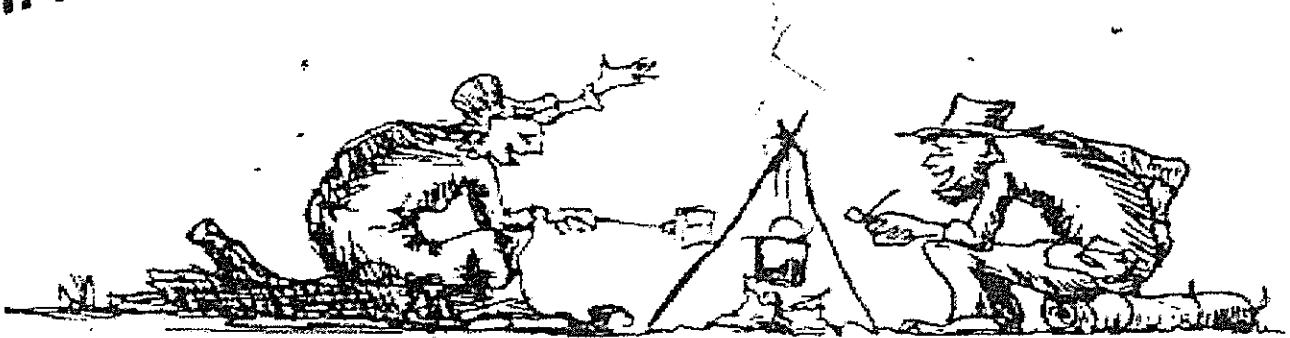


# WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



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

Newsletter November, 1999

## **OFFICIAL RULES OF ENTRY** **WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSN Inc.** **AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE**

### **AUSTRALIAN BUSH & URBAN POETS SECTION**

**Definition:** Australian Poetry is bush and urban poetry relevant to Australia and the Australian way of life.

**Categories:** (1) Original (Own) compositions  
(2) Other poets' works (author to be acknowledged)

**Presentation:** All poetry must be performed from memory (not read).

**Duration:** Three to seven minutes including 'preamble' (introduction to poem)

### **YARNSPINNERS SECTION**

**Definition:** The yarn is a narrative, long and convoluted rather than short and direct, that uses exaggeration and other devices to stretch the credulity of the audience. Wit, humour and wry observation colour the tale, and in the Australian form it is often delivered in laconic or deadpan style to encourage belief in the 'marvellous' or incredible events told.

**Presentation:** All yarns must be performed from memory (not read).

**Duration:** Three to seven minutes per contestant.

*Material of a tasteless nature will be penalised or disqualified.*  
*Please remember the Wireless Hill finals are a family event*

## DROPPINGS FROM THE BOSS COCKY

At the time of writing our bush poet stalwart Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge is walking the Bibbulmun track during his annual leave. "So what?" you say. Well he sees his as a fact finding trip to pave the way for our Association to join him next year about this time on a bush poetry odyssey where members (and friends) can join in and walk a bit the talk a bit.

The idea has some merit. As I see it, whereas those who feel inclined can walk certain parts of the track say – commencing on a Friday, meet that night for a campfire-type performance, then on Saturday do the same, meeting at another pre-arranged spot, or even a poets' breakfast, the potential is there. All it will need is for some energetic member to pick up the ball and run with it.

Speaking of travelling, another of our poetic pedallers (not pedlars), Brian Gale, has been off to distant parts like – Canada, Montana & Hawaii – pedalling and poeting (his words) for a three month stint, sounds like nice work if you can get it. Brian writes that he had a great time, met some lovely people and is now back home in Downtown Margaret River. He hopes to get to Albany for the "launch" and sends an early reminder re Boyup Brook February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> – put it in your diary as it is getting bigger and better every year (century).

