

The

April 2023

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



**Next Muster- 14th April 2023 at 7pm at Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park
Lorraine Broun 0411 877 551 pelican.10@bigpond.com**

Old Man Platypus

Far from the trouble and toil of town,
Where the reed beds sweep and shiver,
Look at a fragment of velvet brown—
Old Man Platypus drifting down,
Drifting along the river.

And he plays and dives in the river bends
In a style that is most elusive;
With few relations and fewer friends,
For Old Man Platypus descends
From a family most exclusive.

He shares his burrow beneath the bank
With his wife and his son and daughter
At the roots of the reeds and the grasses rank;
And the bubbles show where our hero sank
To its entrance under water.

Safe in their burrow below the falls
They live in a world of wonder,
Where no one visits and no one calls,
They sleep like little brown billiard balls
With their beaks tucked neatly under.

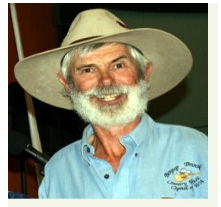
And he talks in a deep unfriendly growl
As he goes on his journey lonely;
For he's no relation to fish nor fowl,
Nor to bird nor beast, nor to horned owl;
In fact, he's the one and only.

from *The Animals Noah Forgot*, 1933
Andrew Barton "Banjo" Paterson



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

President's Preamble April 2023



I never tire of skiting what WA bush Poets are achieving, both individually and as a group.

The last month is no exception. Starting with the Banjo Paterson Festival in Orange NSW, congratulations to Michael Darby on winning the Australian Championship to succeed another West Australian, Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge as holder of that illustrious title. Congratulations also to Dave Morrell for coming second in the Original Humorous section and third in the Modern section.

Congratulations are due as well to Peter O'Shaughnessy for achieving a Highly Commended and a Commended award in this year's Blackened Billy competition which was also held in conjunction with the Banjo Paterson Festival.

Meg and I had another special reason for returning to Orange – we were both born there, married there and commenced our farming career in the Orange district before moving to WA in 1978. So we had a lot of family and friends to spend a little time with. After Orange we flew to Melbourne to meet up with ABPA President Tim Sheed and Treasurer Christine Middleton before heading off with them for five weeks in Tasmania. We had a successful gig with them at a winery near Devonport before a most enjoyable time at Steamfest in Sheffield. The highlight there for me was to be able to recite poems at a most impressive performance by members of the 3rd Tasmanian Light Horse Unit.

Meanwhile, back in WA our members have been entertaining the audiences at Nannup Music Festival and then at Downunder Country Music in Bridgetown. David and Therese Higginson were finally able to hold their tenth Downunder Festival having been delayed three years by Covid complications. Congratulations to them for achieving this milestone and firmly establishing Downunder on the Country Music Calendar. They are great supporters of Bush Poetry and include us in any show they are hosting.

My final skite this month is "Peel Bush Poets" who are having their inaugural muster at the Ravenswood Hotel on Tuesday 4th April at 6pm. Rob Gunn, Heather Denholm and Pete Rudolf head up this group with excellent support from poets as far as Perth. This is sure to be a great night with many more to follow. If you have any friends in the Mandurah – Pinjarra area who might be interested make sure to let them know about this event. The plan is to make it a monthly event on the first Tuesday of the month. And my plan is to be there in May. Until then.....

Bill Gordon, President

Moondyne Festival W.A.'S MOST EXCITING & ENTERTAINING COLONIAL FESTIVAL! 7th May 2023

Come along, join in and experience the community spirit in the centre of Toodyay, complete with bush poets, street theatre, colonial village, entertainment, artisan and heritage crafts, healthy food stalls and loads of non-stop, amazing fun activities for everyone.

See page 9 for more details

Bridgetown Downunder Country Music Weekend - write- up courtesy of Christine Boulton

17th, 18th and 19th March.

Poets attending were Greg Joass, Cobber Lethbridge, Peter Rudolf, Christine Boulton, Roger Cracknell, Rob Gunn, Bev Shorland, Stinger Nettleton, and Alan Aitken. Irene Connors also attended but chose to be an audience member.

Apologies were received from Ron Evans and Peter Blyth.

