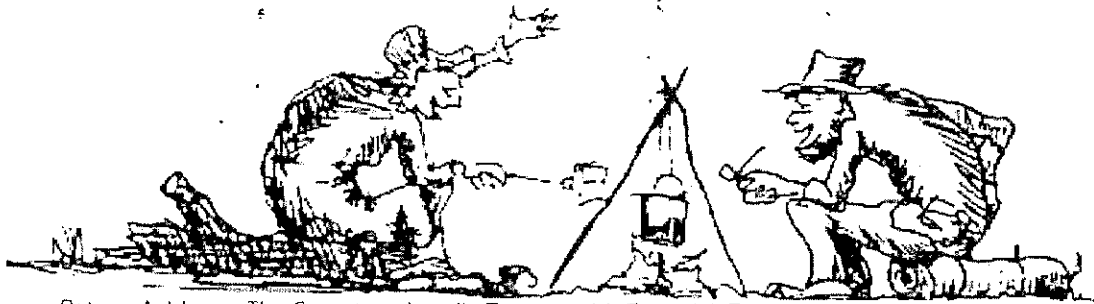


# WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS



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

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Newsletter June, 1998

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## DONNELLY RIVER IN THE SPRING

### FANCY A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY ?

A workshop/fun weekend is planned for 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September... In the Spring ... at the Donnelly River Holiday Village, near Bridgetown, Manjimup and Nannup. The village comprises 38 cottages, each with hot water service, electric stoves, fully equipped kitchen etc. One can bring one's own linen and blankets or hire them there. The tentative programme is...

**Friday:** Arrive in the evening, settle into the cottages.

**Saturday:** Workshops, performances and discussions at the Clubhouse, with a barbeque, yarn-in, bush social in the evening. Bring your instruments.

**Sunday:** Bacon Buns and Bulldust Breakfast at the Clubhouse, bush walk, Mill inspection, clean up and depart for home.

The Saturday evening event will be subsidised by the Association. Otherwise it is all BYO! Bring all the family. There are tennis courts, obstacle course, flying fox, and bikes for hire for the children, and a games room with TV etc. Kangaroos, emus, kookaburras, parrots etc. call at your doorstep.

Combine with another family and share a cottage. The rentals for two nights are:

4 person cottage \$140: 8 person cottage \$180:

V.I.P. cottage 8 persons \$200: 12 person cottage \$220.

Before we proceed with the detailed organisation of this venture we need to have expressions of interest together with a deposit of \$20 per person to the Secretary, Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Terrace, Murdoch 6150 *NO LATER THAN 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY*. This will be refunded if we do not get enough takers. Precise details will be provided later. We hope all our members in the Southwest will take this opportunity to join in and let us hear their work. This is indeed an opportunity to get to know each other.

***SHORT NOTICE ON NEXT EVENT SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
FOR DETAILS SEE COMING EVENTS PAGE***

## DROPPINGS FROM THE BOSS COCKY

With the end of our second full year coming up we can look back with pride on what has been achieved. Two Wireless Hill finals, a small deputation to the hub of bush poetry, Winton Qld, visits by our interstate friends Bob Magor and Carmel Randle, the shows at the Raffles and elsewhere; all this capped off by winning the Australia Day Community Event for 1998.

I am sure that you were all as proud as I was when our group was awarded the Australia Day Community Award. I am equally pleased that our membership is nudging up to 100. "Good" I hear you say. Now the trick is to keep the momentum going and keep every member informed of our activities.

It is IMPERATIVE that we enlarge our committee for a richer source of ideas. New faces are most welcome at the committee meetings, so please give some thought to putting your hand up for some collective decision making. Please make every attempt to attend the **A.G.M. Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup> at the Raffles Hotel, upstairs in the Riverview Room.** If you can't make that night, but are keen to have some input at a later date, do let Lorelie our secretary know by contacting her at our return address.

Recently received a card from the Broome Bird Sanctuary. Bill McAtee is having a spell from teaching and is doing a six month voluntary stint up there. Poets passing through should pop in and make themselves known to Bill. He intends to be in Derby for the Boab Festival.

Yours truly is also going to the Boab Festival. A poet's breakfast is on the programme for the first time, on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July.** I am looking forward to it, and to catching up with our friend from over the border, Bob Magor, who will also be in the Kimberley at that time.

