& Yarn Spinners

BULLYTIN

★ Next Muster - November 7th, 2008 7.30pm ★
Auditorium, Bentley Park, 26 Plantation Dve Bentley 6102,

MC for November, Hadley Provis

November is Melbourne Cup, Last Month of Spring, Our Short Poetry Comp WA Poetry Slam Final

With "The race that Stops a nation" almost upon us, it's again time for another classic Melbourne Cup poem,. There are many such poems, many of them quite well known but I have looked around to see if I could find one a bit less well known. Where better to look than Melbourne's famous poetic son, the most prolific Australian poet ever, C.J. Dennis

Here is "The Nark"

Wait till after Chewsdy, wife.
'Taint far ahead to look,
A change is comin' in your life,
Or else l'm much mistook,
I'll buy you rugs and furs and things
An' di'monds by the ton.
We're 'ome at last, when Chewsdy's past
An' melbun Cup is run.

Wail till after Chewsdy, Bill You're silly if you frets; I'll pay that quid, you know I will; An' settle all me debts. The tip's a cert; the 'orse can spurt An' last the distance too. I'm 'ome alright by Chewsdy night When all me dreams come true

I knows, I knows, too well I knows I've said it all before;
But blokes as got to learn I s'pose;
I'll never switch no more.
Me mind's made up. This Melbun Cup
You'll 'ave no chance to scoff.
I mean to stick to my first pick
An' never git put off.

So wait till after Chewsdy, mate. Till after Chewsdy, wife, A man can't be the fool of fate For all 'is nach'ril life An' yet, an' yet, I can't forget Past years, an' nags I backs. In pitchers grim I visions 'im, That coot wot dogs me tracks -

Never the same bloke year by year, 'E waits there on the course To pour 'is poison in my ear That 'ound wot knows a 'orse. 'E knows a man wot knows a man Wot knows the stable well. 'E knows, 'e knows; Lord! Wot 'e knows 'Ud take a book to tell.



An' must I meet 'im once again - My Jonah, still disguised?
An' must I 'ark to that dead nark
An' stand there, 'ipnertised?
Keep 'im away! Keep me, I pray,
From speakin', still bewitched,
The bitterest word a man e'er 'eard:
I 'ad it; but I switched.



Many women writers see things through slightly different eyes—here's another view of "The Cup"



The Melbourne Cup - Lesbia Harford

I like to see the riders, clad in rose and blue; Their colours all a-glitter - and their horses too. Swift go the riders, on incarnate speed My thoughts can scarcely follow where they lead. Delicate, strong, long lines of colour flow And all the people tremble as they go.

A couple of up-coming events for which we NEED to know A.S.A.P. who will be available.

The first is the "Poets in the Park" on the afternoon of November 16th at Neil McDougal Park in Como.— Still need some performers—Please let President Brian know if you are interested.

Vice President Grace needs to hear **ASAP** from ALL performers who will be available for our showcase performance next **Australia Day**, **January 26th** at Wireless Hill in Ardross.



Scratchings

G'day once again members and friends.

The year is fast drawing to a close—where have the past several months gone. But wherever they have gone, it would seem that there are few members who are interested in furthering the

aims of our Association.

Over the past couple of months, I have repeatedly asked for members to ring or email if they have an interest in attending / helping or are willing to participate in Association activities. I refer particularly here to requests for assistance on Have a Go Day, "Poets in the Park" Writing / Performance workshops, Australia Day, MCs at Musters, and understudying the PA system and BullyTin production.. To date I have had almost zero response to any of these. I do feel that it should not be up to the committee members to continually have to chase people to see if they are going to be available. It's all very well sitting back and assuming that someone will eventually ask you personally if you are available (or assuming "someone else" will do the job), but we do not have the luxury of time or personnel to do this. It really is up to all members to become involved and put themselves forward to help our association in its activities. As of now there is a slight possibility that I may not be available for the December Muster— who will set up the PA system? Does anybody know how? So how about it members, lets have a whole lot more involvement from everyone, that way the load is shared and the executive do not have to be constantly ringing around finding out peoples availability and willingness to participate.

