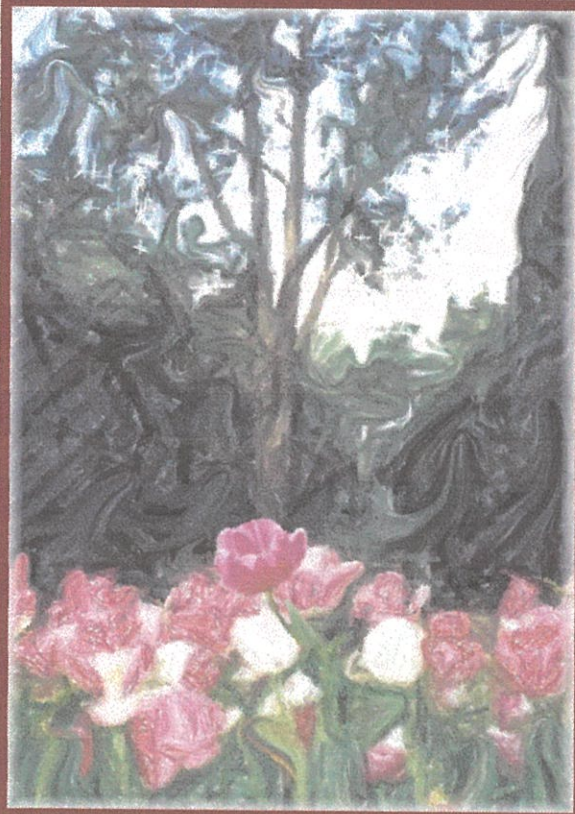


WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

\$2.50



Newsletter : September 2003



Araluen Tulips by M. Sorrell

**Spring has sprung,
The poetry season
has begun.**

**At all the heats and
Wireless Hill,
Join the poets and
get your fill -**

**Of poems and yarns
and so much more,
Tell your friends of
Oct. '04.**

**"Come All Ye" at Como Bowling & Recreation Club
Cnr of Hensman and Sandgate Sts. South Perth
Next Meeting Friday 5/9/2003 at 7.30pm**

A Word or Two from the Boss Cocky



What a great start to our serious planning for the Bush Poetry National Championships in 2004. I was truly impressed by the numbers and positive Enthusiasm shown at the meeting on August 13 at the Como Camp.

Despite having a backlog of domestic agenda items to get through and confusion of starting times (It's tough when the executive get it wrong) it was of tremendous help to get a cross section consensus of opinions of those present and from it some directions have emerged.

After firstly agreeing that we will have to allow for about 1000 for the final event, it was agreed that the most pressing decision is the venue and that after some healthy discussion of working group of Edna Westall, Rod Lee and yours truly would investigate the suggestions and report to the next meeting on **Sept. 10 , at 7:30 – same place.**

Other items to be addressed include promotion, sponsorship, accommodation, entertainment (of visitors), running the show, et al,s o there is much to be done. Please don't leave it to the 'few'.

Some willing members have ongoing or short term commitments which preclude them at present, so I urge ALL members (and their friends) to give positive thought to what they can do to make this exciting and challenging venture a success



Rusty Christensen

Michelle's Musings



Dear Readers,

It was indeed gratifying to see the response to our 2004 endeavours.

However we must not forget that there are a few things to do for 2003 and our Wireless Hill Competition. You will see inside this issue that **Keith Lethbridge** needs your written competition entries a bit earlier than stated last issue, so keep writing and creating - Leave me a few good poems to put in the newsletter as well.

Edna Westall with her friends **Joan Donaldson** and **Maxine Richter** have offered to put together and post the next two newsletters while I'm away. We still need one or two people to write up the CAYs for September and October. **All subs, newsletter articles, and news are to be sent to Kerry and Rod Lee (email if possible to diggers_camp@yahoo.com.au) by mid September. Their son Dave has volunteered to type up the remaining October issue. He needs information for pages 3, 5, and 7.** If there is too much material for that issue I shall put it in the November newsletter.

My next editorial should be from England or Switzerland where I will be lucky to be present for my son's 27th birthday.

