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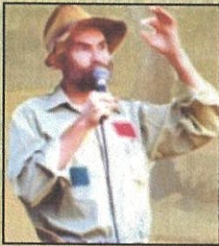
WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : October 2001

Announcing the Wireless Hill Challenge 2002

Saturday 26th January
At Wireless Hill



Open Competitions for

- Own Poems
- Others Poems
- Yarn Spinning
- Written Poetry



Restricted Competition for

- Own Poems
- Others Poems

School Children's Written Competition

Heat 1: 2nd November at Raffles
Heat 2: 7th December at Raffles



You could be the Champion for 2002 – Enter Now

See Pages 6 and 8 for details



"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd Applecross

(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 5/10/2001 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters

As Lorelie is on holidays we are putting a poem by Beryl Yeomans in place of Lorelie's editorial. This poem was written after our last workshop. Hope you enjoy this one. Lorelie will be back in this space next month.



The Bush Poetry Workshop

We rolled up for the workshop to write Bush Poetry,
Nine or ten apprentices as well as Val and me.
We sat around the table, ready to begin
A curtain drew across my brain, no way could light get in.

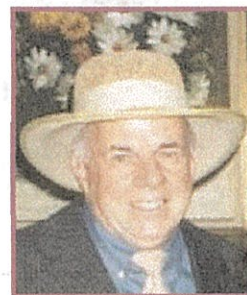
I got a whiff of coffee and jam and cream and scones,
They sent my senses reeling, so the lesson's lost upon
This poor misguided student, salivating here,
Fixated on the goodies, I'll scoff off, never fear.

I haven't heard a word they said, with luck they'll never notice,
'Cos once I lapped upon those scones, I quickly changed my focus.
Bush what? The tutor points to me, The fellow's surely raving.
Yes, thank you dear, just one more scone and one or two, for saving.

But all's not lost, so never fear, although I didn't shine,
I had a few good belly-laughes, I didn't waste my time.
Now learning is a funny thing, we all learn differently,
I asked how these beaut scones were made and got the recipe.

© Beryl Yeomans 24/5/01

We think you did shine Beryl. Keep an eye out for more workshops and enter your work in our written competition at Wireless Hill.



G'day Everyone

We are fast approaching the Heats for the Wireless Hill Challenge for 2002. As announced on Page 1 and described on Page 6, we have a new and exciting competition. Please show your support by entering these competitions, as it is only by people "having a go" that we can develop talent within the Association. We have specially created two new events, restricted to entrants who have never won a Wireless Hill Challenge – so the field will be much more open than before. I am the Co-ordinator of all the competitions, so just give me a call to nominate yourself.

Don't forget the Written Competition!! Entries close on 21st December. As judge, I will be looking for poetry that has a consistent rhythm and Rhyme in the Bush Poetry tradition. Sharpen your pencils and get going.

On another note, the Association is trying to encourage New Faces to perform at the regular CAY meetings. Up to five new faces per meeting will have a slot in the middle of the program. Although we encourage you to recite your poems from memory, we do permit New Faces to read their first poem and we provide a lectern to help you get over those difficult moments when your mind goes blank. And God knows we all have them. Reciting poems in a public gathering can be quite daunting, but once you've done it, it gets easier. It can be a real growth experience for you for as renowned personal growth author Susan Jeffers says "feel the fear and do it anyway."

Good Luck to all those nominating for the Wireless Hill Challenge for 2002!!

Geoff Bebb

Bob Magor's Night

Bob gave us a tremendous night. For some of our audience the night started at 7pm as they came in to get the best seats, such was their eagerness to hear one of Australia's premier bush poets. They were not disappointed.

Thank you Rod for organising the evening, complete with last-minute cancellations from performers with the flu and television monitors for absent friends. The show went on beautifully. I'm just sorry for those who missed it, for it was a delightfully relaxed evening presented by seasoned performers.

Rod Lee kicked off the evening as M-C. with his tale of Outback Bob from Boyup Brook; suggesting ways our negative perceptions could be reversed. Perhaps he could send the poem to Messers. Bush and Howard. It certainly worked this evening, as all troubles were suspended and the laughter started to flow, (along with the beer) after his "Mulachy Mick" poem.

As **Geoff Bebb** could not attend (the dreaded lurgy again), he devised a novel way of being there in absentia, via a video. His poem the of the 1990 "Railway Stakes" (the year Medicine Kid won from Barrier 16), was taped using footage from three races over two years. The video was cunningly edited and played at launch of his book "All the Rest is All-OK". The audience was so delighted they clapped the video as if Geoff was there in the flesh.

