

The

September 2016

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN



Next Muster September 2nd, 7pm - Bentley Park Auditorium, Bentley Park

MC :Lorelie Tacoma 9365 2277 tlodelie@gmail.com

Inaugural Donnybrook Poets & Picnic Day

Expressions of interest sought for poets wishing to perform at the Inaugural Donnybrook Poets & Picnic Day to be held on Sunday 9th October 2016 at a private property just outside of Donnybrook.

Please contact Alan Aitken on 0400249243 if you are interest-



SNOW PICK BOOK LAUNCH FOR OCTOBER MUSTER

The book of Snows' poetry is finally finished and ready to be collected.

I have requested that about 20min be set aside on the launch night,

This will give me time to intro the book and thank those involved.

Val Hobson a chance to talk about the shearers connected with the poetry and Margaret Buckey, (Snows daughter) can give us some insight to his life. John Hayes

THIS LOOKS LIKE BEING A GREAT NIGHT, THANKS TO JOHN FOR ORGANISING THE LAUNCH. Ed.

SHORE LINES 2016

Bunbury Writing for Performance Festival (Not for just Bush Poetry)

Bunbury's own writing for performance competition and festival is now open to entrants of all ages from across Australia! Entries are open until **Wednesday 31 August 2016** and will be judged by an expert panel from Edith Cowen University.

There is an impressive range of prizes on offer including cash for Open, Primary and Secondary winners and runners up, plus an opportunity for the winner of the Open category to receive professional writing consultations with ECU's published authors.

Writing and performing workshops will be available to all entrants.

Visit <http://bit.ly/shoreline2016> to find out more or to download the entry form.

The performance festival will be held on Sunday 30 October 2016 at Edith Cowan University's Spring Fair, and will feature a selection of brand new works performed by community members, with the support of Stark Raven Theatre.

Theme for this year's 16 line (maximum) Toodyay Roadwise Short Poetry Competition is: "Distracted drivers are dangerous".

See the website for more details

Distracted Drivers Kill!



WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association

State Championships 2016

FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER – SUNDAY

6th NOVEMBER 2016

TOODYAY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of KATE DOUST MLC and posted with the generous assistance of Ben Wyatt, MLA - Member for Victoria Park.

President's Preamble - September 2016



I have always appreciated growing up as a member of a large extended family. As well as grandparents, I had many aunts, uncles and cousins close at hand. Meg and I have now been on the road for five months. We often think of our three sons back in Perth, their wives and children - our grandchildren, and look forward to catching up with them in October. Nevertheless, we now have the chance to spend more time with our siblings in Queensland and NSW, and our many friends on this side of the country.

This makes us appreciate all the more our new family, our Bush Poetry family. We have enjoyed the hospitality of several poets and partners in every state we have travelled through. Each festival we attend becomes a reunion of good friends from past events, and always we add more and more to that circle.

Last month I mentioned Susie and Mel at Lightning Ridge. Since then we have stayed with Gary and Cindy Fogarty, who many met in Boyup Brook a few years ago. Gary is a great writer as well as performer. He took exception to the way the press treated Mack Horton after he won Gold at the Olympic Games. Look out for his poem "In Defence of Mack Horton" on his Facebook page. Long John Best says "G'day" to everyone he met at the Perth muster and at Boyup Brook last year. He and Glenny live in Brisbane's northern suburbs, and have a strong group of poets who meet fortnightly at North Pines. We hope to get back there in December, but right now we are heading to Gympie Music Muster to camp with good friends Marco Gliori, Neil MacArthur and Peter Capp. Peter now lives in a converted church in the beautiful town of Lawrence, right on the Clarence River in northern NSW.

Preparations continue for Toodyay. I have reserved sites at the Toodyay Caravan Park (by the racecourse) but you need to contact them yourself put your name on one. 08 9574 2534. Until next month it is farewell from the Happy Campers making the most of adventure before dementia.

Bill Gordon President

If you are interested in more information about **poetry competitions and festivals** go to the ABPA website. All entry forms are available through web links.

OCTOBER 2016

22-23 October - C J Dennis Poetry Festival, Toolangi Vic.

14 October - Closing Date - Lambing Flat Regional FAW Writing Competition, Young NSW.

7 October - Closing Date - ABPA WA Championships, performance and written competitions, Toodyay WA.

7-9 October - Aussie Entertainment Muster - Victorian Song Championship, Poets Breakfasts, Workshops, jamalong etc. at Benalla Bowls Club, NE Victoria.

