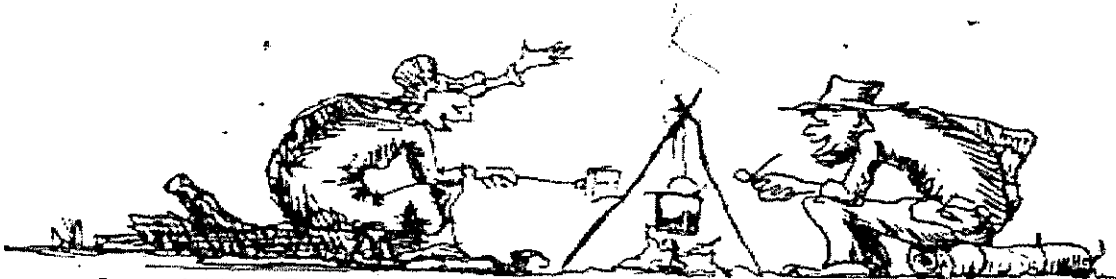


# WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



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

Newsletter February, 1998 ①

COME ALL YE

FRIDAY evening 7.30 onwards 6<sup>th</sup> March

THE MONTHLY "COME ALL YE" GATHERINGS ARE BACK  
AGAIN EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Except April 9<sup>th</sup> (to avoid Easter)

AT THE RAFFLES HOTEL

(Upstairs In The Riverview Room)

Entry \$2 at the door

This is a good venue to try out your material in a non-competitive  
evening of companionship and good cheer

BRING YOUR OWN SUPPORTERS

AND YOUR DUTCH COURAGE

'AVE A GO, MATE!

*I saw that! I was there!*

*If you can say that about any of the Bush Poets & Yarnspinnings gatherings, send a report as you saw it! Verse and doggerel also encouraged for publication in the newsletter.*

*Contact the Editor, Kay Stehn, 5 Bell Court, Bayonet Head, Albany, 6330 Phone/Fax 9844 1656*

## Come All Ye shy and retiring performers, show your talents

We really encourage members to drop their inhibitions and show their secretive talents. These monthly non-competitive evenings are a wonderful opportunity to get experience in front of a sympathetic crowd. Try out your new material, and develop up a performance style of your own at the next Come All Ye. If you have a hankering for the traditional poems, we encourage you to pull out those old books and polish up those recitals. We'll be at the Raffles Hotel, upstairs in the Riverview Room every first Friday of the month.

### DROPPINGS FROM THE BOSS COCKY

GREETINGS! Fellow enthusiasts -

Australia Day 1999 has come and gone and a big 'THANK YOU' to those who made it possible. Secretary/timekeeper Lorelie Tacoma, her assistant Hector Jackson, drinks steward Joan MacNeill, compere Kel Watkins, Judges Charles Goodrich, Gary Crierie, and Sarah Knight, the finalists and the hardy true believers who wrenched themselves away from the air conditioners to ignore the 38°C plus heat to enjoy what is surely the best (and cheapest) show in town.

As I remarked on the day, there weren't any cricketers, golfers (of note), rugby players or polliens in the audience of 250 but they all deserved to be Aussies of the Year for turning up.

What a sterling job HECTOR JACKSON did, he manned the products table as well as sold the raffle tickets and didn't leave his post even when the sun drenched his possie. The organization needs a few more like Hector who has come onto the committee and apart from supplying very good measured council, he takes on any task with methodical enthusiasm.

Congratulations to BETH SCOTT for taking off Sarah Knight's trophy of A.B.C. goodies for Best Performer of the day. Beth is an example to all aspiring poets. When we started, she had trouble remembering her own name. She has done well, so could you. Give it a go.

One of the highlights was the performance of the A.A.'s (not what you are thinking) - the Aus. Artists at the conclusion of the day. It certainly capped off what was truly a great event.

The hardy souls who came out must have appreciated what they saw and heard, the 'Assassin' and 'Yours Truly' collected some \$385.00 from the tarpaulin muster in a blanket.

