

**Next Muster 5th Feb, 7pm - Bentley Park Auditorium, Bentley Park**

**MC - Dave Smith 97341256 or 0438341256**

**LARGE CROWD ENJOYED BUSH POETRY  
AT WIRELESS HILL**

### AUSTRALIA

I love this land Australia, in oh so many ways.  
Her pristine beaches, clear blue skies and endless sunny days.  
But most of all I love the people that she calls her own.  
The lucky ones, so fortunate, to call Australia home.

I love the way we're all embraced, no matter where we're from.  
Whether we're a Kiwi, Scot, South African or Pom.  
I love our laid-back attitude where no one's too uptight.  
Our optimistic outlook of 'no worries, she'll be right'.

I love the way we'd rather say g'day than say hello.  
The way we give a mate a nickname, just by adding 'O'  
The way we love to have a crack and punch above our weight  
And stick tight to the golden rule of always help a mate.

I love our sense of humour. The dryness of our wit.  
The brave young men who went to war, just to do their bit.  
The way we know The Don's av'rage, the way we love Merv Hughes.  
The way we'll back an outsider and not care if we lose.

The way we worship Boonie when he hasn't played for years.  
The way we have our friends around for barbies and for beers.  
The way—when things are going bad—we say "it could be worse"  
The way that no one knows our national anthem's second verse.

I love how we do deeds expecting nothing in return.  
I love how much we care about those ashes in the urn.  
I love the passion of our fans, I love that we love sport.  
The way our team can make us feel ecstatic or distraught.

I love our language, love the phrase "a technicolour yawn"  
I love that we can all lay claim to Cathy, Hoges and Dawn.  
I love how we have different ways to spread our vegemite  
And love the way that none of us gives up without a fight.

And that to me is why this place Australia is so great.  
And why we have so many things that we can celebrate.  
She may have natural beauty that extends from coast to coast.  
But her people are the things about this place I love the most.

Mick Collis 2013 ©



A crowd of about 200 people enjoyed glorious summer weather at Wireless Hill in Applecross on Australia Day.

The breeze tempered the warm conditions and the trees gave ample shade to make everyone very comfortable in the picnic atmosphere.

MC Dot Langley brought together a group of accomplished poets to celebrate our nation's premier day.

Country and city poets all have the love of Australia at heart and the stirring message of patriotism was felt throughout the event.

There was a mix of Banjo and Henry as well as modern day poets and Rob Gunn recited Mick Colliss' "Australia" to a rousing reception.

A big thank you to Melville City for sponsoring this event and providing such great facilities for all to enjoy.

**This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of  
KATE DOUST MLC  
and posted with the generous assistance of Ben Wyatt, MLA - Member for Victoria Park.**

## President's Preamble - February 2016



Meg and I have just returned from Tamworth, where we caught up with many of our Bush Poetry friends from all parts of the country. We are always made welcome at all their events and were offered spots on several occasions. They are interested in the way we are operating in the west, and Meg attracted much attention when she did one of her "Readings from the Classics"

The Blackened Billy written competition is held each year at Tamworth. Congratulations to Terry Piggott for gaining two Highly Commended awards in this very hotly contested event. One of our Tamworth friends, Manfred Vijars (former President of the ABPA) combined with renowned songwriter Alan Caswell to win the Golden Guitar for Bush Ballad of the Year. We camped with Jack Drake who, along with Bill Kearns, is coming to Boyup Brook for the Country Music Festival this February. Any WABP & YS members who are coming to Boyup are welcome to camp at our farm and join in the great fellowship of that week.

WABPYS committee recently discussed the possibility of hosting the 2017 Australian Bush Poetry Championships. Our offer was accepted at the AGM, so this will be held in conjunction with our WA State Championships at the Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival in November next year. Several poets and supporters have already indicated their intention to come over. The last time WA hosted this event was in 2004 when Rod and Kerry Lee were at the helm. The "Uddersiders" are still talking about the great time they had then.

Bill Gordon.



MC for Australia Day at Wireless Hill, Dot Langley and husband Brian were in patriotic attire for the day



## Degrees of Cooks

Inspect any station across this great Nation  
The cook will be somebody's wife.  
Since the ladies took over, a stockman or drover  
need no longer fear for his life.

