

WA BUSH POETS & YARN SPINNERS

Newsletter: March 2004

Welcome

Welcome to the new News Letter. It is with regret that we accept Michelle's resignation as Editor. She has done a fantastic job of producing a colourful and interesting magazine. Unfortunately our previous colour newsletter was costing 75% of the Association's entire income. This allowed us to do little more than produce a newsletter and run Wireless Hill each year.

The aim of our Association is to foster the growth of Australian Bush Verse though out Western Australia. To this end your committee and interested members are involved in some exciting new initiatives which are detailed in the following pages.

If you have any queries or suggestions please contact myself or one of the committee members listed below.

Rod Lee
Editor by Default

Committee Members – WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2003-2004

Rusty Christensen	President	9364 4491
Peter Nettleton	Vice-President	9417 8663
Rod Lee	Secretary	9397 0409
Kerry Lee	Treasurer	9397 0409
Jean Ritchie	Minutes Secretary	9450 3111
Rae Dockery	Committee	9356 7426
June Bond	Committee	9354 5804
Edna Westall	Committee	9339 3028
Lorelie Tacoma	Committee	9310 1500

Monthly Muster at Como Bowling & Recreation Club cnr Hensman & Sandgate Sts, South Perth.
Next meeting: Friday 2nd April 2004 at 7.30pm

Review of Coming Events

This year promises to be a great year for reciters and writers. The following is a list of events in which you can all be a part of, from writing and competing to coming along and enjoying yourselves.

***7th March 2004**

A very active country member, Christine Smith from Dandaragan, has been granted funding for a poetry writer's workshop. This will be conducted by Rod & Kerry Lee as part of the Wolba Wolba Beer Festival and Bush Poet's Breakfast. Christine has drummed up a lot of local interest and new member, Thelma Claydon from Walkaway, has indicated she will be attending.

14th March 2004

Kerry & Val Reid will assist Glennie Palmer from Queensland to conduct an Adult & Children's Poetry Writing Workshop at Heathcote Park. This is part of the Festival of Melville events and we have had an excellent response from interested participants.

19th March 2004 Concert at Como Bowling Club 7.30pm \$10.00 pp including supper
Starring Glennie Palmer, Greg Hastings and other local talent. For those who haven't experienced Greg he one of the original performers in the Mucky Duck Bush Band and has performed internationally.

27th March 2004 Concert at Diggers Camp 7.30pm \$10.00pp
Featuring Glennie Palmer, David Proust, David Lee, Irish Duo plus others. Barbeques & camping available.

11th April 2004 Moora Campout Bush Poet's Breakfast.

Rod, Kerry & Chris Sattler will conduct this event. As part of this event we will be conducting a "One Minute Poem" competition. Hopefully, people who attend the workshops at Melville or Dandaragan will be encouraged to enter. People unable to attend can also submit entries and have them read out. Entry form and examples of One Minute Poems are enclosed in this issue.

Weekend 15th -16th May 2004 Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships.

The Championships will be held over the whole weekend at the Fremantle Arts Centre. The Arts Centre is very keen to have it as part of their programme and plan to assist in attracting local people to the event.

For those needing to stay over night powered and unpowered sites for tents, caravans & campers are available at Digger's Camp for \$5.00 per night. Contact Rod or Kerry on 9397 0409.

During the Boyup Brook Bush Poet's Breakfast Rusty made contact with Peter Blythe, a very accomplished Western Australian poet now living in Albany but previously from Salmon Gums. Peter has indicated he is interested in competing at the Championships.

To win the Championships poets will have to recite an original humorous poem, an original serious poem and an Australian Classic. Original works must be new works never previously used in competition. (See competition add for more detail). This should provide a very competitive environment to bring out the best of Peter Blyth, Chris Sattler, Arthur Leggit, the Lees, Peter Nettleton, John Hayes and, who knows, Rusty may start writing. And what about emerging new talent, Wayne Pantell! There will also be a Contemporary section, Yarn Spinning and Novice and Junior Competition.

29-31st October 2004 Australian Bush Poetry Championships

Plans for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships are going ahead very well. During the weekend 14-15th February, 2004 750 people enjoyed the best of Bush Poetry at Rod & Kerry's Digger's Camp and at Boyup Brook. If we can keep this exposure going during 2004 we should have no trouble selling tickets to the entertainment events associated with the Championships.

Buy your ticket early and don't miss out!