Travelling and meeting nice people seems to be synonymous with bush poetry. Yours Truly and Judy arrived home early September after a most enjoyable trip to Hong Kong & the U.S.A. We spent four weeks there, of which 10 days were taken up by a journey by vehicle through California, Nevada (Las Vegas), Utah (Salt Lake City), Wyoming, Yellowstone Park and Montana with our destination a town in central Montana. Lewistown was holding the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowboy Poets Gathering on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. It was a buzz. I got to perform on each day and showed the flag. There is at least one cowboy gathering each week somewhere in the U.S. mainly in the western and central states. I must concur with Brian that you meet some real nice people and have some great experiences and - Oh yes – the scenery just blows you away.

Another travelling man is the Yarnspinner Extraordinaire Kel Watkins, who has just returned (from a quick trip around the world (U.K. and the U.S.). Kel got to Louisville Kentucky in the land of the liars to appear in their national story telling event. Methinks we will be hearing more about ghost stories. Does anybody have a cemetery for Kel to rent? You'll have a good yarn to tell about how he travelled alone for the first time in years and just kept losing his possessions.

Secretary Lorelie has been moving right around the country virtually, no actually. Perth, Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Melbourne, Tasmania, Perth. There is not much grass growing under that girl's feet. I trust that she comes back nice and refreshed, as there are busy days ahead.

Don't forget to tell your friends about the 'Come-All-Ye' nights at the Raffles, also the unique opportunity to pick up some tips and learn the skills of writing and performing bush poetry from the 'Grande Dame' of the art, Carmel Randle, an opportunity not to be missed.

Reports coming in of our two new written competitions are very heartening, Joan Macneall tells me that the response to the Junior Sandgropers section was very good, while Cobber is very pleased with the number and standard of the open written version. These two innovations have the potential to be BIG!

By the time you receive this, plans will be well in place for our foray into Albany, the people down there encouraged by our diligent editor have been working hard to organise and promote an excellent weekend of rhyming verse and fellowship – let's hope the Albany mob achieve their objective.

Best of luck to members in the forthcoming heats and final on Australia day (the first of the new century), This event was the catalyst that started our movement of reviving an almost forgotten way of expression. One wonders if we could improve or rearrange the day or long weekend to give all or our writers and performers an opportunity to exhibit their skills – think about it.

Had a yarn with the Ardross Assassin A.K.A. Jeff Swain, the other day. He is alive and well, busy turning the ships around in Fremantle harbour, sends his regards to all and is looking forward to getting back into the poeting action.

The Boss Cocky A.K.A. Rusty Christensen

## FIRST HEAT WINNERS OCT 8<sup>TH</sup> - AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE 2000

Original (Own) compositions: Peter Capp, Runner-up Geoff Bebb

Other poet's work (author acknowledged): Peter Capp, runner-up Rusty Christensen

Yarnspinner: Peter Capp

**INAUGURAL WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS WRITTEN COMPETITIONS**  
**Both the Open and the Sandgropers Children Sections of our first written poetry**  
**competition have been well received, and the response has been very pleasing.**  
**Winning entries will be announced at the Australia Day Challenge**

**TO KAILI**

I've got a little puppy as sweet as she can be,  
But what a monstrous bladder! My goodness! Can it pee!  
My house is inundated 'cause she's peeing all the time,  
The place is smelling nasty of my puppy's urine.  
I rub her little nose in it as gently as I can,  
"That's not the thing to do," I say. She doesn't understand.  
She gazes up into my eyes and stares innocently,  
And then! Right underneath my nose, she squats to do a pee.  
I crawl around the house at night sniffing everywhere,  
She thinks that it's a lovely game and yaps without a care.  
'Tis though she says: "I've found a place I haven't peed before,  
"Look mum, I'll fix this up for you," and then she pees some more.  
I've tried to leave her in the yard, she cries so piteously,  
The neighbours think I'm very cruel. They pass and glare at me.  
But Kaili simply will not learn of household etiquette,  
She will not pee upon the lawn, but uses my carpet.  
I've bought some tasty biscuits and sat her on a tray,  
But she prefers the litter and eats it all away.  
Then she'll dash into the lounge room. I know what's on her mind.  
Too late! Upon the carpet a smelly spot I find.  
I've bought shampoo by the gallon, liquid, powder and the foam,  
I've scrubbed and sprayed the carpet and Glen Twentied my home.  
She watches all my efforts and wags her little tail,  
While, with all the naughty words I've learnt, I angrily regale.  
She's a lovely little puppy – with so much love to share,  
But how I wish she wouldn't leave her puddles everywhere.  
And the a little parcel that stinks the whole house out  
Is deposited with cunning so I have to seek it out.  
Her favourite time for peeing is when visitors arrive,  
She'll wait until they're eating, then to a spot she'll dive.  
I grab the feather duster and she'll yelp as though possessed,  
But not before she's left behind a pile of steaming mess.  
I've given up! I'm beaten! Will my puppy have to go?  
Not on your life! The carpet's gone. I've put down new lino.

