

The

September 2025

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



Next Muster: 5th September 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AT 6.30 PM
followed by the Muster at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Robert Asplin 0448 150 757 roba58@bigpond.com
Traditional night/CJ Dennis's birthday

'Accorjins'

Where have the old accorjins gone?
I was askin' the coves at the Show;
Matt from the Mallee an' Dandenong Don,
An' a score of the fellers I know --
Ole fellers, like me -- an' they're missin' 'em sore;
For this wireless, it never makes up
For the merry ole music we knowed of yore
When Brindle was a pup --
As they puts it --
An' Bravo collared the Cup.

Where are the old accorjins now
Like me father used to play?
Times when we rested from harrers an' ploughs
An' we made rare holiday.
Or Accorjin Alf, poor half-wit coot,
To the bush dance used to come
An' beat the time with his hobnail boot,
Like the top of an big bass drum --
"Ladies' Chain!" --
Keep time to the top o' the drum.



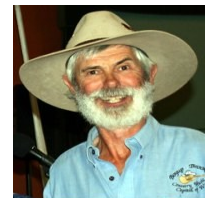
Pipe in the sou'-west side of his mouth,
Hat on the back of his head,
Alf 'ud be there, come flood, come drouth,
For the dance in the shearin' shed.
Leaky bellers an' keys all broke,
Reeds near wearin' away;
But they put the ginger into a bloke,
Them toons as he used to play.
Hum a couple.
Reel toons of an older day.

"Hie to the Weddin'" an' "Belle Mahone,"
"Wait Till the Clouds Roll by" ...
An' me an' yer ma crep' out alone,
Out under the starlit sky --
Aw, jazz an' the wireless, things like these
Is a wonder to men, alright.
But gimme that ole accorjin's wheeze,
An' the bush, and a starlit night.
Kin yeh hear it? --
A mopoke's call in the night.

CJ Dennis

This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance
of the office of KATE DOUST MLC

President's Ramblings September 2025



This edition forms my report for the Annual General Meeting on 5th September, 2005.

All the regular events involving WABPYS went ahead and were considered successful during the past year. The one disappointment was the Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival and State Championships. The number of entries was down, as was the number of volunteers to fill the various roles over the weekend. Rather than see the event fade into obscurity, the decision was made to not continue for the time being. Toodyay has raised the profile of WABPYS in the twelve years it has run, particularly in 2017 when we hosted the Australian Championships. I would like to express my personal thanks to all who have combined to make it the success it was.

During the past year we have sadly farewelled three of our esteemed members, Arthur Leggett, Syd Hopkinson and Colin Tyler. Arthur was honoured with a State Funeral in recognition of his service to the community, his tireless support to ex-POWs and his resolve that the sacrifice of so many would not be in vain. Syd Hopkinson was a writer and performer whose poetry continues to be performed by members. Colin Tyler was a great supporter and a regular attendee and contributor to our musters.

Apart from those passing on, our membership continues to remain static. While some are finding it difficult to maintain their active membership, it is pleasing to note that we have several new members among the residents of Bentley Park, but we would welcome any active poets from the wider community into our fold. They are out there but we need to embrace them before too many of us get much older.

I was honoured to officiate at the launch of Cobber's new book, "No Regrets", which is a compilation of his favourite poems written between 1963 and 2024. Some have been updated or amended in minor ways. The book also includes yarns from the East Kimberly between early 1963 and mid 1967.

A group of poets in the Mandurah – Pinjarra area have banded together to form Peel Poets and to conduct a Bush Poetry and Music Day on the 8th November. This is the weekend that we would have been at Toodyay. Another event we have not been involved in for many years is the Perth Royal Show. We have been invited to do a one hour performance on four days, 27, 28, 29 September and 4th October. Hopefully we attract an enthusiastic audience and some potential new members.

I would like to express my thanks to all who have contributed to WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners throughout the past year whether on the committee, being MC's or performing at musters, and organising and supporting events. We provide hands on real entertainment. May Bush Poetry continue to survive and to thrive in this high tech world.