Moora Camp Out Weekend

Bush Poet's Breakfast & One Minute Poem Competition

Sunday 11th April 2004 7.30 - 9.30am Apex Park

Competition

Winner takes all \$100.00 prize

Poems will be judged on content, quality of rhythm & rhyme and audience reaction.
If you wish to enter but cannot attend Kerry, Chris or Rod will read your poem. If more than 20 poems are received some pre-judging will take place.

Entry Fee \$5.00 per entry

Closing date - 3rd April 2004

Bush Poets Brawl

Entry Form

One Minute Poem Competition

Winner Takes All - \$100.00 First Prize

Poem will be judged on content and audience reaction.

The poem must be written in rhyming verse & performed within the one minute time frame.

If you cannot attend you may select someone to present your poem or Rod, Kerry or Chris Sattler will present it for you.

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Entries to be submitted to:

Diggers Camp

160 Blair Road Oakford

by 2nd April 2004.

Entry Form

Name:

Address:

.....

Ph. No:

Further information please contact Rod & Kerry Lee

Ph: (08) 9397 0409

Prize Winning One Minute Poems

Milton Taylor won the "\$1000.00 winner takes all" competition at Tamworth 2004 with the following poem. The content was not seen as politically correct by some people but the structure of the poem is an excellent example of form for aspiring writers. As it is necessary to go for the quick laugh in this type of poetry standards seem to drop. Milton is Australia's leading Bush Poets, winning almost all competitions in Australia, some many times over. This is not an example of the brilliant verse he can write.

Kerry Lee entered a competition at Tamworth where she bought a word in a sealed envelope and had 48 hours to write a one minute poem using the word. The word she bought was "billabong".

The Amputees Ball

The Crowd was humungous. They swarmed to the floor
Some legless, some armless and some missing more.
But they laughed and they grinned as they hopped
through the door
When they came to the Amputee's Ball.

There was Sawn Off Sabrina. She made the joint jump.
The crowd went ballistic with each grind and bump.
And when she got tired she just pulled up a stump
When she rocked at the Amputee's Ball.

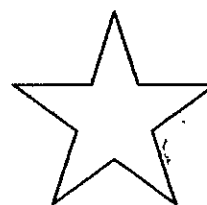
The grog was provided, by gosh they could drink!
They were knocking back Bundy as quick as a wink.
They really got drunk, quite legless I think
Blind drunk at the Amputee's Ball.

They discoed and rapped. They were going to town
They gave a new meaning to getting on down.
But they couldn't do knees up for Old Mother Brown
When they danced at the Amputee's Ball.

Trouble came looming quite late in the night
When two of the dancers decided to fight.
But we saw they were armless so they'd be alright.
No blood at the Amputee's Ball.

The amputee's spokesman, old Twinkle Toe Fred,
Addressing a line dancer, smilingly said
"You can come and join in. Just chop off your head!
And you can dance at the Amputee's Ball."

Milton Taylor



Billabong

Bill used to be a drover. He used to trip along
From the tip of Northern Queensland to south of
Woollongong.

One day he took a turning that set him out along
A road out to the coast- his direction was all wrong!

He ended up in Nimbin - world of hippies, dope and
song

And he traded in his RM's for a pair of rubber thongs,
His jeans and his akubra for a bright flowery sarong,
But he wouldn't trade his swag for a mat to lie along.

This was his undoing for the silly doped out nong
Caught his tackle in the zipper while enjoying jig-a-long.
Free love can be pricey for, surrounded by the throng
He pleaded for deliverance for his mutilated dong.

They couldn't move the zipper with pliers, fork or tong
But to ease his pain and misery they gave poor
Bill-a-bong!

Kerry Lee

Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships

15-16th May 2004

Fremantle Arts Centre

1 Finnerty Street, Fremantle

Categories: # Original Serious
Original Humorous
Australian Classic (over 50 years old)

Contemporary by another author
Novice Own Written
Novice Recital (Classic or Contemporary)

* Junior Own Written
* Junior Recital (Classic or Contemporary)

Yarn Spinning

Accumulated point score for Western Australian Champion

* Accumulated point score for Junior Champion

Entry Fees

Open:	\$10.00	First category
	\$ 5.00	Each additional category
Novice:	\$ 5.00	per category
Junior:	\$ 5.00	per category

Winners and place getters will be announced in each category.
Original material must be new and never previously performed in competition.

