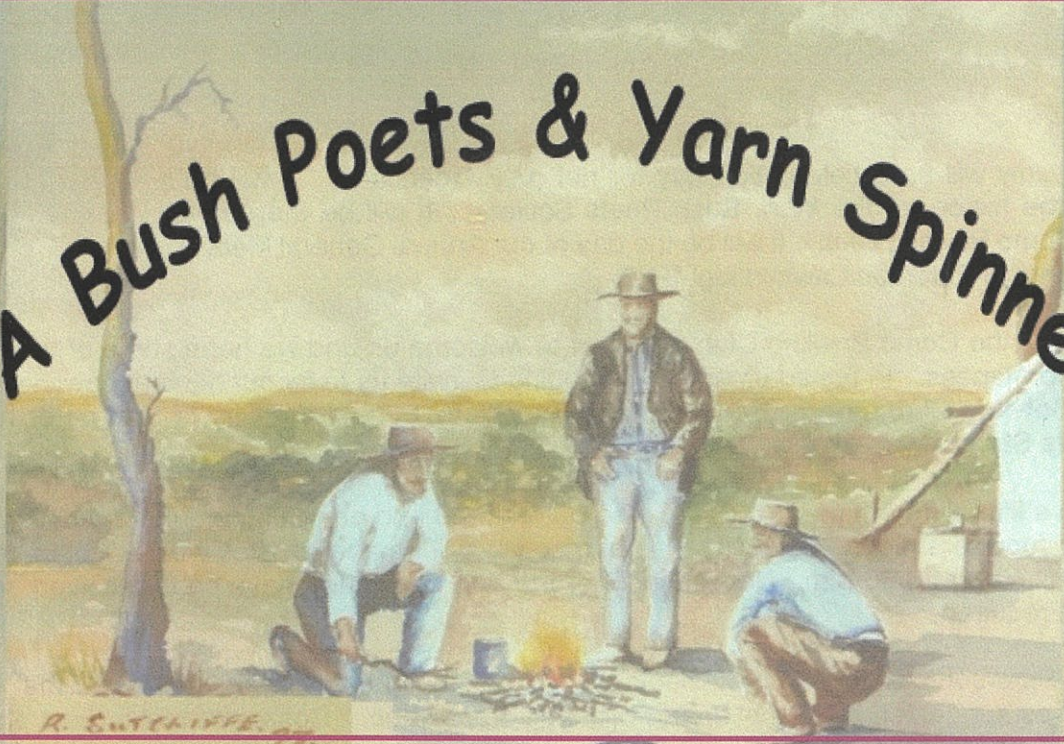


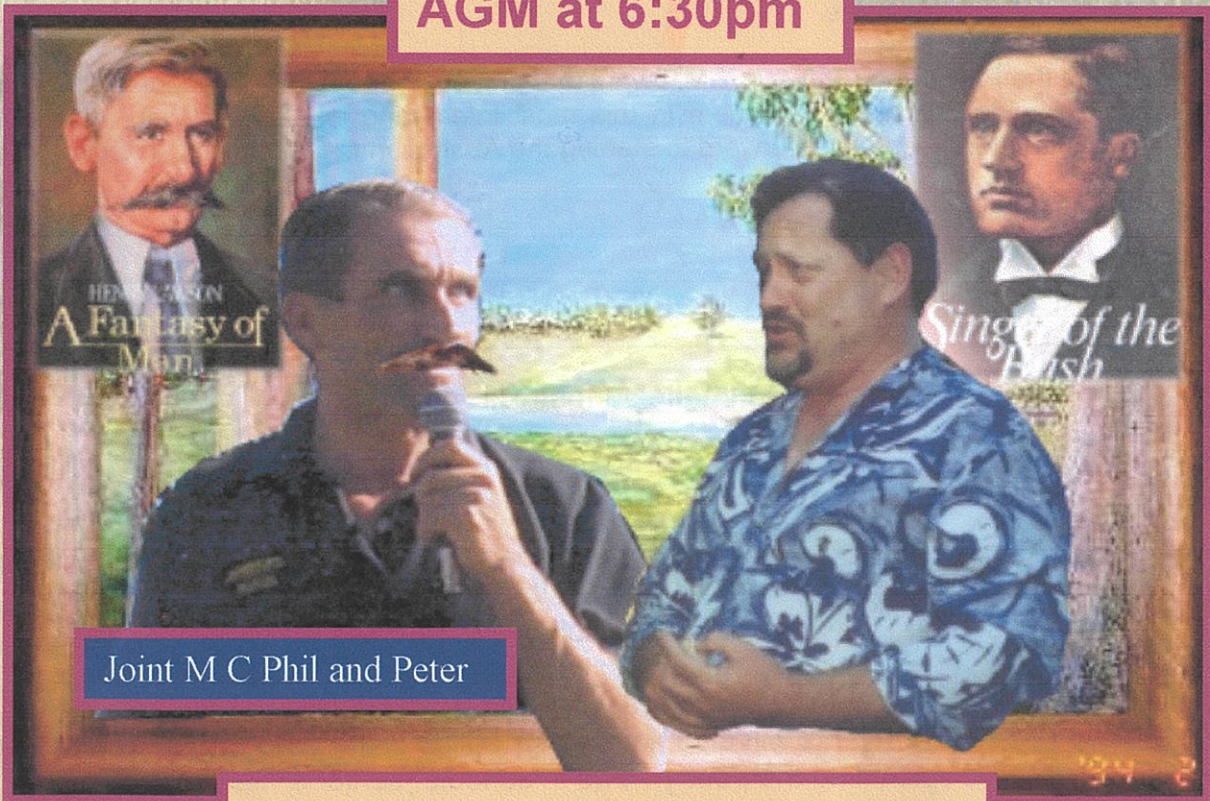
WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

