

\$2.50

# WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

R. Sutcliffe 97.

Newsletter : January 2002

**Don't Forget!!!**

**"Fun Theme"**

**Our First "Come All Ye" for the year**

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2002**

**At the Raffles Hotel (Upstairs in The River Room)  
at 7:30pm**

**2002 Wireless Hill Challenge Finals**

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2002**

**Wireless Hill Park, Ardross**

**Starting 1pm Sharp**

A feast of Australian Traditional Poetry

By WA's Finest Poets

Celebrate the start of "The Year of the Outback"

On our National Day.

*(See Page 5 For Details)*

## Lorelie's Letters



Our second and final heat on 7<sup>th</sup> December seemed to invoke a lot of mirth amongst the audience, although it was deadly serious for the competitors. The results are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. The judges had such a difficult time deciding on the winners for the five categories they had to enlist the assistance of a computer! The judges have just one more important duty to perform – **Australia Day Championships at Wireless Hill Park, Ardross on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, starting at 1 p.m.** We are indeed grateful for their services.

**Do remember that our annual event is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January and not on the public holiday of Monday 28<sup>th</sup>.**

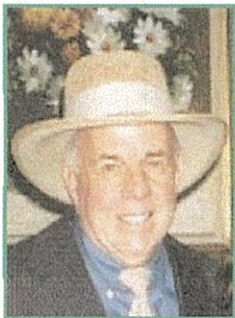
Try to enjoy the hot breakfast provided by the Rotary Clubs from 8 a.m. and the music, poetry and whip cracking, a joint sponsorship of our association, the Melville City Council and the Rotary Clubs.

We are now able to confirm that Milton Taylor of New South Wales will be here for a special performance night to be held at the new and unique Piney Lakes Environmental Centre, Leach Highway, Winthrop on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. There will also be other opportunities to hear him.

As reported last month, THE YEAR OF THE OUTBACK will be especially interesting for all of us lovers of Australian bush poetry. Many exciting events to attend as the year progresses. Keep your diaries handy.

I hope to see you all at the first COME ALL YE for 2002 on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30.

Lorelie.



G'Day everyone,

Well the Heats are done and dusted. Congratulations to all who made the finals and a big WELL DONE to all those who participated in making the Heats into nights to be remembered. See Page 4 for a full Report.

We are all looking forward to the Finals at Wireless Hill on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** which is shaping up to be a great day. As previously advised, the one and only Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge will be joining us, not as a finalist but as a guest performer.

We will all look forward to hearing our old pal strutting his stuff in our midst. Keith will be joined by Bev Scott, who will also be a guest performer on the day.

The Open Written Competition attracted a **record 33 entries**, up 50% on the entries last year, continuing the upward trend of interest in Bush Poetry, as evidenced by the audience size at our CAY's and heats.

Following the standard set by Keith Lethbridge, judge of the last two years, the criteria for judging will be based upon the degree of adherence to traditional Rhythm and Rhyme, the choice of subject matter and of course the entertainment value of the poetry. The 33 entries are of a very satisfying standard and expose the depth of poetry talent that is in our midst. I hope we will see some of these writers performing their works (or have others performing their works) during 2002.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter, you will see announcements for the Boyup Brook and Marybrook weekends as well as the special Milton Taylor night in mid March. Please mark these dates in your diaries and support the performers by attending. These events are ALWAYS enjoyable and worth the effort to attend.

Cheers Geoff Bebb

**Heat 2 of the Wireless Hill Challenge:** It was a great race to the finish of these wonderful heats. The variety and standards of reciting was equally challenging for the judges. Thanks Joan for your MC work. See you all at Wireless Hill. Break a leg.



**Participating Poets** were (from the top) :Brad Hilder, Arthur Leggett, Brian Gale, Rod Lee, Syd Hopkinson, Geoff Bebb, David Sears, Rusty Christensen, Leigh Matthews, Beth Scott, John Hayes, Kerry Lee, Chris Sadler .  
Thanks one and all for your professional contributions to the night.

Cheers, Michelle

Dear Editor,

The original "yarn" of the "yarn-spinner" was the pride of the bookless, the magazine-less, the newspaper-less and in today's terms the TV-less and the internet-less. The form of yarn spinning I am referring to was for entertainment and probably helped bushmen to overcome some of the harshness of living in the Australian bush. (*It also proved to be the only way history and stories were passed between reasonably illiterate generations. Ed.*)

Australian bush poetry probably has similar origins and uses, but in this day and age it is hard to find the bookless etc. Further, most Australian homes probably overcome harsh living.

So where does this leave bush poetry and yarn-spinning today?

I think it leaves them with an opportunity to reflect on the tall stories of the past, but also to develop new forms of entertainment allied to the needs of the people to see themselves in the world today. Reflecting on the past includes reciting others poems and yarns with appropriate acknowledgement. Reciting one's own poetry and yarns probably constitutes the development of new forms.

