

The

December 2024

BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



Next Muster: 6th December at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley MC - Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 gunnpoe@hotmai.com

Christmas poems if possible- first half. Christmas Cake and Port.

Please remember to bring along a Secret Santa Gift **8 Line Challenge: Christmas Decorations **

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums
As down the road old Rogan comes -
The hatter from the lonely hut
Beside the track to Woollybutt.
He likes to spend his Christmas with us here.
He says a man gets sort of strange
Living alone without a change,
Gets sort of settled in his way;
And so he comes each Christmas day
To share a bite of tucker and a beer.

Dad and the boys have nought to do,
Except a stray odd job or two.
Along the fence or in the yard,
"It ain't a day for workin' hard."
Says Dad. "One day a year don't matter much."
And then dishevelled, hot and red,
Mum, thro' the doorway puts her head
And says, "This Christmas cooking, My!
The sun's near fit for cooking by."
Upon her word she never did see such.

"Your fault," says Dad, "you know it is.
Plum puddin'! on a day like this,
And roasted turkeys! Spare me days,
I can't get over women's ways.
In climates such as this the thing's all wrong.
A bit of cold corned beef an' bread
Would do us very well instead."
Then Rogan said, "You're right; it's hot.
It makes a feller drink a lot."
And Dad gets up and says, "Well, come along."

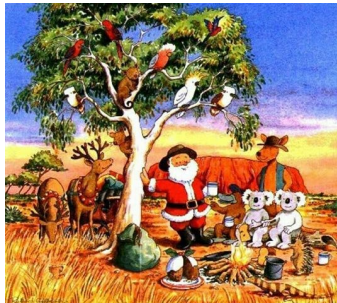
The dinner's served - full bite and sup.
"Come on," says Mum, "Now all sit up."
The meal takes on a festive air;
And even father eats his share
And passes up his plate to have some more.
He laughs and says it's Christmas time,
"That's cookin', Mum. The stuffin's prime."
But Rogan pauses once to praise,
Then eats as tho' he'd starved for days.
And pitches turkey bones outside the door.

A Bush Christmas

CJ Dennis

The sun burns hotly thro' the gums,
The chirping of the locusts comes
Across the paddocks, parched and grey.
"Whew!" wheezes Father. "What a day!"
And sheds his vest. For coats no man had need.
Then Rogan shoves his plate aside
And sighs, as sated men have sighed,
At many boards in many climes
On many other Christmas times.
"By gum!" he says, "That was a slap-up feed!"

Then, with his black pipe well alight,
Old Rogan brings the kids delight
By telling o'er again his yarns
Of Christmas tide 'mid English barns
When he was, long ago, a farmer's boy.
His old eyes glisten as he sees
Half glimpses of old memories,
Of whitened fields and winter snows,
And yuletide logs and mistletoes,
And all that half-forgotten, hallowed joy.

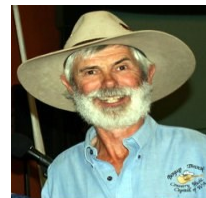


The children listen, mouths agape,
And see a land with no escape
Fro biting cold and snow and frost -
A land to all earth's brightness lost,
A strange and freakish Christmas land to them.
But Rogan, with his dim old eyes
Grown far away and strangely wise
Talks on; and pauses but to ask
"Ain't there a drop more in that cask?"
And father nods; but Mother says "Ahem!"

The sun slants redly thro' the gums
As quietly the evening comes,
And Rogan gets his old grey mare,
That matches well his own grey hair,
And rides away into the setting sun.
"Ah, well," says Dad. "I got to say
I never spent a lazier day.
We ought to get that top fence wired."
"My!" sighs poor Mum. "But I am tired!
An' all that washing up still to be done."

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President's Ramblings December 2024



November has been an incredibly busy month for us on the bush poetry circuit.

Six poets performed at Mt Trio Country Music Muster doing a one hour show both Saturday and Sunday morning in the well camp kitchen. This proved a much better format and more relaxing for poets and audience alike. Daniel Avery stole the show and won everybody's heart with his poem "Daniel".

Meg and I then headed to Bruce Rock for the Vietnam Veterans reunion before making our way to Toodyay for our annual Bush Poetry Festival and State Championships. This was won once again by Keith Lethbridge. Cobber also won the Rusty Christensen trophy for Yarnspinning. ABPA Vice-President David Stanley was runner-up and I managed to finish in third place. Full results are to be found elsewhere in this Bullytin. Congratulations not only to the winners but also to all who competed in the Championships. The standard of poetry from all competitors continues to improve every year and the competition gives poets the chance to have a critical assessment of their performances.

