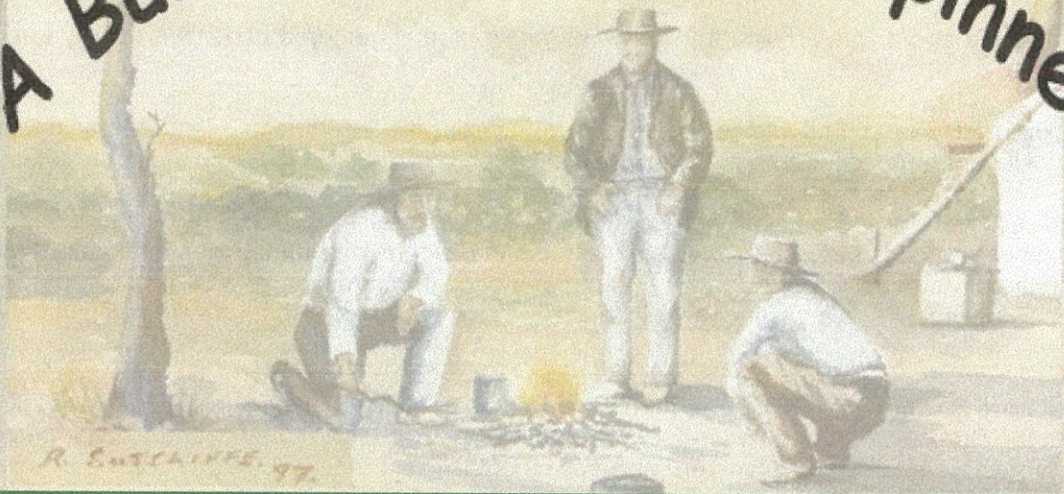


\$2.50

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



Newsletter : February 2003

Wireless Hill Challenge 2003 Winners

Category	Participant	Work
Novice Others' Poetry	John Hayes	Lawson - "Faces in the Street"
Novice Own Poetry	Syd Hopkinson	"The Illiterate Stockman"
Open Others' Poetry	Kerry Lee	Paterson - "Mongrel Grey"
Open Own Poetry	Rod Lee	"The Blower Vac"
Open Yarn Spinners	Tanya Parker	"Animal Farm"

WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



"Come All Ye" at the Raffles Hotel
cnr Canning Highway and Canning Beach Rd Applecross
(Upstairs in The River Room)

Next Meeting Friday 7/02/2003 at 7:30pm

Lorelie's Letters



Australia Day 2003 was a great success with 19 contestants competing for five trophies. The results are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. Congratulations not only to the winners but also to *all* who performed. You contributed to the excellent overall programme. The judges had a very hard task.

The weather was kind and it was a colourful sight with family groups gathered under the nearby trees and others under the marquee.

My warm thanks to all who contributed to the smooth running of the afternoon. Many folk said it was our best Challenge yet. All performers can now set their sights on 2004.

We have unofficially heard that we have been granted the 2004 Australian Bush Poetry Association Championship so we can expect coach loads of Eastern States performers and writers and family members descending on Perth! It will be a real shot in the arm for W.A. as we do not have enough interaction with the East where bush poetry is really thriving. The event will be a challenge for us but we will certainly rise to the occasion and put on a memorable time for all.

The Waltzing Matilda Bush Poetry Awards (performance) will be conducted in Winton, Queensland 26th to 30th June 2003 along with the Bronze Swagman Award for Bush Verse 2003 (written). I have copies of the printed matter so please ask me if you are interested. There are also copies of the 2002 Bronze Swagman Book of Verse for \$12.50 (inc. postage) available from Vision Winton, Poetry Subcommittee, P.O. Box 120, Winton, Qld. 4735.

Our COME ALL YE's will be on again on the first Friday of each month starting on 7th February at 7.30 p.m. and I hope to see you all there.

Lorelie.

Michelle's Musings



Dear Members,

I've not much to add to Lorelie's editorial on Australia day. It was indeed an excellent day.

However, I feel I must mention that very few people did the majority of the work this year, in comparison to more recent years when we had at least two more committee members. (More recent new members may not realize that we lost one of our committee members, late last year due to illness. We also lost and a new secretary to work commitments outside the association).

