

The

August 2025

BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Next Muster: 1st Aug 2025 at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Daniel Avery falcolnsnest95@gmail.com 0418 943 338

"Life's treasurings"

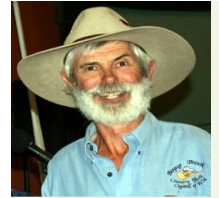
These are life's treasurings;
The sudden sun through rain,
Stars on a frosty night,
Grass rippling o'er the plain,
Tempest grown still.
Hearth-fires when long roads end.
Candle-light in a quiet room,
And the still silence of a friend.

by Dame Mary Gilmore

Photo courtesy of Deb McQuire

This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance
of the office of KATE DOUST MLC

President's Ramblings August 2025



Once again July finds Meg and I in Derby for their Bush Poets Breakfast and possibly the strongest contingent of Southern poets in their 26 years of holding this event. Meg and I plus Alan Aitken have become regular performers while this year the Derby CWA saw fit to fly Rob Gunn, Peter Rudolf and Ron Evans up as well. Ron was a resident of Derby for some time and a regular among the Bush Poets in former years. Cobber was once again absent, this time because it clashed with Maricor's 70th birthday. Never mind Cobber, I'm sure she appreciated the sacrifice you made to be there for her. Meg has submitted a full report elsewhere in this Bullytin.

We have accepted an invitation to perform at this year's Perth Royal Show. I have been assured we will have a venue away from the noise and bustle of sideshow alley. We are always looking for venues to reach out to new audiences and possibly attract some new and younger members. The Show will be held from **27 September to 4 October 2025** at the **Claremont Showgrounds**. The Food & Fiber stage will spotlight agriculture-focused content, with morning sessions dedicated to produce and cooking, and afternoons offering a mix of music, educational talks, and entertainment.

They are proposing a daily "**Hay Day Golden Hour**" from **4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**, a transitional time when attendees tend to take a break and/or reset before the evening festivities. We believe this could be an ideal slot for Bush Poetry – providing a relaxed, culturally rich, and engaging experience with strong ties to rural life and storytelling. The plan at this stage is to showcase bush poetry for 4 days (looking at the 27th, 28th & 29th of September and the 4th of October.) We are hoping for say three poets each day. Please let me know if you are available for any / all days.

Don't forget the AGM to be held immediately before the muster on 5th September. All positions will be declared vacant and our secretary is bracing himself for a flood of nominations. We will be back in Perth and in attendance on the night.

Bill Gordon, President.

Saturday September 6th. The Peel Bush Poets Muster

**At THE CAFÉ SPACE Bethanie
10 Maclaggan Turn, Coodanup**

**The gate will be open drive in and park in any space
without a unit number painted on it.**

2:30 pm to 4 pm

**All are invited to take part , if you would like to take part please let
Heather Denholm know 0429052900 text or voice**

Derby
Broome

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WA

It is all happening in the north at **Broome** and **Derby**.

Arriving in Broome after performing all the way up the coast at a number of station stays and caravan parks leaves no doubt that bush poetry is alive and well received.

Broome is also a mecca for Country Music. The regular night for the Country Music Club was attended by over 100 people from as far as Roeburne and Derby. The talent that is straight out of the bush was remarkable. Most of this talent was achieved the hard way listening to tape recorders and records back in the days before youtube and computers.

The natural musical talent of the indigenous population is true blue Aussi. The Malaysian infusion in the communities has added another dimension to their wonderful music.

Derby Bush Poets Breakfast was an outstanding success. 11 poets entertained a good crowd at the CWA facility in the heart of Derby. Local lady, Cheryl Russ steered the ship this year with great efficiency with the help of CWA ladies and was happy with the numbers and interest in the event.

Derby has come out of the slump after Covid and a few unfortunate incidences and is thriving again. People have filled the accommodation and are happy to stop on their way to tackle the Gibb River Road once more.

Bob Magor made the trip up from Myonga SA again, reciting and entertaining as well as he was before retirement curtailed his performances. **Ron Evans** from Boyup Brook made a return visit after an absence of a few years. His recital of "The Drover's Horse" was as vibrant as he has ever performed it.

Local poet, **Robyn Maher** performed CJ Dennis's poem "The Play" without a hitch, indicating that she no longer feels daunted getting up before a crowd. "Mr Kimberley", **Sam Lovell** gave us a few more of his yarns. At 92 he continues to amaze us with his stories.

Poets from newly formed **Peel Poets Group (Pinjarra)**, **Rob Gunn** and **Peter Rudolf** flew up from Perth to join the other performers so providing much variety in the show.