The Roadwise Challenge on the topic of "Fatigue" was well supported with 14 entries. Lesley Horne emerged as the winner from a strong field, many of whom are new to this writing contest. Poems came from several who were not able to attend on the day. Their entries were read for them and all poems will be submitted to the Road Safety Council for use in their promotion campaigns. We were hoping for entries from school students but unfortunately all Deb's efforts proved fruitless.

Thank you to our judges, ABPA President Tim Sheed, Treasurer Christine Middleton, and Terry Piggott. Thank you to all who came to Toodyay to support the festival, especially to Meg who has done a huge amount of work to bring it all together, not only this year but for the last eleven years she has been festival secretary. It is now time to call it a day and both Meg and I need to step back and take a break from organising the festival and the State Championships. Unless others are prepared to take over this will be the last Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival. We have had great times at Toodyay, especially in 2017 when we hosted the Australian Championships. Maybe another venue or another format can be found so that our state championships can continue.

The December Muster will be the usual format with Port, Pies and Poetry. Rob Gunn is MC. Meg and I apologise for our absence but family commitments must take precedence that night. We wish all members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Bill Gordon, President.

Dear Members,

I am putting together a new roster for 2025.

Sadly we have lost many of our regulars
through illness or other commitments.

Please let me know if you would like to be on the 2025 roster
and I can include you on the list.

Many thanks - *Christine Boulton*

christineboulton7@bigpond.com or 0438995609

A Vision of Hell

The blazing sun burned the tortured trees
as it scorched the dry sunburnt earth.
A smoky haze drew the ghastly frieze
of a bushfire given birth.

An eerie glow on the Yarloop hill
and the smell of smoke in the air,
as our world grew calm and deathly still
with the menace of fire there.

The day grew dark as the light grew dim
and the trees looked outlined in black –
like the sun's eclipse each shadowed limb
stood out stark on the forest track.

Then a soft grey ash fell through the gloom
as small birds in the trees took fright
at the fearful feel of coming doom
in the haze of a bronze twilight.

A hint of flame in the trees again
then that frightening, rumbling sound,
as our world recoiled in fire and pain
from the horrors of hell all round.

Then came the wind and the fire roared
through the crown and the bush below
and great drips of flame from tree tops poured
in a fearsome, fiery flow.

The howling roar from the demon's maw
drew a flare from the dragon's eye.
And flames made his fiery, ragings soar
as his glare scorched the burning sky.

Great sheets of thundering, roaring flame
formed the heart of a monstrous beast.
And 'we' felt fear as the firestorm came
and the monster began to feast.

He fed on the very air we breathed
as he smashed through our blazing world
and a raging hell of fire seethed
as the lip of the monster curled.

Three days of hell till the fire crashed
and the heart of the dragon failed.
The smoking wreck of a small town smashed
marked the path that the beast assailed.

And then the wreckage the monster left,
a damp, soggy, black steaming mess
and what remained of a town bereft –
the wet smell of his cruel caress.

I had stared into the dragon's throat
and had seen his fiery scowl,
then hid from the blazing blows he smote
and had heard his wild roaring howl.

But when the furnace of flame had passed
and the dragon had feasted well,
I thought this day could have been my last
and this was a vision of hell.

Peter O'Shaughnessy





Cobber has done it again!!

Keith (Cobber) Lethbridge has once again taken out the **WA State Championships** for 2024. ABPA Vice President **David Stanley** was runner up due to brilliant original poems. WA President **Bill Gordon** was third.



(l to r) David Stanley, Cobber Lethbridge, Toodyay Shire President Mick McKeown, Bill Gordon

Cobber Lethbridge presentation of shields by Toodyay Shire President Mick McKeown



Winner of **Silver Quill Written Verse 2024**
BRENDA JOY PRITCHARD



Terry Piggott receiving Silver Quill Highly Commended Awards from Bill Gordon



Judges for WA State Championships

(L to r) ABPA President Tim Sheed, ABPA Treasurer Christine Middleton, with Bill Gordon and local judge Terry Piggott



Participants in **Road Safety Commission** sponsored poetry competition with the theme **"Fatigue"**

Deb McQuire, David Stanley, Heather Joass, Greg Joass, Lesley Horne, Cobber Lethbridge, Bill Gordon.

