

The

January 2021

W.A. Bush Poets

# BULLY TIN



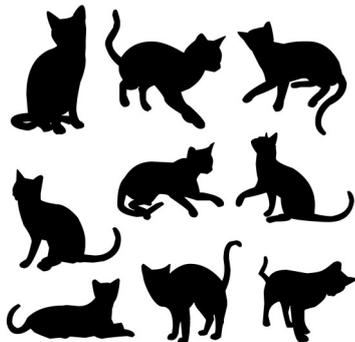
**Next Muster Friday 5th Feb 2021 at 7pm at Wilson Community Hall 40 Braibrise Rd, Wilson, near Leach Hwy and Manning Road. *No Muster in January 2021***

***Please note: It has been decided to continue holding our Musters at Wilson for the next 6 months.***

## A Country Vet's Misunderstanding

Animals, just like humans, sometimes get sick or badly hurt so a vet out in the country needs a sharp eye to keep on the alert for they see all kinds of ailments yet can't ask the patient for a clue but rely on know-how and experience then hope it will get them through. One vet received a call from an anxious client, there's always quite a few saying his pet was badly constipated, so what should he do? A rather poor reception meant the message wasn't clear so the vet thought it was a cow that had a blocked up rear. "A litre of castor oil down its throat should do the trick and call again tomorrow. If it hasn't worked I'll be there quick." Next morning the client rang again, having followed the advice off pat and he'd given a litre dose of castor oil to his cat. The vet was quite dumbfounded: "a cat - I thought you said a cow! that would have been a fatal dose, your cat must be dead by now" "Well, no, it isn't dead at all. I'm watching it now in fact it's out in our back garden along with nine other cats." "It's what?..nine other cats? What you're saying makes no sense and I need some explanation, don't keep me in suspense!" "Well, there's three are digging holes – they're very busy little mites then three others are filling in, and three looking for more fresh sites!"

Pete. Stratford. 1.7.19



## With His Dying Breath

They stood quietly around his bed for what else could they do? All there knew he was dying and the old chap knew it too. Just another worn out prospector who'd now run his final race, but he'd been a successful one and found gold's hiding place. Though many hunted for his diggings no matter how they'd tried all these years he'd kept it hidden. Would he speak before he died? Then as his lips began to quiver ears strained to what he'd say and he mumbled that old Barney had been his mate for many a day With him he'd shared the secret of a seam that was gold bearing then he gasped his final breath so didn't hear them swearing. For old Barney was a drunkard well known to all the miners and even worse, for many years he'd suffered from Alzheimer's!

Pete. Stratford. 18.6.20

**This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of KATE DOUST MLC and posted with the generous assistance of BEN WYATT, MLA - Member for Victoria Park. Thanks to Greg Roberts for doing our printing.**

## President's Preamble January 2021



The festive season didn't end up that way for WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners. We were extremely sad to lose three of our esteemed members who passed away during the month. Judy Christensen, widow of our founder Rusty Christensen was well known and highly regarded by many of our older members. Zan Mazanec also passed early December. Zan was greatly appreciated by many of our poets at musters and at Wireless Hill when he would video poets in action and quietly present us with DVDs of the performances.

Then we were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Wally Williamson in the week before Christmas. Wally was a great supporter of WA Bush Poets and a great support to Grace and her poetry. Wally was only a member for a few years as his singing practice night often coincided with muster nights. On the times when he came to musters, Wally often trod the boards reciting mostly from the classics, his favourite poem being the Banjo Paterson poem, "As Long as Your Eyes are Blue". We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Grace and her family, and look forward to the time she might be able to join us again.

The website has taken on a new look thanks to students from UWA. You might need to "refresh" if the old website comes up on your computer. It has some new features such as "Hover Boxes" – if you hold the cursor over a poet it will open his page for his/her story and contact details. We are again looking for a new webmaster but in the meanwhile Meg and I are keeping it updated.

