

The

November 2023

# BULLY TIN

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

**Cancelled due to COVID**

Next Muster: 10th November at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,  
SwanCare, Plantation Drive, Bentley

MC: Frank and Mary Heffernan 9881 6652 [muffenburg@westnet.com.au](mailto:muffenburg@westnet.com.au)  
Reading from the classics - Bev Shorland



**Overall Performance Winners**  
1st Christine Boulton  
2nd Greg Joass, 3rd Bill Gordon



**Yarnspinners - Equal First Greg Joass and  
Bill Gordon 3rd Jim Riches**



**Traditional - 1st Christine Boulton  
2nd Bill Gordon 3rd Greg Joass**



**Original Serious - 1st Irene Conner  
2nd Christine Boulton 3rd Peter Nettleton**

**Modern 1st Christine Boulton  
2nd Bill Gordon 3rd Greg Joass**



**Original Humorous  
1st Roger Cracknell  
2nd Christine Boulton  
3rd Rob Gunn**



This Bully Tin has been printed and postage provided with the generous assistance  
of the office of KATE DOUST MLC

## President's Preamble November 2023



Congratulations to Christine Boulton on winning the WA State Championships at Toodyay last weekend. Christine has been a consistent performer for many years and was at her very best all weekend. Greg Joass and I brought up the minor placings and also tied for the Yarnspinning title.

It takes a lot of effort to make this event happen and I extend a personal thank you to all who assisted, particularly Meg who had to take on extra roles including MC at the last minute, and Alan who kept the office running smoothly while Meg was otherwise occupied.

Thanks to Cobber for a very interesting workshop and to the judges, Jeff Swain, Peter Blyth and Jim Lamb. Jim hails from Young, NSW and is a member of the Wombat Bush Poets. Meg and I first met Jim at Mildura in 2015 and a strong friendship has ensued over the years.

The weekend was another enjoyable gathering of poets, supporters and friends. But unfortunately it all came crashing down as several people have returned home only to test positive for Covid. Consequently the muster scheduled for this Friday (10<sup>th</sup>) has been cancelled.

Beyond that, we need some poets to stay healthy for "Have a Go Day" on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> at Burswood Park. We are on the same site as last year with four poetry spots on the stage we are sharing with dance groups. We also have a 20 minute spot on the main stage at 11am.

Cervantes residents are celebrating 60 years the following weekend with a Country Music Muster in the Cervantes Hall. This event is being coordinated by Terry Bennetts and Gloria White and will include many of the Nambung artists. There will be a Bush Poets Breakfast headed by Cobber, Alan and Irene on the Sunday morning. I have some tickets if anyone is interested.

Our final WABPYS event for the year will be Port, Pies and Poetry at the December muster on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Remember to bring a gift (value \$10) for the Secret Santa. This is a great chance to bring a friend to introduce them to Bush Poetry (plus a gift for them to put in Santa's pile.)

Bill Gordon President



*L-R Michael McKeown Toodyay Shire President,  
Judges - Peter Swain Jim Lamb, Peter Blyth,  
WABP Pres - Bill Gordon*



## Friday's workshop with Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge.

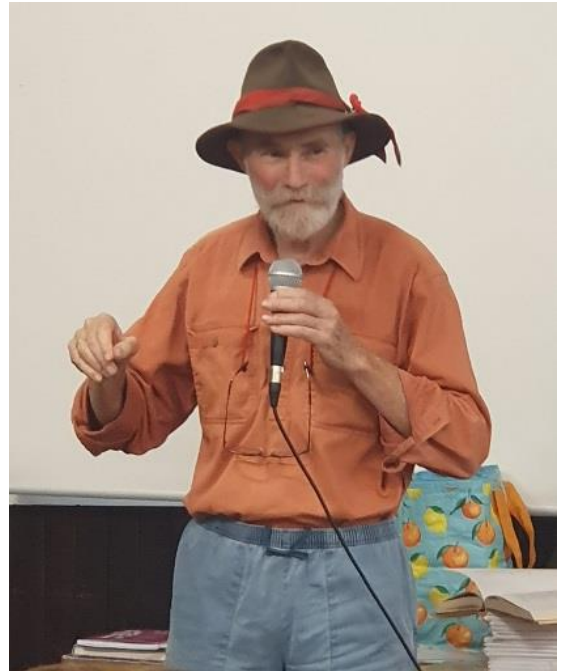
Bill introduced Cobber to a good group of members and others who were then treated to Keith insights into the 'Art' of Bush Poetry.

