

# WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : July 2000

## Australia Day Challenge 2001

The Heats for the 2001 Annual Australia Day Challenge will be starting in **October** and will continue in **November** and **December**.

**The Senior Poetry Competition Categories are :-**

- Open Written Verse
- Reciting your own poetry
- Reciting someone else's poetry
- Yarn spinning

**Junior Sandgropers Poetry Competition Categories are:-**

- 8 - 10 yrs
- 11 - 13 yrs
- 14 - 17 yrs

All members take note, that your child or grandchild may take part in the children's competition. Last year a member's grandchild won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the competition. Please contact **Joan Macneall** if you wish to be sent an entry form. Her address is 23 Streatham Street Beckenham WA 6107.

**Entry forms due in by October the 15<sup>th</sup>.**

NB: All poetry is to be on a Bush or Urban Australian theme and content.

**Look out for Competition Rules next issue**

**"Come All Ye" gatherings at the Raffles Hotel  
(Upstairs in the River Room)  
Next Meeting Friday 4/08/2000**

## From the Chair

G'Day folks. This is my first newsletter as your new President and I would firstly like to thank you all for your expressions of confidence in my ability to discharge the onerous duties entrusted to me in this capacity. I would also like to congratulate and welcome to the new committee the following successful candidates.



Lorelie Tacoma	- Vice President
Rusty Christensen	- Past President
Trevor Cooksley	- Past Treasurer
Michelle Sorrell	- Secretary
Geoff Bebb	- Treasurer/Editor
Phyllis Tobin	- Committee
Kay Stehn	- Committee
Joan Macneall	- Committee/Schools Poetry
Barry Higgins	- Committee

While I have succeeded to Rusty's chair, I do not presume to assume his title of 'Boss Cocky' which I think he has made his own. I would therefore appreciate your assistance in renaming this regular column and will throw the floor open for any suggestions between now and next issue.

The year ahead promises to be a very exciting one for our association. While ever mindful of our primary aim, that is to preserve and nurture the Australian Idiom, I believe we are about to embark on a path of activity, which will raise our profile in the community, re-forge our links with the professional yarn spinning sector and generally broaden our sphere of influence in the cultural world around us. One initiative which was set in motion before the AGM is the development of our own internet website. We are now ready to proceed down that path. It is hoped that this will not only provide an extremely useful facility and resource for our members but will also attract interest in us from around the country and indeed the globe.

It is also envisaged that this newsletter will come to represent a distillation of the best of the information, which accumulates on the website. Thus those of us who remain Internet abstainers will still reap the benefits of the facility via the regular mail-out.

Anyhow (as someone once said) that's about enough of me for the time being. I'll catch up with you around the traps, so hoo roo till next time.

*Peter (Stinger) Nettleton*

## Editorial

G'Day everyone, welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter for the 2000/2001 Poetry year. Given the Herculean task of producing a Newsletter, carried out single-handedly, in the past, by Kay Stehn from Albany, the new committee decided to appoint a sub-committee to oversee the production. We hope that by delegating some of the tasks, we will lighten the Editor's load and manage to produce a Newsletter every month.

We invite you to contribute to the Newsletter, through Poetry, Yarns, or even ideas about the way that the Association should be run. All ideas or articles are welcome as long as they obey generally accepted community standards of decorum and taste.

You will have undoubtedly noticed that the attendance at the "Come All Ye" meetings has markedly grown over the past twelve months, due in part to the general community resurgence of Bush Poetry, but mainly through word of mouth advertising by the audience at our meetings. An informal pole conducted at the July meeting revealed that most of the new attendees had come to hear of the Association by word of mouth.

The new committee is mindful of the need to raise the profile of the Association by strategically placed advertising. To this end the same committee that is producing this Newsletter, will also be looking for appropriate advertising strategies. Your input into this would be most welcome

The next twelve months promise to be very exciting from both a poetry and social point of view. The new committee is brimming over with enthusiasm for the challenges that lie ahead.

## Come all Ye 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000

This meeting was preceded by the Association's AGM so after the formalities it was time to let our hair down. With an influx of new members, mainly coming by word of mouth, the venue was jam packed with about 100 people. Could we blame the GST for the increase?

Our MC for the night was **Keith Lethbridge** who regaled us with his poetry and accordion as well as his very expert and amazing rendition of Advance Australia Fair on a gum leaf. Could you get anything more patriotic than that!

I think the theme for this evening could be encapsulated by the title of one of **Syd Hopkins'** poems 'Laughter and Tears' rendered with 'Tender loving Care' by **Barry Higgins** later in the evening. The evening also featured Brides, Birthdays and Booze (not necessarily in that order).