To date our Crystal Swan performances have not been listed on the Fringe World website. I have been assured that we will be listed and tickets available early in the New Year. Go to [www.fringeworld.com](http://www.fringeworld.com) and search for bush poetry on the swan. I will email all members for whom I have an address as soon as we are listed.

If you have not received an email from me in the last month it may be that your email address is not up to date on our membership list. Can you please contact me at [billgordon1948@gmail.com](mailto:billgordon1948@gmail.com) and I will update or add you to the mailing list. Note this is only to receive emails from me or a member of the committee, it is not for emailing the Bullytin.

Rob Gunn will be MC at Wireless Hill on Australia Day and Terry Bennetts will be providing the music. The long range weather forecast is for 30 degrees with a gentle sea breeze. Whether this happens or not, make sure you are at Wireless Hill with your picnic and friends. You can be assured of great entertainment and great company. See You There.

Wishing all our members and friends a Safe and Happy New Year.

Bill Gordon. President

**Tickets for 'Bush Poetry on the Swan' will be available on the Fringe Festival site as of Saturday 9th Jan**  
[fringeworld.com.au/how-to-buy-tickets](http://fringeworld.com.au/how-to-buy-tickets)

**Bush Poetry on the Swan**  
One hour show starting at 4.30pm  
on board the 'Crystal Swan', Perth's floating function venue  
Barrack Street Jetty

**Five Shows Only**  
Friday 15 January  
Saturday 16 January  
Friday 22 January  
Saturday 23 January  
Friday 29 January

Perth **WORLD FRINGE Festival 2021**

Crystal Swan

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS

Thank you



*MP Kate Doust and staff member Greg Roberts with the citation- Greg and another staff member Jesamine print the magazine and print the addresses on envelopes, and also fold and insert them into the envelopes; Sec Rodger then delivers them to the office of MP Ben Wyatt, where staff attach the stamps and post them out. Mr Wyatt was not in today, so staff member Sara McBride accepted the citation.*

**We award this citation to Kate Doust, MLC, South Metropolitan Division, Ben Wyatt, MLA, Member for Victoria Park, and staff.**

**The West Australian Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association is a not-for-profit organisation, formed in 1996, currently comprising more than 100 bush poets, and other members of the general public who have an interest in this art form. One of our principal functions is to encourage and nurture the creation of bush poetry by all potential authors, young and old. We also hold regular functions where any interested person can recite poetry, published or original, ranging from the traditional works of yesteryear, right up to those of recent times.**

**Another important function of our Association is the publication of our monthly magazine, the Bully Tin. Its collation, printing and distribution is the result of much effort and support from several quarters. In particular, the printing of the Bully Tin and the postage envelopes is carried out through your office, Ms Doust, and the mailout is organized through your office, Mr Wyatt. The Association greatly appreciates your contributions, which are performed swiftly and efficiently, saving us a great deal of time, effort and expense.**

**It is with great pleasure we now express our gratitude to you, Ms Doust, and to Greg Roberts and your other office staff, and to you Mr Wyatt and your office staff, in recognition of your valuable input to our ongoing success.**

# WA BUSH POETS



Present the

26th Annual Annual



# Bush Poetry Showcase

With Traditional & Contemporary Performances,  
by W.A.'s top Bush Poets

Plus music by

**Terry Bennetts**

# AUSTRALIA DAY

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021

# Wireless Hill Park, Ardross

Commencing 1.00pm

**MC Rob Gunn**

FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED

Bring your family & friends, a chair or blanket to sit on, sun protection  
some refreshments and then sit back and enjoy the show

WABP&YS Information can be found at [www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au)  
or Phone Rodger 0419 666 168 or 9332 0876 or Bill 0428 651 098

Proudly Sponsored by:



— City of —  
**Melville**



## Snapshots & News

Left to right Alan Aitken,  
Jim Riches, Peg Vickers,  
Rob Gunn, 'Cobber' Lethbridge,  
Roger Cracknell, Barry Higgins,  
Bill Gordon, Stinger Nettleton at  
Nambung 2020