\$2.50



Newsletter : July 2003

AGM at 6:30pm



Joint M C Phil and Peter

Paterson and Lawson Night

"Come All Ye" at Como Bowling & Recreation Club
Cnr of Hensman and Sandgate Sts. South Perth
Next Meeting Friday 4/7/2003 at 8pm

Lorelie's Letters



The fourth of July will be a celebration day for not only Americans. It will be a milestone in the history of the W.A. Bush Poets Society. It will be the day we move to the Como Bowling Club. It will be the day of our Annual General Meeting. It will be our annual Paterson/Lawson night!

The members of the Como Bowling Club are keen to welcome us and we hope some of them will stay to enjoy our performances. In the summer they are going to invite us to try our hand at bowling. Be sure to go to **Como Bowling Club, corner Hensman and Sandgate, behind the City of South Perth office, and NOT to Mends Street.**

Things will be a little different on 4th July. Come before 6.30 and enjoy some finger food. Please bring a small plate of food to share if you wish. Tea and coffee will be available as well as drinks from the bar. The A.G.M. will start at 6.30 p.m. Nominations for the new committee have been received and so far an election is not required.

At 8 p.m. the Paterson/Lawson night will begin. Do find some old togs representative of that era, or go to an OP SHOP as suggested by Michelle, and come all dressed up. Costumes make great photos for the Newsletter and add to the fun of the night. Kerry Lee is co-ordinating the programme so please let her know what you plan to do 9397.0409.

Rusty Christensen and Brian Evans have gone to Halls Creek to visit Keith Cobber Lethbridge as well as do some performing in Derby en route.

As I am retiring from the Presidency at the A.G.M. I want to thank everyone for their support to me and their contribution to conserving the Australian idiom in this most interesting and entertaining manner, bush poetry. Keep up your interest and look forward to staging the Australian Championship in October 2004.

Since thanks and best wishes to all,

Lorelie.

Michelle's Musings



Dear Readers,

I think Lorelie has mentioned all the important news. On my part, I've enjoyed the year very much publishing the newsletter. It keeps the creative juices flowing. Keep sending in (via e-mail preferably) All your news and poetry.

I expect that in the coming year much of the news will be about progress towards 2004. However, I do hope that other events will also have equal billing. We have many new and seasoned poets out there spreading the poetry news in schools, senior's villages, agricultural shows, festivals and the like. I'd like to hear from all of you, well in advance of the event - to promote poetry everywhere.

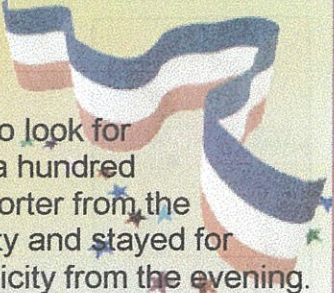

I'd like to hear more from our country folk as well, if they can spare the time from their very busy lives producing our vital food. I'm sure living on the land must produce a poetic soul.

See you on the 4th of July – for an all-Australian evening.

