

# The

OCTOBER 2021

W.A. Bush Poets

# BULLY TIN



**Next Muster Friday 1st Oct 2021 at 7pm at [Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park](#)  
Muster MC Anne Hayes - 0428 542 418 [hayseed1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hayseed1@optusnet.com.au)**

**Reading from the Classics: Tess Earnshaw**

**October's 16 line challenge title :- *If you must go***

## **A little bit about**

**- Arthur Leggett**

I was born at a very early age (8<sup>TH</sup> September, 1918,) in the Sydney suburb of Manly and spent my school days attending Manly Primary School as well as Mosman Junior Technical School where I first became interested in poetry.

Actually I wrote my first poems when I was around 8 years old lauding my heroes Bert Hinkler and Kingsford-Smith and you would think they should have improved by now.

The family moved to Western Australia when I was 14y.o. and I worked 12 months on a farm near Bencubbin before returning to Perth where I was employed as a junior worker with a structural steel firm.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) was formed when I became 18y.o. I promptly joined the Transport Platoon because, in those days, the army had horses which were stabled at a remount depot on the outskirts of Guildford.

I also joined a yachting crew as well as a bush camping group and spent my teenage years living in the in the magical city of Perth.

The Second World War broke out in 1939 and I promptly enlisted in The 2/11<sup>th</sup> Battalion (City of Perth Regiment) Horses had been phased out so I joined the Signal Platoon.

The battalion was involved in the original battles of Bardia, Tobruk and Derna in in The Western Desert before being sent to Greece. We had a fairly rough time there and, after evacuating Greece, were transported to Crete.

I won't go into details but the island capitulated and we spent the next four years shovelling coal in a Polish coalmine before the Russians put on their final drive in 1944. We were marched 800 Kilometres back into Germany in the worst winter in 50 years before being liberated by General Patton's Armoured Column and flown to England where, one night at a dance, I met a charming young lady who emphatically stated she hated Australians and it is interesting to note that 63 years, two daughters, six grandchildren and a whole host of great-grandchildren later I was still trying to convince her that Australians were not such a bad mob when you get to know them.

So, it wasn't such a bad war after all.

*Arthur Leggett.*



**This Bully Tin has been printed with the generous assistance of the office of KATE DOUST MLC and posted with the generous assistance of Hannah Beazley MLA - Member for Victoria Park.  
Thanks to Greg Roberts for doing our printing.**

## President's Preamble October 2021



Congratulations to Arthur Leggett for clocking up his 103rd birthday. Arthur continues to amaze us with his fitness and his ability to recite. Arthur, you are an inspiration to us all. Whether matching it with the best at Toodyay or entertaining the passengers on board the Crystal Swan, it is a real treat to be performing beside you. Long may you continue your wonderful journey.

Passing years have not been so kind to Peg Vickers. Peg suffered a stroke recently and is now in Albany hospital. Her daughter told me that Peg is improving each day and should soon be allowed into her care. We wish Peg a full recovery and look forward to her once more setting the bar for us in the poet's brawl.

Meg and I have returned to the cold wet corner of WA just in time to join the poets at the Greenbushes Art and Music Trail. We had a few days in Perth to catch up with our granddies and I had an hour session with the year 3 class at Newman College. It must be the big kid in me but my favourite gig is doing a show for students. City kids are very different to country kids and quite a few of them were taken aback when I demonstrated branding before reciting "The Bush Christening".

Back in June I reported on the filming of the video clip for Terry Bennetts and Cobbers latest song "Not Without You Old Mate". Terry has released it as a single and it opened at no 10 on the country music charts. Congratulations Terry and Cobber, a great start. We watch in great anticipation.

Not long now to Nambung (21 – 24 October), then Toodyay (5 – 7 November), and Have A Go Day (10<sup>th</sup> November). November rounds out with Terry Bennetts show for Make a Wish Foundation on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at Napier Hall.

Meg and I had a great trip up north this year but we could have done without the drama of the last three weeks. We had our emails scammed, Telstra account taken over, phone numbers stolen and bank accounts hacked. The banks were right on to it but getting action out of Telstra was another story. The hackers got in through Bigpond. We finally found someone in Telstra in Perth who was able to sort it out and get things working again. Makes me remember the definition of stress. THE CONFUSION THAT TAKES PLACE WHEN THE MIND RESISTS THE BODY'S NATURAL DESIRE TO CHOKe THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF SOME ..... WHO THOROUGHLY DESERVES IT!