There was too little time to fill these gaps fully before Australia Day. Therefore a great deal of the organizing responsibility fell onto Lorelie's shoulders. We definitely need a few more committee members (or members who wish to help in other practical ways during busy periods) to come forward to help for the 2003 - 2004 year, which is going to be fantastic.

It is amazing to me; a naturalized Australian how much more aware the general public has become about Bush Poetry in recent times. Our good performers seem to be in demand at numerous and varied functions throughout the metropolitan area and beyond. The association had a call for a poet only a few days before Australia Day for a naturalization ceremony in an adjacent shire. Arthur Leggett filled the breach at very short notice. As you will see later in this edition, Leigh Matthews was at *two* Australia day functions this year; in his own shire *and* at Wireless Hill. We need performers to fill these demands. So if anyone wants to come forward for any of these areas please see the nearest committee member near you. It takes a little while to develop a certain expertise but I'm sure members are willing to help and you have to start somewhere.

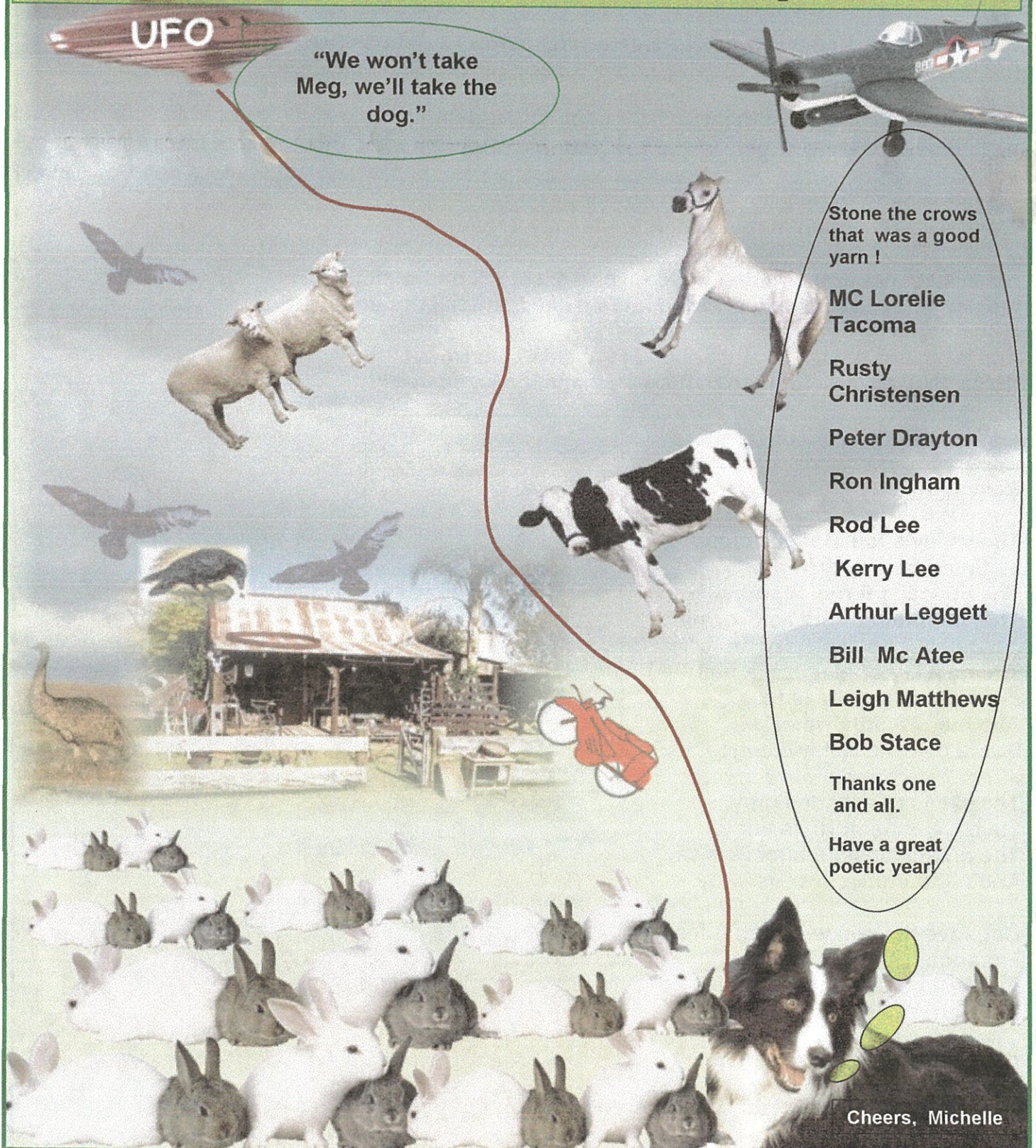
As editor I have also asked for new poets to send their works for possible publication. A big thank you to the people who have responded, the poetry is starting to flow. I always knew there were many cupboard poets out there. If anyone also knows a lapsed member, give him or her a little nudge to rejoin. They will be surprised at the rising standard of our poets.

