

The

July 2025

BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Next Muster: 4th July 2025 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC David Sears david.sears@bigpond.com 0419 967 358
Reading from the classics – Shelley Johnson

Let the People Rule

Don't give up on democracy,
Let the people have their say.
You may not like their opinion,
But we're better off that way.
The people know this country,
They know it foul and fair.
We have to live with our own mistakes,
And that's the discipline it takes,
To keep us on the square.

Don't be ruled by judges,
Don't offer them too much clout,
Don't let them become your masters,
Unless you can vote them out,
And never accept religion
As a substitute for law.
It might be tempting, but take a look
At any sensible history book:
We've travelled that route before.

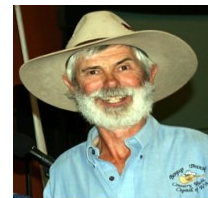
Support the United Nations,
But keep them in their place.
They haven't been given a mandate
For running the human race.
Don't ever accept a leader
Who doesn't face election.
That goes for kings and queens and jacks,
Dictators, megalomaniacs,
And lords or resurrection.

Don't give up on democracy,
Let the people have their say.
The folk who made this country
Whatever it is today,
The decent men and women,
The genius, the fool,
From city or farm or parts remote,
They shed their blood for the right to vote,
So let the people rule!

Keith (Cobber) Lethbridge 2002

This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance
of the office of KATE DOUST MLC

President's Ramblings July 2025



It's that time of the year we used to pull out the winter woollies and make sure the wood shed was full. Now we just head north to chase the sun. And so do many of our friends. As I write this monthly report we are at Pardoo Station for five days and two gigs. On the way up we diverted to Cheela Plains Station (near Paraburdoo). Meg and I camped there nineteen years ago when there was no Station Stay and it was no more than a cattle station. We knew the owners from family connections they have in Boyup Brook. Now they have one of the best accommodation and camping complexes in the Pilbara. Cheela Plains is now on our "must stay" list on the way north.

Many of our members know Sally Jane and her dad Stuart Pottinger. Sally is a vibrant young Country Music singer and she and her roadie (dad) are on their way south having entertained people all the way from Perth to Exmouth, Broome and Darwin. In the six years since we met them in Tamworth we have become great friends and they stay with us and the rest of the poets whenever they come to Boyup Brook.

On the other side of our van here at Pardoo is a lady who grew up next door to Meg in Orange. They went through school together and haven't seen each other since 1970. Coincidences never cease to amaze. They talk about six degrees of separation but we have travelled 2400 Km to get here and them about three times that. You can guess there was lots of catching up, and not surprising that Meg declined my invitation to go fishing this morning.

Maxine is also on the move at the moment. She and her daughter Dianne have driven their motorhomes across to Mildura to catch up with family. I think Pardoo might be a bit warmer than Mildura but that is a great effort for Maxine. I admire the way she lets nothing stop her but I get the feeling she has always lived that way.

We have a couple more stops before we get to Broome (Ginger Cox's 70th birthday) and Derby for the races and Bush Poet's Breakfast. More of that next month.

Until then all I can say is "keep warm and dry".

Bill Gordon, President.

Dear Members

I find I am no longer able to be reliable to organize the roster for the Poets. I have resigned from this job.

I would like to thank the many members who have willingly helped out: when I have rung, spoken and asked for assistance.

Like many of us I have some ongoing health issues and it is not always possible for me to attend the musters.

I am hoping someone will step up to take over the organization of the roster. It's really quite a good task. Mostly it is about following the set roster and juggling people if someone needs to change dates.