All's well that ends well.

Bill Gordon. President

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### WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2021 - 2022

#### Following our recent AGM our elected Committee Members are :-

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter "Stinger" Nettleton	0407 7700 53	stinger@iinet.net.au
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Tony Hill	- <i>provides supper for Musters</i>	0418 929 493	suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

## MUSTERING

Sing me no song of the great outback  
Where the skies are not cloudy all day,  
Where the stockmen hum a haunting tune  
As they amble on their way.

No perfumes on the morning breeze  
That's cold as cold can be,  
It coats your grub with reddish dust  
And floats it on your tea.

The track's not lined by gumtrees  
With creeks aflowing past,  
It's miles and miles of mulga scrub  
In country harsh and vast.

The sun's climbed high by mid-day,  
It's heat the earth does straddle,  
The flies are in your eyes and mouth  
And your bum's sore in the saddle.

Dust-covered cattle up ahead  
All below and they stink,  
You reckon you smell much the same.  
It makes you stop and think

"N' ask, "What am I doing here?  
There must be some other way  
To earn a flamin' living!  
I'll take a look someday."

But when the day is over,  
The tough times you forget  
While the billy water's murmuring  
As you roll a cigarette

An' your dog curls up beside you  
It kind of makes you glad  
You're out here in the mulga  
Where the life is not too bad..

*Arthur Leggett*



## Our Street

In our street, the main street  
Running thro' the town,  
You see a lot of busy folk  
Going up and down:

Bag men and basket men,  
Men with loads of hay,  
Buying things and selling things  
And carting things away.

The butcher is a funny man,  
He calls me Dandy Dick;  
The baker is a cross man,  
I think he's often sick;

The fruiterer's a nice man,  
He gives me apples, too;  
The grocer says, "Good morning, boy,  
What can I do for you?"

Of all the men in our street  
I like the cobbler best,  
Tapping, tapping at his last  
Without a minute's rest;

Talking all the time he taps,  
Driving in the nails,  
Smiling with his old grey eyes -  
(Hush)... telling fairy tales.

By CJ Dennis

## The Yabberup Port , Pies and Poetry night

The Yabberup Port, Pies and Poetry night on 28<sup>th</sup> August has to be one of the delights on the WA calendar. Now in its tenth year I attended for my first time with Bev and Jem Shorland. Yabberup is a two and a half hour drive from Perth. We arrived early and were able to go for a bush walk just over the road from the hall; the wildflowers did not disappoint and were stunning.

This is mainly a local affair; everyone brings a pie to share and port for their table. No entry fee but the mandatory raffle proceeds go towards the upkeep of the hall. Heating was by an open fire and the shared supper was heated and organised by the formidable team of Karen and Wendy. Thankfully several others seamlessly assisted throughout the night and the dishes were washed by a rotating team. Some small local halls in the South-west of WA are being revitalised by their communities. The Yabberup Hall had a new roof and loving maintenance was evident.

We were welcomed by the locals, including Greg Joass, Peter Nettleton and Jane. We enjoyed a night where many new poems had been written by the people in the Yabberup and wider community. Surely this is what the folk tradition is really about. Some of the poems may never see the light of day again but most were specifically relevant to the personal or political values of the community. Environmental issues were strongly represented but so were many other rural themes.

Bev won best original poem with Mulga Jill and the compere won best dressed.

On the way back we looked at Frog Hollow, people bring frogs and then look at them. However, we were waylaid by a local entreating us to go to the cemetery where he (and others) had been planting Kangaroo Paws. What a wonderful way to maintain a cemetery. There was a sign on the gate saying no mowing would be happening until after the Kangaroo Paws had seeded. This was to encourage bush regeneration. What a great way to maintain a cemetery and create a living memorial to those who have moved on.

After a trip through the lush Ferguson Valley we went home, rejuvenated and ready to plan our next trip for the wildflowers. Try and make it to Yabberup next year if you have the chance. If you don't have a van you could stay at Donnybrook, only a stone's throw away.

