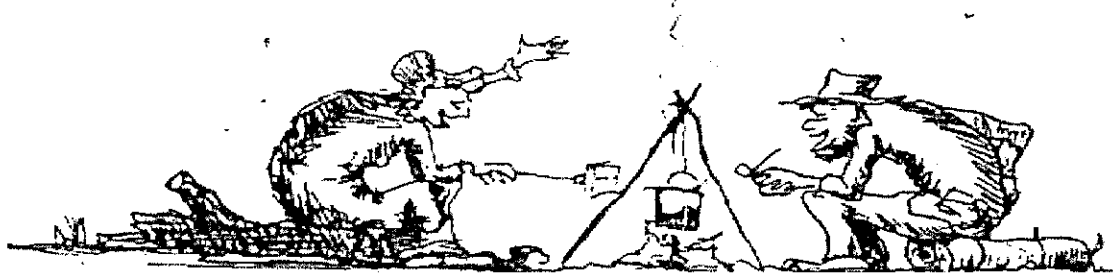


WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



Return Address: The Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, WA 6150

Newsletter December, 1998

FRIDAY evening 7.30 onwards 4TH DECEMBER

DON'T FORGET TO ROLL UP TO THE THIRD HEAT AT
THE RAFFLES HOTEL
(UPSTAIRS IN THE RIVERVIEW ROOM)

BRING YOUR OWN SUPPORTERS
AND YOUR DUTCH COURAGE
'AVE A GO, MATE!

*The Jolly Jotting Company of Writers invites all
Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners to join the Jolly Jotters at a Christmas get-together
to be held at Joan Macneall's home, 23 Streatham Road, Beckenham
on FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m. It will be an
evening of fun, fraternising, music and merriment. Bring your
instruments and your poems or yarns, also a little something for supper
and your favourite beverage. Father Christmas will be calling for a
wee drop so please wrap up a small gift to the value of no more than \$5.
Sheilas to bring a female gift, blokes a blokey gift!*



Looking forward to seeing you all there! Connie Herbert

DROPPINGS FROM THE BOSS COCKY

Dear members,

It's that time of year again. Two Heats gone, with the last Heat (Dec. 4th) and the Final of the Annual Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Wireless Hill Wing-ding on Australia Day (Jan. 26th) to come, *and* with The Festive season in between. The two Heats held so far have seen some new faces appear with the performance standard leveling out. The introduction of a new category where performers may recite Other Poets' Works has been an interesting variation, which gives opportunity for Performance Poets to show their talents without being intimidated by those clever Writer Performers. The Yarnspinner Extraordinaire, Kel Watkins, has agreed to not only comper the Final but also to co-ordinate the programme for the day. With Kel's extensive experience, it should go with the flow.

Donnelly River, Derby, Wongan Hills, Northcliffe, Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, and Corrigin are probably just names of W.A. country towns to many of us, but they are the lucky places to have been visited and entertained by the bush poets, yarnspinners, liars, larrikins? and sundry others during the course of 1998, and if predictions are correct there will be many more such centres requesting the talents of the members of our association in the future. With a view to the above, the committee have commenced preparing some basic ground rules so that ultimately one person can handle the job of Bookings Officer. We recently had two reverse multicultural invitations, some groups were putting on a multicultural event and obviously thought that Bush Poetry would be something typically Australian, great to be included!

Peter Capp has been immortalised in Wongan Hills. His poem about "TheWongans" written on an opened out beer carton and won by the owner of the local pizzeria in Cappy's unique raffle, is to be laminated and displayed in her shop.

Our mate from South Australia, Bob Magor, keeps bobbing up, was on the midday show about the 11th, can't keep a good man down, particularly one with talent.

HELP WANTED NOTICE The tip is that there are funds out there in the form of grants for groups such as ours. We need a suitably versed or experienced person who is prepared to obtain and fill in the forms etc. and follow this through so we can avail the association of what is there, so as to advance our aims and spread the enjoyment of Australian Bush Poetry to the wider community.

Schools are another area for development, so if somebody is reading this ad feels that they have the ability and confidence, or knows a mate (whom they could dob in) who has, would they put their hand up. I have the ear of a couple of excellent conduits into both the Public and Catholic Education systems.

The Christensens have been presented with their tenth grandchild – a boy, Angus Robert – Judy reckons she might have a hysterectomy so she doesn't have any more. I wonder!

