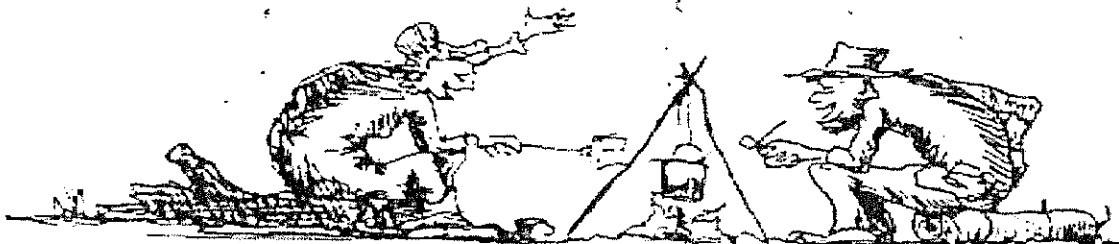


WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



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

Newsletter June, 1999

*Proudly announcing our inaugural
competition for written verse*

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS Assn Written Poetry Competition, 1999

OPEN:

Open to all members of WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Assn

JUNIOR SANDGROPERs 11-13 years:

Open to families of members and selected schoolchildren

JUNIOR SANDGROPERs 8-10 years:

Open to families of members and selected schoolchildren

***Prizes:* The winner of each of the three categories shall receive a copy of "Vision Splendid" the complete works of Banjo Paterson – value \$70.00**

Winners and 2nd & 3rd placegetters of the Junior Sandgropers categories shall receive a certificate of merit

***Presentation:* Winners of the three categories shall be invited to present their poems at Wireless Hill on Australia Day, 2000 where all prizes shall be presented**

***Judges:* Our own Cobber, Keith Lethbridge, shall judge Open Competition
Junior Sandgropers Competition judge — the Man from Elsewhere, Kel Watkins**

Conditions for Entry and Entry forms: See insert

DROPPINGS FROM THE BOSS COCKY

It was recently brought to attention that the monthly 'Come All Ye' was gradually slipping into a joke telling session rather than yarn spinning which is really what we are supposed to be about in that area of entertainment.

As one of the offenders, I considered the well-intended comments from an experienced source and after brief consideration I agreed, we were getting away from our purpose, i.e. Encouraging the art of not only bush poetry, but yarn spinning which is an integral part of our activities. As one not adverse to a good joke well told, I feel that joke telling at these events should be kept to a minimum, a series of jokes (sometimes unpalatable) does not constitute a yarn. In fact, it is a cheap and poor imitation and no substitute.

The 'Come All Ye' on Friday June 11th was a breath of fresh air, with a complete absence of jokes, very few expletives (me again). Just good wholesome bush poetry, stories and yarns presented by a wide variety of performers, stitched together unobtrusively with skill by a last minute stand-in compere Cobber Lethbridge. It was the type of show that nobody would complain about and the audience will come back for more.

It is that time of the year when the A.G.M. is held (Friday July 9th) - Yes I have put myself forward as president, chairman or 'Boss Cocky' again. I suppose I brought it on myself by starting the show [am only kidding as I enjoy meeting you all], but I would like to think there are others out there who could or would put in a bit of time and effort to keep the show moving. It is not onerous and can be fun. Two of the troops doing things are Joan Macneall and Ron Evans. Joan presented an excellent format for a poetry competition to schools throughout the metro area. Let's hope that it will flourish. Well done, Joan and Ron. Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge is another working for the cause in establishing a written competition which is open to all comers - Cobber is not just a bushy face under a battered hat.

See you at the A.G.M.

Rusty Christensen 'The Boss Cocky'

Reply to "Meet a Mate" column

Dear Alf,

In reply to your plea,
I'm offering me,
'Cause I'm everything you desire.
I am well in my prime,
And I like a good time,
Though I'm built like a radial tyre.

I'm not minute in size,
But I have lovely eyes
Behind double lenses I wear.
My legs are not thin,
There's no teeth in my grin,
And I'm wearing good quality hair.

I'm not known to moan,
But I do "chew the bone".
I'm like an old dog with new tricks.
I've worked hard all my life,
So I'll make a good wife,
And of hubbies you'll be number 6.

So, give me a go,
You just never know,
I may be the "girl" of your dreams.
I'm a flamin' good cook,
Though not fancy in look
And coming apart at the seams.

© V.P. Read

It has saddened us all to hear that Reg. Miles passed away suddenly on the 27th April. He was in his mid 70's and only about two weeks away from his next birthday. We had enjoyed his pleasant company at our April gathering at the Raffles. Ironically, on that occasion one of the items he presented for our entertainment, was called R.I.P.

Reg. we will all miss you, and may you certainly ... R.I.P.