While I agree with Stinger (Newsletter, December, 2001) the bush poetry should have "Australian Identity", I also think that it need not be traced back to the legendary bush poets. Take "Duckman" for instance (Newsletter, September, 2001). It would be difficult to trace metal detectors to Paterson. On the other hand "Halls Creek" in the same edition probably could. Yet both seem to fit the bill for "bush" poetry now. I think both have Australian identity But I may be wrong.

Bill McAtee.

This has sparked a nice little debate. What do other readers think? Please write to us with your views.

### Review of the Wireless Hill Challenge Heats

The Heats that were held on November and December of 2001 were a marked departure from Heats held in previous years in a number of different ways. Firstly there were two new categories introduced into the competition, for poets reciting their own or others poetry. The new categories restricted entrants to those who had not won previous Wireless Hill competitions (or equivalent). The idea was to open the competition up to newer members who have found it hard to compete against the might of Keith Lethbridge, Peter Capp, Ron Evans and company. This worked out fine with entries from 23 poets in the different categories. Of course the open competition was short of numbers, as the number of previous winners is quite small. Some of the Novice entrants actually entered the Open categories to bolster the numbers.

The second departure from previous years was that the results were evaluated across both heats, not on a heat-by-heat basis so as to ensure the highest possible standard was attained for the finals. As the Chief Judge Gary Cerie says, "We were pleased with the standard of the competition. This year there were no people trying to read and essentially all of the poets complied with the Australian Bush Poet form of verse. There was a good blend of contemporary and traditional poetry, light and dark in the texture. It will be a treat to see what the performers chose for the final, whether they perform different pieces or not.

"Having a two-heat event with all scores compared is a good idea, as previously we have had a weak heat where we were forced to qualify performers, followed by a stronger heat where better performers could not qualify.

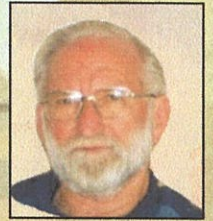
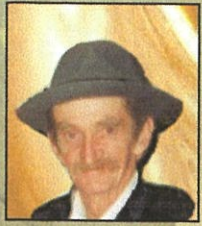
"The current system has resulted in 9 different people competing in 4 categories for the final, and will result in a new winner in each category, which is probably what the committee intended."

The Judges used judging sheets derived from the ABPA standard judging sheets, which are used in the ABPA Annual Competitions. On behalf of the Committee, we thank the judges for their successful completing of what must have been a very difficult task.

The overall organisation was greatly enhanced by Poets nominating their entry ahead of time, so that we were able to advertise the Heat programs in the Newsletter. Spot sampling the audiences at both heats, revealed that the audiences were generally attracted by the advertised quality of the evening. The fact that attendance was up by 23% on last year's heats was a confirmation of the sampling.

A big THANKS to all those that entered into the heats.

Geoff Bebb



# WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

A Year of the Outback 2002  
Event

R. Sutcliffe 92

## Finals Wireless Hill Challenge 2002



### Open Yarn Spinners

John Hayes

Rod Lee

Leigh Matthews



### Open Others' Poetry

Rusty Christensen

Rod Lee

### Open Own Poetry

Geoff Bebb

Chris Sadler



### Novice Own Poetry

John Hayes

Constance Herbert

Rod Lee

Kerry Lee

Leigh Matthews

### Novice Others' Poetry

Constance Herbert

Ron Ingham

Kerry Lee

Leigh Matthews



### Written Competition



### Schools' Written Competition



Wireless Hill Park, Ardross  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2002 (commences 1pm)

## Tom and the Dulkaninna Bunyip

Tom Noonan was a patron of the Dulkaninna Pub,  
A member of the RSL and of the local club,  
He was fond of liquor and was known to drink his share,  
And of his predilection the locals were aware.  
Irish to the backbone, he could spin a yarn or two,  
His tales were wild and woolly when he'd had more than a few.



One night, as he was weaving on his way from trough to trough,  
A terrifying monster leapt upon him with a cough.  
He gave a shriek of terror as he fled along the strand,  
He'd heard Australian Bunyips were partial to man.  
He'd read about the swagmen who had camped near Billabongs -  
Eaten by a Bunyip as their billies sang their songs.

"Oh, Begorah, God," he stuttered. "Get me out uv strife,  
Oi vow ter stay orf liquor if ye'll only save me life.  
Oi know oi've been a sinner, but oi've always done me best,  
Oi should not be in pieces when oi'm laid ter final rest.  
Oi'll tell me sins ter Bridget, and oi'll tell 'er oi 'ave strayed,  
Despite dire consequences, cause she's 'andy with a spade."

Tom's pleas were interrupted by another piercing shriek,  
And his pleas for mercy were reduced to just a squeak.  
He'd learnt about the banshees when a babe on mother's knee,  
He knew this awful animal intended him for tea.  
He'd seen a picture of one, such a huge and hairy beast,  
And he had no intention to be served up as a feast.

