

The

February 2025

# BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



**Next Muster: 7th February at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley  
MC - Brian Coogan 0417 171 092 [briancoogan@briancoogan.com](mailto:briancoogan@briancoogan.com)  
Reading from the Classics - Anne Hayes  
Banjo Paterson's birthday - Recite a poem for Banjo during the first half of the muster.**



It was on February 17, 1864, that Andrew Barton Paterson, better known to all as "Banjo" was born on the property "Narrambla" to the north of Orange.

A poet, journalist, author, and war correspondent, Banjo's pen produced some of the most recognisable poems and ballads in Australia, such as "Clancy of the Overflow", "The Man from Snowy River" and "Waltzing Matilda."

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# President's Ramblings February 2025



Congratulations and thank you to all involved in our Showcase at Wireless Hill on Australia Day.

I have received many compliments on the performance of all the poets on the day as well as the two Mc's, Lorraine Broun and Rob Gunn. The music from the Rambling Bilbies was very appropriate for Australia Day and appreciated by the audience. Numbers were down a little but it was very encouraging to see quite a few new faces present.

I would like to share an email I received from one of our esteemed members

DEAR BILL,

MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED IN YESTERDAY'S PRESENTATION. I FELT IT WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DAY I HAVE ATTENDED — AND I HAVE ATTENDED 29 !!

MY THANKS TO YOU ALL AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.

SINCERELY LORELIE TACOMA

Our next event is Boyup Brook Country Music Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February. Bush Poets always have a high profile at this event, starting with the Balladeers Variety Concert on Thursday night through to the Bush Poets Breakfast on Sunday morning. Feature poets this year are the Two Short Shiels from Lightning Ridge. Melanie Hall and Susan Carcary are a sensational duo and in high demand right across Australia. It is ten years since they were at Boyup Brook but people are still talking about their last visit with Long John Best.

Nannup Music Festival is on the March long weekend. Alan Aitken is running the Bush Poets Breakfast there, Contact Alan for more details. Alan has also taken over coordinating the Bush Poets at Downunder Country Music in Bridgetown a fortnight later. I am pleased to see Alan taking these roles. The more members we have organising different events the stronger our association is.

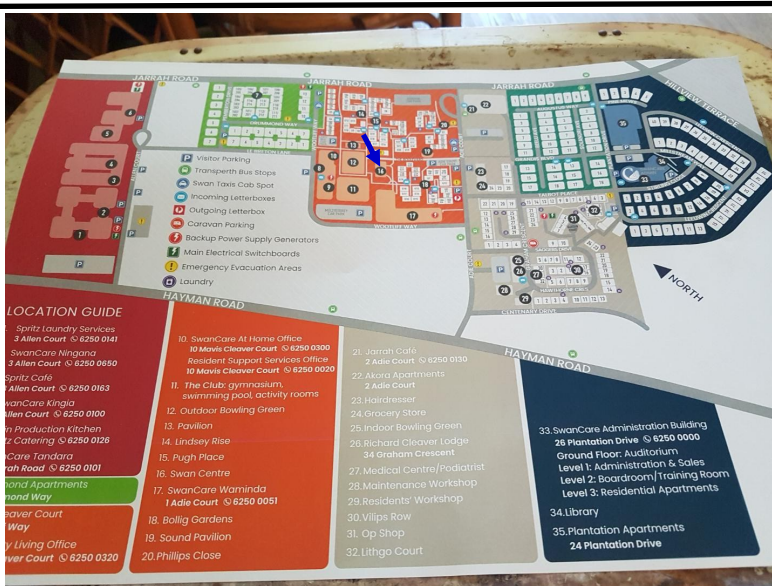
While on that subject, I am very happy to report that poets from Pinjarra have booked the Pinjarra Hall for a poetry get-together on 8<sup>th</sup> November. This weekend would have been Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival so it is great to see another event to fill that gap in our calendar.

Cobber is planning a "Bang Tail Muster" at Cobber's Corner, Dinninup on the Easter weekend. More details will emerge closer to the date but I heard a rumour about the possibility of some Square Dancing as well.

