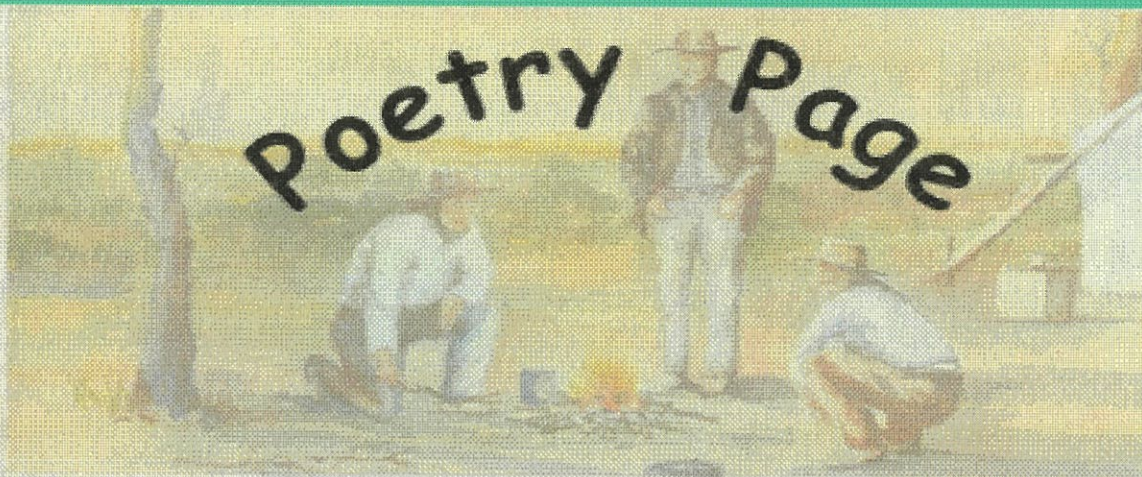
Roger Montgomery had a yarn to tell, About two Blues. "He's Blue and him as well".
Work on a station, rabbits, a "Pommy" a horse
Peter Nettleton had the last word, with the tale of a well-known Aussie bird
The Galah, and wore himself out whistling and singing, and actions of course.

While the judges sat a while to ponder, Phil Strutt, stepped up to take a wander
Towards the mike to entertain us with stuff about Rottnest but best of all
Was his impression of a screechy bird, a seagull, whose screams could be heard
Above the Band playing downstairs and through the doors and in the hall.

After a lengthy verbal exchange, Lorelie for the judges, commended the range
Of aspects, the high calibre, and how close it was to choose
Peter Capp won places twice, with his own verse and a yarn, how nice.
While Keith Lethbridge's interpretation of another's work, meant he couldn't lose.

That's all you'll hear from me, somehow
Michelle, it's back to you for now.

Tess Stubbs



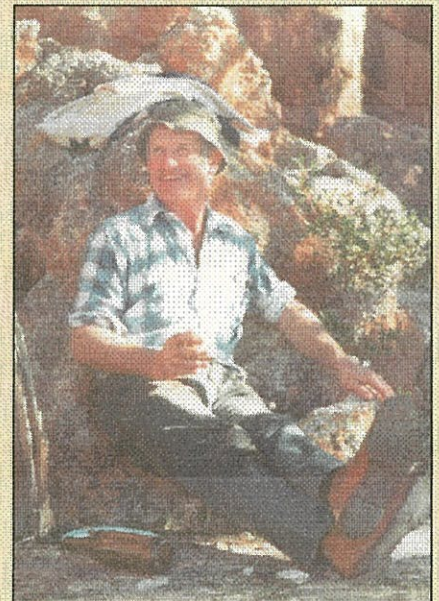
A Loser at Landor

Among the happy faces, at the Landor picnic races
 Could be seen the finest horseman of them all
 He was feeling rather cocky, for as owner, trainer, jockey
 Held pushed some bookies almost to the wall.
 This year was no exception, for by anyone's perception
 His big chestnut looked superb, when saddled up
 Having had a solid season, there was no apparent reason
 Why once again they could not win "the Cup".

But scattered all about, there were many filled with doubt
 For winning is the punters only goal
 And instead of clear-cut vision, some were racked with indecision
 Just who would be the first one past the pole?
 Soon there came a deafening sound, as the main event came around
 And the starter got the field upon its way
 As the lead kept changing hands, there was tumult in the stands
 For you couldn't pick the winner, come what may.

But, with a hundred left to run, the big chestnut had it won
 While his rider merely sat, and let him coast
 Then a roar went around the track, as a bolter left the pack
 And pipped the champ by inches at the post!
 It was very clear, of course, he hadn't seen that other horse
 And the thought of losing hadn't crossed his mind
 So his backers hatched a plot, to remind him he should not
 Forget to always take a look behind.

At the evening congregation, for the trophy Presentation
 When the winner was presented with "the Cup",
 The Judges had decided and by the rules were guided
 On a "special trophy" for the runner-up.
 Who felt anything but pride, he would sooner run and hide
 But he thanked the Judges for their kind decision
 And what was that trophy thing, in brown paper, tied with string?
 When unwrapped, it was a mirror, for rear vision!!



