

The

October 2023

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



**Next Muster - 6th Oct 2023 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
SwanCare, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Anne Hayes 0428 542 418 hayseed1@optusnet.com.au
16 line challenge: Here we go again**

Promise of Spring

Spring surely must be near. High overhead
The kind blue heavens bend to timbers tall;
And here, this morning, is the picture spread
That I have learned to love the best of all.
I hear flame robin call
His early love-song. Winter's might is sped;
And young crowns now begin to fleck with red
This great green, living wall.

Picture of promise, that I count the best
Of many a fair familiar bushland scene;
Lifting o'er all, the far mount's sunlit crest
Looks down where silver wattles lightly screen
Blue smoke, that peeps between
Their tall tops, from some settler's hidden nest —
Looks down on golden wattles closely pressed
To blackwood's luscious green.

Before the dovecote, mirrored in the pond,
A veil diaphanous of drifting mist
Makes many a nimbus for great gums beyond
Whose gaunt, grey limbs a mounting sun has kissed
To palest amethyst.
Now, stepping very daintily, with fond,
Soft cooings, fantails on the lawn respond,
To Spring, the amorist.



Above the pool the swallows drift and dip
And circle on, to trail bright crystal showers.
Blue wren and peewit dance about its lip,
Pausing a while to test their choral powers.
And now, a hint of flowers
Peeps forth, where lupins, in close fellowship
With musk and maple, risk a tender tip
In quest of sunlit hours.

From the deep forest, on the clean crisp air,
The bushman's axe-blows echo sharply clear;
A soft cloud's tattered fleece drifts idly where
Glow azure hope. Impatient to appear,
Springs now full many a spear
Of marching daffodils. Shorn of cold care,
The joyous bush birds vie with flutings rare.
Spring surely must be near.

CJ Dennis

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

President's Preamble October 2023



Meg and I are back from our annual pilgrimage to the northern parts of WA and preparing for the Southern Spring run of events. It is a very different poetry presentation when we are doing an hour show on our own, but one that is very rewarding. The biggest challenge is to keep varying the program as several of the audience have seen us at other caravan parks along the way.

Thank you to those who attended the AGM and supported the changes to our Rules of Association. Nothing has really changed except that I am now officially President and not Chairman as stated in the rules. What has changed is that we now have a new secretary and a new vice-president with Rodger and Peter swapping roles. Otherwise the committee remains unchanged.

Our focus is now on preparations for Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival and State Championships to be held on 3rd to 5th November. Bev and Jem have been promoting the weekend at the Toodyay markets and throughout the town. The main change this year is that the Freemasons Hotel has been sold and is currently undergoing renovations so our "Meet and Greet" will be back at the Bowling Club on the Friday night. The full program will appear soon on our website and then in next month's Bullytin, but for those who can make it to Toodyay for the Friday afternoon we will be treated to a workshop presented by Cobber. This will be a unique opportunity to get some clues from our most awarded and talented poet. Hopefully some of his wisdom will rub off onto us "mere mortals".

Nambung Music Muster is no more but we still have plenty of other events wanting Bush Poets in the next couple of months. Pingrup Centenary is on 14th – 15th October with a Bush Poets Breakfast on the Sunday morning. The following weekend is the Chapman Valley Muster featuring many of the Nambung favourites and of course, Bush Poets on Sunday morning. Then we have a weekend off while I head back to Boyup Brook to host two country music bands playing at Harvey Dickson's Rodeo. Then it's up to Toodyay for our Bush Poetry Festival. Just as well we are happy to spend time on the road. But it is nice to stop in at Boyup Brook for a few days every so often.

If we miss you at one of these events, maybe we'll catch up at the muster or Bunbury Bush Poets on 2nd October or maybe Peel Poets on 7th November. I still wonder how I had time to run a farm. I keep telling people about the one big drawback with retirement – you never get a day off. Maybe I need a hobby.

Bill Gordon President

RESULTS – BRONZE SPUR AWARD 2023

for original written bush verse announced at the Drovers' Camp Festival, Camooweal, Queensland – 25th – 27th August, 2023.