Changing the subject. I have been fortunate in that I have successfully applied for a grant from the South Perth City Council to cover advertising costs for the "Poets in the Park" on November 16th (provided we can get a few poets interested in participating) and another similar event next Autumn. It is hoped that by running these events targeting South Perth, we can extend the areas in which we are a part of the cultural scenery.

I have also applied for grants to cover advertising and printing and bringing several country poets to Perth to participate in our Australia Day "Bush Poets Showcase" at Wireless Hill—we wait the outcome of these applications. We would like to make this Australia Day event "The Best Ever" with as broad a range of our top talent as can be assembled.

We have had indications that there could be several **groups** attending the next Australia Day, this augers well for possibly increasing our membership and our involvement in the overall community.

Changing tack again, it seems that often, in recent months, we are a bit light on for entertainers at musters, while occasionally we have so much talent available that we have to limit some peoples performances. This is unfortunate, but I suppose unavoidable considering the nomadic lifestyle of many retired people, age and illness, along with the need to jiggle all of our commitments and other activities into a very limited timeslot (life). We do need to have a bigger pool of talent on which to draw, or somehow be able to manage what we have a bit better.

I did hear the other day that the Australian Government intends to make Australian Literature an integral part of the curriculum for all schools across Australia. Hopefully this will include knowledge of our traditional Rhyming Poets and the very important part they have played in out literary heritage.

Regards to all

Brian Langley, President.

What's on in the Bush?

Planning is well underway for the February Bush Poetry events at **Boyup Brook** to co-incide with the **Country Music Festival**— Bill Gordon tells me he will hopefully have details available shortly. The festival will be held on 12th-15th Feb. Bush Poets will feature several times throughout the four days.

Last month I asked for expressions of interest for Workshops both in Perth and at Boyup Brook run by Jim Haynes. To date I have only one indication for Perth and just a couple for Boyup Brook. It is very disappointing that writers and performers do not see fit to avail themselves of this great opportunity to improve their skills. You may well think that it's a long way off, but it is essential that long term planning be carried out as opportunities for funding these events must be submitted many months before the event, and funding organisations require that detailed plans be submitted, including accurate numbers (and often actual names), so — no interest, no event, and we gradually disappear into oblivion it's as simple as that.

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Before the next Muster, we will have been at Pingrup—The wrap-up of that event will be in Next Month's BullyTin, as hopefully will be a summary of the Albany Show Poets Breakfast which will be organised as usual, by our member, Peter Blyth. This will be on **November 8th** (Saturday) commencing 8am (Last month an incorrect date was given—Sorry)

Jurien Wrap-up— from Irene Conner. The Queens Birthday long weekend saw the Jurien Lions Markets host a Bush Poets Breakfast. Starting at 7.30 was perhaps a bit early as the crowd were quite thin on the ground until around 8. Local published poet, WABP&YS member, Corin Linch. Was the main performer, ably assisted by our ABPA rep, local resident Irene Conner. Also on the program were a couple of locals who joined in for the first time, Jim Clarke, a returned serviceman recited a couple of classics, along with one of his own. Linda Jones did a great job reciting a couple of Carol Heuchan's humorous poems. (Carol is the current Australian Champion Lady

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Walking Different Tracks



It's "Poetry Slam" time again , the ABC have become involved in this years event , I just wonder how much of the content they will actually be able to broadcast. Last year's event , (and I'm told the first heats so far this year) have typical "language uninviting" of our youth. Brian is entering (wouldn't you

with a possible \$5000 up for grabs) but has decided to infer rather than say the seemingly necessary coarse language for a good score—perhaps it might give our younger poets an example that much of it is unnecessary.

Have YOU got something suitable for this column? If so, why not share it here with other members.

(continued from previous page) and writes extensively regarding her love of horses). Robin Randall recited some letters that her grandfather had sent back to his family in Australia during the war, they were all written in rhyme. As the markets are held monthly, except during winter, we hope to hold a few more similar events before the winter break. Well Done Corin & Irene, It is great to see more of our country members becoming involved in the promotion of our literary and performing artform.—Ed

Val Lishman Festival of Yarns - Summary by Grace Williamson

Held at the beautiful grounds of "Alverstoke" Heritage Farm, Brunswick Junction on 5th October 2008, the day started at 11am. with entertainers and guest stars Kerry and Rod Lee presenting their poetry; their son David, on guitar, and David's Wife Tracey on Flute. The family grouping also included Rod and Kerry's grandson Ollie, sitting on the steps with his kiddies guitar. It was very enjoyable entertainment. Another guest performer and poet was Wayne Pantall with his own unique style of socio-political poetry.