Happy poeting. See you all in November.

Cheers, Michelle Sorrell

Come All Ye for August 2003

Geoff did the honours with the CAY notes this evening (whilst I was gallivanting around at a long lost friend's place).

I did manage the 2nd half - first witnessing **Margaret Taylor** building with Bill - "The House that Bill Built", a long time ago in Canberra. Margaret has a lovely calm style and sensitivity, at times flavoured with a hint of mischief and humour. **Trish Joyce** with her own 'Night Flight' fits into the above category along with **Kerry Lee** who recited "The Cure" by Graeme Brockhurst and "The Horse Breaker" by Veronica Weal. This calm style seems to characterise our best lady poets.

Indeed the overall flavour of the evening was derived mainly from poems about people's personal experiences. Events that were very real but 'stretched' a little to heighten the fun, sensitivity or drama. It's that real, raw, material - slliiiiiiightly embellished, straight from the heart that creates the best poems and yarns.

A number of new or newer faces took to the stage this evening including a young man with a 30 gallon barrel, a mouth organ and a guitar as his tools of the busking trade. **Mike Jones**, whom Rusty discovered in the City Mall, worked really hard with all of these instruments to entertain us in a novel way. This small departure from Bush Poetry was really refreshing. Thanks Mike, (and Rusty for bringing him along). Hope to see you again soon.

Peter Rondell - another new face presented his own "Charlie the Cook"; a delightful poem about a station cook. **David Ellis** told us his story of "An Aussie Mate" from his experience as a postmaster where the postmaster's bell was a breast-press nipple! Ouch! **Chris Nash** was also "Picking a Winner". Her own poem about blokes habits of picking their noses. **Frank Harrison** recited "Dossin out of Doors" and "Dry Blower Murphy" from the Sunday Times

Now for our regulars - much experienced poets who also give us a mixture of pathos and humour, classic and home grown poetry, diligently practised over many hours. **David Sears** recited "JP Justice". and "Blasted Crows" - both by Bob Magor who visited us the year before last.

Rod Lee recited an extremely apt poem for our times. It was so new that it hadn't been typed, had no title, nor was it even finished before the night. He recited it again at a Rotary meeting later and polished it up as he went. A true performer. **Rusty Christensen** recited "The Droving Days" by Paterson and "Sweeny" by Lawson to remind us of the classics and how they should be recited - two timeless, beautiful poems. Last but definitely not least of our blokes was **Arthur Leggett** who recited "Clydesdales" "The Funny Stuff Called Rain" and "The Swagman in the Billabong". Sensitivity was not left to the ladies after all.

By Geoff Bebb and Michelle Sorrell

Rusty and Ron's Northern Safari to see Cobber Lethbridge

Bush Poetry is certainly re-establishing in the Kimberleys. The **Boss Cocky** and the 'Late' **Ron Evans** travelled by bus (36 Hrs) to meet up with our mate Cobber in Derby where we performed in that town's sixth Bush Poet's Breakfast in the exotic Botanical gardens, which is a part of the swimming pool complex.

Over 300 locals and tourists (some from Broome) turned out to savour the barby brekky prepared by the enthusiastic committee who made us visiting poets welcome, including accommodation in the CWA House (blokes in the CWA!). We did two radio interviews on Saturday morning then had lunch and attended the Derby cup race meeting Saturday arvo and lunch on Sunday before we headed for the 'Core of the Kimberleys' - Halls Creek.

The standard of the performers was claimed by the regulars to be the best yet with compere Darren 'Dags' Cross doing a good job to balance the nine performers. The locals exhibited much improvement. Although not really a local, the last but by no means least 'Poet' was Brendan 'Croc' Boyce aka "The bastard from the Bush" - a real Kimberley character. Croc came in from the Fitzroy Crossing where he had been pulling beer for the previous six months and before that he had been a reptile wrangler at the N.T. crocodile ranch.