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.



Stairway to the Moon. Not as spectacular as other occasions but still attracts a big crowd



Poets who performed at Derby Bush Poet's Breakfast

(l to R) Bill Gordon, Bob Magor, Sam Lovell, Meg Gordon, Rob Gunn, Dave Morell, Ron Evans, Cait Westlake, Peter Rudolf, Robyn Maher, Alan Aitken

Reminiscing

Remember love those days outback, the lonely camps, the dusty track,
and how we fell beneath the spell that's always waiting there.
It touched us both there from day one out on that distant station run,
a wild and ancient land of dreams to which we longed to share.

Our home at first out on the flat, a rough old tent and glad of that,
with roaring fires to beat the chill each frosty winters night.
For even deserts can be cold - and frosts are something to behold -
a frozen arid wonderland that's briefly painted white.

We'd snuggle up to beat the chill - those freezing times remembered still,
with nights so calm and clear as twinkling stars stared coldly down.
And even on our daily tramp a freezing wind would stalk our camp,
awaiting us at daybreak as we'd start to look around.

But colder days would soon relent with warmth again to warm our tent.
no extra blanket needed now that spring has just begun.
And iced up windscreens are soon past, with balmy days now back at last,
for winters been and gone, and old Jack Frost is on the run.

The months then years flew swiftly past we'd found Nirvana here at last,
with breakaways and rolling hills, salt lakes and shady trees.
A peaceful place to search for gold for those like us who dared be bold,
while free out here to lead our lives whichever way we please.

We sought new places every week, then found good gold at Cripple Creek,
although contentment known here was the highlight of those days.
With solitude and peace of mind prized more than any golden find,
to just be there - a time to treasure in so many ways.

The goldfields stretched for countless miles, a place of hope and daily smiles,
and if you choose the rovers life you really can be free.
You loved it there and so did I, how could we ever say goodbye,
for here awaits the kind of life – so loved by you and me

We never will forget those years – though times have changed and old age nears,
for they were days we rose above – the mundane norm – remember love.

©T.E. Piggott

ASHBURTON RIVER

C F C
Past Minderoo Station and out to the sea,
Am
Through Spinifex country, where the cattle roam free,
C F E7
Where the wind in the white-gums whispers its song
C F
To make your heart shiver, the Ashburton River
C
Keeps drifting along.

It was late afternoon, I remember it well,
When I stopped for a drink at the Beadon Hotel,
So dusty and weary from driving all day,
On roads made of gravel, a rough way to travel
And hot all the way.

I was ready to leave when a voice said "Hello",
And I looked at the girl I had loved long ago.
Her eyes told the story of love that had died,
So, filled with dismay, my heart slipped away
Like a leaf in the tide.

There are times to be lonely and times to be sad,
But a man tries to smile through the good times and bad,
So I bought her a shandy and swallowed my pride,
Then while she was drinking, with confidence sinking,
I stumbled outside.

A young man can dream of a far better day,
But life drags you down when your whiskers turn grey,
So I never returned to that Ashburton track,
And once you start drifting, with swagging and shifting
There's no turning back.

Now often at night by the campfire glow,
With the stars up above and a blanket below,
I dream of my past and the things that went wrong,
And though I forgive her, the Ashburton River
Keeps drifting along.

Yes, the Ashburton River keeps drifting along.

Bush Poets at the 2025 Bunbury Shanty Festival

This year an enthusiastic group of Bush Poets set sail for the Bunbury Shanty Festival. Ian Farrell unfortunately had to jump ship, after having done much of the initial leg work. He passed the jolly roger to me (Christine) and a huge thank you goes to the assistance I received from our poets.

Poets on board ship were Christine Boulton, Rob Gunn, Greg Joass and Peter Rudolf. Bev Shorland, Jeff Swain and Roger Cracknell came aboard as welcome, scheduled walk ups. We also welcomed Graham Lees from Albany/ Perth and hope he may be able to attend our musters.

All went smoothly; the standard of poetry was ship-shape and favourable comments were abundant. Our audience numbers were not huge but they were very enthusiastic and appreciative. Rob plugged the Pinjarra Poetry Day and we were able to secure several recruits.

We performed a 1hr 45 minute opener at the Koombana Sailing Club and another at the Funkee Monkee.

The Funkee Monkee had two excellent walk ups. Greg from the guest Tasmanian group “The Stranded Wailers” and the ebullient Phil Gray from “Warralakin.”

What a fantastic weekend we had. Not only did we hear sea songs and shanties from the rigging but plenty of other fantastic singer/storytellers. We were also able to catch up with Green Herring and friends at the Mission to Seafarers.