Bill Gordon, President

Saturday September 6th.
The Peel Bush Poets Muster
At THE CAFÉ SPACE Bethanie
10 Maclaggan Turn, Coodanup

The gate will be open drive in and park in any space
without a unit number painted on it.

2:30 pm to 4 pm

All are invited to take part , if you would like to take part please let
Heather Denholm know 0429052900 text or voice

Those Were the Days

Remember now those days gone by when you were young and so was I,
another life, another time – to what we see today.
For life had seemed much calmer too, back in those days we oldies knew,
as misty morning memories come drifting now my way.

Of picnics on a grassy field while high above the swallows wheeled,
as days of promise smiled on sun drenched paddocks ripe with grain.
And life seemed just to drift along as Elvis sung his latest song,
for we were young of course, but still, it's good to dream again.

And may I offer further proof there's more to life than leaky roof,
or even freezing frosted windowpanes that clear in time.
For soon the sun would rise and shine to brighten days of yours and mine,
back in those magic years when we were both still in our prime.

If we could only click a switch that turns back to a time in which,
we choose to live again, then watch the years just melt away,
returning to our youth once more – back to those years we hunger for,
when life was at its very best, whatever some may say.

But youth is just a passing phase, to look back on and now appraise,
just how it was back then before the changes we now see.
Those fleeting times just flew on past - like all good things they couldn't last,
yet memories about those times, are precious still to me.

© T.E. Piggott



Photo courtesy of Deb McQuire

Beans (from the diary of an seven year old)

The tea that night was really bad I looked down in despair
Pumpkin Beans and Carrot it really wasn't fair
I tried to eat a piece of bean it nearly made me sick
I dropped the pumpkin on the floor my favourite Pumpkin trick.

Well Mum got really angry and sent me off to bed
But as I lay there starving a plan came to my head.
So later on when all was quiet and Mum and Dad both slept
I sneaked out of my bedroom to where the medicines are kept.

And behind that awful tube of cream Mum uses on my rash
I found what I was looking for Mum's secret chocolate stash
The chocolate tasted really good as good as chocolate gets
It wasn't made by Cadbury though it was someone called 'Laxettes'.

And then I felt this awful pain my stomach felt all sick
I had to find a toilet and I had to find one quick
That night was like a nightmare it seemed to never end
I couldn't leave that toilet it was like a long lost friend.

And Mum looked really worried and was making heaps of scenes
While Dad thought I'd been poisoned and he threw out all the beans.

Tim Heffernan

Beware the Dreaded Deck Slug

Aboard the Leeuwin Sailing Ship there's a creature to be found
That rarely makes a movement and rarely makes a sound
Those on board will know it well the Deck Slug is its name
And the art of making chunder is its only claim to fame.

The Slug is seen both night and day it lies upon the deck
Looking green around the eyeballs and green around the neck
To passer's by it seems asleep but this is seldom true
The Slug is usually hard at work just churning up the brew.

It pays to be real careful when walking past the Slug
For it seldom gives much warning when it's due to pull the plug
But when that time arises it gives a mighty snort
And sometimes runs to starboard and sometimes runs to port.

It sometimes tries to paint the ship by climbing up the mast
Or sometimes picks the galley hatch and gives the cook a blast
The Slug will choose at random just when and where it goes
But it usually leaves a nasty mess that sticks between your toes.

The Slug is a constant hazard when hauling lines or flaking
One step upon it's stomach could be disaster in the making
So be warned my fellow sailor please be careful as you're working
'Cos chances are that up on deck a Slug is up there lurking.