What a great start to 2003. Keep poeting.

Cheers Michelle

Come All Ye January 3 2003

The first Come All Ye of 2003 was a fairly quiet affair with about 45 people. Not bad indeed for the lull between all the festivities of Christmas / New Year and our Wireless Hill Challenge. Many of the poems were outrageous yarns as well and set the theme for a rather funny night. No one wanted the serious ones tonight. Leave serious to the news. That's probably a reflection of how we collectively feel right now. I certainly feel this way. To quote Wayne Pantall in his "Boxing Day" poem (later in this issue) "We don't need looming war clouds. We'd like them full of rain." Also "Poetry should come straight from the heart and if all else fails make it a great yarn" from Keith Lethbridge.



Stone the crows
that was a good
yarn !

MC Lorelie
Tacoma

Rusty
Christensen

Peter Drayton

Ron Ingham

Rod Lee

Kerry Lee

Arthur Leggett

Bill Mc Atee

Leigh Matthews

Bob Stace

Thanks one
and all.

Have a great
poetic year!

Cheers, Michelle

Boxing Day

Oh, the joy of Boxing Day, demands may now decline.
Forget the cards we couldn't get. We'll try another time.

O! Coca-Claws has left his mark. His bull has left his droppings.
No rain Dear this year, yet again we failed to get the crop in.

With nothing on the ground to burn, we have no risk of fires.
There's ham a-plenty on the hoof. It tramps the aisles of Myers.

They flock like sheep in mobs to sales, and act like Christmas turkeys.
But on the bright side we received, new topsoil blown from Murphy's.

The telephone line is as dead as the stock. The buzzing is only flies
All is calm and all is bright, where the rotting carcass lies.

Tis the season to be jolly. Reflect on our past year.
There's no reflection in the dam, it holds only a tear.

We love a sunburnt country. We'd love some stock and grain.
We don't need looming war clouds. We'd like them full of rain.

Amidst the pretty lights and sales, the angels sing Nowel
No'ell , No 'eaven, No thing to lose. Perhaps it's just as well.

© Wayne Pantall, 26/12/02

Rain in the Mountains

The valley's full of misty cloud,
Its tinted beauty drowning,
The Euucalypti roar aloud,
The mountain fronts are frowning.

The mist is hanging like a pall
From many granite ledges,
And many a little waterfall
Starts o'er the valley's edges.

The sky is of a leaden grey,
Save were the north is surly,
The driven daylight speeds away,
And night comes o'er us early.

But, love the rain will pass full soon,
Far sooner than my sorrow,
And in a golden afternoon
The sun may set tomorrow.

By Henry Lawson

Verses Popular and Humorous



Wayne is country born but now lives in Vic. Park where he organizes community events (e.g. The Causeway 50th) that bring people together. He believes in community spirit - wherever located. He sees Bush Poetry suited to those events to link them with our history. He believes the classic poets should be honoured and has been in his words - "Bitten by the poetry bug."

This is his first submitted poem.





It becomes almost a cliché to say that a day was 'the greatest yet' 'outstanding standard' etc. However, this time it was true. Every person I met on the day, and afterwards, commented on the ever-rising standard of the poetry performances on this occasion. To add to this accolade on our 7th Annual Challenge, Melville City Council awarded the Bush Poets a beautifully framed Certificate of Commendation for 'Outstanding Contribution to culture within the City of Melville by promoting the Australian way of life through poetry and storytelling.'

Geoff Bebb did a marvelous job as MC; welcoming contestants with a particularly appropriate and heart felt individual comment for each person whilst timing the event perfectly. Thanks also to **Katie Mair (Mayor of Melville)** for attending.