We performed two half hour brackets on the Friday and Saturday and the two hour Poet's Breakfast on the Sunday. Stinger had done a great job letting us know who was performing each day and the times allotted. This really helps the poets to organise their sets. The poets received good feedback from the audiences and we sat around most of the week end enjoying the variety of music. Terry Bennetts and his crew were a link between Boyup Brook and Bridgetown. We really are blessed with the standard of local musicians.

There were also many local and interstate guests and lots of walk ups.

We had lots of fun and time to chat. Well done Dave and Therese and their volunteers for putting on a great festival. A special mention to Alan Aitken who organised our camping area. He is a valued volunteer at so many festivals. Thank you Alan.



Photo by Jane Cochrane

SPREADING BUSH POETRY IN TASMANIA article by Meg



After a chance meeting with Leon and Jan Wooton while touring in the NW last winter, WA Poets Bill and Meg Gordon planned a trip to Tasmania at Leon's invitation. They were joined by ABPA President Tim Sheed and ABPA Treasurer Christine Middleton.

The first gig was at Prickly Mo winery in Devenport and Leon, Bill, Meg, Christine and Tim enjoyed some of the local product



While touring around the NW of Tasmania, a visit to Burnie saw us meeting up with WA member, Pete Stratford and his friend Kay.

Pete dropped out of poetry for a while when he lost his wife a couple of years ago but he now has a new incentive to bring his wonderful humour back to the poetry world.

Three days at Steam Fest in Sheffield was another high light of our trip in the north. We experienced life as a roving poet as we took turns entertaining the public via the loud speaker system. This was indeed a new experience and one that was well received.

Bill was able to contribute to the 3rd light Horse re-enactment program with two very appropriate poems...Banjo's "We're All Australians Now" (his letter to the troops in WW1) and Jack Drake's "The Water Of The Wells" (the assault on Beersheba)



Enjoying some of the local seafood at Stanley.

Christine Middleton, Jan Wooton, Meg Gordon, Bill Gordon, Leon Wooton and Tim Sheed were treated to a guided tour of the NE corner of Tasmania



While in Orange during the Banjo Paterson Festival, WA poet Dave Morrell did well in the National Bush Poetry Performance Championships. Achieving a second place in the Original Humorous and a third in the Original Serious.

(l to r) ABPA President Tim Sheed, Dave Morrell (Broome), Overall Champion Michael Darby, Debby Berryman (NSW) and ABPA Secretary Meg Gordon

Thinking of you, Lorelie -

We all wish Lorelie the best for her recovery.

Lorelie had a stroke on the 2nd December and has done the rounds of the Perth hospitals, Charlies, Osborne Park and Fremantle. She is now in Baptistcare Gracewood, 20 Roebuck Dve, Salter Point 6152. Ph. 9365 2400 (Nurse will pass you over to Lorelie) or direct 0480 168 936. Lorelie is able to talk and would welcome visitors in the afternoon. She has physio in the mornings and uses a wheelchair.

If you visit you will need to take a RAT test on arrival and sign in and out at the desk. The ladies at the front desk assisted me and were cheerful as I negotiated the technology.

Lorelie is on the first floor, Room 55.

Lorelie is a valued foundation member of the bush poets and is one of our longest serving members. We missed Lorelie at our March muster as she has been a regular compere. We send her our best wishes.



- Christine Boulton
on behalf of WABP members

**ABPA National Championships for Performance Bush Poetry
held 23-24 February 2023 at Ex-Services Club in Orange, NSW
as part of the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival.**

Results Overall Championship First: Michael Darby - WA
Second: Jenny Markwell Third: Debby Berryman

Traditional First: Michael Darby - WA
Second: Rhonda Tallnash Third: Ken Potter

Modern First: Michael Darby - WA
Second: Debby Berryman Third: Jenny Markwell

Original Serious First: Michael Darby
Second: Debby Berryman Third: Dave Morrell - WA

Original Humorous First: Ken Potter
Second: Dave Morrell - WA Third: Rhonda Tallnas

Congratulations!

Poets Muster Write-up Friday 3 March 2023 Prepared by Bev. Shorland'

Vice President **Peter Nettleton** Welcomed Visitors and Poets and expressed our sincere thoughts and prayers for **Loralie Tecoma** who is in hospital after suffering a severe stroke.

Congratulations to **Michael Darby** who came first at the Australian Bush Poets Championships in Orange NSW, he is now Australian Bush Poet Champion for 2023.