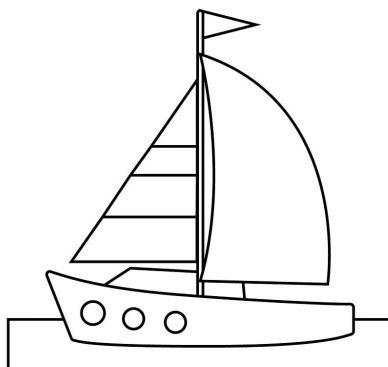
With sincere regret,
Christine Boulton

PS: Current roster on page 10

HENLEY ON TODD

There's a boat race run in Alice Springs, they call 'Henley on Todd',
And like most things in the territory, it seems a trifle odd.
It started back in 62, when they tried to emulate
That royal regatta on the Thames, it's hard to duplicate.
For the Todd's the major river in this arid stretch of land,
Where there's seldom any water, just an awful lot of sand.
So there's a subtle difference between the rivers Thames and Todd,
But a lack of water won't deter Territorians by God!
So each year they run their boat race in it's dried up riverbed,
But they cannot sail or row their craft, they carry them instead.
They have no bottoms to the boats and no seats on which to ride,
But sturdy sides to hold on to, while they're carried from inside.
So manpower is the only way to move the boats along,
And the sailors must be fleet of foot, as well as being strong.
Then once all their races have been 'run', and that's no metaphor,
They would bring in several bigger ships and stage a naval war.
They were armed with water canons, which they fired just for fun,
The riverbed was not so dry, by the time that they were done.
Then there came the great calamity of nineteen ninety three,
When the weather turned the race into a total travesty.
They'll long remember ninety three as the year they had the flood,
When the river filled with water and the dry land turned to mud.
They cancelled all festivities cause it just could not be done,
With a river full of water, their boat race could not be 'run'.

Greg Joass 07/04/2022



Cobber's Last Ride

Armidale's seen some mighty men but the mightiest of all
Was a man named Cobber Lethbridge who was strong and tough and moderately tall.

He'd battle on in blinding heat, in wintery storms and gales
And for breakfast he would eat a brick, and a tin of rusted nails.

But one day as he went riding, across the rugged countryside
His horse fell sick with fever; it very nearly died.

He shed a tear in sadness, to see his mare all broken down
So, he slung her on his shoulders, and stated heading back to town.

He'd carry it back to Armidale, to see the local vet,
But by the time he reached the nearest road, his back was soaked in sweat.

The sun was beating down on him, it was forty-two degrees
The horse was getting heavy, cobber was buckling at the knees
He could hear the hose still breathing, but its pulse was almost gone
So, he clenched his teeth and closed his eyes and bravely carried on.
He reached the Jarrahdale Tavern, on raw and blistered feet
Then blindly stumbled onward in the burning summer heat.

He thought he must be dreaming as he reached the edge of town
The vet he would be waiting for the news had travelled round
As crowd had assembled and they marvelled at the feat
And they cheered and urged him onwards as he hobble down the street.
The horse was barely breathing as he reached the vets front door
But as cobber went to press the bell he passed out on the floor.
The crowd gasped in amazement then rushed to lend a hand
But as they did the horse it stirred and then began to stand.

For the horse it had been faking and it gave the crown a wink
Then cantered down to the local creek to find itself a drink.
And as poor old cobber well he recovered from his hike
And I heard he sold his saddle and bought an electric bike.

Tim Heffernan



WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Assn. Inc.

Writin' and Recitin'



Keeping "Real" Aussie
Poetry alive

ABN 22 594 556 961
Address: PO Box 364, Bentley, WA 6982
www.wabushpoets.asn.au

29th May 2025

SILVER QUILL POETRY COMPETITION & PEEL POETRY/MUSIC/YARNSPINNING EVENT - 2025

The WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Association is conducting the Silver Quill poetry competition again this year; a copy of the Entry Form and the List of Conditions are included in the June Bully Tin. For folk who receive the Bully Tin via Australia Post, and those participants in last year's competition who do not receive the Bully Tin, the documents will be posted by mail.

The Silver Quill competition process will be carried out in the same manner as in previous years. The results have, in the past, been announced at the annual Toodyay Poetry Festival. However, as this Festival will not take place this year, alternate arrangements have been made for the announcement. This year we will be participating with the newly-formed Peel branch of the Association, in the 'Peel Bush Poetry, Music and Yarnspinning Day', which will take place on Saturday 8th November, from 2 pm to 9 pm.