Each participant received an award for entering the competition.



One of WA's newest poets, Daniel Avery won the crowd over at Mt Trio with his confident performances.

Mt Trio Country Music Muster 2024 was again a great success with Amber Joy Poulton a great featured artist. Bush Poetry was also a crowd pleaser. This year poets performed in the camp kitchen as an experiment, leaving the main stage free to be set up for artists. This proved very successful and good crowds gathered happily in the more intimate atmosphere.



Pictured above is Peter Rudolf who stole the show with his very humorous original poetry

The second **Chapman Valley Country Music Muster** was again a success. Suggestions and comments from 2023 festival saw some improvements on the program but more needs to be done with the Bush Poets section as they opted not to have a poet's breakfast which did not go down well with the patrons!

**WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC.
SILVER QUILL 2024 - Results**

SERIOUS

	Author	Poem
First	Brenda Joy Pritchard	Street Of Stress
Second	Irene Timpone	If Only
Third	Terry Piggott	An Angel In The Bush
Highly Commended	Terry Piggott	The Mystery Of The Granites
Commended	Terry Piggott	Changing Times
Commended	Kevin Pye	What's In A Name?
Commended	Catherine Lee	Fire At Dawson's Run
Commended	David Watt	Wings Upraising

HUMOROUS

	Author	Poem
First	Laurie Warfe	A Faithful Fergie
Second	Brenda Joy Pritchard	Nighttime Noisy Neighbours
Second	Jan Facey	An 'olidee, Wiv C.J. Dennis
Highly Commended	Jim Kent	Rowley's Rooster
Highly Commended	Laurie Warfe	A Harsh Bush Remedy

NOVICE

	Author	Poem
First	Deb McQuire	Reach For Rural Gold
Second	Alan Greco	Trees
Third	Deb McQuire	We're Really Over Summer
Highly Commended	Alan Greco	The Peril Within
Commended	Alan Greco	The Snore
Commended	Alan Greco	My Nan

JUNIOR - MIDDLE 10 to 12

	Author	Poem
First	Clem Chapman	Magpies
Second	Brodie Hewson	Cloudy Day
Third	Maree Hollingworth	Asthma
Highly Commended	Armaandeep Singh Saini	India
Highly Commended	Emily Price	Reading
Commended	Alexi Parker-Sutton	Friends

JUNIOR - LOWER 6 to 9

	Author	Poem
First	Elysia Roselle Woo	Ballarina Fishy
Second	Annabelle Gervaise Woo	Mala
Highly Commended	Annabelle Gervaise Woo	Dingo

WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC.

2024 PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

RESULTS

WINNER - Keith Lethbridge

2nd Place - David Stanley

3rd Place - Bill Gordon

Category Winners

ORIGINAL HUMOROUS

1st Place - Keith Lethbridge - Mildew's Offsider

2nd Place - Lesley Horn - Year One

3rd Place - David Stanley - The Man From Lightning Ridge

ORIGINAL SERIOUS

1st Place - David Stanley - The Flash Flood

2nd Place - Keith Lethbridge - Never Forget

3rd Place - Bill Gordon - Sandakan

MODERN

Equal 1st Place - Peter Rudolf - Rain From Nowhere

Equal 1st Place - Bill Gordon - Hot Revenge

3rd Place - Gregory Joass - A Grave Situation

TRADITIONAL

1st Place - Keith Lethbridge - The Happiest Days Of My Life

2nd Place - David Stanley - The Song Of The Magpie - Mollie McNutt

3rd Place - Bill Gordon - The Geebung Polo Club

YARNSPINNING

1st Place - Keith Lethbridge - Bunjima

2nd Place - Bill Gordon - Condobolin Mosquitoes

3rd Place - Peter Rudolf - Not Seen On The News



Christmas Time

It's Christmas time, I'm Santa Clause and nothing's going right,
Mary locks the bedroom door to keep me out at night.
She's fed up with my groping hands and friskiness you see,
She says we should be past that now, but I do not agree.

I need a bit of hanky pank it's such a good distraction,
Even though, a year ago it put me into traction.
Well, Rudolph's nose has lost its shine and is no longer red,
Dasher's turn of speed has gone, he may as well be dead.