We were particularly lucky to have an infusion of new blood in the form of the Yealering contestants **Tanya Parker** and **Tim Heffernan**. They were both roundly applauded for excellent performances. Tanya in particular, wowed the crowd with her flawless animal impersonations. So much so that a real dog in the audience couldn't resist joining in at the most appropriate moment. This performance won her the Yarn Spinners section. (I wonder what she said to him? Did he get paid in dog biscuits? Is this in the rules?)

The whole event went off so well that the audience was throwing \$5 and \$10 notes into the hat instead of the usual small coins. Something I have never seen in the last 3yrs of my attendance.

Michelle.

A Tribute to Our Pioneers

I've watched them growing older and I've seen them pass away,
The ending of an era that just had to come some day.
But they'll never be forgotten as they stand the test of time,
Those pioneers of yesterday, those friends of yours and mine.

No matter where we live in time, tis our youth we treasure most,
So to those ones of yesteryear, to you I drink a toast.
For I know you've seen the changes throughout this century.
To make this world a better place for the likes of such as me.

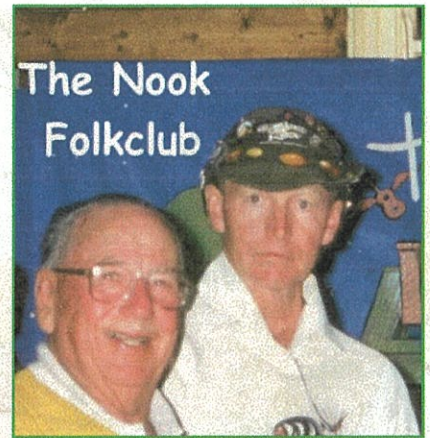
I've watched you building fences and I've seen you tame the lands,
With your wife and kids beside you and your neighbour lend a hand.
As one you pulled together as you saw the seasons through,
Those pioneers of yesterday, I tip my hat to you.

I've watched you build the railroad and the towns along the track,
Seen the miners come and go with their packs upon their back.
They've helped to build this country to what it is today,
So sit back and take the credit for we're with you all the way.

Now each and every one of us loved someone in our time,
And fought for what they treasured most when they were in their prime.
They were the backbone of our country; they don't deserve to die,
And so for you I shed a tear, I'm not ashamed to cry.

So to the many folks out there, the living and the dead,
'Twill take more words than I could write to say what should be said.
But your kind are not forgotten of this you can be sure,
I thank you for the life you've lived and wish I could say more.

© Brian Gale



Brian would like to present this poem as a special tribute to Connie Herbert who died last month. Connie was one of the people who introduced Brian to Bush Poetry in Perth. They knew each other even before the WA Bush Poets were instigated.

The above photo of Brian with Arthur Leggett was taken in Albany when they were performing at an old church with the Nook Folk Club in 1997. A very unusual evening was had by all. That is the first time Geoff and I met Brian (and his hat).

We need a new photo of you Brian.

Michelle

Brian has only recently been informed that the Boyup Brook Country Music festival is on again on the 3rd weekend in February (from **Friday 14th** – **Sunday 16th**) with Bush Poets playing a big part once again. They have asked Brian to organize the WA poet's side of it. Poets will be paid as usual in previous years.

It has been rumoured that the Country Music Organisers have invited Jim Haynes (well known poet from the Eastern States) as guest entertainer. Rusty will also take down Bill Hays (also from the East) if he arrives earlier than scheduled at present. Although it is short notice, we strongly urge poets to support Brian and Ron Evans who have been working hard to secure a variety of venues for our WA poets. Poets from the East and West need to work together to keep Bush Poetry alive. Perhaps another country heat could be organized at Boyup Brook next year!

Anyone interested in coming down for that weekend please let Brian know ASAP. Ph. 08 9757 2431

**Urgent late
notice**

Events Schedule

Friday Afternoon - Poets in the Street

Saturday 9:30 am to 12:30pm - Poets at the Pub

Sunday 7am to 9:30 am - Poets at the Oval

News From Val Read

Val has started the New Year with poetic verve. She has won a "Highly Commended" award for her humorous poem "The Wedding Gift" in the **Blackened Billy Verse Comp 2003 competition** as well as winning the **Murrindindi 2002 Dusty Swag Award** with her poem "Jenny of Tangletree" which we will publish at a later date.

