

\$2.50

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

R. Sutcliffe '97

ABN: 22 594 556 961

Newsletter : May 2001

Happy Mothers' Day to all the Mothers in our Association

Nature's Portrait

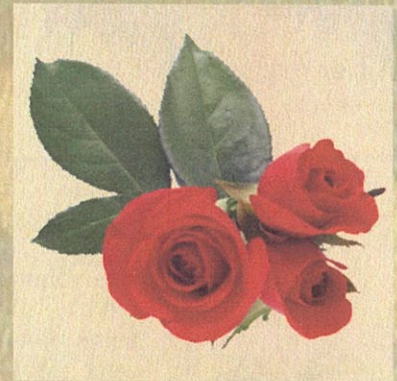
It was springtime when a friend and I, strolled through the countryside,
We found great joy in the beauty, of nature in her pride,
Suddenly, my friend stopped, turned - and said to me,
If you could paint, with natures gifts, describe the picture you would see.

Pretend you had an artists brush, and to help your idea form,
Use the wind, the rain, flowers or trees, the sun, the sky, a dawn.
I searched the valley hills and plain, looking for a sign,
Then deep within my heart I knew, just one picture I would find.

I'd use the contours of the hills, to make a special face,
With the softness of rose petals, to hold it all in place,
I would steal the blush from a brand new dawn, to colour the cheeks, the hills had formed,
Hair would be soft, like a gossamer cloud, held at the side with a small lovely flower.

I would pluck two stars from velvet skies, and turn them into sparkling eyes,
Two lips coloured red, from a sunsets hue, would shine with a kiss from morning dew,
For a smile I would take a slice of the sun, to give love, life, and a warm sense of fun,
When my picture was finished, each in its place, you would see I had painted - my mothers lovely face.

© Joan Macneall



"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd, Applecross

(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 4/05/2001 at 7:30pm



AROUND THE TRAPS with the Top Dog

Giddy fellow Bush Artists,

"...the twenty-fifth of April has come and gone again and another Anzac Day has passed us by..." (Barry Humphries, c.1962). It's a great day in Australian culture and one in which we should all participate.



I feel that as bush poets, we have a strong tradition to uphold in relation to this day, whether as an old digger (not me, I was a gunner), a student, a pacifist or an artist. Or all four.

My own favourite "Anzac" bush poem is John O'Brien's 'Ownerless' (c.1916). A very moving ballad, focusing on the horse whose "bush boy" master "marched off to the beat of the drums" and ends up "...sleeping...by the far Dardanelles". Apart from that, it doesn't mention the War at all. Beautiful poem. Must learn it before next Anzac Day!

Back to business, our living, growing and developing art form is about to initiate and innovate yet again with regular 'theme-poet' nights, starting with the Lawson-Paterson night following the AGM on 6th July 2001. It is hoped to tie these in with the regular monthly gatherings as well as one-off 'specials' and to showcase local living maestroni as well as the dead variety. (Suggestions are welcome, but may be indiscriminately ignored :-)

And finally, returning to the theme, I notice the current ABCTV series 'Australians at War' made good mention of (and quoted liberally from) the work of AB (Banjo) Paterson, both as a war correspondent during the Boer thing and as a bush poet of some note.

**Arf
Stinger**



G'Day everyone

Everyone who turned up at the April CAY would have been as astounded as I was at the size of the attendance. 84 brave souls turned up compared with a mere 32 at the same meeting last year. Despite the absence of some of our seasoned performers, we were pleased to welcome back our old mate, the late Ron Evans, whose presence is always a joy to us all. The meeting, ably M-C'd by Rusty, was marked by a high standard of presentation, with most presenters having learned their works. There were so many presenters, the meeting closed after 10pm!!