At 11.30 the Adult Recitation competition was under way. - This was won by Grace Williamson with Henry Lawson's Poem "The Bushfire" Commendation went to Wally Williamson with his portrayal of Banjo Paterson's "The Bunch of Roses"

The Junior competition was won by Ryan Brophy-Smith with Banjo Paterson's "Mulga Bill's Bicycle" Highly commended went to his brother Dan Brophy-Smith with Banjo Paterson's "When Darcy Rode the Mule"

Highly commended also went to Danielle Piggot for Banjo Paterson's "The man from Ironbark"

Next was the Senior Original. - This was won by Everard Ellul for his poem "Another Soul Falls"

This poem won him the coveted Tin Billy Cup Second was Di McKenzie with her poem "The New True Blue"

Henry Moseley a blind 91 year old received a highly commended for his poem "Milk me a Daisy" The judges overall prize went to John Kempster for his rendition of Dorothea Mackellar's "My Country"

An auction was held with huge success and much money was raised, also a "Hawthorn" jumper was auctioned on line and on the day to go to the highest bidder, I do not know the final total of all monies received but have been told it was the best year for money raised for the Val Lishman Health research for the South West.

Well done Grace and Wally—Ed

I'm STILL floggin' that dead horse — We are STILL looking for a competent Secretary and 2 committee people. See my comments in Scratchings. Surely we have people with the abilities—all we need is the willingness to be part of running our Association

Christmas Raffle

Remember - our December Muster is when we hold our annual multiple prize raffle. We are still looking for donations of suitable prizes.

Members with poetic products - how about donating one for a good

cause. But - There are **no restric- tions** on the type of goods so anything suitable YOU
may have will be most welcome.

Please bring donations to a muster or get them to any committee member.

November Muster (Nov 7th) is the short poetry competition - As yet I've received few entries— Writers—You still got a couple of weeks to get organised page . . Country members—we would like to also get some poems from you. They will be read by competent readers. Other than the competition,

Short Poetry Rules

Max—2 entries per person
Max 16 lines
Max 13 syllables per line
Topic Scouts and Scouting

November will be a "Normal" muster with open mic'. Reading from the Classics etc. -

MC is Hadley Provis Tel 9317 7979

Please let him know at least several days before the Muster if you intend to perform

December (Dec 5th) will be Port, Pies and Poetry,
along with a huge Xmas Raffle, The poetry will be
normal "open mic" with no restrictions on topic. We
will have a mixture of sweet and savoury pies, a drop
or two of port (or sherry if you don't like port) - (but
not enough to get you illegal) and of course some
great poetry - Supper is free that night.

 A January 2009 (Jan 2nd) This will be a "Normal"

 muster—(perhaps your topics could concentrate on

 holidays, summer etc)— but the New Year Resolu
 tion will be "Bring a Friend"

February (Feb 6th) we would like EXPERIENCED performers that we don't see all that often to please make themselves available.

Dear Editor (Official letter to the Bully Tin)

You had to expect this letter from V.P. Read, and I must assure you I have been resisting the urge to write it every since I received the September issue of the Bully Tin, but now I've succumbed to the urge.

The boxed article about bush /Australian Bush Poetry 'not only being about dogs and horses' is, of course, one hundred percent correctsnip....... Horses and dogs have always been part of our culture, so naturally we find them included in our folklore. The fact that humans also have a soft spot for these animals makes poems and stories about them very much appreciated.Snip....

'Bush' poetry associations should be very much aware that, there IS a difference between 'Australian' poetry and 'bush' poetry – as your example showed, and if they are not careful bush poetry meetings could well lose their identity if such poetry is encouraged. 'Australian' poetry can be presented in very technical and sophisticated terms, whereas with 'bush' poetry the style is usually very relaxed and uncomplicated, maybe because so much of it is presented in rhyming ballad form.

Our title is "The West Australian BUSH Poetry Association, and bush poetry is what we should aspire to encourage from our members. There are plenty of groups that offer the type of poem you've used, and Tom Collins House is an excellent example of the wonderful 'non-bush' poetry that Australians produce

Being a 'bush' poet does not mean that the author has to come from the bush. Of course not.snip....

