

The

October 2025

W.A. Bush Poets

BULLY TIN

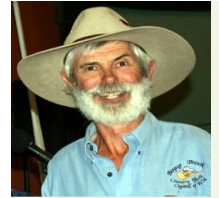


Next Muster: 3rd October 2025 at 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium,
Swan Care, Plantation Drive, Bentley
MC: Bill Gordon 0428 651 098 billgordon1948@gmail.com
Traditional night/CJ Dennis's birthday



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

President's Ramblings October 2025



Congratulations to Terry Piggott for coming third in the Bronze Swagman. This is widely recognised as the premier written poetry competition in Australia and Terry has had considerable success over the years including being named winner in 2015.

This year sees the return of Bush Poetry to the Perth Royal Show for the first time in many years. We have been allocated an entertainment area away from the hustle and bustle of sideshow alley so we are anticipating a suitable area to present our poetry. We will be on the Food and Fibre stage which is between the admin building and the pig pavilion. Our spots are 4pm to 5pm on the first three days and the last day of the show. Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th, Monday 29th September and Saturday 4th October.

Keep Saturday 8th November free for the Pinjarra Bush Poetry and Country Music day in the Pinjarra Civic Centre. We will be meeting for dinner the night before at the Pinjarra RSL. Details soon. There will be a One minute Competition (Poets Brawl) and a Yarnspinning Competition but we are not holding a State Championship this year due to the declining number of competitors and organisers. It is to be hoped that this event will be back on our calendar before too long, maybe not at Toodyay and maybe in a very different format. But I am amazed at the number of people we meet on our travels who say they remember us from Toodyay.

As the Friday get together at Pinjarra clashes with our regular muster night it was agreed at the last muster that we will hold the November Muster on 14th November. Unfortunately the auditorium is already booked that night so we will meet in the Swan Centre at Bentley Park, as we have on other occasions.

We are looking forward to celebrating Thirty Years of WA Bush Poets at the muster on 3rd October. Thanks to Deb for bringing this to our attention. We are featuring many of our WA poets, both traditional and modern. This would be a great night to bring a guest to witness some excellent poetry and to enjoy some good old fashioned entertainment.

Bill Gordon, President.

17 October—Closing Date
WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinnners Association Silver Quill written competition
Entry form and conditions included on pages 7 & 8

Spring Morning in the Bush

The birth of the day in the prime of the year,
Rousing to glory the slumb'ring sphere,
Paradise peeping through roseate clouds,
Mountains of majesty doffing their shrouds:
Nature, obedient to instinct divine,
Tuning her choristers, dressing her shrine,
Draping her minister, embalming the air,
Robing her children with motherly care.
On gaunt Eucalyptus a turban of snow,
While golden-plumed wattle is waving below;
The slender Kennedia with crimson is fleck'd,
Clematis with spangles of silver bedeck'd;
Velvet and gems to embroider the plain,
Emerald patches of garden and grain:
Feathery ferns in the shadowy dell,
Pink for the Aster and blue for the bell.
Diamonds are dropping from goblets of sheen,
Laces of gossamer veiling the green:
Incense arising from forest and flower,
Bursts of thanksgiving from thicket and bower;
The plaint of the lambs in the rush-cover'd pen,
The cry of the "Hope — sweet Hope" deep in the glen;
Notes of rejoicing intoned by the breeze,
Whispers of praise in the quivering trees.
Sunbeams are stealing o'er hamlet and hall,
Life on the station, and stir in the stall:
Youth in the saddle, impatient to roam,
Maidens of ministry decking the home:
Infant arousings to pleasure and play,
Manhood forecasting the toils of the day:
The prayer without words which with Nature takes part.
And the psalm that is sung to the chords of the heart.

Emily Mary Barton

Too Bad, Toogood, Two Quid.

Young Syd Toogood was a clerk
in an old Wiluna bank
he liked to have a little bet
and while he bet, he drank.

One Friday night he'd knocked off work
and had his normal bet
he took the kip and tossed a few
he'd had his best night yet.