Cheers,

Michelle

June Come All Ye Farewell to The Raffles



The room started filling before 7pm. By 7.45 we were starting to look for extra chairs throughout the hotel, it was standing room only. Over a hundred cheering people came to our last momentous night at The Raffles. The reporter from the 'Have - A - Go' news recorded an interview with **Lorelie Tacoma** for posterity and stayed for about an hour, taking photos. We hope to get some good feedback and publicity from the evening.

Rusty Christensen was the MC for the evening as he had been seven years ago for the first Raffles "Come All Ye" – it was the end of an era. Once old friends had been remembered from the original membership of the Bush Poets, the evening's 'poeting' began in earnest and continued for almost three hours. We started packing up around 10:30 PM.

I began recording individual poets and their poems to relate to you, as always but I found myself lost in the heat of the moment with some outrageous acts, well into the night so I'll just relate a few highlights – no room for more.

First I'd like to commend all our poets for the evening, they really excelled themselves for the special occasion. We had a great variety of traditional and contemporary poetry, all high standard. A big bow to our entertainers, (in no special order). **Syd Hopkinson, Ron Ingham, Phil Strutt, Peter Nettleton, David Sears, Joan Macneall, Arthur Leggett, Eva Perrin, Rod Lee, Kerry Lee, Geoff Bebb, Beth Scott and Rosa Celenza and Barry Higgins** – (all the way from Yanchep).

We had two presentations on the evening. The first was to the management of the Raffles. The Manager **Malcolm Whitson**, was presented with **Rusty Christensen's** last "Year of the Outback 2002" poster in WA. We thank **Geoff Bebb** for having the poster especially framed and a plaque mounted so that future generations will see it in the 'new' Raffles foyer. The next presentation was a bouquet of flowers to **Lorelie Tacoma** for her tireless work over the seven years in our association – many, many years spent as secretary and the last two years as president.

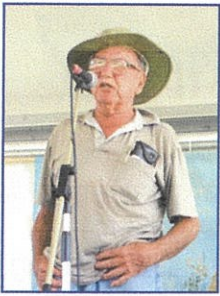
In response to requests for poetry fitting the occasion **Joan Macneall** and **Arthur Leggett** both took the time to write special poems about the Raffles. (See poetry page for these).

Phil Strutt and **Peter Nettleton** formed a wonderful comic duo, in costume, not only to highlight tonight but also to herald our coming Paterson and Lawson Night when they will jointly comper the evening as Paterson (Peter) and Lawson (Phil). Their performance gives a taste of next month's offerings – for heaven's sake don't miss it. **Kerry Lee** recited the very poignant "Jim's Whip" by Barcroft Boake amongst other poems that highlighted the standard poets need to reach to become champions.

By the end of the evening, nostalgia crept over all. No one wanted to leave. **Rosa Celenza** topped off the evening with her own composition of "Down at The Raffles" – to the tune of 'Down by the Riverside'. She duplicated copies so that we could all join in the singing. What a night to remember. Thanks one and all for making it so joyous and memorable. See you all for the next celebration, AGM, Paterson/Lawson night – at the new venue – **Como Bowling and Recreation Club**, Hensman St. South Perth. – dressed to kill.

Cheers, **Michelle**





'Come All Ye' at The Raffles 1997 - 2003



The Raffles

Two old blokes sat 'neath the traffic bridge
Gazing glumly at the river,
One took a swig of cleansing red,
Passed it on with heart-felt shiver.

"You know, they say it's progress.
We just build a better town.
I don't think she'll be the same
Now they've pulled the Raffles down!"

I used to sail me little boat
Past here close to the shore,
Laughing at the sting of spray;
But the pub ain't there no more.
Remember back in '45
Our mates came from afar
To fight the battles once again
Around the public bar.

'N' Bluey, when he married
Held his reception there.
Cripes! we sang some bawdy songs
And laughter filled the air.

Old Bluey he hired the same place
When his daughter, Marge, was wed.
Young Madge - she's a grandma now,
'N' Old Blue - well, he's dead.

Most of our mates are gone now,
Escaped from Life's tough hassles,
But we sorted out a lot of them
In the front bar of the Raffles."

The liquid red was handed back,
A swig flowed warmly down,
"It's nearly time for us to go
Now they've pulled The Raffles down.