**V.P. READ © 7/5/1999**

**BRONZE SWAGMAN**

Entry into the prestigious "Bronze Swagman" written competition closes 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2000.  
You can receive an entry form for writers by sending your request accompanied by a business sized self  
addressed envelope to:

Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards,  
P.O. Box 7714, TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE Q 4352

(or) FAX (076) 309 998

For the young writers, entry forms for "Little Swaggies"  
will be available at the start of the 2000 School Year, from the same address.

We have seen he is a grand performer, but what we hadn't heard about Arthur Leggett was recently reported in the Have A Go News. As well as being the renowned bush poet we know, also is an active kayaker, and completed a half marathon in 1998. 'onya Arthur!

## **The QANTAS - WALTZING MATILDA FESTIVAL**

For an experience never to be forgotten,  
every bush poet lover should attempt to get to at least one  
Annual QANTAS – Waltzing Matilda Festival in Winton,  
Queensland Outback Australia.

Plan now for the 2000 WALTZING MATILDA BUSH POETRY  
AWARDS EASTER WEEKEND, 2000.

Go to enjoy the events as a spectator, or prepare yourself as a performer.

**An innovation this year is a planned Poets' Bus Tour  
for the last leg to Winton (Budget priced!)**

Details of the programme, over seven days from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April to  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April (Anzac Day) and assistance with bookings and travel are  
available by sending your request accompanied by a business sized self  
addressed envelope to: Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, P.O. Box  
7714, TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE Q 4352 or FAX (076) 309 998

Good evening folks, fellas and females. Cobber here, writing from Albany, where I've just  
wandered in from the Bibbulmun Track.

Sincere apologies for missing out on the first two competition heats. It breaks my heart, but  
unfortunately I just can't make it. However, I'll be there in December, God willing.  
Many thanks to those who helped sponsor my walk. Quite a bit has been raised for the  
Salvation Army, and I'm sure they'll put it to good use.

It was a beautiful walk...a once in a life-time experience. We have a magnificent bit of  
country here in our own South-West. So many wonderful views, majestic trees, wild-  
flowers, birds, animals and eccentric wanders along the way. I started the 968 kilometre  
journey on October 1 from Kalamunda and arrived here at Albany today, on October  
30...the first person to complete the journey in thongs. Used three pairs, but they've all got  
plenty of mileage left. Rusty gave me two massages before I left, and Kay can verify that  
there's not a single blister on my feet. Thanks Boss Cocky, and God bless that little thong-  
maker in Korea!

No doubt a few rhymes will follow, in the fullness of time and reflection. In the mean-time,  
I'm looking forward to getting home to my loved ones tomorrow. Then it's back to work  
the following day. No rest for the wicked, and none for us righteous either, unfortunately.