Tim Heffernan

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Inc (WABPYA)

Proposals for Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members:

The positions of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee members for each upcoming year may be decided upon via one of the following 2 methods:

- 1: Written Nomination: to be submitted to the Secretary at any time at least 24 hours prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and must include the following information;
- a) the full name of the nominator (who must be a member of the Association) [and dated];
 - b) the full name of the nominee;
 - c) the proposed position of the nominee;
 - d) the written consent/signature of the nominee; [and dated];

This information is to accompany all proposed nominees;

- 2: Verbal Nomination: to be presented personally at the AGM by a member of the Association, and must include all of the information required under point 1 above ('Written Nomination'). Should the nominee not be present at the AGM their written consent must be submitted to the AGM [and dated].

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WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT 6.30 PM

Bentley Park SwanCare Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley

Meeting Opened: 6.31 pm, with President Bill Gordon as chairman.

Present: (see list following Close of Meeting in these Minutes).

Apologies: (see list following Close of Meeting in these Minutes).

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Friday, 1st September, 2023

The Minutes have been distributed to all Members via notice in the August Bully Tin and by post, and copies were also available at the Meeting for perusal by attendees.

Moved [Sue Hill/Meg Gordon] Minutes of the AGM 1st Sept 2023 be adopted. **Carried.**

2. President's Report:

President advised that his Report is that included in the September Bully Tin.

Moved [Rodger Kohn/Colin Tyler] that the President's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bill – can you get the 30 June 2024 information, plus the other several detailed sheets, from Sue

Moved [Rodger Kohn/John Hayes] that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

4. Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members for 2024/2025:

[President, Bill Gordon, handed the chairmanship over to John Hayes for this item].

The positions currently held for 2023/2024 are:

Office Bearers:

President - Bill Gordon;

Vice President – Rodger Kohn;

Treasurer - Sue Hill;

Secretary (acting) - Rodger Kohn;

Ordinary Committee Members:

Meg Gordon, Irene Conner, Bev Shorland, Deb McQuire, Don Gunn, Anne Hayes and Maxine Richter;

ABPA Representative: Irene Conner.

Chairman John Hayes called for and received nominations for any of the above positions from Members attending the AGM, and received the nominations from others during the required submission period; following this, action was carried out as follows:

Moved (Rodger Kohn/Bill Gordon) The following positions be filled by the following persons for the 2024/2045 period:

Office Bearers:

<u>President</u> (Moved Sue H/Meg G)	<u>Bill Gordon</u>	Carried
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<u>Vice President</u> (Moved R Kohn/B Gordon)	<u>Keith Lethbridge</u>	Carried
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<u>Treasurer</u> (Moved R Kohn/C Tyler)	<u>Sue Hill</u>	Carried
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<u>Secretary</u> (Moved M Gordon/S Hill)	<u>Rodger Kohn</u>	Carried
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WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS ASSOCIATION
AGENDA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 6.30 PM
Bentley Park SwanCare Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley

Meeting Opened:..... with President Bill Gordon as chairman.

Present: [Attendees to be listed at the Meeting, with the list to be included in the Minutes]

Apologies: [As advised, and the list to be included in the Minutes]

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Friday, 6TH September, 2024

The Minutes have been distributed to all Members via notice in the August Bully Tin and by post, and copies will also be available at the Meeting for perusal by attendees.

Moved [../..] Minutes of the AGM 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

2. President's Report

President advised that his Report is that included in the August Bully Tin.

Moved [../..] the President's Report be adopted.

Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Festival a/c \$2,357.94; Trading a/c \$3,673.67; Term Deposit a/c \$6,763.73;

Total \$12,825.34.

Moved [../..] the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

Carried.

4. Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members for 2025/2026 [President, Bill Gordon, handed over the chairmanship to for this item]. The positions currently held for 2024/2025 are:

Office Bearers:

President - Bill Gordon;

Vice President – Keith Lethbridge;

Treasurer - Sue Hill;

Secretary - Rodger Kohn;

Ordinary Committee Members:

Meg Gordon, Keith Lethbridge, Sue Hill, Deb McQuire, Don Gunn, Greg Joass, Don Gunn, Maxine Richter, Heather Denholm.