SEPTEMBER 2016

9-11 September - ABPA NSW Bush Poetry Championships and Binalong Bush Poetry Prize, Binalong NSW.

11 September - Logan Village Music and Heritage Festival Bush Poetry Competition, Logan Village Qld.
(See 1 September closing date)

1 September - Closing Date - Logan Village Music and Heritage Festival Bush Poetry Competition, Logan Village Qld.

MC ROSTER 2016

Here is an upcoming list of MCs and readers from the classics...still some spots available so let me know if you would like to be included.

As you will note we have reinstated some of regular nights. If you have any ideas for other special nights let me know and I'll include them (as long as the committee agrees).

Date 2016/7	Master/mistress of ceremonies	Reader from the classics.....	Extra information
September	Lorelie Tacoma 9385 2277		Traditional night
October			Snow Pick Book Launch...this will take approximately 20-30mins and will include guest speakers.
November			16 line poem Theme: Recycling
December			Christmas poems if possible..first half. Christmas cake and port. Bring a gift to receive a gift(cost \$5-\$10.00)
January			16 line poem Theme: Resolutions

Stand by comperes (if available...Terry Piggott)

MARATHON WRITING COMPETITION!

The Society of Women Writers WA is hosting another Marathon Writing Competition on Saturday 17 September 2016, from 9.30am to 4pm at Citiplace Community Centre in the Perth Railway Station Concourse.

Will you accept the challenge? Helen Iles, President of the Society, will provide writing prompts to unlock your creativity. You will be amazed at how much writing you can produce.

Helen, who is an award-winning author and poet; publisher and editor, says, "Don't worry about grammar, punctuation or spelling, but let the words flow and fall as they may. The object of the marathon is not to create perfect pieces of writing on the day, but to produce first drafts, to unearth fresh new material and generate ideas for future writing projects."

Bring your favourite pens - notepaper will be supplied. There will be ten challenges, each lasting 25 minutes. The winner will receive a trophy and certificate. There are also prizes for second and third places.

The cost of the Marathon is \$20 and it is open to men and women. Tea and coffee provided.

For bookings call 0415 840 031 or email swwofwa@gmail.com For information on the Society of Women Writers WA, check the website: www.swwofwa.com



Charlie's shop on the corner of Walter Road began as a small delicatessen
But it has expanded over 40 years to become a family supermarket,
with small meats and
butcher shop his specialty.



The Gourmet Bunny **By John Hayes**

We went into Charlie's to buy some fresh meat
his butcher is known as best on the street
I fronted the counter and viewed the display
then I asked if he had any rabbits that day

"The rabbits are twenty five dollars a kilo" he said..

"the skin we've removed with the guts and the head

They're free of any disease as you see on the notice

" Calici Virus or Myxamotosis"

"I give you my word that they've all been well bred

all stamped as organic, only grass were they fed

They're free ranging rabbits, now much in demand

for human consumption; the best in the land.

These rabbits I vow and give my guarantee,
will make a great meal for at least two or three.

Just chuck in some spuds, any vegies will do;
add a litre of water to make a great stew".

I thought this bloke must be way off his head
to charge the high price he so casually said
for this four legged creature considered at best
a curse to the settlers; a nationwide pest.

"Do you know," said I with an ill concealed glare.

"When young I sold rabbits--- a shilling a pair.
and one penny each for an undamaged skin
the price you ask is a terrible sin."

"Just listen to me, mate," the butcher replied,
the prices I ask are for me to decide
If you don't agree, trot your frame out of here
or you're gonna be served cauliflower ear.

"What's more." he added, "fore you pack up
and go'
we're not back the bush in the years long ago.
The rabbits, like you, cannot live in past ages

My Dad, standing nearby, then stuck in his nose:

"I fancy a bunny; I'll take one of those"

He pulled out his wallet and peeled off some bread

I thought the old boy must have gone off his head.

He looked at me with that steely blue gaze
saying 'You never knew of Depression days.
when the rabbit you curse as the pest of creation,
fed many a settler that was near to starvation"

"So let me buy this bunny," I heard him say.
"for this one occasion I'm willing to pay.
so Mum can knock up a stew in the crock pot
and we can spin some old yarns almost forgot."