**Ron Evans** started the ball rolling for the brides with 'Hitched' by CJ Dennis. **Keith Lethbridge** also contributed to the matrimonial lines with his rendition of 'Digger takes a Bride' and **Rusty Christensen** continued down that aisle with Bob Magore's 'Who Gives the Bride Away'.

Love and Marriage is definitely 'Something We Do' as humans through laughter, tears and perseverance, which is all good material for poetry, brought together successfully by other poets for the evening. For example, **Joan Macneall** started with her own poems 'Is it something we do?' and 'Heaven Forbid', while **Verla Weston** contributed her own 'A kind of Loving'.

This was followed by **Tess Stubbs'** allegory on strange partnerships with her own poem 'The Dove and the Ostrich'. (The whole audience gave a sad sigh for the poor bird's fate revealed dramatically at the end of the poem.) Other perils of dalliance were also highlighted in **Geoff Bebb's** 'The Rain Gauge Man'.

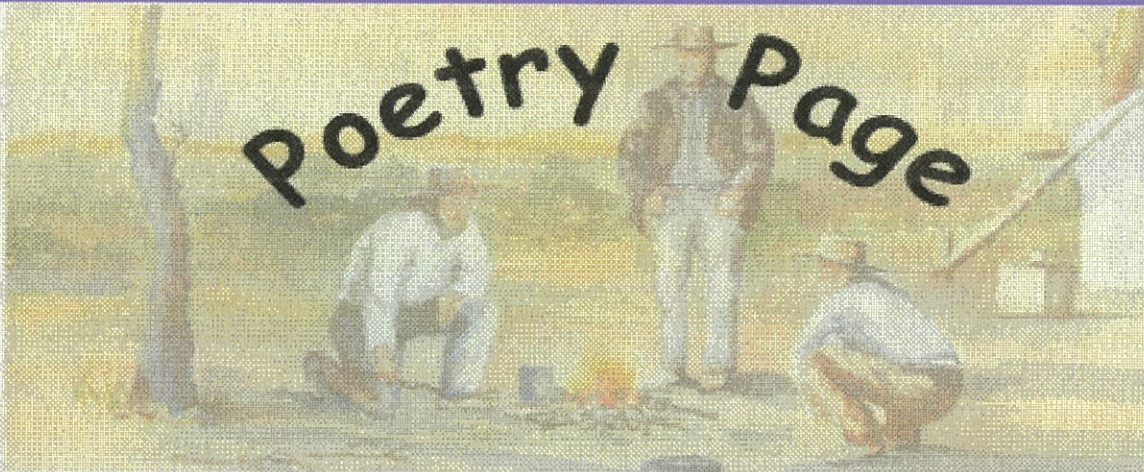
On to Birthdays with all their humour and pathos. **Rusty Christensen** started the ball rolling with 'The Big 60' by Keith Lethbridge which highlights our own hopes and fears about aging in a very humorous way. **Phil Strutt** had his own version of 'Peter's 50<sup>th</sup>' written on the fly. I always admire the instant creativity generated in this Association.

Thinking of special days there were two events highlighted this evening. The first was **Beth Scott's** special day running with the Olympic Torch. She brought the momento torch in to show us and said that it will be a day she'll remember, when swinging on her porch when she is older. I don't think age will ever catch up with this lady, who is so vibrant and energetic that she lights up the room.

Another date, which you may care to remember, is "**Wattle Week**" in Dalwallinu (11-16th September) They have a wonderful list of events including Bush Poetry which you may wish to enjoy if you are travelling in the area.

Our Australian Country heritage is definitely the great catalyst for Bush Poetry, whether humorous or nostalgic, traditional or modern. This is also came across strongly this evening with **Brendon Parker** reciting 'An Old Master, by CJ Dennis. Meanwhile **Ron Evans** (not in CJ Dennis mode) recited 'The Man from Snowy River' by A B Patterson and 'The Bush Barber' by anonymous, brought in by Rosa Celenza.

**Continued P7**



### Hats Off to Peter Capp

It's time we poets wrote an ode to honour Peter Capp,  
 This zany poet's always there to sprout his brand of rap.  
 He always wears a floral shirt that's glaring to the eyes,  
 A casual sort of bloke is Capp; the sort of mate you'd prize.

This bloke just overflows with fun, he leaps around the stage,  
 Reporting on the Wongons; when at shearing he's engaged.  
 Of Walley's antics on the line; and Big Ted's dreadful plights.  
 Of Morris on the racetrack; spiels on a battler's rights.