ABPA Representative – Meg Gordon.

The Chairman to call for nominations for the above positions from any Member attending the AGM, and to request nominations received from non-attending Members for the above positions.

Elections / appointments / voting to be carried out.

Moved (..../....) The following positions be filled by the following persons for 2025/2026:

Office Bearers:

President (.... /....) –

Vice President: (.... /....) –

Treasurer: (.... /....) –

Secretary: (.... /....) –

Ordinary Committee Members:

Committee Members: (.... /....) -

WA Representative on ABPA: (.... /....) –

[Incoming President now took over chairmanship of the meeting]

5. General Business

A) Bunbury Branch of the Association: report to be presented at the AGM.

B) Peel Branch of the Association: report to be presented at the AGM.

6. Correspondence

Meeting Closed At

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Attachment 1 (attendees at the AGM)

Attachment 2 (apologies from those not present at the AGM)

Muster Writeup 1st August 2025

Unfortunately there was no one available to do a write up at this muster; however, several performers have sent in their own notes covering the items they presented on the night (thank you). These notes are not presented in any particular order but hopefully will offer a view of some of the evenings entertainment.

MC: Daniel Avery

Performers Synopsis

Terrence Piggott

Remember Mate

A poem about mates remembering their gold prospecting days
And though those days are now long past, some memories will always last.
of days of gold; of luck and fate - and life out bush -- remember mate?

Walking with Ghosts

A poem about sensing the ghosts of yesteryears from the gold rush days.
I hear their whispered voices as they're carried on the breeze,
and laughter's all around me in the sighing of the trees.

Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge

Mildew's Off-sider

Mildew, a terrible cook with the Murchison Shearing Crew, needs an off-sider. Nobody wants to take on that job, so the Boss Cocky asks his daughter to fill in. The result is chaotic.

The Old Wongoondy Hall

Cobber happens to be passing by the hall, so he ventures in, & starts playing the old piano. Ghost dancers and musicians appear, but when he stops playing, they all vanish, leaving the hall dusty and bare.

The Aussie Bush Mechanic

This is the bloke you need when your vehicle strikes trouble in a remote area. He's rough and ready, but gets the job done ... sort of.

Also played 2 tunes:

"Rosin the Bow" (Mouth organ & bones.)

"Danny Boy". (Mouth organ.)

David Sears - Reading of the classics. An overview of the life of William Edward Harney 1895 1962. Author and Bushman. His early life was one of poverty and hardship, punctuated by tragedy. Spent mostly in the outback of the Northern Territory. He was most notable for his writings of aboriginal people. Recitals - "Whitefellow him make me wild" and "Money just stone"

Tim Heffernan presented

Beans (the diary of a 7 year old) by Tim Heffernan

Once again, a seven year old child refuses to eat any of the vegetables on their plate and an angry Mum sends them off to bed hungry. This time, the child shows some initiative and steals chocolate from the Cupboard during the night, with very unfortunate consequences.

Beware the Dreaded Deck Slug

by Tim Heffernan

Tim described his first ten day voyage on the Sail Training Ship 'Leeuwin' as of the best things he has ever done, but very terrifying during a severe storm. Many people fell seasick during and after the storm, and were reduced to the sorry state of being 'Deck Slugs'. This poem is a humorous look at how to identify them and warning people to treat them with caution.

FOSSIL FIND

(Or 'Inside the Innoceramus')

