

\$2.00

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

Newsletter : December 2000

Australia Day Challenge
Wireless Hill
Friday January 26th at 1:30pm - Sharp

Category	Finalists	Category	Finalists
Own Poetry	Beth Scott	Yarn Spinning	Peter Capp
	John Hayes		Keith Lethbridge
	Peter Capp		Peter Nettleton
	Keith Lethbridge		
	Geoff Bebb	School's Competition	
Maisey Davey	Rolleystone Dist. H.		Kara Panizza
	South Freo. Sen H.		Dianne Ilich
	South Freo. Sen H.		Patrick Bates
Others Poetry	Peter Nettleton	Special Prize	Tanja Pisaric
	Keith Lethbridge	Roleystone Dist. H.	Charlotte Mack
	Barry Higgins	South Freo. Sen H.	Beau Allen
	Geoff Bebb	Willeton Sen. H.	Alan Gill
	Rod Lee		

Bring your Picnic Basket, Sunscreen and Hat and join us for THE EVENT OF THE YEAR

"Come All Ye" gatherings at the Raffles Hotel
(Upstairs in the River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 5/01/2001 at 7:30pm

AROUND THE TRAPS
with the Top Dog

On behalf of the President
and the committee of the
WABPYSA

We wish you all a Happy
New Year and a creative
and prosperous 2001

Stinger

WABP&YSA Committee Members

Xmas
2000
at
Rusty's



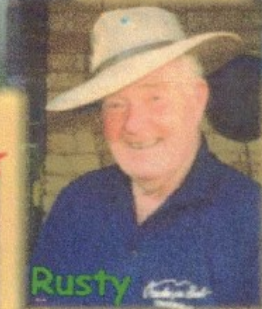
Stinger



Lorelie



Phyllis



Rusty



Barry



Michelle and Geoff



(Trevor, Joan and Kay)
missing

Editorial

This issue is the last in what has been a tumultuous year for the Association. The growth in membership has been outstanding, so too has the attendance at our Come All Ye Meetings. There has been a measurable increase in the interest in Bush Poetry, throughout all levels of the community in both city and regional areas. Our presenters and poets have been in demand at functions from Margaret River to Derby, with several new functions added during the year. Next year we should see our annual Wireless Hill heats augmented with heats in the South West as well as at Greenough River. This is surely an encouraging sign for improving quality both the quality of poetry written and presented over the coming year.

The large number of new people presenting at our regular our Come All Ye meetings has caused the committee to re-think the evening's format. We now include two breaks and will shortly commence regular evenings where the focus will be on particular poets, for example a "Banjo Paterson" evening. This is to ensure that we continue our focus on traditional Bush Poetry, while encouraging new members to air their talents.

The committee's initiative to produce a book of poems, featuring the works of our members, received an enthusiastic reception at the launch of the book in December. Deliberately timed to coincide with Christmas, the book "A Welter of Racing and Horse Poems" has sold well. In addition to having it for sale at our regular meetings, we have also had it on sale at The WA Turf Club and at the South Perth TAB. Some of the authors went to extraordinary lengths to get their works to us. None more than Val Read, who delivered her works on disk at our house, fell over the driveway garden, injuring herself (and the disk), necessitating a trip back home to Bicton to record another disk and yet another delivery all the way to South Perth. What determination!! Well done Val.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, we wish all members a Happy New Year and to all those competing in the Australia Day Challenge, "Good Luck".

Geoff Bebb

*Happy
New Year*

Bush Poets
Christmas Picnic

This is Captain
Fremantle

Is it in the book?

Taking the pony Rod? No the bike

This is God's
own country
eh! Barry

Ye,
another Christmas
cocktail David?

Dave

Barry

Ye, great yarn

Judy

We'll diet
tomorrow Tess

I'm on a
mercy-mission

Welcome aboard

Love Christmas in

Australia
Mike

Ye, but don't kiss and tell
that in England Maisie

Love Mother McQ

I
Love
the
Drowing Days

I
miss
Itchy

But the favourite beat us

November 2000 Come All Ye Report

As I came late and missed some of the proceedings while finishing "the book", here is a pictorial report

Michelle

A Profile on Rusty Christensen

Rusty was born on Australia Day, all 14lb of him (about 6.5kgs) in East Fremantle. His grandfather was a Danish sail-maker, who jumped ship in Melbourne after being shipwrecked during a typhoon in the China Sea. Rusty's mother's parents were Irish farmers, who escaped to the land down under – first to S.A. then to W.A. where they pioneered farming virgin country in both colonies.