His heart was nearly bursting and he couldn't breathe at all,  
The monster was behind him; he could hear its dreadful call.  
Years of steady boozing hadn't kept him in good shape,  
And he was thickly padded by his penchant for the grape.  
He felt he'd been abandoned by his Maker in the sky,  
When his eardrums were shattered by a horrifying cry.

Pounding through the bulldust he saw McInerny's ute,  
"Get yer gun out, Mac," he ordered. "Kill the flamin' brute!"  
Cain't yer see it's nearly got me? Why yer starin', man?  
Yer a son uv Oiland! Show yer courage! Make a stand!"  
Macca stood there mystified at Tom's tormented howl,  
Claiming Tom demented; that his Bunyip was an owl.

"A biddy owl!" Tom snorted. Yer've 'ad too much flamin' grog!  
Cain't you see that Bunyip? Are yer standin' in a fog?  
Cain't yer see it's out ter get me? Cain't yer see I'm done?  
Ter end up a Bunyip's supper is not my sort of fun."  
He stumbled in a pothole, sprawling flat upon his face,  
"Shoot the barstid, Macca, 'fore he eats yer in me place."

Since Tom swore off alcohol, the pub has gone to hell,  
The club is now a discotheque, so is the RSL.  
The bank moved out; the shop's closed down, so townsfolk moved away,  
While Tom spends ev'ry waking hour upon his knees to pray.  
They say that he's a cot case now, and he won't go outside,  
He swears a Bunyip's prowling round that's out to get his hide.

## Bowman Furniture Industries P/L



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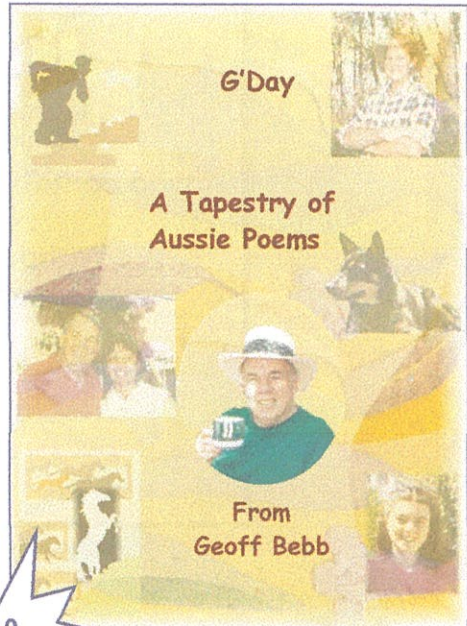
**Rod and Kerry Lee**, who would like to offer you quality furniture for your home or holiday cottage.

**Michelle Sorrell**, who has published her very colourful book "Fun Fur and Feathers". The book features her Art and Poetry, in a perfect marriage between the two art forms. **Only 5 books left in this edition.**

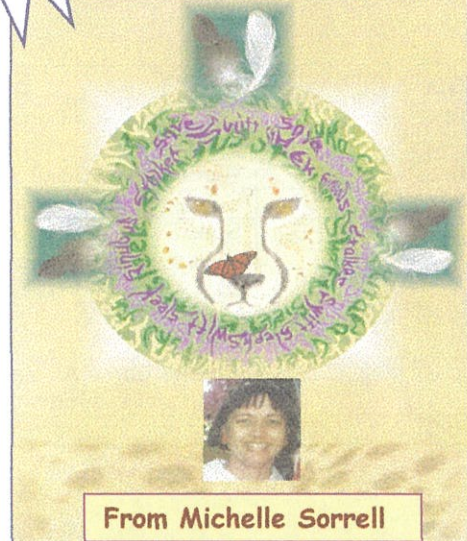
**Geoff Bebb**, who has published a new full-colour Poetry Book "G'Day a Tapestry of Aussie Poems". This book contains all the poems you've heard Geoff recite at CAY's. **Only 3 books left in this edition.**

Celebrate the **Year of the Outback 2002** with new poetry.

**\$10  
at  
CAY**



### Fun, Fur and Feathers



**From Michelle Sorrell**

### Committee Contacts Year 2001 – 2002

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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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Co-ordinator</b>
Frid 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2002	Come All Ye – Come and join us for our first CAY for 2002 – with a "Fun Theme"	MC Rusty Christensen - 9364 4491
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2002	<b>Wireless Hill Challenge Finals</b>	Geoff Bebb - 9367 4963
<del>17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup></del> Feb 2002	Boyup Brook Weekend <i>15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup></i>	Brian Gale - 9757 2431
Frid 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2002	Special Come All Ye Meeting at Piney Lake Reserve Melville, featuring Milton Taylor from East Coast and supporting Local Poets	Rod Lee - 9397 0409
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar 2002	Marybrook Winery poets evening and breakfast.	Lorelie Tacoma - 9310 1500
Frid 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2002	Special Come All Ye Meeting Featuring Peter Capp and supporting Local Poets	Barry Higgins - 94075311
Frid 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2002	AGM and Traditional Poetry Night	To Be Advised

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