Kind regards to you all,  
Cobber. 30.10.99

### USE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

The Lotteries Commission has kindly donated \$1,873 towards the purchase of a Public Address system for the WA Bush Poet's & Yarnspinners Assn. thanks to the submission drawn up by member Peter Gralton. We are all much indebted to the considerable effort Peter put into this endeavour, over a period of several months, to ensure this grant came our way. The System will be stored at the Gralton Household, and should be collected and returned to that address, for use at each gathering. Arrangements should be made to collect the gear by phoning in advance:

Peter Gralton Telephone: 9384 4465



*Have van, Will travel*

For the last thirty years, Broome has held the SHINJU MATSURI – FESTIVAL of the PEARL to celebrate the multi cultural place that Broome has become as a result of the pearl industry. Events over the week included float parades, gala ball, billy cart derbies and dragon boat races plus of course an evening of poetry. The poetry was held at Matso's Art Gallery/Restaurant, which proved to be a great venue. The audience of about one hundred, either sat under the stars or on the restaurant raised verandah and all enjoyed a good view and well set-up sound system. The poetry was open mike and again I was amazed at the range of topics and standards of word and presentation. About half of the fifteen presenters were travellers like myself whilst the others were either Broome locals or from the surrounding Kimberley area. During the evening the winners of the "Local Wordsmith" competition were announced for short stories and poetry. The prizes of complete computer systems and color printers were an indication of the support from local businesses. There was no entry charge for this event and Matso's provided free finger food. Apart from the festival, a poetry evening is held at Matso's approx. every three months, give Jacqui Wright a call at her work number (08) 9192 5560 for details. June and I are swimming in the crystal clear waters of the West coast coral areas, and working our way down to Carnarvon, where we will attend a Poets' corner to be held late September

Carnarvon is a small town at the mouth of the Gascoyne River, about 1000k north of Perth. It is a pleasant place where the main industries are fruit and vegie growing plus some fish processing. For a little place, it is very strong in art/Culture activities including a singing club, amateur theatre, art galleries, etc and of course, a Writers and Poets group. Chris Toy is the convenor for the "Poets' corner" held at approx. three monthly intervals. She and the group would make any visiting poets welcome. If you're going to the area, give Chris a call on (08) 9994 1345.

After leaving Carnarvon, we called at Denham to do a spot of dugong and dolphin watching, then on to Geraldton. Unfortunately, we arrived on a Sunday morning and had to wait till Monday to check out the local poetry scene. I found that their group meets on the second Sunday afternoon in the month, at the Arts and Crafts Centre. The Centre is situated only 1K from where I was staying, but blissfully unaware, I spent my afternoon washing the car and van and missed out! However, I am told that this is a good group, so if you're in the area, pop in and say hello.

Mobile: 0414 844831

June and Ted Webber

Email: juneted@yahoo.com

### MEMBERSHIP - CONSTITUTION RULE 7(3)

If you don't receive your next newsletter, it is because our membership register shows that we have had no response to three separate reminders that the 1999-2000 annual subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> July this year. Rush your \$10 in if you wish to continue your membership. Otherwise, we hope you have enjoyed receiving the newsletter to date, and that you may spread the word to those you meet who might be interested. We will always be pleased to see you in the audience, and thank you for your past support.

## SPREADING THE WORD

### **ON THE ROAD**

In correspondence received from Albany member Jim Geary, we hear more of the spreading popularity of Bush Poetry. Here is an extract of his letter sent from Wodonga, Vic. as he travelled extensively through "the East". "During our time in Cairns we attended the annual Agriculture Show and were pleased to discover the inaugural performance of the Bush Poets Association. We 'sat in' for over 2 hours enjoying the event immensely, could have stayed longer however time was against us. I believe the performance lasted for 4 hours and was very well received by the public. The outright winner was a 16 year old College lad who delivered an expressive version of 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle.'"

### **ON THE AIR**

In an effort to raise awareness of the Australian Bush Poetry movement, your Membership Registrar performed a reading of Bob Magor's humorous poem "Grandma's New Washing Machine" for the John Cecil show on a recent ABC Sunday Morning Radio spot. The poem brought a response of 30 calls from all over the state. Several callers expressed interest in joining our association, others reminisced old times. More than a few recited their own poems over the phone, and one enterprising lady offered a mail order brassiere service, thinking the reader of the poem may have inherited Grandma's "boobs". It seems we all still enjoy the humorous and mildly risqué!

