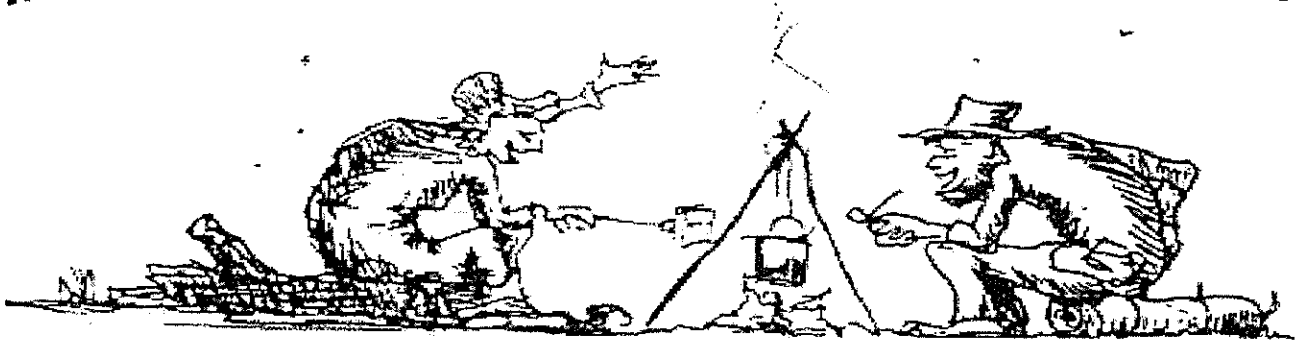


WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



Return Address: The Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, WA 6150

Newsletter September, 1999

FOUR DAY WORKSHOP on POETRY WRITING SKILLS

The art of writing contemporary bush poetry has emerged as a strong interest within our membership, and the request for instruction has thus been met by providing an opportunity for you to participate in a Workshop on Poetry Writing Skills. This workshop will be held in November.

If you are (or know) someone who would appreciate some guidance in the construction of verse, this is the chance of a lifetime. 1999 Bronze Swagman Award winner for written poetry, Queensland's talented Carmel Randle has agreed to be our Workshop Leader and facilitator. Held over four sessions of two and a half hours, the workshop will take place in the new Melville Community Centre on the corner of Stock Road and Canning Highway (halfway between Perth and Fremantle). The course is exceptional value at just \$10 per person for the complete 10-hour course to be run over four mornings or four afternoons.

The workshop is open to all aspiring writers of rhyming verse, and members are encouraged to spread the word to introduce their acquaintances to the pleasures of Australian bush poetry. **Act now.**

SCHEDULE FOR WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Friday	Nov 12	not available	1.30 to 4 p.m.
Sunday	Nov 14	11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.	not available
Monday	Nov 15	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	1.30 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday	Nov 16	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	not available
Wednesday	Nov 17	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	1.30 to 4 p.m.
Thursday	Nov 18	not available	1.30 to 4 p.m.

Once numbers are known, there may be some flexibility for swapping a session within the one day.

To assist with the organisation of sessions, please include any "sticky dates" in your registration.

REGISTRATION

A brief note of registration should be mailed to reach the secretary no later than 1st November, 99. Required for registration is Name and Telephone, your preference for morning or afternoon sessions, and these details should be accompanied by payment of the \$10 fee per person.

Address your registration to The Secretary WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Assn, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Tce, Murdoch, 6150

For a brief profile of Carmel Randle, the Leader of the Bush Poetry Writers Workshop, turn to the last page.

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSN. INC.
President's Report to A.G.M. held on 9th July 1999

Another year has passed and our young association is beginning to show positive signs of maturity.

Membership has reached 140; the heats and final of our annual championship event were handled with an air of professionalism, thanks largely to Kel Watkins' vast experience. The first time that we have a cool Australia Day we will have an audience of 1000! The 38 to 40 degree heat for the last two years has deprived hundreds of people from enjoying some true blue Australian entertainment. It can only get better.

The dual champion (poetry and yarns) Peter Capp was justly rewarded for some creditable earlier near misses and has since contributed in a positive manner to the activities of the Association. It is gratifying to see members coming forward to put their shoulders to the wheel.

From Derby to Donnelly River and points in between – Corrigin (the Dog in the Ute show), Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Northcliffe, Wongan Hills (Wonder what the Wongan crops are like?), our members have appeared (and performed), spreading the fun and message of bush poetry. There is movement in the municipality of Albany and seeds have been sown in Esperance. Let's hope that in the coming year the movement in Albany results in an active group of bush poets and the seeds sown in Esperance produce a healthy crop.