Keith highlighted the fact that the best know, well -remembered old master's bush poems have very consistent Rhyme and Rhythm; that the constant repeated pattern gives the poems their appeal and staying power. Different patterns have been used by the various poets. Poets may have a particular like or dislike for a rhyming pattern. He offered the example of Bob Magor who is not a fan of double rhymes but that he was quite happy to use them in his writing. He emphasized that when writing it was important to stay with the same pattern throughout your poem.

Rhyming couplets in groups of 4 lines were particularly useful when seeking to put a poem to music where as a 5 line pattern was so suitable to fit in with a melody. Sometimes when adapting a poem to music there can be a need for alterations to make it more suitable. Cobber has had experience of this when working with Terry Bennetts, i.e. where the poem varies from the song as in the case of the Bush Mechanic; as the needs for each art form can be slightly different.

Cobber also spoke of issues when working with editors when preparing books. On occasions the wording may be changed by them to seem more suitable or lines missed due to set out issues. This has happened at times, historically with work published in newspapers and some books etc. These days with short run printing options these errors or omissions can be corrected in subsequent print runs.

In summary Cobber reminded us that there has been a variety of styles used over the past 150 years or so as discussed earlier; and again noted that those that have lasted are consistent in their own style with descriptive story telling.



**WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC.**  
Results of 2023 SILVER QUILL WRITTEN COMPETITION

**RESULTS - JUNIOR WRITTEN VERSE (10 - 11 Years)**

POEM	AUTHOR	PLACE
Diororepudiatawuff	Clem Chapman	1st
The Verge Collector	Clem Chapman	2nd
Before The Rain	Zita Horton	3rd
The Lost Koala	Mia Clohessy	H.C.
Ballad Incognisant	Alex Bas an	C.
Australian Boomerang	Lenay De Beer	C.
On Mt Coot-tha	Lucas Han	C.
Sausages	Isoballe Henry	C.

**RESULTS - JUNIOR WRITTEN VERSE (12 - 14 Years)**

POEM	AUTHOR	PLACE
Backyard Cricket	Eleni Chapman	1st
Barbecue Disaster	Eleni Chapman	2nd
The Climb	Rhona Hough	3rd
The Lost Joey	Lily Williams	H.C.
The Cricket Game	Edward Miles	H.C.
The Wave	Eliza Randall	C.
I Went To	Kai McLeod	C.

**RESULTS - NOVICE**

POEM	AUTHOR	PLACE
Half-Arthur's Gift	Jen Rewell	1st
Stacked	Lyn McGrath	2nd
My Nan	Alan Greco	3rd

**RESULTS - ORIGINAL HUMOROUS**

POEM	AUTHOR	PLACE
Billygoat Parade	Keith Lethbridge	1st
Fishing For Gucci	Tom Mcilveen	1st
Mildew's Offsider	Keith Lethbridge	3rd
A Simple Colonoscopy	Tom Mcilveen	H.C.
Cobber's Talking Dog	Keith Lethbridge	H.C.
Mabel Murphy's Chooks	Frank Heffernan	C.

**RESULTS - ORIGINAL SERIOUS**

POEM	AUTHOR	PLACE
Wandering Spirit	Tom Mcilveen	1st
The Mystery Of The Granites	Terry Piggett	2nd
McCarthy's Cabin	Keith Lethbridge	2nd
Where Angels Tread	Tom Mcilveen	H.C.
Looking Back	Terry Piggett	C.
Old Man Drought	Tom Mcilveen	C.
Spirit Of Concurry	Tom Mcilveen	C.