Our next muster is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Auditorium. The March muster will be in a different venue at Bentley Park as the Auditorium will be set up for a polling booth for the state election the following day. Look for the details in the next Bullytin.

Meanwhile, stay cool and stay hydrated.

Bill Gordon, President



## Please note:

March Muster to be held in building 16 as shown on map. There is parking adjacent.

Car access via Aide Crt then left on Wootliff Way

## AUSTRALIA DAY AT WIRELESS HILL 2025

The weather was perfect for our Australia Day Showcase Poetry event of 2025. The bush setting and fresh breeze at the wonderful Wireless Hill recreation area made our picnic lunch and music and poetry sessions very enjoyable.

A very appreciative crowd was entertained by 11 poets and the duo, The Rambling Bilbies. Our Australian culture and spirit was celebrated with poetry and music on this memorable day. It was our 30<sup>th</sup> year of commemorating our humble beginnings and even as the weather turned cooler, most of our crowd stayed till the end of the day.

We appreciate very much the support we receive from Melville City Council and are grateful for this lovely setting.

Poets then enjoyed an evening barbecue which allowed us to wind down after a great day. Broome vet and poet, Dave Morrell and his wife, Helen were in Perth and so joined us. Dave has many colourful stories of his life and times in The Kimberley. His poetry was well received and he sold some of his books also.

Heather Denholm will be remembered for her word perfect recital of The Man From Snowy River and Mick Martin's splendid work with his charity 'Mates At The Gate Inc' was spoken about. He is the epitome of what Australians are all about....mates and helping each other in times of need. Great reasons why we celebrate Australia Day.





Joint MC's Rob Gunn and Lorrain Broun



John Hayes



Dave Morrell



Meg Gordon

The Wild Bilbies



Allan Atkins





Heather Denholm



Greg Joass



Peter Rudolph



Bill Gordon

Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge & Brian Higgins



## MATES AT THE GATE

*Mick Martin*

The bank had loaned him thousands  
And he signed as farmers do  
To keep from going under  
And the interest would accrue.

The years of drought had pushed him  
To the edge of dark despair  
His family loved this station  
But the bailiff would not care.

For lenders are like dingoes  
Waiting on that final fall  
For blokes like Arty Flemming  
There would be no curtain call.

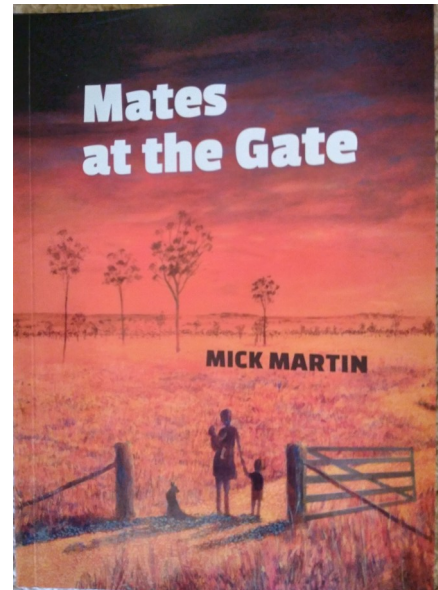
Six years of drought behind him  
Surely rain was overdue  
He had to feed his family  
There was nothing else to do.

The tanks were all but empty  
And the dams were bowls of dust  
The stock were dropping daily  
And this loan was fit to bust.

While some had rain a plenty  
Even floods so cruel and cold  
The dust and flies kept coming  
And his dice had now been rolled.

"I'm sorry Mary darling  
I have done all I can do  
Forgive a dopey farmer  
It's a bitter pill to chew."

The banker came in person  
Even feigned his sad remorse  
Left Arty with the papers  
Saying things had run their course.



This poem is based on a true story. Mick Martin is a tireless worker for charity. He witnessed first hand the struggles of local farmers during a prolonged drought. Mick and his mates were motivated to initiate a farmer assistance, registered charity with activities including taking farmers, men and women, away for well-earned respite at various holiday locations. Other activities followed including farm visits and Christmas assistance to support families. The most recent activities include the installation of kitchens for farmers that need them.