We certainly have good office with the City of Melville. Not only did we again have the use of the facilities after their naturalisation ceremony, but Mayor Katie (who was invited to attend at 3.30 to present the prizes) chose to beat the opening bounce and brought her two fine sons as she wants to encourage them to write rhyming verse - now there's a forward looking lady.

A big "WELCOME" to the new faces in our ranks, I trust you will enjoy to the full your time with our growing association. Please give some serious thought to giving some of your precious time to the conduct of its affairs.

The A.G.M. will be in early July (the last this century). What an exciting way to greet the new millennium! As an office bearer or committee person of the W.A. Bush Poets and Yarnspinners, which I can assure you has a big future.

A phone call from CHERYL HOLMES our friend in Derby told me that July 18<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date for the Poet's Breakfast in the delightful botanical gardens, BOB MAGOR is expected to be there with his earthy humour, prospective Kimberley winterers put it in your diary.

News from across the Nullabour is that there was over 200 hours of bush poetry at the various venues around Tamworth over the Australia Day weekend, I wonder if JOHN HAYES made it.

The Grande Dame of bush poetry CARMEL RANDLE is in the U.S. of A., she will give those cowboy poets something to think about.

That showbiz term "the show must go on" was borne out at the February Come All Ye when Kel Watkins and 'Cobber' Lethbridge stepped up to cover for Peter 'the fugitive' Capp who went missing. Rumour has it that he was involved in some shifty (I mean shifting) business.

NUFF SAID.

Rusty Christensen 'The Boss Cocky'

### The Christmas Do

Equal numbers of Jolly Jotters and Bush Poets & Yarnspinners enjoyed a pleasant night together. Hostess Joan MacNeill reports a convivial evening of short stories, poems and yarns. Supper and Christmas presents were shared around, and a good time was had by all.

*Last year, when Chris Sadler journeyed from the farm in Wongan Hills to treat us with her country style, Valerie Read put into words what we all felt, and then Val lost the verse in the litter on her desk. Meantime, Peter Capp has made the home of Kitchen Chris Legend, so here is Val's verse to remind you how it all began. Ed.*

#### **HATS OFF TO CHRIS SADLER**

She has written of the humour that is found outback today,  
With a novel twist, a wry remark akin to yesterday –  
Which made me stop and wonder: has life changed so much since then?  
The same humour and the troubles repeated o'er again.

This lass is a true winner – she'll see Winton, I've no doubt,  
She's a West Australian treasure – she'll take the trophies out.  
She'll bring us fame and fortune – this State will be renowned,  
She's the best Aussie poet that we have so far found.

There isn't much meat on her, she stands 'bout five foot three,  
I've forgotten where she came from, but not her repartee.  
Like a breath of spring she stood there cracking an Aussie joke,  
The audience held spellbound by every word she spoke.

And when she told the story: 'The feeling of the rams',  
(A joke played on a jillaroo who was new on the stands)  
We rocked and rolled with laughter as the newchum city lass  
Inspected all the testicles of fifty rams en masse.

Her narration never faltered – her delivery was spot on,  
She's got some great expressions – her voice is clear and strong.  
So, hats off to Chris Sadler, I look forward to your rhyme,  
And hope you'll keep on reciting until the end of time.

© V.P. READ.

#### **BRONZE SWAGMAN AWARD: Worldwide Competition For Bush Verse Prize: \$2,500 Bronze statuette of the Swagman designed and sculptured by Daphne Mayo, plus a Winton Boulder Opal valued at \$250**

The aim of the Bronze Swagman Award is to foster and encourage the writing of traditional Australian bush verse made famous by Paterson, Lawson and Ogilvie, etc. The Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse rolled its swag in 1972 and it has wandered all over Australia and overseas. It was launched by the Winton Tourist Association, now Vision Winton Inc., as an annual competition. Entries have risen from 170 to nearly 700 yearly. Winton (originally known as Pelican Water Hole) is a small bush town in Outback Queensland and it was here, at Dagworth Station, that "Banjo" Paterson wrote the words of the world famous ballad "Waltzing Matilda" in 1895. It was also at Winton that Australia's International Airline QANTAS formed in 1920.