1st and Winner of the Bronze Spur Trophy Helen Hervey, N.S.W. Best Dog

2nd Terry Piggott, W.A. Looking Back

3rd Terry Piggott W.A. The Opal Gougiers H.C.

4th Tom McIlveen N.S.W Where Heroes Prevail H.C.

5th Helen Hervey N.S.W The Horse Tailers Ellen Finlay

Written Poetry Co-ordinate The Drovers' Camp Association Inc. Camooweal, Queensland

Congratulations!

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

I meet these blokes quite often, staying in a caravan park
When you stop to have a chat, with your neighbours after dark
About the places that they've been, where they camped the night before
Or maybe what their plans are and where they're heading for
But there's always this one bloke who will drive you up the wall
Cause no matter where you talk about, he's been and seen it all
You may think that you're well travelled, but you're just an amateur
A bit of a 'stay at home' next to this campsite raconteur
If you've been out beyond the 'Black Stump', he's been past three or four
And if you think that you've been 'Outback', he's been 'out' even more
If you tell him that you've spent some time out in the 'Never Never'
Turns out that he's been camped out there, practically forever
He's travelled the length and breadth and all over our wide land
And knows the country 'back of Bourke', like you know your left hand
He's driven both the Birdsville and the Oonadatta track
And crossed the Simpson Desert twice, that's two times there and back
He's also done the 'Big Lap', and just to be perverse
The first time he went clockwise and the next time in reverse
He's done the Nullabor of course, both the new road near the coast
And the old one near the railway line, though he's not one to boast
He's been to 'Do Town' down in Tassie and stayed in Dunydo
He's camped along the Paroo and also Woolloomoolo
He's driven both the Centre road and the Gunbarrel as well
And he's also done the Connie Sue and also Ann Beadell
He's driven the country North to South and also East to West
So he's seen all of the pointy bits and all the bleeding rest
He's been up to the 'Cape' and right down to the 'Prom'
There is no place that you can name that he's not coming from

He's been right up the 'Top End', the Kimberley's and FNQ
And even driven to Tassie, which very few can do
So there isn't any town or place where this bloke hasn't been
And no mountain, jungle or desert that this bloke hasn't seen
He even claims he knows the places where everybody dwells
And implies he knows their home town better than they do themselves
There are times you'd like to fool him, by making up a name
But living here in Aussie, that's a chancy sort of game
They're not all in the postcode book, so how do you clinch the deal
Cause Aussie has some strange names and it could of course be real
You might try a joke like Binnaway, or even Come By Chance
Or Seldom Seen or Merrijig (that's a play on 'Merry dance')
But if he says he's been there and you should call him out
He'll give you enough detail to put your mind in doubt
They are actually real places, that exist out there somewhere
And you've just revealed your ignorance, by being unaware
There's a place he puts me in mind of and it's one I'm sure he'll know
And it is the sort of place I feel like telling him to go
So when he really riles me up and he elevates my ire
I wish he'd go to Belougery and swivel on the Spire



Photo of Belougery Spire

Greg Joass

Date: 17/09/2023

The Racist Rouseabout

This is just a simple tale about a racial taunt.
Yet it's very likely forever more to haunt

'twas back in 1963 in my early shearing days,
was working round the country, going through a sorta phase
I was shearing out of Longreach at the Longway shed
I sat me down for breakfast after stumbling out of bed
A dark skinned man was on my left, ove forgotten what's his name
He was the man that kept the cutters sharp, an expert at his trade
An original Australian with a proud but gentle look
Charlie was the classer, Misty was the cook

Now out in Western Queensland back in yesteryear
They had a strange tradition I considered rather queer
The classer and the rousies often dined apart
From the shearers and the rousies sort of a la carte
It wasn't so in every shed but it seemed to be the norm
Sort of class distinction of some intrinsic form
Well it wasn't so at Longway, we all dined as one
The classer and the presser, the novice and the gun

Misty cooked the porridge; the chops were on the stove
When I noticed this rouseabout; a nervous kind of cove
He asked to speak to Charlie; he had something on his mind
They had an animated conversation; they stood just a few feet behind
I picked up bits and pieces; never picked up every word
But I as somewhat shocked, amazed by what I heard
Charlie in his wisdom raised his hand up high
Called for out attentions; then hung him out to dry