**OVERALL WINNER - TOM MCILVEEN - "Wandering Spirits"**

*Congratulations!*

**WA BUSH POETS & YARNSPINNERS ASSOC.  
2023 PERFORMANCE COMPETITION**

**RESULTS**

**WINNER - Christine Boulton**

2nd Place - Greg Joass

3rd Place - Bill Gordon

*Congratulations!*

**Category Winners**

**ORIGINAL HUMOROUS**

1st Place - Roger Cracknell - Midnight Paradise

Equal 2nd Place - Christine Boulton - The Brick

Equal 2nd Place - Rob Gunn - Those B Eastern Tourists

**ORIGINAL SERIOUS**

1st Place - Irene Conner - Children Living Underground

2nd Place - Christine Boulton - Keith's Souvenir

3rd Place - Peter Nettleton - To Be A Bush Poet

**MODERN**

1st Place - Christine Boulton - The Wingen Pub

2nd Place - Bill Gordon - The Old Wongoondy Hall

3rd Place - Greg Joass - An Ancient Tiger

**TRADITIONAL**

1st Place - Christine Boulton - The Sandy Hollow Line

2nd Place - Bill Gordon - Johnson's Antidote

3rd Place - Greg Joass - The Roaring Days

**YARNSPINNING**

Equal 1st Place - Greg Joass - Cops

Equal 1st Place - Bill Gordon - A Stroke of Luck

3rd Place - Jim Riches - A Trip To The Kimberley

**POETS BRAWL**

Greg Joass

**BULLY TIN CHALLENGE**

Greg Joass



**THE DIPROREPUDIATAWUFF (pronounced "die-pro-repudiate-a-wuff")**

*Clem Chapman (10-11Yrs)*

There's a tiny slimy lizard that not many get to see;  
It is kind of like a little skink and kind of like a flea.  
It looks like a small wriggly grub with wings and big green toes,  
And miniscule brown antlers, like that of deer and does.  
Its name's a wee bit awkward, but you'll get it soon enough.

So Die:

Di-

Di-pro-repudiate-

Diprorepudiatawuff.

It likes to perch on flowers, but hates the feel of trees;  
It preys on little beetles, but can't stand the taste of bees.  
When you see it, you won't know what you're looking at, at first,  
But when you finally get to see, it looks like it might burst.  
And the only way to stop it, is to cover it with fluff.

So Die:

Di-

Di-pro-repudiate-

Diprorepudiatawuff.

It shivers when you touch it, and flees when you say its name;  
It and all its dipro mates, they like to play a game,  
Where they form a line quite quickly, and line dance around the floor,  
But when they come across a chair, they'll always stop to gnaw.  
And their favourite food, I tell you, is fresh oily flaked dandruff.

So Die:

Di-

Di-pro-repudiate-

Diprorepudiatawuff.

If you're searching for this creature, I know what's on your mind:  
"It does not exist at all! It's impossible to find,  
Like that triantiwontigongolope that isn't even real."  
But what I have just told you, is the genuine true deal!  
It's just that finding one of them, is definitely tough.

So Die:

Di-

Di-pro-repudiate-

Diprorepudiatawuff.



*Congratulations!*

**THE VERGE COLLECTOR**

*Clem Chapman*

There was once a verge collector, who came 'round each Saturday  
"One man's trash is another man's treasure," this man would always say  
A creaky shelf, a bashed-up fridge, and an old projector  
Were in the boot of the ute that belonged to the verge collector

By day, the verge collector went to other people's yards  
In roads, streets, highways, and even boulevards  
Taking items other people came to be rejecting  
He'd think, "Why does no-one see the beauty, in the art of verge collecting?"

*Congratulations!*

By night, he'd bring the bits and bobs he'd collected, to his shed  
He'd use the gadgets he had found to make other things instead  
A fridge, some padding, and some wood would make a summer chair  
The verge collector, just for fun, would invent beyond compare

One sunny day, the verge collector was roaming Churchy Street  
When he saw a precious item that would make a real good treat  
He loaded it into his van, like a successful gold prospector  
So he could take it back to his workshop, the excited verge collector

Back at home, he smiled with glee, the day had finally arrived  
He could at long last finish the invention he'd most prized  
He reached into the boot of his ute and pulled out an ejector  
All day he tinkered with his device, the happy verge collector

On Sunday, he dressed up smart, for he was going out  
He'd been invited to join in the State Inventors' Bout  
At the show, the inventions were to be reviewed by an inspector  
And who should the win contest but... the genius verge collector!