He'd just bent down to grab his loot
from two heads he had picked
when from the dark a voice cried out
"The lot of you are nicked."

Now Sydney didn't like to think
he'd lost his hard won loot
he set to work with feet and fist
and gave the cop the boot.

Next morning in the local court
our Sydney looked a swell
he said he'd represent himself
and thought he'd do it well.

He threw himself before the court
his arms flew open wide
he made a most impassioned speech
the court clerk nearly cried.

He said his poor old mum was crook
his father was inside
he didn't mean to kick the cop
(Though we all knew he tried)

The magistrate thought long and hard
then this is what he did
he banged his gavel down, then said
"Too Bad, Toogood, Two quid."

By Peter O'Shaughnessy

DIGGER TAKES A BRIDE

You might reckon old Digger was past his prime,
In fact, he was over the hill,
His "get up and go" had got up and gone,
But his mind was romantic still.

And he fell in love with a sweet young thing,
By the name of Mary McQ,
Who worked as a skimpy barmaid,
At the Camel and Kangaroo.

She was tall and tanned and talented,
Athletic, poetic and curvy,
While Digger was feeble and flatulent,
And suffered recurrent scurvy.

And Mary's old mum flew into a rage,
Of blasphemy, grief and tears,
For a son-in-law like Digger
Is the worst of a mother's fears.

She tore her hair and howled at the moon,
And swore he could never be trusted,
But the more she ran old Digger down,
The more her daughter lusted.

And when Mary agreed to name the date,
Old Digger was pleased as punch.
He ordered an extra jug of ale
For his regular liquid lunch.

Then Mother McQ laid down the law,
That if Digger was truly caring,
He'd go for a medical check-up now,
To see how his health was faring.



So Digger fronts up to the Doc next day,
Who checked him from head to toe.
He looked old Digger square in the eye,
And lectured him, sad and low:

"As your medical practitioner,
I'm duty bound to speak:
The ... activities of marriage
Could prove fatal within a week!"

Old Digger stared right back at the Doc,
A sorrowful look in his eyes,
"Well Doc, that's a chance I'll have to take.
I guess if she dies, she dies!"

* * *

I'm happy to report that Digger's
Still alive today ...
The doctor, on the other hand,
Has sadly passed away.

And so, let's pause to contemplate
The moral of this tale:
There's more old drunks than old doctors,
In the Shire of Armadale!



Peel Bush Poets

The Peel Bush poets at their first official muster held at Bethanie housing Coodanup had a reasonable turnout, of 17, while storms raged outside, we had fun inside.

Those who attended were very impressed by the quality of the poetry and will be attending the day in November at Pinjarra, and bringing some friends and family along.

The Peel bush poets thank those who came to assist them.

Heather Denholm

Fifty-Fourth Bronze Swagman Award (2025) – Winners Announcement and Thanks!

Thank you to all our entrants in the 54th Bronze Swagman Award.

There were 146 entries in this year's competition. The judges were greatly impressed with the variety and quality of all the new poems written for the competition. Winton Business & Tourism Assoc Inc and the Bronze Swagman Committee are thrilled to congratulate the following recipients of the 2025 Bronze Swagman Award: 🎉

Winner – David Judge, Bendigo, Vic

Runner-Up – Tom McIlveen, Port Macquarie, NSW

**** Third Prize – Jean O'Connell Memorial Award – Terrence Piggott, Lymwood, WA**

Highly Commended – Helen Harvey, Worrigeer, NSW

The Tim Borthwick Award – Ken Scanlan, Rangeville, Qld



17 October—Closing Date

WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition



WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association
SILVER QUILL WRITTEN COMPETITION

Winner announced

SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2025

PINJARRA WA

WRITTEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Entries Close Friday 17th Oct 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

W.A. Bush Poets



& Yarnspinners Assn.

Categories—please tick categories entered

- 1. **Open Serious** }
- 2. **Open Humorous** } Highest total score in either category determines the winner
- 3. **Novice** Only for poets who have never won a Bush Poetry Written Competition
- 4. **Junior** (under 18ys) _____ Age

Title/s of Poem/s	Category Entered	Entry Fee
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

Entry Fees: Adults \$10 per poem; **All judging sheets will be returned with scores and comments.** Juniors Free.