Syd Hopkinson

GREAT NEWS

The WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners is a rapidly expanding literary group, not only with memberships, which increase steadily monthly, but because we are having OUR VERY FIRST Junior poetry competition, the **WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Junior Sandgropers Poetry Competition**.

This being our very first venture into competitions for children, the committee has decided that it be extended to members' offspring and by school invitation only. Invited schools represent a cross section of the metropolitan area. This limitation on the competition should prevent us being inundated with more entries than we could handle, or could possibly judge in a fair manner to all. Expansion is always possible next time around. All the youngsters in the families of members (siblings, own kids, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren) are encouraged to enter provided they meet one of the two age categories.

So, members, encourage the young ones in your family to put pen to paper, let's see what they can do. By the way, the Junior Poetry Champion over East this year was a young lady of just 8 years.
Till next time.

Joan Macneall

MOTHERHOOD *Winner, 1999 Bronze Swagman Award*

© Carmel Randle, Preston Q 7.11.98

Ah, yes! That one's my baby! She's as pretty as can be!
Shiny curls and big brown eyes aglow!
Her little cheeks are burnished black like old mahogany ~
Her smile ~ it's just the sweetest thing I know!

I like to call her Lisa ~ for a white girl who's a friend
I met down at the University ~
She also has her Tribal Name. You may not comprehend.
But that's important, too, to folk like me!

Sometimes I dream of Lisa wearing frilly Party Frocks,
A bright red ribbon her shiny curls,
Her shoes all polished, lace around her pretty snow-white socks,
Blending in with other little girls,

But she is black! I know too well the pressures she will bear
'Cause I've been there! I've lived that dream right through
Education Its rewards but all this I must share ~
For in our Tribe, what's mine belongs to you!

You could say I'm a lucky one ~ a tert'ary education
A chance to travel well beyond our Land
But, tied within the Scared Rites of my initiation
I'm here ~ and married ~ just as nature planned.

Our Tribal Living's not the same as once it used to be
No longer do we track the desert wide
Just searching for our tucker ~ yam from earth and grub from tree ~
Walking where the Elders might decide ~

We travel in the comfort of our air-conditioned cars;
There's solar-filtered water, septic, too!
Microwaves and television; even V.C.R's ~
I'm living very much the same as you!

Continued overleaf

But some things haven't changed! We women still must bear the brunt
Of nurturing our children as they grow.
The men no longer have the need for 'walk-about' or 'hunt',
For food is bought with money! And they know

That Stores will sell a side of beef, and roo-tails come deep frozen!
There's pre-cooked meals and hamburgers there, too
For heating in a microwave; while Tapes and C.D's chosen
Make better music than the Didg'ridoo!

Our men-folk lack the challenge! What they DO have left is TIME
To drink, and argue ~ and, too often, fight!
And when the VB God takes hold, no reason, sense, or rhyme
Dictates the terror women know at night!

The Nulla-nulla no more strikes a hunter's chosen prey,
But lashes wildly in a grog-crazed hand
About the head of anyone who may be in the way ~
Or a hapless wife who won't meet drunk demand!

And yet, I've brought a small girl child into our changing world

If only I could know, 'Where lies her path?'
Will she wander through her lifetime tight in Tribal bosom curled?
Will she bear the brunt of black ~ or white ~ man's wrath?

But no! We must have faith in what the future years will hold,
And work for what our instinct says is right ~
So I cuddle close my baby, and MY Dreamtime Tale is told

A whisper in her tiny ear each night

"Be brave, my little darling! Face the future with a grin!
Help your brothers, be they white or black!
Don't blame the present for the past! There's but one way to win

Go forward --- ever FORWARD! Don't look BACK!"

(Carmel met this outstanding young woman in the far north of South Australia)

A GOOD DEAL

Those grand folk in Winton Q'ld have surplus copies of back issues of the Bronze Swagman Book of Verse available. They are anthologies collected for the prestigious Australia-wide annual Bronze Swagman Award (won this year by our friend Carmel Randle) and are available at reduced prices.

The Boss cocky sent for a parcel of 12 for \$50 + \$10.30, and he considers them good value, not only to peruse and read, but as presents for kindred folk who share our appreciation of the Australian idiom.

For your purchases write to The Secretary, Vision Winton Inc.,
PO Box 44, Winton, Q'ld, 4735

A parcel of 12 misc. copies - \$50 plus \$10.30 postage and handling

Single pre-1994 - \$3.50 each (plus postage and handling)

Single 1995 [Centenary Special], 1996, 1997 [Winning entry by Bob Magor] and
1998 are all \$10 (plus postage & handling)

Bronze Swagman Book of Verse 1999 [latest] \$12.50 (plus postage and handling)

'COME YE ALL' Friday 14th May – RAFFLES HOTEL

There is no doubt that the regular monthly events are popular. Some 60 fans turned out to enjoy a very mixed show compered by the irrepressible Peter Capp who set the tone of the evening by telling in rhyme of his trip to the Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter where the Bush Poets formed a large part of the performances.