### **ON THE FREQUENT-FLYER TRIP**

Taking up her surplus frequent flyer points, Hon. Sec. Lorelie Tacoma has just returned from a five week zip around Australia with stop-overs in Darwin, Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne, Canberra. Spending a minimum of three full days at each stop, Lorelie was able to take organized tours and see the arts in each location. Highlight of her holiday was an extended scenic tour through Tasmania with her brother and sister-in-law.

### **ON THE INDIAN RESERVATION**

Having spent several months on the bicycle seat, Brian Gale has recently returned home with wonderful tales and many new poems inspired by his 3,000 K bicycle ride through the Rockies and the Canadian and U.S. States on the Pacific West Coast of North America. Living on the Indian Reserve, Brian was able to immerse himself in the "Old Ways", and see at first hand the practicalities of the "New Ways" in the everyday life of the modern Indian.

### **ON THE BIBBULMUN TRACK**

Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge is on track again. Having broken his walk from Kalamunda to Albany at Walpole, he has resumed his endeavour and set out from Walpole on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October. He has just a short time to complete his "End to End Walk" down the trail of the Waugal before returning to work on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Good Luck, Cobber

### **ON THE BIKE**

It seems 3,000 K on a bike is just not enough for the Pedalling Poet, Brian Gale. Hardly home for a breather, he joined a group of cyclers who were determined to do the round trip from Margaret River (his hometown) to Albany, circling the Perongurups Range on the way. Brian Gale turned up on the doorstep of your editor on Tuesday evening, 19<sup>th</sup> October, and provided an impromptu recital to a small appreciative audience of neighbours and one other member, Brian Moody Morcombe. Brian Gale presented his new poems about the American Indians, and an exchange of anecdotes and poems relating to family pets was enjoyed by the whole group. Keen to find out how he managed to travel so far through Canada on \$20/day and a bicycle, were the high-school girls in the gathering. A sobering thought for young modern misses.

### **ON THE GRAND TOUR**

The Boss Cocky is back from his marathon tour of the U.S. of A, stopping off with family duties in mind. Ever energetic, he still managed to Wow the audience at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowboy Poetry gathering in Lewistown, Montana. Three separate performances by "this Aussie Bloke", and a packed house on the Saturday night, had the fans lining up for Rusty's autograph.

### **ON THE CARAVAN TREK**

Travelling anti-clockwise around Australia, and towing bicycles and caravan, are Australian Bush Poet Assn members Ted Webber and his wife June. Currently travelling through the South West, they are heading to our Writers Workshop in Perth, then through the Wheatbelt and off.....back East. Ted and June are seeking out Bush Poets and Ballroom Dancers on their travels. Ted has kindly provided the articles about Broome and Carnarvon for our information. Safe trip home folks!

### **ON THE RAINBOW COAST**

Heaps of written talent, hidden in bottom drawers. What is now needed is some energetic performance to demonstrate how that is done.

## TWO SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

### **CARMEL RANDLE WORKSHOP on POETRY WRITING SKILLS**

This workshop runs from 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November, and is open to all aspiring writers of rhyming verse. Members, please spread the word to introduce your friends to the pleasures of Australian bush poetry. The ten hour course is exceptional value at just \$10 registration per person. Bring your own pen and paper. **Just a few places remain, so be quick. Register immediately by contacting our Lorelie, 9310 1500**

The provision of two generous grants ensure this educational programme will run at minimal cost. Once again the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn is indebted to the Rotary Club of Melville for their sponsorship. Thanks to their kind donation of \$500 we have been able to fly Carmel Randle over to run the workshop. Melville City Council has also been very generous, allowing us rent-free premises (in the Community Centre on the corner of Stock Road, and Canning Highway, Melville) as a gesture of goodwill. We are fortunate indeed to have access to the fine negotiating skills of our executive committee members, Lorelie Tacoma and Rusty Christensen. Thank you both for your efforts.