A bush poet stands apart in his/her presentation of the Australian way of life. His/her work is written straight from the shoulder or the heart, expressing, without use of frippery, not only personal feelings or experiences, but regaling our culture (Aboriginal well and truly included) and history.

The greatest emotion expressed in Australian 'bush' poetry is our unique humour, and our marvellous ability to 'expand' the truth. It doesn't matter whether the theme is joy, death or calamity, an Aussie poet will usually find the humorous twist and express it in a poem.

Our bush poetry should never be judged on theme alone. It should be judged on rhyme, rhythm, and meter. It should twang the heart-strings and take the reader into the story it is telling; imparting excitement, pathos or our particular style of humour with its clever, non-cluttered construction. Any poetry that is not presented according to these guidelines should not receive awards or certificates, especially in written competitions, even though they may be emotive or exhilarating in recitation. The quality of OUR 'bush' poetry must be monitored diligently by our Association and judges. If we encourage our emerging bush poets to perfect their work whether it is written or performed, then we have well and truly earned our title.

It's obvious that there is a very fine line between 'bush' poetry and the example used in the Bully Tin, and while not decrying that poem (absolutely not), I am very concerned that the ideals the Association started off with could be eroded if we do not decide whether we want to indeed be a 'bush' poetry association, or an Australian poetry association. I hope this letter explains **my perception** of the difference

Sincerely, V.P. READ.

NB: Do we HAVE to have profiles on poets from the past which are easily accessible on Internet? Surely this valuable space could be used for members' poetic contributions.

Response-

Ah Valerie — If it were but so simple. Unfortunately, Poetry, like all art forms lies in the eyes and ears of the beholder, and almost inevitably defies being categorised. I take it you refer to the <u>October</u> BullyTin in which I presented a short spiritual poem by a local "closet poet". It was not intended to create controversy but simply making a point that there are many poets whose work never sees the light of day.

A spiritual poem—certainly, but they do abound in the annals of what we may call Bush Poetry, even as far back as Kendell. Parkes and others of that Pre Paterson era. The term Bush Poetry involves far more than you suggest, for if you look at the definitions and aims of various Bush Poetry Groups, including ours, you will see the term Australian Rhyming Poetry being the defining criteria—that is, Poetry about Australians, Australia or the Australian way of life which is written with very good and consistent rhyme and rhythm- no mention of style, humour, content, theme, spiritualism, language or any other confining limits. Again, like all art forms, poetry is not a stationary concept but evolves over time, changing its emphasis as the generations pass. The WA Bush Poets recognise both this and our traditions and consequently try and present, in both this newsletter and at Musters, a balanced mixture of both traditional and contemporary **rhyming** Australian verse, in all its variations. Part of our aims is to preserve the poetry of those classical writers of a past era, but we must also not become simply a repository for history.

Our poetry is certainly judged on those factors you mention and that is why in competition, there are those who excel, while others, although hopeful do not reach the "short list". BUT should we brush them aside as poor poets of no value, or should we encourage them to improve—to reach the standard we would like to see all our writers achieve.

Just as you suggest—encouragement is needed, but who is to do it? Perhaps, as the most award winning "Bush Poet" in our state, you might like to consider setting up a mentoring service for those who would aim to follow in your footsteps. Alternatively, you could consider contributing a regular column in this Newsletter giving help to those wishing to improve their writing skills. 'It would indeed be grand' if all of our more experienced writers and performers made time and effort to pass on their knowledge to those still developing their skills.

You mention "plenty of groups" for Australian poetry—to the best of my knowledge, we are the ONLY group specialising in Rhyming Australian Poetry in Perth, all other groups encompassing a far wider range of poetic styles, including much that I find totally incomprehensible.

In response to your "Why do we have Poets from the Past" - This surely is part of keeping our traditions alive, giving background knowledge to people so perhaps, they might go on to read and enjoy the words of these poets of the past. The internet is great, I will agree, but only about 1/2 our members are connected to it, and of those only about 2/3 are regular users. We try and cater for ALL our members tastes and requirement, but, living in reality, we know there will be times when what is written or presented will not suit everybody.