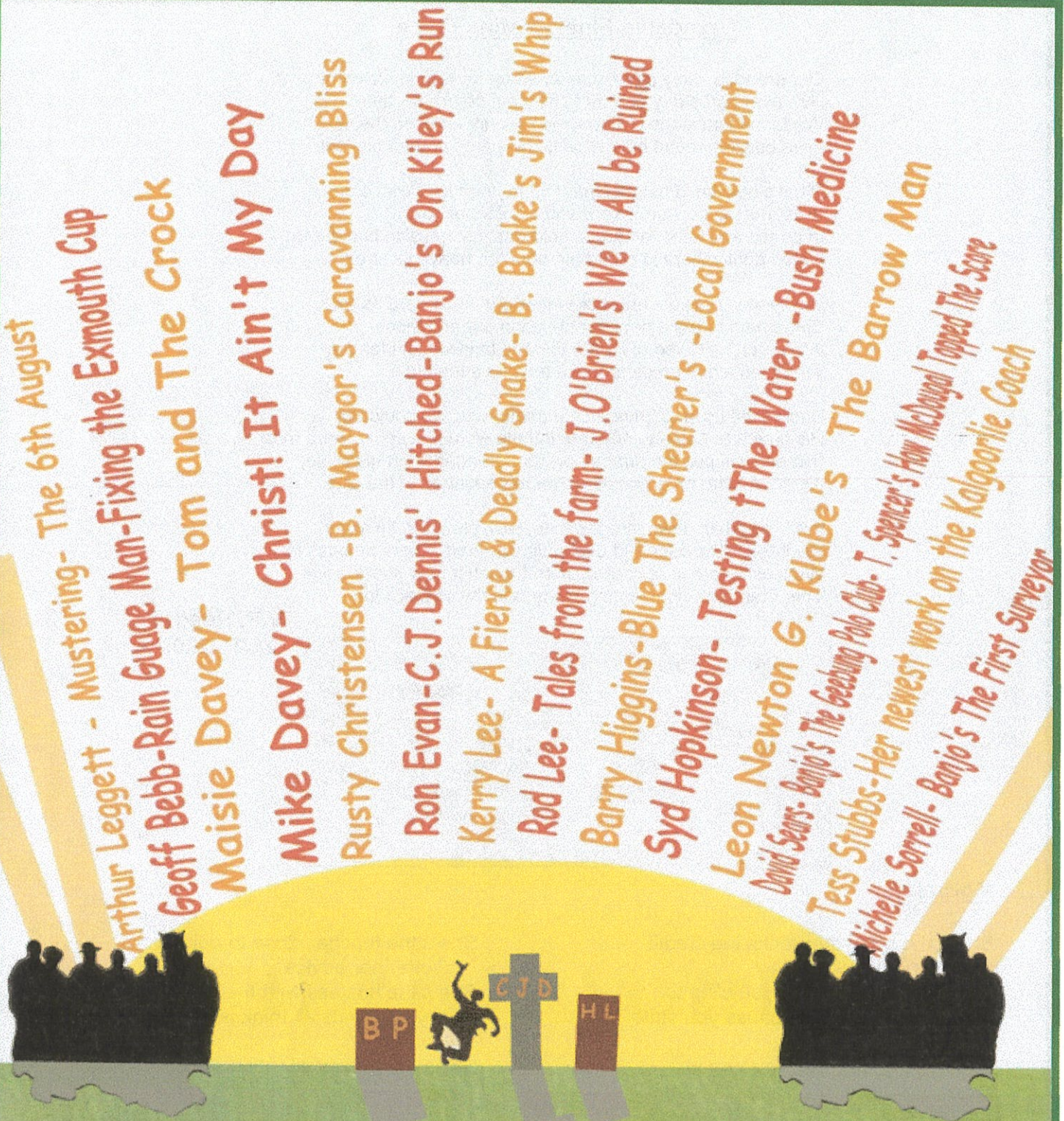
This month will feature the Poetry writing workshop to be held on Thursday 24th June. John Hayes and I will be co-presenters for this workshop, which will cover the techniques of rhythm and rhyme that the masters used in putting together their wonderful works. It will also contain plenty of hands on practice.

