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WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners

R. Sutcliffe 97

Newsletter : October 2002

Announcing the Wireless Hill Challenge 2003

**Saturday 26th January
At Wireless Hill**

Open Competitions for

- Own Poems
- Others Poems
- Yarn Spinning
- Written Poetry

Restricted Competition for

- Own Poems
- Others Poems

School Children's Written Competition

Heat 1: 1st November at Raffles

Heat 2: 6th December at Raffles

**You could be the Champion for 2003 –
Enter Now**

"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd Applecross

(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 4/10/2002 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters



Our COME ALL YE next Friday 4th October will be an unusual night. The first half of the programme will be presented by LADIES ONLY, so all lady performers please come along and do your bit. The second half will be open to all and we hope to welcome back to Perth (on holidays from Halls Creek) our old friend Keith Cobber Lethbridge. We have not seen him since last Australia Day and no doubt he has some new material.

Our outside performers have been doing well at the Victoria Park Spring Causeway Carnival, Belmont Race Course, the Royal Show (9 days) at the Amherst Stage, Harvey Agricultural School and several suburban schools.

On Rusty's trip south he caught up with Aub House of Marybrook Winery. Aub has produced a special YEAR OF THE OUTBACK "Bulldust Red", a nice rich drop, which we will have as an extra raffle this Friday.

With our heats on 1st November and 6th December, please give me your names and titles of poems and start practising. You can have a copy of the Rules too if you wish. We all look forward to a stirring programme on Australia Day when the 2003 Championships will be decided.

Keep writing and have fun.

Lorelie.



Michelle's Musings

Hello, Bonjour from Switzerland,


My dinky-di Bush Poet, Geoff and I feel a long way from home. We've noticed that there aren't too many Aussie accents over here, let alone bush poets. Funny thing that. Geoff is doing a wonderful job of losing his Aussie accent to speak in excellent French and some German. Next week we will both have to tackle Italian. The company, food and scenery are 'wunderbar'. We haven't put on too many kilos – yet.

I hope every one is happy poeting and that you are all gearing up for the Wireless Hill Challenge. I also hope the Show and other sundry gigs went well. Good luck to the ladies on Friday.

A little note of housekeeping before I sign off. Please send all subs. and articles for the newsletter to my address, by all means BUT all other mail is to go to The Secretary: Peter (Willo) Williamson. Thank You.

A bientôt, aufwiedersein, arriverdeci

Michelle

World Traveller Soldier of Fortune Oppressor of Champions Seeker of Peace	Ron Evans 	Casual Hero International Lover All-round Good Bloke Practising Sexual Athlete
Wars fought Revolutions started Alligators castrated Uprisings quelled	Bush Poet <i>A LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME</i>	Tigers tamed Bars emptied Virgins converted Orgies organised

Disclaimer: We have it on good authority that Ron no longer castrates alligators down south. Ed

Come All Ye September 2002

About eighty people attended this very special night. This included **Katie Mair** (Mayor of Melville) who took a break out of her busy schedule. **Ron Evans** was our star attraction. Judging by the laughter that came from the hall everyone enjoyed the show.

We also had guests from the Eastern States who gave us a mini recital. **Barry (Blue) Lake** - (from Narooma NSW, member of the "Pink Rock Poets" of Moruya) expertly recited a Vic Jeffries poem "When the Band Ceased to Play" in a Scotts' accent. Also a Canadian Poem about "Reincarnation" and his signature CWA poem "True Blue".

Ross Noble - (from the "Gippsland Bush Poets" for about 3 yrs and writing for 15 yrs) recited Jim Haynes' "Cinderella" backwards – what a feat! . Both our guests, who are very accomplished poets, were very impressed with our quality poets, large audience, and venue.

The central theme for the night ' **death and reincarnation**', probably arose from the collective unconscious recollection of 'Ron Evans' Funeral' that never was. Ron will never 'live it down'. Appropriate also for the 80th anniversary of the death of **Henry Lawson**.

The theme was initiated by **Rusty Christensen** with his poem on composting which finished with the lines 'a recycled poet'. The rest seemed to flow from there. Both pathos and humour arose from the poems and stories depicting the death of stockmen, shearers, paupers, pioneers, swagmen, poor old granddad, husbands, soldiers, Romeos and Juliets, dead tinnies and even Plexiglas horses, sailing boats, Wongan pips and twitchy eyed rams.