"Though I must agree" he added with a wry grin,

"the price that he asks is a terrible sin"

Though that Akubra of yours is a rabbit fur hat,
you didn't squeal when paying two hundred for that."

JUNE 28 2016



**Do you want to be part of the National Scene —
Then you might consider joining the Australian
Bush Poets Assn
www.abpa.org.au . Annual membership \$30
Stay up to date with events and competitions
right across Australia**

The Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize

For an unpublished single poem or linked suite
to 80 lines. First Prize: \$2000 + publication in
Island + annual subscriptions to a range of literary
journals. Second Prize: publication + annual sub-
scriptions. 2016 judges are Sarah Holland-Batt, Mi-
chael Farrell and Kent MacCarter. Entries close 2
September. Entry fees \$20/\$10 *Island* subscribers.
See Writing WA for more information.

Kangaroo and Emu

That Kangaroo and Emu too
resplendent on our Coat of Arms
are part of Australian culture
yet a menace on some farms.
So many foreign tourists
simply cannot understand
both creatures number millions
across this big red land.



When they hear that we eat them
and slay them for pet food
in astonishment and unbelief
their comments can be rude.
Would New Zealanders eat their kiwis
or eagle roast be served in U.S.A?
If Canadians ate their beavers
there'd be all hell to pay.
While India reveres the tiger

and Norway their Fjord horse
in U.K. the British bulldog
never gets to be main course!
For Finland it's the brown bear
Denmark claims the graceful swan
all so low in population
if dined on would soon be gone.

However our own kangaroo
and emus breed so fast
while living over terrain
spread out so wide and vast
that if we didn't cull them
sometimes creating such a fuss
history may someday record
that they exterminated us!
Pete. Stratford. 15

Written Afterwards.

*So the days of my tramping are over,
And the days of my riding are done —
I'm about as content as a rover
Will ever be under the sun;
I write, after reading your letter —
My pipe with old memories rife —
And I feel in a mood that had better
Not meet the true eyes of the wife.*

*You must never admit a suggestion
That old things are good to recall;
You must never consider the question:
'Was I happier then, after all?'
You must banish the old hope and sorrow
That make the sad pleasures of life,
You must live for To-day and To-morrow
If you want to be just to the wife.*

H. Lawson 1897.

From the Henry Lawson Society Newsletter,
August, 2016



Hello,

Apart from being a Bush Poet I am also a member of the Lambing Flat FAW. We are conducting our 34th annual writing competition and it would be great if you would consider sending in an entry. Poems up to 50 lines are very welcome but how about having a crack at a short story? 1500 words is not overlong but gives room to develop a good story. The subject can be fiction, true story, bush yarn, tall story, or life experience or whatever takes your fancy.

Regards, Ted Webber

Lambing Flat (Young NSW) Regional
Fellowship of Australian Writers (NSW) Inc
invite BUSH POETS to enter our
2016 Short story and Poetry
Writing Competition

Closing date 14th October 2016 For more info email
lambingflatbranchfaw@hotmail.com
Or call Ted 0459707728

Word limits, Prize details and Terms and Conditions
of Entry can be emailed. Check with Ted
Entries can be submitted by post or email

Jem's gems

Can Cold Water Clean Dishes

This is for all the germ conscious folks
who worry about using cold water to clean.

John went to visit his 90 year old grandfather
in a very secluded, rural area of Queensland.
After spending a great evening chatting the night away,
the next morning John's grandfather prepared
breakfast of bacon, eggs and toast.

However, John noticed a film like substance on his plate,
and questioned his grandfather asking,
'Are these plates clean?'

His grandfather replied, 'They're as clean as cold water
can get 'em.

Just you go ahead and finish your meal, Sonny!

For lunch the old man made hamburgers.

Again, John was concerned about the plates,
as his appeared to have tiny specks around
the edge that looked like dried egg and asked,
'Are you sure these plates are clean?'

Without looking up the old man said, 'I told you before,
Sonny, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get
them.

Now don't you fret, I don't want to hear another word
about it!

Later that afternoon, John was on his way to a nearby
town and as he was leaving,
his grandfather's dog started to growl, and wouldn't let
him pass.

John yelled and said, 'Grandfather,
your dog won't let me get to my car'.

Without diverting his attention from the football game
he was watching on TV, the old man shouted!