### **RAINBOW COAST WEEKEND IN ALBANY**

the Weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> November

Here is an opportunity have a fun weekend and spread the joy of Bush Poetry.

Bring your supporters and families.

Showcase your performance skills and sell your books, too.

Slow down to have a wonderful Weekend on the Rainbow Coast.

Albany is just a 4.5 hour drive down Albany Highway from Armadale, and this includes a snack stop and a good break from driving. If you wish to peek in the antique shop in Kojonup, 5 hours!

As your response to this event was gauged, our plans have developed to include the following programme.

#### **Saturday afternoon Open House at Five Bells**

Collect your thoughts and relax with fellow travelers at Stehn's Place. Poetry warm-up if you need it.

Take this opportunity to orientate, and check the map to familiarize your way to the two gatherings.

Performers and audience are all welcome.

#### **Saturday night at the NOOK**

The NOOK Folk Club invites performers and audience to the historic King River Hall, with its charming timber-lined interior and fine acoustics. No microphones needed here. Musical interludes of Australiana performed by Celtic Fire will have your feet tapping and your heart singing. – just wait till you hear Jim on the fiddle. The hall will be set with tables, please bring your own favourite drinks and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be available at interval. This will be a night to remember, so don't miss it.

#### **Sunday Brunch at EMU POINT BEACH**

Albany doesn't move fast on Sunday. Sleep in then join us for an informal brunch starting at 10.30. Meet at the BBQ, under the Peppermint Trees at Emu Point where beautiful Oyster Harbour flows through a narrow channel to the King George Sound. Bistro and café food is also available right there. The word is out around town that there will be a Bush Poetry and Yarnspinners presence there that day, so here is another performance opportunity and chance to show your skills to the general public.

All members are warmly welcomed to Albany.

Please direct all "HELP" calls to Kay Stehn Tel/fax 98441656.

**BRING YOUR BOOKS AND TAPES TO SELL WHEN YOU COME TO ALBANY**

## COMING EVENTS

### **BUSH POETS WRITERS WORKSHOP 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. –YOU NEED TO BE QUICK**

A few places held open for latecomers      Contact: The Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma 9310 1500

### **RAINBOW COAST WEEKEND IN ALBANY 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Nov.**

#### **Saturday Night of Bush Poetry Featuring Carmel Randle of Queensland**

Brought to you by the Nook Folk Club and supported by Celtic Fire

King River Hall, Millbrook Road (past the King River Tavern)

\$5 entry...7.30 start...BYO grog & nibbles...tea & coffee available

#### **Sunday Morning Brunch at Emu Point**

Informal Gathering under the Peppermint Trees 10.30 till noon

BBQ facilities & adjacent Bistro

Contact: Kay Stehn Albany ph/fax. 9844 1656, or at the Bush Poetry Writers Workshop

### **SECOND HEAT FOR THE AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge – Upstairs in the Riverview Room

7.30pm till 10 pm ...Entry \$2 at the door... No performance fee

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

### **THIRD HEAT rescheduled now Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Father Christmas needs the venue on our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month

THERE WILL BE NO COME-ALL-YE / COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE RAFFLES IN JANUARY

## **AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE 2000**

### **BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS CHALLENGE AT WIRELESS HILL IN MELVILLE**

26<sup>th</sup> January, 2000

For An Afternoon of Entertainment Under The Tree Of Wisdom

Listen to your favourite poets presenting their best works ...noon till dusk

Don't let the hot weather put you off, arrive early for a shady spot under the marquee

### **Boyup Brook Music Festival ...February 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

Contact: Brian Gale 25 Georgette Drive, Margaret River. Tel.9757 2431

Postage  
Paid  
Australia

Lorelie Tacoma  
16 Gratwick Terrace  
MURDOCH  
WA

6150