**Rusty
Christensen**

**Kerry
Lee**

**Peter
Drayton**

**Peter
Williamson
MC**

**John
Hayes**

**Anne
Hayes**

**Rod
Lee**

**Barry
Lake**

**Leigh
Mathews**

**David
Sears**

**Ross
Noble**

**Bob
Philpot**

The background illustration is from "The Reincarnation of Sam McGee" recited by David Sears. A Canadian poem which echoes the sentiments of 'mateship' common to both Australians and Canadians.

Thank you to all our **stars** for making this a memorable evening. Thank you to our audience; members, non-members and visitors from all over Australia. See you all in a few months. Enjoy our CAY's until Geoff and I return.
Cheers.

Michelle



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A PLACE IN THE SUN

When I feel like a break, and the old bones ache,
And the work of the week is done,
Then it's time for a rest in the spot I love best :
My own little place in the sun.

The wattle's in bloom, and there's plenty of room
On the comfortable out-door bed;
The verandah's wide on the sunny North side
Of the Bicentennial Shed.

Back down at the house there's a genial spouse,
And four little rascals too,
But I'm tucked away for the rest of the day,
Where the sunshine filters through.

It's time for a look at a well loved book,
And a comforting cup of tea,
Or I'll possibly choose to relax and snooze
Whatever amuses me.

And perhaps I'll dream of a moonlit stream,
Or a gently falling star,
Then awake and stretch, and it's time to fetch
The little old folk guitar.

Then I'll strum along to an old bush song,
Not bothering anyone;
As happy and free as a man can be,
With his own little place in the sun.

MILDEW'S INTRODUCTION

I'd like to introduce a bloke
Who's stood the test of time :

This dirty, stinkin', metho drinkin',
God forsaken, trouble makin',
Ugly lookin', damper cookin',
Beer swillin', lady killin',

Spittin', spyin', lootin', lyin',
Braggin', swearin', overbearin',
Creepin' crawlin', name callin',
Fightin', fussin', cattle rustlin',

Lousy, rotten, woe-begotten,
Tyre slashin', pillow bashin',
Coffin cheatin', maggot eaten,
Mutton chewin', billy brewin',

Swag totin', Labor votin',
Low, connivin', bullock drivin',
Shootin', shovin', whiskey lovin',
Double dealin', chicken stealin'

Dear old mate of mine !

Ladies and gentlemen, folks, fellas and females :
Mildew the cook !

**A little Keith Lethbridge
inspiration on the eve of the
heats for Wireless Hill Challenge
2002**

Break a leg one and all !

These poems come from Keith's
"The Legend of Mother McQ
& Other Bush Verse"



Introducing our Judges for the Wireless Hill Challenge 2003



Bill Mc Atee

On my reasons for being a judge? – “Because the old ‘Boss Cocky’ asked me as a foundation member and I like to contribute in this way.”

‘Although I was born very young I soon got interested in sport, poetry, food and wine. Consequently I grew up playing football, water polo swimming and tennis. I aspired to play water polo for WA and then Australia at the Olympic Games in Tokyo (1964 and Mexico (1968) and football for east Fremantle, before retiring for food and wine and poetry. An early favourite poem was “Break, Break, Break / On thy cold grey stone, oh sea” – Tennyson, I think. Then Slim Dusty (The Pub With No Beer) and Sorrenson (The Legend of the Strong Men ... alias Bingle from Ningaloo).

Then making up my own poems I found it a bit scary doing poetry in the pub with Peter Capp at Clancy’s and the Old Orient in Fremantle. This helped my interest in the WABP&YS that first cold and windy night at Canning Bridge with the old ‘Boss Cocky’. I’ve found the association is great fun and a good place to meet interesting poets, and wine (both Red and White, Swan Valley and Margaret River). I have only played the banjo for 40 yrs (still badly!) So here you have a bit of it from Bill! “

Valerie Mazalevskis (nee Thomas);

Is a patriotic 5th generation Australian with a lifetime interest in music, philosophy and poetry. She says “Back in the olden days, a very young Leonard Teale occasionally visited our school, so I developed a passionate love of Australian poetry very early in life.”

“I am happy to be asked to help judge the coming competitions. Our WA poets are some of the best and I look forward to this year’s gems.”



Gary Crierie



Gary is an optometrist and Past President Rotary Club of Melville. He is married with three (teenage and pre-teenage) daughters.

Interests include: drawing, painting, sport, music, literature, and general community. Reading and listening to daughters – including Australian classic bush poets. “We love making up impromptu (very) short stories.”