This man you see before you doesn't seem to think
You should dine in here unless your skin is pink
He conveyed to me quite clearly that he is quite unable
To enjoy his meals with a black man at the table
Should the black man eat outside with the flies and dust
Or happy he sits inside beside the rest of us
If you have objections raise them loud and clear
Or forever hold you tongues without the slightest fear

Not a word was uttered; not a sound was heard
'cept the slurping of the porridge and a teacup being stirred
Charlie cam back to the table; you've got your answer mate
I think its time you were a movin, don't forget to shut the gate
As the rousies made his exit he was trembling like a leaf
His face was pale and ashen; he was drowning in his grief

I've no idea what happened to that twisted rouseabout
No one seemed to give a damn I've not the slightest doubt
But the coloured man in question was respected by the team
Was accepted by us all and held in high esteem
I felt proud to be Australian; as shiny as a pin
To judge a man by his heart not the colour of his skin

Fifty summers later I'm still as proud today
To have been associated with that team out Longreach

Jack Bock



Bush Poets and Muster 1st September 2023 write up by Bev Shorland

MC Don Gunn opened the Muster following our AGM

Peter Nettleton *'The Smiths'* *by Dryblower Murphy*

Just about every digger in the goldfields is a Smith or are they?

Deb McQuire *'Dust Fairies'*

An imaginary tale about a trip to the shops with grandchildren where we enjoyed the company of some 'Dust Fairies' making the arduous job of shopping more enjoyable. And where do we find dust fairies why of course they are hiding disguised as the little flecks that appear in the sun's rays through your windows.

'The Last Warrior'

Written to thank so many that have stood beside our family through a very difficult time

John Hayes *'In The Droving Days'* *by A B Patterson*

A drovers horse is being auctioned, an onlooker seeing the old horse raises his hand and wins the bid. In his mind it takes him back to the droving days.

Rodger Kohn *The Designated Driver... / Decoy. A Yarn*

At the pub closing time a Policeman watches to see if any intoxicated patrons get into their cars to drive, he will catch them.. the policeman watches one fellow who staggers to his car, apprehending him as he drives away , only to be told that the sober driver was the 'designated decoy' while the other drivers got away unnoticed.

Brian Langley *'Driving in the Outback'* *by Brian Langley*

Australia can be a dangerous place for the unprepared who drive beyond the bitumen. Brian's original poem describes how he, with his wife had left the bitumen and found themselves on tracks rarely crossed. However when answering the call of nature, another vehicle suddenly appears. Brian believes this is a universal law and urges everyone to know that "Should you have a breakdown when driving outback tracks, to get assistance there and then , simply drop your daks!"

'The Cricket Match' *by Brian Langley*

Reminiscing about he day he was at Lilac Hill watching WA play England. The game was becoming rather boring when a lady stalker livened up the day as she darted naked , back and forth across the 'sacred turf' until caught and taken away. Brian will always remember that day 'because it's not everyday that there's a stalker who's your wife.'

Rob Gunn *A Yarn*

A passenger in the car feels its unfair that it is always the driver who gets breath tested.

'My Trucking Life' *by Chris Taylor*

Set to music by Rob, tells of a truck driver , trucking all over Australia with his wife by his side, he really loves his trucking life,

'Clancy of the Overflow' *by Banjo Patterson*

A delightful rendition of this poem, set to music and sung by Rob.

Keith 'Cobber 'Lethbridge

Keith played a beautiful tune on the clarinet 'On the banks of the Reedy Lagoon'

'The Aussie Bush Mechanic'

He always seems to be around when needed, & his price is always the same: A carton. He might be rough & ready, but, with any luck, he'll get you, & your vehicle, on the track.

Peter Nettleton *'Are the Wongans Ripe Yet Mate'* *by Peter Capp*

On the way to Wongan Hills , imagining the delicious treats and pies to be had. Arriving at Wongan hills with the chorus 'are the Wongans ripe yet Mate?'