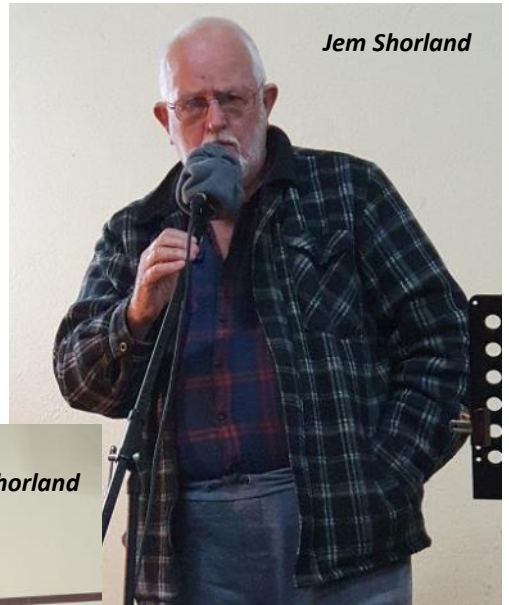
*Christine Boulton*



This was a well-attended event. There was a wide variety of poetry, as well as pies and port. Our association was represented by Christine Boulton, Greg Joass, Stinger Nettleton, Jem Shorland and Bev Shorland who took out the popularity prize on the night. *Stinger Nettleton*



*Greg Joass*



*Jem Shorland*



*Bev Shorland*



*A selection of pictures of other performers (sorry don't have their names)*



## Trip to Coolgardie and Dowerin Field Days - Poetry on the Road

On the 6th of August Jan and myself left Collie for Coolgardie and Dowerin. The main purpose of this trip was to perform Bush Poetry at the Coolgardie Rodeo and then the Dowerin Field Day.

We decided to take the long way round, so we headed to Jurien Bay and then Geraldton. We stayed two nights with Bush Poet Irene Conner and then on to Geraldton to catch up with family.

After this it was full ahead for Coolgardie. We spent two nights in Dalwallinu where I did Bush Poetry for a small, but appreciative crowd at the Caravan Park. We then headed for Kalgoorlie, where we spent three days. During this time we met Sherrill and Ken Ball. Ken spends most of his time as a Monumental Mason and the rest of the time as a Bush Poet. We had a good look around Kalgoorlie and also a most enjoyable evening and meal at The Miners Arms.

Then on to Coolgardie where we met up with Rob Gunn and Rhonda. The previous evening Gunny had performed Bush Poetry at the Caravan Park, which had gone down well.

The next day, along with Ken, Gunny and Chris Taylor we gave a small, but enthusiastic crowd two hours of Bush Poetry. The weather was Freezing. We reckoned this would have accounted for the small crowd.

After spending the night at Coolgardie, we headed off to Merredin and then Trayning where we camped for the night. The Trayning Caravan Park was one of the best we have stayed in. \$22 for a powered site. It comes highly recommended.

And then on to the Dowerin Field Day where Rob Gunn (Gunny) and myself performed on the 26th August. The stage, sound and setting were all first rate. Here again, we encountered a small, but appreciative audience.

All in all, two enjoyable meetings and given the chance, would love to do it again.

The next day we parted company with Rob and Rhonda. They went wildflower hunting and we headed home.

*Roger Cracknell*



*Roger Cracknell at Dowerin*



*Chris Taylor, Roger Cracknell Rob Gunn and Ken Ball at Coolgardie.*



*Rob Gunn at Dowerin*



*Coolgardie.*

## BUSH POETRY AFTERNOON TEA - Qualup Community Hall, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This was also a well-attended event, aimed at raising money for charity.

Our association was represented by Cobber Lethbridge, Pedro Blyth and Stinger Nettleton, along with a number of other experienced performers including Ron Evans and Bullocky John.

This event raised some \$1,600 for cancer research.

## BUSH POETS' BRUNCH – Greenbushes Town Hall, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This was the final formal session of the Greenbushes Art and Music weekend and was very well-attended and received. Over exactly two hours, eleven seasoned poets performed, namely Greg Joass, Chris Taylor, Peter Rudolph, Roger Cracknell, Cobber Lethbridge, Meg Gordon, Bill Gordon, Ron Evans, Bullocky John, Phil Strutt and yours truly, Stinger Nettleton.

I would like once again to thank those past and present bush poet luminaries who attended at their own expense, for the confidence they placed in me as the organiser of the event.





## 2021 ROAD WISE POEM THEME

This years focus is "Speeding "

Every year the statistics have details of deaths and injuries due to excess speed. This past year has seen a number of vehicles colliding with trees and other inanimate roadside objects, resulting in death and carnage on our roads.

The following are line prompts and guides, for you to remould, reimagine or use as is, in your own poetic interpretation for the 2021 Roadwise Poetry competition at the Annual Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival.