Give your friends a good cheap night out to the Final Heat on 4th December, and have a drink and dinner at the Raffles before the show. I am told it is good tucker, and they do support us.

That's all for now friends, keep on supporting our movement, is it well worth it – A Merry Christmas and a Jolly and Healthy New Year to you all.

Rusty Christensen 'The Boss Cocky'

OBITUARY

Eelco Tacoma, although not born in this country, epitomised what is generally recognised as "The Aussie Battler". As with every facet of his colourful career, Eelco took on his final challenge with typical systematic grit and determination, he fought it with dignified courage to the very end.

A great supporter in the early days of our young association; husband and backup man to our popular efficient and diligent secretary Lorelie, Eelco will be missed.

THE WONGAN

Out in Western Australia, in the mid-east of the state
There's a question you'll hear often asked,
"Are the Wongans ripe yet mate?"
Are the vines all filled and heavy with that extra- marvelous crop?
Are the big two-kilo Wongans just about to drop?
Can I invite my friends to dinner, and clean the old pie-plate?
But I'll have to know for certain, "Are the Wongans ripe yet mate?"
I can imagine the pies a sittin' on all the winda sills
Coolin' in the breezes in amongst the Wongan Hills.
I remember a pie I once had, the best I ever ate
There weren't no need to ask 'em then, "Are the Wongans ripe yet mate?"
I hope the roos don't get the crop, like they did in eighty-one.
The wongan price went through the roof, to a thousand dollars a ton.
Then there were the floods of 62, when poor old Wally drowned.
When the floods subsided, not one wongan could be found.
Thankfully they reappeared, and people once again could laugh.
A wongan shortage in Wongan Hills is like a house without a bath.
But now it's time again this year when the wongans start to inflate
And even the Cicadas are singin' "Are the wongans ripe yet mate?"
Their sound would echo down the valley, via their funny little clickers
And the chorus was joined spontaneously, by the itinerant wongan pickers.
"We've been waitin' for the wongans, they seem to be quite late
We've been waitin' for the wongans, are the wongans ripe yet mate?
When the purple veins are bulging, we know they'll taste just great
We've been waitin' for the wongans, are the wongans ripe yet mate?"
Once you've eaten wongans for awhile, they'll dissipate all your ills.
You'd be mad if you didn't take the journey, up to Wongan Hills.
The trip will make your life worthwhile,
To experience the magnificent wongan.
It doesn't matter if you're a Victorian, a Kiwi, or a Tongan.
Pattagonian Toothfish tastes bland in comparison to a decent wongan.
It's not important the size you get, a short one, or a long'n
And when I meet my maker, and arrive at the pearly gate,
The first question I'll ask St. Peter "ARE THE WONGANS RIPE YET MATE?"
PETER CAPP ©1998

THE WONGAN EXPERIENCE (17-18th October, 1998)

A brigade of bards descended upon the sleepy Wongan community just recently and gave the locals a taste of the true Aussie experience. The contingent included Rusty Christensen, Cobber Lethbridge, Stinger Nettleton (with photographer brother), Ron 'Banjo' Evans, Peter from Claremont (the latest bush poet convert), and lastly myself, Peter Capp. We were kindly billeted at Chris and Don Sadler's million acre (or thereabout) farm surrounded by nid-nodding wheat and open space to send the agorophobics into hysteria. After the pleasant country hospitality at the farm it was time to perform! The venue was the large lounge section of the very salubrious Hotel in the main street of Wongan Hills. (Wongan Hills meaning whispering hills in aborigine lingo). The crowd came to about 70 and was most likely surprised at the depth and variety of talent that was arraigned before them. Rusty is going from strength to strength and seems to have been taking some form of mental Viagra. He was very entertaining. Cobber showed why he should be elevated to the bush-poets Hall of Fame with a usual great performance. I am sure Banjo Patterson's ghost was looking down when Ron Evans was performing, saying, "Stone the crows, this bloke is good!" Stinger Nettleton added his musical and whimsical skills along with the writer of this, Peter Capp, who got away with his form of truth. Peter from Claremont is developing his passion in leaps and bounds. Chris Sadler kept the local representation alive with an entertaining bracket. The finale was the whole crowd playing instruments of all sorts including wobble boards and anything that would make a noise. Overall, the night was an unqualified success and undoubtedly very good for a country town such as Wongan Hills or probably anywhere in this great country. The next morning was a poets' breakfast by the shearing shed with a smaller but still appreciative crowd. All in all a total success. On behalf of all the bush-poets who attended we would like to thank Chris and Don and the people of Wongan Hills for their hospitality.
Peter Capp