This event will be held at the Pinjarra Civic Centre, 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra, south of Perth, and the results of the Silver Quill competition will be announced there. More detailed information about this event will be made known as and when the necessary arrangements are finalised.

We look forward to receiving entries for the Silver Quill competition, and we also look forward to welcoming poets and members of the general public to the Peel event.

Rodger Kohn
Secretary



WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association
SILVER QUILL WRITTEN COMPETITION

Winner announced

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2025

PINJARRA WA

WRITTEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Entries Close Friday 17th Oct 2025

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

Title/s of Poem/s	Category Entered	Entry Fee
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Entry Fees: Adults \$10 per poem; **All judging sheets will be returned with scores and comments.** 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 2025
then email suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com
informing of Direct Bank Transfer.

OR preferably emailed to Rodger Kohn: rodgershirley@bigpond.com

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 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 Secretary, 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 open categories.

Each winner, as well as those judged 'Highly Commended' or 'Commended', will receive a Certificate.

Eastwood/Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers

Literary Competition 2025

ENTRY FORM

One entry form for each entry

(Category, title and word count/line number must be clearly indicated)

Entrant: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Phone (if no email): _____

Category No. **Title**

Exact No. **Words/Lines**

Payment Method: (please tick)

Cheque

Money Order

Electronic Funds Transfer (please attach receipt)

(multiple entries may be covered by one cheque, MO or EFT)

Total Amount Paid:

Declaration:

- *I have read the conditions of entry into this competition and agree to abide by them.*
- ***This entry is my own original work and has NOT been composed with the help of AI.***
- ***My entry has NOT won a monetary prize in any previous competition and has NOT been published in print, online or on social media.***
- ***My entry will NOT be entered into another competition until after the close of this competition.***
- *I understand that copyright of my entry will remain with me at all times.*

Please cross box if you'd prefer **not** to be reminded about this competition via email next year.

Signed _____ **Date** _____



Eastwood/Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers
Literary Competition 2025

All Categories **Open Theme**

- Category 1 **Flash Fiction** – Max 500 words
First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50
- Category 2 **Philippa Holland Award for Poetry** - Includes all forms of poetry except Bush Poetry*.
Max 80 lines per poem. First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50
**See separate flyer for [Boree Log Bush Poetry Competition](#)*
- Category 3 **Alan Russell Award for Memoir** – Max 1,500 words
First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50
NB: For the purpose of this competition, memoir means an incident from one's own life and experiences
- Category 4 **Short Story** – Max 1,500 words
First Prize \$150, Second Prize \$50

Closing Date: **Thursday 15th May, 2025** (entries must be post marked on or before this date)

Entry Fee: **\$8 per entry or \$30 for 4 entries**
Cheques or money orders payable to: **Fellowship of Australian Writers**
or direct deposit to our Westpac account: BSB 032180, Account: 360308
Please include your **Surname Initial LC** in remitter/description line.
Do not send cash in the mail. No receipts will be sent.

Entries to: **Competition Secretary, Eastwood/Hills FAW**
PO Box 4663, North Rocks, NSW 2151

OR email to: hillsfawcomp@gmail.com Email submissions must be sent as a Microsoft Word file
(.doc or docx). A separate scanned entry form must be included with email submissions

Enquiries: Carolyn Alfonzetti, email: carolyn.alfonzetti@me.com

Conditions of Entry

Please note: **Entries not meeting all of these conditions will not be judged**, nor will entry fee be refunded.

1. Entries to be in **English**, the **original** and **unpublished** work of the entrant and **not to have won a monetary prize** in another competition
2. Each entry must be accompanied by a **separate signed entry form** e.g. 3 poems = 3 forms
3. An individual story/poem/memoir can only be entered in **one category**
4. **No name to appear on manuscript** (only on entry form)
5. **Flash Fiction, short stories and memoirs** to be **DOUBLE-SPACED**. **Poetry** can be **SINGLE-SPACED**
6. Entries to be typed on **one side of A4 paper**
7. **Pages numbers** and **entry's title** to be on top or bottom of **EACH** page
8. **For entry fee paid by EFT, please attach receipt to entry form**
9. **For posted entries, TWO copies** of each entry are required
10. Where a posted entry is **more than one page**, all pages must be **stapled** together

The decisions of the judges are final. Winners will be notified by email and announced in the fellowship's bulletin **Writers Voice** and our Prize Presentation will be at a ZOOM event on **Saturday 2nd August, 2025**

Entries will be destroyed after prize presentation.