Help to preserve our Australian heritage by entering into this unique competition. Winton also provides the Little Swaggies Awards for junior writers. The 1999 competition has just closed, and you have until January 2000 to prepare your entry. There are conditions to adhere to, (for example, no prior publication) so for details contact The Secretary, Vision Winton Inc, P.O. Box 44, Winton, Qld 4735 Phone: Winton 07 4657 1502 or Fax: Winton 07 4657 1322.

Each year a selection of verse is chosen from the entries, and published in the annual Bronze Swagman Book of Verse for the current year. Back issues of the Annual Bronze Swagman Book of Verse are available for purchase. Order now from Vanessa, P.O. Box 110, Winton, Qld. 4735. Recitations from this contemporary source will be as well received as works from the traditional masters of bush verse when you perform in the newest section of the W.A. Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Australia Day Challenge which requires a performance of verse from an author other than yourself.

Do yourself a favour. Get in touch with Winton now.

# AUSTRALIA DAY CHALLENGE 1999

## The Challenge

The W.A. Ballad and Yarnspinning finals were held, as usual, at Wireless Hill on Australia Day this year. A good crowd lunched under the shady trees or in the open sided tent, and spent the afternoon listening to the winners of the heats held last year. Wireless Hill is the venue for the Melville Council's Australia Day celebrations and citizenship events. Once the formalities are completed, the Poets and Yarnspinners take over. Our event started at 1.30 pm. It is a family day and this year was the fourth anniversary.

The Poets and Yarnspinners meet on the first Friday of every month in the Riverview Room of the Raffles Hotel at 7.30 pm and the October, November and December meetings are conducted as heats in three categories. Performers vie for a spot in the "Reciter of original verse", "Reciter of other peoples' ballads" (Paterson, Lawson et al) and the "Yarnspinning" sections.

## The Day

Rusty Christensen opened proceedings and welcomed Katie Mair, the Mayor of Melville. The MC Kel Watkins then introduced the performers who all had three to ten minutes to perform their piece. The "Reciting of other people's works" and the "Yarnspinning" sections need to attract more contestants for next year. Interested parties, please take note!

## The Champions

**Other People's Ballads:** Ron Evans won this section on a count-back from Rusty Christensen with a rendition of The Man From Snowy River. (Yes Virginia, it is still recited)

**Own Ballads:** Peter Capp of the colourful shirt fame was a bolter in this division with his, now famous, poem "Are the Wongans Ripe Yet Mate?" This masterpiece was penned during a visit to Wongan Hills when Peter saw that the Wongan crop was ripe for the picking.

**Yarnspinning** For the first time we had a dual winner in that Peter Capp took off the Yarnspinning as well. What can one say about styrofoam mines, Ingo D. Wetsuit, 15 foot high sheep, and Dagwood-making that hasn't already been covered by Cappy? Not much - by mere mortals anyway!

**Performance of the Day** We were fortunate to secure the talented Sarah Knight of ABC Radio to be one of the judges and she chose the performance of the day. Beth Scott was a runaway winner because, as Sarah said, "Anyone who can recite a ballad and manage to include the word 'Viagra' is really keeping pace with the times!"

Chris Sadler from Wongan Hills, last year's winner, brought us up to date with the events of Wongan and her farm and her chooks and then Phil Gray and a hastily formed scratch band topped off a delightful afternoon with some good singalong Australian bush songs.

See you all there next year and/or at the Raffles.