- \* We've seen too many cut down by speed
- \* Scars etched deep by speed
- \* Speeding car (vehicle) versus tree – no one wins.
- \* Tree scars tell sad tales

**Reminder to get your entries in for the Silver Quill written competition, Closing Date - 8 October 2021; details of this and other upcoming competitions are on page 13**



**WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners**

# Toodyay Bush Poetry Festival

**Fri 5th - Sun 7th Nov 2021**

**WA Bush Poetry  
Performance Championships  
Poetry Writing Workshop  
Variety Concert Saturday Night**

**FREE ENTRY TO ALL EVENTS**

Proudly sponsored and supported by



For more information, visit

[www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au)



*Sue & Tony Hill, with Bill Gordon*



*Jane Cochrane*

*- Thanks for the great photos*



*Greg & Heather Joass with*

*Peter Rudolph in the Community Gardens*





## September Muster Write Up

### MC *Peter Stinger Nettleton*

Stinger gave a welcome to everyone and then filled us in a little on the Census

**Grace Williamson** was first up . She had tried to find the name of the author of her poem but she and many before her were unable to find the name to give credit to the poem she had chosen so it is by that prolific writer Anon

*There's a Worn out little Pony* by Anon : tells the story of a pony that saved the life of a little child, from wild stampeding cattle during a thunder storm and torrential rain.

Grace also told us how as a young child she moved house and there was a creek nearby where she would catch tadpoles and take them home and watch them become frogs and listen to the loud noise they made at night.

She then recited *Little Tommy Tadpole* by C J Dennis

**Heather Denholm** read a hurriedly written 10 line poem to request and encourage everyone to please hand in a precis of your poem.

**Brian Langley** Brian took his grand daughter fishing and found himself baiting her hook, casting out her line, and taking her big fish of the hook. He never found the time to get his own line in the water. Returning home and being asked how the fishing was she replied "A lot of fun, I got four grand dad got none" he performed his poem *Fishing with Grandkids*

**Janice May** recited *The Bush Christening* by Banjo Patterson, the tale of Maginnis Magee and his somewhat unusual name .

**John Hayes:** recited *Violets* by C J Dennis

Another domestic story in the life of Bill and Doreen, where Bill is picking flowers for Doreen after a blue because she wants to buy a piano. Then young Bill comes home from school with a black eye, so Bill gets more flack from Doreen until he presents her with the violets.

**Bev Shorland** gave us her rendition of *The Cast Iron Ladle* by Keith Lethbridge. A Tale of how Digger finds love, good fortune and marriage to the lovely Mary McQ, with the help of Mother McQ and a cast iron ladle.

**Jem Shorland** told us a yarn about a chap in a bar who has had a day of extreme misfortune, everything goes wrong ALL day

**Roger Kohn** presented a yarn about a man a Nun and a glass of vodka and orange.

**Deb McQuire** reading from the classics - *Spring* from Jim of the Hills by CJ Dennis

Deb followed by reading her poem *It was a Dark and Stormy Morn* a tale drawn from her families folklore, recalling an incident that occurred in her parents back yard. Back in the day when outdoor dunnies were the norm; serviced weekly by the Sani Man.

**Anne Hayes** performed *The First Surveyor* by Banjo Patterson the poem tells a tale told by the wife of the man who surveyed the mountains on foot to find the best way out for his animals and how after his death someone else was praised for making the railway line on the track he made so many years earlier. She was taking a picnic to eat at his graveside so when invited to afternoon tea she declined saying she would be dining out tonight.

## September Muster Write Up cont....

**Barry Higgins** recited *Bush Justice* by Bob Magor A tale of how Bush Justice is given. A lady is confronted by a gentleman not properly clad, he is arrested and they go to court, it is then the watchers discover that the gentleman who wasn't one, is the best mate and fishing buddy of the judge.

**Lesley McAlpine** recited *The Circle of Life* by Terry Piggott A story of the love of a mother and daughter as the years go by and the rolls are reversed as the mother moves into her final years.

**Brian Langley** presented *Evolution* by Brian Langley. In his poem Brian makes comment on the fact that humans have evolved to the highest level, this is because we have developed the art of communication using speech. He notes however that many young people do not speak clearly making it difficult for him to understand them. He suggests that should this trend continue within 60 years there will be no one who can speak, which may see humans become extinct.

**Bev Shorland** performed *Song of the Wheat* by Banjo Patterson. The story of wheat farming clearing the land, ploughing the land clearing the soil and seeding, growth and harvest then shipping it across the world.