To date, we only have 7 nominations for this course, but we need at least 10 to make it viable. If you would like to join us, please call me on 9367 4963 or speak to me at the next CAY meeting.

The back page of this issue contains a Nomination form for Committee positions for the year 2001-2002. In addition to the statutory positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, we need people who can help run the Association. We need people who are available and are prepared to work. Tasks include being co-ordinator for events, personning the Welcome Desk or the Product Table at CAY's – these are not onerous tasks as long as there are sufficient people on the committee. The committee meets about ten times per year, so it is not a big time commitment.

PLEASE give this some consideration, as the success of the Association is dependent on having a strong committee.

Geoff Bebb



Come All Yee Meeting - April 2001

To my eyes, this was one of the most successful meetings we've had this year. The River Room, filled with a capacity audience of 84 plus 14 performer, was electric. It would take pages to include everyone, their poems plus comments. This is the reason I dropped my usual format. Our MC was Rusty. We welcomed back old friends, Ron Evans, Arthur Leggett and the Daveys' with visitors from England.

I observed one young lady, perhaps in her eighties, doubled over laughing so much her friends on either side were supporting her. Banjo was so well represented that the evening turned into a practice for July. Leon taped the evening for his brother in law in Queensland, I hope he loves it Leon, what a great night to pick. Nerves and fade outs were common, but often overcome by the sheer support of the audience. Rusty exhorted the performers to keep practicing.

I hope you all had a Happy Easter and celebrated Anzac Day in true Aussie style. Fond farewell to Keith.
See you in May.

Cheers Michelle

Grandad's Final Resting Place

Our grandad sadly passed away when he was in his prime,
He never had a day off crook, he went before his time.
We found him in the outback loo ensconced upon the seat,
Flies buzzing round his eyeballs, his pants around his feet.

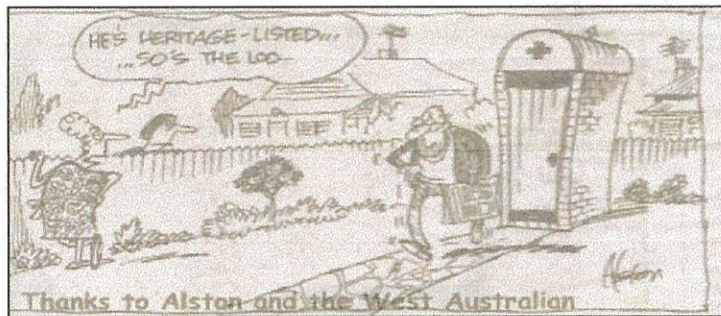
"That's how he 'd have wanted it," my dad said with a grin,
"Post magazine, some kero and a full tobacco tin."
In peace and quiet, no household riot, just passing in a dream,
Lulled gently there in putrid air, adrift on heaven's stream.

We lived in the vast outback where ground is hard as rock,
'Twas hard to dig a decent hole upon our arid block.
We weren't allowed to light a fire; the land was tinder dry,
We faced a dire predicament if anyone should die.

Dad called us in to have a chat about what we could do,
His face was sad and solemn, but the words he spoke were true.
"No one will use the dunny now that grandad's left his clime,
It's got a lean, it's so unclean, there's splinters in the pine.

We'll drop him down into the hole, we'll clear the tin away,
We'll leave the door and choko vine to mark where he does lay."
We took a vote-in rev'rence, note-though it may shock a few
That grandad's final resting place is in the outback loo.