His charity is called 'Mates at The Gate Inc'

For further info visit website:

[www.matesatthegate.org](http://www.matesatthegate.org)

To order copies of Mick book:

[www.bit.ly/ozpoem](http://www.bit.ly/ozpoem)

No words could Arty mutter  
He was crushed and cold inside  
To tell his wife and children  
Was beyond his farmer's pride.

The grapevine did its duty  
And the news spread far and wide  
His neighbours felt his anguish  
And collectively they sighed.

But rain was due that evening  
Even that would be too late  
For Arty and his family  
Waiting for their gloomy fate.

The bank took all the titles  
Leaving Arty in the cold  
But neighbours helped their mate out  
As the chattels would be sold.

He'd need to buy a dwelling  
In town not far away  
The bankers left quite quickly  
Thinking wisest not to stay.

It started with a bore pump  
As the bids went up in tens  
But soon they were in hundreds  
As he watched his farming friends.

See every single dollar  
That the auction made from them  
Was just a masked donation  
From these farming wives and men.

When Bill bid twenty thousand  
For the tractor near the gate  
He wished he'd helped him early  
Maybe now was all too late.

When Mrs Farring Fosworth  
Bought his clapped out Falcon ute  
The auctioneer was speechless  
Even Arty stood there mute.

It only took the morning  
And the lots were spoken for  
300 K said chalky  
Bill said make it fifty more.

With tears of silent thank yous  
Arty held his darling wife  
And took the gift from neighbours  
Then to start a brand new life.

But Mrs Farring Fosworth  
In her subtle quiet way  
Gave Arty one last gesture  
"If your family care to stay.

I'll buy your family station  
And I'll need a leading hand.  
Don't move into the city  
You belong here on this land.

And when at last I leave here  
You can keep the title too  
We like to help our neighbours  
And I know that you would too"

And not one auction item left  
His neighbours thought that fair  
So that's the way it happened  
Arty stayed and he's still there.

Through drought and fire and flooding  
We will always find a way  
See it's part of being Aussie  
It's our nation's DNA

## SILENT HEROES

We are blessed with real true heroes but so rarely are they seen,  
like the fleeting sunset shadows leaving calm where they have been.

For they don't seek out attention, like some others that we see,  
trying to impress the world as something that they'll never be.

But the heroes that I write of here are harder still to find,  
Yet, you'll see them at the coalface, always helping out mankind.

You will find them where they're needed - places most would fear to tread,  
helping in the unseen sadness, like dementia wards instead.

So, I'm counting now my blessings that those heroes will be there,  
asking nothing but respect towards the burdens that they share.

And their work is thankless out of sight and virtually unknown,  
leaving me in awe now at the daily courage that they've shown.

And there's many whispered voices in the needy world out there,  
doing what needs doing while the rest of us don't even care.

Is it ignorance, or just indifference, it's hard to say,  
as we leave it to our heroes to now clear each mess away?

And they do it without question because that's how heroes are,  
while the rest of us are looking but not seeing from afar.

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## Boyup Brook Country Music Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February

### 2025 BUSH POETRY PROGRAM

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.30 – 1.30	Poets in the Pub	
	5.50 - 9.00	Balladeers Show	Hockey ground
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 – 10.00	Bush Poets Breakfast	Tennis Club
	11.30 – 1.30	Poets in the Pub	
	2.00 – 4.00	Memory workshop with Mel and Susie	
			Northlands shearing shed. 5Km on Kojonup Road
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 – 10.00	Bush Poets Breakfast	Bowling Club
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 – 9.15	BUSH POETS BREAKFAST	MUSIC PARK

## NANNUP MUSIC FESTIVAL – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2025

I have again been asked to MC the Bush Poetry at Nannup Music Festival this year. There are 2 x 2 hour time slots, Saturday from 08:30 to 10:30am and Sunday from 08:30 to 10:30 at the Playground Stage. I am looking for poets to perform during one or both of these sections. This stage is outside the main event area and there will be no tickets issued to enter the event area. People wishing to go into the main event area will need to purchase a ticket on line. There will also be no moneys for performers at this event, however I may be able to secure a camping spots at the Nannup golf course for Friday and Saturday night. Please contact me on 0400 249 243 and I will see what I can do. For those that attend but do not wish to purchase a ticket there are some areas of entertainment that you can still access, The Playground Stage, The Nannup Hotel, The Nannup Brewing Company and my favourite, the veranda at The Bowling Club.