Supper

Daniel Avery *'My Motley Crew'* *by Daniel Avery*

Going to the Bullsbrook Pub and enjoying a meal with his "Motley Crew"

Deb McQuire *'Finding Head Space'*

John Hayes *'Washing Day'* *by C.J. Dennis*

Still so in Love with his Doreen after six years married, he is still amazed and wonders about his woman.

Peter Rudolf *'Entrapment'* *by Bill Kearns*

Also known as.... 'The terrifying Tail of Trevor's Trapped Testicle'

Anne Hayes *'The First Surveyor'* *Banjo Patterson*

The opening of the railway line, they are celebrating the engineer, but it was her old husband that first found the way through range.

Brian Langley *'Going East'* *Dryblower Murphy*

Brian read one of his favourite Dryblower Poems. This Poem graphically describes the hopes, plans, dreams, and despair of the passengers aboard a steam ship leaving Fremantle, heading south into the Indian Ocean swell then 'Going East'

Keith Lethbridge

Another beautiful tune on the Clarinet 'Rosin the Bow.' (This tune has also been adapted & used for "The Catalpa")

Cobber's Talking Dog.

He tried to prove himself by identifying a piece of classical music, but when he said "Bach", it was misinterpreted as "Bark". What an unfortunate misunderstanding! Actually, I have a singing dog, right here with me now, & should bring him to a Muster some time. His name is "Pup". He's an Australian Terrier. All I have to do is play the mouth-organ & away he goes.

Bev Shorland *'Reedy River'* *by Henry Lawson*

Beautifully describes the place he wants to build his farm and a life with his love Mary.

Rob Gunn *'The Grand Final Dream'* *by Mick Collis*

The dream was so vivid, it feels like its true, the Eagles and the Dockers game ends in a draw. He can't decide who to follow, so he wears both team colours.

Daniel Avery *'Three turns and a Gallop'* *by Daniel Avery*

Daniel describes the thrill and excitement of Barrel Racing at the Rodeo.

Peter Rudolf *'The Train Ride'* *by Chris Taylor*

Spoken first slowly in the rhythm of a train moving from the station and spoken more quickly as the train would speed up, then slowing down till the train comes to a stop. The Author Chris was inspired by the miniature rail at Toodyay.

The Muster finished just after 9.30. Thank you MC Don for a lovely evening .

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night or send one via email to shorland@iinet.net.au for the Muster write up. Thanks in advance Bev

**Next Muster: 10th November at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
SwanCare, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Frank and Mary Heffernan 9881 6652 muffenburg@westnet.com.au
Reading from the classics - Bev Shorland**

**Ideally 30th Oct - through to 6th Nov 2023
for info/results/pictures from Toodyay
is the deadline for submissions
for possible inclusion in October's Bully Tin**

The Wadgula Man

Hey! Mr. Wadgula Man – wont you say hello to me?
Won't you take me by the hand and help to set me free?
I'm not asking for your time, I'm not asking for your pay
But would mean so much to both of us, if you would say G'day

Forty thousand years ago we were where you are now
We learned to live with nature, what the Wagyl would allow
I know so much about this land, it certainly appears
Us Noongahs learned an awful lot in forty thousand years

Hey!. Mr. Wadgula Man – don't you pass me by
Don't pretend that I'm not here, don't shake your head and sigh
Don't cross over the road, don't walk the other way
It would mean so much to both of us, if you would say G'day

Some day further down the line ill invite your to my home
Ill take you through the dreaming time
Where my ancestors used to roam
Ill show you how we found this land all those years ago
We care for the environment with the cunning of a crow

Hey!. Mr. Wadgula Man – we've got to see it through
Don't leave it to the other bloke its up to me and you
The other bloke will see some day if me and you just pray
That all Australians in this land will smile and say G'day

Hey! Mr. Wadgula Man – won't you say hello to me?
Won't you take me by the hand and help to set me free?
I'm not asking for your time, I'm not asking for your pay
But would mean so much to both of us, if you would say G'day

Jack Bock

2023 'New' BULLY TIN TOODYAY CHALLENGE

SHORT POEM COMPETITION

'Cash Prize' sponsored by the Bully Tin

This year's themes are

* *Gratitude*

* *If I (you) could turn back time*

- *Choose one or present one poem for each theme.*

Conditions of Entry: 20 Lines of Verse with good Rhythm and Rhyme

Poems to be read or performed on Sunday at Toodyay Bush Poets Festival

3rd - 5th Nov 2023 (check program for details when available)