**John Hayes** performed *Gone Fishing* by John Hayes

Along the Victoria river in the Northern Territory they had stopped at the small settlement of Timber Creek, 287 west of Katherine. Fishing is Timber Creeks greatest attraction, or a cruise along the beautiful Victoria river to view the imposing red rock formations.

We arrived late one afternoon and asked one of the locals where there might be a quiet camping spot for an overnight stop. He suggested the cleared spot at the boat ramp. Annie and John thought they would brave the elements and go fishing for Barramundi. They took the gear down cast their lines. However when the sun went down a cloud of mosquito's descended, and when he turned on the torch to view the area he saw 5 or 6 pairs of shining eyes glaring back at him, crocks! They decided to it was time to make a hasty retreat. John then related to us *Gone Fishing* : the story of his life and death fight with a massive crocodile, which fortunately was just just a dream.

**Barry Higgins** *The GST* by Sid Hopkinson The tail of a good samaritan's rescue of a busker using skills learnt for the GST

**Brian Langley** *Our National Food* by Brian Langley. "Most countries have food that their neighbours don't eat" so starts Brian's poem it then goes on to list some Nation specific foods from blood to blubber. He then points out that people from other countries would likely abhor our national food Vegemite! Which he explains is tapped from the Vegemite tree in the dark of the night , for only at night is the tree sap dark and tasty. He implores you not to tell people the true source but to spin them a yarn that it comes from the left overs from making beer, which is why we have so much of it.

**Peter "Stinger" Nettleton** finished the night with *The Smiths* by Dryblower Murphy it tells the story of Coolgardie's seamy past, when nobody knew who was a legitimate or a bogus Smith

**Reminder:** Heather has asked if everyone who performs at Musters could give her a synopsis on the night or send one via email [h.e.denholm@gmail.com](mailto:h.e.denholm@gmail.com)  
Thanks in advance Heather.

November Muster MC Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243 [aaitken@live.com.au](mailto:aaitken@live.com.au)  
Reading from the Classics: Tess Earnshaw  
Deadline for Nov's Bully Tin Submissions 25th Oct 2021

## COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA 2021

### **WRITTEN EVENTS are in RED**

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)

### OCTOBER

#### **8 October - Closing Date**

**Silver Quill written competition,**  
Bateman WA.

#### **15 October - Closing Date**

**Lambing Flat FAW & National Cherry Festival Writing Competition,**  
Young NSW.

#### **Oct 15 - 23 2021 Cervantes Art Festival**

Art, Craft, Photography and **Bush Poetry**

All Entry Forms and payments must be received by 1st October 2021.

### NOVEMBER

#### **5-7 November - WA State Championships,**

performance and written competitions

(see 8 October closing date)

#### **21 November - Closing Date - Creative celebration of the International Year of Caves and Karst – Australasia.**

Write a story, rhyme, poem, song, sketch, paint, sculpt, photograph or create a video

### DECEMBER

**24 December - Closing Date - Kembla Flame Written Bush Poetry Competition, East Corrimal NSW. a video.**

### FEBRUARY 2022

**12-20 February - Banjo Paterson Australian Bush Poetry Festival and ABPA National Championships, Ex-Services Club, Orange NSW.**

#### **POET'S ALERT**

**WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC  
TOODYAY BUSH POETRY FESTIVAL  
2021 STATE PERFORMANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS  
FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> – SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

The November Championships will be here before we know it and it would greatly help the Committee if entries came in early for administration purposes.

The Entry Form will be available soon so keep an eye on the website: [www.wabushpoets.asn.au](http://www.wabushpoets.asn.au)

Entry Forms will also be available at the next few Musters.

Please encourage entries from any

**Juniors and budding young writers/performers.**

## Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2021 - 2022

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Peter “Stinger” Nettleton	0407 7700 53	stinger@iinet.net.au
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## **Regular Events**

<b>WA Bush Poets:</b>	1st Friday each month <i>MC for Oct see front page</i> - 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA	
<b>Albany Bush Poetry group:</b>	Last Tuesday each month - 7.30pm 1426 Lower Denmark Rd, Elleker	Ph. Peter Blyth - 9844 6606
<b>Bunbury Bush Poets:</b>	1st Monday every ‘even’ month - The Parade Hotel, 1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury.or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636	Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243
<b>Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:</b>	1st Wednesday each month. - 6.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club, 108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie	Ph. Paul Browning - 0416 171 809

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.