As to having space for reader contributions—would you have our BullyTin full of the poetry of the VERY FEW writers who do submit some of their work—not necessarily up to the standard you seem to demand. While there are thousands of poems, both traditional and contemporary which could be included, I try and have something topical, not use lengthy poems, nor those that we are familiar with, as they reduce the variety, and I do try and observe copyright constraints. Finding suitable poems and other material to fill these pages and give them broad member appeal is not easy, ask me how I know!

Apologies, Val for cutting some bits from your letter (....snip...) but It was just a wee bit long. - Ed

Readers—do you want to comment ?— but PLEASE - keep it brief

This topic will NOT go on ad infinitum

So—Exactly what is Poetry all about? Perhaps this little gem from Jim Haynes latest book explains it all.

The Poets Meaning

Anon

A soulful person lightly tapped The Poet's blistered door; His brow was broad, his mien was rapt, An anxious look he wore.

He knocked again, and yet again, Then heard The Poet rise, And stub his toe, and swear in pain, And curse somebody's eyes.

He wept to hear The Poet curse And through the window yell, 'You hawkers here get worse and worse! Clear off and go to hell!'

The soulful person called 'I'm not A hawker as you think; I'm one who seeks the sacred spot Where kindred souls can link.

I seek the cultured flowing tide The common clay has not.' The Poet spoke, 'Then come inside, Don't stand there talking rot.'

'I thank you sir,' the stranger said; 'I've worshipped now, for years, Your art, that has my fancy fed, Your art that forced my tears.

Your every ode, and verse and hymn, Rolls in my memory.' The Poet grinned, and it was grim, 'You've got more time than me.'

'And now I wish that you would say,' The other paused, intent, 'When you penned this exquisite lay, Exactly what you meant.'

The Poet thought 'That's hard because Perhaps I never knew. As far as I remember 'twas To make a bob or two.'

A Bachelors View

'Just a kiss for the baby,' the fond mother said As she bent o'er the babe in her arms; But the philistine bachelor, shaking his head, Seemed unmoved by babyhood's charms.

'Baby girls doubtless are pretty,' said he, With a cynical shrug of his shoulder, 'But for kissable purposes, Madam, you see I prefer 'em some twenty years older!'

Harry Morant (The Breaker)

******************** $\stackrel{igstyle \times}{\star}$ We have a treat for you NEXT MONTH— ★ Valerie Read's beautiful Bronze Swagman ★ Award winning poem "Brolga Dreaming"

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Who was (or is?) Steele Grey

Wandering the Net, I came across the poem Post Hole Mick, presented below, listed as being written by Steele Grey, real name G.M. Smith. Not having previously heard of Steele Grey, I went looking for any further reference to him. A search for Steele Grey came up with the "Post Hole" poem and also a reference to a John Steele Robertson (Steele Grey), poet who was listed as a friend of Henry Lawson, living in Melbourne when Henry called in there on his way to WA in 1895—further searching got me nowhere— I did find a couple of references to JS Robertson but they were from genealogists trying to get information. There are some unnamed poems by an author of that name stored in a UWA repository The second Steele Grey, GM Smith gave me only one result, a heavy haulage company in Canada - a few references to General Motors and Genetic Modification but nothing else—So who is Steele Grey??? Anyone know?

Post Hole Mick

G.M. Smith (Steele Grev) A short time back while over in Vic. I met with a chap called Post-Hole Mick; He was a raw-boned, loose-built son of a paddy And at putting down post-holes he was the daddy.

And wherever you'd meet him, near or far, He had always his long-handled shovel and bar --I suppose you all know what I mean by a bar Is a lump of wrought-iron the shape of a spar

With one chisel-end for digging the ground And average weight about twenty pound. Mick worked for the cockies around Geelong, For a time they kept him going strong.

He would sink them a hundred holes for a bob, And, of course, soon worked himself out of a job. But when post-hole sinking got scarce for Mick He greased his broques and cut his stick.

And one fine day he left Geelong And took his shovel and bar along. He took to the track in search of work, And struck due north, en route to Bourke.

It seems he had been some time on tramp When one day he struck a fencers camp. The contractor there was wanting a hand, As post-hole sinkers were in demand.

