

The

May 2023

W.A. Bush Poets

# BULLY TIN



**Next Muster- 5th May 2023 at 7pm at Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park  
Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 [gunnpoet@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnpoet@hotmail.com)  
Reader from the Classics: Heather Denholm**

## A HOUSEHOLD WORD TODAY

At his Bush Christening he was branded Andrew Barton,  
Firstborn son of the proud clan of Paterson.  
Early years at Buckinbah, and then at Illalong,  
High school at Sydney Grammar before he joined the legal throng.

He had a way with words while in that rushing city din,  
And soon was found on pages of the Sydney Bulletin.  
He loved the bush and was often seen to ride  
To regions many miles away across the great divide.

He waltzed Matilda up at Winton, drifted down the Castlereigh,  
That rascal Saltbush Bill with the games he used to play,  
He took us on a journey down that rugged mountain side  
With the man from Snowy River as he made his epic ride.

And even though it's eighty years since he passed away,  
The man they called the Banjo is still a household word today.

Bill Gordon 16/4/2023

**This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance  
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## President's Preamble May 2023



The last month has seen WABPYS lose two esteemed members plus one close friend to the Boyup Brook poets. After many years of heart troubles, Tony Hill finally passed away in his sleep and was farewelled by close friends including many from the poetry fraternity on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Tony and Sue were among our greatest supporters and were among the audience at Boyup Brook and Nambung and anywhere our poets were performing. He was always eager to help in any way, official sound man and electrical guru at Toodyay, and stepped into the role when we were in need of someone to look after supper at musters. He will be sadly missed by us all. We extend our sincere condolences to Sue and their family.

We will also miss the smiling face of George Thomas at the musters. George was always keeping me updated on other members who had health issues but failed to inform me of his own problems. That was George. Always a pleasure to be in his company, he was likely to turn up anywhere the poets were performing. Beth, we share your loss.

One who was not a member of WA Bush Poets but was a regular reciter at Cobber's Corner was "Bullocky" John Watkinson. John also passed away in the last month. He was a great exponent of Will Ogilvy. He recited Ogilvy in an authentic manner, not surprising as he was a bushy, a horseman and he even had his own bullock team. Not bad for a Yorkshireman.

Now for some good news. Congratulations to Heather, Gunny, Rudy and all concerned with Peel Poets on an outstanding night at the Ravenswood Hotel. We have had successful events in the area before but this now heralds a bright new future for Bush Poetry in the district.

As I write this report we are at Port Augusta on our way home from a most enjoyable trip to Orange, Tasmania and finally Corryong for the Man from Snowy River Festival where we caught up with several old poetry friends including several who have been to Boyup Brook or Toodyay. We were surprised when Meg was awarded the "Laurie Sheridan Encouragement Award", then I scored the "Seniors Encouragement Award" ??? I also came second (yet again) in the One Minute Poem.

Meg and I are planning to be back home for Peel Poets on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Muster Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, and then Moondyne Festival on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We are hoping for a quieter spot at Moondyne away from the food vans (and generators) down by the Anglican Church. This year we look forward to the company of musicians Warwick Trant and Sarah Broome sharing our spot. Until then.....