Thank you Bunbury for a well organized festival. We had a great time.

Christine Boulton



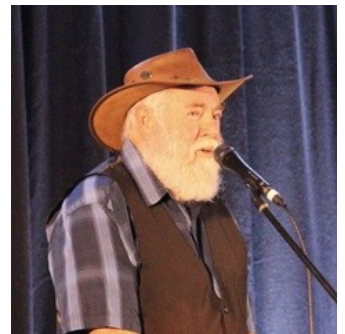
Rob Gunn



Christine Boulton



Bev Shorland



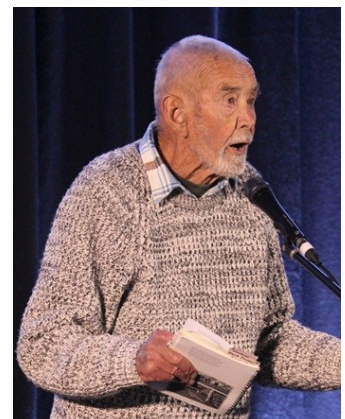
Greg Joass



Graham Lees



Jeff Swain



Rodger Cracknell

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Inc (WABPYA)

Proposals for Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members:

The positions of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee members for each upcoming year may be decided upon via one of the following 2 methods:

- 1: Written Nomination: to be submitted to the Secretary at any time at least 24 hours prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and must include the following information;
- a) the full name of the nominator (who must be a member of the Association) [and dated];
 - b) the full name of the nominee;
 - c) the proposed position of the nominee;
 - d) the written consent/signature of the nominee; [and dated];

This information is to accompany all proposed nominees;

- 2: Verbal Nomination: to be presented personally at the AGM by a member of the Association, and must include all of the information required under point 1 above ('Written Nomination'). Should the nominee not be present at the AGM their written consent must be submitted to the AGM [and dated].

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WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 AT 6.30 PM

Bentley Park SwanCare Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley

Meeting Opened: 6.31 pm, with President Bill Gordon as chairman.

Present: (see list following Close of Meeting in these Minutes).

Apologies: (see list following Close of Meeting in these Minutes).

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Friday, 1st September, 2023

The Minutes have been distributed to all Members via notice in the August Bully Tin and by post, and copies were also available at the Meeting for perusal by attendees.

Moved [Sue Hill/Meg Gordon] Minutes of the AGM 1st Sept 2023 be adopted. **Carried.**

2. President's Report:

President advised that his Report is that included in the September Bully Tin.

Moved [Rodger Kohn/Colin Tyler] that the President's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

3. Treasurer's Report:

Bill – can you get the 30 June 2024 information, plus the other several detailed sheets, from Sue

Moved [Rodger Kohn/John Hayes] that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. **Carried.**

4. Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members for 2024/2025:

[President, Bill Gordon, handed the chairmanship over to John Hayes for this item].

The positions currently held for 2023/2024 are:

Office Bearers:

President - Bill Gordon;

Vice President – Rodger Kohn;

Treasurer - Sue Hill;

Secretary (acting) - Rodger Kohn;

Ordinary Committee Members:

Meg Gordon, Irene Conner, Bev Shorland, Deb McQuire, Don Gunn, Anne Hayes and Maxine Richter;

ABPA Representative: Irene Conner.

Chairman John Hayes called for and received nominations for any of the above positions from Members attending the AGM, and received the nominations from others during the required submission period; following this, action was carried out as follows:

Moved (Rodger Kohn/Bill Gordon) The following positions be filled by the following persons for the 2024/2045 period:

Office Bearers:

<u>President</u> (Moved Sue H/Meg G)	<u>Bill Gordon</u>	Carried
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<u>Vice President</u> (Moved R Kohn/B Gordon)	<u>Keith Lethbridge</u>	Carried
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<u>Treasurer</u> (Moved R Kohn/C Tyler)	<u>Sue Hill</u>	Carried
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<u>Secretary</u> (Moved M Gordon/S Hill)	<u>Rodger Kohn</u>	Carried
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WA BUSH POETS AND YARNSPINNERS ASSOCIATION
AGENDA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 6.30 PM
Bentley Park SwanCare Auditorium, 26 Plantation Drive, Bentley

Meeting Opened:..... with President Bill Gordon as chairman.

Present: [Attendees to be listed at the Meeting, with the list to be included in the Minutes]

Apologies: [As advised, and the list to be included in the Minutes]

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – Friday, 6TH September, 2024

The Minutes have been distributed to all Members via notice in the August Bully Tin and by post, and copies will also be available at the Meeting for perusal by attendees.