Sid Hopkinson continued the racing theme with his "Loser at Landor", the story of a bush picnic race meeting. I agree that horses need rear vision mirrors, Sid. Immobilisers may be next. Sid's novel way of hardening road surfaces economically, which doubles up as a tribute to old football players, was hilarious as it was ingenious in "Football Bladders".

Trish Mathews came up with another witty and thought provoking poem, inspired by browsing through the possibilities columns. I believe this was a new one as well. Its great to hear poems when they are fresh out of the box, you can feel the inspiration of those "aha" experiences. In this poem Bruce and his Shirl are comparing wistful notes and digs after many years of marriage, relating each other's anatomy and libido. Funny, not crude, and delivered in polished style.

Peter Nettleton gave us his "Ballad of Benny and Fred", about two shearers phenomenal drinking and shearing prowess, which extended into the unearthly realm. They shore clouds and could drink the devil under the table, as the fable goes, after their untimely end. Peter also brought out his guitar, to add even more variety to our show, with a lively rendition of "Jonathon Livingston Budgerigar". In scholarly terms, Peter also informed us that this type of poetry has a name "magic realism". Well the magic was definitely there Peter. Great stuff!

Rusty Christensen left his American accent behind this week and gave us a stirring rendition of Cobber's "Mother McCue" in tribute to Cobber (Keith Lethbridge), our true blue WA Poet extraordinaire. He also gave us a first for Rusty, his own poem, about Harmony and Mateship, between all Aussies, new and old, no matter what their origin. A very timely poem, Rusty. Let's hope all Australia remembers these ideals in the forthcoming, perhaps difficult times.

Without further ado ???? is that how the old stagers begin??? Rusty introduced the star of the evening

Bob Magor

Bob's work is mainly inspired by events in his world, around Myponga. However, travels to other interesting areas of this great country also fuel his creativity. His many books and tapes tell the full story.

Bob gave us a real mixture of his poetry from the very personal to issues we all share. Most were brilliantly funny, inspired by the Aussie love of the practical joke played on unsuspecting characters in the bush. The perpetual saga of the outdoor dunny continued with "Flaming Crows" a tale from his younger days on the station with his dad. The joke on poor unsuspecting Emmy Lou (the shearer's cook), on the new, porcelain, broadcasting loo, followed. Her subsequent revenge was the twist that made this tale exquisite.

Women's rights, the modern woman and it's backlash were the subjects of Bob's personal "prayer". Bob was careful to ask the ladies in the audience to stay seated throughout this one, lest he suffer mortal danger. We are hopING that Beryl, has a great sense of humour here otherwise Bob will be coppING an earful. His grandma Edna was obviously an old fashioned lady, raising 12 kids on the farm and doing loads of washING before suffering the first mammogram with the modern wringer.

Despite all the hazards it seem people in Myponga still went a-courting on "Tickleberry Hill" till the government outlawed this favourite lovers lane for ecological reasons. I suppose this extremely witty poem was a precursor to the small town's wedding which inspired "Who Gives the Bride Away".

"Grandma's Washing Machine" and "Who Gives the Bride Away" is oft brilliantly recited by Rusty, however with Bob reciting his own poems they sounded like totally *different* poems. I was not the only one to feel this, as several people mentioned the strange phenomenon. It's interesting to see how much a different interpretation and intonation can vary the same words.

On the practical jokes side "The Offal Trick" was particularly funny, I hope it wasn't based on a real event. I also hope that 'Pothole' Parsons one day actually sobers up enough to find out the truth without thinking that his intestines had actually fallen out. I actually bought Bob's last book, which also featured great caricature, cartoons of this and other poems, a real treat. The practical joke on the new chum jackeroo who is made to think his "motions" have been hijacked by bunyips was equally well illustrated by Bob himself wielding a long handled shovel on stage.

Continued p4

©Peter Broelman -cartoon



His poems were interlaced with anecdotes and stories of his youth and personal experiences, which made the poems come alive when seen in the context of the poet's life. This is what makes a live performance so much more powerful. You had to be there to really feel this.

Bob thought of everything to entertain his audiences. Just in case anyone thought Bob was never serious, he also treated us to his very poignant 'Broome Dreaming' (The year 2000 Bronze Swagman winner) and "The Cooper Coming Down". Though bush tales and poetry often uses humour to mask incredible sadness, injustice and hardship at times the serious cannot be ignored. The true story of the first pearlers in Broome is one such episode, which inspired Bob's poem.