But it wasn't that way in the battling old days  
when cooks were a species apart.  
They were rated by five if they kept you alive.  
A *cook* was the one at the start.

Next came the *cuckoo* who could make a fair stew  
but damper replaced homemade bread.  
The roasts and the rest would be average at best  
But at least everybody got fed.

Number three was a slayer they called a *baitlayer* -  
an unclean and scurrilous lout.  
His curries and stews were a glutinous ooze.  
His roasts had the blood seeping out.

If Baitlayers were bad, *tucker muckers* were mad.  
Their dampers were lumps of raw dough.  
And the word I've called 'mucker' also rhymes with 'Tucker'.  
I can't say it — the children you know.

But on top of the heap, that detestable creep,  
that evil unsavoury cur  
shouldn't cook for a dog. Soaked in vice, dirt and grog  
they know as *wilful murderer*.

He smelled like a skunk, was perpetually drunk.  
Men lived on raw meat and burnt flour.  
They would run at each end and their workday expend  
squatting out on the flat by the hour.

For the worker today, a fine breakfast is laid.  
At smoko there's biscuits and scones.  
And the lunches and teas send old hands to their knees  
to thank God the good old days are gone.

Jack Drake ©



Jack Drake will be a guest artist at the Boyup Brook  
Country Music Festival from 18th—21st February 2016

### **"Bluey" Blew it**

Their task had been to clear  
a fence line through the rocks,  
removing any obstacles  
so a straight line wasn't blocked.

Provided with blasting powder,  
hammers and crowbars at their camp;  
this was to be their winter's work  
in conditions cold and damp.

For a start they made some headway  
until the powder got too damp to burn;  
and while they made no progress,  
neither was there any pay to earn.

Then Bluey had a brainwave  
while Jacko wasn't about.  
He put the powder in the oven  
for just a while, to dry it out.

Then he took a little wander;  
a "call of nature" so we're told,  
and while he was so occupied,  
Jacko came in wet and cold.

He stoked the firebox full  
to get warmed up and dry,  
without a thought to check the oven,  
he had no reason to, so "why?"

Well, he'd walked away to get dry socks  
that were in the other room,  
when the stove simply erupted,  
for miles folk heard the boom!

Bluey hadn't hitched his braces  
as he bolted back to base;  
aghast to see the gaping hole  
where there'd been their fireplace.

Then Jacko appeared from inside  
with one sock and one barefoot;  
his white eyes staring from a face  
now covered with black soot.

His mouth was working overtime  
though no-one's sure of what he said  
but at a guess it wasn't something  
you'd hear from anyone well bred!

© Pete. Stratford. 26.12.15

### **Bush Poetry Program for Boyup Brook**

Wednesday night 17th February —  
Meet and Greet Poets at 'Northlands'  
BYO bbq

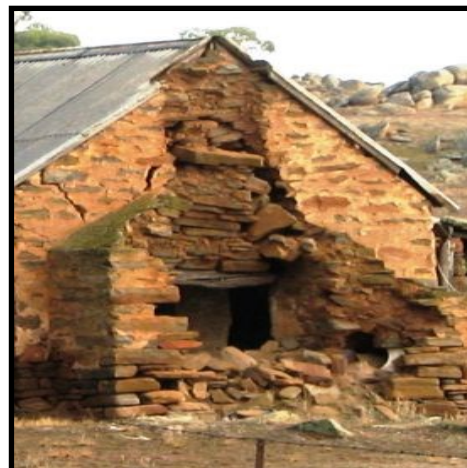
Thursday morning 18th February —  
Poets Breakfast at Tennis Club  
8am till 10am

Thursday 18th February—  
workshops Bowling Club from  
10.30am

Friday afternoon 19th February —  
Tourist Park Square  
12 noon till 2pm

Saturday morning 20th February —  
Bowling Club Breakfast 8am to 10am

Sunday morning 21st February —  
Bush Poets Breakfast 7am till 10am



## Done It All At Seventeen

What is there left in life he said, he was only seventeen  
And I sat there and I listened to the things he'd done and seen  
There's nothing left to do he said, I've done it all before  
I thought, if this is how the young folks think, life must really be a bore

Boy I said, you haven't lived, there's a million things to do  
I'm glad when I was your age, I didn't think like you  
Your eyes are hardly open, you can't be dry behind the ears  
How can you say you've done it all, in just a few short years.

