

\$2.00

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



ABN: 22 594 556 961

Newsletter : April 2001

WA Bush Poets, Australia Day, Children's Competition 2002

You may submit works from your own children or grandchildren
As well as nominating school groups before October 15 2001

Categories

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------|
| • Juniors | 8-10 years | 20 lines |
| • Intermediate | 11-13 years | 32 lines |
| • Seniors | 14-17 years | 48 lines |

The poems must be entirely the children's work

- Traditional rhyming format
- Of a wholesome nature
- Based on Australia -
(history, way of life, Aussie character, flora, fauna)
- Judges decisions are final
- Send copies – no poems returned
- Author retains copyright
- Permission to be given for a possible anthology
- Book prizes for poets (certificates for the school)

"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel

cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd, Applecross

(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 6/04/2001 at 7:30pm



AROUND THE TRAPS with the Top Dog

Following on from my last column, I've been studying some of the traditional poetic masters just to see what makes them so great and what they have in common with some of our own local heroes. I have to report that, apart from superior spelling, there is very little to separate Peter Capp from Geoffrey Chaucer or Keith Lethbridge from William Wordsworth.



So, how is it that those old pre-romantics and neo-classicists managed to earn a half-decent living out of their scribblings, whilst the bards of the bush today have to stoop to day-jobs to eke out a meagre living, many actually paying good money for the right to present their work to an indifferent public? The answer, in my humble opinion, is TV.

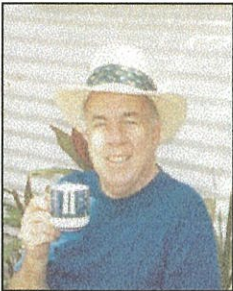
In the olden days, TV wasn't around so the people would spend their winter evenings sitting around the fireplace, taking it in turns to recite the latest hit by John Donne or Percy Shelley. Occasionally, a travelling poet such as Keats or Yeats or whoever, would put up at the local pub and as word got around, everyone would turn out to hear them cast their pearls before them.

Not so today. It seems that if anything is any good, TV takes it over. Conversely, if something is not on TV, it can't be any good and is therefore not worth anything. I think it's high time we got out there and started re-educating the public about poetry, don't you?

Either that or we should get our own TV show.

Arf,

Stinger



G'Day everyone

What a busy month March turned out to be, with Poets plying their wares up and down the State. The Margaret River event, hosted by Aub House certainly seemed to be a brilliant success and we look forward to making this a regular event in the future.

Please keep in mind that springtime is also a very busy time for the Association, with the Royal Show and "Spring in the Valley" in September, followed in October, by the Heats for Australia Day 2002!!

The last CAY Meeting showed a marked reduction in the number of people "reading" their works. Feedback, from both members and new faces, indicated that most people are in favour of this new development. Thanks to all those Poets who have been taking the trouble to learn their lines.

The Association has recently purchased ten specially bound and boxed sets of Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson works as prizes for the schools competition for Australia Day 2002. This raised the question of obtaining sponsorship for this very important competition, which after all, is to encourage the Bush Poets of the future, in whose hands our heritage will be conserved. If anyone has any bright ideas about sourcing sponsorship – or better still would like to volunteer to help us obtain sponsorship, please contact Joan Macneall or myself as soon as you can.

Finally, it is my melancholy duty to inform you that our master poet Keith "Cobber" Lethbridge has accepted a new job based in Halls Creek. We will therefore not be seeing Keith as often as we'd like. We do however congratulate Keith on getting this new position and look forward to receiving many more poems from him to publish in the Newsletter. Best wishes Cobber, from all your friends in the Association.

Geoff Bebb

Come All Ye Meeting March 2001

This meeting we had about 50 people, with many new faces in the audience. Welcome to **Ron Ingham** and **Wendy Walton** in our continuing new faces segment. It's great to see new people to entertain us and keep the material fresh.

Some of our enduring members are also still with us in spirit such as **Brendon Parker** and his family who have moved to the US for a year to promote the Aussie lifestyle.

He sent us an E-mail, received on the night. It seems that Australia is still an unknown continent to the Americans. Brendon, in his message, said that he met an actress on the plane who declared she loved Australia (she was reading a copy of 'The Castle') and enquired whether it was the same month of the year over in Australia as in America at the time??? Can any poet feel a funny poem coming up out of that enquiry? We'd love to hear it next time.

Anyway back to the night. Our MC was **Barry Higgins**, hurriedly recruited once again. I admire these people who can think on their feet, in front of an audience.