Our old mate Peter Galton did a C.J. Dennis poem (the Spoilers), and shared an authentic rabbit story, the daring Davey duo, Maisey and Mike in their inimitable style told us about spiders and Wally's flies. The Boss Cocky did a poem about an auction and told the drama of Granny's new washing machine. Connie Herbert left her book of verse at home and treated the assembled to a couple of brother Leo's specials, while Stinger Nettleton, not to be outdone, gave us four of his best. First timer Rod Lee showed great potential with his own work Bloody Mongrel Bees, comparative newcomer Kerry Lee displayed yet another version of The Man From Snowy River. The true and tried performers, Syd Hopkinson, Frank Harrison and Arthur Leggett showed us that although it is the Year of the Older Person, they still present good wholesome entertainment with style. Kel Watkins was another dash of style with his offering for the night – The Swaggie, the Black Snake and the Frog, while one of the original troupers 'Jolly' Roger Montgomery rendered three of his deep thought provoking poems, Uncle Jimbo, et al. To Capp the night off, an unusual but greatly entertaining spoken version of The Road to Mandalay by compere Peter. An entertaining night for most tastes.

Although she claimed to have the best seat in the house, Joan Macneill did a sterling job filling in for secretary Loralie as donation taker, raffle ticket seller, membership signer and act recorder – most efficiently done Joan and "Thanks".

Rusty Christensen

'COME ALL YE' Friday 11th June

New member Geoff Bebb led off smartly at 7.30pm with his own stirring work "I had the money in my hand." Later in the programme Geoff presented "North to the Fortescue River" and "Tale of Dennis O'Neill". We are delighted to have such a writer and performer on board.

Keith Lethbridge, as M.C. set a happy and encouraging tone for the night. Later, together with his guitar he amused us with "Lousy Attitude", an item on his mouth organ, his own "When digger caught the Wog" and Cobber's Talking Dog".

Recalling her son trekking around the world, Joan Macneall presented Henry Lawson's "The Professional Wanderer" and later, her own touching work, "Nature's Portrait" of mothers. Joan will be the M.C. in July.

Henry Lawson was represented also by Connie Herbert's dramatic tale of "The Fire at Ross's Farm" and then her own amusing composition recalling picnic races at Mt. Augustus Station, "Everything is Bloody North of 28". Well worth hearing again.

Boss Cocky Rusty Christensen presented Bob Magor's tale of the catastrophic Tom Cat, and Blue the Shearer's lament on the "Motor Mower" and the early history of "Local Government". Incidentally, Bob Magor proposes to attend the Derby Music Festival again in July (see Coming Events notice). Several of our members are endeavouring to venture north for the Festival.

Banjo Paterson is always popular and was represented by Ron Ingham doing "The Drover's Horse" from 1981. A sad tale, movingly and warmly presented.

Ron Evans brought vibrant and dramatic renditions of Banjo's "The Swagman's Rest" and "Saltbush Bill" and later in the programme, a fantastic word picture of "The Man from Snowy River". We all continue to be impressed by Ron's memory.

Syd Hopkinson's delightful sense of humour was well expressed in his own diverse short verses on "Suburban Pets", "Atta Boy", "Roman Romance" and "The Golf Club Funds". Everyone had a good laugh.

The style and deeper thoughts of Arthur Leggett's compositions "To Whom do I Sing my Love Songs" and "Mate" recalling the Second field Ambulance Corps were well appreciated.

Peter Galton presented another moving piece of John O'Brien's on War.

Maisie and Mike Davey were in good form --- Maisie with her own tale of "Tom and the Crock(odile)" and then a charming little song on "The Sensible, Indispensable, Old Black Billy". Mike related from real life experience, his "Colonoscopy"!!

To extend our education, Kel Watkins introduced us to "Elf" language and did a piece on "Duck Hunting" but as I have not yet grasped "Elf" language I cannot tell you much about it, except that many were laughing, so someone somewhere must have understood it! Then, by special request, Kel related "The Ballad of the Birdsville Drover", a convoluted story of 120,000 bottles and 900,000 flagoons, which I suppose are what we know as flagons. To say the least, it was all rather mind-boggling. And Kel did it all with a straight face.

A great night's entertainment and we look forward to more on Friday 9th July, straight after the A.G.M. (see Coming Events notice).

Lorelie 'the Scribe' Tacoma

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING July 9th 1999

Nominations for new committee members most welcome.