'Coldwater, go lay down now, yah hear me!
Meet Coldwater!

Sent in by Jem
Shorland



Hello Christine

The first time you have heard from me I think. It is timely that I send my 'Bush Dunny' poem in for whatever use you may make of it, apart from it serving as an introduction with this invite to all and any Bush Poets who may like to come and liven up our Annual Bush Picnic on my home property at Busselton on Sun 18th September.

Could you possibly include this flyer in the Bulletin ?

Would like to hear from you.

Cheers

Mary Mc Gregor - Craigie

0418 932 023

OUR BUSH DUNNY

Instructions for the uninitiated

Just a lap of old tarp 'round a slender Redgum,
a bit of bush handiwork and the rustiest drum.
No mirror nor marble in this humble amenity,
no noxious concoctions or vandals obscenity.
Just the bush, the birds and the breeze,
the shade and the scent of the eucalypt trees.
Visiting from the city,
you think it's not pretty?
Well, if you're tired of the greenery,
can't stand the scenery,
don't take off at a run
when the paperwork's done,
or reach for the button
like civilized mutton,
Pick up the tin
And pour some sand in!
No hurry no haste,
no water to waste
except for the wee.
Last but not least please close down the lid,
the possums at night might be glad that you did.
Better by far
than other types are,
no treatment plant needed nor poisonous potions,
no overflow here to be pumped to the ocean.

By Mary Mc Gregor-Craigie.

Invitation

Please join us for the

Annual Bush Picnic at Nilgup Park

Sunday 18th of September 2016 - Rain, Hail or Shine

Meet at entrance gate opposite Abbey Beach Resort at 11am,
Proceed in convoy at 11:30am sharp to 'Picnic Place' at the creek.

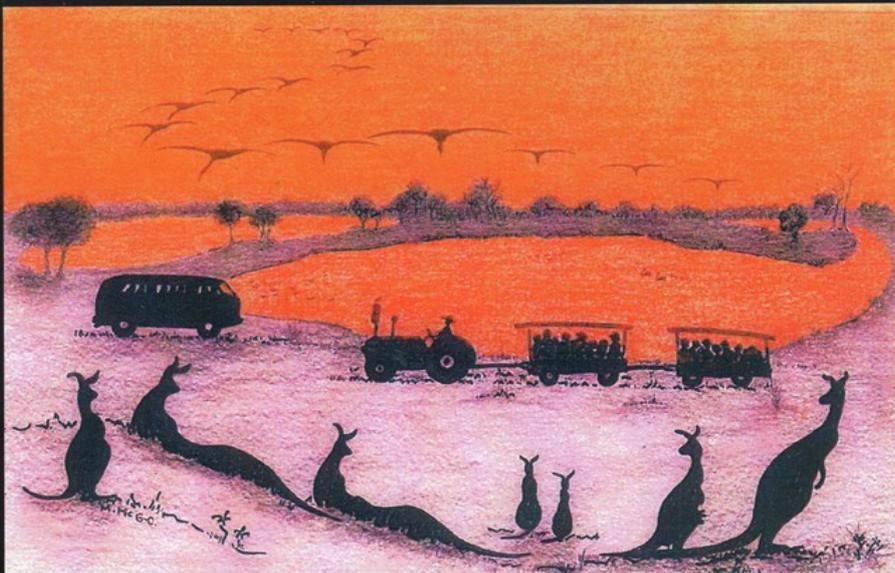
BYO: Picnic Lunch, Chair, Bush Poetry, Musical Instrument & Songs if you have any.
Please wear protective clothing from the ground up! No Shorts or Thongs!
Canoes Available: (change of clothes may be advised)

We will provide: Tables, Hot Plate, Campfires, Rain Water & Boil the Billy
We will build the usual bush dunny

Sorry no dogs

Self contained people welcome to camp overnight (conditions apply)

Contact: Mary (Mac's) Mobile: 0418 932 023
Email: nilgup.park@hotmail.com



FRISK

His daily work was varied
and in different situations
oft times in another shop
doing fittings and installations.
Outside would sit his old van
its doors and windows rarely shut
while inside, looking half asleep,
would be his faithful mutt.

Now she was sort of Border Collie
mostly mustard with some white
and while not really stock trained
she'd move cows about alright.
But she had "personality"
as all who knew her would attest
something like a permanent case
of canine P.M.S.