V.P. Read ©
21/12/2000



Thanks to Alston and the West Australian

Mothers

She's the hand that rocks the cradle
At the onset of your life
She's the finger which you cling to
When your first steps cause you strife

She's the doctor that you turn to
When you fall and scrape your knee
She's the chef who brings the magic
To those luscious treats for tea

She's the mediator standing by
Throughout your sibling fights
She's the storyteller by your bed
Before she dims the lights

She's the maid who brings some order
To your messy cluttered room
She's the shoulder there to cry on
When the schoolyard bullies loom

She's the teacher close to guide you
And offer her advice
She's the hostess with the mostest
Who you friends all think is nice

She's the patient silent sentinel
Through your testy teenage years
She's the free and willing counsel
When you face your adult fears

She's the babysitter at your call
When life becomes a rush
She's the money - lender when need be
And hands it with a hush

She's many skills rolled into one
A class above the others
So all the things to thank God for
Thank God that he made Mothers

©Beth Scott

Coming Events and News

Australian Bush Poets Annual championships: Urgent Notice from ABPA

"With regret Caloundra Lions Club has advised they are not going to continue with their plans to host the Australian Bush Poetry championships on the Queen's Birthday 2001.

Naturally, we are very upset about this and sincerely regret the inconvenience it will cause. On receiving the news the matter was hastily discussed by Committee and alternative plans were quickly put in place. The original submissions for the event were re-considered and the resulting vote favoured Winton. **Vision Winton** were then approached and asked if they would like to take over. Fortunately they generously agreed. The amended details are:"

The QANTAS _ WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
being held in Winton will now also be
"Australian Bush Poetry Championships"
Friday June 30th – Monday 2nd July 2001.

Please contact: The organiser: PO Box 84 Hughenden Qld 4821
(Please send S.A.S.E.) or telephone 07 4741 5041

ABPA - Changes of Association Members

Treasurer: Rosemary Vaguley
Villa 22 – Melaluca grove, 12 Taurus Rd Capalaba 4157

Editor: Bernie Bliss
Home Page: www.bushpoetry.com.au
E mail: bbliss@hotmail.net.au
(as this is his private address always name subject ABPA)

Phone: 0408 486820 or 07 3348 6820 (a/h)
Postal Address: PO Box 5280 – Manly Qld 4179

PS: If any of our WA members want more information about events over east please give me a call as I receive the ABPA magazine regularly. Michelle 9367 4963

AGM and Paterson and Lawson Night

This evening is shaping up to be a very interesting night with performers dressing up and giving you a few surprises. We would like to be able to organise catering for this so please **mark the event on your calendar NOW**. It will be a special night with our top performers learning some new and at times difficult poems.

Performers please call Barry Higgins on 9407 5311 with your selection of poems soon. We wish to actually arrange the evening and work out timing and placement of events and to avoid duplication. (We do not want ten Men from Snowy River that would be a stampede.)

We will advertise this event in the West and expect that this would be our second biggest event of the year.

Because it is the AGM night we would also like you there to have your say in the election of new committee members. **You will notice a nomination form on page 8 of this publication.**

Report from Lorelie on the Marybrook Winery Experience

Seven of our best performers and a few 'family and friends' attended the Marybrook Winery at Vasse in beautiful Autumn weather.

At about 5:30 on the Saturday, along with the setting sun, the audience wandered into the high, telegraph pole supported corrugated iron, three sided 'shed' with their picnic baskets. Marybrook wines were available as well as yabbies in satay sauce in a roll, platters of antipasto, homemade mulberry pie and cream, and ice-cream and bottomless tea and coffee. The aroma of wood burning cauldrons, the chatter of birds bedding down for the night in the trees, and music from two local lads on the stage, everyone settled in to be entertained by the performers from Perth. Rusty was the MC and he led off with "Clancy of the Overflow", followed by Ron Evans with "The Man From Ironbark". A stirring start to the programme!



Aub and Jan House made every one so welcome and provided so well. At the end of the evening some retired to their campervans, some to their tents, others to their homes or rellies. The locals went to their own beds, happy and delighted at an unusual but satisfying evening, so satisfying that some returned the next morning for more of the same!

The sun shone brightly on the dewy grass and Cappy was up early with his guitar and Keith with his accordion. After sausages, bacon and eggs and everything else expertly cooked by the House Family members, the audience settled in for more poems and tales interspersed with various types of music.