In final thanks to Bob I'd just like to say happy "Caravanning Bliss" home, probably safer than flying. Farewell, Bon Voyage and hope we see you again, soon.

Bob was well and truly backed up by our best poets, whenever he needed a break. Some I have not mentioned yet are:-

Beth Scott who kept to the serious mood for a while. Beth gave us her new "Thoughts of the Millennium" in the wake of last week's sobering news headlines. The beauty of poetry is that you can be moved to write about any issues, anywhere, anytime.

Joy Dempsey from Sydney, who was stranded by the Ansett problems, came back to give us one of her poems from the Gulf War where men wear tea towels on their head. This was inspired by the press photos of our troops over there, relieving the pressure and tedium by using humour and tea towels on their heads. (A photo which backfired a little as the army's political correctness unit was not amused). Thanks Joy, a very clever piece, we're glad you enjoyed our last CAY enough to come back for a second helping and entertain us as well. We wish you Bon Voyage also and hope we meet you again under easier circumstances.

Kerry Lee lightened the mood again with her own poem of observations in her hen house with poor "Pepe - No- Can Do" the little bantam rooster and the oversized hens. I feel you need to give Pepe a set of stilts for Christmas, Kerry. (Perhaps you could use that new tool set Rod gave you, while he does the dishes). These mini-snippets of life on the Lee's Out-the-back-of-Perth property are always very witty and entertaining.

I hope that I have mentioned everybody who gave us such an entertaining and unusual night. I also hope that we have more visitors, like Bob, who are willing to visit our unique side of the country so that our association keeps on growing and being enriched by new talent of this calibre.

Cheers, Michelle

Come All Ye - 7th September 2001

On a very cold threatening evening, some 60-odd souls braved the weather to attend the normal CAY. With Geoff Bebb being the M-C, **Rusty** kicked off the evening with two poems, Keith Lethridge's "Keith Turns 50" and Paterson's "Mulga Bill's Bicycle". **Trish Mathews** followed with a very clever poem of her own "No Loos in Northbridge", outlining the dreadful fate of those needing to pay-a-visit in the evenings in Perth's nightlife centre. **Geoff** made a mess of John O'Brien's whimsical story of Tangmalangaloo, which was a pity as Peter Nettleton had come prepared to do the same piece. Still I suppose we all have a bad night.

Rod and **Kerry Lee** kept alive their marital sparring, when Rod did Graham Watt's "G'day" exploring the Aussie idiom and his own "Keza Kroaks" while Kerry replied with her poem "Couch Potato" about Rod's Reclinitis, followed by a poem by Colin Wilson about the cross-eyed bull. With the dearth of rain in Perth still on everyone's lips, **Syd Hopkinson** entertained us with "The Bloke who broke the drought" the **Bill Mather-Brown** presented a very poignant poem about his daughter "Rebecca". **Bill McAttee**, whom we haven't seen for a long time, finished the first section with his own Poem "The Thongs". Nice to see you again Bill.

Ron Ingham began the second session with a Paterson double, "How McGuinness went Missing" and "The Bush Christening", followed by **Rusty** who presented Bob Magor's moving poem "Pearling". Rusty then *burst into song* to perform "Smoke, Smoke, Smoke that Cigarette" an old ballad from the 1950's. This was followed by **Peter Nettleton**, who regaled us with his "Kangaroo Shootin' Dreamin'" story, where the shooter was tried in a "kangaroo court" (sic).

We were then pleasantly surprised to hear from a Sydney visitor **Joy Dempsey**, whom I suspected was a Bob Magor scout, sent to test the WA audience reaction to Eastern Staters. She presented two of her own amusing poems "My Ears" and "Who'll feed the chooks". **Trish Mathews** then ended the second session with a tall tale of a dog, which used to drink from glasses in the Pub. Nice twist Trish.

The last session, was kicked off by **Rusty**, who had us rolling about laughing at Magor's "Blue the Dog" while **Geoff** presented a more soulful, "I'm Sorry Son" the story of his Dad's death. **Rod Lee** got back into the act with Bobby Miller's "The Burglar", while **Syd** artfully presented "Animal Cunning" a poem that Barry Higgins loves to do on the road. **Kerry Lee** gave us a beautiful rendition of V Lopez's "The Night Birds" and the evening was rounded out by **Bill McAttee**, who recited "The Emus" - finding Gold in the gutter. A very good night, given the weather.