## 2020 WA State Champ

\* John Haynes \*



## 2020 Bronze Swagman Award

**Winner:** Marco Gl'iori, Warwick Qld *Fumbles*

**Runner-up:** Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge, Armadale W.A. *Crocodile*

### Highly Commended:

Robert Raftery, Greenbank, Qld. *The Black Rose*  
Heather Searles, Branxton, N.S.W. *The Handshake*  
Irene Dalgety Timpone, Atherton, Qld. *Remembering Bill the Bastard*  
Brenda Joy, Charters Towers, Qld. *The Deluge of the Plains*  
Kelly Dixon Mundubbera Qld. *Sullivan*

**Tim Borthwick Memorial Award** to a poet not yet published in the  
Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse: Heather Knight, Wentworth  
Falls, N.S.W. *A Single Blackened Post*

### Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse 2020:

*amongst the many poets included are our own members -*

Crocodile (R.U.)	Keith Cobber Lethbridge
The Stories Never Told	Keith Cobber Lethbridge
Lambo Station	Keith Cobber Lethbridge
Digger Takes a Bride	Keith Cobber Lethbridge
Daydreams	Terry Piggott
The Fireys	Terry Piggott
Mildews Dilemma	Keith Cobber Lethbridge
Charlie Wasn't Posh	Peter O'Shaughnessy
The Tiger Moth	Peter O'Shaughnessy
My Old Mate	Peter O'Shaughnessy
A Master Chef	Peter O'Shaughnessy

## NEWS FROM BUNBURY BUSH POETS GROUP

The Bunbury Bush Poets Group met for the first time post Covid 19 at a different venue, the Parade Hotel. Our old venue, the Rose Hotel is still using the space we occupied for meals.

This meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 starting at the earlier time of 06:00pm.

Thanks Ian Farrell for finding the alternative location and organizing the event.

We had 18 people turn up with 7 people performing. Special thanks to Robert Gunn from Yunderup, who attended the meeting and the barman Tom who readout one of his own poems.

***Our next meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 again at the Parade Hotel.***

## News Flash for all members

The webpage is up and running, please have a look at: [www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au) All our coming events are noted there. Still working out how to display items but there is fun in learning!

Poet bios are being updated but will have a break for Christmas before more work is done there.

If anyone has electronic copies of the Bullytin that are not listed on website, I would appreciate obtaining them so they can be kept for posterity.

The Archives have been saved from the old website and will be posted when more experience is obtained in that area. In the archives there is a list of books in our library which will need to be updated and I have had an offer of assistance with this but it won't happen until after the Festive season and access to the library at Bentley is once again established. In the mean time, if anyone has library books, a call to Rhonda Hinckley would help her greatly.

Your patience with the new website updates will be appreciated.



***PS - Just for fun ....***

***There could be one or a few deliberate typos, kudos to all who spot and report to Meg via email on the QT***

# Happy New Year

## Procrastination a true story

My father always told me I should not procrastinate,  
I should not put off till later things I never should do late,  
I should make a list if needed of the things that needed done,  
He said wise words a plenty but considered these the one,

The one I should remember until my dying day  
Girlie I tell you this remember, what ever else you do or say,  
"Do not put of until tomorrow what you should do today"  
so I went my way reciting, do what you should today,

My mother heard these wise words and she said what I believe  
"Is never put of till tomorrow," wise words and true indeed !  
"I say Never put of till tomorrow," but she added a wise rider!  
"Never put of till tomorrow what you can delay till the day after!"