It was agreed that the venue, the ambience and the entertainment were too good to be a 'once only'

20/21 of October was suggested as the springtime event. Word will get around and there will be twice as many there. Mark it in your diary for a memorable occasion

Our thanks to the House family of Marybrook and to the superb performers.



Harmony Day Picnic at Booragoon Lakes

Several Taiwanese families attended the picnic and listened to traditional bush poetry whilst eating their picnic lunch at the lake before going on a nature walk.

Thank you Connie and Geoff for donating your time and talents.

Melville Council sent the Association a warm letter of thanks and \$100 donation for your efforts.

This may also become a yearly event.

Calendar of Events for WA Bush Poets Association

This section is a to help WA Bush Poets plan their activities for the coming months. The table below will show events that the committee knows about, whether or not they have a fixed date.


We will try our best to keep this table updated so that if you are interested, you may enter the events or just attend.

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
24 th May 2001	Writing Bush Poetry Workshop	Geoff Bebb 9367 4963
29 June – 2 July/2001	Australian Bush Poetry Championships Winton Qld.	P.O. Box 84 Hughenden Qld 4821
TBA	Derby Boab Festival	P.O. Box 87 Derby WA 6728 PH. 08 9193 1065
6 th July 2001	AGM of BPYSA and Paterson and Lawson Night. We need committed available Committee Members!!	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963
Sept 2001	Spring in the Valley – in the Swan Valley Poets wanted	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963
Sept 2001	Royal Show – Poets wanted for Breakfast	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963

KEEPING THE AUSSIE TRADITION ALIVE

Orders from

Rusty Christensen
Ph: 9364 4491
or
CAY Meetings



**Australian
Bush Poetry**

\$10
narrated by
Rusty Christensen



Business Mentor

- Advice on Business Processes
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- Improve Profitability
- Help with the BAS
- Fees based on Success

Call Geoff Bebb
Phone: 9367 4963
Email: geoff@surpac.com

Committee Contacts 2000-2001

Name	Address	Position	Phone	Email
Peter Nettleton	3 Ashwood Pl South Lake, WA 6164	President	(04) 0777 0053	stinger@iinet.net.au
Lorelie Tacoma	16 Gratwick Terrace Murdoch, WA 6150	Vice-President	9310 1500	
Rusty Christensen	51 Coogee Road Ardross, WA 6153	Past-President	9364 4491	
Trevor Cooksley	PO Box 679 South Perth, WA 6151	Past-Treasurer	9474 2344	
Michelle Sorrell	Unit 1, 8 Hill St South Perth, WA 6151	Secretary	9367 4963	msorrell@iinet.net.au
Geoff Bebb	Unit 1, 8 Hill St South Perth, WA 6151	Treasurer	9367 4963	geoff@surpac.com
Phyllis Tobin	8 Fionn Court Ardross, WA 6153	Committee	9364 4323	tobins@iinet.net.au
Kay Stehn	5 Bell Court Bayonet Head, WA 6330	Committee	9844 1656	swagmail@telstra.easymail.com.au
Joan Macneall	23 Streatham Street Beckenham, WA 6107	Committee	9451 6008	macneall1@iinet.net.au
Barry Higgins	140 Bernard Road Carabooda, WA 6033	Committee	9407 5311	

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

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS ASSN. INC.

COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

I, Edna Westall Hereby Nominate _____

For the position of _____ in the W.A.B.P. & Y.S.A.

SIGNED:

NOMINATOR _____

SECONDER _____

NOMINEE _____

*Please return form to Hon. Secretary,
Unit 1, 8 Hill St,
South Perth 6151 - by 22nd June 2001*

Return Address

The Hon Secretary
WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Assoc.
Unit 1, 8 Hill St
South Perth WA 6151

Postage Paid

Australia

PP No: 607 742 100 42

Edna Westall

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PALMYRA WA 6157