Cobber was concerned that the B. from the Bush was coming to Halls creek the next Sunday as suggested. Croc had allegedly been a stand-up comic for 15 years and his material was hardly suitable for the staid citizens of that tidy town. It certainly wouldn't meet our criteria as 'suitable for a family show' - nuff sed.

After an interestingly enjoyable week in Halls Creek as guests of Marion and Keith who were great hosts, Sunday dawned, despite much concern, promotion, work and a free hearty breakfast. The audience was down from the previous year, never the less the show went on and those who were lucky to be there enjoyed not only a free feed but a feast of Bush Poetry. Cobber was relieved when croc failed to show up as the local priest was on the bill and it could have been embarrassing. (For whom?)

Cobber sends his regards to his poetry pals in Perth (and Elsewhere). He has had his work situation sorted out and unfortunately for us, he has a further three year contract in Halls Creek.

The family has settled in to life in the East Kimberlies where he is doing good things with the local indigenous population. He has put out his latest book of verse "The Six Mile War" and in his words he is still alive and sinnin' and would make welcome friends passing through Halls Creek. **By Rusty Christensen**

Rod's poem is so new Kerry had to pry it out of his head to type it for the newsletter. How's that for instant creativity?

Rod certainly reflects most of our feelings on beaurocratic inefficiency.

Now here's an idea! Next time you are kept waiting in an office somewhere, recite this poem to pass the time and turn your frustration into a laugh.



The Great Aussie Malaise

I went down to my Local Government office
On the way home from work today.
I had a couple of queries,
And my Council rates to pay.

It was raining when I parked the car,
So I quickened up my stride.
Keen to keep from getting drowned,
And get myself inside.

But as I gave a hefty shove
On the office door
It didn't budge a bloody inch
And I bounced backwards to the floor.

I pulled myself together,
And stood up, albeit slow.
Then I saw a typed out notice
Stuck inside the window.



So I straightened up my glasses
To get the note in focus.
And to my surprise it stated,
" Office closed till further notice".

You see, our over-worked branch manager,
Has so many bylaws to enforce,
They have sent him off indefinitely,
On an intensive training course.

His assistant couldn't handle
The change to her routine.
So she tried to sort her problem out-
With the aid of nicotine.



The other day, while out the front,
Having her hourly smoke,
She finally snapped, chucked it in,
And took off with some bloke.

Well that upset her husband.
He's our Council Engineer.
Now he's gone off on stress leave,
And won't be back this year.

Our City Planner is a fine young man.
His type's the backbone of the nation.
But he's at home in traction-
On workers compensation.

He was helping our Accountant
Stack heavy boxes in a rack,
When he tried a manly show of strength,
And has now stuffed up his back.



You couldn't blame our Accountant.
She was due to have a baby.
Now she's gone on maternity leave,
But she'll be back again, well maybe.

There was another lady in accounts,
But would you believe.
She's worked here for ten long years,
And took Long Service Leave.

If you have an animal problem,
Don't call our Ranger, Mike.
'Cause he's a member of a union
That has just gone out on strike.

With my assistant at the counter,
We kept things going in a fashion.
'Till her dear old mum got crook
And they gave her leave to show compassion.

They sent me a replacement,
But the useless silly Bourke,
He got done for D.U.I ,
And now can't get to work.

So here I sit all on my own,
Poor lonely little Vicki.
But I'm coming down with Asian Flue,
And I'll have to take a Sickie

If the reading of this notice
Isn't enough to make you laugh.
They retrenched a couple a few weeks back,
'Cause they reckoned we were over staffed.

Well I was most indignant,
What a lot of Tommy Rot.
They ought'a take the whole damn lot,
And 'ave 'em bloody shot.

As as I walked back through the car park,
I began to sneeze and cough.
I'll 'ave to ring the boss tomorra',
An' take a few days off !

© Rod Lee



Profile on our Recent Past President

As we have so many new members over the last few years I thought I'd bring them up to date with our inaugural secretary and recently retired president.