Heather Denholm



## Leaving Twenty Twenty

We leave twenty twenty, heads full; muddled thought.  
So much that we've questioned, a lot we've been taught.  
With climate change, all lives and Covid so mixed.  
Still waiting for answers; can these all be fixed?  
There's always been turmoil in this world we live,  
But past year has bruised nerves, crushed tight through same sieve.  
Take time to reflect on the good moments shared;  
Rejoice in the knowledge of how many cared.  
Be grateful for small things, hold anger at bay.  
Your heart open wide and let love guide the way.  
Be patient; take deep breath when problems arise.  
Look through for solutions, explore compromise.  
For life is a circus and we are mere clowns;  
Our pictures show good times and also some frowns.  
The New Year approaches there's no holding back  
On January one as all jump out the 'sack'  
Together we'll face it, hold onto our nerve.  
Resilient; stood strong as we stare down each curve.  
Life's mad roller coaster; we ride to new dawn.  
Own journey each travel; brave face on, don't fawn.

© DM-InVerse (Deb McQuire) - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020

Interest was shown in the hand towel given as a gift so I am offering to make them for any who wants them, with or without the 2020 included. - \$12 each.

If anyone wishes to contact me Messenger Heather Denholm with an ANZAC avatar.

or SMS 0429052900.



**W.A. Bush Poets**



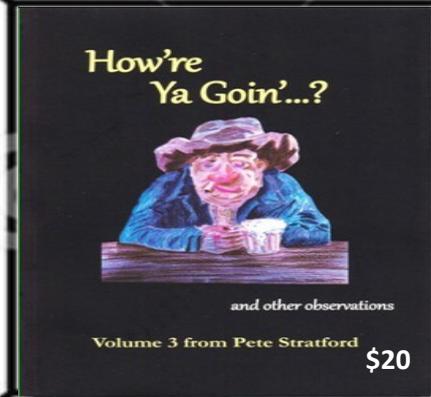
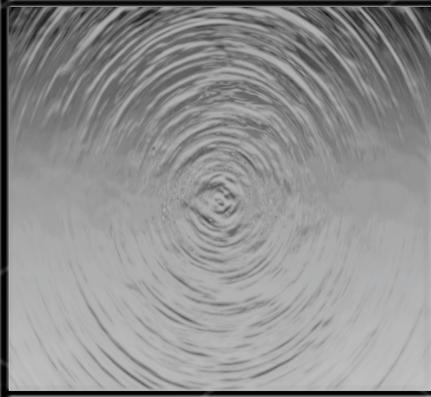
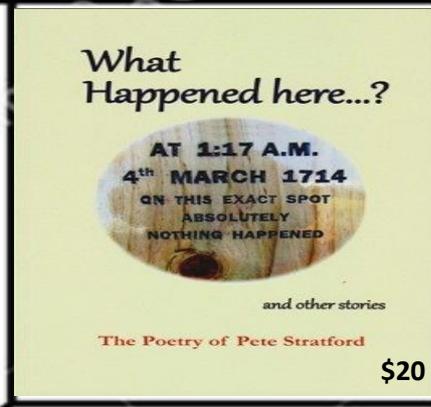
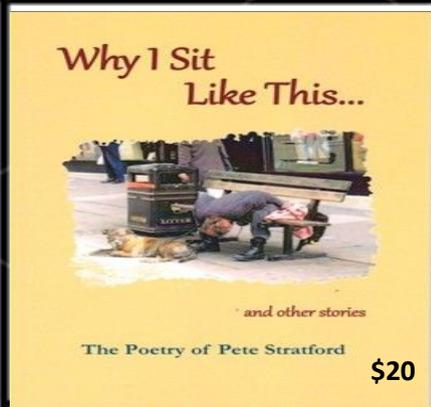
**& Yarnspinners Assn.**