MC Heather Denholm:

Christine Boulton: "The Sandy Hollow Line." **Duke Tritton**

During the depression men had to work in the most difficult of jobs under cruel and heartless supervisors, The men and horses were working in extreme heat it was only when one of the horses died from heat exhaustion that the engineer declared that it was too hot for the horses to work, the men were sent home, but they would not be paid. They felt more like convicts than free men.

Peter Nettleton: "The Ballad of Freddie the Fleecer and Bale Filling Ben"

This is a magic-realist bush ballad about two shearers who compete to decide which of them is the better. The competition is disrupted by a thunder storm and the ending is metaphysical and inconclusive.

Grace Williamson "Dear Mrs Harrison" **Joan Strange.**

The poem tells of a modern day woman reminiscing about what life would have been like living in an early settlers cottage 100 years ago.

Rob Gunn **Announced that The Peel Poetry group will be meeting on:**

Tuesday 4th April at the Ravensthorpe Hotel on Pinjarra Road Ravensthorpe commencing at **6.00 – 8.00pm.**

All are invited to come and celebrate the very first meeting.

"The Huntsman" **Anon**

A Huntsman spider on the bedroom ceiling at night causes panic for the couple, so they end up spending the night in another room.

Heather related a story when a huntsman ended up on her hand.

Anne Hayes "The Rose" **Henry Lawson**

We love the rose' a short poem about the love of the rose.

"The Good old Concertina" **Henry Lawson**

At a merry dance or by a campfire, things seem merrier and it gladdens the heart when we hear the good old concertina.

Heather Denholm "The Flying Dogma" **Keith Lethbridge**

The story of flying with the Outback minister who was the pilot and a fire and brimstone preacher.

John Hayes "Faces in the Street" **Henry Lawson**

The sad and sallow faces of the people in the street. Hungry and poor, living in back streets and alleys of the city.

The Challenge : A 16 line poem about falling asleep.

Colin Tyler 'Falling asleep'

There are many places where one can fall asleep. See full poem

Heather Denholm 'Falling Asleep'

The minister dropped off to sleep standing up in the middle of her wedding. See full poem

Bev. Shorland "The road to Hogan's Gap" **Banjo Patterson**

The strange and detailed directions given to a traveller who wanted to go to Hogan's place.

WA Bush Poets Muster Friday cont...

Supper

Rob Gunn **A Yarn**

A young man assists a beautiful young woman at a restaurant; The eyes have it or is it the glass eye.

Peter Nettleton **“Piddling Pete”** **Anon**

This is an epic tale of a country dog who comes to town and shows up all the local dogs with his Piddling prowess. His secret? Diabetes!

Heather Denholm **Keeping Warm** **Anon**

The story of how an Eskimo tried to heat his Kayak

John Hayes **“The good old days”**

In a little tin shanty, the family crowd around the fire and listen to Dad recall the good old days. But the truth and reality of the depression is not talked about.

Christine Boulton **“ The Trackie Pants”**

Uncle Ted arrives for a short stay, he is wearing his favourite old 'trackie dacks 'Its time we got him some new ones.

Grace Williamson **“ We All Smile in the Same Language”** **Kelsie Hawton**

Kelsie was 8 years old when she wrote this poem. We are not all the same, we live in different places, have different upbringings, we are different on the outside, we speak different languages , but we all smile in the same language.

Heather Denholm **“The Stradivarius Wobble Board”** **Keith Lethbridge**

As a young apprentice, before making his famous violins he made the most wonderful wobble boards, his master was not impressed.

Rob Gunn **“ The Martian”** **Bobby Miller**

Having a couple of drinks on the verandah when a blinding light of a space ship appears, he is captured and taken on board.

John Hayes **“Second Class Wait Here”** **Henry Lawson**

Henry is waiting on a cold wet windy night, standing beneath a gaslight he notices a sign' Second class stand here'. That was the inspiration for his poem: 'Faces in the Street' depicting the poverty and squalor of Sydney around 1900.

Bev. Shorland **“The Song of the Wheat”** **Banjo Patterson**

Wheat farming in Australia. Describing how the land was cleared, ploughed and planted. Crops harvested, and wheat exported.

