

The

January 2018

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



Next Muster Friday January 5th, 7pm - Bentley Park Auditorium, Bentley Park
MC : Lorraine Broun 9496 1214

January poetry challenge: to be presented at the muster:

8 line poem : Truth is like gold

WA BUSH POETS



Present the

23rd Annual



Bush Poetry Showcase

*With Traditional & Contemporary Performances,
by W.A.'s top Bush Poets*

Plus Supporting Musicians

On

AUSTRALIA DAY

Friday 26th Jan 2018

Wireless Hill Park, Ardross

Commencing 1.00pm

Enjoy the best Oz family entertainment this side the Rabbit Proof Fence
on Wonderful Wireless Hill under the trees with its panoramic views

FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED

Bring your family & friends, a chair or blanket to sit on, sun protection
some refreshments and then sit back and enjoy the show

WABP&YS Information can be found at www.wabushpoets.asn.au
or Phone Rodger 0419 666 168 or 9332 0876 or Peter 0407770053

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KATE DOUST MLC
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As we head into the New Year, WA Bush Poets can reflect on our achievements of 2017 and look forward to another enjoyable year when we can gather among friends to share our poetry. Hosting the Australian Championships was the highlight of the year, and to have one of our members emerge triumphant was the icing on the cake.

WA will be well represented at **Tamworth 2018** with Cobber and Christine joining Meg and I for ten days of great poetry and fellowship. We will all be competing in the "**Golden Damper**" and also performing on **Gary Fogarty's Bush Poetry Showcase**, Cobber having the spotlight on Australia Day.

Australia Day will mark the 23rd occasion WA Bush Poets have performed at **Wireless Hill**, and while we will miss our beloved founder Rusty, as well as those who will be flying the WA flag in Tamworth, there will still be an excellent line-up of poets to entertain the audience that day. Stinger will be MC and will join with Jeff Swain to bring their authentic Aussie music as the band "**Bluegum**".

Meg and I wish all our members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and look forward to catching up with many members at the muster on Friday 5th January.

Bill Gordon President



Do you want to be part of the National Scene — Then you might consider joining the Australian Bush Poets Assn
www.abpa.org.au

Stay up to date with events and competitions right across Australia

Lots of great information on their website, winning poems, a writing forum, tips for writing and reciting , competition dates....

W.A. Poets Show their class at The National Championships. - Terry Piggott

Well where do I begin: Our local poets were outstanding at the National Championships; in both the performance and written sections. This is not to take away from the brilliance of our visitors from over east - make no mistake they were outstanding. They were also friendly and a real pleasure to meet, for those of us who hadn't met them before.

Everyone would have seen the full results by now, so I will just touch on the overall view of the Championships, which were so well run and organised by Bill, Meg and the whole of the organising committee – well done to all of you.

Our poets had excellent results (as mentioned) in both the Performance and written sections of the Championships. Among the highlights was Keith Lethbridge, winning the Male section of the performance and is now the Australian Champion. Congratulations Cobber. Keith also won the W.A. Championship so is now both the Australian and W.A. Champ. Bill Gordon, John Hayes and Peter Blyth were also strong performers along with a host of others who did themselves and The W.A. Bush Poets proud. It would be remiss of me not to also offer congratulations to Sue Pearce from Tumult NSW who won the woman's section, and was I'm sure all would agree, superb.

In The Written Competition, once again our W.A. members were prominent in both the OPEN and the NOVICE POETRY Sections.

Notably Irene Conner had a 3rd and a Highly Commended in the very competitive Open Section, So congratulation to Irene for her well deserved awards. For those who aren't fully aware of Irene's ability as a writer let me assure you that she is a very highly accomplished writer who had considerable success a few years back, but has not been very active on the writing front of late due to work and other commitments – I've been urging her for years to get back into the swing of things again.

W.A. Poets dominated the NOVICE section taking out most of the Awards, with Peter O'Shaughnessy being place 1st and THIRD in the serious section and also won the humorous section, so congratulations and very well done Peter.

Finally this wrap up would not be complete without commenting on the various events that accompanied the actual Competition. I didn't manage to make all of these events, but I'm reliably told all were well attended and enjoyed by those who did.

The one that stood out for me was Noel Stallard writer's workshop, which was almost packed to the rafters with would be writers and interested onlookers. I found it very Informative and helpful to all writers regardless of their particular knowledge.