***The Sundowner Event at the Northcliffe Workers' Club
put on by the Northcliffe Writers Group on Friday, 20th November***

It was just fantastic, just fantastic for the locals, for the town, it showed them what can be done. Even the local alcoholics behaved and acted respectfully and so many of the locals got up and had a go, telling yarns and stories. And, of course, everybody loved Jeff Swain Peter Capp. One woman laughed so much she couldn't breathe. You know, Cappy's Russian fishermen and the cows that fell from the skies, well, his Japanese facial expressions and all. It was wonderful to see the loggers and environmentalist mixing so easily, we need to heal the community, after all, it is only the people that will be left after the big companies go, and it is so important to ease the conflict wherever we can. There was some opposition to holding the event at the Workers' Club, the greens weren't sure about the reds, but everyone behaved themselves and it was such a healing thing, what a wonderful bringing together of greenies and rednecks. There must have been seventy or so local people, the event was well advertised by Sharon Kennedy on ABC radio, and was reported by the local paper who sent out a photographer. And on top of all that, The Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Committee had agreed to make the event a "Distance Heat" for the Australia Day Challenge! That added an element of officialdom, as organiser Claudette Mountjoy, armed with bribes for the judging panel, fought off the talents of Abe Shields and Ann Purdy, and was selected to move forward as a finalist to the Australia Day Event. Her winning piece about the Butchers Shop was all about big business against the little bloke, and she performed it directly to the Northcliffe Butcher, just back from Sydney. The locals dipped deep into their pockets and found a fat fuel kitty for Cappy and the Assassin to show their appreciation and the town hasn't stopped buzzing yet. Thanks fellas. The fly on the wall

**FEBRUARY BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS MEET
WEEKEND OF 20TH AND 21ST FEBRUARY, 1999
BOYUP BROOK ANNUAL COUNTRY MUSIC WEEKEND
Contact: Brian Gale 25 Georgette Drive, Margaret River, 6285**

Boyup Brook has now been named COUNTRY MUSIC CAPITAL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. The Annual Country Music weekend falls in February and this year the Country Music Club has appointed Brian Gale to organize the Poets section, following last year's impressive effort by Jeff Swain, Peter Capp, Ron Evans, Claudette Mountjoy, Brett (the Musician) and Brian himself. If you have an itch to perform, and an inkling that you can be there, please contact Brian who is counting on the support of the members of the association to put on a really good show for the folks. The Country Music Club will assist where possible, and assures performers plenty of exposure. Planned for the morning of Saturday February 20th is the Poets in the Pub Session. The manager of the Boyup Brook Hotel has pledged to help us set up performances on his premises and will provide the venue from 9am to 1pm. The Beer Garden is a great location and will certainly cater for the growing crowd of Poetry enthusiasts. Then roll up bright and early on Sunday 21st to the Town oval for the Poets' Breakfast which is fast becoming a very popular event with audiences. 8am until 10am is set aside for us, prior to the music event. Brian suggests a room or two at the Flaxmill Caravan Park would be a great place to get together for the event, and is prepared to assist with the fine details. Don't leave it until the last minute, contact Brian now, and register your interest with him.

A vote of thanks to Lorelie for the organisational skills she displayed when putting together the Donnelly River Weekend. Here's just one more testimony of a great weekend, this time from Brian Gale (our Aussie Poet who writes about the American Indians).

As you have probably heard by now the Weekend at Donnelly River was a huge success. A great time was had by all, I would say without exception. Everyone had a chance to get their poem, song or story across and all the listeners were given quite a treat. It was great to meet up with these artists among a lovely bush setting and then to finish the weekend with an informal Poets' Breakfast in the warm sunshine.



THE DOG IN THE UTE CORRIGIN

A spur of the moment decision saw Stinger Nettleton and Peter Capp wander down to witness the record-breaking weekend at Corrigin in the W.A. wheat-belt.