Cheers Alan Aitken

**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](mailto:deb.mcquire@bigpond.com) for the Muster write up. Thanks in advance**

**Next Muster: 7th March 2025 at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium, Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley**

**MC - Bev Shorland 0438 764 897 [shorland@iinet.net.au](mailto:shorland@iinet.net.au)**

**Theme: Socks Reading from the Classics - Lorraine Broun**


**16 line poem: There's a hole in it**

**Deadline for submissions for March's Bully Tin 25th February 2025**

## Doggerel

Intentional doggerel is meant to be funny,  
Or satirical also, is right on the money.  
It can be poorly structured, the rhythm deliberately wrong,  
If it enhances the humour, by being too long.  
If accidental of course, it is simply bad verse,  
Like poor William McGonagall, nobody wrote worse.  
Cause his rhymes didn't rhyme, except in Edinburgh,  
So it's hard to recite, without causing great sorrow.  
'He unwittingly backed into genius in rhyme',  
'Which will be remembered, for a very long time.'  
But the label of doggerel's often used now by snobs,  
To denigrate all poems they think fit just for jobs.  
If it isn't highbrow, it gets right up their noses,  
Mass appeal upsets their intellectual poses.  
They like verse that's obscure, as well as quite meaningless,  
It helps stoke their egos and showcase their prowess.  
If they alone know, how to scrute the inscrutable,  
Sink to new depths, to fathom the unfathomable,  
If no one understands them, then they think that they've won,  
And of course they hate doggerel, with it's cheap sense of fun.  
So, bush poetry is verse that the highbrows all hate,  
And labelling it doggerel's the way they denigrate  
Those poems to which, everyone else is relating,  
Cause they're telling us stories, not obfuscating.  
But half bush verse is serious, so not doggerel at all,  
Those intellectual's intellects begin to look small.  
If they keep pushing the line, it will fail the pub test,  
They should stick to their prose and give bush poetry best.

*Greg Joass*



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## 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](http://www.abpa.org.au) and [www.writingwa.org](http://www.writingwa.org)

Why not check out Writing WA  
<[info@writingwa.org](mailto:info@writingwa.org)>  
Always something interesting  
going on for WA Writers

### February

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](mailto:dstanle5@outlook.com)

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

### March

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

7-8 March — NSW State Championships at Verse in the Valley Festival, Gloucester, NSW.  
See 28 February Closing Date. For more information contact Tom McIlveen: phone 0417 251 287, email [portalarms@gmail.com](mailto:portalarms@gmail.com) .

### April

10-13 April — Man from Snowy River Bush Festival (incorporating the Victorian Bush Poetry Championships). Performance & **Written** Competitions. Corryong, Victoria. See 28 February Closing Date.

30 April — Closing Date — Silver Swagman (Bronze Swagman special one-off) written bush poetry award, Winton, Queensland.

### May

15 May — Closing Date — Eastwood/Hills FAW Literary Competition Boree Log, Eastwood, NSW.



## Committee Members - WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2025

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Keith Lethbridge	0437 336 296	keithlethbridge@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Rodger Kohn	0419 666 168	rodgershirley@bigpond.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	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](http://www.abpa.org.au) or [www.bushverse.com](http://www.bushverse.com)

Address correspondence for the "Bully Tin" to: Bully Tin Editor, PO Box 364, Bentley 6982 or [deb.mcquire@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au)**  
Please contact the Webmaster, if you would like to see your poems featured in the Members Poetry section.