© By Syd. Hopkinson

Coming Events

Bronze Swagman Bush Verse Competition Closing Date January 31st



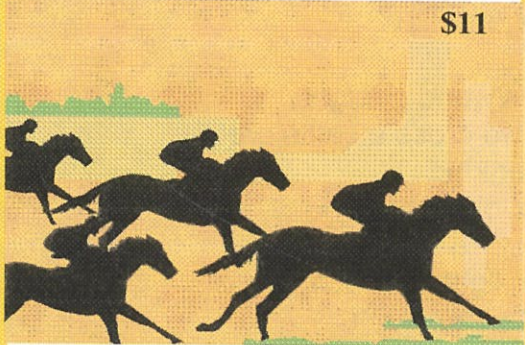
This competition has been going on for 29 years I believe from an article in the ABPA magazine. The entry is about \$15 for 3 original unpublished poems and this year's entry entitles you to a complimentary copy of The bronze Swagman Book of Verse(RRP \$12.50). Seems like a bargain to me. If you are interested start writing and give me a call for more information. I'll also see how we get entry forms (not out yet) from the ABPA. **Michelle Sorrell**

Arena Auditions for Terry Prachett's "Wyrd Sisters" - Sunday 3rd and 10th December

Actors are needed for this production. If you fancy the footlights please look at the poster on our front desk at the CAY or ask **Stinger Nettleton** for more details.

**A Welter of Racing
And
Horse Poems**

\$11



**Compiled by the
WA Bush Poets and Yarn
Spinners Association**

WABP&YSA Fundraising Book Sale

This new book of Bush Poetry containing members' best and funniest horse and racing poems is being produced as a Christmas fundraiser.

To be previewed December meeting. It features several of our members such as:- Geoff Bebb, Peter Capp, John Haynes, Kerry Lee and Syd Hopkinson.

Entertaining, fun holiday reading – a perfect inexpensive Christmas gift that showcases our Poets and Association.

Country readers can order from the secretary. (\$2 postage added)

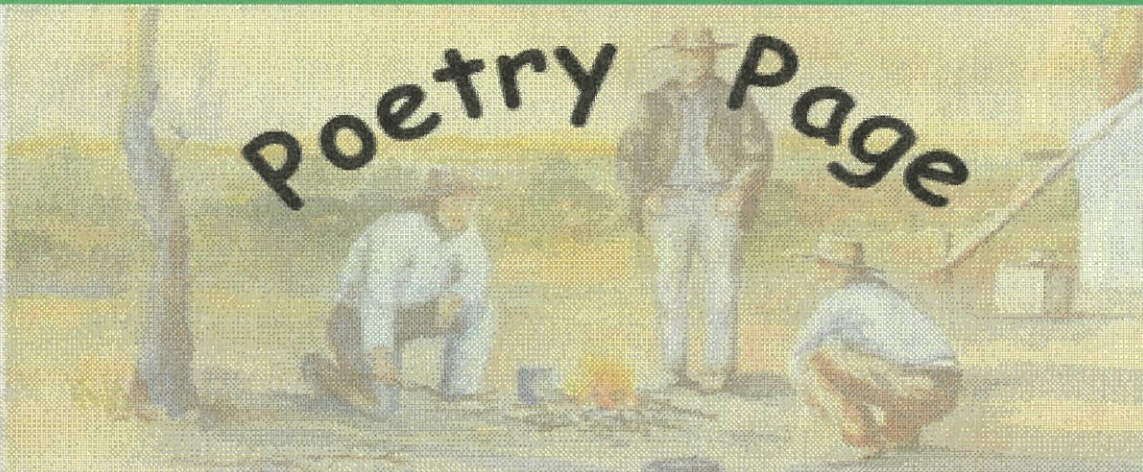
Past Event

As you may know the **Royal Show** was a great success for our poets. The Farm Weekly took this great picture where our members featured as "Breakfast with Banjo" at the show. Farm Weekly kindly allowed us to reproduce it in our newsletter.

Featured fellow Thespians are Rod Lee, Beth Scott, Rusty Christensen, and Kerry Lee with organisers marketing manager Glen Weiland and RAS president Lou Giglia (back row), Peter Capp, Brian Gale and Stinger Nettleton (middle row)

Two enthusiastic fans. Glen's children (front)





BACK TO PERTH

Through Greyhound windows I see the scrubby plain
 on the road from Meekatharra, back to Perth again
 The sky a lazy crazy jumble of cloud and streak and hue
 The roadside every mile or so, the body of a roo

A big homestead, a shearing shed, the trees a bit more green
 I think it's Kirkalocka station, as far as I can glean
 Somewhere past the ridge afar, and triple that again
 Near half a million acres of dusty scrubby plain

It's four o'clock the road rolls on, relentlessly and straight
 The motor drones, a change of noise, as we cross a cattle grate
 Winter here is very cold and summer never kind
 We're only 20 miles or so from the town of old Paynes Find

The bus pulls in the sleepy town, no traffic lights or such
 No neurotic hectic pace, no one worries much.
 A Kingswood wagon, half a dozen blokes, in terrible condition
 Alcohol aplenty, drunkenness their mission

Past the wheatfields of Wubin, as far as the eye can see,
 The sun has rolled away to sleep, the wind is warm and free
 A silo loomed, as darkness loomed, and twilight quietly faded
 The greyhound purred, none spoke a word, perhaps a little jaded

I dozed awhile and when I woke, Perth was in my eyes
 That city with the same old feel – "We're Here!" the Driver Cries.