Here's a brilliant idea for our written competition from Val as well. Perhaps readers can comment on this one and suggest other ideas :- "Have entrants, throughout the year, send their works and entry fee to the newsletter with the best one to be announced the next Australia Day." Valerie also has just received entry forms to the:-

"Great Dunny Classic".

Performance Competition- Dunedoo (29th March 2003) closing date Friday 15th March
Written Bush Poetry Competition (entries close Friday 7th February, 2003)

Please give me a call if interested in any of these before CAY. Michelle Ph: 9367 4963

Kel's Ghost Night 8th March 2003

Prepare to be bewitched at Pt. Walter again this year. 6:30 picnic start. Stories at dark. Ph. Kel on 04 1248 8131 or go to www.ghostconcert.cc

Bill Hay visiting from Queensland 17th Feb- 3rd March

Billy Hay, a legend in the Eastern States Bush Poetry circuit is coming across in February (17th -3rd March) from Queensland. Rusty Christensen first met this grand old man of Bush Poetry (86 years old) in Winton in 1997. Billy would like to meet as many of the WA Bush Poetry fraternity as he can on his visit. I'm sure he'll have some great yarns to tell. Although he will be between CAY's we hope to have a gathering of poets for him to meet. **Time and venue TBA.**

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Come in (yarn) spinner



Bush poet...Leigh Matthews

FOR many people Leigh Matthews may seem familiar - he is the friendly face at the local truck stop who has a story or two to share with weary travellers.

Under the pseudonym of Splinter Lawson the Byford resident has travelled across Western Australia's north, through the Northern Territory and Queensland regaling anyone who would care to listen with stories about Australia and its people.

As a professional yarnspinner, Mr. Matthews said he never lets the truth get in the way of a good story - and at this time of year, there is plenty to be had.

Especially on Australia Day, when Mr Matthews storytelling skills are in demand.

Mr Matthews belongs to the ranks of bush poets and yarnspinners who travel around the nation telling tales to fellow travellers and tourists.

Australia Day is very important for Mr. Matthews, who like many other bush poets, will congregate at Wireless Hill for the Bush Poet State Championships.

Last year, Mr Matthews won the original poetry category and was runner-up in the traditional yarn-spinning category.

However, before Mr Matthews prepares to spit verbally with his fellow yarnspinners he will entertain the Serpentine and Jarrahdale community with his blend of traditional and modern-day Australian yarns as part of the shire's annual Australia Day Awards and Celebrations.

Leigh's practice at Byford Oz Day paid off. But what a busy day Leigh! Phew!



Pictures: Marcelo Palacios.

I borrowed this article from Joan Macneall who cut it out of the Community Newspapers. I liked the two photos of Leigh as well as the story.

Ed.

Wandering Brook Concert 15th February

The bus is departing from the Raffles at 4pm. Booking essential as there are only 15 places left. Cost of bus only \$15.50. (This does not include the meal and show).

Please contact Rod or Kerry Lee for further details and bookings. Ph. 9397 0409

WA Bush Poets Committee 2003

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Joan Macneall	14 Arbour Place Kelmscott, WA 6111	Secretary	9390 0063	jakkimac@bigpond.com.au
Kerry Lee	160 Blair Road Oakford, WA 6113	Treasurer	9397 0409	adamdale@iinet.net.au
Rusty Christensen	51 Coogee Road Ardross, WA 6153	Committee	9364 4491	
Rachel Dockery	124 Hollis Road Wilson, WA 6107	Committee	9356 7426	raedockery@yahoo.com
Peter Nettleton	3 Ashwood Place South Lake, WA 6164	Committee	9417 8663	stinger@iinet.net.au

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

The Editor

WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

Coming Events

Date	Event	Co-ordinator
Fri. 14 -16 th Feb. 2003	Boyup Brook Country Music Festival	Brian Gale - Ph. 08 9757 2431
Friday 15 th Feb 2003	Wandering Brook Concert	Rod or Kerry Lee - Ph. 9397 0409
Sat. 8 th March 2003	Kel's Ghost Night	Kel Watkins - Ph. 04 1248 8131

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Edna Westall



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