Bill Gordon, President

### Moondyne Festival

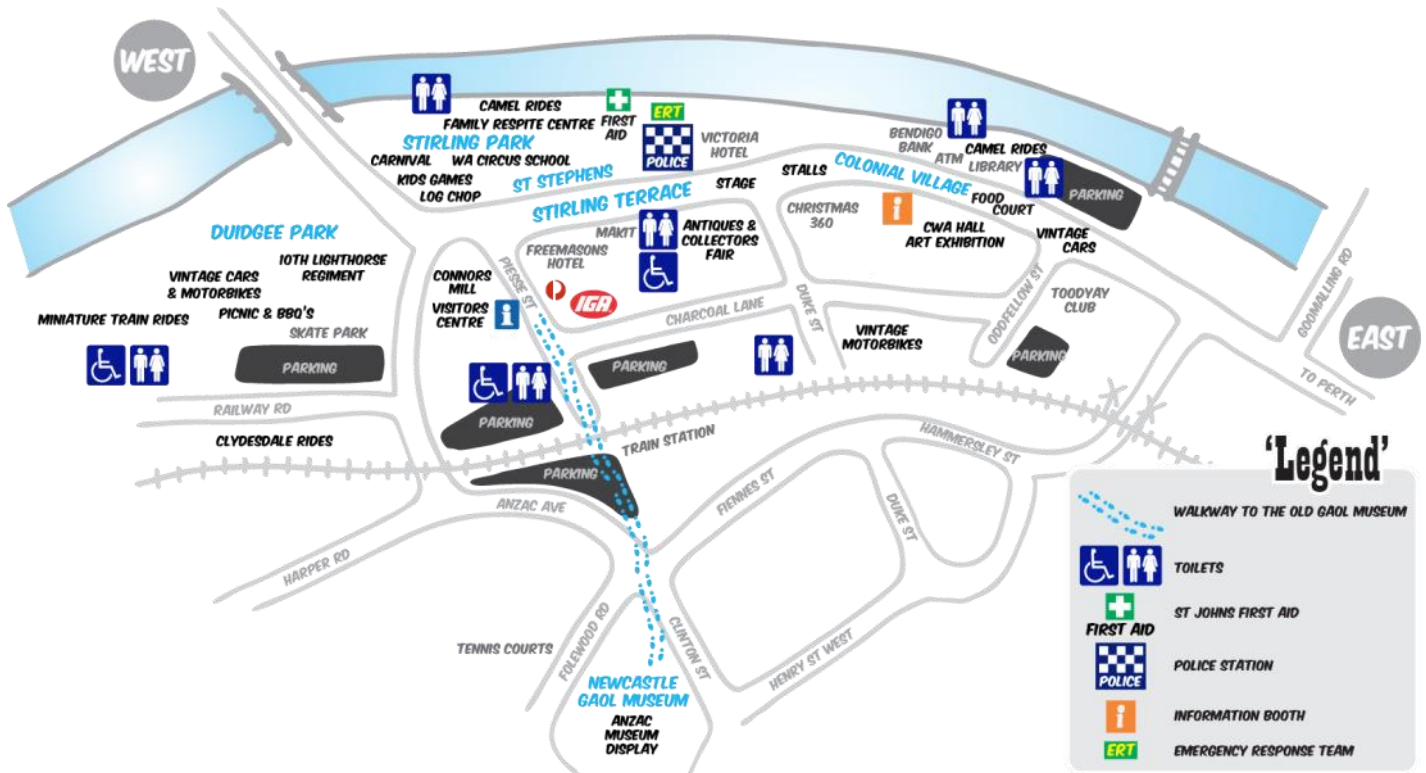
W.A.'S MOST EXCITING & ENTERTAINING COLONIAL FESTIVAL!

7th May 2023

Come along, join in and experience the community spirit in the centre of Toodyay, complete with bush poets, street theatre, colonial village, entertainment, artisan and heritage crafts, healthy food stalls and loads of non-stop, amazing fun activities for everyone.

See page 3 for more details

The Moondyne Festival is an annual festival held in Toodyay, Western Australia,  
celebrating the life and times of Moondyne Joe.



Moondyne 7th May - Free Festival Entertainment  
Includes:-

- Performances by some of our amazing WA Bush Poets
- Also enjoy -
- Street Theatre
- Colonial Village
- Swaggies Camp
- Shearer & Blacksmith
- Clydesdales
- Competitions
- 1860 Rifle Regiment
- Woodchop
- Dancing
- WA Circus School
- Greg Hastings
- Music
- Family Fun Fair
- The Carnival
- Other Events
- ...and so much more!