So as she lay amongst the gear
in the back of his work van
everything in there was safe
from any light fingered hand.
Her head would rest on front paws
looking placid as can be
yet had a stranger reached in
they'd be an instant amputee!

The local tradies knew of her
and always stayed well clear
while she was in his vehicle
no others ventured near.
Despite her mild appearance
there's none would take the risk
for she had a reputation;
there was no guard dog quite like
Frisk.

Pete. Stratford. 4.1.16

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association State Championships 2016

Conducted under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.
FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2016
TOODYAY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Entries Close 7th October 2016

WRITTEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Categories– Please tick categories entered:

1. **Open Serious** }
2. **Open Humorous** } The WA Written Champion Poet will be judged across these 2 categories
3. **Novice** Only for poets who have never won a Bush Poetry Written Competition
4. **Junior** 5 – 12 years old
5. **Junior** 13 ---17 years old
6. **Local** - The best poem by a resident of the Avon Valley

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Title/s of Poem/s

Category Entered

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Entry Fees: Adults \$5 per poem; Juniors Free; (no refunds if disqualified). (Plus \$5 for judges comments if required). Payment can be made by:

Cheque or Money Order: made out to “WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Ass'n”, and posted to:

WABPYS State Championship Entry
c/--Irene Conner
PO Box 584
Jurien Bay 6516. or

Direct Bank Transfer: BSB 633--000 Ac/ 1569 896 59; Name WA Bush Poets; Ref (your name), then 2016 SCP; and then email treasurer@wabushpoets.asn.au informing of Direct Bank Transfer.

Declaration

1.I agree to the conditions on the reverse side of this application form:

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Guardian (if Junior) _____

Conditions of Entry Written Competition Toodyay, 2016

1. Entry fee per poem: Adults: \$5.00; Juniors: Free; No refunds if disqualified. If a detailed commentary from the judge is required, please add an extra \$5 per poem.
2. Maximum 4 entries per person
3. Entries must be the original work of the entrant
4. Entries must have very good rhyme and rhythm and be an original story with an Australian theme
5. A poem which has previously won any written competition cannot be entered
6. Poem, which in the opinion of the judge contain offensive material, will be disqualified
7. Poems must be typed (or electronically printed) on white A4 size paper, with black printing in a plain font, size 10-12
8. Two copies of each poem must be provided
9. The entrant's name or any identifying information MUST NOT appear on the poem/s – ONLY on this entry form
10. The poem's name must appear on the top of the page. If more than one page, the poem's name must appear at the top of each page, and pages must be numbered and stapled
11. The competition is conducted in accordance with ABPA guideline recommendations (refer to www.abpa.org.au/competitions)
12. Judging will be by a judge approved by the ABPA
13. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
14. Entries may be displayed at the WA State Championships at Toodyay (Friday 4th November – Sunday 6th November 2016 and may be published in the WA Bush Poets monthly newsletter “The Bully Tin” and I hereby give my permission for such display and/or publication

(Note: to assist in facilitating such publication, entrants are requested to email their poem/s to Irene Conner at the following address: iconner21@wn.com.au)

Prizes

Monetary prizes will be awarded for the best poem in each of the 6 categories

Each winner as well as those judged 'Highly Commended' or 'Commended' will receive a Certificate.

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Great Poetry site:

eMuse: Independent Bush Poets Newsletter. 1300 plus subscribers (on-line free!) Australia-Wide! Through his free distribution of this most informative, 20 page *eMuse*, (*An Independent Bush poetry newsletter*) Editor: Wally “The Bear” Finch. P. O. Box 68, Morayfield, 4506, Qld. Phone: (07) 54 955 110. E-Mail: wmbear1@bigpond.com

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association

WA State Championships 2016

Conducted under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

FRIDAY 4th November - SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2016

Entries Close 7th October 2016

PERFORMANCE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Categories - Please tick categories entered:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Original Saturday AM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Novice Classic Reader Saturday PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traditional (Other Poet) Sunday AM
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior (Other Poet) Saturday AM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yarn Spinning Saturday PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Original Serious Sunday AM
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Novice Original Saturday AM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern (Other Poet) Saturday PM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Original Humorous Sunday PM
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Novice (Other Poet) Saturday AM				
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For "Traditional" and "Modern" classifications, to avoid repetition of poems, entrants are requested to indicate their First and Second choice of poems below. These will be decided by the WABP&YS Committee on a "first in" basis.