As I see it, that is one of the major functions of our organisation – spreading the message of bush poetry and yarnspinning with its attendant appreciation of the rich Aussie tradition.

Another major function is to encourage writers and performers of all ages and it is with a degree of joy and satisfaction that at last, the association, through its growing maturity, is launching a schools' competition, the first year for primary schools only, and for this we are indebted to Joan Macneall and Ron Evans. There is also the open poetry competition to be run and judge by our stalwart mate, Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge. On behalf of all members I wish these workers well in their endeavours and we trust that both of these innovations will blossom into outstanding contributions to the conservation and promotion of the Australian idiom.

In last year's report I mentioned the yarnspinning segment of our activities and its merits or otherwise. There has been a tendency to confuse this with telling jokes, which is not what we are about. I have noticed that some of the well known events in that other country across the sea of sand are now making much play about yarnspinning, so maybe we were ahead of the pack when we included it initially and how fortunate we are to have in our ranks a yarnspinner of the calibre of the twice national champion Kel Watkins as a role model and mentor. Let's work at it.

(Continued on page 4)

At the July 'Come All Ye' gathering, the membership and followers were treated to the first public rendition of what is sure to become the Anthem of WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn. Written by talented Maisie Davey, she encouraged members to learn the words and sing along. As the Riverview room burst into song that night, Maisie played the rolling pin and was accompanied by husband Mike on guitar.

Words and music devised by Maisie Davey are published on page three.

WA BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS SONG © Maisie Davey - July 1999

WA BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS' SONG
Words and music © Maisie Davey – July 1999

CHORUS: -

Now come along you Bush Poets all
Now come along you Yarn Spinners
It's time for you to tell your tales
And maybe earn your dinners

1 There's plenty of things to write about
out there in the old outback
just get your thinking caps right on
till you are on the right track

REPEAT CHORUS

2 There's tales of snakes and spiders too
and then there's tales of camping
of Bushmen and their dogs called 'Blue'
while down the tracks they're tramping

REPEAT CHORUS

3 There's drovers' poems and diggers' yarns
and stories of their doings
of some of them who like a bet
and end up being ruined

REPEAT CHORUS

4 Reciting – well, it's thirsty work
and yarning makes your throat dry
so now around the bar we'll lurk
"Let's have some beer!" we'll all cry

REPEAT CHORUS X 2

WHEN GRANDPA COOKED THE RICE

© Margaret 'Peg' Vickers, Elleker

Grandma was off to catch a bus
To go to Doolan's Creek
And truly hoped her better half
Could manage for a week.
Grandpa said, "Of course I can,
I'm fit and I am able,
Any fool can wash and cook
And put food on the table."
When at last he was alone
He thought it would be nice
To open up a tin of beans
And cook himself some rice.
Now knowing rice can be prepared
In many different ways
He thought it wise to cook enough
To last for several days.
He filled the largest saucepan up
Then found to his surprise
As fast as it was cooking
It was doubling in size.
Though Grandpa did the best he could
It wasn't long before
There was rice in every saucepan
And expanding ever more.
But possessing all the brilliance
Of a most resourceful man
He soon overcame the problem
With an innovative plan.
But on that very afternoon
Completely unexpected
Grandma wandered back inside
Looking quite dejected.
She hadn't got too far at all
Beyond the edge of town,
When like a dying elephant
The bus had broken down.
So Grandma had a cup of tea
And ate a piece of cake,
She said, "All this exertion
Has caused my bones to ache;
I think I'll have a nice hot bath
That would be rather nice."
"You can't do that," Grandpa exclaimed
"The bath is full of rice."

Our hearty congratulations are extended to Peg Vickers, who was recently advised that her entry into the Bronze Swagman competition has been selected to be included in the annual Bronze Swagman Book of Verse. Well done, Peg.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE 1999-00

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn inc.

K.J. 'Rusty' Christensen (President)
Ron 'Banjo' Evans (Vice President)
Lorelie 'The Scribe' Tacoma (Secretary)
Trevor Cooksley (Treasurer)
Kay 'Pelican Stone' Stehn (Editor &
Membership Registrar)

Joan Macneall (Publicity Officer)
Peter 'Cappy' Capp
David Redwood
Peter 'Stinger' Nettleton
Kel 'The Man from Elsewhere' Watkins
Geoff Bebb
Barry Higgins
'Peddlin'' Peter Galton

W.A. BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSN. INC.
President's Report to A.G.M. held on 9th July 1999

(continued from page 2)

It is par for the course that it is difficult to get folk to volunteer some of their precious time in administering any group or organisation. Ours is no exception except for the fact that we probably get more humour, laughs, quips and asides per item than most due to the types that we attract. We are extremely fortunate to have a secretary of the calibre of Lorelie Tacoma, who, despite the tragic loss of her husband, companion and off-sider, Eelco, through the year, has regrouped and is as helpful, thorough and efficient as ever.