7pm at the Raffles Hotel, upstairs in the Riverview Room

Followed by the regular Come All Ye gathering.

Meals available at the Raffles - make a phone booking for your party

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 2nd Friday of the month

Just three more opportunities to hone your skills before the Competition Heats begin in October for the Australia Day Challenge

Boab Festival in Derby

Once again all Bush Poets and Yarnspinners are invited to join the festivities at the Boab Festival

Join Bob Magor (the Man from Myponga) for the Poets Breakfast at the Derby Swimming Pool

Sunday morning July 8th

Contact Cheryl Holmes (08 9193 1065) to notify your intentions, and to arrange billets

Back-To-Northcliffe, 75th Anniversary Celebration October 2nd & 3rd

Bus tours of the original Group Settlements and more

See performances by Claudette Mountjoy, Ron Evans and Peter Capp at the "Poets, Yarnspinners and I Remember When... Breakfast"

Members of the WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners are invited to volunteer their own performance skills at the Celebrations and join in the weekend of festivities

Last Day to submit your verse for written competition

Junior Sandgroper (8-10 years & 11-13 years): Entries close 6pm 15th September, 1999

Open: Do not send entries before 15th August, please

Entries received after 15th November, 1999 will not be accepted

Edna Westall
2/10 McKimmie Road

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR FAMILIES OF MEMBERS ONLY
WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS Assn

JUNIOR SANDGROPER POETRY COMPETITION, 1999

JUNIOR SANDGROPER AGED 8 – 10 YEARS

JUNIOR SANDGROPER AGED 11 – 13 YEARS

THE COMPETITION:

This, the inaugural Junior Written Poetry Competition of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc. is open to the families of financial members of the association, and children of selected schools by invitation only.

THE PRIZES:

The winning authors of each age category

shall receive a copy of "Vision Splendid", the complete works of Banjo Paterson – value \$70.00, and shall be invited to recite their work at the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners annual Performance Poetry Challenge, on 26th January, 2000 at Wireless Hill, Melville.

The winning authors, plus first and second runner-up of each section,

shall receive a WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Junior Sandgropers Champion Poetry Certificate.

THE RULES:

1. Each age group will have one winner plus first and second runner-up.
2. The poem entered must be in the traditional rhyming format and of a wholesome nature.
3. Poem must be about Australia, the Australian way of life [a real or imaginary character], Australian history, flora or fauna.
4. Length of poem: 8 – 10 years not more than 20 lines. 11 – 13 years not more than 40 lines.
5. Originality: The entrant alone must write the poem.
6. The WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn may publish entries, at the discretion of the Committee.
7. The decision of the Judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
8. Entries close by 6pm 15th September, 1999. No late entries will be accepted.
9. An official entry form shall be attached to each poem entered (photocopy if more than one entry).

Entries should be addressed to:

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS Assn POETRY COMPETITION, 23 Streatham Street, Beckenham, W.A. 6107

Declaration of Entry:

I wish to enter the attached poem in the Junior Sandgropers Poetry Competition.

This poem is all my own work. I agree to all conditions of entry.

Signed

Dated

CHILD'S FULL NAME
& AGE

TITLE OF POEM

NAME,
ADDRESS
& PHONE
OF MEMBER

1
2
3
4

5
6
7

8

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM
WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS Assn
POETRY COMPETITION, 1999

PRIZE: A copy of "Vision Splendid" the complete works of Banjo Paterson – valued at \$70.00

The WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc. invites members to participate in the first of what is hoped to be an annual written poetry event. Entries should follow the traditional style of Bush Poetry. The Australian nature of the poem, combined with rhyme and rhythm, shall be considered important in the selection of the winning entry.

The winning poem shall be announced and read at the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Australia Day Challenge on Australia Day, 2000 at Wireless Hill. The author shall be awarded the prize at that time.

Conditions of Entry:

1. Entry is limited to financial members of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc.
2. There is no entry fee.
3. There is no limit to the number of entries each member may submit.
4. Copyright remains the property of the author.
5. At the discretion of the Committee of the Assn entries may be published at a future date.
6. Entries should be legible (preferably double spaced and typewritten).
7. Entries will not be returned. Contestants are advised to keep a copy.
8. The Judge's decision is final, and no discussion or correspondence shall be entered into.
9. Entries should be submitted between the dates of 15th August and 15th November, 1999
10. A copy of the Official Entry Form must be attached to each poem entered [photocopy if more than one].

Entries should be addressed to:

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS Assn POETRY COMPETITION, 24 Gladstone Road, Armadale, W.A. 6112

Declaration of Entry:

I wish to enter the attached poem in the inaugural written poetry competition of the WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assn Inc. I agree to all conditions of entry.

Signed

Dated

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

TITLE OF POEM