Traditional (1stchoice) _____ (2ndchoice) _____

Modern (1st choice) _____ (2nd choice) _____

Entry Fees: Adults \$5.00 per event; Juniors Free. Payment by:

Cheque or Money Order: made out to "WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners Ass'n", and posted to:

WABPYS State Championship Entry

c/--Irene Conner

PO Box 584 Jurien Bay, WA,6156

or

Direct Bank Transfer: BSB 633---000 Ac/ 1569 896 59; Name WA Bush Poets; Ref (your name), then 2016 SCP ; and then email: treasurer@wabushpoets.asn.au informing of Direct Bank Transfer.

Declaration

August Muster Notes

These notes were written by Nancy Coe on the night, expanded and typed up by Dot Langley. We had a few new people with us tonight and also Phil (our musician) and his family. Our MC for the night was Frank Heffernan and as this was his debut presentation he did an extremely good job keeping the entertainment flowing.

Our first poet was Frank Heffernan and his own poem "The New Land Farmer" told of the clever government action of allotting land to people to farm. But of course that scourge of the farmers THE BANK did not play fair and with rising costs and falling markets the farmers were facing ruin. A lot of the land was then sold off at a high discount, often neighboring farmers who perhaps had better loan conditions absorbed this land into their own. (Dot note: One of my Uncles was left with nothing and all he could do was work as a labourer sometimes on his previously owned property.

With a Bill Kearns poem "Entrapment" or "the terrifying true tale of Trevor's trapped testicle" Jack Matthews told of poor Trevor who sitting on his stacker chair got his "family jewels" caught between the slats, With all kinds of actions to try and disengage these hanging, now swelling 'jewels' and facing possible castration the ambulance people carried him off to hospital where he becomes the highlight of the day. He now makes sure that his undies are tight and fitting well and he sits only on his canvas folding chair.

Allen Aitken advertised the Donnybrook Picnic with the Poets. See the Bulletin for full details. Allen's poem was by Edward Harrington "The Banjo" written about the life of Banjo Paterson. Nearly all the popular poems by Banjo are mentioned and a story is woven around them.

Caroline Sambridge with one of her new stories "the Monsters hate Aldi" this story told of the monsters hiding in the roof of the shopping centre and hating the disruption that the new store Aldi was causing. With its lines of people and having to pay for a shopping cart this was annoying these Monsters to the point of perhaps getting rid of the people by annihilating everyone. What a gory mess that would make!

John Hayes reminisced about the price of rabbits when he was young getting three pence each for a rabbit then but seeing rabbit for sale in Coles for \$25 a kilo was enough to make him wonder as this animal was always seen as a poor man's food now has become a delicacy only for the well off people!! His poem "The Rabbits" tells of the trials and dealing with this pest.

Brian Langley told us some interesting information about the Dutch Indies Company and how many of their ships were lost at sea. Some of them quite small and of course some of them were the famous ones wrecked off our coast. The Gilt Dragon is one we all know along with other 'treasure ships'. His poem "Ship Wreck" is inspired by the wrecking of these ships. This lone survivor, who after enduring a horrendous storm which sees his ship wrecked on a reef, finds himself alone on a barren foreign shore. He weeps for his family, his home, his never having experienced love, but mostly he weeps for he is also alone.

With his poem "The Tenth Light Horse" by John Dengate Robert Gunn tells of the leaving Australia (from Albany) of the 'Tenth' and their terrible times fighting in the different campaigns. (Dot Note My Dad was a "Tenth Light Horseman" but of course by his time to fight for "King and Country" the horses had largely been taken over by machines. With his second poem Robert heard Peg Vickers do this poem and he asked if he had her permission to do it. This is a language thing with the same spelling having different meanings, in this case a putter (for golf) and a putter (someone who puts something somewhere). So you have got the conundrum of if – can a putter use a putter when putting something away. A very clever poem.

Frank Heffernan had a little poem about golf. Golf always lends itself to various tales – must be the frustration of playing the game that lends itself to words that no one wants to hear to miss adventures involving golf sticks being wrapped around trees, to tales of how many strokes (hits) it took to get from starting point to the 'hole'. These are usually wild and wooly tales that stand supreme in the rarefied atmosphere that is the 19th hole.