Moved [../..] Minutes of the AGM 2024 be adopted.

Carried.

2. President's Report

President advised that his Report is that included in the August Bully Tin.

Moved [../..] the President's Report be adopted.

Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Festival a/c \$2,357.94; Trading a/c \$3,673.67; Term Deposit a/c \$6,763.73;

Total \$12,825.34.

Moved [../..] the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

Carried.

4. Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee Members for 2025/2026 [President, Bill Gordon, handed over the chairmanship to for this item]. The positions currently held for 2024/2025 are:

Office Bearers:

President - Bill Gordon;

Vice President – Keith Lethbridge;

Treasurer - Sue Hill;

Secretary - Rodger Kohn;

Ordinary Committee Members:

Meg Gordon, Keith Lethbridge, Sue Hill, Deb McQuire, Don Gunn, Greg Joass, Don Gunn, Maxine Richter, Heather Denholm.

ABPA Representative – Meg Gordon.

The Chairman to call for nominations for the above positions from any Member attending the AGM, and to request nominations received from non-attending Members for the above positions.

Elections / appointments / voting to be carried out.

Moved (..../....) The following positions be filled by the following persons for 2025/2026:

Office Bearers:

President (.... /....) –

Vice President: (.... /....) –

Treasurer: (.... /....) –

Secretary: (.... /....) –

Ordinary Committee Members:

Committee Members: (.... /....) -

WA Representative on ABPA: (.... /....) –

[Incoming President now took over chairmanship of the meeting]

5. General Business

A) Bunbury Branch of the Association: report to be presented at the AGM.

B) Peel Branch of the Association: report to be presented at the AGM.

6. Correspondence

Meeting Closed At

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Attachment 1 (attendees at the AGM)

Attachment 2 (apologies from those not present at the AGM)

Muster writeup 4th July 2025 courtesy Deb McQuire

Kieth 'Cobber' Lethbridge greeted everyone and turned the mic over to the MC for the evening David Sears

1 **Brian Coogan** - *'Tommy Corrigan'* by Banjo Patterson

This poem is about an Irishman who emigrated to Australia during the mid-1800s, and found relative fame and fortune (and inherent danger) in regional Victoria as a steeplechase rider.

2. **Daniel Avery** - *'My Motely Mates'* by Daniel Avery

Tells of good times with his best mates.

3. **Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge** - started with a lovely tune on his hurdy gurdy then followed on with *'Mum's Driving Lesson'*. by Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge

Danger lurks, when Dad agrees to give Mum a driving lesson. Along with the children, they head off on a perilous journey.

4. **Robert Asplin** – *'Tillibuck Xmas Party'* by Bill Kearns

The residents of the Old Age Persons home were told they were having no Xmas party due to the economic downturn. They plotted to have one anyway with hilarious consequences.

5. **Terry Piggott** - *'One Mans Prison'* by Terry Piggott

This is a poem about an old prospector forced down to the city from the bush because of medical problems, and he hates it - despite what city people tell him and although those folk may argue that there isn't any stress; to a lost and lonely bushman, it's a prison none the less.'

6. **Barry Higgins** – paid tribute to Sid Hopkinson and Arthur Legget and spoke of his favourite poems by these great poets.

Then presented

'Summer Idyll' by Arthur Legget

'Letter from the Editor' by Sid Hopkinson

'Bob the Battler' by Sid Hopkinson

The related a story of how Bob the Battler assisted his brother the accountant.

7. **Louraine Broun** - *'Nancy of the Overtime'* by Christina Hindhaugh

Modelled on a very familiar poem this tells the tale of an office worker's potential holiday pursuits from a country woman's perspective.

8. **John Hayes** - *'Violets'* by CJ Dennis

Bill and Doreen had been having a tiff about Doreen wanting a piano, so Bill picked some violets for Doreen as a peace offering, when Bill junior comes home from school with a black-eye and when Doreen sees it there's hell to pay.

9. **Anne Hayes** – *'Sunset on the Malley'* by Val Read

This poem gives a lovely description of the area as the sunsets over the granite ridges and the sights and sounds of the evening arise.

10. **Brian Langley** - *'McDonald's Creek'* by Brian Langley

The story of Jack and Polly meeting and living up at Old McDonalds Creek. The story of his Grandad.