He showed him the line and put him on. But while he looked round, sure Mick was gone --There were the holes, but where was the man? Then his eye along the line he ran.

He'd already put down about ninety-nine, And at the rate of a hunt he was running the line. He had a few sinkers he thought was quick Till the day he engaged with Post-Hole Mick.

When he finished his contract Mick started forth, And it appears kept his course due north For I saw a report in the Croydon Star Where a fellow had passed with a shovel and bar.

To give you an idea of how he could walk A day or two later he struck Cape York. If they can't find him work there putting down holes I'm afraid he'll arrive at one of the poles.

October Muster 2008 - by Dot

President Brian started the evening with congratulations and best wishes to Wally and Grace Williamson for their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Our MC for the night was Tom Conway and tonight's "Special feature" was the return of entertainer, storyteller and raconteur. Peter Harries.

We were also in for a few treats from some of our other presenters as well.

Barry Higgins started off the evening with "Unlikely Bed Fellows" by Betsy Chase...The problem of finding three extra beds when three travellers, a Politician, an Indian and Jew arrived at the Farm. The farmer could only sleep two in the house so the third was given a bed in the barn. The Jew went off and came back as there were unclean pigs in there. The Indian said he would go but was soon back as there was sacred cow in there. The Politician then said he would sleep in the barn. At a very loud knocking on the door it was discovered that the pig and the cow were standing on the doorstep.

Grace Williamson then came to the microphone and gave us the "Old Bullock Bell" by Evelyn Cull. This tells of the old bell, hanging on its strap by the homestead door ringing out through the night with its song. It had been found, cracked by a bushfire and covered with sand and its stories were told to the children; how such bells were worn by the bullocks as they strained to pull the loaded wagons. This bell had been worn by Old Baldy the team leader, and when he died it had been hung in a tree for all to hear. It was said that his ghost still lived in that old bell.

Oopps! sorry, I didn't get the name of **John Hayes** poem that he has now rewritten three times. A true story of his brother in law, who always carried rolls of bank notes and would not go to the bank....until his mates persuaded him that it was foolish to travel with so much money and what if he was to be robbed some dark night. So he went to the bank and was presented with a cheque book with 100 printed cheques. He signed cheques for everything and soon the Bank informed him he was in the red...He was amazed that he was overdrawn as he still had 20 more cheques to write.

Caroline Sambridge had one on her new poems about a chap called "Elvis Who?". With some parallels to the well known Rock Star, Elvis, a boy of 11, played football but broke his pelvis. So no more football for him; instead, he learnt to play the guitar and made lots of money. He became a star and bought a bright pink car but soon eating lots of burgers had made him get larger and larger.

Brian Langley, then took the floor. Brian and I have had the misfortune to have our old bank taken over by another. With all the changing over of our PINs and issuing of new plastic cards we needed to stand in a very long queue because off course we wanted to have our 'old' numbers, and at our age we needed to have the "new" system explained in words of only one syllable. While standing waiting in this queue Brian wrote this poem, "New Bank, Takes Over" which laments the need to have to remember new numbers, confuses over multiple cards and not understanding what all the acronyms mean, it is far easier to give up on the bank totally and keep his money rolled up tightly inside a shoe.

With his second "Practice Time" he told of this cousin who had come to stay and needed to practice his trombone before his audition. The trouble was it had been pouring with rain and he had to do this in his bedroom, nearly drove everyone mad. But there is now peace and harmony at home, as the sun's shining and his cousin is practicing on the river bank.

Brian then introduced **Peter Harries** who entered with a song accompanying him self on a squeeze box. We heard what he considered a version of what our National Anthem could have been. Interspersed with his songs was a poem full of reminiscence of a young boys life when he was in a country town and all that he got up to. The Freemasons Hall in the town was a place that he played in and around. Now, as an adult, he is a member of the Freemasons and has been for a long time he can now officially go into that hall, and be part of the rituals and procedures that the 'Masons' do.

With an eagle eye kept on Edna (so that he could time his performance to when she would have supper ready), Peter once more enthralled and entertained us with stories, songs and some of his poetry until he got the signal that supper was organised.

As usual, supper developed into quite a social occasion, with friends catching up with one another, to the point where the MC must insist they return to their seats. This evening, due to the extended time allotted to Peter, we had no "Readings from the Classics".