Have you seen the emu in the wild, and the majestic kangaroo?  
I've seen them in their hundreds, believe me so can you  
Have you seen the Brolgas dancing, watched eagles soaring in the sky  
Have you camped out in the bushland, and seen a million stars on high.

Have you heard a dingo howling, it sends shivers up your spine  
Have you had a ten pound Schnapper, tugging on your line?  
Have you seen the swollen rivers, plunging onward to the sea?  
Been bogged down to the axles, in the far North just like me.

Have you seen the wheat crops waving, like the waves upon the sea?  
Or sat around a campfire, making toast and billy tea  
Have you cleared and pegged a fence line, o some distant outback run  
And admired with satisfaction, that fence when the job was done.

Have you been down through the South West, and seen the Karri's standing tall  
Have you used an axe and crosscut saw, and made the timber fall  
Have you driven a team of Clydesdales, in a wagon load of wool  
Or stripped a ten bag crop of wheat, and watched the grain box getting full.

Have you had the satisfaction, of seeing a man, with bat held high  
Who didn't pick a wrong-un, and watched his off bail fly  
Have you opened up an innings, and finished with a ton  
And felt the satisfaction, of having made a hundred runs.

I've done all these things I said to him, they're just a few I can recall  
But believe me son, believe me, I haven't done it all.  
It's out there I said to him, life's a challenge if you're game.  
There's a million things you've got to do, too numerous to name

Have you seen that outback country, with its bare and barren plains?  
Filled with flowers and everlastings, after huge cyclonic rains  
Leave the city lights behind you, don't say you've done it all  
At seventeen life's just beginning, the world is not that small.

“Snow”Pic ©



**Boyup Brook 2016  
WRITTEN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION  
In conjunction with the Country Music Festival  
18 – 21st February, 2016**

**Conditions of Entry**

- This competition is an event for **ORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN** verse having very good **RHYME** and **METRE**.
- There are no subject restrictions
- Previously published poetry that has not won a first prize in any written competition will be accepted.
- A4 size pages should be used keeping each entry separate, using one side of the paper only.
- Entries should be typed where possible using a standard font (Times Roman, Century, Arial, Verdana)
- Send two copies of each poem
- Maximum of 40 lines/poem and 3 Poems per entrant
- Cover sheets should be used. Entrants names or other details must not appear on any of the poems.
- Cheques or money orders for the total amount of entry fees should be made out to Boyup Brook 2016 Bush Poetry Competition and must accompany all entries where the direct transfer option is not used.
- **CLOSING DATE.** Entries must be postmarked no later than 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 - Late entries not accepted.
- Copyright remains with the author. Poems may be used in any anthology of competition entries. Poems will not be returned.
- The Winners will be announced at the Bush Poets Breakfast, Boyup Brook, 18th Feb. 2016. Winners will be notified
- If required entrants should supply an SSAE for results to be posted after 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- The judges' decision will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into. Public Criticism of Judges decisions will result in disqualification from future events.

**ENTRY FEE: \$5 per poem**

**PRIZES: Open – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$100**

**Emerging Poet (never previously won) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 100**

Post to: Boyup Brook Poetry Comp

C/- Irene Conner

64 Strickland Street, Geraldton. WA 6530

Entries can also be emailed to [iconner21@wn.com.au](mailto:iconner21@wn.com.au) and money paid via direct deposit.

Please contact Irene on above email, or 0429652155 for details.

## ENTRY FORM – BUSH POETRY WRITTEN COMPETITION

Name .....

Address .....

.....Post Code .....

Phone..... email.....

Have you EVER won any written poetry competition? Yes No

Titles of entries:

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

I declare the enclosed verse(s) is entirely my own work and that it conforms to the above conditions. I agree to be bound by these conditions and accept the judge's decision as final.