## Peel Bush Poets Muster cont.....

**PK Tickner** - A local Poet

'The Shearers Lament' author unknown

Around the campfire at the shearers camp a young shearer tells his mates he has signed up to join the army, and will go to war.

'The Spider by the Gwydir ' Anonymous

A drunk and sleeping shearer is eyed off by a cunning Sheila who plans to steal his cash. But a well placed spider bite on the Shielas behind saves the shearer and his money. The shearer returns up country totally unaware of the happenings around him that night.

**Bruce Zilm** - A local Poet

'Meekatharra Ravens' A joke poem

A Local Dr. From Wiluna tells of over 200 dead ravens along the road, all hit by passing trucks, the crow lookout can only say car car!!!!

'The Bindoon Bakehaus'

Is it the bread or is it the pretty young waitress who always wears very short skirts that makes the bakery so popular?

**Jan Andrews** - Another Local Peel Poet

'The Bootenal Lights'

Driving in the outback a driver see what appears supernatural lights. They appear then disappear. Strange and unnatural. Locally known as the Bootenal lights.

**Peter Rudolf**

'Train Ride' by Chris Taylor

Spoken in the rhythm of a train picking up speed and then slowing down again as it comes into a station. Very well done.

'Rain From Nowhere' by Murray Harten

An outback cattle farmer facing drought and ruin contemplates ending it all, he feels like a failure. He gets a letter from his dad and that changes everything. That night they hear heavy rain from nowhere.

**Heather Denholm**

'My Name Is Cleo'

A Poem written about the kidnap of Cleo Smith, written from Cleo's perspective.

**Craig 'Crackers' Waterman**

'Inspiring the Nation'

Celebrating many of our sporting heroes who have inspired the nation.

**Bev Shorland**

'The Warrumbungle Mare' by Charles Shaw

A story of an untamed mare that roams the mountains. No one is able to catch her, until a stranger comes to these parts, determined to do so.

**Roger Cracknell**

'An Unfortunate Experience'

Returning from a trip down south visiting the wineries. After drinking 6 cups of tea, the good wife requires a comfort stop. A short stop in the bush will have to do - much to the surprise of a sleeping kangaroo.

**Peter Nettleton**

'The Tail Light' by Bill Kearns

The driver exhibits extreme distress when pulled over by a traffic cop due to a missing tail light,..... there is more story to this than meets the eye....

'Since Cheryl went Feral' by Jim Haynes

Since Cheryl went feral, life has never been the same.

**Rob Gunn**

'Rindercella' Author unknown

The Two Ronnies performed a version of this Poem on the BBC. Performed by Rob with clever vocal dexterity.

A great night was had by all. The evening finished at 8.00pm. Rob thanked the audience for their appreciation and support, inviting them to come to the "Ravo" again next month. Date 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 Time 6-8pm New poets with the stage set up from the Pinjarra end of room. Better sound.

I've been told they are setting tables of ten to accommodate more room.

Don't forget to book your table for the poets. You may have to share, see you there.

Poets, give me a call if you would like to perform. Rob Gunn 0417099676.

## 'PILGRIMAGE'

Where the willow trees are nodding with each puff of gentle breeze  
and the day's alive with music from the wings of buzzing bees.  
There's a sense this place is special with an urge he can't ignore,  
as he wanders through the ruins where the old house stood before.  
And the memories awakened are forever on his mind,  
as again he sees the faces of the ones he left behind.

Just the old walls are still standing with the roof and doors long gone  
and its builders have since left us, but their spirit still lives on,  
He can feel it all around him from the shadows that they've cast,  
as the eerie vacant windows seemed to peer into the past.  
And there's something almost sacred in these ruins he can see,  
of a pioneering homestead from a time that used to be.

Generations of his family had graced this place for years,  
it had seen their early struggles; heard their laughter; saw their tears.  
Yet he turned his back on all of this to chase a young man's dream,  
but had learnt the bitter lesson things aren't always what they seem.  
And for sixty years he had lost touch with what had happened here,  
and he finds it hard to now believe, it all could disappear.