© Peter Capp

BOOTLEG BREWERY – Margaret River

Four poets converged on Margaret River from almost four different directions and although some tried to borrow some politicians fuel cards most had been lent to relatives or lovers.

The line-up consisted of the local boy, Brian Gale, Rusty the Everyyoung, Peter Capp (Straight from a 576km drive from Wave Rock) and the inimitable "Ardross Assassin", out of retirement by popular demand - Jeff Swain.

The superb venue greeted our heroes after a beautiful 20km drive from Margaret along a winding road through vineyard, chocolate, cheese and cattle country. Known as "The Bootleg Brewery", this place is set in a magnificent natural setting with a lake overflowing with raucous frogs into their own unique expressions of sound. The night was exceptionally clear and warm and with a pallet for a stage. "The Four Poets Unplugged" created a superb atmosphere as people listened and enjoyed the extremely tasty beer that is made on the premises. It seemed from the reception of the audience that Australians still crave their dosage of bush poetry and yarning and they certainly weren't disappointed.

Capp kicked off proceedings and was happy to have an audience that hadn't heard his repertoire before. Big Jeff Swain exploded onto the pallet next and blew the crowd away with his unique brand of humour and poetry. Rusty displayed a vintage performance and seems to be going from strength to strength and also proved he is not just a pretty face. Brian Gale the tireless poet from Boyup Brook added a great balance to the combination and a good local flavour as he had grown up around the area. Although we sometimes wonder if bush poets ever grow up?

Overall, apart from crowds not being as big as anticipated, the night was a resounding success and the hospitality shown by the people of 'THE BOOTLEG BREWERY' was great. It seems as though they were planning for another Bush Poetry Night even when the last word from Rusty doing "The Droving Days" was still ringing in the clear, fresh Margaret River air.

By Peter Capp

Raffles Social Evening

Just to let you know that our first social night of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners, was a most enjoyable evening. It was very casual and relaxed, no pressure to perform, but with plenty of time to get to know fellow members. My sincere thanks to Mike and Maisey Davey and their group USLOT, they had obviously been working very hard with their routine, and gave us two brackets of excellent entertainment. Thanks also to Lorelie Tacoma, for her little snippets of humour, to Brendon, for his lovely recitation of his daughters poem, and special thanks to Brian Gale. Lastly, but not least, thanks to all those who attended.

Though the numbers in attendance were not large, it was a very friendly happy event, with lots of laughs and the opportunity to make new friends.

Joan Macneall

Kerry Lee kindly brought to my attention that in the August edition of the CAY newsletter it was reported that the poem 'Grey and Gold', which Kerry recited, to be her own work. This is not the case the poem was actually written by a lady from Victoria called Veronica Weal. I apologise to Veronica and Kerry for this mistake.

I'm glad to hear that Kerry has now written her own horse poem, called 'Just a tiny Pony'. I hope we will hear this new poem soon at a CAY.

Geoff Bebb

URGENTLY NEEDED

Volunteers for Australia Day Challenge at Wireless Hill

- Helpers for products desk
- Collectors of Money

Call anyone on the committee

Wanted - 3 Bedroom House For Rent

Within 10 kms of Fremantle

Yard for kids to play in

For Commercial Rental Rate

Call Stinger Nettleton on

W 9221 6666 H 9314 1313

**The Members of the Editorial Sub-Committee
Would like to thank all those,
who contributed to this Edition of The Newsletter.**

**Without their support and enthusiasm,
a Newsletter like this would not be possible.**

Many Thanks

Geoff Bebb - Editor

Calendar of Events for Australian Bush Poets Association,

In June 2000, we joined the Australian Bush Poets Association, a.k.a. ABPA, so as to keep in touch with events that are happening in other parts of Australia. Here is a brief calendar of their events to the end of January 2001. We will keep this updated so that if you are interested you may enter their competitions or just attend.

Nov 30	Closing date for The Blackened Billy Verse Competition for Written Australian Bush Verse
2001	
Jan 24-26	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition Heats
Jan 27	Tamworth Bush Poetry Competition Finals
Jan 27	The Blackened Billy Verse Competition, 11am at the Imperial Hotel, Tamworth NSW

Winners of Heat 2 of the Australia Day Poetry Competitions

Yarns -	Peter Capp, Keith Lethbridge
Own Works -	Peter Capp, Keith Lethbridge
Others Works -	Keith Lethbridge, Barry Higgins

Return Address

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Unit 1, 8 Hill St
South Perth WA 6151

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Australia

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Syd Hopkinson

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