Supper – Heather invited every one to attend The Peel Bush Poets Muster on Saturday September 6th at THE CAFÉ SPACE Bethanie 10 Maclaggan Turn, Coodanup

11 **Shelley Johnson** – Reading from the Classics - Charles Harpur (1813-1868) is recognized as one of Australia's most significant early poets, often referred to as Australia's first native born poet as described on a plaque on his grave erected in 1988. Poems read *'Anthem for the Australasian League'* & *'The Southern Land of Ours'*

12. **Lesley Ann Smith** – *'The Burden on Her Soul'* by Lesley Ann Smith

This first poem by Lesley tells of a woman rebuilding her life after escaping domestic violence. She wrote it as part of the poetry slam at the 2025 Boyup Brook Muster. Her target phase was 'Just Park it over there.' This was Lesley's first performance at a muster, she was warmly welcomed by all.

Muster Write Up cont.....

13. **Brian Coogan** - *'The Elders Bloke'* by Frank Heffernan
From retired Narrogin farmer Frank Heffernan's latest book "It's Rhyme Time Again". This poem tells the story of the importance of the Elders Rep in his community.
14. **Daniel Avery** - *'Australia, this Land we call Downunder'* by Daniel Avery
Tells of how proud he is to live in Australia.
15. **Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge** - *'Ashburton River'* by Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge
*A young man can dream of a far better day, but life drags you down when your whiskers turn grey,
So, I never returned to that Ashburton track, and once you start drifting, with swagging and shifting
There's no turning back.*
16. **Terry Piggott** - *'The Mystery of The Granites'* Terry Piggott
A story about a strange happening at a long-forgotten outback graveyard, where a feeling sadness seems to be always there. 'There's no headstone clues to ponder so confused I always wonder, why this sadness is here waiting every time that I pass by.'
17. **Barry Higgins** - *'The Illiterate Stockman'* by Sid Hopkinson
An old favourite which he first performed many years ago. About a stockman who couldn't read or write but when he was getting older was offered a job as the sanitary contractor for a country town, but couldn't accept as he couldn't complete the contract paperwork.
Then told us a tale of how 'old Ernie' the stockman had assisted a girl getting on a bus.
'GST' by Sid Hopkinson
Telling the story of how a man (a tax man, not a doctor) saved a busker when choking on a coin.
18. **Louraine Broun** - *'The Circle of Life'* by Terry Piggott
Written for her, relating the support she gave her mother to attend and enjoy bush poet's musters
19. **John Hayes** - *'The Whole Hog'* by J Hayes
We went to visit Aunt Mary and Uncle Arthur and they offered us to stay on their farm, saying they kill and dress a pig for us to eat; knowing we were fond of pork and bacon. But Uncle Arthur doesn't believe in any waste so made sure we ate the 'Whole Hog'
20. **Brian Langley** - *'Growing up'* by Brian Langley
This poem was an entry in a 'Poets Brawl' (1 min max) the phrase drawn by Brian was 'I thought I saw a bear (or bare)
'Fairies' by Brian Langley
This poem explains then reasons for various unexplained things that happen in his house.
21. **Heather Denholm** - *'I had a hippopotamus'* by Patrick Barrington
I was making animal cuddle rugs for babies, when I came to the hippopotamus, I suddenly recalled a poem I had learnt as a very small child so had to share it with you all.
22. **Deb McQuire** - *'A Narrative with Rhyme'* by Deb McQuire
*Bush Poetry's my passion I use it to express The day-to-day events of life and world concerns address.
I work to make it happen good metre, rhythm, rhyme But it's a battle royal to address it every time.*

David handed over to Cobber who closed the muster, thanking David for being our MC and everyone for coming.

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night for our scribe or send one via email to deb.mcquire@bigpond.com for the Muster write up. Thank you in advance

Next Muster: 5th September 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AT 6.30 PM
followed by the Muster at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Robert Asplin 0448 150 757 roba58@bigpond.com
Traditional night/CJ Dennis's birthday
Deadline for submissions for September's Bully Tin 20th August 2025

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA

WRITTEN EVENTS are in PURPLE

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au and www.writingwa.org

Why not check out Writing WA
<info@writingwa.org>
Always something interesting
going on for WA Writers

August

10 August — Brisbane EKKA Bush Poetry Competition, Brisbane, Queensland. See 14 July closing date.

31 August — Closing Date — Betty Olle Poetry Award, Kyabram, Victoria.

October

17 October—Closing Date — WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition

18 October — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships written competition, Bathurst NSW.

November

1 November — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships, performance, Bathurst NSW.

6-9 November — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships - performance and written, Bathurst NSW.
See 18 October closing date for written. See 1 November closing date for performance.

8th November—WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition
See 17 October—Closing Date



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