Results and Judges' comments will be published on our website as soon as possible after Presentation – <http://hillsfaw.wordpress.com/>

2025/26 Muster roster updated June 22nd 2025

Date	Master/mistress of ceremonies	Reader from the classics	Extra information
January 2026	No muster		
February 2026	Brian Coogan 0417 171 092 briancoogan@briancoogan.com	Anne Hayes	Banjo Paterson's birthday Recite a poem for Banjo during the first half of the muster.
March 2026	Rod and Kerry Lee 0448 345 216 diggers_camp@yahoo.com.au	Lorraine Broun	16 line poem: Topic Messages from above
April 2026	Heather Denholm 0429 052 900 h.e.dehom@gmail.com		
May 2026	Lorraine Broun 0411 877 551 pelican.10@bigpond.com	Heather Denholm	8 line poem: Topic: It's done
June 2026			WA poets –past and present Poets bring in your books/CDs to sell Poems for Henry Lawson's birthday (17 th June)
July 2025	David Sears david.sears@bigpond.com 0419 967 358	Shelley Johnson	
August 2025	Daniel Avery falcolnsnest95@gmail.com 0418 943 338		
September 2025	Robert Asplin 0448 150 757 roba58@bigpond.com		Traditional night/CJ Dennis's birthday AGM :7pm Half hour only, then normal muster
October 2025	Anne Hayes 0428 542 418 hayseed1@optusnet.com.au		16 line challenge: My best friend
November 2025	Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 gunnpoet@hotmail.com		
December 2025	Bill Gordon 0428 651 098 northlands@wn.com.au		Christmas poems if possible. First half. Christmas cake and port. 8 line challenge: Christmas Decorations
	Stand by; Rob Gunn, Heather Denholm, , Bill Gordon, Meg Gordon, Lorraine Broun, Ann Hayes		

Muster Write-up 6th June 2025 courtesy of Heather Denholm and Bev Shorland

Bill Gordon introduced the MC for the evening, Christine Boulton

He then welcomed Frank Heffernan and family from Narrogin and other visitors

Christine told us Deb's not well. She then performed '*Along by Merry Christmas Time*' by *Henry Lawson* reminiscent of Christmas

Rob Gunn then presented '*Scott of the Riverina*' by *Henry Lawson*

story of a father who disowned his soldier son, until the day he died he had written his name back in the family Bible

Frank Heffernan entertained the attendees with '*Mabel Murphey's Chooks*' by *Frank Heffernan*

The day the fox got her chooks so she hunted him down. Don't mess with Mabel Murphy or her precious coloured hens

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

Beautiful description of a lovely place and a man who bought his Mary home to the picturesque place

John Hayes performed '*Faces in the Street*' by *Henry Lawson*

This poem John performed in a competition 30 years ago

Peter Rudolf recited '*One Person's Point of View*' by *Chris Taylor*

'RUOK THE BLACK DOG'

I walked with the black dog, The black dog doesn't like it when your friends get in the way

Tim Heffernan said he was blown away by Arthur's funeral and his life. Cobber did a great job.

He then read '*Cobber's Last Ride*' written by *himself*.

Cobber's horse falls sick during a ride out bush and he bravely carries it back to town on his back, only to discover the horse had been faking its illness and wasn't sick at all. He sells his saddle in disgust.

Daniel Avery recited his own poem '*Cerebral Fallsy*' which tells of his life at school.

Learned to drive, bought a car, rides a horse. His parents stood by him and asks "who the hell is normal?"