I mustn't forget to mention the evenings back at our camp at the Caravan Park, I always enjoy these. There's a chance to catch up with friends away from the hurly burly of the Competition and perhaps enjoy a quiet beer or glass of wine.

The Sunday night get together at the end of the championships was special, this was attended by many of our visitors as well, and so ended a great weekend of poetry.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

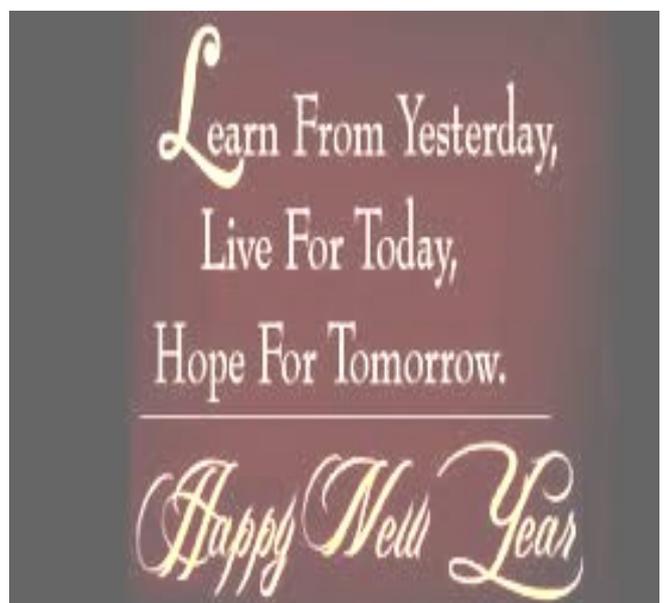
Jem's Gems..A note from our es- teemed treasurer.

Please include a request for subs to be paid.

"If you are not sure if you have paid your subs, your probably haven't!

If you do pay twice, you will be covered until July 2019, so what is wrong with that?

You will beat any possible price rise this way too!



ASHBURTON RIVER

Past Minderoo Station and out to the sea,
Through Spinifex country, where cattle roam free,
Where the wind in the white-gums whispers a song
To make your heart shiver, the Ashburton River
Keeps drifting along.

It was late afternoon, I remember it well,
When I stopped for a drink at the Beadon Hotel,
So dusty and weary from driving all day,
On roads made of gravel, a rough way to travel
And hot all the way.

I was ready to leave when a voice said "Hello",
And I looked at the girl I had loved long ago.
Her eyes told the story of love that had died,
So, filled with dismay, my heart slipped away
Like a leaf in the tide.

There are times to be lonely and times to be sad,
But a man tries to smile through the good times
and bad,
So I bought her a shandy and swallowed my pride,
Then while she was drinking, with confidence sink-
ing,
I stumbled outside.

A young man can dream of a far better day,
But life drags you down when your whiskers turn
grey,
So I never returned to that Ashburton track,
And once you start drifting, with swagging and
shifting
There's no turning back.

Now often at night by the campfire glow,
With the stars up above and a blanket below,
I dream of my past and the things than went
wrong,
And though I forgive her, the Ashburton River
Keeps drifting along.

Yes, the Ashburton River keeps drifting along.

By Keith Lethbridge

Great Poetry sites:

eMuse: Independent Bush Poets Newsletter.

1300 plus subscribers (on-line free!) Australia-Wide!
Through his free distribution of this most informative,
20 page **eMuse**, (*An Independent Bush poetry newsletter*)

Editor: Wally "The Bear" Finch.

P. O. Box 68, Morayfield, 4506, Qld.

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MICAILE

He was driving on the loco at the Toodyay Mini-rail
A railway man for all his years, said his name was
Micaile
His little mate rode with him, a big smile on his face
A terrier named Benny sat behind in pride of place.

With diesel running through his veins and coal dust
in his hair
His love for all things railway would take him every-
where.

A life lived on the train tracks from the Rockies to
the plains,
And then out to Australia, and those Pilbara iron ore
trains.

Micaile was born to wander, a Romany of old
Proud of his gypsy heritage with all the tales he told
The places he had been and seen, the people he
and met,
There always was a train close by, on that you're
safe to bet.

His home is now in Toodyay, beside the railway line,
He knows each train as it goes by, and if it is on
time,
The Avonlink to Midland with its city businessman,
Students to the big smoke, and a tourist now and
then.