It is one of a kind, a real pearl of a find,
The oldest to be found in our land.
So I'll tell you the story, it's not bloody or gory,
Of how it came into my hand.
To Richmond we came, hunting fossils the game,
And we'd done rather well there before.
You don't need a gun, that's not how it's done,
You just keep your eyes fixed on the floor.
Out of town there's a spot, you can dig up a lot,
Of fish fossils, both toothy and big.
It's called site number two, because it's got a loo,
It's a most civilized fossil dig.
But it didn't go well, just some bones, teeth and shell,
Elsewhere this might have seemed great.
But for Richmond I know, it's a pretty poor show,
So we were leaving before it got late.
My wife needed the loo, and I'd nothing to do,
So I thought that I'd take a quick stroll.
Though I had little hope, as I walked down the slope,
Of a recently dug dozer hole.
It was then that I saw, what no one had before,
Attached to a thick bit of shell.
A shape small and round, and I knew I had found,
What? Well I just couldn't tell.
But it didn't take long, till the thought came along,
Though in hindsight, I was slow in the head.
'It's a pearl' came the thought, a thing that is sought,
In shells growing on the seabed.

A mollusc's secretion, after years of accretion,
That occurred on an ancient sea floor.
Back when on the land, dinosaurs were on hand,
And I should have recognised it before.
Now it may have been grit, which caused quite a bit,
Of grief to an old oysters innards.
That's a species of shell, which surrounded it well,
With a coating protecting it's gizzards.
And this nacreous burl, was a lustrous pearl,
Which every year grew just a bit.
Then when the shell died, the pearl petrified,
Till time and a dozer exposed it.
Now that fossil's been sent, to some expert who
went,
And confirmed my suspicions and more.
Yes it's a pearl of a find, and it's one of a kind,
And something quite new to our shore.

Greg Joass

Date: 06/08/2023

*(Written to commemorate Kronosaurus Korner con-
firming my discovery of the first oldest fossilized pearl
ever discovered in Australia.)*

G'day All Members

Interest story for your information...

There was an article on today's ABC news site about a fossil pearl found at Richmond in Queensland and handed in to the museum at Kronosaurus Korner for scientific investigation, by 'a tourist'.

I was the 'tourist' and when they contacted me some time later for a comment about the discovery, I wrote them a poem about it. Featured on previous page

Cheers Greg



Photo courtesy of Greg Joass

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night for our scribe or send one via email to deb.mcquire@bigpond.com for the Muster Write Up. Thank you in advance

**Next Muster: 3rd October at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Anne Hayes 0428 542 418 hayseed1@optusnet.com.au
16 line challenge: My best friend
Deadline for submissions for October's Bully Tin 22nd September 2025**

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 and www.writingwa.org

Why not check out Writing WA
<info@writingwa.org>
Always something interesting
going on for WA Writers

September 2025

19 September — Closing Date — Lambing Flat FAW Writing Competition, short story and poem, Young, NSW.

October

17 October—Closing Date — WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition

18 October — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships written competition, Bathurst NSW.

November

1 November — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships, performance, Bathurst NSW.

6-9 November — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships - performance and written, Bathurst NSW. See 18 October closing date for written. See 1 November closing date for performance.

8th November—WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition
See 17 October—Closing Date



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Committee Members - WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2025

President	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
Vice President	Keith Lethbridge	0437 336 296	keithlethbridge@hotmail.com
Secretary	Rodger Kohn	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Sue Hill	0418 941 016	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

Committee

Meg Gordon	- <i>Toodyay Festival Sec.</i> - <i>Web Control</i> - <i>Secretary of the ABPA</i> - <i>ABPA Representative</i>	0404 075 108	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Don Gunn		0418 930 821	bigunnz@inet.net.au
Maxine Richter		0429 339 002	maxine.richter@bigpond.com
Greg Joass		0429 345 150	gjoass@gmail.com
Heather Denholm	Peel Poets Representative	0429 052 900	h.e.deholm@gmail.com
Deb McQuire	- <i>Bully Tin editor</i>	0428 988 315	deb.mcquire@bigpond.com

Regular Events

WA Bush Poets:	1st Friday each month <i>MC details see front page</i> - 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA	
Bunbury Bush Poets:	1st Monday every 'even' month - The Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury.	Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243 or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636
Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:	1st Wednesday each month. - 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie	Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376

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 or www.bushverse.com

Address correspondence for the "Bully Tin" to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or 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

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
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.