As he looked into the ruffled waters of the homestead creek,  
Once again imagined faces paint a picture cold and bleak.  
An illusion from a time that even now he can't forget  
and a sadness then engulfs him as he looks back with regret.  
Then the haunting memory of Mary sears his heart again -  
how he'd walked away from all of this, is hard to now explain!

© T.E. Piggott



## GREENBUSHES CAMPOVER 14-16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - Peter Nettleton

It was a cold weekend in Greenbushes, and we missed a few of the 'usual suspects', but we hardly few managed to warm ourselves up with music, poetry and good company.

Friday evening kicked it off at the community garden clubrooms with home-made soup, pizza, cake and the inevitable jam session. Woodie Guthrie got a good hammering that night as I recall.

Saturday was workshop day. Some of us learned how to make Lilli Pilli champagne – and taste the finished product of course. The evening's highlight was the 'Lyrics By Lamplight' come-all-ye in the heritage cricket clubhouse. No power, so it was a case of BYO lamp.

Sunday morning was the customary musical circle. As well as some of us getting yet another go at performing our favourite bits and pieces, it gave several newcomers and visitors the chance to show the rest of us what they were capable of. Thus, the circle grows and yet remains unbroken (to paraphrase a well-known folk song).

Midday saw us striking camp and heading north again. Thanks very much to our hosts, Lee, Irma and the rest of the Greenbushes Acoustic mob for yet another uplifting and enjoyable weekend. The next one is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> December, when hopefully it will be warmer!

Greg Joass



Christine Boulton



Peter 'Stinger' Nettleton



## BOYUP BROOK ANZAC DAY 2023

Even colder weather greeted us when we returned to Boyup Brook on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, however thanks to the new solar panels on the roof, the Blue Bungalow was soon warm and cosy. Alan Aitken dropped around on Monday morning to check on the odd jobs he had done in our absence and for which we are most grateful. That afternoon, Jan and Roger Cracknell arrived to spend the evening and get prepared for our participation in the ANZAC ceremonies next morning. Dinner and drinks with Alan at the BB Club that evening was followed by a relatively early night.

Tuesday morning, we were all up and about at the customarily early time of 4.30 am, getting ourselves pumped up for the ceremonies at the town war memorial. The rain held off for the 5.45 am Dawn Service, at which I recited 'Never Forget' by Cobber (Keith Lethbridge Snr). Afterwards, we all enjoyed the Gunfire Breakfast in the Shire offices.

Unfortunately, the rain held off no longer as the march past and main ceremony kicked off at 10.30 am. The organisers and participants struggled with umbrellas but carried on regardless. Thankfully, the rain eased just long enough for Roger to recite his original poem 'An Old Man's Memories'. Afterwards, we all retired to the Club to dry out and for lunch courtesy of the Shire.

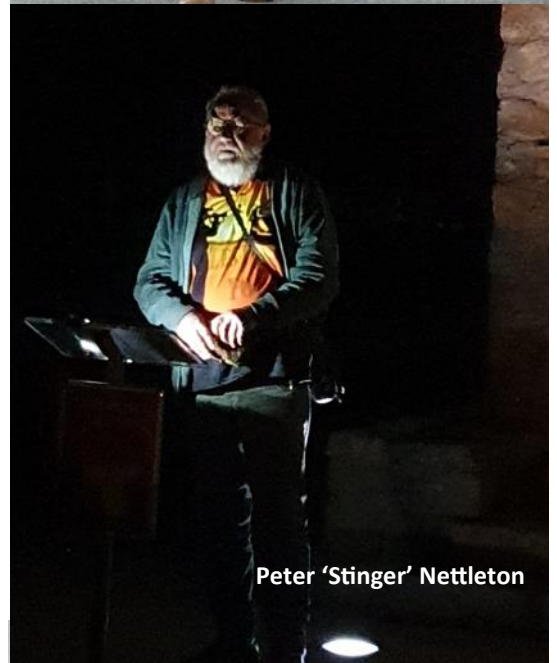
Roger and I both received hearty praise and thanks for our efforts. I get the distinct impression that due to the contribution by us and also past-performances by Bill (Poet Laureate of Boyup Brook) Gordon, Bush Poetry is likely to become a permanent feature of Boyup Brook RSL functions henceforth.