Thanks, Geoff

Ticklebelly Hill

When love takes a young man's fancy
In the country, there's a chance he
Might go driving with his lady after dark.
And if privacy they're after
For some fun without the laughter
They go searching for a peaceful place to park.

And each couple soon discovers
Ev'ry town has lanes for lovers
Though the one in my hometown's
now cold and still.
On a no through road to nowhere
Leans a faded sign to show where
Lovers got their frills on Ticklebelly Hill.

It was named that by the yokels
And was patronized by locals.
It was popular before we had the Pill.
And if nature was your calling
You would find it most enthralling
With the birds and bees on Ticklebelly Hill.

On weekends the Hill was 'shakin' –
Ev'ry parking spot was taken-
As the darkness covered each young lover's tryst.
You could hear the car seats squeaking
And the car suspension creaking
With the windows all steamed up with human mist.

And lads who fancied chances
Taking girls home from the dance
Headed out of town where countryside was still.
From the wild oats that were sowed there-
Though crops mostly failed on Ticklebelly Hill.

But those nights of ardent passion
Were soon outlawed out of fashion:
The establishment said things had gone too far.
For the greenies thought it drastic-
All the wildlife choked on plastic
That was jettisoned from each young lover's car.

They campaigned for a solution
To the source of this pollution
For the testosterone was rampant in the air,
So they made a Nat'l Park there
Taming wildlife in the dark there
And they showed, in love and war –
Some things ain't fair



Bob Magor

After leaving school at 15
I joined my father on the land
near Myponga, south of
Adelaide. Shearing, breeding
sheep and cattle and dairy
farming kept me fairly busy
until around my 40th
birthday when both my sons
announced they were going to
pursue careers off the land.
I decided that I would too —
so I began to put my rural
experiences into verse.

Bush poetry was far removed from staring up the wrong end of a sheep or a dairy cow — but a lot more enjoyable. I then found myself part of the 'bush poetry revival' which began at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in the early 1990's. Bush poetry began to flourish as a 'newly discovered' art form and performance poetry started to gain popularity.

I still breed sheep and cattle but these days my farm is run by 'organized neglect', for over the last few years I have been fortunate to have bush poetry take me all over Australia. This has allowed me to meet the characters that give us our identity. The hard cases from hard country who have struggled all their lives. These battlers all exhibit the same important characteristics needed to survive in our harsh environment. A twinkle in the eye, a sense of humour and the unshakable belief that we live in the greatest country on earth, but — no pain no gain.

So they doused each hot affair there
Now frustration fills the air there
As the road is fenced off and overgrown.
Though the fantasies achieved there
And the lessons we received there
Are relived today though many years have flown,

When the eyes of aging patrons,
Balding men and portly matrons,
When the air within the town is hot and still-
All gaze up with longing glances
They're reliving lost romances
From the nights they spent on Ticklebelly Hill.

© Bob Magor
PO Myponga, SA 5202

From:-
Book 5 - poems of my travels - "Caravanning Bliss"

Royal Show Bush Breakfast

Our poets: **Rusty, Rod and Kerry, Kel, Peter Nettleton and Beth Scott**, attended the Show on Wednesday this week

This does look like it might become an annual event. I hope that our poets managed to avoid stray cows, falling hay bales and sundry other entertainers. I also hope they had a good time and a really yummy breakfast, which they deserve for getting up so early in the morning.

The Wireless Hill Challenge 2002

This year the WABP&YSA will hold two streams of competition, "Restricted" and "Open". The rules for each stream are exactly the same, but the eligibility to enter rules differ for each stream.

There will be 6 competitions, as follows

- (1) Restricted - Own Poetry
- (2) Restricted - Others' Poetry
- (3) Open Own Poetry
- (4) Open Others' Poetry
- (5) Open Yarn Spinning
- (6) Open Written Competition.

9th Nov. Problems.
Police Academy

ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER

The "Restricted" categories will be only open to those Financial Members, who have not WON a previous Wireless Hill Challenge or equivalent competition in that category.

The "Open" Competitions are open to anyone.

PRIZES

The winners in all categories will receive a cash prize as well as the perpetual trophy. Second and third will also receive cash prizes.

SPOKEN COMPETITIONS

There will be two Heats – in November and December. Closing date for Nominations for the Heats is Friday 26th October. Nominations can be made by contacting the co-ordinator Geoff Bebb. Members will have to nominate the works they wish to present and the night of their preference. The finalists for the Wireless Hill Challenge 2002 will not be announced until after the second heat – so as to ensure a professional make-up to the Finals.