Another silent servant is Kay Stehn, the editor of the still unnamed newsletter and membership registrar, now domiciled in Albany. With the aid of modern technology and not a little prompting and prodding of her contributors, Kay delivers our excellent bi-monthly information sheet, which is becoming increasingly important as the membership grows and becomes more diversely spread across the State.

The committee was enhanced this last year by the inclusion of an old school and Rostrum friend of mine, Hector Jackson. Hector made an invaluable contribution with his in-depth thought-provoking analyses of some tricky situations.

A recruit from the Donnelly River weekend was 'Peddlin'' Peter Galton who has not only emerged as a much improved performer but did a thorough job of preparing a submission to the Lotteries Commission for a portable sound system.

These two members, along with John and Anne Hayes, have signified that they will not be continuing on the committee. They have certainly made a contribution. Their absence makes room for others to step forward. We make the committee meetings as convenient, brief and enjoyable as possible and nobody is asked to do more than they are capable of doing.

The bean-counter, Trevor Cooksley, has been with us since before Day 1 (early 1995). With a little help from his friends, and despite having a business to run together with his music and personal commitments, he manages to keep our financial situation in hand.

There are others --- Peter 'Stinger' Nettleton, Joan Macneall, Ron 'Banjo' Paterson, Peter 'Cappy' Capp and the missing but not forgotten Jeff 'The Wharfie' Swain --- all have contributed and are appreciated.

The regular monthly COME ALL YE nights could be rated a success with a consistent attendance of between 60 and 80 turning out to see and hear a wide variety of performances. It is still the best show in town for the price!

With the popularity of Poets' Breakfasts well known and established elsewhere, I feel the time may be right for someone or some organisation somewhere to stage a regular poets' breakfast. The scope is wide for a charity or whatever, providing they have a well-situated and suitable venue. I'll leave it at that.

As evidence of the fact that I enjoy meeting and interacting with the members and supporters of the bush poets and yarn spinners with all their diverse characteristics I am happy to put myself forward as President to take the happy group into the next century so that we can collectively do our bit to not only conserve the spirit of, but to ADVANCE AUSTRALIA!

K.J. (RUSTY) CHRISTENSEN, President

THE ALBANY CAMP INVITES YOU TO VISIT THE RAINBOW COAST

Having enjoyed the performances and company of Carmel Randle in 1997, those of us who were lucky enough to meet her are delighted she is returning to the West in November this year. Somehow she included a lightening tour of the South-West in her trip last visit, but sadly was advised to "miss Albany, it's too far to go." This time, following the Poetry Writing Workshop, Carmel has accepted an easy four-and-a-half-hour drive (including breaks) from Armadale, on a good straight road to check out Albany. The Albany devotees of Bush Poetry hope many other members will do the same. In anticipation, much has been planned for the Weekend of 19th, 20th, 21st November whilst Carmel is here.

ENTERTAINMENT SATURDAY NIGHT 20th NOVEMBER

The Albany Country Music Club will host the Saturday night performance of Bush Poetry and Yarnspinning at Webb Park, a rural setting surrounded by bush. Enjoy the country ambience of the machinery shed, strewn with hay bales for seating. Your participation will be encouraged, so bring your instrument, a song and a yarn. Webb Park is on Chester Pass Rd (between the Strawberry Farm & Wignall's Winery) BYO everything 7.30pm till late. BBQ fires and microphones for instruments provided.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU SUNDAY MORNING 21st NOVEMBER

Planned for Sunday Brunch 10.30 till noon, is an informal gathering of poets and yarnspinners at Emu Point where beautiful Oyster Harbour flows through a narrow channel to the King George Sound. Recitals on the verandahs of Cravings Waterfront Bistro overhung by peppermint trees. Food available from Cravings.

ACCOMMODATION 19th & 20th NOVEMBER

Discovery Inn is definitely a good option for accommodation.