**WA Bush Poets
& Yarnspinners**



Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival

Fri 3rd - Sun 5th Nov 2023

**WA Bush Poetry
Performance Championships
Poetry Writing Workshop
Variety Concert Saturday Night**

FREE ENTRY TO ALL EVENTS

Proudly sponsored and supported by



For more information, visit

www.wabushpoets.asn.au

Special Note: Please remember to book your site soon at the Toodyay Holiday Park for the Toodyay Bush Poets Festival in November (10 spaces reserved)

Roxy Lane Theatre
proudly presents...
a community theatre production

Alzheimer's the Musical

A Night to Remember
By Maureen Sherlock

Starring
Julie Holmshaw Jane Sherwood Lis Hoffmann

Produced by
Peter Nettleton

Roxy Lane Theatre, 55 Ninth Ave, Cnr Roxy Lane, Maylands

13, 14, 19, 20 & 21 October 2023 @7:30pm
15 & 22 October @ 2pm

\$23 FULL | \$19 CONCESSION | \$18 GROUPS 10+

Bookings www.TAZtix.com.au
or Ph 9255 3336

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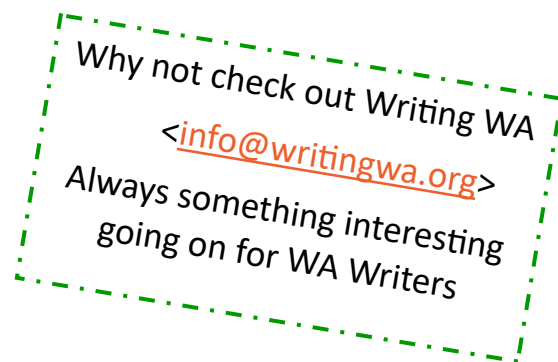
Contains funny Adult Themes

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**



OCTOBER 2023

2 October — Closing Date — Silver Quill Written Competition, Toodyay, WA.

11 October — Closing Date — 2023 Australian Bush Poetry Film Festival. Best Australian Bush Poetry Film, Best Student Bush Poetry Film, Australian Poetry Hall of Fame in Guyra, NSW.

13 October — Closing Date — Lambing Flat Young FAW NSW Writing Competition, Young, NSW

NOVEMBER 2023

1 November — Closing Date — WA State Championships for bush poetry performance.

1 November — Closing Date — NSW State Championships written bush poetry competition, Guyra, NSW.

** See 2 October closing date for *Silver Quill written* and 1 November closing date for performance.

3-5 November — WA State Championships of bush poetry, performance and *Silver Quill written*, Toodyay, WA.

7 November — Closing Date — NSW State Championships for bush poetry performance, Guyra, NSW.

12-19 November — Poets on The Mountain Festival @Guyra including ABPA NSW Bush Poetry Championship

18-19 November: performance (see 7 November closing date) and *written* (see 1 November closing date) categories.
Australian Bush Poetry Film Festival screenings 12-19 November (see 11 October closing date).
Australian Poetry Hall of Fame in Guyra, NSW

30 November — Closing Date — Blackened Billy Verse Competition, to be awarded at Banjo Paterson Festival, Orange NSW.

Enter by 14 November for the chance to win a \$300 Akubra voucher.

FEBRUARY 2024

12 February — Closing Date — Banjo Paterson Poetry Festival original poetry performance competition, Orange, NSW. .

17-25 February — Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. Several events, walk-ups and original performance competition on Friday 23 February — students, novice and open (see 12 February closing date), Orange, NSW.



Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2023-24

President	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Sue Hill	0418 941 016	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

Committee

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Regular Events

WA Bush Poets: 1st Friday each month *MC details see front page*
- 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA

Bunbury Bush Poets: 1st Monday every ‘even’ month
- The Parade Hotel, Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243
1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636

Goldfields Bush Poetry Group: 1st Wednesday each month. Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376
- 7.30pm 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 or www.bushverse.com

Address correspondence for the “Bully Tin” to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or 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

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
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.