Dancer did a pirouette and sprained a dainty hoof,
Comet's tail caught fire today and went up with a poof.
Cupid fell in love last week and he cannot be found,
Prancer's always full of beans and likes to jig around.

Blitzen's grown a lot this year and wants to be in charge,
A fight with Rudolph for top spot is surely looming large.
Vixen is a sly reindeer, she's always making trouble,
It's never been as bad as this I need a whisky double!

My elves refuse to work past four, they need their rest I'm told,
I've put on weight, my belly's grown, it's got another fold.
I've two more days to load the sleigh, I know it will be tight,
But it's Christmas time, I'm Santa Clause, I need to get it right!

Lesley Horn.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Honey Bee

*A Honey Bee sits on an old Gumtree,
and he doesn't care what he can see.*

*He flew to the West,
and he said "can I have a Nest?"*

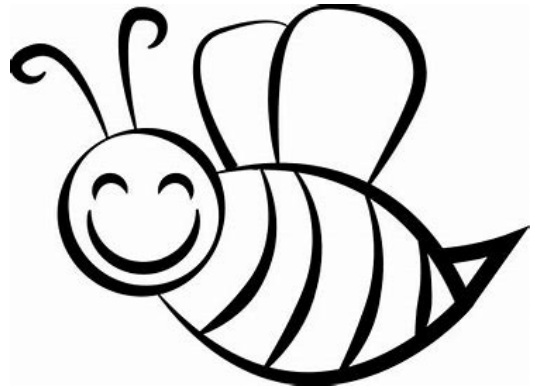
*A Bird said "yes",
but he made a mess.*

*The bird said come back tomorrow,
and you can borrow.*

*The Honey Bee brought some Bark,
and he fixed the nest till dark.*

By Lacey McCagh (Year 2).

St Brigid's School - Collie



This poem was written by Lacey McCagh a Year 2 student at St Brigid's School– Collie during a visit by Greg Joass.

Well done Lacey and thank you Greg for your efforts to introduce Bush Poetry to schools, thank you to all of our Poets who engage with schools in this way.

Poems on Poems by Greg Joass

Elegy

An elegy is a poem for the recently dead,
They are written in praise of their life, and it's said,
They should end up on a high note, not down with a curse.
Like if I wrote an elegy, on the death of free verse.

Ballad

A ballad's a poem with a story to tell,
It should have a rhyme scheme and rhythm as well.
They don't always have to be tediously long,
And are often well suited, to turn into song.

The rhythms can vary, the rhyme schemes also,
Just as long as the story continues to flow.
So if you've got a tale that you want to get out,
Forget other styles, for there is little doubt,
That a ballad's the best way, to spread it about!

Bush Poets Muster Friday 1st November 2024 write up compiled from several sources.

MC for the evening was Rob Asplin

Entertainment for the evening was kindly provided by a small but enthusiastic group of poets as listed below, but due to some technical difficulties with note taking during the evening their efforts are presented in a different style in this issue. Apologies if any details have been missed and the order is different to how the items were presented on the night..

Performers included:-

John Hayes, Heather Denholm, David Sears, Kieth Lethbridge, Lorraine Broun and Rob Asplin

John Hayes presented 3 poems: -

"Harry Swans Scales" a tale of his grandfathers exploits as a prospector and the scales he always carried with him. John presented two other poems but due to technical problems uncertain about the titles of these.

Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge performed the following:-

"Kimberley Saddle Tramp." This poem talks about Harold Chapman, who often described himself as "just a saddle tramp". Harold was the son of Ernie Chapman, former head stockman of Ivanhoe station. Ernie & his mate Johnny Walker, spent many hours educating me in the culture and traditions of the old East Kimberley. Harold worked, now and then, in his own leisurely way, at the Kimberley Research Station, where I was employed as a farm-hand (1963 to 1967). In Kimberley lingo, he was "a good man out of luck".

"Mildew's Dilema." This fictional character is built from the many cooks, wanderers and scallywags found years ago in the Pilbara, Kimberley and any other out-back location. The story is an old one, told in many different ways, using many different "heroes" and settings. It seemed like something Mildew would do, so I blamed him.

The first tune he played on the mouth-organ was "Along the Navajo Trail", but I prefer to think of it as "Along the Bibbulmun Track".