Kel Watkins

An atypical Australia Day heat greeted the contestants and spectators for the sixth great final of the Bush Poets and Yarnspinners competition at the famous Wireless Hill. A total of 11 finalists who had won the right by their heat wins waited anxiously to know if their unrelenting efforts throughout the year would come to fruition. Some just came for a bloody good day. A new event was added to the calendar this year which was "Reciting other peoples compositions" to enable people not bothered or incapable of doing their own poetry. This was keenly contested by the veteran orator Rusty (total recall) Christensen and the Bard from Boyup Brook Ron "Banjo" Evans (not quite total recall). Ron took the event and rumour has it that the commission Ron earns from Banjo Paterson's poetry book sales will enable him to fly to Tierra del Fuego to see his old mate Ingo D Westrust. Well done Ron. Kel Watkins once again in his role as compere took the stand to introduce the next riveting section of the day with the original yarns. Unfortunately Leigh Matthews was a late scratching in this event as he was attending a Henry Lawson look-alike contest in the public bar of the Railway Hotel in Collie. Hard lines Lee! That left two blokes ad a sheila to battle out the contest. Cobber Lethbridge, the master Yarnster and character once again showed us his brilliance with his yarn about blokes going up and down ropes without much success. A very technical structure indeed. Well done Cobber! The next contestant was our country cousin Claudette Mountjoy who gallantly represented the rural in real style. Top stuff Claudette! The eventual winner, Peter Capp came up next with his very scientific yarn about mixing sheep dags with epoxy resin to make the amazing product, DAGWOOD. Take note, Ric Hardcourt. A DAGWOOD BELLTOWER in Daglish? A DAGWOOD BRIDGE across the Narrows? A DAGWOOD PARLIAMENT HOUSE? Kel Watkins described the next section as the Blue Ribbon Event, which was the Bush (and metropolitan) Poetry, original compositions. Cobber Lethbridge did his beautiful poem on the dilapidated old hall with the piano in it. Sorry, Keith I forgot the name of the hall but I'm sure no-one could forget what a great poem it is. Stinger Nettleton took us to shear heights with his Freddy the Fleecer and Bale-filling Ben epic yarn. Beth Scott, Claudette Mountjoy and Syd Hopkinson all created marvelous poems in the classic struggle. The judges finally gave the nod to Peter Capp (a genetic experiment gone wrong) for his true poem about the delicious although very rare Wongan Fruit. (As rare as an honest politician.) Last year's winner Chris Sadler made a trip from the Wongan country for a special performance. Top stuff there Chris! Overall the event was a total success thanks to the judges, Sarah Knight (ABC), Charles Goodrich and Gary Crierie, the timekeeper Lorelie Tacoma, the Mayor Katie Mair, our great MC the legendary Kel Watkins, all the contestants and the wonderful audience. So start training for next year. As they say in Tierra del Fuego, Hasta Luego. Capp

### THE THREE POETS

Three of our favourite performers have galvanized into action this beer-swilling summer.

**Capp, Swain & Stinger are now performing together.** Peter Nettleton has asked me to broadcast to all our members through the newsletter their intent to entertain the multitudes at any function you can throw at them. Using the name The Three Poets, they are available for festivals, functions, seminars and society bashes. **The Three Poets** can organise workshops, yarnspinner's concerts, poets' breakfasts, and will do warm-up, compering, after-dinner, and late-nite comedy spots.

The Three Poets stress that their rates are reasonable (union) and that the act is *not* suitable for children. If it's a good laugh you want, then the Three Poets will deliver, take it from one who has seen them play up together.

Kay Stehn, Editor

**For Bookings**, contact Peter Nettleton W: 80 9335 3303; H: 08 9335 4572; Mobile: 0407 770 053; Fax 08 9335 3348; Email: [stinger@iinet.net.au](mailto:stinger@iinet.net.au) OR phone Peter Capp 08 9335 1821

### The February Come All Ye

The Come All Ye nights continue each month at the Raffles Hotel. The February event was very entertaining, with Kel Watkins and Keith Lethbridge stepping in at the last moment as a brilliant M.C. Duo keeping the yarns and poems coming with great style, assisted by Rusty, Peter Gralton and Maisie Davey. It was Maisie's first performance of her own poems, two of them, both well written and entertaining. Rusty and Keith combined, vocals and spoons, to perform Moonlight Bay and Chatanooga Shoe Shine Boy. Altogether, it was a highly enjoyable evening, the material was magnificent, but the load fell on too few. As the year progresses let's see many new faces at the microphone.