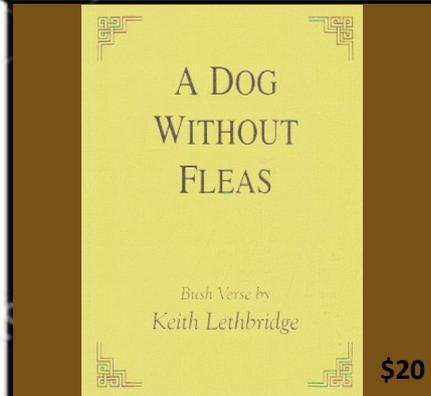
# Shop Window

Author - Pete Stratford



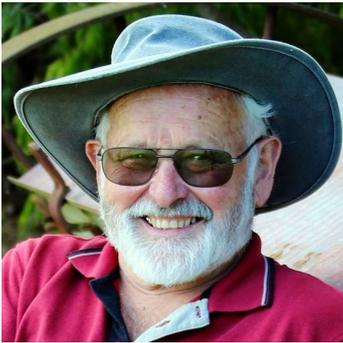
'Cobber' has 6 books of bush poetry & a CD (compiled & donated to him by the Derby bush poets).

- \* Rough Rhymes for Tough Times.
- \* The Legend of Mother McQ.
- \* Wild Camel Stew (& Even Worse Verse).
- \* The Six Mile War.
- \* Damper & Tea.
- \* A Dog Without Fleas



Author - 'Cobber' Keith Lethbridge

# Meet the Poets in the Window



## Pete Stratford

I was born in New Zealand and lived there well into adulthood. Being raised in a rural community means that farm life has a significant influence on what I write.

Changing career path later in life I served over a decade as care worker/counsellor, employed on night shifts in a shelter for homeless people. Along with interests in photography and the world of nature in general, this background gives me a rich source of material to draw from.

I like to write about the funny side of life and sometimes topics a bit more serious, but all of my poems have something to say about the way I have observed the world.

Poems to make you laugh or think!

If you would like copies of my books, please contact me here: [pdstrat@bigpond.com.au](mailto:pdstrat@bigpond.com.au)

\$20 per copy (postage free within Australia)

Signed &/or inscribed by author (if requested)

Direct Deposit preferred payment

## Keith Lethbridge 'Cobber'

Good evening folks, fellas and females. My first job was at the Ord River, from February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1963, employed as a farm-hand for the Ag Department, just out from where Kununurra now stands. That's good country for bush yarns and rhymes, so I tried my hand.

Later, I worked through most of WA, from Esperance to Wyndham and from Geraldton to Warburton and through to the SA and NT borders. Most of my work was for government, involving Aboriginal health, or corporate governance and development of Aboriginal owned cattle stations (to cut a long story short). Currently I'm employed 3 days a week as a counsellor / yarner in the Armadale area, for a non-profit organisation. (No heavy lifting!) When not earning a quid, I pursue hobbies of music, naturopathy, bush walking, camp-fire cooking, square dancing and, of course, bush poetry.

For many years, Rusty Christensen kept me honest in rhythm and rhyme, while my wonderful wife Maricor, great family and other magnificent mates have blessed me with more love and support than I ever deserved. I hope you'll find something to enjoy within the pages of my books, or on the CD.

Best wishes,

*Cobber*

I have 6 books of bush poetry & a CD (compiled & donated to me by the Derby bush poets).

The books are:

- Rough Rhymes for Tough Times.
- The Legend of Mother McQ.
- Wild Camel Stew (& Even Worse Verse).
- The Six Mile War.
- Damper & Tea.
- A Dog Without Fleas.



The CD is called: "Good morning folks, fellas & females. Cobber & his mates at Derby."

I ask \$20 for each item. They can be ordered by email at [keithlethbridge@hotmail.com](mailto:keithlethbridge@hotmail.com)

Also I have many unpublished rhymes, which I'm happy to send free to anyone with an email address.

My 'phone number is 08 9399 2589 or 0437 336 296 if anyone wants to discuss.

## COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND

### AUSTRALIA 2021

WRITTEN EVENTS are in RED

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)

**Entries for the 2021 50th Annual Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse are now open with information at [www.bronzeswagman.info](http://www.bronzeswagman.info) Jeff Close, Hon Co-ordinator [closeandmoller@gmail.com](mailto:closeandmoller@gmail.com)  
Closing Date 30th April 2021**



### FEBRUARY

**5 February - Closing Date - Milton Show Society Bush Poetry.**  
March. Milton NSW.

**10 February - Closing Date - Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Youth Competition.**  
High school and primary school sections. Orange NSW.