The verge collector's creation was enormously unique  
He'd made James Bond's Aston Martin, all shiny, slick and sleek  
The audience, at the end, were amazed by the selection  
All the materials it was made from, had been in the verge collection

The verge collector raised his voice, and spoke to everyone  
"The things most people throw away, they shouldn't really shun"  
The whole audience clapped and cheered for the creation perfecter  
But nobody was happier than the joyful verge collector

**BACKYARD CRICKET** Eleni Chapman (14 years)

In WA, in every driveway  
There's two or three green plastic bins  
But they're not just for trash, because quick as a flash  
Summertime backyard cricket begins

If Dad bowls with a spin, you'll be losing some skin  
As you slide to the crease on your knees  
But hitting a four is bit of a chore  
If it ends up in one of the trees

The dash for the wicket, in our backyard cricket,  
Is really an interesting scene  
You've got to sprint, weave and duck, and try not to get stuck  
In the netting of our trampoline

If you're in the field, your eyes must be peeled  
Or you'll trip on the barbecue deck  
And mind Nanna's chair, or you'll warrant a glare  
And a swat on the back of the neck

By the time lunch is done, we've all had our fun  
Mum's bowling has packed quite a punch  
The grown-ups call it a day, but the kids run and say,  
"When's the next family lunch?"

**Junior Silver Quill Age 12-14**

**1st & 2nd place**

*Congratulations!*

**BARBECUE DISASTER** Eleni Chapman (14 years)

It's another day in summer, and we should be celebrating  
'Cause Dad is firing up the barbecue  
But if you know my dad, that sight is pretty devastating  
When it comes to barbies, Dad ain't got a clue

Last Christmas it was boiling, and we were chilling in the pool  
When Dad came running out from our backyard  
Smoke was pouring from the barbie, it was really pretty cool  
'Til we realised all the sausages were charred

Of course, there was that time, at Cousin Kathy's fourth birthday  
Dad tried to make some burgers for our tea  
They were ruined within minutes, so we went for takeaway  
And scraped the blackened mush onto a tree

And the worst of all was in Year Two, at my school's Open Night  
Dad volunteered to man the barbecue  
The sausages were crumbly, and dissolved with every bite  
The onions were impossible to chew

So when Dad wants to cook us lunch, we have to run and hide  
Our best bet is to try and disappear  
It often takes a while, for all that black smoke to subside  
You could say that barbecue is our worst fear!



## Bully Tin Challenge

1st Place

### THE GRATITUDE OF CATS

You won't get gratitude from cats, it's a concept they don't understand  
One moment they'll purr  
While you're stroking their fur  
Then they're flaying the skin from your hand

They strut all around as if they own the place and look very regal and proud

But they don't act so nice  
When they're playing with mice  
In a way humans would not be allowed

They devastate much of our wildlife, preferring the natives to mice  
And all pet cats will try  
To eat them on the sly  
So their owners will still think them nice

They're prepared to tolerate humans and overlook most of our flaws  
At least till the day  
That the cats find a way  
To open cat food cans just with their paws

**Greg Joass**

**Date: 25/10/2023**

*(Written for poetry challenge 'Gratitude', as part of WA state championships in Toodyay, Nov 2023.)*

*Congratulations!*

**Poets Brawl  
1st Place**

### WILL IT FIT?

I was staying in a cheap motel, where the walls were very thin  
So I could hear my neighbour's voices and all noises made within  
And I heard a lady saying to her partner "Will it fit?  
No, don't just try to force it, you must twist it round a bit  
You may think that it will go in there, but I'm certain it will not  
So pull it out and then perhaps we'll try another spot"  
Well I didn't stay to listen, it was doing in my head  
So I went and found the manager and spoke to him instead  
"With no TV or radio, I'm finding staying here a bore  
Can I borrow a jigsaw puzzle, like they're playing with next door?"