Thanks are also due to Jane Cochrane for her copious photographic chronicling of these events, many of which images are posted on Facebook.

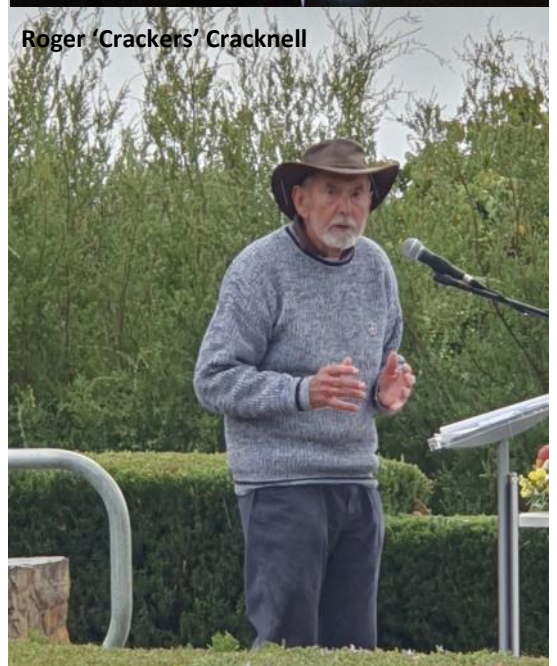
Roger Cracknell & Peter Nettleton



Shelly and Blaze



Peter 'Stinger' Nettleton



Roger 'Crackers' Cracknell



**Poets Muster Write-up Friday** by Heather Denholm  
- (apologies some details missing due to my hearing challenges.)

**MC: Lorraine Bourne**

**John Hayes** was first up.

**Heather Denholm**

*"Man From Snowy River" by Banjo Patterson*

Presented a new piece for her, that she had recently learned.

**Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge**

*"Digger's Mule" by Cobber*

Is based on a story told to me by Ivan Bridge of Halls Creek. It's an old yarn which bobs up in many different situations, & gets exaggerated more & more with each telling. On this occasion I blame Digger.

**Lorraine** read two poems from

**Deb McQuire** (who couldn't attend in person)

*"Spot Fires"*

A brief poem about the trials we all face each day trying to put out 'spot fires' i.e. dealing with day to day challenges/battles.

*"Ambos"*

Recently I have had to call on St Johns Ambulance way to many times to help a family member in my care, can't praise them enough for the great job they do as the demand for medical services becomes overwhelming and our hospital system struggles to keep up.

**Anne Hayes** presented

*"Around the Boree Log" by John O'Brien*

**Heather Denholm**

*"Happy Campers" by Heather*

the comings and goings of the grey nomads and busses in a caravan park mostly at 6am

**Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge**

*"When Digger Caught the Wog" by Cobber*

Just a light hearted story about Digger's misunderstanding of the doctor's instruction. He was told to avoid climbing up the stairs, so he climbed up the water spout instead.

**Lorraine Broun** told a tale of driving overseas with a terrible navigator

**Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge**

*"Never Forget" by Cobber*

Tells about the Australian people who fought to keep our country free; those who died & those who returned, and the women who worked on farms & in factories while the men were away.

**Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge**

*"The Legend of Mother McQ" by Cobber*

Is based on a true incident, when the cook filled a gap in the footy team. Naturally, the story has become greatly exaggerated over the years.

## WA Bush Poets Muster Friday cont...

Reading from classics by Lorraine written by her father

*"The Old Bush School"*

**Anne Hayes** told a story of camping

**Heather Denholm**

*"Happy Birthday WA"* by Heather

Written about how the 3 ships that arrived first in WA finally got to land a bit of license taken with this one.