**13-21 February - Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival.**  
Orange NSW.



### MARCH

**6 March - Milton Show Society Bush Poetry.**  
8 am Poets' Breakfast and 11 am competition.  
5 February Closing Date.  
Milton NSW.

### APRIL

**Thursday 8 April to Sunday 11 April 2021**  
**The Man From Snowy River**

*It may be wishful thinking for those in WA to be able to attend live events in other states this year but its nice to dream and the celebration of Bush Poetry lives on despite Covid*

**30 April 2021 - Closing Date**  
**50th Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse.**  
Winton, Queensland.



### SEPTEMBER

**INVITATION** You are cordially invited to attend the celebrations for the 50th Bronze Swagman Award For Bush Verse to be held in Winton on Monday 20th September 2021 at Windemere Station, just out of town.

**Please Note:**  
**These upcoming events may be altered due to ongoing Covid Restrictions across Australia, please check with on relevant websites and with contacts for confirmation as the year progresses**



### Dusty Swag Awards

The Dusty Swag Awards for written poetry were established in 2000 by Patron Rex Tate to encourage poets and storytellers to record the stories of Australia, its unique landscape and its unsung heroes. These awards are being reopened in 2020 and entries are invited from Poets and Storytellers of all ages.

For conditions and entry form link to <https://www.abpa.org.au/events.html> or contact Christine Middleton [Christine.mi@bigpond.com](mailto:Christine.mi@bigpond.com)

## Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2019- 2020

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter “Stinger” Nettleton	0407 7700 53	stinger@iinet.net.au
<b>Secretary</b>	Rodger Kohn - <i>Bully Tin Mail Out</i>	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Hill	0418 941 016	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com
<b>Committee</b>			
Irene Conner	- <i>State Rep APBA</i>	0429 652 155	iconner21@wn.com.au
Meg Gordon	- <i>Toodyay Festival Sec.</i> - <i>ABPA committee</i>	0404 075 108	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Bev Shorland		0487 764 897	shorland@iinet.net.au
Bob Brackenbury		0418 918 884	brack123@gmail.com
Robert Gunn	- <i>Sound gear set up</i>	0417 099 676	gun.hink@hotmail.com
Rhonda Hinkley	- <i>Librarian</i>	0417 099 676	gun.hink@hotmail.com
<b>Not on the committee, but taking on the following tasks:</b>			
Deb McQuire	- <i>Bully Tin editor</i>	0428 988 315	deb.mcquire@bigpond.com
Tony Hill	- <i>Supper &amp; BT Mail out</i> - <i>Web Master contact c/- Pres</i>	0418 929 493 0428 651 098	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com billgordon1948@gmail.com

### **Regular Events**

<b>WA Bush Poets:</b>	1st Friday each month <i>MC for Feb</i> Tess Earnshaw Ph.0407 385 872 <a href="mailto:fmlady@westnet.com">fmlady@westnet.com</a> - 7pm Wilson Community Hall 40 Braibrise Rd, Wilson
<b>Albany Bush Poetry group:</b>	Last Tuesday each month Ph. Peter Blyth - 9844 6606 - 7.30pm 1426 Lower Denmark Rd, Elleker
<b>Bunbury Bush Poets:</b>	1st Monday every 2nd month Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243 - Rose Hotel Cnr. Wellington & Victoria St Bunbury or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636
<b>Geraldton Bush Poets:</b>	2nd Tuesday each month Ph. Roger & Jan Cracknell - 0427 625 181 - 6pm Rec. Rm, Belair Caravan Park, Geraldton. or Irene Conner - 0429 652 155. * Bring and share snacks for tea.
<b>Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:</b>	1st Wednesday each month. Ph. Paul Browning - 0416 171 809 - 6.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie

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.