Gary is a Past President of the Optometrists Association, Inaugural Fellow Australian College of Behavioural Optometry, currently on National ProVision Board and State Councillor working on strategies to provide Rural and Indigenous optometric care and prevention of blindness. He was also inaugural honorary consultant to the Association for the Blind. Whilst in private practice for 21 years as a behavioural optometrist he has treated general patients but also children and adults with learning/reading difficulties. He utilises preventative care as well as traditional glasses and contact lenses.

As President of Rotary Club he was involved in funding the Bush Poets Association and the first Wireless Hill Challenge. Gary Has been judging the competition since its inception.

Judge’s Score Sheet:

Members have asked me to outline how the poems are judged, so here is a score sheet from Bill

Preamble: 20points available to set the mood and make an initial impact.

Start: 20 points to get the audience’s attention: stance, body language and facial expressions are important.

Body of the poem: 20 points for the choice of poem, storyline and ability to hold attention throughout.

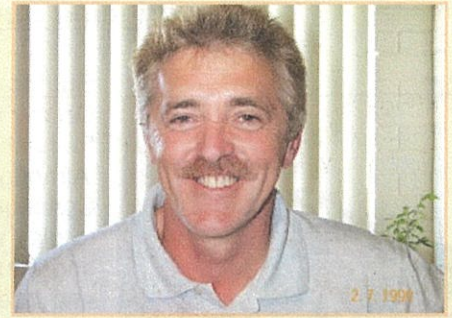
Presentation: 20 points for voice, diction memory, microphone technique and appropriate props.

Conclusion: 20 points for concluding the poem, including the audience’s reaction.

TOTAL: 100 points

Scores of 75 are pretty good.

Scores of 95 have been achieved.



Saturday night in Main Street

Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town
 Through alleyways and back streets, the shadows draw around
 The folk begin to congregate, all toffed up to their best
 And shadows creep across the street and the sun returns to nest
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

It's the focal point, the district hub, the place to hear the news
 The platform for opinions and exchanging points of view
 On the General Store verandah, or standing in the street
 It's there you'll catch a smile from everyone you meet
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

There you'll hear the price of gold or wool or wheat or sheep
 And while the kids are playing games or in the wagon fast asleep
 Women discuss the fashions or the barmaid at the Palace
 And the Watkins man sells spices from his ever-present valise
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

Paddy's fighting Jock again behind the blacksmith's shop
 And someone sent the Jackson kid to go and get the cop
 The Sally Army Band is beating out a temperance song
 But the message melts unheeded amongst the milling throng
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

Who won the Boulder hundred, Smythe or Francis Smith?
 What chance has Bobby Marshall got against the champion's fists?
 Did you hear about old Barclay's horse, he bred up at the 'Cross?
 And now McGinty's left the mine, who will be the Boss?
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

So the news and views are bartered and fights and hearts are won
 And even the beaten, with throbbing heads, conceded they had fun
 Soon, just smiling ghosts and echoes maintain the happy sound
 Of Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town
 It's Saturday night in Main Street in any Goldfields town

©Kel Watkins



A Little Note from Brian Gale of Margaret River

Brian says hello! to the Bush Poets in the big city. He is already planning ahead for the Boyup brook Festival in February. He asks does any one have any ideas for possible sponsorship of this event? A thousand dollars would help greatly towards the poet's expenses. The event is growing and now gets a mention in the ABPA magazine.

It would be really good to see these country events flourish to the point where we can have poetry wherever we wish to go holidays in WA; like they do in the Eastern States. Yealering is a start and perhaps Lake Towerinning could be next as a possible venue, which is easily accessible to the city dweller.



Enjoy dancing to The Famous Fiddlers Green Bush Band.

The Banksia Ball - derdash!

The Yarnspinners And Bush Poets Association Of WA and Local Competitors

Yealering Hall, Sat, October 12, 2002, at 6pm.
Entertainment and dancing till late.
Bush barby and drinks available for sale.
\$25 per family and \$15 per single ticket.
(The Wickiepin Shire/Community Back to the Bush W/end).

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**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

The Editor

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
Fri. 4 th Oct. 2002	CAY special ladies performance night	Lorelie Tacoma – 9310 1500
Wed 2 nd - Sat 5 th October 2002	National Rally in Northam (Campervan and Camping Club)	Rod and Kerry Lee – H. 93970409
Sat. 12 th Oct. 2002	Yealering Bush Poetry Heat	Peter Nettleton – 9417 8663 evenings
Fri. 1 st Nov. 2002	Heat 1 of Wireless Hill Challenge	Lorelie Tacoma – 9310 1500
Fri. 6 th Dec. 2002	Heat 2 of Wireless Hill Challenge	As for heat 1 above

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