The famous Indian Pacific that spans the Nullarbor,
CBH's fleet of grain trains taking harvest to the
shore.
Every time a train goes by a smile comes to his
face,
And here beside the line will be his final resting
place.

© Bill Gordon 3.11.2017



Hi everyone

Do you know of any groups that may be interested in performing for 15 minutes or more if required at *Altone Comes Alive 2018*. It is planned for Saturday 24th March from 11am to 4pm and is Altone's version of Harmony Day.

If the groups or person is seeking exposure this is the ideal venue, with usually well over 5,000 people attending through the day. Unfortunately I do not have a budget so am unable to offer payment, except the opportunity to get out there and enjoy the crowd.

I have attached a form for those that are keen, so please fill in and return to me as soon as you can. Thank you for your support and look forward to hearing from you. Please call with any enquiries.

Warm regards

Tracy Pollett Community Development Coordinator - Altone Place

Lifespan Services

CHRISTMAS CARDS

I have a list of folk I know,
all written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time
I open it and look.
For each name stands for someone
whose path touched mine , and then,
Left such a sense of friendship
that I want that touch again.

And though it may seem trite of me
to make this solemn claim,
I really feel there's part of me
in each remembered name.
So never think my Christmas cards
are just a mere routine,
With names upon a little list,
forgotten in between.

See, when I send a Christmas card,
and it's addressed to you,
It's because you're on a list of folk
that I'm indebted to,
For every year when Christmas comes,
I realize anew,
The biggest gift that life can give....
is knowing folk like you

ANON

COMPETITIONS

23-27 January - Golden Damper Awards for Performance Bush Poetry, Tamworth NSW.

7 February - Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Competition, Orange NSW. See 7 February closing date.

8 February - Closing Date - Milton Show Poetry Competition, Junior and senior performance and a written section. Milton NSW.

3 March - Milton Show Poetry Competition, Milton NSW. See 8 February closing date.

1-4 March - Dunedoo Bush Poetry Festival, Dunedoo NSW.

30 April - Closing Date - Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Poetry, Winton Qld.

For more information and entry forms check out the Australian Bush Poets Assn website



Shirt Logos

If you would like to have your shirt printed this is where to go.

Just take in what you would like embroidered and ask for your colour. Try not to have too busy a pattern or the embroidery doesn't always show up. Ring and check the price. You may have both the front or back embroidered or a single logo.

COME ALL YE

Written for Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners November 2000

This was written as a letter but it seemed to turn out better
Written in poetic form, the way Bush Poets know.
On the 3rd day of November, another quite new member,
Trish Matthews, ran the evening with a steady even flow.

A yarn was told by young Rod Lee, a member of Society
For blithering idiots and incompetent fools
Hadley Provis was second choice, With presence and commanding voice
Pondering bodily functions and life and all its rules.

A woman's lot as a wife at home, (well upon this I could write a tome)
Was told by me, and David Sears gave us the inside drill
About two fishermen, that's OK, And IVF versus the old fashioned way
While on fishing Kerry made us laugh With dodgy bloke Shifty Phil

A break and then the competition with judges lined up in the old tradition.
Lorelei, Brendon and Deborah scratched their heads and wielded pens
As Chris Sadler told a tale, true I'm sure, Of the way the sheep dog locked the door
Of the truck in transit with her outside trying to get back in again.

Keith Lethridge, in his special way, Related the story of the memorable day
That Digger ate the Smart Pills they really worked a treat
And Syd Hopkinson's story, I think this is right
Of a stockman who couldn't read or write
But amassed a fortune by using his head as well as his hands and feet.

Peter Capp had a story about a drum, 44 gallons, as big as they come
And Rod Lee related that lovely tale of the Fellow who didn't wear underwear
Arthur Leggett, with modest charm, lamented on middle age and his alarm
When plying a beauty with drinks and smokes discovered she'd a fiancée there.

In the 'Other Authors' section Kerry Lee took the mike and we could see
The spirited horse that no man could tame And the little girl who's name was Nell.
Banjo Patterson's verse, from 1887, about the boy lost, winding up in heaven
Was recited, related, passed on, In the way only Ron Evans can tell.

In the yarns, Keith Lethbridge told a goodun about man's best friend and wouldn't
You know, it's not his dog but his wife who'll put up with anything
And Banjo Patterson would be pleased I know
To have heard him do Clancy of the Overflow

Barry Higgins repeated the twist. You know, the taxman, you get the GiST?
A verse from Henry Lawson, recited by Peter Capp,
Then, suppressing laughs he told a yarn, with facial contortions
Of a locust plague of preposterous proportions.
And Arthur Leggett's magic marriage oil Is something the men are after.