Keith Lethbridge kicked off the evening with a poem about his child minding efforts while his wife was in hospital. Apparently it was a "Piece of Cake" or so it seemed at first. Dad's definitely have a different way of interacting with their kids, the chores and food preparation. **Joan Macneall** also told us of her true story of the disastrous meal her dad tried to feed them (gooey custard and apple pie, mostly uncooked) when he took over the reins. She also asked us "How Australian Are You?" through Jim Hayne's poem. It seems there are 20 million ways, or thereabouts, all resourceful and interesting. All with "A Different Point of View" The basic criteria is to love this country. I'll agree wholeheartedly with that premise.

The Rod and Kerry Lee duo who live way at the back of Perth gave us many tales and poems from around their plot. Their "Urban Sanctuary" with every animal imaginable including kelpie and the blue dog, which crop up with loving, silliness in many of Kerry's poems. Rod also gave us a horsey tale from Betsy Chappe of "Joe" the smart horse, who sent for the vet in the nick of time to save its owner.

Some of these tall tales are a *little* outrageous as tall tales should be. I've got a mental picture of Kerry in her wellies and pink nightie up on the roof of the stable one stormy night, with tech screws in her mouth battenning down the hatches for a cyclone. Thanks Rod.

Kerry definitely uses her "Old Boots" well down on their plot as well as for fodder for funny poems to regale us with. Perhaps it's because Kerry is so handy that Rod is left with "Nothing to Do"?. Or perhaps Rod has figured out this ancient female strategy, working on the male ego, to get chores done (hence the very witty poem and Kerry's versatility).

During our 'New Faces' segment we were entertained by **Wendy Wolter** who bravely got up and read her poem "Chance Meeting" written for her late husband. It's a tale of a romantic stockman and his girl. A very sensitive poem of young love. Her second poem was "Trapping Days" another very original poem of Red and Tom and the trapped fox. Thanks, Wendy, love to hear more from you next meeting

Ron Ingham recited two poems "The Burnt North" by G. Jenkins about Jack the jackaroo's fatal ride on a motorbike, wreaking destruction throughout his journey until he struck a cow and ended his trip in a mushroom cloud. His second poem was Henry Lawson's "Army Drum" about the Salvo's frightening Satan from the back of Bourke to the European fields of war with their drumming. These two excellent, well rehearsed, recitations earned Ron a year's free membership to our association. Thanks for the "St Patrick's day song too, Ron.

It's great to have a little musical interlude thrown in as well occasionally. Keith recognises this too with his harmonica interlude before a semi-serious political speech in "Cobber States his Case". Must be the result of working for the public service and seeing some of its wonderful inefficiencies and the results of political will. Keith doesn't let these things get him down though and always works for the good of the people.

In fact a little plug here for **Keith** who is seeking sponsors for his "**Walk from Geraldton to Armadale**" for the **MSA (Multiple Sclerosis Association) on April the 1st 2001**. How about giving him a call and pledging something for this marathon 450k walk, probably in thongs folks!. **Ph. 9399 5270**

These legendry Aussie battlers and bush characters' deeds are often the "Stories Never Told" as in Keith's second poem, a request from Peter Capp. Make sure this deed is recognised folks' fellas and females'.



Poetry Page

Profile of Michelle Sorrell

I'm an Aussie migrant, from the 50's, from Switzerland. I joined the Association a couple of years ago with my partner Geoff. As a teacher and artist I appreciate poetry as an art form but have just started writing poetry last year, to complement my paintings. I'm very concerned about our endangered fauna.

Producing the newsletter (involving a combination of new skills) I really enjoy doing for the Association, whilst the secretarial work is challenging for me. My goal is to produce a poem for each of my paintings and combine these into a book.

Two Black and Red Parrots

Two cheeky little parrots are like gaily-painted clowns
Emerging from their bush land dressed in legal jet-black gowns
Their bright red cheeks are blushing, eyes flashing raucous joke
Are they doubled over laughing or judging human folk

I do hope that it's laughter, not the anger that I see
a dreadful admonition, shrieked on high from every tree
Of habitat's destruction, which they show in glaring stares
With ruffled combs and red-hot cheeks, beseeching us to care

I do enjoy their painted face right up here on my wall
But would prefer to see them, in our native forests tall
Do please preserve our parrots rare, their unique worldwide fame
Enjoy their flying freely *out* of empty faded frames



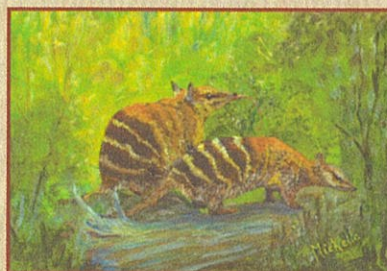
Numbat

Behold the nimble numbat
He never will be tame.
You'll recognise this symbol,
Because of his great fame.