**Lorraine Broun**

**Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge**

"Prince Philip". This is a true story, but of course my interpretation would be different from Philip's.

The tunes I played on the mouth organ were: "Spring-time Brings on the Shearing" and "Dirty Old Town".

**John Hayes**

Told story a about Norseman and Dumbleyung and the ducks; there was a ban on shooting them and then the heat on the Nullarbor

The evening wound up with Lorraine thanking everyone for coming along...

\*\*\*\*\*

(Comment from the Editor, Deb - I was not able to attend but it seems like five intrepid members had a good crack at entertaining those who came along on the evening, I'm sure your efforts were appreciated by the audience - thank you)

**Next Muster: MC - Terry Piggott [terrence.piggott@bigpond.com](mailto:terrence.piggott@bigpond.com) 9458 8887**  
**Reading from the Classics: Ray Jackson 0419 902 116 [rayjacksonperth@hotmail.com](mailto:rayjacksonperth@hotmail.com)**

**WA poets –past and present**

**Poets bring in your books/CDs to sell**

**Poems for Henry Lawson's Birthday**

**Deadline for submissions to June's Bully Tin 22nd May 2023**

**With the very sad passing of our marvellous *Supper Man*, Tony Hill,  
we are seeking offers to take on the role of setting up for supper  
i.e. boiling the 'Billy' for Tea and Coffee, set out cups, sugar, milk etc.,  
pouring the cuppas and plating up a selection of biscuits and cakes  
on offer at our monthly musters.**

**Please contact Bill or Meg if you can help with this special task each month.**

**Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night or send one via email to [shorland@iinet.net.au](mailto:shorland@iinet.net.au) for the Muster write up. Thanks in advance Bev**

## 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)

### May 2023

12 May — Closing Date — Ipswich Show Bush Poetry performance competition, Ipswich Queensland.

15 May - closing Date The Eastwood/Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers 2023 *Boree Log Poetry Competition is now open.*

19 May — Closing Date — Henry Lawson Festival Short Story and Verse Competitions, Grenfell NSW.

19-21 May — Ipswich Show Bush Poetry performance competitions (school students Friday 19; adults open Saturday 20) and poets' brunch (Sunday 21), Ipswich Queensland.  
See 12 May Closing Date.

### JUNE 2023

14 June — Bronze Swagman Award Ceremony, 5:30-6:30 pm Royal Theatre, Winton Queensland.  
See 30 April closing date.

### JULY 2023

30 JULY — Closing Date — Nandewar Poetry Competition, Narrabri NSW.

### AUGUST 2023

31 August — Closing Date — King of the Ranges written bush poetry competition, Murrurundi, NSW.

### SEPTEMBER 2023

16 September — Closing Date — King of the Ranges yarnspinning competition, Murrurundi, NSW.

22-24 September — King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge with poets' breakfast and yarnspinning competition (see 16 September closing date) and **written competition** (see 31 August closing date), Murrurundi, NSW.

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



## Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2023

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## **Regular Events**

<b>WA Bush Poets:</b>	<b>1st Friday each month</b> <i>MC details see front page</i> - 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA	
<b>Albany Bush Poetry group:</b>	<b>Last Tuesday each month</b> - 7.30pm 1426 Lower Denmark Rd, Elleker	<b>Ph. Peter Blyth - 9844 6606</b>
<b>Bunbury Bush Poets:</b>	<b>1st Monday every ‘even’ month</b> - The Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury.or Ian Farrell	<b>Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243</b> <b>0408 212 636</b>
<b>Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:</b>	<b>1st Wednesday each month.</b> - 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie	<b>Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376</b>
<b>Peel Bush Poetry Group</b>	<b>1st Tuesday each month</b> - 6pm. Ravenswood Hotel, Pinjarra	<b>Ph. Rob Gunn - 0417 099 676</b>

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.