Payment by: **Cheque or Money Order:** _____ **OR** _____

made out to "WA Bush Poets and Yarnspinners Ass'n",

and posted to: The Silver Quill Entry

c/o Rodger Kohn,

16 Stoddart Way,

Bateman, WA, 6150,

Direct Bank Transfer:

BSB 633000 A/c 156989659

Name: W Bush Poets

Ref: (your name) Silver Quill 2025

then email suzi.tonyhill@bigpond.com

informing of Direct Bank Transfer.

OR preferably emailed to Rodger Kohn: rodgershirley@bigpond.com

Declaration

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

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

Conditions of Entry - Written Competition

1. Entry fee per poem: Adults: \$10.00; Juniors: Free; No refunds if disqualified. If a detailed critique from the judges is required, please add an extra \$5 per poem.
2. No limit to number of entries and no line limit to poems
3. Poems must be the original work of the entrant and must not have been previously published for the profit of the author
4. A poem which has come first in any open written competition category is not permitted. If a poem should win one competition prior to the closing date of another competition in which the same poem is entered, the onus is on the author to notify the second competition organisers that his/her poem has become ineligible due to the contravention of entry conditions.
5. Poems must have very good rhyme and meter and be original with an Australian theme
6. A poem, which in the opinion of the judge contains offensive material, will be disqualified
7. The poem/s must be sent **electronically**, unless this is not available, in which case they must be presented as follows: typed on white A4 size paper, with black printing in a plain font, size 10-12, with the name of the poem headed on each subsequent page and be numbered and stapled (see note below)
8. All poems must be received by the due date
9. The competition is conducted in accordance with ABPA guideline recommendations (refer to www.abpa.org.au/competitions)
10. Judging will be by judges approved by the ABPA
11. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into
12. Entries may be published in the WA Bush Poets monthly newsletter "The Bully Tin" and the ABPA Magazine and I hereby give my permission for such display and/or publication

Note: The new condition regarding electronic entry will avoid extra handling and cost by the entrant and avoid the possibility of a late entry due to a delay caused by Australia Post; we will print the number of copies required, at no extra cost.

Email entries are to be sent to the Secretary, Rodger Kohn at: rodgershirley@bigpond.com
If you do not receive confirmation within a few days please phone Rodger on 0419 666 168.

Prizes

Monetary prizes will be awarded for the best poem in each of the open categories.
Each winner, as well as those judged 'Highly Commended' or 'Commended', will receive a Certificate.

Muster Writeup Muster Friday 5th September 2025

Following the AGM where all office bearers were re-elected, the newly re-elected President Bill Gordon welcomed everyone to the muster and introduced MC Bob Asplin.

John Hayes 'The Play' by C J Dennis
Bill has taken the love of his life Doreen to see the play 'Romeo and Juliet'.
So now he tells anyone who will listen the whole story of the play.

Keith Lethbridge With mouth-organ and bones, Keith played "The Queensland Drover", aka "Pass the Billy Round, Boys".

'The Old Master' by CJ Dennis
Two workers are carting timber on a bullock dray, when the wagon gets well and truly bogged. All they can think of, is to reluctantly unload the timber. Then old Dad McGee toddles out from his nearby humpy, and proceeds to demonstrate the old-time art of "bullock-punching".

Meg Gordon 'Wheat' by CJ Dennis
Life is simple and complete when growing wheat.

Daniel Avery 'Jim' by Daniel Avery
Daniel wrote this beautiful poem, a tribute to his work colleague Jim. He is a dockers supporter, loves bushwalking and has a heart of gold.

Bev. Shorland 'The good Old Concertina' by Henry Lawson
At a country dance , around the camp fire, or at home on a stormy night , the heart is gladdened by the sweet sound of the concertina.

Rob Gunn
Rob promoted the Peel Poets Poetry and Music day to be held on Saturday 8th November at the Pinjarra civic centre from 2pm till 9pm.
Rob then sang his Poem/song 'Pinjarra on the Murray'
All about the wonderful community there.... makes you want to move there.