Adorning statehood emblem,
He really should be keen,
To show off and parade some,
In order to be seen.

But he'd rather face extinction.
Have you ever wondered why,
In the face of such distinction,
He's so very, very shy?

In your wildest contemplation,
Could distinction be so wrong?
Could *you* face such acclamation,
With your coloured PJ's on ?



The Tulips of Araluen

The Araluen tulips
throw their petals to the sun,
petals strewn beneath a canopy
of eucalypt and gum.

The Araluen patchwork,
blooms like a gaily coloured
quilt,
on rugged Aussie hilltop
without a trace of silt.

These Araluen migrants,
far from home across the seas
spread their multi-coloured
accents,
right across the Aussie breeze.

The Araluen landscape,
welcomes these exotic blooms,
in a tapestry of colour
to enrich our Aussie rooms.

CAY continued

Rusty Christensen also gave us a very sentimental poem from Bob Maygor about the forgotten men and women who were slaves to the fledgling pearling industry of Broome. "Brome Dreaming" apparently was written as he felt the ghosts rising from the water at the jetty. Banjo's "Mulga Bill's Bicycle" came next to take us for a wild ride. **Syd Hopkinson** lightened the mood with "Love Your Dentist" (unless you're due for a dental check), "Par Golf" and a few jokes before a flourish of a finish for the night with "Paddy's Wake" about an Irishman who had a very sensible idea of holding his wake *before* he died so that he wouldn't miss out on the fun or the booze. The motto is : Don't wait till you're dead to have fun, enjoy life now.

Well all of our presenters and audience are following that motto so join us next month for some more poetry and merriment.

Cheers, from Michelle Sorrell

Coming Events and News

Derby Boab Festival Poet's breakfast – 8th July

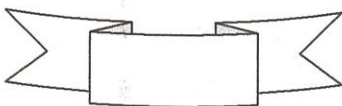
This festival has a new organiser. Cheryl Holmes is going to Ireland. The new coordinator is **Kevin Jamieson 9193 2124 or 042752 4573**. All are welcome to attend or perform if you are passing through.

Lawson and Patterson Night - 6th July 2001

The association intends to hold this special theme night on the night of our annual AGM. The advanced warning is so that poets may learn any new poems for the event as well as circling the night on their calendar.. We would like to have a really great turn out for this event, in period costume if you wish. If you wish to be a reciter, please contact **Barry Higgins (9407 5311)**, with your selection, as we would like as much variety as possible without duplication. More details in coming issues. Please also call us with your ideas for making this a really memorable evening.

Michelle Sorrell 9367 4963

Celebrations



Remember

WE NEED YOUR POEMS



We need more poems to make the book viable.

The **celebrations** could be about any event or special day from Anzac Day, footy season opening, Valentine's Day, Mother's day, a new baby's birth, **any** reason to rejoice and **celebrate**.

- Poems of high quality,
- Rhythm & rhyme
- about 1-2 pages long
- Aussie content
- To msorrell@iinet.net.au or on disc to Geoff or Michelle

Our first poetry book has sold well
With only a few copies left.
Obtain one of these last copies at the
next CAY meeting

A Welter of Racing and Horse Poems



By WABP&YSA

Contact **Michelle Sorrell**
PH 9367 4963

For information on either of these
books

Past Events

Association members have been busy last weekend reciting at 2 events. The first was at **Marybrook Winery** down at Margaret River. "Six of our Best" poets – Rusty Christensen, Brian Gale, Peter Capp, Ron Evans, Rod and Kerry Lee and Keith Lethbridge. Lorelie also went down with Phyllis and Trevor Tobin as spectators. Meanwhile back in Perth for **Harmony Day** Connie Herbert and Geoff Bebb entertained a group of Taiwanese people with real Aussie poetry (much to their bemusement and amusement). More about these with pics next month.

The Country Music Club of Boyup Brook sent Brian Gale a very nice letter to thank the members who participated in the festival. For next year they plan even more entertainment on the Friday night. Brian has also been invited to join the Canadian and American Cowboy Poets in Alberta in June this year. Our association members are definitely very busy everywhere enjoying and creating the upsurge in Australian Poetry.

Well Done everyone!