Western Australian Bush Poetry Championships

Entry Form

Saturday 15th May – Sunday 16th May 2004
Held at Fremantle Arts Centre
1 Finnerty Street Fremantle

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

- Original Serious (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer – must be own work)
- Original Humorous (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer – must be own work)
- Australian Classic (Australian Bush Poetry at least 50 years old not written by performer)

(Competitors must perform in all three above sections to compete for the overall title of Western Australian Champion Bush Poet)

- Contemporary Poem (Australian Bush Poetry less than 50 years old not written by performer)
- Novice Own Written (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer who has never previously performed in competition)
- Novice Recital (Australian Bush Poetry not written by performer who has never previously performed in competition)
- Junior Own Written (Australian Bush Poetry written by performer – aged 15 years or younger)
- Junior Recital (Australian Bush Poetry not written by performer – aged 15 years or younger)
- Yarn Spinning

Entry Fee : (Please include self-addressed stamped envelope if receipt is required)

Nb. Cheques made payable to "WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Association"

Please tick categories entered.

Entry Fees – Open	\$10.00 first category	\$5.00 each additional category
Novice	\$ 5.00 per category	
Junior	\$ 5.00 per category	

Title of Australian Classic

Title of Contemporary Poem

If several performers nominate the same poem it may be requested another is chosen.

Performance Time Limit in all categories – maximum eight (8) minutes including preamble.

Boyup Brook Bush Poet's Breakfast

A very successful weekend was held at Boyup Brook on Sunday 15th February, 2004. An excellent band of artists and good weather made the show the biggest ever. There were numbers 500 plus banded around by the Lion's Club and the Country Music organisers.

We had the old (??) stalwarts of Rusty, Arthur, Bob Frazer from Lesmurdie and Bill Gorden of Boyup Brook. Stinger made his debut and I hope he will be back again next year.

New artists were Peter Blyth from Albany, Kathy Edwards from Newcastle, NSW, visiting her daughter in Dunsborough. coming Erica Lumsden from Rosa Glen – Margaret River Way, Les Sheetham from Katanning and Anne Tracey who came with Stinger along with his lady friend. A large "thankyou" to all for travelling such a long way. I must comment on one "new chum" performer. Erica did a small stint on Australia Day at Wireless Hill in the morning but she excelled in front of the huge crowd on Sunday morning after her nervous start. A good style and nice presentation. Congratulations Erica! Look out Kerry & Chris – you may have some competition in a year or so.

Peter Blyth was one of the star performers. I have had one of Peter's books for years so it was a bonus to have him here. I am sure Peter would give them a run for their money in Winton. Les was the mystery man – not knowing the name of the poem or the author and missing the first verse or so. My nerves were getting to me wondering what was coming next. His presentation of the poem about a wild stallion was one of the highlights of the morning. A magnificent performance from an 80 year old gent. Rusty, as always, with his crowd pleasers "Wait Here Second Class", "Caravanning Bliss", "Turbulence" and "Dipso Dan". Top performance thanks Rusty.

Arthur seems to be ageless and his performance of "In the Droving Days" and his other favourites brought a great ovation from the crowd.

Bob has a unique style of presentation with his splendid enunciation and it is always a pleasure to have him down here. I asked Ann to do a classic poem I heard her recite at Cobber's Bi-Centennial shed years ago, a simple but beautiful poem about a violin being auctioned. A beautiful presentation. Thank you Ann. Stinger did his favourite, and ours, "O'Hara JP", "The Wongans" and "The Two Wild Shearers".

Peter was an impressive sight on our makeshift stage (two pallets).

Bill has a nice relaxed style and his presentation is faultless. His love of Banjo shows through and his rendition of "When McDougall Topped the Score" was a classic. Good to have another local bush poet. Kathy writes her own poetry and it was a pleasure to have her recite such appropriate ones on the day. The feedback from the audience on the morning was staggering (I can't think of another word). So, naturally, that made it all worth while. Thank you once again to all the performers and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Ron Evans

Have a Go

They always seem good when you write them. The rhythm is bouncy and true.
The story has vision and impact and the rhymes are acceptable too.

You file it with some satisfaction. You study it later, and then,
You find it preposterous drivel, so it's back to the biro again!

For twenty-four hours you're a poet, then reality stomps on your toe.
You'll never be more than a "rhymers" for sure, but at least you are having a go!

Keith Lethridge

January Monthly Muster

When the evening was due to start at 7.30pm it seemed we were only going to have a small gathering but by the time 8.00pm rolled round it was full house again and another great night was had by all.