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Events to watch and attend:

September 10/11	York Festival
October 21/22/23	Nambung Country Music Festival
November 4/5/6 2017	Toodyay, WABP&Y State Championships
January 26	Wireless Hill. WABP&Y extend invitations to specified participants.
February 19/20/21	Boyup Brook Country Music Festival.

The musical talents of Phil our folk singer and guitarist were fantastic. He has some great Bush verses put to music. He told of the writing of music to poems that then get modified or changed by various singers so that when the song comes around again it is changed completely. (Dot Note - as a way of learning a poem it is worth trying to sing it. It's as if the singing puts the words into the memory better. You also get into the rhythm of the poem and this helps if you are singing it. What tune?? Any tune that you can remember perhaps the Wild Colonial Boy is a good one or Botany Bay, it all depends on the structure of the poem you are trying to learn.)

Supper time and Frank had us all ready for the second half.

Mary Heffernan was our "Classics Reader" with Henry Lawson's "The Drovers Sweet Heart". (Dot Note - this is perhaps the only love poem Henry wrote, but then he wasn't very successful in the marriage and love department!!)

Henry's life was not a happy one as it is suggested that he suffered from Manic Depression and he sought refuge from his mood swings with alcohol and he spent some time in institutions and goal for his failures. On his death people lined the streets for his funeral to farewell Australian's "poet of the people". He is the only poet, so far, to be given a State Funeral.

Lorrain Broun with her own poem "District Nursing" which she loved as she got to hear the stories of the people she cared for. Like the old Norse ex sailor who was now at home in Queensland in the care of the Silver Chain Nurses.

Lesley Mac Alpine choose one written by Kerry Lee "The Mammogram" who describes perfectly the torturous movements that women go through when the mammogram is due. The excruciating pain as the breast is squashed down and down to almost flat and the unfeeling assistant who seems to be only doing this without thinking of the victim, sorry, patient.

(Dot note: whilst I agree with the sentiments of this poem just think of the women who have been saved with early detection of suspicious lumps. We go through this regularly until we reach 70, then they are not going to tell us anymore if the mammogram is due.

What!!! Is my life and possible lumps not important? Is it because I am close to the end of my life anyway? Is this just a Government "bean counter" saving money policy?)

Barry Higgins always has a joke about what is happening now. With the Olympics now upon us it was the Irish who got the laughs. Syd Hopkinson's poetry is well known due to Barry's performances and with "Letter to the Publisher" he tells of the publisher telling him that rhyming poetry is now no longer popular and would he please write in another form. The return poem had words that if they had been said as rhyming words Barry would have been arrested for inappropriate language.

Congratulations to Terry Piggot as his awards and trophies keep mounting up and with another prize winning "One Man's Prison" he tells of the old man trapped in the city who longs to go back to the good old days out in the bush.

And that was to be the finish for the night, however, Brian Langley pointed out we are meant to finish at 9.30pm not some where around 9 (as has also been happening lately). Perhaps it's the thought of cold or rain that makes some of our presenters want to finish early. But we need to finish at the correct time so we give our audience a longer time to see and appreciate our talented performers.

Lorraine Broun had a poem with a very clever turn around on the old favourite "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" perhaps in a more modern relationship.

With the extra time acknowledged Brian Langley had a poem about the "Fishing with the Grandkid" Brian took his granddaughter fishing, having rigged her line, he had to bait it, (she didn't like the oozy worms) cast it out, wind in her bigger fish, take them off the hook and put the smaller ones back, he found he had not had enough time to get his own line in the water. The grand kid caught more than grand dad. (Dot Note - True story based on many fishing trips with our Grand children This particular Grand daughter is now 17 years old and caught the biggest tailor last summer. Perhaps those lessons do get remembered through their electronic fizz.)

Now for some more music and Phil Gray is back with his music to verse. One very poignant one "One Sunday Morning" on Gallipoli brings a tear to your eye.

Phil's son Josh is also very talented as he picked out the tune "Somewhere over the Rainbow" with a very polished performance and then we had the trio with Christine Boulton joining in and singing "Four Little Johnny Cakes" which can go on for a long time as the musicians add lines and verses. The evening finished with Phil and Josh playing and singing "The Sou South Wester" a wind that starts blowing from the East then comes around to the Nor North East then to the West and when it gets to the Sou South West it is a storm to remember.