Meg Gordon entertained us with '*A Pound a Mile*' by *Louisa Lawson*

The Stockman's wife was sick and pregnant the doctor came to see her.

- Louisa Lawson, Henry's mother, was instrumental in promoting Henry's work. This poem tells of the hardships experienced by women in the rough early days of country Australia. Through her famous magazine 'The Dawn' she brought into the light many other hardships that our pioneer women had to endure.

Bill Gordon performed a poem by *Henry Lawson* (unsure of the title)

After a lovely supper of tomato and onion sandwiches thanks to Maxine and Lorraine's delicious fruit loaf, time to talk and catch up with friends, MC Christine introduced :

Frank Heffernan

'The Broken Back'

by *Frank Heffernan*

When Jack broke his back they thought he would never walk again. But his mates found a doctor who had a very unconventional cure that worked. The trouble was it was extremely painful.

Muster Write Up cont.....

Bev. Shorland *'The Song of the Wheat'* *by Banjo Patterson*

Tells the story of the development and growth of wheat farming .

David Sears *'The Nor-West Barber'* *by Dixie Solley*

Finding work between shearing seasons, isn't always easy, sometimes you have to be prepared to try anything. If you are pretty good at shearing sheep up north, doesn't mean you would make a good barber down south. this bloke gave it a go in 'Joe's Hair Saloon' , only lasted one day.

Keith Lethbridge *'The Aussie Bush Mechanic'* *By Keith Lethbridge*

You wont be disappointed when your car breaks down out in the outback, because you can rely on the Aussie Bush Mechanic to fix it.

Tim Heffernan *'Rusty the Sniffer Dog'* *by Tim Heffernan*

Rusty was a sniffer dog at the airport, but all the years sniffing for drugs, Rusty developed a habit, his addiction soon had him turning to crime, and he developed and doggy network of drug dealing dogs.

Peter Rudolf *'Unsuitably Dressed'* *by Slim Jones*

A hard working man from the outback goes into a city bar, only to be told by the young bar tender that he cannot be served in this exclusive bar as he is unsuitably dressed.

Heather Denholm *'The Man from Snowy River '* *by Banjo Patterson*

The wonderful story of the bushmen out to catch a valuable colt that had escaped and joined the wild bush horses, but it was the Man from Snowy River who succeeded alone.

Rob Gunn *'Promoted to Glory'* *by Keith Lethbridge*

He met an old prospector in the Murchison, old and out of luck. The old bloke said he had found religion, and said we're in the hands of God. One day in May he found him stone cold dead. Doug a grave and rolled him in, and quietly said 'he has been promoted up to Glory'

John Hayes *'The Kalgoorlie Woodline'* *by John Hayes*

Tells the story of the men who harvested the timbers from what was then a vast forest. The timber was used in the gold mines to support the tunnels, and burnt in the furnaces of the crushers. In 1908 there were 49 working Gold Mines, all needing timber supports.

Bill Gordon *'Bungee Jumping'* *by Bill Gordon*

It was on the bucket list, sounded pretty good what ever it was; I'll have a go!

Muster finished at 9.30 after a great night of Bush Poetry.

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night for our scribe or send one via email to deb.mcquire@bigpond.com for the Muster write up.
Thank you in advance

Next Muster: 1st August 2025 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Daniel Avery falcolnsnest95@gmail.com or 0418 943 338
Deadline for submissions for August's Bully Tin 22nd July 2025

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

July

14 July — Closing Date — Brisbane EKKA Bush Poetry Competition, Brisbane, Queensland.

August

10 August — Brisbane EKKA Bush Poetry Competition, Brisbane, Queensland. See 14 July closing date.

31 August — Closing Date — Betty Olle Poetry Award, Kyabram, Victoria.

October

17 October—Closing Date — WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition

18 October — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships written competition, Bathurst NSW.

November

1 November — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships, performance, Bathurst NSW.

6-9 November — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships - performance and written, Bathurst NSW.
See 18 October closing date for written. See 1 November closing date for performance.

8th November—WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition
See 17 October—Closing Date



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