Signed..... Date...../...../ 2016



## January Muster Write-up - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Sue Hill

MC for the evening was **Anne Hayes**. Anne started the evening at 7pm

**Caroline Sandbridge** – A poem called “Limited Edition” A quirky story about a “Choc Milk Lamington” and another poem about a Work Supervisor.

**Robert Gunn** – Poem called “Bluey” A storey about a Blue Dog, along with his best mate, his boss, enjoy watching Cow Boy movies on Television together.

**Janice May** – Presented the Poem “Bush Christening” by Banjo Paterson. This was a first for Janice, well done.

**Terry Piggott**- “Confessions of and Art Lover” A new poem from Terry describing what an artist thoughts are regarding other artist’s work.

**Lorraine Broun** – “Southern Ocean” A story about how one should always be extremely careful when fishing from rocks in the ocean and never take the Ocean for granted.

**Marina Wolters** – Presented the poem “Past Carin” by Henry Lawson. A poem describing hard times in the bush, and how easy it is to be, “Past Caring”

**John Hayes** - presented “Sari Bari” by C.J Dennis Tells the story of the Allies vain attempt to take control of the Peninsular, their final offensive in which 80% of Australian troops were either killed or wounded.

**Jem Shorland** - presented two of his humorous poems. The first was about an unfortunate chap told he only had 24 hours to live which led to the first (and last) time he ever played Bingo down at the Club. The second concerning a coach loaded with blue-haired elderlies meeting an outback aboriginal who possessed amazing tracking skills.

After the supper break, Jem offered us one of his rare serious poems based on the outback efforts of two prospectors to find Lasseter’s fabled gold reef.

**Bob Brackenbury** presented a Syd Hopkins poem “Salute to Wiluna”  
A story about Gold Fossickers and how a town is born and eventually dies when the gold is depleted and the men go off to war.

**Arthur Leggett** – told a short story about his Christmas with his family.  
Also “A Sunday Afternoon Walk” As he walks along the river near the East Perth Power Station, he relives the days when he and his mates worked on the chimney stack of the Power Station.

**Brian Langley** Recites a poem - “New Year Resolution” Brian’s poem describing his New Year resolutions only to find they are the same as last year?  
Brian also recites a Poem he has written about Dementia called “Dinkum Dan”  
A dementia sufferer talking to a visitor and refers to events that happened many years ago, he is unaware the visitor is his old mate.

**“Cobber” Lethbridge** – Recites his poem “Meekatharra” This poem is based on a chance encounter with a gold fossicker who shares a part of his life storey, with no complaint but needs to earn some money, so he’s heading back to Meekatharra with his leaky bloody tent.

**Supper**



**Dot Langley** – Classic Reading – “Mid Summer Noon in the Australian Forest” by Charles Harpur.

**John Hayes** – recited “Second Class” by Henry Lawson

**Lorraine Broun** – Recites her poem “Doggy-wish” A dog is now taken for a ride in the car to the oval for a walk instead of a walk in the bush so there is not a chance encounter with a snake.

**“Cobber” Lethbridge** – “Aussie Battler”

**Caroline Sandbridge** – A Poem “Welcome to the Computer Age” A story about people not leaving their home and accomplishing all they need on line.

**Terry Piggott** – Recites his poem “Just Thinking” Are we lost in thought about past times and should we leave them behind.

He also recited his poem “Bertie on the Phone” as Terry puts it a bit of a tongue in cheek non-sense, regarding a telephone call to a friend to invite them to a poetic treat.

**Lesley McAlpine** “The Circle of Life” (Terry Piggott) Mother cares for daughter, daughter cares for Mother. Lesley read this to celebrate her Mum and Dad’s 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. A very moving poem

**Bob Brackenbury** – presented “Dreamtime Dreaming” by Terry Piggott

**Robert Gunn** – recites “Australia” by Mick Collis. A poem relating to all dinkum Aussies.

**Brian Langley** – recited his poem “Fishing with the Grandkid” A story of taking the young granddaughter fishing and having to bait her hook and cast the line and she catches all the fish while Grandad hasn’t caught a thing.