Arthur Leggett 6/6/'03

Farewell To The Raffles

The Raffles is a living thing, its not just made of
stone,
And for some the local waterhole the only one
they've ever known
Some folks used to spend days fishing on that little
wooden jetty,
That one that sat beside the Bridge, now gone like
blown confetti,

There'll be no more happy voices, no more songs
around the bar,
No more laughing poets that come from near and
far
No more flashing river lights, from the famous river
room,
But so many happy memories will chase away the
gloom.
It's hard to think the Raffles, will be a distant
memory

But it's sure to mean much more than that, to the
likes of you and me,
For we've given birth to Champions, right here in
this room,
And we've all, - sat enthralled to Keith's gum leaves
played in tune,
But no matter what they build here, when the
Raffles is no more,
We will have great memories, that we will keep and
store

So Farewell to the Raffles

Joan Macneal 6/6/'03

I'd like to thank the above two long standing members of our association (Arthur Leggett and Joan Macneal) for going to the trouble of writing special tribute poems to The Raffles for the final night of the WA Bush Poet's Association - Come All Ye's, which have been held at the wonderful old hotel for 7 years. I believe the Raffles management would like a copy of the poems for posterity. It is indeed the end of an era.

Farewell from all of us at the WABP&YSA

Gotta Laugh at Tax Time - From Rosa Celenza

Considering it's almost the end of the financial year and that delightful tax time again I thought I'd pass on to you a joke from when the GST was instigated. I wonder if it still applies today?

Here's a layman's understanding of the GST collection system called NUTS - The New Universal Tax System. It appeared complicated but basically it's been easy to understand. Yes?

It is the STUFFT – The Simplified Tax Unit For Financial Transactions. The major elements of NUTS included a number for each business entity - an Australian Business Utilization Number (ABUN), which is used in dealing with government, at all levels.

Every business in Australia got ABUN with NUTS. The new system simplified the way business reported to the Australian Taxation Collection Head Office Organization (ATCHOO). Businesses are now required to complete a Business Activity Statement Table and Report Directive every month. Businesses should set aside at least three days every working week to fill the BASTARD out.

Under the new system every adult taxpayer was classified as a SUCKER (Simple Underpaid Consumer Keeping Everything Running,) unless they were unemployed and receiving Commonwealth Benefit, in which case they were classified as a RATBAG (Registered Australian Taxation Beneficiary Allowance Grantee). All SUCKERS and RATBAGS were be required to fill out a DAFT (Direct Application For Taxation) form.

The complete DAFT form was assessed by a local MORON (Metropolitan Or Regional Outcome Negotiator) who determined the amount of CRAP (Credited Refund Allowance Payment) the taxpayer would receive. Any SUCKER who wished to appeal against the amount of CRAP received from the government could contact their local MORON who assessed the appeal and classified it either as STUPID (Secondary Temporarily Unpaid Portion of Individual Donation) or IDIOTIC (Income-Derived Individual Obligatory Taxation Instalment Credit). If you were a RATBAG, you would not be entitled to ABUN with NUTS. You needed to apply for the new allowance provided jointly by both State and federal Governments. JOB (Joint Organisation Benefit). Any RATBAG who did not apply for a job got STUFFT.

Since July 1, 2000 when all Australia went NUTS, small businesses needed to submit a fortnightly General Allocation Rebate For Business And Goods Estimate (GARBAGE) report to the Department for Untaxed Merchandise and Produce (DUMP). Your GARBAGE should have been sent to the DUMP before the 30th of each month. All small businesses must have been registered as Businesses Utilising Sales Tax (BUST) by June 30th as well and all small businesses employing more than 2.7 persons on a regular full-time basis must have given each employee the Statutory Assessment Contribution Kit (SACK) on or before July 1.

Only when having been given the SACK would the business have been acknowledged as BUST. In order to alleviate any hardship during the changeover period the government established the Department Of Grants and Subsidies (DOGS).

It was anticipated that by the end of the financial year, all businesses would have been registered, as BUST and the country would have gone to the DOGS. *In your opinion has this happened?? Ed*

All pensioners should have received their Pension Added Pittance (PAP) from the new system by now in the form of a whole extra \$6 a week. Don't spend it all at once. Apologies to any retired tax consultants and collectors. Ed.

Thinking of taxes.....

It's that time again. Please set aside something for you subscription fees for next year if you have not already paid for 2004 in advance. Don't miss out on your newsletter – pay at the CAY. It's GST free too!

Drought Stricken

A dusty patch in the Dingo scrub,
That was cleared and ploughed in vain-
(What matters it now if the soil be soaked
and the bush be dark with rain?)
A heap of stones where the chimney sto0d,
And a post on the boundary line-
For forty years of my father's life
And fifteen years of mine.