Roger Montgomery had a yarn to tell about two Blues. He's Blue and him as well.
Working on a station, rabbits, a "pommy", a horse.
Peter Nettleton had the last word, with the tale of a well known Aussie bird
The Galah, and wore himself out with whistling and singing and actions of course.

While the judges sat a while to ponder Phil Strut stepped up to take a wander
Towards the mike to entertain us with stuff about Rottnest but best of all
Was his impression of a screechy bird, a seagull, whose screams could be heard
Above the band playing downstairs and through the doors and in the the hall.

After a lengthy verbal exchange, Lorelei for the judges, commended the range
Of aspects, the high calibre and how very close it was to choose.
Peter Capp won places twice with his own verse and a yarn, how nice.
While Keith Lethbridge's interpretation of another's work meant he couldn't lose

Writeup Christmas Muster Friday 1st December 2017

President **Bill Gordon** welcomed **Judy Christensen**. The Rusty Christensen Perpetual Trophy for Yarnspinning was displayed with Peg Vickers' named engraved as the inaugural winner.

MC for the evening was **'Stinger' Nettleton**. He started the Christmas theme off with a Wendy Evans poem "Snow in The Outback". This would rarely happen!

John Hayes - "Mulligan's Mob" (Greg Scott). Be careful what you wish for! This poem won the Womans Weekly award some years ago for best poem on Valentines Day. It tells the story of how Mulligan's's wife had a multiple birth and Mulligan blamed the lantern for attracting more babies so he blew out the light.

Rob Gunn - "The Christmas Fairy" (Peter Blyth). Why does the fairy sit on top of the tree?

Grace Williamson - "Christmas Cards" (Anon). It is not the Christmas card that is valued but the loving thoughts that accompany it.

Greg Joass - "The Smiths" (Dryblower Murphy). The remote mining areas produced many "Smiths" but one Christmas the real ones became evident.

Terry Piggott - "The Ruins" Terry wrote this poem as an experiment in the style of Richard Magoffin's 'From The Lanterns' which is a very difficult but effective way of writing poetry. His poem is about an old goldfields ruin and imagining what it was like in its heyday.

Tess Earnshaw - "Come All Ye" Tess wrote this poem in 2000 and it was a great poem sharing the history of the WA Bush Poets Assoc. (Reprinted in Bully Tin)

Brian Langley - "Fishing with The Grandkid" His own poem about helping the grandkid bait and pull in the catch while he remained 'fishless'.

Arthur Leggett - "Father Riley's Horse" (AB Paterson).

Jem Shorland - "Mulga Jill's Windsurfer" (Christine Hindhaugh) A parody with apologies to Henry Lawson.

Bill Gordon - Reported that Dave Smith was progressing well and is half way through his treatment. Nancy Coe however, has had a long stint in hospital trying to get things stabilised and we all wish her well. Then he presented "Tangmalangmaloo" (Patrick Hartigan). The wise bush youth knew that Christmas day was significant as it was the day before the races at Tangmalangmaloo!

Cobber Lethbridge - "The Fire at Ross' Farm" (Henry Lawson). The spirit of Christmas ended the battle of the feuding neighbours.

After **Supper of Port and Pies** there was an exchange of gifts.

Alan Aitken - In the Reading from the Classics the life of **CJ Dennis** (Clarence Michael James Stanislaus Dennis) was portrayed. He was born in 1876 at Auburn SA. He had an interesting and varied career mainly as a freelance journalist and became an outstanding poet. He married Olive Harriet in 1917 and 'The Singing Garden' was written around Arden, the house that Dennis had built at Toolangi after his marriage. An extract from this poem has been etched on his grave stone which, is at Box Hill, Melbourne, where he died in 1938. His reputation was built largely around 'The Sentimental Bloke' which had phenomenal success because of the wide appeal of the sentiment and humour in its simple love story. Alan then read "The Bush Christmas" which expresses the true meaning of sharing and caring for family and lonely friends.

Bob Brackenbury - "Santa's Three Ton Bedford" (Wayne Pantall). The mischief kids get up to when they discover Santa's secret stash.

Lesley McAlpine - "A New Christmas" (Unknown sergeant) About those who spend Christmas alone.