Lorelie Tacoma, Secretary

Post script: Some examples of the wonderful pieces brought alive by the performers on the night were recalled by Joan MacNeill (apologies from the Editor or errors and omissions). Jimmy Hayes performed Wheelbarrow and there was a Kel Watkins yarn about \$20 shoes from Bali, and something else about pigs in Merredin. Between them, the small band of performers presented to an appreciative audience Wyndham Racetrack, Ballad of the Birdsville Drover, How Merv. met his Mrs., Cast Iron Ladle, Mildred the Cook, Mother McQ. Along the Canning, Crocs, Bloody Sheilas, Dipso Dan, Snakes Alive, The Old Bush School, The Nimity Belle, Droving Days, Clancy of the Overflow. Joan also congratulates Maisie Davey for her maiden performance with us. A great crowd pleaser, Maisie displayed her wonderful talents both as a writer of Australian poetry and stand up performance.

### ANYONE FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH OR DINNER DANCE?

During the latter half of 1997, on behalf of the association, I ran a series of monthly "Bush Poets' Brekkies" at Victoria Hall in Fremantle. During the winter of 1998, I organised a Bush Poets' Lunch and a Bush Poets' Dinner Dance at the Fremantle Club.

The brekkies were great fun but generally not well attended. The lunch, held in the front lounge of the club, was a sell-out. Even more punters attended the dinner-dance, which was in the upstairs function room of the club, but we made an overall loss on the day, mainly because we lashed out on a professional 5-piece bush band.

Nothing daunted, I am now looking for expressions of interest/indications of preference from fellow members for the running of further functions of this nature later this year.

The parameters as I see them are:

- Furtherance of the objectives of the association;
  - At least break even financially;
  - Benefit members or other worthwhile organisations in preference to other businesses;
- And
- Have fun, get to know each other better and entice new members to join the WAPBYA

Anyone who would like to offer their ideas, assistance (physical or financial) or simply declare their innermost desires is welcome to contact me as follows:

W: 08 9335 3303; H: 08 9335 4572; M: 0407 770 053;

Fax: 08 9335 3348; or Email: [stinger@iinet.net.au](mailto:stinger@iinet.net.au)

Peter 'Stinger' Nettleton, Deputy Chairperson

Good Health!

# COMING EVENTS

If you wish to pen a reminiscence of Fremantle, Sam Paino is conducting a competition.  
Info/submission: THE RAW PRAWN, Fremantle Creative Poetry and Writing Competition,  
PO Box 33, Fremantle, 6161

## **Come All Ye (non-competitive gathering)**

Raffles Hotel, upstairs in the Riverview Room

7.30 onwards for an evening of yarns and ballads

Contact the MC of the night to have your performance slotted into the programme

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

EXCEPT April which will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> April to avoid Easter

## **Nannup Music Festival**

26<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1999

Workshop on bush poetry & yarnspinning run by Peter Capp & Peter Nettleton  
Saturday arvo, RSL Hall

## **Rottneest Festival**

13<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1999

Saturday night Poetry in the amphitheatre, featuring Peter "the Champ" Capp

## **National Folk Festival, Canberra**

1<sup>st</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> April

If you are going, and want to perform,  
contact Roger Montgomery ph. 9339 7670 or Bob Rummery ph. 9447 6689  
for a free weekend ticket

## **Fairbridge Festival, Pinjarra**

Saturday late night comedy show by "The Three Poets"

9<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> April 1999

## **Qantas Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards, Winton, Qld**

22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1999