The second tune, using mouth-organ and bones, was "Rosin' the Bow", an old Irish song about a fiddle player who liked a drink. An adaption of the same tune is used for the old convict song, "The Catalpa", which tells of an American whaling boat 'rescuing' Fenian political prisoners from Western Australia.

David Sears performed

"The old Man's muster. Your Church - His Bush". Author -Allan Simmons.

Allan Simmons was born in Victoria in 1940. Studied accountancy, worked for the Customs Department. A keen athlete. rugged footballer, travelled extensively throughout Australia and fond of bush life. Married to wife Judy, they had 2 children. When asked, where did he derive his inspiration to write verse. "I'm fascinated by the people I meet, intrigued by the Australian bush and bewildered by the miracle of creation. "The two poems are from his book of film poems, edited in 1981 during the filming of "The Man From Snowy River"

Heather Denholm performed her poems "A Favourite Place"

Tribute to her father whose favourite church as a pastor was his first as the pastor to the timber cutters at Yarloop WA and the day that the town of Yarloop burnt dawn was the same day he passed away in Victoria, Heather never had to tell him his favourite place was gone. As his only music was a cornet, she had an old one to show what it was. And her poem - "An avid Aussie quilter" Tells about her obsession with quilting and displayed her wall hanging to support her story.

Bush Poets Muster Writeup Friday cont...

Rob Asplin entertained the audience with his version of "The Old Man at the Bar" on ukulele (originally by Terry Bennetts)

An old man reminisces about his tough life on the land back in 1959 as he plays his guitar. He's oblivious to his sons drinking and talking about fast motor cars.

Lorraine Broun - told the tale of "A friend's Horse" and how much it costs to own even a humble bay with no pedigree and the continued story of raising money to pay the bills for the bays vet care and the pitfalls.

She also presented her poem "A Waste of Time"

The hazards of emptying the van loo and tripping in the night.

Brian Langley performed "Our National Food" when people ask about Vegemite don't tell them the truth just tell them it's the left-over stuff from the beer that we drink.

He also presented "Evolution" which talks about humans ability to speak and communicate and that current generations abilities in this area could see a return to a less evolved version of ourselves. In

addition he presented "Why Women Cannot Join" by Dry Blower Murphy. Dryblower writing about a lady who wanted to join the Freemasons

Heather made a *poetic* plea during the evening requesting for all performers to please supply a brief synopsis of their pieces along with the title and author of the poems they present to ensure correct details in future write-ups and to allow the person recording the proceedings to be able to relax and enjoy the poetry along with the rest of the audience.

Keith Lethbridge (Vice Pres.) thanked those attending and the MC Rob Asplin, concluding with a reminder to all of next musters Christmas traditions.

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

Next Muster: 3rd January 2025 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley

MC - Lorraine Broun 0411 877 551

Theme: to be Advised

Challenge Poem : to be advised

Deadline for submissions for December Bully Tin 21st December

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

December 2024

13 December — Closing Date — Chinchilla Melon Festival Little Pips Children's Written Bush Poetry Competition, Chinchilla, Queensland.

January 2025

17-26 January — Tamworth Country Music Festival with Frank Daniel walk-up poetry award at West Tamworth Bowling Club plus poetry shows at the Longyard and North Tamworth Bowling Club, Tamworth NSW.

February 2025

7 February — Closing Date — Milton Agricultural Show Bush Poetry Speaking Competition, Milton NSW.

16 February — The Banjo Paterson Festival Bush Poetry performance and **written competition** - junior, novice, open - Orange NSW.

For more information, email David: dstanle5@outlook.com

28 February — Closing Date — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival, Performance & **Written** Competitions. Corryong, Victoria

March 2025

8 March — Milton Agricultural Show Bush Poetry Speaking Competition - children and adults, Milton NSW. See 7 February Closing Date.

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President	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
Vice President	Keith Lethbridge	0437 336 296	keithlethbridge@hotmail.com
Secretary	Rodger Kohn	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
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> - <i>ABPA Representative</i>	0404 075 108	meggordon4@bigpond.com
Don Gunn		0418 930 821	bigunnz@inet.net.au
Maxine Richter		0429 339 002	maxine.richter@bigpond.com
Greg Joass		0429 345 150	gjoass@gmail.com
Deb McQuire	- <i>Bully Tin editor</i>	0428 988 315	deb.mcquire@bigpond.com

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,
1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243
or Ian Farrell 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

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
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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.