

The

April 2024

BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Next Muster: 5th April 2024 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Heather Denholm 0429 052 900
Reading from the classics: Christine Boulton

Theme for first half at April Muster - Anzac or similar poems;
the second half humorous, any subject.

*They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Not the years condemn
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning
We will remember them
Lest we forget*



This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance
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President's Ramblings April 2024



Bush Poets gathered in Bridgetown for Downunder Country Music show. recently with spots on Friday and Saturday between singers then a two hour show on the Sunday morning. Our usual high standard was maintained throughout and all poets were well received. David and Therese Higginson have been great supporters of Bush Poetry and have included us in many of their shows. Another event David and Therese are organising is the Mountain Country Music Muster at Mount Trio in the Stirling Ranges, first weekend in November. Last year was the first time for this event and it was a great success and is to become an annual muster. They are locked in to that weekend because of other events in the Albany district. To avoid further clashes, we have moved the date of our Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival to the following weekend, i.e. 8th – 10th November. The good news for us is that the change will mean the November muster can be held on the first Friday, same as the other months of the year.

Congratulations to Stinger on the success of the show he produced at the Roxy Lane Theatre last October. Alzheimer's, the Musical won the award for the best production for the year. We have thoroughly enjoyed other productions Stinger has been involved in but bush poetry events meant we had to miss a good show.

Sadly I have to report that Bob Brackenbury passed away recently. Bob was a keen member of WA Bush Poets and was a valuable member of the committee for some time. He housed the trailer and was always looking to make improvements to our equipment.

Changes to the committee I reported on in the February Bullytin have been reversed and it was confirmed at the last meeting that Stinger is still the secretary and Rodger remains vice-president.

Fairbridge Folk Festival which was to have been held shortly has been cancelled due to a lack of volunteers and insufficient ticket sales. This was an iconic festival on the WA calendar with which WA Bush Poets has had a long association. Many of our founding members were regular performers. Let's hope it can be revived and not lapse into the mists of time.

Moodyne Festival at Toodyay is on Sunday 5th May and we will be having a stall and reciting there. The new location in the grounds of the Anglican Church avoids the noise of generators at the food vans. This is a good day trip from Perth and an opportunity to see Toodyay at its best.

Heather Denholm is MC for the muster on 5th April. The first half will feature ANZAC poems and Heather has a very appropriate touch for the night.

I will be MC for the May muster and the first half will be a tribute to Chris Taylor. Several poets will be presenting his poems. While we knew and admired Chris as a poet, we did not know much about him apart from what we could glean through his poetry. His son Dan is planning to be at the muster so we might have a chance to gain some insight into Chris's life.

Bill Gordon, President.

**Please note - May's Muster: 5th May 2024 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,
Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley**

MC: Bill Gordon billgordon1948@gmail.com 0428 651 098

Reading from the classics: Heather Denholm

**Theme: Tribute to Chris Taylor Let Bill Know if you already recite one of Chris's poems
or ask for one to read/recite.**

Submissions for May Bully Tin due in by 18th April 2024 ESSENTIAL as I am going on holidays.

The 34th Annual Blackened Billy Verse Competition BB2024 OFFICIAL RESULTS (*partial extract*)
Second Place 'A Gallipoli Rosary' written by Peter O'Shaughnessy of Western Australia.
Highly Commended The Mystery of the Granites – Terry Piggott WA
Commended Young Wal from Wongawol – Peter O'Shaughnessy WA

Congratulations

The Mystery of The Granites

Where the desert winds are sighing you imagine hearts once crying,
 at this long-forgotten graveyard where these people lie at rest.
 And for me there is a feeling of a sadness never healing
 and I felt it on arrival as this story will attest.

It's a sadness always waiting never leaving or abating,
 harking back into the past now from a time that used to be.
 And for those here time is endless, long forgotten now and friendless
 and that sense of heartfelt loss and gloom is reaching out to me.

I imagine anguished weeping where a loved one is now sleeping,
 though no marker tells the storey or the reason for those tears.
 With this sadness never leaving there's a sense of endless grieving
 that persists here in these granites, even after all these years.

There's no headstone clues to ponder so confused I always wonder,
 why this sadness is here waiting every time that I pass by.
 And it's something so compelling, yet my senses are rebelling -
 am I going mad I ask – or – is there something here awry?

For I can't deny this feeling that now has my senses reeling,
 in this place of haunting shadows where the truth is hard to find.
 Yet somewhere the answers waiting, and not knowing is frustrating
 and the lack of knowledge needed is what plays upon my mind.

Over time the scrubs invaded, and old memories have faded,
 as this graveyard lies forgotten in the vastness found outback.
 And a fence that was erected now lays tangled and neglected,
 adding to the brooding gloom found here so far from any track,

And a wave of sand is creeping over graves where some are sleeping
 and there's others also threatened by that fast-encroaching tide.
 It advances unimpeded for this battle's been conceded,
 as there's few who are aware of where these pioneers reside.