Poetry Page

Profile of Lorelie Tacoma

Our inaugural secretary and current vice president, Lorelie Tacoma spent her youth in Mt. Lawley. After business college she began a secretarial career until her marriage in early 1955 to Eelco Tacoma took them to a one-teacher school at Marvel Loch, followed by a year at Rottnest Island. They then took off for a year in Europe and two years working in Canada before returning to Perth and further interesting secretarial positions until her retirement 5 years ago.

Two happy years were spent traveling in Australia and the world before Eelco succumbed to cancer late in 1998.

Lorelie was the association secretary for nearly four years and continues to enjoy meeting the diverse membership, the considerable talents, and particularly the Australian nature of the organization. She considers the encouragement of the Australian way of life as most important.

Trig Station Names

Let me tell of the fate of the Trigs in this State,
Whose names are now fast disappearing:
It's all part of a need, for computers can't read,
And a number is all that you're hearing.

Now Surveyors all know that the names have to go
To prevent any further confusion;
But I somehow suspect, that the mind will reject
The new-numbering system's intrusion.

For we'll all feel the loss of such great names as Gosse,
Binda Boudna or Cooyooraparie
For those numbers, you'll find, won't inspire your mind
Like Myntabyng, Viks or Safari.

And the Trig Name men find satisfaction in Lyne,
Bull ya cobbie or Yarrabolina,
Whilst a name such as Finke, would annoy those that think
The numerical system a winner.

A numerical king, will hear Wallabyng,
Or Cudyea and be aggravated
But the name men can see, worth in Yandandaree
And in names like the Knoll or Serrated.

Paisley, Whitefield and Hiern will all go in their turn,
With Coondambo, Bulpara and Purvis
And it seems such a shame, that we'll lose all those names
That have given such excellent service

All the number men scorn Hogarth Hill, Peppercorn,
Lookout, Eba or Balta bal tanna
But pray what do they see in K763
As compared to the name Wirricanna,

It just doesn't seem wise that the name, Hallam Rise,
Coober Pedy, Heartbreak and Derf-ecce
Won't be there for us all, to help us recall
Stirling trips like the Kingoonya Recce

Numbers can't call to mind all the stories you'll find
Of the ruggedness out there at Lepa
Of the climb at Woorong (and you're sure to be wrong)
When recalling which number is steeper

And the new numbers mean that we're losing Sabine,
Al yu kurlpy, Red Lake and Compeera
And Wingilpin it's true, will be going out too
As the new number system comes nearer

All our links with the past, will be severed at last
When the new number system's completed
For in few years you'll find, that the names from your mind
Unconsciously will be deleted.

© Geoff Bebb

A Tribute to Rusty Christensen

The man who stood upon the dais
Looking all so proud
A man whose friendly face
Inspired the eager crowd
Although not so young,
As some who joined him there
The many tales and poems brought forth
(With always more to spare)
Took each mind and heart away freely
With no cost to pay
Except to feel the passion there
The love, the joy, the fun, the pain.



"Australia day", just once a year,
All have come from far and near
To feel the spirit, to be inspired,
To come along for the "Aussie ride!"
Bringing to life times and people past.

Their stories are heard at last
No cinema needed, no T.V.
Just word pictures, clear as can be
With gestures from head to toe
Arms and face help you know
How life-like pictures come to be
Clear, precise, for all to see.

Yes! Rusty has given us "his Australia," to share
A treasure for all, rich and rare.
Your spirit now urges you – it's fair,
"Australia Day" – you must be there!

Thank You Rusty

From Rosa Celenza ©

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	Pets People Places	
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No Gallery fees		

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Call Michelle 9367 4963**

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**The Members of the Editorial Sub-Committee
Would like to thank all those,
who contributed to this Edition of The Newsletter.**

**Without their support and enthusiasm,
a Newsletter like this would not be possible.**

Many Thanks

Geoff Bebb - Editor

Calendar of Events for WA Bush Poets Association

This section is a to help WA Bush Poets plan their activities for the coming months. The table below will show events that the committee knows about, whether or not they have a fixed date.

We will try our best to keep this table updated so that if you are interested, you may enter the events or just attend.

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
29 June – 2 July/2001	Australian Bush Poetry Championships Winton Qld.	P.O. Box 84 Hughenden Qld 4821
TBA	Derby Boab Festival	P.O. Box 87 Derby WA 6728 PH. 08 9193 1065
6 th July 2001	AGM of BPYSA and Patterson and Lawson Night. We need committed available Committee Members!!	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963
Sept 2000	Spring in the Valley – in the Swan Valley Poets wanted	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963
Sept 2000	Royal Show – Poets wanted for Breakfast	Michelle Sorrell Ph: 9367 4963

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