Christine Boulton **“Do They Think That I Do Not Know”** **Henry Lawson**

He has known of love and loss, but he does not write about it, so the critics think he does not know.

Peter Nettleton closed the muster at 9.20 Reminding us that the first muster for the Peel poets will be at the Ravenswood Hotel on Tuesday 4th April.

Next Muster: 5th May 2023 Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 gunnpoet@hotmail.com

Reader from the Classics - Heather Denholm

Deadline for submissions to May's Bully Tin 24th April 2023

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night or send one via email to shorland@inet.net.au for the Muster write up. Thanks in advance Bev

Colin Tyler

'Falling asleep'

16 line challenge

There are many places where one can fall asleep.
Some embarrassing, some not
Like a day at the cricket when its muggy and hot'
And the bloke in the middle is Geoff Boycott
Then on the last bus at night,
You wake at the depo and give the cleaner a fright.
At a fine restaurant where the guest speaker is talking trash
And you fall facedown in your plate of bangers and Mash
Then at the theatre where the movie is long and boring
That's OK, as long as you don't wake everyone with your snoring.
Sleeping in front of the telly is almost the norm,
Sometimes you're still there at the break of the dawn.
But most embarrassing of all, whilst I'M up here trying to speak,
most of you have nodded off and fallen asleep.

Colin Tyler.

Heather Denholm:

Falling asleep

16 line challenge

I know someone who's a master, a master at falling asleep,
He can sleep in a bed oh so easy but he never walks while asleep
He can sleep while he's eating but will rarely do
For he found once the plate went and he loved his food

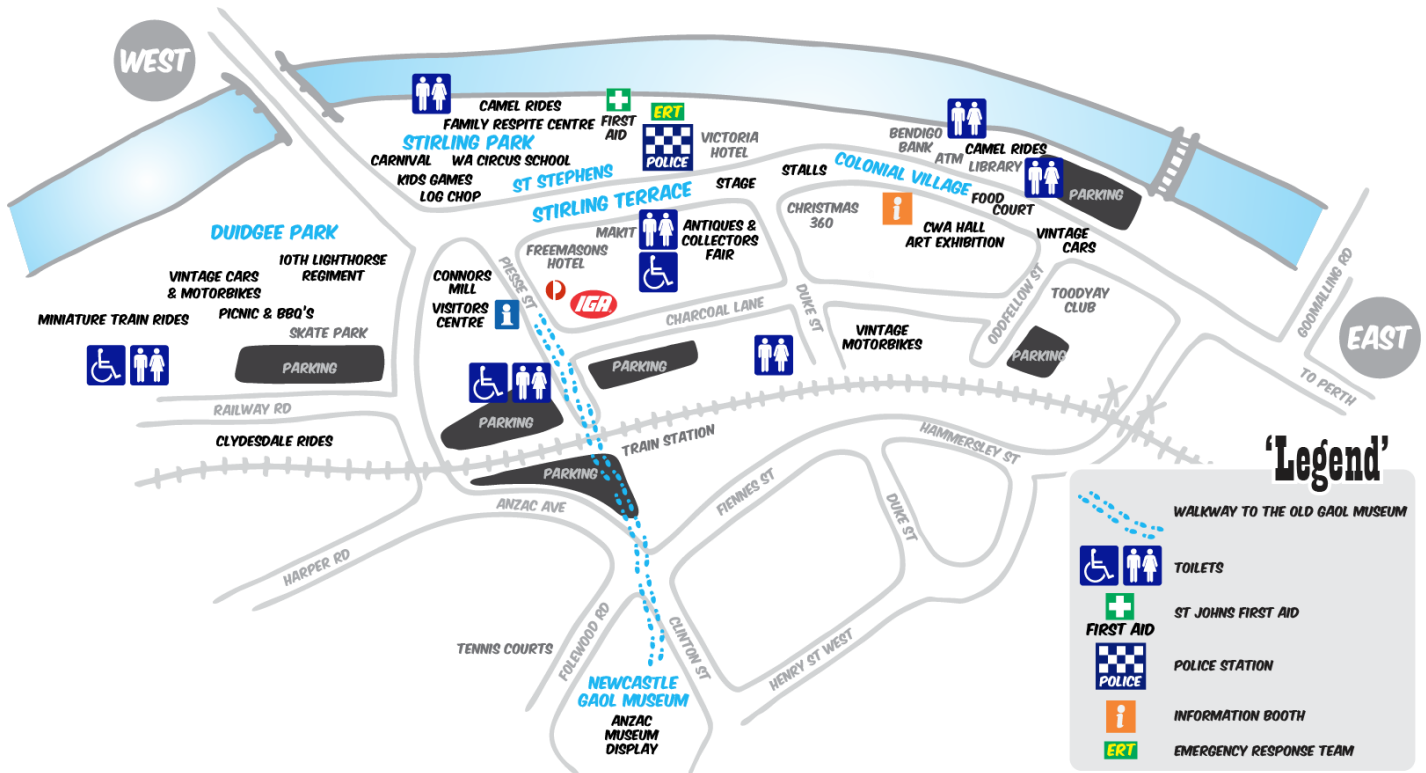
He can sleep standing up with his hands clasped behind him
He was a Tasmanian and the fire place warmed him
The time it concerned us was the day that I wed
For he paused way too long it was just as he said