Full of country atmosphere with its large dining room and fire, plus the fact that the rooms are arranged around a sheltered, covered courtyard filled with plants and tables and chairs, members can expect a congenial weekend. Beds are fresh and comfortable and the rooms are very pleasantly furnished in pioneer style. Situated at Middleton Beach it is very convenient to everything. The breakfast is more than you can wish for, 3 or 4 cereals, compote of 2 or 3 fruits, toast and a choice of several jams and marmalade, plus peanut butter, vegemite, and so on, eggs, bacon, sausages, tomato, baked beans, tea and coffee. Select and eat as much as you wish. There is a communal tea making station (and fridge) available at all times.

There is mixed accommodation for 23 people, with rooms accessed by an internal verandah around three sides of the covered courtyard. There is one bathroom and toilet for the ladies and one for the men in the fourth wing of the verandah. Sorry, there are no facilities for children.

Normal rates for that weekend are as follows...

Number, and cost per room for Bed and breakfast

2 x single rooms ... \$35/night..... 5 x double ... \$55/night..... 1 x queen ... \$55

3 x twin/night ... \$55..... 1 x triple room/night (1 double bed & 1 single) ... \$73

Right now, we can book the whole place for the entire weekend (Friday/Saturday night). Normal rates may be discounted if we register our interest early enough. An advance booking is advised.

We also need to hear from those people wishing to caravan, or camp out, so that free grounds can be arranged. It may be possible to arrange for some free home billets, but be quick in your request.

Please register your interest early

By mail to Kay Stehn, 5 Bell Court, Bayonet Head, ALBANY, 6330

Your letter should include

Name, Phone (or other contact) number, number of people in your party, accommodation preference, number of BBQ packs required, number of bookings at the Bistro.

Bush Poets Breakfast – Derby – July 18 1999

Last year was the first year I pulled it together and it came about because having come from down south and attended a number of country music festivals, among them Boyup Brook where I experienced a Bush Poets Breakfast. Listening to the 'big brother' station one morning, chanced on Bob Magor giving a live interview & performance from Tamworth where he extended an invitation for phone calls for him to attend events. One phone call was all it took and we had the basis of our Bush Poets Breakfast. Luckily Bob loves this part of the world in July and has passed through a few times. A timely article on 'Boss Cocky' appeared about the same time in the Sunday Times and another phone call assured we had a further guest. 'Cobber', Keith Lethbridge, just happened to be floating around the area at the time, and made a detour to Derby and with his magic little family, helped make last year's Bush Poets Breakfast the success that it was. Local talent emerged, and the talented musicians up here added a special flavour with their heartfelt songs of the Kimberleys and their people.

We knew this year was going to be even bigger, so we found a bigger venue at the swimming pool, and enlisted the help of Rotary to take care

of breakfast on the day. This meant my head was free to concentrate on important things. Rotary did them proud with the breakfast, was great to have Bob Magor & Keith Lethbridge here again, but 'Boss Cocky' had himself tied up in other directions. But I believe plans are already afoot for next year's Mecca to Derby. Must be our beautiful weather at that time of the year. No offence Albany, but after having spent most of my life in Albany, it's great to be able to take dry washing off the line the same day you put it out!

Numbers were up by about 50 people on last year's count. A lot more local talent emerged; the morning flowed well with a blend of Bush poetry, humorous and other poetry, and musical ballads from our local people.

*I am extending next year's activities to include a Bush Dance so let's hope *your* plans are coming along just fine!*

Anyone who wants a warm winter break from down south, the Bush Poets Breakfast is an ideal excuse to plan a holiday in the North for July next year.

Cheers, Cheryle Holmes ph/fax 08 9193 1065

BITS AND BOBS FOR SALE

Those folk who have heard Mike Davey retell the "Tall Quiet Man of Tunnel Creek" may wish to buy a copy of his little book of verse for that poem and other Kimberley tales of crocodiles and the Rainbow Snake.

The "Pocket Mike" (price \$7.50) written by Mike Davey is available by phoning 9451 5068

Geoff Bebb has also published his own work, so if you enjoyed his "Surveyors Panacea" in which he expounded the value of synchronized windmills, you need

"All the rest is all O.K. and other poems" (price \$10) author Geoff Bebb, phone 9367 4963 (or catch both of them performing at the next Raffles night)

Bob Magor 'The Man from Myponga' now has his fourth book out for sale.

Donkey Derby, his latest, or Blasted Crows, Blood on the Boards or Snakes Alive can all be bought for a song. I hear three of Bob's humorous books cost \$33 which includes postage.

Mail should be directed to Bob Magor at (simply) The Post Office, Myponga, S.A. 5202

A very warm welcome is extended to all our new members. We hope you enjoy the fellowship of Bush Poetry, and whether you are a Performer, Writer, or prefer to make up that important group known as The Audience, we encourage you to participate where-ever you feel comfortable. New ideas are well received.