Rod presented an update of the progress by the committee for the Australian Bush Poetry Championships throughout the evening in a segmented fashion so as not to break up the flow of poetry and entertainment.

The performers for the evening included Rusty (bravely performing a "Volvo" poem), David Seares, John & Anne Hayes, Syd Hopkinson, Barry Higgins (great to see you there), Margaret Taylor (a regular now), Rod & Kerry, Beth Scott, Rosemary and first time performing at Poets, Wayne Pantell, who gave an excellent presentation.

It was great to have Beth in attendance. Since our forced move from the "Raffles" it has been difficult for her come to our Musters. I believe we can thank Lorelie for bringing her.

If members are finding transport a problem please contact one of the committee members. We can't promise we will find you a lift but we certainly will try our best.

The night produced the full spectrum of poetry from the classics, original serious and funny with the occasional joke thrown in between poems.

Barry recited one of Connie Herbert's poems "Bush Justice". All who knew Connie hold a special spot for her in their hearts, so many listened to the poem with mixed emotions. Thank you Barry.

As Usual, a great night!

Tamworth Country Music Festival

What a fantastic ten days! We performed, competed and promoted WA and the Championships and managed to find time to be entertained, and socialise as well. As usual, being amongst all that amazing talent was a huge learning curve. Everyone was extremely friendly and eager to help publicise the Championships.

Between the two of us we performed or competed on all but one day with several sets at The Longyard (thanks Frank for all your support), the Tamworth Bowling Club, the Tamworth Golf Club and the Oasis Hotel.

Rod performed brilliantly in the competition at the Imperial going into the finals in both sections, a feat which only two others achieved. I bombed out for going over time. (How unprofessional is that?). Chris Sattler made it to the finals with her poem about her wedding anniversary. Go Sandgropers!!

Milton Taylor took out almost every award over the Festival. There were some murmurings that he should stand down from competition but I feel he is doing a great job of keeping the standard of poetry at a high level. At some of the shows the performances were almost entirely jokes and political correctness just doesn't exist.

My only claim to fame was winning a one minute poem competition. At least I brought a cute little wooden swagman trophy home with me.

The general opinion before we left for Tamworth was that it would be stinking hot. Some feminine intuition must have kicked in as I grabbed an umbrella and shoved it in my suitcase as we were leaving. It came in very handy once the rain set in. Luckily we weren't staying in the camping grounds or I would have needed a boat! I felt very sorry for the poor sodden tent people. Our son, Dave and his fiancé, Di, arrived right in the middle of the wet. Our homestay host wouldn't let them sleep in their tent so they rolled their swags out on her lounge room floor. Di said it was the best camping spot they'd had in the six weeks they were travelling – telly, air-conditioning, brekkie and no mozzies!

One amazing talent we met up with was David Proust, deemed a younger Bobby Miller. He is a very funny talented man. He won the NSW Original section of their championships and was runner-up in the Tamworth Original competition. As luck would have it he is coming over to Perth in March for a Fireman's Convention and is going to perform at the concert at our place on 27th March, 2004. Try not to miss him. He will be back for the Championships in October 2004.

Kerry Lee

A Lesson in Verse

Rhyme and Reason by Ellis Campbell

"The first stanza of a poem is actually an introduction and very important. It should be attention grabbing, or at least interesting enough to urge readers to read on. If the first stanza is boring or awkward to read chances are the reader may abandon the poem and search for something more interesting. A pity because he/ or she could be missing what is otherwise a good poem.

Also, very importantly, the first stanza sets the rhyming and metre pattern of your poem. It is there that you decide how many lines are to be in the stanzas, if your rhyming pattern is to be AABBC - - ABABCDCD - - AABCCB or whatever else you may choose. Are you going to have 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 syllables in each line? Is your stress pattern going to be iambus or Trochee or are you going to use both by alternating each line? If so, the rhyming pattern is usually ABABCDCD and the iambic lines should rhyme with each other, likewise the Trochaic lines.

I would advise anyone to take great care with that stanza. Are you having trouble with your rhymes? Does the metre seem awkward and hard to maintain? Are suitable descriptive words hard to find? I can assure you that if your first stanza gives trouble there's heaps more trouble ahead! Take plenty of time with the first stanza - it will save you time and problems later in the poem.

Keep at it until you are happy the rhyme and the metre flow comfortably. Don't choose a rhyme and rhythm pattern that is too difficult to maintain.