Will you take Heather to be your wife but stopped before the last word
And the groom said I do and the pastor then stirred
He repeated the phrase. He had just said before
So the groom said, "I do! as I said earlier"

When he stopped in mid sentence some worry I felt
For the pastor you see was Noel Blegg my dad
I worried that he changed his mind on permission
No! just falling asleep in an odd situation.

Heather Denholm

The Moondyne Festival is an annual festival held in Toodyay, Western Australia,
celebrating the life and times of Moondyne Joe.



Moondyne 7th May - Free Festival Entertainment
Includes:-

- Performances by some of our amazing WA Bush Poets
- Also enjoy -
- Street Theatre
- Colonial Village
- Swaggies Camp
- Shearer & Blacksmith
- Clydesdales
- Competitions
- 1860 Rifle Regiment
- Woodchop
- Dancing
- WA Circus School
- Greg Hastings
- Music
- Family Fun Fair
- The Carnival
- Other Events
- ...and so much more!

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 2023

**30 March-2 April — Oracles of the Bush written and performance competitions, Tenterfield NSW.
(17 March Closing Date)**

**13-16 April — Man from Snowy River Bush Poetry & Music Competition, Corryong, Victoria.
See 10 February Closing Date.**



30 April — Closing Date — Under the Silver Tree Poetry Competition, Broken Hill NSW.

30 April — Closing Date — Under the Silver Tree Poetry Competition, Broken Hill NSW.

30 April — Closing Date — Bronze Swagman Award with UPDATED PRIZE LIST, Winton, Queensland.

May 2023

12 May — Closing Date — Ipswich Show Bush Poetry performance competition, Ipswich Queensland.

**15 May - closing Date The Eastwood/Hills Fellowship of Australian Writers 2023
*Boree Log Poetry Competition is now open.***

19 May — Closing Date — Henry Lawson Festival Short Story and Verse Competitions, Grenfell NSW.

**19-21 May — Ipswich Show Bush Poetry performance competitions (school students Friday 19; adults open Saturday 20) and poets' brunch (Sunday 21), Ipswich Queensland.
See 12 May Closing Date.**

JULY 2023

30 JULY — Closing Date — Nandewar Poetry Competition, Narrabri NSW.

AUGUST 2023

31 August — Closing Date — King of the Ranges written bush poetry competition, Murrurundi, NSW.

SEPTEMBER 2023

16 September — Closing Date — King of the Ranges yarnspinning competition, Murrurundi, NSW.

22-24 September — King of the Ranges Stockman's Challenge with poets' breakfast and yarnspinning competition (see 16 September closing date) and written competition (see 31 August closing date), Murrurundi, NSW.



Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2023

President	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
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Regular Events

WA Bush Poets:	1st Friday each month <i>MC details see front page</i> - 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA	
Albany Bush Poetry group:	Last Tuesday each month - 7.30pm 1426 Lower Denmark Rd, Elleker	Ph. Peter Blyth - 9844 6606
Bunbury Bush Poets:	1st Monday every ‘even’ month - The Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. or Ian Farrell	Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243 0408 212 636
Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:	1st Wednesday each month. - 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie	Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376
Peel Bush Poetry Group	4th April inaugural meeting, - 6pm. Ravenswood Hotel, Pinjarra	Ph. Rob Gunn

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.