Barry Higgins - "Christmas Cocktail" (Syd Hopkinson). More bubbly came out of the tub than went in.

Arthur Leggett - "Spring" his own poem about wooing the widows at the retirement home.

Jack Matthews - "The Swagman" (CJ Dennis) In typical Dennis style we hear about the swaggie.

Grace Williamson - "The Christmas Chook" (Charlee Marshall). With Christmas Eve so near it was time for a Christmas rooster for the table OR NOT!!

John Hayes mentioned that he had prepared six discs from the Nationals in Toodyay. What a wonderful record to have. Members are welcome to view but are required to sign for them as they are borrowed so we don't lose this record.

President Bill thanked Stinger for a great evening and wished everyone a **Happy Christmas**.

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

Bill Gordon	President	97651098	0428651098	northlands@wn.com.au
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Rodger Kohn	Secretary	93320876	0419666168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
Jem Shorland	Treasurer	61430127	0487 764 897	shorland@iinet.net.au
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Irene Conner	State Rep APBA		0429652155	lconner21@wn.com.au

Meg Gordon Toodyay Festival Secretary, ABPA committee	0404075108	meggordon4@bigpond.com.au		
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Bev Shorland Muster Meet and Greet	61430127	0487 764 897	shorland@iinet.net.au	
Dave Smith	0438341256	daveandelainesmith1@bigpond.com		
Bob Brackenbury	6250 0861	0418918884	brack123@gmail.com	

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

Sue and Tony Hill	Supper	0418941016		
Committee	Librarian			
Brian Langley	Webmaster	93613770	93613770	briandot@tpg.com.au
Robert Gunn	Sound gear set up		0417099676	gun.hink@hotmail.com

Regular Events

Albany Bush Poetry group	4th Tuesday of each month	Peter 9844 6606
Bunbury Bush Poets	First Monday of every second month Rose Hotel cnr Wellington & Victoria Sts.	Alan Aitken 0400249243 Ian Farrell 0408212636
Geraldton Bush Poets	Second Tuesday of the month. Contacts: Roger & Jan Cracknell 6pm at Recreation room, Belair caravan park, Geraldton. Bring and share snacks for tea.	0427 625 181 0429652155.

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

Don't forget our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au

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

<p>Members—Do you have poetic products for sale? If so please let the editor know so you can be added to this list</p> <p>Members can contact the poets via the Assn. Secretary or visit our website www.wabushpoets.asn.au</p> <p>Go to the "Performance Poets" page</p>	<p>Members' Poetic Products</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Victoria Brown</td><td>CD</td></tr> <tr><td>Peter Blyth</td><td>CDs, books</td></tr> <tr><td>Rusty Christensen</td><td>CDs</td></tr> <tr><td>John Hayes</td><td>CDs & books</td></tr> <tr><td>Tim Heffernan</td><td>book</td></tr> <tr><td>Brian Langley</td><td>books, CD</td></tr> <tr><td>Arthur Leggett</td><td>books, inc autobiography</td></tr> <tr><td>Keith Lethbridge</td><td>books</td></tr> <tr><td>Corin Linch</td><td>books</td></tr> </table>	Victoria Brown	CD	Peter Blyth	CDs, books	Rusty Christensen	CDs	John Hayes	CDs & books	Tim Heffernan	book	Brian Langley	books, CD	Arthur Leggett	books, inc autobiography	Keith Lethbridge	books	Corin Linch	books	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Val Read</td><td>books</td></tr> <tr><td>Caroline Sambridge</td><td>book</td></tr> <tr><td>Peg Vickers</td><td>books & CD</td></tr> <tr><td>Terry Bennets</td><td>Music CDs</td></tr> <tr><td>Terry Piggott</td><td>Book</td></tr> <tr><td>Frank Heffernan</td><td>Book</td></tr> <tr><td>Christine Boulton</td><td>Book, CD</td></tr> <tr><td>Pete Stratford</td><td>Book, CDs</td></tr> <tr><td>Roger Cracknell</td><td>Book, CD</td></tr> <tr><td>Bill Gordon</td><td>CD</td></tr> </table>	Val Read	books	Caroline Sambridge	book	Peg Vickers	books & CD	Terry Bennets	Music CDs	Terry Piggott	Book	Frank Heffernan	Book	Christine Boulton	Book, CD	Pete Stratford	Book, CDs	Roger Cracknell	Book, CD	Bill Gordon	CD
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