Lorelie Tacoma spent her youth in Mt. Lawley. After Business College she began a secretarial career until her marriage in early 1955 to Eelco Tacoma took them to a one-teacher school at Marvel Loch, followed by a year at Rottneest Island. They then took off for a year in Europe and two years working in Canada before returning to Perth and further interesting secretarial positions until her retirement 5 years ago. Two happy years were spent traveling in Australia and the world before Eelco succumbed to cancer late in 1998.



Although "retired", Lorelie is President of the Winthrop/Murdoch Group and Vice President of the National Seniors, Melville Branch and Probis Association of WA. Lorelie has fostered the liaison between our Association and Melville City Council, which has granted us much support since our inception in 1995.

Concurrent with her last term as President of our Association, Lorelie has been fighting the government over the suspension of the continuation of the Rowe Freeway through the southern suburbs. She has helped mobilise 1000's of people to rallies.

She is now enjoying life after all this busy "2nd retirement" and has recently completed a trip to Broome. This month it's off to Europe for a friend's wedding in the Netherlands then a trip to Prague with friends. Well deserved too Lorelie.

Wireless Hill Written Competition 2003

As mentioned last issue, **Keith Lethbridge** has kindly offered to judge our Written Competition for this year. Keith is a very accomplished Bush Poet writer and reciter who has published 5 poetry books of his own over many years.

As Keith resides in Halls Creek but gets sent all over the west with his work it was decided that the entries should come in **earlier than the date set in the last issue**. Entries to come in no later than the **30th November 2003**. Late entries will not be considered.

To allow for absolute anonymity of the authors and impartiality, Keith has requested that the entries to be sent in to the Editor who will separate the names from the entry and give them a number before they are sent up to him for judging - in one bundle. With that in mind please send your entry to:- **The Editor WABP&YSA - Unit 1 / 8 Hill Street South Perth.**

Put your name and title(s) of the poem(s) on a covering letter
Do not put your name on the actual poetry itself.

Rules of Entry:-

- Maximum of 5 poems per author (\$5 per poem entry fee)
- Poems must have rhyme and rhythm
- Must have an Australian content (not necessarily rural)
- May be in serious, sensitive or humorous vein – but of good quality, without being unsavoury
- Not previously published or a previous winner of any other competition

Keith stresses that he will not be absolutely pedantic about abbreviations (though too many could spoil the poem). It's the sense and balance of the poetry that counts. Please have it typed, as handwriting can be dreadfully hard to read. The judge's decision is final. Please ensure you have a copy at home as the poetry cannot be returned.

BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION OF W.A THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISER EVER!



We need all your unwanted bras (any condition, any colour).

The Foundation's aim is to receive \$1 for every bra collected.

Collection boxes will be at all Target outlets from 1st August 2003.

Please Help

On 29th August 2003, all the bras (dyed purple) will be hung across the Chase, in the City, to create a spectacular canopy of bras to promote breast cancer awareness in our community.

Remember the Breast Cancer Foundation of W.A. Inc. is a Western Australian Charity run by volunteers.

All funds raised will go directly back to Western Australian women and their families affected by breast cancer.

Help us by spreading the word about collecting bras for this event.

**Breast Cancer Foundation of W.A. Inc. can be contacted by
 phone 9324.3703 or fax 9322.1950,
 P.O. Box Z5516, St. George's Terrace, Perth. 6831.
 info@breastcancer.org.au**



The Tulips of Araluen

The Araluen tulips
throw their petals to the sun,
petals strewn beneath a canopy of eucalypt and gum.

The Araluen patchwork,
blooms like a gaily coloured quilt,
on rugged Aussie hilltop without a trace of silt.

These Araluen migrants,
far from home across the seas
spread their multi-coloured accents, right across the Aussie
breeze.

The Araluen landscape,
welcomes these exotic blooms,
in a tapestry of colour to enrich our Aussie rooms.

The poem and the painting were created in 1999 after a visit to Araluen in full flower – about this time of year. I thought of the beauties of my European and Australian homes and how lucky I was to be able to enjoy both scenes first hand – as I will again this year through Geoff's generosity.