**Greg Joass**

**Date: 05/11/2023**

*(Brawl entry – Toodyay, 2023. Given line was 'Will it fit?')*

## WRITEUP OF MUSTER courtesy of Meg Gordon Friday 6th October 2023

President **Bill Gordon** welcomed members and visitors and presented his poem "The Melbourne Cup".

Then introduced MC for the evening **Anne Hayes**

**Grace Williamson**—"What Grandad Had To Say" (Val Read) This poem reminisces all the memories and heritage of a Grandad's life, but it's not until he's gone that we wished we'd listened more carefully.

**Rodger Kohn**—presented his skit about a dog NOT looking for a job in the bar.

**Greg Joass**—"The First Execution at The Round House Fremantle" Greg recounts the typical thoughts of a prisoner and his tough upbringing who is awaiting execution.

**Daniel Avery**—"My Motley Crew" A humorous story about "disabled" mates.

**John Hayes**—"The Singing Soldiers" (CJ Dennis) A classic story of the singing soldier when fighting on The Heavens called the Fronts.

The challenge for the Muster was the line "**Here we go again**"

**Heather Denholm** - Car Journey

**Bill Gordon** - Will I ever learn

**Heather Denholm**—"Mum's Driving Lesson" (Keith Lethbridge) A common story when Mum has power in her hands.

**Rob Gunn**—"Promoted To Glory" (Keith Lethbridge) A prospector's life of many adventures before he was promoted to glory from this earthly place.

**Deb McQuire**—"May I ask" a young mother recounting to her partner how her day went  
"A New Do" about a trip to the hairdressers.

**Cobber** gave us a demo on his didgeridoo and then sang and played on the guitar, "Going Home"

### **Supper**

**Rob Asplin**—gave a ukulele interpretation of "Old Man At The Bar" (Ray Essery) A mixture of nostalgia and melancholy observed by the writer.

**John Hayes**—"Gone Fishing" An unlikely tale of fishing for barramundi in the Victoria River west of Timber Creek.

**Deb McQuire**—Life in Perth Hills - a tale of the drive up into the hills and some of the attractions for living in the hills.

**Rob Gunn**—"Mr Whippy Ripoff" (Marco Gliori) A message about incorrect change, a lot of free icecream and a change of career.

**Grace Williamson**—"Our Corrugated Iron Tank" (Jack Hackshaw) The poem tells of the despair of running out of the only supply of water in the rainwater tank.

**Meg Gordon**—"Grandpa And The Tourists" (Peg Vickers)

**Daniel Avery**—"This Land Australia" Daniel's is proud of his country.

**Greg Joass**—"The Prison Log" Dealing with prisoners when no lock was in sight.

**Cobber Lethbridge**—"Not Without You Old Mate" on guitar.

**Heather Denholm**—"The Great Adventure for Kevin and His Lady Love" When you pack too much to go away.

**Bill Gordon**—"Mary's Listening" Mary is the caretaker in a village for retired nuns. Confusion abounds when a sleeping nun accidentally bumps the intercom and summons the caretaker.

**Next Muster Friday 10th November** (Note: cancelled to due COVID outbreak following Toodyay Festival)

**Have A Go Day Wednesday 15th November. Next Muster 1st December**

## **The Pandemic** June 2020--23 *Frank Heffernan*

The lock down of the Nation was enough to drive us mad,  
while talk of death and dying was for some extremely sad.

When news of Covid Nineteen was reaching saturation,  
we stayed away from friends, and we practiced isolation.  
But when the footy all got cancelled that was truly bad!

We couldn't go to parties or to restaurants to eat.  
They banned us going to the pub where once we used to meet.  
Our cozy little coffee shop just didn't have the room,  
our only point of contact was by using Skype or Zoom.  
When people started dying, then this virus had them beat.

The restrictions put on travel left nowhere we could go.  
We missed attending theatres or seeing a movie show.  
Some households caught the buying bug of that crazy caper,  
of filling up their bathroom with piles of dunny paper.  
We knew by then corona was a mean and deadly foe.