They're abandoned here for ever way out in the never, never,
 without road or track to follow that could lead you to this place.
 Here below this granite outcrop that once witnessed every teardrop,
 is where sleepers lie forgotten now without a name to trace.

So, a final look on leaving, now confused but still believing,
 there's an unexplained phenomenon defying logic here.
 And for me there's no denying there is something mystifying,
 but the answer still eludes me, and the reason is unclear.

As I leave, I'm discontented, scarred, and mentally tormented,
 by this overriding feeling here of sadness so surreal.
 For the answer is eluding near these granites stark and brooding
 and I go away still haunted by the anguish that I feel.



Terry Piggott (Perth WA)

Received Highly Commended for this poem in the
Blackened Billy Competition 2024



A bit about this poem that might be of interest .

Terry and his wife Val stumbled onto this old graveyard miles from anywhere.
 There were no roads or tracks that led to it, and at the time it was a really desolate looking place on the side a granite outcrop.

The first thing we noticed about it was this strange feeling of sadness possible brought on by the desolation of the place (and neither Val nor I are usually afflicted by any of this sort of thing). Let's face it we have come across a lot of strange things in our years of wandering. Interestingly each time we revisited this old graveyard that feeling of sadness persisted. The photo was taken after a rare wet period, so the place was transformed so to speak and the harshness was somewhat toned down.

Please take special note:

**We (WABP) have moved the date of our
Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival to 8th – 10th November. (details in President's Preamble)**

2024 BULLY TIN TOODYAY CHALLENGE

SHORT POEM COMPETITION

'Cash Prize' sponsored by the Bully Tin

This year's theme is

*** Driver Fatigue**

Conditions of Entry: 20 Lines of Verse with good Rhythm and Rhyme

Poems to be read or performed on Sunday at Toodyay Bush Poets Festival

8th - 10th Nov 2024 (check program for details when available)

NANNUP MUSIC FESTIVAL – 2024

BUSH POETS SECTIONS – SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MORNING

Both Saturday and Sunday mornings where a huge success with 5 very highly experienced poets (Jeff Swain, Phil Strutt, Greg Joass, Alan Hall and myself) entertaining an audience of about 100 people. Although light on poets the quality of the poetry was high, culminating in Jeff reciting Keith Lethbridge's "The Legend of Mother Mc Q" while Phil, dressed as Mother Mc Q, pranced around in front of the stage. A very good ending to a great week end. Thank you to all the poets who gave up their time to make it a memorable show. The Nannup Music Festival committee expressed their gratitude to the performing poets for their efforts over the week end.

Article by Alan Aitken

Poets who performed at
**Down Under
Country Music Festival
in Bridgeton**

**(l to r) Roger Cracknell, Alan
Aitken, Stinger Nettleton,
Christine Boulton,
Cobber Lethbridge, Bill Gordon**





WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association
SILVER QUILL WRITTEN COMPETITION
Conducted in conjunction with WA State Championships
FRIDAY 8th NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2024
TOODYAY WA
WRITTEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM
Entries Close Monday 1st Oct 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Categories—please tick categories entered

- 1. **Open Serious** }
- 2. **Open Humorous** } Highest total score in either category determines the winner
- 3. **Novice** Only for poets who have never won a Bush Poetry Written Competition
- 4. **Junior** (under 18ys) _____ Age
- 5. **Local** The best poem by a resident of the Avon Valley

Title/s of Poem/s

	Category Entered	Critique Required	Entry Fee
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____

Entry Fees: Adults \$10 per poem; \$5 per critique. Juniors Free.

Payment by: **Cheque or Money Order:** **OR**
 made out to "WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Ass'n",
 and posted to: The Silver Quill Entry
 c/o Rodger Kohn,
 16 Stoddart Way,
 Bateman, WA, 6150,

Direct Bank Transfer:
 BSB 633000 A/c 156989659
 Name: W Bush Poets
 Ref: (your name) Silver Quill 2024
 then email suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com
 informing of Direct Bank Transfer.