From the book,
"Fun, Fur and Feathers"
by Michelle Sorrell

JOHN CROTHERS

I never did meet you, John Crothers, old son,
But, reading your head stone, you had a good run.
You passed to your maker at age eighty-three,
A battling, forgotten bush poet, like me.
I doubt if your language was full of respect;
I doubt if your grammar was always correct;
You camped in the bush, so were most likely broke;
At risk of upsetting, I wouldn't mind betting
You wrote how you spoke.

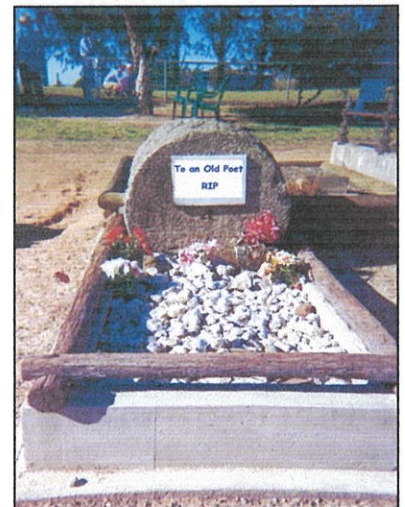
I never did meet you, John Crothers, old boy.
I wish I had some of your verse to enjoy.
I bet it was chock full of rhythm and rhyme,
With wonderful stories to capture the time.
Those hard working days in the mustering camps,
The rough riding ringers, the wandering tramps,
The diggers, the doggers, the gamblers, the crooks,
The mining surveyors, the drunken bait layers
Who called themselves cooks.



The good-looking sheilas, the black and the white,
The teachers, the preachers, good mates in a fight,
The walkers, the talkers, the foolish, the smart,
In tales of the out-back each one played a part.
God bless those old bush-men who gave it their best,
And now they've been peacefully laid down to rest.
I never did meet you, John Crothers, old lad,
For time is a miser, but as I grow wiser,
I wish that I had !

Old Town, Halls Creek. June 22 2002
© Keith Lethbridge

- ❖ In the Old Town (Halls Creek) cemetery, a plaque reads :
- "John Crothers, Bush Poet
Died 1970, aged 83."*



September and October Happenings - in short

This is the beginning of the busy period for Bush Poets. They are appearing all over the place.

There's the **Dardanup Festival** on the **19th October**. Raising funds for the Val Lishman Health Research Fund. So if you're down south to enjoy the flowers call in at the same time.

There are poets at the **Royal Show** from the **27th of September to 4th of October at the Outback Pavilion every day from 1.30 to 2.30**. This is becoming a very popular annual event.

The Veteran's Athletics Group which had poets at the Causeway last year are looking to repeat the experience a little further along at the Burswood Park on the **12th of October**. I know our own veteran athlete **Arthur Leggett** will definitely be there along with other poets.



So there, you can have poetry wherever you are- in the city in the country - be it near or far.

My poor long suffering, overworked printer has stopped working after four long years of battling with my daily demands. (In the middle of this newsletter printing!) That's the bad news. The good news is that I shall be getting a new A3 model soon with all the bells and whistles. Please bear with me if the next couple of months the newsletter is a bit patchy as I learn to fly it – especially with my going away in the middle of all this change. Michelle



In Memory of Laurence Walsh

One of our members – Laurence Walsh, passed away on the 30th of June 2003, after a battle with asbestosis. The Association would like to pass on its condolences to all his family and friends both inside and outside the association. According to his brother, he loved his poetry and copies of the newsletter will be kept for the family archives.

This space:

In the following issues we may have a little space for your advertising here and we will be starting a '**reports and updates**' section on the 2004 Championships proceedings.

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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

The Editor

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
	Annual Subscription Fees Now due	
27th Sept-4 th Oct 2003	Royal Show (1;30 – 2:00 daily)	Rod Lee – 9397 0409
12 th Oct 2003	Veterans Athletics – with poets at Burswood	Wayne Pantall – 9362 3715
19 th October 2003	<u>Dardanup Festival</u> Poets and Audience welcome- (Val Lishman Health Research Foundation Fundraiser)	Cath Chandler – 08 9780 7742 (For more general details as well as poets registration of interest)

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