COMING EVENTS

"Come All Ye" (one last chance to practice for the performance competition)
Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge (upstairs in the Riverview Room)
September 10th 7.30 till 10 pm

Bring your friends and your own plate of supper, bar open, entry \$2 at the door

BUSH POETS WRITERS WORKSHOP

Registration no later than 1st November, 99 (see front page this issue)
By mail to: The Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Tee, Murdoch, 6150

RAINBOW COAST WEEKEND IN ALBANY

Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st November (see page 6 this issue)

Perth contact: Joan Macneall ph. 9451 6008 Albany contact: Kay Stehn ph. 9844 1656

THE THREE HEATS FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE

Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge – Upstairs in the Riverview Room

1st Heat Friday 8th October2nd Heat Friday 12th November.....3rd Heat Friday 10th December
7.30pm till 10 pm

Entry \$2 at the door. No performance fee

For further info and encouragement: Rusty Christensen Tel. 9364 4491

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS WRITTEN COMPETITIONS

(see front-page announcement June newsletter)

Schools, and Members' Families Sandgroppers Competition closes 15th September 1999

Open Competition closes 15TH November, 1999

For further details and entry forms contact: Joan Macneall 9451 6008, Ron Evans 9573 1382

BACK-TO NORTHCLIFFE, 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2nd & 3rd October, 99

Bus tours of the original Group Settlements plus more

"Poets, Yarnspillers and I remember When... Breakfast"

Performances by Claudette Mountjoy, Ron Evans and Peter Capp

All members are invited to volunteer their own performance skills at the Celebrations

Join the weekend of festivities

Venue. The Northcliffe Workers Club

Contact: Claudette Mountjoy c/- P.O. in Northcliffe, 6262

or Tel. 9776 7104

AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE 2000

26th January, 2000

**START ROUNDING UP A GROUP OF FRIENDS FOR THE WA BUSH POETS &
YARNSPINNERS CHALLENGE AT WIRELESS HILL IN MELVILLE
FOR AN AFTERNOON OF ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE TREE OF WISDOM**

LEGAL PERFORMANCE PROMPT

At the August meeting of The W.A. Bush Poets & Yarnspillers Assn Inc., the first new resolution of the incoming Committee (1999-00) was to provide the following ruling which states that at non-competitive gatherings,

A PERFORMANCE POET IS ENTITLED TO CARRY THE WRITTEN POEM AND/OR HAVE THE SERVICES OF A PERSON SEATED NEARBY TO ASSIST AS A PROMPT.

It is intended that this innovation will not only make the performances flow better, but will have the effect of instilling confidence in new, or very novice performers.

CARMEL RANDLE IN PROFILE

Born and raised in Brisbane, Queensland, Carmel Randle now calls a small property on the Darling Downs her home. In between, she has lived in many of the rural areas of that State.

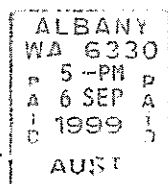
Since retiring from Teaching, Carmel has indulged her love of writing and performing poetry by actively encouraging the artform in school students, assisting with the organisation of Bush Poetry Festivals, conducting Poetry Writing workshops, and through participation in Festivals throughout Australia and in the north-west of U.S.A. (See www.westfolk.org/live/ramfiles/friday6.ram for live performance at Elko NV 1999.

Her numerous Awards for written poetry include "The Bronze Swagman" twice (1996 & 1999, "The Blackened Billy" twice (1997 & 1998), and "Golden Gumleaf Book of the Year" for her Anthology, "Gone Bush!" (1997). She was the inaugural Reserve Champion Lady Performer of Australian Bush Poetry (an Award she has not since contested), and has twice won the "Battered Bugle" for Bush Poetry performance.

Carmel's Poetry can be enjoyed through her Anthologies, "Gone Bush!", "Many Faces", and "Mates!" (with Zita Horton) or on her Cassette and C.D., "There and Back!" With a small group of other Australian Bush Poets, her children's poetry is available in both the 1st and 2nd books of the series, "The Co-operative Books of Verse for Aussie Children".

For poets struggling with the technicalities of poetry, Carmel has published a best-seller, "Help! – A Handbook for Writers and Performers of Rhymed Verse".

E-mail contact is at mpriest@t130.aone.net.au or fax 07 4630 9998



Edna Westall
2/10 McKimmie Road
PALMYRA WA 6157