As a second generation, latter-day Aussie, he considers himself 'fair dinkum' and has a deep love for our sunburned country, its peoples and its ways. This fascination has extended to its short history and culture, particularly as it pertains to the pioneers and battlers who, working under extreme privations, carved out a life for themselves and their families. The foundation for this nation, that we call home, was thus laid. This sentiment is best illustrated in one of Rusty's favourite Banjo Paterson Poem "A Bush Christening"

On the outer Barcoo, where the churches are few
And men of religion are scanty,
On a road never crossed, 'cept by folks that are lost,
One Michael Magee had a shanty.

Now this Mike was the dad of a 10-year-old lad,
Plump healthy and stoutly conditioned.
He was strong as the best, but poor Mike had no rest,
For the youngster had never been christened.

And his wife used to cry, "If the darlin' should die,
St Peter would not recognise him!"
But by luck he survived, till the preacher arrived,
Who agreed straightaway to baptise him.

Now the artful young rogue, while they held their colloque,
With his ear to the keyhole was listenin'
And he muttered in fright, while his features turned white,
"What the divil and all is this christenin'."

Now he was none of your dolts, he had seen 'em brand colts
And it seemed to his small understanding
If the man in the frock made him one of the flock,
It must mean something very like branding!!

So away with a rush, he set off for the bush,
While the tears in his eyelids they glistened.
"'Tis outrageous," says he, "to brand youngsters like me,
I'll be dashed if I'll stop and be christened."

Like a young native dog, he ran into a log,
While his father with language uncivil,
Never heeding the 'praste', cried aloud in his haste,
"Come out and be christened yee divil!"

But he lay there as snug, as a bug in a rug,
While his parents in vain might reprove him.
Till his reverence spoke, (he was fond of a joke),
"I've a notion," says he, "that'll move him."

"Poke a stick up the log, give the spalpeen a prog,
Poke him aisy, don't hurt him or maim him.
It's not long that he'll stand, I've the water at hand,
When he rushes out this end I'll name him."

"Here he comes and for shame, ye've forgotten the name.
Is it Patsy, or Michael, or Dinnis?"
Here the youngster ran out and the priest gave a shout,
"Take yer chance anyhow wid Maginnis"

As the howling young cub, ran away to the scrub,
Where he knew that pursuit would be risky,
The priest, as he fled, flung a flask at his head,
That was labelled "Maginnis' Whisky"

Now Maginnis Magee, has been made a JP
And the one thing he hates more than sin is
To be asked by the folk, who have heard of the joke,
How he came to be christened Maginnis

Being something of an extrovert, (no one doubts this - Ed) and harbouring an interest in the spoken word, Rusty has tried his hand at Public Speaking, Debating, Race Calling, Auctioneering, and Entertaining (he used to have a fair voice). He was also a dab hand at reciting bush poetry – especially Banjo's Paterson's works.

On hearing of the revival on the east coast, of this almost forgotten Australian idiom, which was in danger of being submerged by TV inspired American culture, he decided to do something here in the real "west" to defend the barricades. With the support of his Rotary Club and the City of Melville, Rusty held a series of preliminary meetings, where various models were discussed. Then just a few days after release from hospital, after hip surgery, he was able to attend (albeit with the support of a kitchen stool) the first organised bush poetry event in WA on Wireless Hill. The result was encouraging, giving the organisers confidence to go forward to plan a competitive event for Australia Day 1996. This event has been conducted ever since.

Rusty was the inaugural President, of the WABP&YS helping to guide the infant organisation towards maturity. This year he was happy to hand over the reigns to a younger group of stewards, but remains on the committee to help where needed. He won the Champion Performance Poet for 2000 on Wireless hill, but didn't make the final for the 2001 after two heats. To him this is a good omen, in that the standard of Bush Poetry has improved markedly.

After much prompting, he has put out a 40 minute tape of his performances, proving popular at the many presentations of our rediscovered art form, which he gives to various organisations and hopes to continue to be part of the revival of our uniquely Australian form of entertainment – Bush Poetry

Poets Required for Boyup Brook – February 2001

Saturday Feb. 17. At Hotel beer garden 9am to 1pm. This is to be relaxed morning of reciting and good food.