**John Hayes** finishes the evening by leading us all into singing “You Are, I Am, We Are Australian”

### **WANTED - Muster MC's &**

#### **Classics Readers**

We are looking for members who would be willing to take on the role of MC or Classics Reader for 1 Muster each for the year ahead. There are guidelines to work within, for those who are unsure as to what is required, please contact

Secretary  
meggordon4@bigpond.com.au

### Details for new memberships:

Direct transfer to NAB  
**bsb 086455 a/c 824284595—WA Bush Poets**

If paying by direct transfer please notify treasurer by phone or email:

**Alan Aitken 0400249243 or  
aaiken@live.com.au**

**Fees—Single \$15  
Family \$20**

**Please add \$3 for posting of ‘Bully Tin’ if  
not on emailing list.**

## Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2015—2016

Bill Gordon	President	97651098	0428651098	northlands@wn.com.au
Peter "Stinger" Nettleton	Vic President		0407770053	stinger@iinet.net.au
Meg Gordon	Secretary/Bully Tin Editor		0404075108	meggordon4@bigpond.com.au
Alan Aitken	Treasurer		0400249243	aaitken@aapt.net.au
<b>Committee</b>				
Irene Conner	State Rep APBA		0429652155	lconner21@wn.com.au
Rodger Kohn		93320876	0419666168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
Dave Smith			0438341256	daveandelainesmith1@bigpond.com
Bob Brackenbury		93641310	0418918884	oddjobbob@bigpond.com
Jem Shorland		61430127	0423797487	shorland@iinet.net.au
Maxine Richter	Bullytin Distributor		0429339002	maxine.richter@bigpond.com

### **Not on the committee, but taking on the following tasks:**

Colin Tyler	Supper			
Rhonda Hinkley	Librarian		0417099676	gun.hink@hotmail.com
Nancy Coe	Muster Meet/greet	94725303		
Brian Langley	Webmaster	93613770	93613770	briandot@tpg.com.au
Robert Gunn	Sound gear set up		0417099676	gun.hink@hotmail.com

### Upcoming Events

Bunbury Bush Poets will have their meeting on Monday 15th February 7pm at Rose Hotel cnr Wellington & Victoria Sts.  
Bunbury

### Regular events

Albany Bush Poetry group	4th Tuesday of each month	Peter 9844 6606
Bunbury Bush Poets	First Monday of every second month	Alan Aitken 0400249243

**Do YOU have any poetic events which need to go in this space? Or for that matter anywhere within this newsletter—it is YOUR newsletter, I would like to see more direct contributions from members and friends.**

If you would like to be part of a forum—post your poetry, see what other contemporary bush poets are writing, keep up to date with poetry events throughout Australia—visit [www.abpa.org.au](http://www.abpa.org.au) or [www.bushverse.com](http://www.bushverse.com)

### **Don't forget our website**

**[www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au) or [www.wabushpoets.com](http://www.wabushpoets.com)**

Please contact the Webmaster, Brian Langley on 93613770 if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.

**Country Poets -Is there anything poetic going on in your neck of the woods.  
If so, why not drop us a line and tell us about it**

<b>Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list</b> <b>Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit our website <a href="http://www.wabushpoets.com">www.wabushpoets.com</a></b> <b>Go to the "Performance Poets" page</b>	<b>Members' Poetic Products</b>		Corin Lynch books Val Read books Caroline Sambridge book Peg Vickers books & CD "Terry & Jenny" Music CDs Terry Piggott Book Frank Heffernan Book Christine Boulton Book, CD Pete Stratford CD Roger Cracknell Book, CD Bill Gordon CD
	Victoria Brown CD Peter Blyth CDs, books Rusty Christensen CDs Brian Gale CD & books John Hayes CDs & books Tim Heffernan book Brian Langley books, CD Arthur Leggett books, inc autobiography Keith Lethbridge books		
Address correspondence for the Bully Tin to: The "Bully Tin" Editor Box 364, Bentley WA 6982 <a href="mailto:meggordon4@bigpond.com.au">meggordon4@bigpond.com.au</a>	Address all other correspondence to: The Secretary WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Box 364, Bentley WA 6982	Address Monetary payments to: The Treasurer WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Box 364, Bentley. WA 6982	