As I have said many times - keep it simple and make it sound natural. You might get a buzz by writing a highly flamboyant stanza with fancy rhymes and complicated stress pattern. But, by the end of the poem you will be a nervous wreck trying to stick to it. What you thought was going to be something special will turn out a mess and you will have shown that you are way out of your depth."

Ellis Campbell is in his 78th year and has won many awards for written and performance works over the twenty-two years he has actively pursued his passion. He has been in great demand to run workshops and is very keen to help maintain a high standard in bush poetry. He has two highly recommended poetry books for sale - *The Glass of Bush* and *Shadows of Yesterday* for \$12.00 each p&p. If you are interested in either of these books please contact Rod or Kerry Lee.

NB: if this article seems a little confusing but you are keen to advance your poetic talents come along to Glenny Palmer's workshop 14th March 2004.

More words of advice from our home grown expert - Keith Lethbridge

BUSH VERSE

A fortnight ago a young lady I know respectfully asked me whether
I could give her a clue, or a pointer or two on stringing bush verse together.

You have to get rhyme that matches each time and a rhythm right through to the end.
If it works and you know it, you'll be a bush poet, and that's quite an honour, my friend.

So get working on it, a ballad or sonnet. It doesn't much matter to me.
You won't be a failure 'cause here in Australia we cherish our bush poetry.

You might set the scene at the Ord River Scheme, where wonderful tales are told,
Or write of the man who travels the land, in search of a nugget of gold.

You could throw in a horse and some carrel of course, or a kid who is bit by a snake;
A woman alone in a bush shanty home with only a damper to bake.

A shearer, a cook, a hero, a sook; A gentleman down on his luck;
A road working crew and a swaggy or two, or a widow who handles a truck.

The bold pioneers of the earlier years, each had a fine story to tell.
The reckless bush ranger, the slow talking stranger. The broken down squatter as well.

That old mongrel dog chained up to a log - I call him the poet's best friend.
There'd be thousands drowned if he wasn't around to rescue them right at the end.

If it's straight from the heart, you've made a good start and you're probably onto a winner.
But if all else fails, don't run off the rails..... You might make a great yarn spinner!

Junior Poetry Section

poems from

Wongan Hills District High School

Ninja Turtles

Carly, my sister, has always been
Horrible and nasty. She's really mean.
And so I will tell the tales of her pain
From days gone by when she was still sane.

A tomboy was Carly through and through
And it never got better as she grew.
Trucks, cars and dirt were her play toys
Ninja Turtles and guns – all things for boys!

Ninja Turtles are the ones she loved best.
With them she didn't need the rest.
There was a single one she loved most.
His name was Donatello, she would always boast.

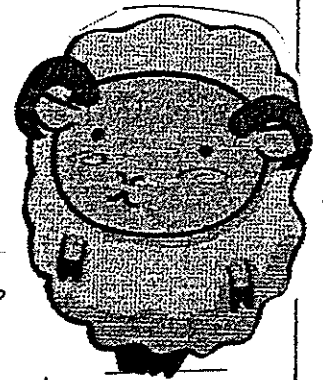
Then I arrived and was getting all the attention.
She was still there but without a mention.
She waited for the right moment to pick
And did the biggest karate kick!

Down came the door, hinges and all
It fell on her and made her sore.
Mum came over to calm her down
But all of a sudden Mum started to frown.

She screeched "What happened to my door?
Why is it lying on the floor?"
And as Carly tried to tell her Ninja tale
Mum's face grew mad. She began to pale.

But Carly was not hurt too bad
And luckily for her, Mum didn't stay mad.
But this was just the start of strife-
The start of Carly's accident prone life.

Candy Watson Year Eight



Sally the Sheep

This is a story about a sheep
That made my sisters cry and weep
It all began when it was a game.
Sally was the little lamb's name.

We all played chasey, and she was chase.
She butted us which was no fuss
Because Sally was so very small
It did not hurt. No, not at all.

But when she got bigger and older
She got rough and tough and bolder.
And so, in fright we would run away.
With this beast we could not play.

"Help us, Mum" cried us sisters four
On those days we were so very sore.
But now she is dead – been put to rest,
And it was probably for the best.

We're free from trouble and most danger
Except for our cockatoo named "Manger".
And another reason to be scared again
Is Tom, our sheep, who's now a pian!

No name supplied
Year Eight