



President's Preamble, December 2017

Congratulations Cobber on winning the Australian Championships at Toodyay. Up against some very talented poets from the east, Keith's poetic skills prevailed in what was an extremely high class competition. Congratulations also to Peter Blyth on his third place overall, and to John Hayes for winning the Traditional section with his great recitation of "Gypsy Violets". John is a true master of C J Dennis' poetry. And what can I say about Peg Vickers winning the Yarnspinning? A true genius at exploring the ridiculous aspects of modern living. Well done Peg, we salute you.

It is almost two years since we gained ABPA sanction to host the Australian Championships. Now that it is over the committee can heave a huge sigh of relief and reflect on a job well done. Everyone willingly did whatever was asked of them, came up with some brilliant ideas, and made it all happen. It is a privilege to lead such a team. My personal thanks to all who helped in any way, especially to the members of the Toodyay sub-committee who have been working tirelessly for months.

We are sorry to hear that Dave is back on the sick list. We hope the treatment goes well and he is able to make it back to share in our gatherings. There were many compliments on the trophies at Toodyay, most of which were made by Dave, including the magnificent Rusty Christensen Trophy for Yarnspinning. Thanks old mate.

Nariel Folk Festival beckons, and Christine is heading off on another trip. We wish her a safe and happy journey. Meg and I look forward to catching up with her in Tamworth. While Christine is away Meg is resuming responsibility for the Bully Tin, so please keep the poems and stories coming to her.

A cordial welcome is extended to all our members for the Christmas Muster of "Port, Pies and Poetry" with Peter Nettleton as MC. To those who can't make it we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Thought for the month (very appropriately), "There is no "I" in team.

Bill Gordon, President

Overall Winners at the Toodyay Festival

	National Male	National Female	West Australia
1st	Keith Lethbridge	Sue Pearce	Keith Lethbridge
2nd	Ken Tough	Rhonda Tallnash	Peter Blyth
3rd	Peter Blyth	Carmel Wooding	Bill Gordon

Novice Original

1st	Chris Taylor
2nd	Ray Parks
3rd	David Morrell

Novice 'Other'

1st	Peter Marshall
2nd	Anne Hayes

Yarnspinning

1st	Peg Vickers
2nd	Peter Blyth
3rd	Keith Lethbridge



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