We had to wear a stupid mask and cover up our face,  
wash hands with soap and water to delay the virus race.  
We got our daily updates from public health advisors,  
to keep away from crowds and to scrub with sanitizers.  
Until they found a vaccine, or a cure was put in place.

They thought we ought to stay at home and like some timid mouse,  
be poking round the garden or just sitting round the house,  
while watching daytime telly or be reading from a book.  
Or did they think us Aussie blokes would want to learn to cook.  
It was so hard for men to spend the whole day with the spouse.

But people from the city thought that farmer Fred was strange.  
He reckoned covid's all a 'con', along with Climate change.  
He ignored the doctor's warnings; wanting not to know,  
when Autumn was his busy time with all his crops to sow.  
He was in denial beyond the Darling Range.

He's sitting in his tractor cab and going round and round,  
while planting seed and super underneath the ground.  
He was yet to be convinced about this hype and fear,  
He thought that covid was a scam he didn't want to hear,  
for in the country where Fred lived; no virus had been found.

Alas this rotten Covid has spread to the country too,  
and most of us now reckon that it's even worse than flu!  
So, Fred is lining up for jabs along with all the rest,  
and should he get the symptoms; he'll be first to take the test.  
But admitting he was wrong is the hardest thing he'll do!



## **COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS AROUND AUSTRALIA**

### **WRITTEN EVENTS are in PURPLE**

For more details and entry forms please go to the ABPA website

**www.abpa.org.au** and **www.writingwa.org**

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

12-19 November — Poets on The Mountain Festival @Guyra including ABPA NSW Bush Poetry Championship

18-19 November: performance (see 7 November closing date) and written (see 1 November closing date) categories. Australian Bush Poetry Film Festival screenings 12-19 November (see 11 October closing date). Australian Poetry Hall of Fame in Guyra, NSW

30 November — Closing Date — Blackened Billy Verse Competition, to be awarded at Banjo Paterson Festival, Orange NSW.

Enter by 14 November for the chance to win a \$300 Akubra voucher.

### **FEBRUARY 2024**

12 February — Closing Date — Banjo Paterson Poetry Festival original poetry performance competition, Orange, NSW. .

17-25 February — Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. Several events, walk-ups and original performance competition on Friday 23 February – students, novice and open (see 12 February closing date), Orange, NSW.

### **2023 Sutherland Shire Literary Competition Results**

**FREE VERSE WINNER:** when the frozen streets impose upon my slow-flow yoga class  
– Sharon Rockman, Elsternwick VIC

**TRADITIONAL VERSE WINNER:** Emerging Shadows  
– Tom McIlveen, Port Macquarie NSW

**SHIRE RESIDENT'S PRIZE:** The Moment  
– Michelle Garbutt, Oyster Bay NSW

*Congratulations!*

**Reminder:** Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night or send one via email to [shorland@iinet.net.au](mailto:shorland@iinet.net.au) for the Muster write up. Thanks in advance Bev

Next Muster: 1st December at 7.00 pm, at the Auditorium,  
SwanCare, Plantation Drive, Bentley  
Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 [gunnpoet@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnpoet@hotmail.com)  
Christmas poems if possible first half.  
Christmas cake and port.  
Reminder to bring along \$10 secret Santa gift  
1 per person attending.



## Committee Members—WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners 2023-24

<b>President</b>	Bill Gordon	0428 651 098	billgordon1948@gmail.com
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### **Committee**

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## **Regular Events**

**WA Bush Poets:** 1st Friday each month *MC details see front page*  
- 7pm Bentley Auditorium, Bentley Park WA

**Bunbury Bush Poets:** 1st Monday every ‘even’ month  
- The Parade Hotel, Ph. Alan Aitken - 0400 249 243  
1 Austral Parade, East Bunbury. or Ian Farrell 0408 212 636

**Goldfields Bush Poetry Group:** 1st Wednesday each month. Ph. Ken Ball - 0419 94 3376  
- 7.30pm 809 Kalgoorlie Country Club,  
108 Egan St. Kalgoorlie

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)  
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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.