His poem 'bout the Farting Cup is known around the world.  
 Our Cappy's an exponent when his poet's tongue's unfurled.  
 He waves his arms with fervour, he whispers and he yells,  
 The crowd below him spellbound as his bawdy odes he tells.

This bloke's a national treasure, and he's never let us down,  
 Whenever there's a jamboree he'll always motor down  
 To tell a yarn for charity; to bring a laugh or two  
 To people who have known hard times, to people who are blue.

Let's doff our hats to Cappy, he's on Freo's heritage,  
 A funny man, a gentle man, a giant on the stage.  
 He's won most competitions spinning yarns or telling rhyme,  
 We hope he'll be amongst us till he reaches ninety-nine.

**NB.**

And even then, on walking frame, he'll totter to the dais  
 To rock bush poets in their seats, to awe and to inspire us.

© V.P. READ

## The WA Bush Poets joins the National Association.

Following an initiative from our past President, Rusty Christensen, your Association has joined the Australian Bush Poets Association. The wider links with the APBA should offer you more facilities to enjoy poetry wherever you are in Australia. Their calendar of events is on the back page of this issue.

## Australian Writer's Market Place 2000

The APBA sells a directory of over 1100 pages of information on newspapers and journals that accept submissions from authors. It also includes information on national competitions and much more general information that authors may find useful when trying to publish. The Bush Poets is considering purchasing a copy for the Association.

If you are interested in purchasing one for yourself, the cost is \$40. Please contact the Secretary for more information.

## Coming Events

### **Corrigin Agricultural Show - September 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

This may be of interest to general members as well as performers. The organisers are inviting bush poets to perform at various times during the show. (Times have not been set definitely at this stage). Apart from their normal events there will be a fireworks display and sheep shearing competition and band in the pavilion. A Poets Breakfast has also been suggested for Sunday morning. One of the poetry performers will be Peter Blyth, a published author of poetry from his experiences in farming and mining. He won a place in the finals at Tamworth and has performed on Albany radio.

### **Wattle Week - September 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>**

I'm assured, that there are a whole host of events including, wildflower and fauna tours, wine tastings, BBQ's, a Bush Poets Breakfast with poetry thrown in and much more. You can call the Tourist Information Centre during the day or telephone the Shire of Dalwallinu Weekdays (08) 9661 1001 or phone fax 908 9664 1021 for booking for Tours or conduct self drive tours.

### **Boyup Brook Party 29 – 30<sup>th</sup> of September**

Starting from midday on the Saturday for 2 hours this event includes Sunday breakfast. Free camping is available.

Some of you have already been to this event in previous years and have had a great time. Ask Brian Gale about this one. Ring Richard Barron on 9447 2566 for more details. Although I've been told that accommodation at the Railway Barracks is full at this stage, you could ring Jyula Bogar closer to the day and they may have some cancellations.

### **Church of Christ Homes Visit**

Our poets and yarn spinners were in demand recently at a very worthwhile and rewarding program. Haldane House is a Day Respite centre for Young People with a Physical Disability run by the Church of Christ Homes. They asked if a couple of our members would come to recite to the clients, staff and volunteers at the centre. Geoff obliged by doing a session in July and found a very appreciative audience. Rusty has volunteered to do a session in August. It is heartwarming to know that your art can give such pleasure. Perhaps other sessions will follow.

## Other Venues

If anyone has any further ideas for venues where our poetry could be heard eg Seniors centres, special events and festivals, charity fund raisers or some fabulous event we should attend just for fun. Please write in to the newsletter. We always need ideas and we may be able to help your favourite organisation along the way.



# poetry Page

## Just At Sundown

Sometimes when I feel  
I'm losing my punch  
And life has me getting  
All run down  
I make my thoughtful  
Way to the sea  
And walk on the beach  
---Just at sundown.

The sound of the surf  
The cry of the gulls  
The nudge of the breeze  
Help me come down  
To earth and keep  
My feet on the ground  
When I walk on the beach  
--- Just at sundown.

© Arthur Leggett

## Como

In the pulse and push of peak hour, with its monsters made of steel,  
There's an atmosphere of panic that the mind can almost feel.  
In the amber glow of evening, of the day that's come and gone,  
As you cross the concrete footbridge on your way down to the Swan,  
You are shaken by the hustle, by the throb and headlight glare;  
And the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

As you gaze across the water, tinted crimson, claret wine,  
You can just make out the shadow of a boy with fishing line,  
Sitting out there on the jetty with a lost look on his face,  
Quite unheeding of the monsters and their panic stricken pace.  
In his peaceful world there's silence, human love and human care;  
And the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

Further out there in the twilight, swinging slowly with the tide,  
Is a little wooden dinghy with another man inside.  
Every night he comes to listen to the river's peaceful song,  
To forget about the city where he's lived for all too long.  
And he broods upon the freeway with a long unseeing stare;  
While the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

If you venture to the jetty in pursuit of perfect peace,  
In the search for soothing silence, where your worldly cares can cease,  
You will find it quite relaxing in the stillness and the calm  
Where the silky waves of silence are a soothing, healing balm  
And you're free to share the stillness for as long as you are there;  
While the relentless roar of traffic rents the air.