RULES OF ENTRY FOR SPOKEN COMPETITIONS

As with all competitions and challenges, rules are formulated so as to give guidelines to participants, and to make for simpler judging. We have tailored the W.A. Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners rules to resemble, in the main, the rules followed by Australian Bush Poets Association, which has produced written guidelines for competitions. We will gradually adopt most of these guidelines.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH & URBAN POETS SPOKEN SECTION

There are two categories –

- (1) Original/own compositions
- (2) Others' works (author to be acknowledged)

All poetry must be performed from memory (not read).

Three to seven minutes including 'preamble' (introduction to poem)

Australian Poetry is bush and urban poetry relevant to Australia and the Australian way of life.

YARN SPINNERS

All yarns must be performed from memory (not read).

Three to seven minutes per contestant.

"The yarn is a narrative, long and convoluted rather than short and direct, that uses exaggeration and other devices to stretch the credulity of the audience. Wit, humour and wry observation colour the tale, and in the Australian form it is often delivered in laconic or deadpan style to encourage belief in the 'marvellous' or incredible events told"

Material of a tasteless nature will be penalised or disqualified. The Wireless Hill finals are a family event.

The main pre-requisite of both Yarn and Poem is that they entertain

OPEN WRITTEN COMPETITION

Final original written entries, accompanied by the Entry Form, must be received by Geoff Bebb, by 21st December 2001. Poets wishing to enter the "Open Written Competition" please be aware that the winner will be called upon to *recite* their winning entry at Wireless Hill. Entry Forms can be obtained at the "Come All Ye" Meetings or from the Secretary.

**Bowman Furniture
Industries P/L
158 Maddington Rd
Maddington WA 6109
Ph: 9493 4333
Fax: 9493 4933**

Email: daverodkerry@bigpond.com

Rod and Kerry had very positive response to their last advertisement. Through their advert, they continue to support our Association.



Thank you for supporting them.

**Earn more Money
by Performing
Poetry**

Peter also had a lot of interest generated by his advertisement last Month.

Peter has many contacts in the field and is passionate about the arts so remember to book with "Stinger"

Thanks for your support.



**Stinger Enterprises
Booking Agency**

Peter Nettleton

9417 8663

**Stinger Enterprises
3 Ashwood Place
South Lake 6164**

stinger@iinet.net.au

Media Release



Radio National's Bush Telegraph is calling all Bush Poets

From **Thursday , October 4**, Bush Telegraph will start weekly segments in which bush poetry sent to the program will be performed live on air, where possible by the authors themselves. The segment will finish in June 2002, with an outside broadcast from the annual Waltzing Matildas bush poetry championship in Winton near Longreach, Australia's home of bush poetry.

Bush Telegraph is now calling for all aspiring and established bush poets to send their very best work. People can enter by writing to the program at: **Bush Poetry on Bush Telegraph , GPO Box 9994, Perth**

Or: bushpoetry@abc.net.au

Full entry details: www.abc.net.au/rn following the links.

Entry conditions:

- All submissions should be Australian bush poems and must include a consistency of rhyme and meter
- Maximum length 80 lines
- It must be new, original work
- Submissions from co-authors not permitted
- One submission per person
- The ABC will select poems for broadcast at its discretion

For further information, contact: Nick Bron, Promotion and Publicity Manager, ABC Radio National

Telephone: 02 9333 2694 or 0408 261 990 Email: bron.nick@abc.net.au

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**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

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
15 th Oct 2001	Final entries for Children's Competition (member's children welcome)	Joan Macneall 9451 6008 H 9451 3330 W.
20 th -21 st Oct 2001	Marybrook Winery Bush Poets Breakfast	Lorelie Tacoma: Ph 9310 1500
Frid 26 th Oct 2001	Final Nominations Heat 1 Wireless Hill Challenge 2002	Geoff Bebb 9367 4963
Frid 30 th Nov 2001	Final Nominations Heat 2 Wireless Hill Challenge 2002	Geoff Bebb 9367 4963
Frid 21st Dec 2001	Final entries for adult Written Competition 2002 Wireless Hill Challenge	Geoff Bebb – Competition Judge 9367 4963
Sat.26 th Jan 2002	Wireless Hill Challenge	Geoff Bebb 9367 4963

Return Address

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Syd Hopkinson

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