The first performer after supper looked very frail and in need of a lot of help as he slowly made his way to the microphone. **Wally Williamson** dressed and totally immersed in the part slowly made his way to the front and sat down. Clutching some roses he did Banjo Paterson's "Bunch of Roses". The memories that the scent of these red roses bring to him as visions of a ballroom belle who bought him happiness with a single flower from his bunch of roses. But only her memory lingers tonight as her coffin lies adorned with white roses, leaving behind an old man, worn and grey, bending his head to a bunch of roses. *Wally that was superbly acted and performed.*

(Remember Performers there are head set, and lapel microphones available. If you let Brian know early enough he can "kit" you up so you can do your presentation and acting performance without the hassles of getting the microphone in the right place.)

The next performance by **Norm Eaton** blew everybody away. CJ Dennis is sometimes difficult to do, but Norm did the best I have ever seen CJ done. "The Introduction" from Songs of a Sentimental Bloke (" 'Er Name's Doreen"), is well known as the tribulations of the Bloke who is smitten. He wants to meet this lovely lady, but they haven't been introduced yet you see and it would not do to approach her without this proper introduction, it's just not proper. So what is a 'bloke' to do? Get a friend who knows them both and at some auspicious time they can meet and the proper introductions can be done.

Peter Drayton dressed in suit and top hat had one his own new ones for a first time airing. "Inertia", has a cultural diversity of apathy and who would think to step outside their own square. To break the inertia of routine and habit, with frail tempers and a state of indifference, do we deserve what we get?

He then performed Banjo's "Swagmans Rest" where old Bob was buried beneath the Bloodwoods after a life of tramping along in the dust and sand. His end came and although he was a drunken brute he told us to bury him out in the bush but if times get tough we are to dig him up because he will bring us luck. Well times got tough and we dug him up, only to find a reef of gleaming gold stretching on for miles that became the richest mine on the Eaglehawk, This mine is now known as the Swagmans' Rest

Barry Higgins returned to the microphone with a Bob Magor poem, "Bush Justice". The town was a-buzz and out of town reporters were present and the crowd was like a football grand final. The charge of Indecent Exposure bought by Agnes Wilson, an Avon Lady, when on her rounds had ding donged a nude. William Gates, the man charged with this most terrible of crimes, was the JP's fishing mate who owned the boat so what was to happen to their fishing trips. The spinster Agnes described how the defendant had appeared at his doorway in answer to her ring, his manhood all exposed!! In defense, Bill explained that he was a family man of 17 children and what was to become of them if he should go to jail. The JP then dismissed the case as the evidence clearly pointed to the fact that Bill was not indecent but was 'in his working clothes'.

Graeme Hedley with one of his own "The Ventriloquists Other Dummy" told of the old dummy being discarded.. What about all the times that they had worked together with the dummy doing all the work while he got all the money. Then he is dumped for a younger brighter one and he is left in darkness and silence. A lovely and original story, Graeme, but please try and find your way into our genre of poetry which by its very definition Must have good rhyme as well as rhythm

With Henry Lawson's "Bushfire", **Grace Williamson** is showing us that she is developing an affinity with this mans poetry, as she did this piece with such emotion and feeling.

As the north winds blew with the fierce sunrise they saw the light blue smoke on the horizon. The bushmen ride out hard as the fire sweep through the scrub with a crackling and a rush. Then comes the alarm as a family is cut off by the fire; and off ride an unlikely trio to help save them. Disappearing into the smoke it is feared that they will not be seen again. In the dawn with the fire past they go to look for the bodies, but they find them, amid the shell of the house, surrounded by burnt stock, in the mud of the two mile tank, singed and thirsty and half baked with injuries but ready, should the call come again to help when they are needed.

John Hayes returned with his own "Sunrise" which tells of the tent pitched to face the sun as it casts off the cloak of night. The Butcher birds and the cockatoos call and chatter across the billabongs. It is wonderful to be awakened from dreams with the dawn light as a transformation is complete. With the Eagle soaring in a cloudless sky, the day moves on, finally ending in a deep twilight.