Declaration

I agree to the conditions on the reverse side of this application form:

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Guardian (if Junior) _____

Conditions of Entry - Written Competition

1. Entry fee per poem: Adults: \$10.00; Juniors: Free; No refunds if disqualified. If a detailed critique from the judges is required, please add an extra \$5 per poem.
2. No limit to number of entries and no line limit to poems
3. Poems must be the original work of the entrant and must not have been previously published for the profit of the author
4. A poem which has come first in any open written competition category is not permitted. If a poem should win one competition prior to the closing date of another competition in which the same poem is entered, the onus is on the author to notify the second competition organisers that his/her poem has become ineligible due to the contravention of entry conditions.
5. Poems must have very good rhyme and meter and be original with an Australian theme
6. A poem, which in the opinion of the judge contains offensive material, will be disqualified
7. The poem's must be sent electronically, unless this is not available, in which case they must be presented as follows: typed on white A4 size paper, with black printing in a plain font, size 10-12, with the name of the poem headed on each subsequent page and be numbered and stapled (see note below)
8. All poems must be received by the due date
9. The competition is conducted in accordance with ABPA guideline recommendations (refer to www.abpa.org.au/competitions)
10. Judging will be by judges approved by the ABPA
11. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
12. Entries may be displayed at the State Championships at Toodyay (Friday^{8th} November – Sunday 10th November 2024) and may be published in the WA Bush Poets monthly newsletter "The Bully Tin" and the ABPA Magazine and I hereby give my permission for such display and/or publication

Note: The new condition regarding electronic entry will avoid extra handling and cost by the entrant and avoid the possibility of a late entry due to a delay caused by Australia Post; we will print the number of copies required, at no extra cost. Email entries are to be sent to the Vice President, Rodger Kohn at: rodgershirley@bigpond.com

If you do not receive confirmation within a few days please phone Rodger on 0419 666 168.

Prizes

Monetary prizes will be awarded for the best poem in each of the 6 categories. Each winner, as well as those judged 'Highly Commended' or 'Commended', will receive a Certificate.



Surveyors' wives! Oh listen while I state
What is their dreary melancholy fate;
And pause ye fair, e'er entering on the
life

That still awaits a Land Surveyor's wife.
What though your husband may his
partner love,
And prize her company all else above,
It matters not, because so much he'll
roam

That he will hardly ever be at home!
This business is the idol he will serve,
And for his business strain his every
nerve.

Think not when evening spreads her
mantle round,
Your land-surveying husband will be
found.

At leisure to improve or cheer your mind
By reading some nice work of taste
refined,

No, No—you'll find that when he is chez
lui

He will sit down directly after tea,
With maps and papers thickly round him
spread

And many a calculation in his head.
And if perchance you should the silence
break,

And gently venture some remark to make,
You may expect to hear with frowning
brow,

The words: "My dear, thou interrupts me
now,"

And nothing more than this can you
attain,
Tho' you should ask and ask and ask
again.

Again sometimes you pleadingly will say
You wish your debts of visiting to pay;
And that you'd thankful feel if he would
strive

A little way from town to take a drive;
"My dear, I am engaged this month to
come,

There's not a day that I shall be at home,
So that's impossible," he will reply,
Whilst you will turn away and breathe a
sigh.

Nor should I here forget how you must
rise

Before the sun appears to gild the skies,
By candlelight his breakfast to prepare,
E'er he can face the keen and biting air.

But now I think 'tis time my tale to close,
Having collected such a list of woes.

Too true it is they often mark the life
Of many a thoroughbred Surveyor's wife;
Though not of all for, as we learn at
school,

There are exceptions some to every rule;
But 'tis a chance; *remember 'tis for life*
If you become a Land Surveyor's wife.

—MARY STURGE, circa, 1833.

Surveyors' Wives - kindly submitted by the daughter of a WA Surveyor, Christine Harley
(nee Stephenson) after attending a bush poetry event at Pingrup Centenary

Bush Poets Muster Writeup Friday 8th March 2024

President Bill Gordon welcomed everyone to the Muster and introduced

MC Colin Tyler:

Colin was wondering why had he had such a bad year with all sorts of things seeming to go wrong... the answer was found in his poem 'It Pays to Listen'

Bill Gordon 'Entrapment' or "The terrifying but tragically true tale of Trevor's trapped testicle" by **Bill Kearns**

Maybe the title explains it all!

Meg Gordon 'Grandpa and the Bobtail Lizard' by **Peg Vickers**

Grandpa visits the city races, he rescues a little bobtail Lizard and puts it in his pocket to take back to the farm. A sassy Sheila slips her hand into his pocket to steal his winnings, but a nip from the bobtail was enough to save it all.

Christine Boulton 'Tea towel Memories'

Friends bring tea towels so we can experience where they've travelled. An unusual tea towel from India brings some extra fun.

Deb McQuire 'Conspicuous Silence' by **Deb McQuire**

Describing the changes in the sky as a storm approaches.

Keith Lethbridge The tune 'Queensland Drovers' played on the mouth organ
'THE LEGEND OF MOTHER MCQ'

This is the story of a football match that took place at Minderoo Station in 1968. The story has been exaggerated by the writer (Cobber) but not as much as by the many people who claim to have been there at the time. Naturally, Mother McQ saved the day and kicked the winning goal!