Bill Gordon 'A Post Cup Tale' by C J Dennis
The anguish of a punter who picked the winner of the Melbourne Cup, only to be talked out of backing it at the last minute.

John Hayes 'The Quandong Cafe ' by John Hayes
Driving through the Flinders Rangers, we stopped at the Quandong Cafe for a break. There was an Aboriginal man playing his Guitar and singing gospel songs. We sat and talked with him, He had become a born again Christian, and that had helped him to overcome Alcoholism and gambling. It was quite a moving story well worth a poem.

Supper was served, we had sandwiches and carrot cake, thanks to Maxine and Shirley.

Rodger Kohn 'The Tale of Sonya Snell'
While waiting at the train station Sonya needed to 'spend a penny' she failed to read the 'wet paint' sign ; she was stuck fast on the seat; there were many attempts to free her.

Meg Gordon 'Discarded Woman' by Janine Haig
After 20 years of marriage he's run off with a younger woman.. I'm all alone...
I've been set free... time to start living...

Muster Writeup Muster Friday 5th September 2025 cont..

Keith Lethbridge 'Digger takes a bride' by Keith Lethbridge

Digger might be past his prime, but he still has a romantic streak. His love affair with sweet young Mary, is not appreciated by Mary's old Mum, but Digger doesn't let that deter him.

Bev. Shorland 'The Warrumbungle Mare' by Charles Shaw

A wild and beautiful stray, many have tried to catch her through the mountains, but none have succeeded. A stranger comes, hears about her and sets off on a quest to capture her.

Bill Gordon 'The Horse Trade,' by Sonny Hancock

A cattleman acquired a blue roan horse that had plenty of ability. He quickly found out that the horse would buck, kick and bite every chance he got. He traded the outlaw to a young lad for his grey that had gone lame. When the lad mounted the outlaw he put on a buckjumping exhibition that left the older man speechless. It turned out that the grey was a worse rogue than the blue roan.

Daniel Avery

Daniel started off by telling of his love for horses, as a youngster he did riding for the disabled and totally fell in love with riding and horses. He told us of getting his first horse, an ex race horse, but he was not suitable. Next, the horse he has now. Daniel is now experienced at barrel racing. And told us about the excitement in his Poem:

'Three turns and a Gallop'

It takes real skill to enter and ride in these races.

Rob Gunn 'Tale of the Never Never' by Coral Dasey

A yarn spun by a shearer about his uncle who when travelling with a mate found a little trunk inside was a ministers outfit and how they used it to their benefit.

Bill Gordon 'How to build a Billy Cart' by Chris Taylor

A young boy raids the house and yard for materials to build himself a billycart while leaving a trail of destruction in his path. A test run down the main street of town causes mayhem to traffic and pedestrians alike until he reaches the base of the hill where the law steps in to restore peace. The punishment dealt out by his parents ensured he would think about the consequences of any future adventures.

MC Rob Asplin thanked everyone for coming. The muster ended at 9.30

Reminder: Could everyone who performs at Musters please have a synopsis available on the night for our scribe or send one via email to deb.mcquire@bigpond.com for the Muster Write Up. Thank you in advance

**Next Muster: 14th November at 7.00 pm, Location to be advised @ Swan Care, Bentley
MC: Robert Gunn 0417 099 676 gunnpoet@hotmail.com
Deadline for submissions for October's Bully Tin 27th October 2025**

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

Why not check out Writing WA
<info@writingwa.org>
Always something interesting
going on for WA Writers

October

17 October—Closing Date — WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition

18 October — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships written competition, Bathurst NSW.

November

1 November — Closing Date — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships, performance, Bathurst NSW.

6-9 November — ABPA National Bush Poetry Championships - performance and written, Bathurst NSW.
See 18 October closing date for written. See 1 November closing date for performance.

8th November—WA Bush Poets & Yarnspinners Association Silver Quill written competition
See 17 October—Closing Date



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