With a little help from his friends, 'Stinger' Nettleton staged a very successful bush poets' "do" with music at the Fremantle Club recently. The Poets' Roast was most enjoyable, with a repeat planned for **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 12-4pm.** This next event will include a bush dance, music supplied by 'Rampaging Roger' Montgomery's very good group The Dingo's Breakfast OZ Band. Hope to see you there.

A letter to hand from the Grande Dame of Bush Poetry, Carmel Randle, tells us that the Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Championship was a huge success and that the new Waltzing Matilda Museum in Winton is simply mind-boggling. In her words it leaves the Stockman's Hall of Fame for dead. Apparently a "must see" for all Banjo fans. She also tells us that the number of school poetry choirs was up from 11 in '97 to 25 this year and that no less than 225 school children competed in the solo poetry section. Zita Horton won the female open and will be going to Nevada, USA next January with Milton Taylor, who won the male section again (previously won in 1996). I still consider that our talent is the equal to our eastern counterparts and every attempt must be made to send our Australia Day Challenge winner to Winton next year to prove it.

The Ardross Assassin has shifted camp, but not far. Our very diligent editor Kay is now camped in Albany, but continues to fulfill her tasks to bring you your newsletter, hence the country postmark.

On behalf of all members I extend a "Get Well" greeting to Eelco Tacoma.

See you at the Annual General Meeting.

'The Boss Cocky' Rusty Christensen

*When Shane Bonser from Wyndham inquired about membership some time ago, he also sent a couple of his poems. Here's just one of them. Ed.*

### **THE OLD GREY HORSE**

I see an old grey horse standing in a paddock over there,  
No bridle, no saddle, just standing bare.  
His mustering days have since passed him by  
And most of his mates have gone to the big spell paddock in the sky.  
I'd say the old fellow is reminiscing of days gone by.  
If I'm not mistaken, I see a teardrop in the corner of his eye.  
He's probably remembering the rodeos where he used to strut real proud  
After winning the camp draft and hearing the noise of the crowd.

Yes, old fellow, these ribbons you've won  
And people were right when they called you a gun.  
The stock camps were fairly in his blood.  
You would see his ears pull back and on the bit he would lug  
When we started chasing bulls through that minerrichi scrub.  
Well, old fellow, it's nearly your time to head up above.  
I only hope that when you get there,  
They give you plenty of kindness and love. © Shane Bonser

*A newsy letter has been received from our enthusiastic member from Margaret River, Brian Gale...*

I see the Boab Festival is on in Derby on 19<sup>th</sup> July. I hope to be in that area about then.

I did a 2,000 km cycle tour of North Island New Zealand in April and May for five weeks. Was able to spread the poetic word around and was well received. I visited a couple of schools and recited to the children and teachers, who all got a great kick out of it.

I also went on stage at Whangamata on a country music night and performed three poems and was the only poet there. They gave me a wonderful response.

There were a lot of hills, beautiful country, nice people and happy incidents. The bike was pretty well trouble free and the weather was kind... Better than usual the Kiwis said. I managed to sell a few books and tapes and still have books and two different tapes available for \$8. I have written a couple of new poems.

Hope all is going well with the poets in Perth. Keep writing. Brian Gale

### *A word about the Fairbridge Festival*

At the June committee meeting Peter Nettleton reported that our members' performances had been well received at the Fairbridge Festival in April. He recommended that we continue to support the event, as our contribution was the only purely Australian item there.

If *you* have an idea and wish to hold a Bush Poets' & Yarnspinners' get-together of any sort, contact the committee with a firm proposition. We will help you through and circulate details in the newsletter. Remember this is your Association and participation is going to prove to be the life-blood.