Sunday Feb. 18. At the Town Oval. Poet's breakfast. From 7.30am to 9.30pm. There is remuneration for this as well as the fun. \$400 to be divided amongst the participants.

If interested please ring **Brian Gale** of Margaret River 9757 2431. It is a free Country Music Weekend for poets.

Bronze Swagman Competition for Bush Verse 2001 Entry Forms – close April 30th

These have arrived from Queensland, kind delivery of Carmel Randle. If you wish to take part in this worldwide competition please take a form from the front desk of the next CAY meeting. The prize is a bronze statuette of the swagman valued at \$2,500 plus a Winton Boulder opal, value \$250. Country readers who don't make it to meetings please give me a call and I will post you one. **Michelle Sorrell**

World Conference of Storytelling 2001

For soon to be world travellers. This event is to be held in May-June next year in Graz, Austria. **Kel Watkins** will get us more details from the organisation running this event.

Policy Manual

A Policy Manual, describing the way the Association functions, is in the process of being prepared and will be available for inspection at CAY meetings as from February.

Australia Day at Wireless Hill – The good news and the bad news

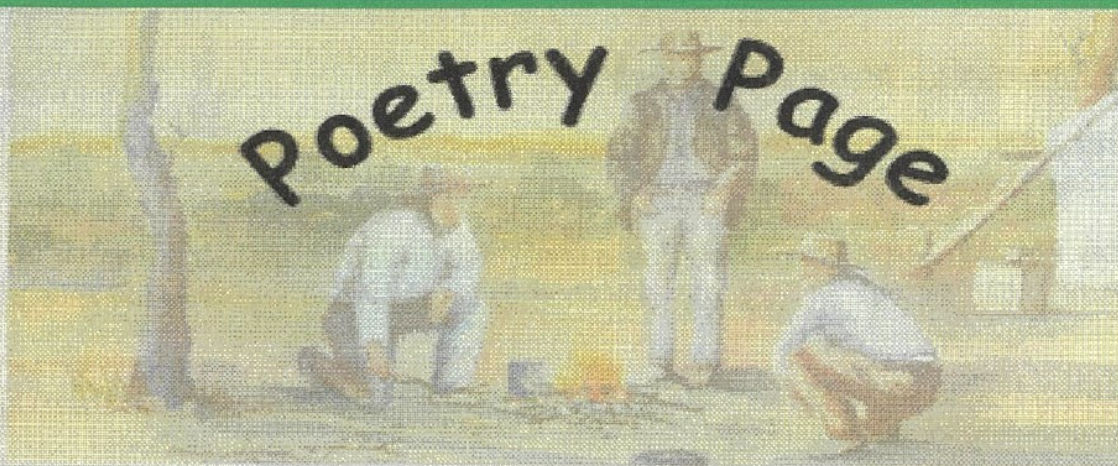
The association has contacted Katie Mair, The Mayor of Melville to be available for the presentations on the day. The good news is that Katie has accepted.

The bad news is that the shire is no longer holding its Australia day naturalisation ceremony at that site which means that they are not providing a marquee this year so:-

HELP!! Does anyone have a marquee we could use or know where one is available for a reasonable price for the association to hire.

Please contact any member of the committee if you can help otherwise our contestants (and the mayor) may become overheated.

We still also need helpers on the day. Please come forward and share the load, our committee is short handed and they are triple booked on jobs already.



Profile on Joan Macneall

My family, Mum Dad and three brothers, arrived in Kalgoorlie from England prior to 1950. As you can imagine, Kal was a lot different then, than it is today. We all found it very difficult to settle there. It was too hot, too dry, no green trees, and no beaches, and unless you took up drinking, gambling, or religion, there was little of interest for new emigrants. (Yes we were whinging Poms). After 8 months, we moved to Albany, where the climate was much kinder, and there were, green trees, parks with lawn, and beaches.

Albany was where we settled and I grew up. We spent 12 months living in tents at Middleton Beach, with many other families due to lack of housing, until we were lucky enough to rent a house at the Forts, where my sister was born, and where I spent most of my growing up years.

It was in Albany that I met and married my husband Terry, 40 years ago next May. We have four grown up children, of whom we are very proud, and 6 beautiful grand children.

Five years Ago at Wireless Hill, I first heard the WABP&Ys. Very soon afterwards I became a member and have served almost 4 of those years on the committee, which I have found both rewarding and enjoyable, in the company of some wonderful people. I love bush poetry, but find it difficult to write, so I just call myself a poet.