Heather Denholm 'Could I get the Job'

About me trying to run for the office of PM. If you can't see me speaking I'll stand on a box, but remember when I get in, I paid you lots to vote for me on election day.

'The Tail Gater'

The TAIL GATER Was written in my head while following Gunny home from Boyup Brook there was a blue car that decided he wasn't going fast enough. He wanted him to go faster so tried everything to get Gunny to go faster, it didn't happen, and finally he passed him.

Then the last bit is what I wished had happened to the tail gater how he was pulled up by an unmarked police car.

Bev. Shorland 'Reedy River ' by **Henry Lawson**

Reedy River is close to Rocky Creek where a young man builds his farm for his future with his love Mary.

Shelley Johnson A story while living in Ganmain NSW

An Emu wanders up the street, Shelly begins to hand feed it with some sunflower seeds, the emu flops the ground ; she calls animal rescue. Later she finds out the emu had been feeding on a local 'hidden' marijuana crop.

Bill Gordon 'Why we play the Game' by **Rupert McCaw**

Its not the aches, pains, broken bones and bruises why we play the game; Its the Saturday night after the game, the mates, the club, the Game. That's why we play the Game!

SUPPER

The Challenge; 'The wheels go Round'

Christine Boulton: - Frank has bought an exercise bike, and the wheels go round

Deb McQuire : - The Wheels go Round (the wheels of life)

Heather Denholm : - The wheels inside my mind go round.

Reading from the Classics :

Lorraine Broun : **John O'Brien.** Born Patrick Joseph Hartigan in Yass NSW . Ordained as a Priest wrote under the name John O'Brien.

'The Derkins' by **John O'Brien**

There have been Derkins and more and more Derkins at Sunday Mass as the years went by.

Meg Gordon 'The Football Match' by **Peg Vickers**

a Young lass had never been to a football match, and never wants to go again, after the rough and tumble she had never seen before.

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA

WRITTEN EVENTS are in PURPLE

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au and www.writingwa.org

Why not check out Writing WA
<info@writingwa.org>
Always something interesting
going on for WA Writers

APRIL 2024

4-7 April — Oracles of the Bush Festival, performance and **written** competitions, Tenterfield NSW. See 15 March closing date.

5-6 April — Kilkivan Great Horse Ride poetry competition, Kilkivan, Queensland.

11-14 April — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival (incorporating the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships). Performance and **written** competitions, Corryong, Victoria. See 29 February closing date.

21 April — Closing Date — Boondooma Homestead Performance Poetry Competition, Boondooma, Queensland.

26 April — Boondooma Homestead Performance Poetry Competition: novice, intermediate, open, Boondooma, Queensland. See 21 April closing date.

30 April — Closing Date — Bronze Swagman Award, Winton, Queensland.

MAY 2024

10 May — Closing Date — Laura Literary Awards, Laura, SA.

15 May — Closing Date — Eastwood/Hills FAW Literary Competitions, Sydney, NSW.

JUNE 2024

30 June — Early bird Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

SEPTEMBER 2024

30 September — Regular Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

NOVEMBER 2024

8-10 November — WA State Championships, performance and **written**, Toodyay, WA.
See 1 October closing date for Silver Quill written competition.

12 November — Late Entries Deadline — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Guyra NSW.

16-18 November — Australian Poetry Film Festival, Best Australian Poetry Film, Bush Poetry Film, Student Poetry Film, Guyra NSW. See 30 June Early bird Deadline, 30 September Regular Deadline, 12 November Late Entries Deadline.



Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2024

President	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
Vice President	Rodger Kohn	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
Secretary	Peter “Stinger” Nettleton	0407 7700 53	stinger@iinet.net.au
Treasurer	Sue Hill	0418 941 016	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

Committee

Meg Gordon	- <i>Toodyay Festival Sec.</i> - <i>Web Control</i> - <i>Secretary of the ABPA</i>	0404 075 108	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Bev Shorland		0487 764 897	shorland@iinet.net.au
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Irene Conner	- <i>State Rep APBA</i>	0429 652 155	iconner21@wn.com.au

Regular Events

WA Bush Poets: 1st Friday each month *MC details see front page*
- 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA

Bunbury Bush Poets: 1st Monday every ‘even’ month
- The Parade Hotel, Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243
1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636

Goldfields Bush Poetry Group: 1st Wednesday each month. Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376
- 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club,
108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie

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 or www.bushverse.com

Address correspondence for the “Bully Tin” to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or deb.mcquire@bigpond.com
Address correspondence for the Secretary to: WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assoc, PO Box 364 Bentley 6982
Correspondence re monetary payments for Treasurer to: WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Assoc, PO Box 364 Bentley 6982
Bank Transfer: Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 A/C#158764837
Please notify treasurer of payment : treasurer@wabushpoets.asn.au

Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list
Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit website - Go to the “Performance Poets” page
Don’t forget our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.