To the Secretary,  
W.A. Bush Poets' & Yarnspinners Assn,  
Lorelie Tacoma,  
15 Gratwick Terrace,  
Murdoch, 6150

I Wish To Propose That A Get-Together Be Held At

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I Suggest This Gathering Be In The Format Of

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Best Time For This Function Would Be

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To Get Off The Ground This Event Would Need

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My Name Is

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I May Be Contacted At

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**\$10 Membership Subscriptions are now due.  
See April newsletter for renewal slip.  
Please send posthaste.**



### **BUSH POETS' ROAST AT THE FREMANTLE CLUB**

**Seventy hungry and thirsty folk enjoyed an extremely diversified and entertaining occasion at the Fremantle Club on 31<sup>st</sup> May.**

M.C. was Peter Nettleton who showed himself to be multi-talented with his singing, guitar strumming and poetry. As it was the Foundation Day weekend Constance Herbert chose to present the poem she had composed for W.A.'s 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, and another on Bush Justice. This gave much food for thought. Peter Capp presented a very topical poem on the M.U.A. and other stories on the Russians dropping cows on the poor Japanese fishermen, and porcelain pigs. Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson were dramatically presented by Peter Nettleton and Ron Evans. Rusty did his famous "Dingo Dan", Leigh Matthews told an unlikely story about cockroaches and Beth Scott told her usual amusing tales ... it seems our pets are eating better than we are! A newcomer to the scene was a young lady called Annette. We hope to hear more from her in future. Mick Bodanovich provided musical interludes between the roast beef and baked potatoes.

This function was well received and very popular, leading to plans to hold **another event on 28<sup>th</sup> June at the Fremantle Club (see our coming events column).** The Club's arrangements will be improved next time to overcome crowding and a dance will be held upstairs starting at 3pm. Once again the Freo Boys have done us proud.

### **INGLEWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB**

**An evening of bright entertainment was provided for members of the Inglewood Sportmen's Club on 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

Performances were given by Keith Lethbridge, Leigh Matthews, Beth Scott, Kel Watkins, Rusty Christensen, and Ron Evans (our new member from Woorooloo). Keith and Leigh joined for some musical items and then Keith performed on his leaves and spoons. It was a rare and unusual evening for the folk in Inglewood and their invitation gave us an opportunity to take our talents North of the River.

### **BUSH POETS' WORKSHOP AT THE BI-CENTENNIAL SHED**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 1998 - What a great day for the 17 writers and performers of Bush Poetry hosted by our mate Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge in the ambience of the Bi-centennial Shed.**

Apart from the five members of this Association, there were participants from a variety of kindred groups. The Mandurah Writers, The Jolly Jotters, several City of Gosnells groups represented by Marilyn Siggers (is she ever home?) a most experienced U.S. poet Dawn Rutter, a late comer in Ziban Martinoff who may have been Uncle Joe's speech writer, plus two teenagers. Host and tutor, Cobber was well prepared and explained some of the intricacies of Bush Poetry writing. Terms such as crafting, rhyme, rhythm, style and doublets were freely used to good effect and those attending came away not only inspired, but also better informed. The catering was excellent, thanks mainly to some very acceptable leftovers from the Square Dance show from the night before. After sharing the takings with the Square Dancers' Hospice Fund the association was \$80 richer. The experiment was voted a huge success and all agreed that similar workshops should be conducted from time to time. A big "Thank You" again to Keith and Maricor for their renowned hospitality.

# COMING EVENTS

BUSH POET'S DANCE

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1998, 12 noon**

Fremantle Club, 18 Bannister Street, Fremantle

Music by 'Dingo's Breakfast'

\$12.00 (tucker & turn)

Bookings: Stinger 9335 3384, Wally 9335 1553

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**7.30 pm 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1998**

Raffles Hotel, Canning Bridge (Upstairs in the Riverview Room)

A short agenda is planned with a Cheese and Biscuits social gathering

Everyone is welcome - looking forward to new faces

BUSH POETS' BREAKFAST AT THE ANNUAL BOAB FESTIVAL IN DERBY

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY At 7.30 A.M**

See Bob Magor of 'Stone The Crows' Fame

Welcome Is Extended To All Performing and Non-Performing Sun-Seekers Trekking North this Winter

Billets Possible

Contact: DERBY COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB (Inc.)

C/- CHERYLE HOLMES

P.O. BOX 87

Derby 6728 Telephone

08 9193 1065

DONNELLY RIVER IN THE SPRING (SEE PAGE ONE ARTICLE)

**Weekend of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1998**

Bookings Lorelie Tacoma, 16 Gratwick Terrace, Murdoch 6150

WONGAN HILLS WALK-ABOUT

There are whispers in the air that something is planned for Wongan Hills

and that Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge is going walk-about to get there.

Could 'Kitchen Chris' Saddler be in on this? More as it comes to hand.