© Geoff Bebb

## Come all Ye 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000 (Continued)

Not to be outdone, **Peter Nettleton** recited 'The Bullshit Artist's Club' by Graham Jenkins, while **Keith Lethbridge** rendered his own 'The Old Wungundie Hall', 'Promoted to Glory' and 'Mum's Driving Lesson'. Finally **Syd Hopkins** gave us his own 'The Illiterate Stockman'.

We were next treated to several offerings, which were sprinkled with more humour starting with

**Beth Scott** with her own poem 'Been around the World' and jokes, which make light of our inevitable aging such as 'Ivy' and 'breakfast in the Nude'. **Geoff Bebb** added to the booze/humour with his 'Bear in Surfer's Paradise'. The ever popular, **Syd Hopkins** had us laughing with his 'Animal Cunning', 'Christmas Cocktail' and 'Insects' recited with beautiful laconic style by **Barry Higgins**.

The ever-increasing audience is testimony to the talent of these versatile poets. I cannot describe fully the fun we had in one page. If you receive our newsletter and haven't **Come All Ye** for a while please, do so .You won't regret it.

*Thank you Lorelie for being the scribe and gathering all the information for this segment, I couldn't do it without you.*

### Fairbridge Folk Festival Report

In the last edition of the Newsletter, we incorrectly reported that the above article had been contributed by Stinger Nettleton. In actual fact it was written by Peter Capp. Sorry Peter.

### Advertising in Your Newsletter

The committee has considered that it may be of interest to members to advertise product for sale or services in the newsletter. We have yet to consider the costs of this (we are waiting to ascertain whether this is indeed a service our members would like). Please give any member of the committee a call with your ideas on this.



**Place Your  
Advertisement  
Here**

**See Hon Sec for advertising  
rates**

## Calendar of Events for Australian Bush Poets Association,

In June 2000, we joined the Australian Bush Poets Association, a.k.a. ABPA, so as to keep in touch with events that are happening in other parts of Australia. Here is a brief calendar of their events to October 2000. We will keep this updated so that if you are interested you may enter their competitions or just attend. Our Past president Rusty Christensen, who attended some of their events recently, reported on his experiences in the last Newsletter

Aug 4	Closing Date "Spirit of Australia" Outback writing competition. (Details speak to our Hon sec 9367 4963)
Aug 4	Closing Date for Newcastle Poetry Prize 2000, (Details speak to our Hon sec 9367 4963)
Aug 11	Closing Date 2000 Victor Harbour Folk Festival Poetry Writing Awards (Kath Edgecombe 06 8271 0424)
Aug 19-20	Camp Oven Festival. North Pine Country Club, Petrie. Enquiries John and Patti Coutts 07 3886 1552
Aug 19-20	Trundle Bush Tucker Day. Trundle NSW Ph Frank 02 6344 1477 Fax 02 6344 1962 bushpoets@westserv.net .au
Aug 22-27	Toyota National Country Music Muster 2000, Amamoor State Forest, vi Gympie Qld. Ph 07 5482 2099
Aug 28	Closing Date Cooee Festival Poetry Competition, Send Entries to PO Box 199, Gilgandra NSW 2827
Sept 1-3	Millmerran Bush Poet's Roundup, Millmerran Qld. Contact Kev Barnes, Ph 07 4695 4209
Oct 7-8	Australian Camp Oven Festival MillMerran
Oct 31	Closing Date Dubbo Outback Writer's Centre Library Competition. PO Box 2994 Dubbo NSW 2830

### About our front cover

The artwork is a scanned image of "Day's End" by Robert (Bob) Sutcliffe, who is a well known Hills Artist and who has generously allowed us to reproduce his painting for the newsletter.

Bob has been doing watercolour and acrylic paintings for many years. His attractive paintings are much in demand, with their subtlety of hues and a genuine feeling for the Australian Bush, with its many characters.

Painting may be Bob's first love, but his first craft is floor tiling at which he is equally expert and extremely creative. If you wish to contact Robert for either of these services his phone number is 9295 2453.

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