Henry Lawson

A little note from Lawson to remind us that Australia's always been dry, however, I do hope that all you farmers out there are not in such dire straights and that the rain we've had this week has been beneficial to you all.

Geoff and I keep cheering the rain on every time we see a mil. in the gauge for you. Michelle

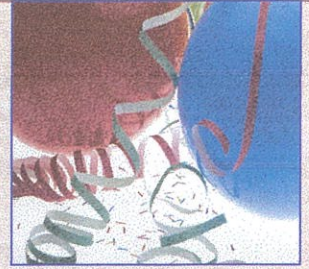
The Club

*Some members keep a club so strong, While others join in to just belong.
Some dig in, some serve with pride, Some go along just for the ride.*

*Some volunteer to do their share, While some sit back and just don't care.
Some do their best some help, some make, Some do nought, but only take.*

*Some help a club to grow and grow, When asked to help they don't say no.
Some greet new members with a smile, and make their coming more worthwhile.*

*While some go on their merry way, neither a kind word or greeting say,
Some pull, some drag, some don't, some do. Ponder over which one of these is you.
(from W. Pantall) Anon.*



A.G.M

TYPOGRAPHICAL

A Ballad of Burdens

A. B. Paterson

The Editor wrote his political screed
In ink that was fainter and fainter;
He rose to the call of his country's need,
And in spiderish characters wrote with speed,
A column on "Cutting the Painter".

The "reader" sat in his high-backed chair,
For literals he was a hunter;
But he stared aghast at the column long
Of the editorial hot and strong,
For the comp. inspired by some sense of wrong
Had headed it "Gutting the Punter".

The *Sydney Sportsman*, 24 April 1923



**Paterson/Lawson
Night**



Como

In the pulse and push of peak hour, with its monsters made of steel,
There's an atmosphere of panic that the mind can almost feel.
In the amber glow of evening, of the day that's come and gone,
As you cross the concrete footbridge on your way down to the Swan,
You are shaken by the hustle, by the throb and headlight glare;
And the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

As you gaze across the water, tinted crimson, claret wine,
You can just make out the shadow of a boy with fishing line,
Sitting out there on the jetty with a lost look on his face,
Quite unheeding of the monsters and their panic stricken pace.
In his peaceful world there's silence, human love and human care;
And the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

Further out there in the twilight, swinging slowly with the tide,
Is a little wooden dinghy with another man inside.
Every night he comes to listen to the river's peaceful song,
To forget about the city where he's lived for all too long.
And he broods upon the freeway with a long unseeing stare;
While the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

If you venture to the jetty in pursuit of perfect peace,
In the search for soothing silence, where your worldly cares can cease,
You will find it quite relaxing in the stillness and the calm
Where the silky waves of silence are a soothing, healing balm
And you're free to share the stillness for as long as you are there;
While the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

©Geoff Bebb

**At Como
Bowling &
Recreation Club
Hensman Street
South Perth**



**Come and
Party!**



7

4th July AGM and Paterson/Lawson Night

Just a few quick notices and reminders:

- Bring a plate of nibbles if you are coming to the AGM
- Tonight we would love to see you dressed up in period costumes.
- The entry fee is up by \$1 to - \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members
To start raising a few funds for the Championships in 2004.
- Como Bowling & Recreation Club is on Hensman Street Sth. Perth (cnr Sandgate)
NOT the one in Labouchere Rd. near the Zoo.
- There is a car park on the side of the Club as well as some front parking.
(walking is easier from the car park - closer to main entrance - more lights -
wider bitumen path)

Some Sad News from John and Anne Hayes

I've just received a phone call from John and Anne Hayes who were having a wonderful trip around Australia - poeting as they went. They reached sunny Queensland with their camper when they were urgently recalled home. John's brother, who had been seriously ill, died before they could get back.

John and Anne may be at our meeting next week.

The WA Bush Poets all offer you their condolences at this difficult time John and Anne.

Apology to Ben White: I stated last newsletter that Ben was a visitor. Ben is actually a member.

Sorry Ben, next time you're at a CAY come over and say Hi! So that I can put a name to a face.
I'm afraid I get a little lost with our 125 members these days. Michelle

Nominations for 2003-2004

We have several members nominated but we still need more nominations for 2004. If you are interested...

**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

The Editor

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
	Annual Subscription Fees Now due	
4 th July 2003	AGM and Paterson and Lawson Night At Como Bowling and Recreation Club	Coordinator - Kerry Lee- Ph. 9397 0409