All The Things I Love

I love early mornings when the sun gets up,
To watch birds sip from a floral cup,
The fresh clean smell when rain has gone,
A nice clean home when the housework's done.
I love the songs that make me cry,
The sun going down in a blood red sky,
A child's shy smile when their eyes meet mine,
The sharp clean smell of lemon and lime.

I love to watch young foals play in a field,
And how new babies smell and feel,
All the good times that I can recall,
Gum trees in the garden strong and tall.
I love the tang of salt sea air,
A gentle hand to stoke my hair,
To hear waves crash with a thunderous roar,
Find pretty seashells, on a lonely shore.

I love a story with a happy ending,
All the colours of a rainbow blending,
The love I see in my sweetheart's eyes,
When we share quiet secret smiles.
I love to hear young children sing,
To see a kitten with a ball of string,
To watch a puppy and a small boy play,
To hear old folks, recall yesterday.

I love the halo shine on a little girl's hair,
People who show compassion and care,
The gay profusion of flowers in spring,
The lovely sound as church bells ring.
I love the beauty of a moon lit night,
And how the stars hang shining bright,
The delicious smell of newly baked bread,
A sleeping child tucked up in bed,

I love the happy times families' share,
The quiet solitude when no one's there,
The closeness of a really good friend,
Be at peace and content at day's end.
I love to hear happy laughter of children at play,
The anticipation and surprise of Christmas day,
There are so many things that I love in this life,
But I guess that's it - I just love life

© Joan Macneall

Next CAY meeting snippet

Some of the young School finalists for the Australia Day Challenge at Wireless Hill will come to perform for us as a practise for the big day. Please come along and give them a big cheer.

Committee Contacts Year 2000 – 2001

Name	Position	Postal Address	Phone	Email
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Rusty Christensen	Past-President	51 Coogee Road, ARDROSS WA 6153	9364 4491	
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Barry Higgins	Committee	140 Bernard Road, CARABOODA WA 6033	9407 5311	

A Welter of Racing And Horse Poems



Compiled by the
WA Bush Poets and Yarn
Spinners Association

A Welter of Racing And Horse Poems

Have you got your copy of this unique book yet?

It features poems and stories about horses and horse racing from your favourite Association Poets – Geoff Bebb, Peter Capp, John Hayes, Connie Herbert, Syd Hopkinson, Kerry Lee, Val Read, Beth Scott and Kel Watkins.

Has contributions from Banjo Paterson and CJ Dennis

The material in this book is witty, clever, poignant and always extremely entertaining.

Intended as a Fund-Raiser for the Association, at just \$11 including GST, it represents excellent value.

Copies can be obtained from the Product Table at the CAY meeting, the Australia Day Challenge, or by phoning Michelle at 9367 4963. Don't miss it!!

\$11 incl GST

**The Members of the Editorial Sub-Committee
Would like to thank all those,
who contributed to this Edition of The Newsletter.**

**Without their support and enthusiasm,
a Newsletter like this would not be possible.**

Many Thanks

Geoff Bebb - Editor

Calendar of Events for Australian Bush Poets Association,

In June 2000, we joined the Australian Bush Poets Association, a.k.a. ABPA, so as to keep in touch with events that are happening in other parts of Australia. Here is a brief calendar of their events to the end of January 2001. We will keep this updated so that if you are interested you may enter their competitions or just attend.

001	
Feb 16-18	Chinchilla Melon Festival Poet's breakfast, field day. Information 07 4668 9564
Mar 10	Urunga Bush Poets Showcase: Golf Club dinner and show. Ph. Maureen 02 6568 5269 or Keith 02 6655 6835
Mar 15-18	John O'Brien Bush Festival: Poets brekky Sat,Sun Ph. Julie Briggs 1800 672392
Mar 16-18	Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival: Ph. Marie Hensley bh:02 63 75 1975 ah:02 63755 1015 Yackandandah Folk Festival: contact 02 60269224 Email :yackfolk@netc.net.au
Mar 17-18	High Country Poets: Stanthorpe Qld. Cash prize for original and traditional Ph: Jack 07 4683 7169
Mar 18	Country Music Rush Bush Poetry competition: Jondaryan Woolshed Qld. Ph. Dell 07 4635 6429 ah
Mar 30	Closing date : Eulo Mother's Day written comp.: Ph. Janine 07 4655 4862 or Helen 07 4655 4849

Return Address

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Edna Westall

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