Norm Eaton made a return to the 'mike' with Banjo's, "Bush Christening". In this 'old favourite', Michael Magee's son hadn't been christened and his Mother was worried about it, when a Preacher arrived and agreed to do this. Now the lad, assuming it was something like branding, wasn't going to wait to find out so he went and hid in a log. Poking him out with a stick, the priest forgot the name and flung a bottle of Whiskey at him as he emerged, calling out the name of the liquor maker, McGinnis. Norm had a 'senior moment' or two, but with some assistance from John Hayes got to the end OK

Brian Langley finished off the night with a longish one of his own "Queensland". You know the place, beautiful one day, perfect the next? Having arrived at the beach via a very poor highway, we couldn't swim as there were stingers and no net. The sunbathing was lovely until the sand fly bites came out. There were crocs at the fishing spots, and skeetas in the forest (along with flying foxes pooing on him). Heading for the hills (called the 'downs'), being overtaken on bends by hoons, none of the tourist venues were open it was time to head to the beach, but that didn't work either. The holiday eventually came to its end and we were glad to come back to the sunset side of this great land. As for the Ads — if they're true, We missed both those days (The beautiful one and the perfect one). (All this is true BUT we had to go there to experience a really lovely piece of country, but could well do without all the hassles!!)

Dot Note Coming up is "that" season and have you noticed the closer to Christmas the 'gooder' children get. I suppose, "if you don't believe, you won't receive!!'

Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2008—2009

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There is room for YOU here

Members please note— Please contact any of the above committee members if you have any queries or issues you feel require

** Upcoming Events **

Please let the editor know if you are aware of any event which might be of interest to the general membership

Oct	29	Have a Go Day	Burswood Park, Perth Se	e you there—We're near the Swan Shell
Nov	1	Pingrup RFDS Community BP	BBQ Old Pingrup Silo 5pm	
Nov	7	WABP&YS Muster	Bentley Park Auditorium - Short Poetry Comp	
Nov	8	Albany Show	Poets Brekky - commencing 8ar	m Peter 9844 6606 poetblyth@bigpond.com
Nov	16	Poets in The Park	South Perth "Poetry Park" Bri	an Langley 9361 3770 briandot@tpg.com.au
Nov	30	Closing date	Blackened Billy Verse Comp (Tamw	vorth) janmorris@northnet.com.au PO Box 3001 West Tamworth NSW 2340
Dec	5	WABP&YS Muster	Bentley Park Auditorium Pies,	Port & Poetry—Giant Xmas Raffle
Jan	2	WABP&YS Muster	Bentley Park Auditorium "Nor	mal" muster - Bring a friend
Jan	26	Bush Poetry Showcase	Wireless Hill, Ardross—commences 1pm with Musician "Stinger" & MC, Peter Harries	

Regular events - Albany Bush Poetry group 4th Tuesday of each month Peter 9844 6606

Going to Tamworth in January 09? If so, the Tamworth Country Energy Bush Poetry Competition has heats on Tues 20th, Thurs 22nd, Fri 23rd FINALS Sat 24th, all at "Blazes Auditorium" Entry Forms available NOW SSAE Jan Morris, PO Box 3001, West Tamworth 2340 and if you just want to become involved as a "walkup poet" at various events, then you must register at

St Edwards, Tamworth on January 19th and 21st - further info Ed Parmenter (02) 6652 3716

Country Poets

Coming to the City? - City lights are fine, but 1st Fridays could see **you** shine at our Muster. If you are coming to the big smoke on a muster night why not come along and be part of our get together. Give us a bit of notice and you might even find yourself being star act (but only if you want to be). This applies also to Bush Poets from other places and those past member poets whose lives have now gone in different directions.

Muster MCs are still needed - Please Contact Vice Pres—Grace

Do you want to be part of the National Scene — Then you might consider joining the Australian Bush Poets Assn www.abpa.org.au Annual membership \$30 payable to Treasurer Margaret coffsmixture@hot.net.au (02) 6652 3716

Country Poets -Is there anything poetic going on in your neck of the woods. If so, why not drop us a line and tell us about it

The Editor "Bully Tin" 86 Hillview Tce, St. James 6102 e-mail briandot@tpg.com.au As we still don't have a secretary, Address all other correspondence to either the President (address as for the Editor) or the Vice Pres. WA Bush Oct & Yarn Spinners

13 Getting St, Lathlain, 6100 e-mail gracewill@bigpond.com The Treasurer

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