It was a proud moment for the town with the previous Dog in the Ute record completely destroyed by this small town. The new record 699. Barry and Vina Clapp from Corrigin could not do enough to ensure our hospitality. As it was a fledgling event there are still a few minor details but overall the feeling was very good. Stinger and Capp followed the fashion show in the Old Country Hall and generally did the bush-poets proud although I think the heat and after the long fashion show many people were a touch worn out. Lots of sound from the oval amplifiers was a touch distracting, but still minor problems. The nighttime saw Stinger and Capp perform in front of hundreds, before the band, the Flying Fonzarellis, rocked onto the stage.

The poetry was well received and kept the message alive in the bush. Anyway we all had fun and look forward to a return event with poetry possibly featured a little more.

Thanks Corrigin and the Clapps.

Peter Capp

AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE FINALISTS TO DATE

As Australia Day draws nearer, our performers are one by one making a stand at the heats, both testing their skills and delighting the audiences. Our hearty thanks go to Judge Gary Cerie for his fine effort in a difficult job. Finalists to date are:

Bush Poetry (Own Composition)

From The First Heat, held on Friday 2nd October Peter Nettleton & Keith Lethbridge

From The Second Heat, held on 6th November Peter Capp & Beth Scott

From the Northcliffe Workers' Club, 20th November Claudette Mountjoy

Bush Poetry (Other's Composition)

From The First Heat, held on Friday 2nd October Leigh Matthews

From The Second Heat, held on 6th November Ron Evans

Yarnspinner

From The First Heat, held on Friday 2nd October Leigh Matthews

From The Second Heat, held on 6th November Peter Capp

REPORTING ON THE HEATS

The First Heat, held on Friday 2nd October at the Raffles Hotel was attended by approximately 30 people and a good evening was had by all. Ron Evans compared the night giving The Boss Cocky a spell (is that possible?) and also Peter Nettleton, who competed. The winner for the Yarnspinning was Leigh Matthews and Runner-up Keith Lethbridge. Winner of the Traditional Poetry Section was Leigh Matthews with Peter Nettleton Runner-up. Winners of the Original Poetry Section were Keith Lethbridge and Peter Nettleton. Our new member whom we met at Donnelly River, Peter Gralton cycled from Claremont on the night, then recited some excellent work! This was followed up by Rusty and Ron to round up a very happy evening.

Ron 'Banjo' Evans

The Second Heat, held on 6th November at the Raffles Hotel, besides the Finalists Peter Capp, Beth Scott, and Ron Evans, included Keith Lethbridge, David Sears, Reg Miles, Rusty Christensen, John Dowland, Syd Hopkinson, Frank Harrison, Craig Paterson and Joan Macneall. It was great to see some new names on the list and they all did well, bringing a really entertaining evening to the appreciative audience. Peter Capp's yarn was based on Ingo D. Wetruss and the export of THONGWOOD (as distinct from Sandalwood). Then there was his winning poem The Wongan, an imaginary something, based on the Wongan Hills experience. It was very clever. Beth Scott did a new composition on Great Grandma's Regret, once again very amusing. Ron Evans' winning poem by Banjo Paterson was The Drover's Horse, and as usual, was stirringly presented.

Lorelie 'the Scribe' Tacoma

SEE YOU AT THE THIRD HEAT, FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER, AT THE RAFFLES HOTEL, CANNING BRIDGE. ALL WELCOME

COMING EVENTS

THE LAST HEAT FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE
RAFFLES HOTEL, CANNING BRIDGE - UPSTAIRS IN THE RIVERVIEW ROOM

Friday 4th December, 1998

This is your last chance for selection

Finalists from each category will go forward to the Finals on Australia Day at Wireless Hill Park
You could be the Champion Yarnspinner or the Champion Bush Poet for 1999

The Jolly Jotting Company of Writers Christmas get-together
to be held at Joan Macneall's home, 23 Streatham Road, Beckenham
on **FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER** at 7.30 p.m.
See page one for more details

AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

26th January, 1998

W.A. Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Final
AT WIRELESS HILL IN MELVILLE
Under The Tree Of Knowledge

from mid-day onwards

BRING SOMETHING TO SIT ON, SOMETHING TO KEEP THE SUN OFF,
AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS & CHILDREN

Contact: Secretary Lorelie Tacoma 9310 1550 if you can help on the day

The Boyup Brook Annual Country Music Weekend

Weekend of 20TH AND 21ST February, 1999

Poets' in the Pub Session Saturday 9am till 1pm

Poets Breakfast 8am till 10am Sunday

See page 4 for more details

Contact: Brian Gale, 25 Georgette Drive, Margaret River 6285 Tel. 9776 7104